

Lympstone Parish Plan

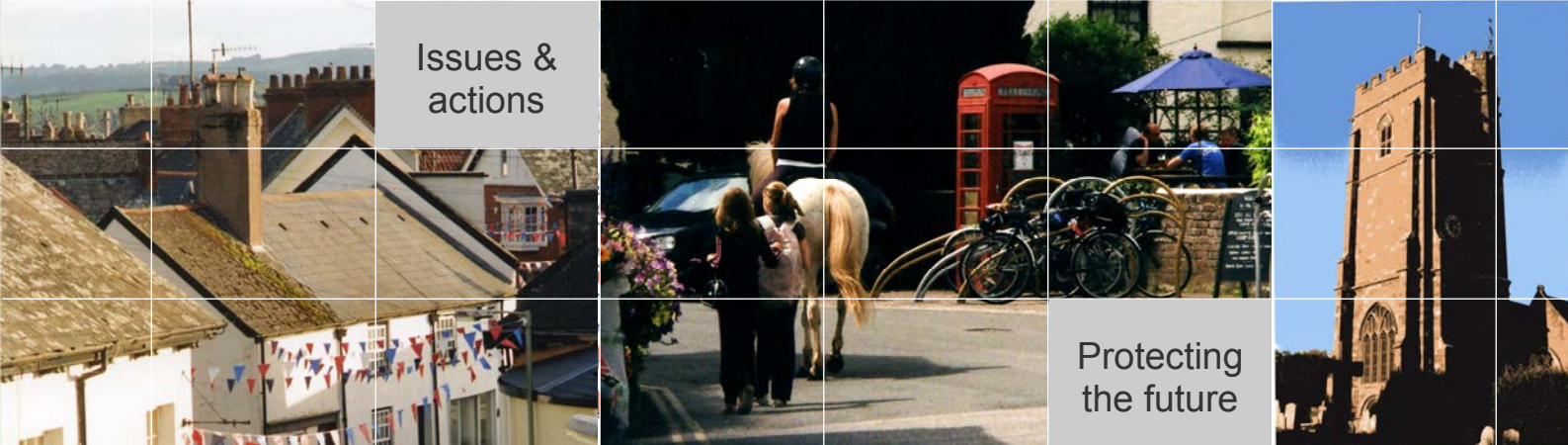
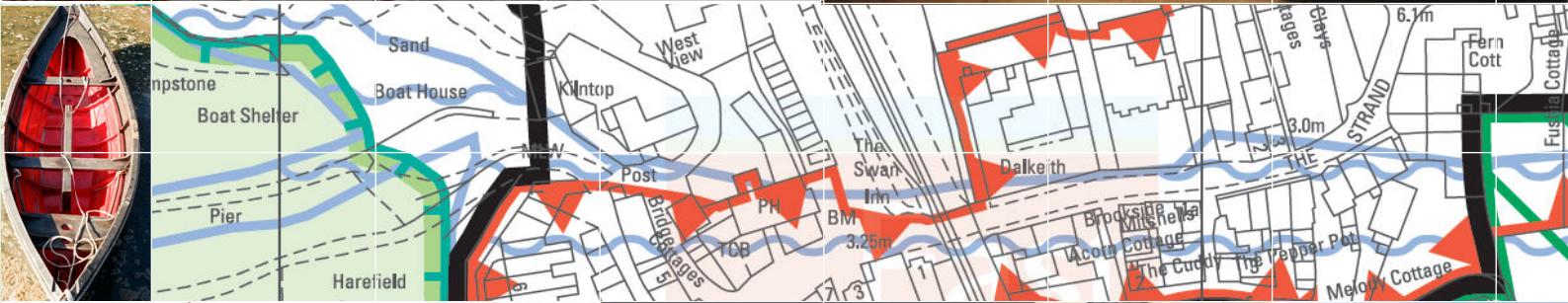
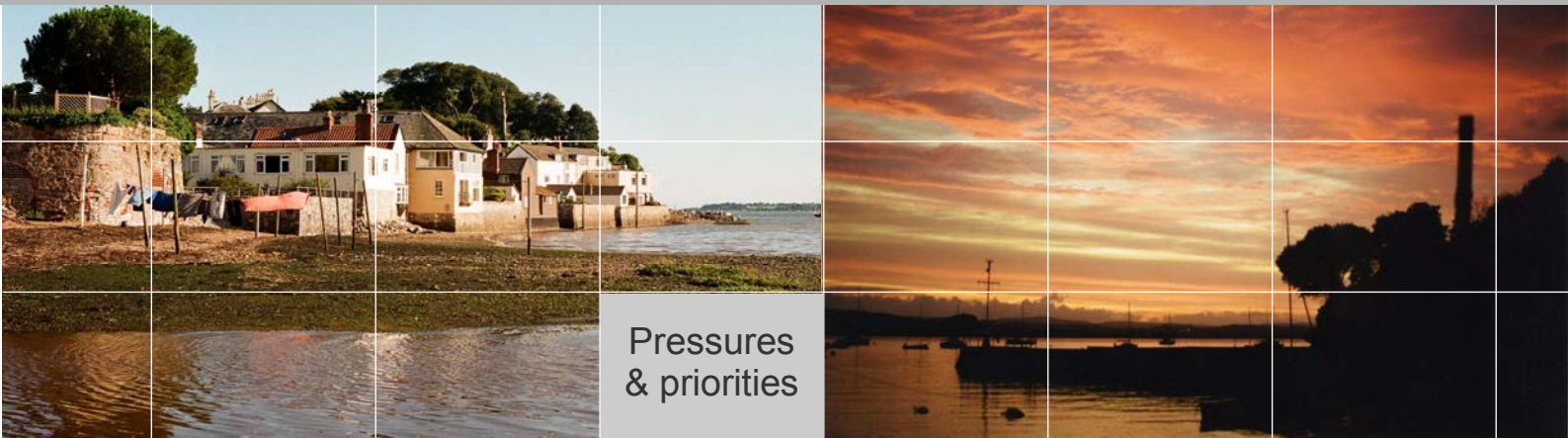


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Evidence Base

Table 1 – Population Growth over the Ages

Table 2 – Traffic on Principal Commuter Routes into Exeter

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Table 5 – List of Lympstone Organisations Consulted

List of evidence which is available on website



Key themes

- What is a Parish Plan?
- Why have one – and why now?
- What will make it a success?

1. Introduction

Why have a Parish Plan?

The Parish Plan draws together all the aspirations of our parish community, synthesizing them so that the sum becomes greater than the parts.

As a product of the community as a whole, rather than a Parish Council sub-committee, the Parish Plan has real power and authority as a statement on behalf of Lympstone – and will have a greater impact on the local authority.

The Parish Plan can be the basis for bids for funding for local initiatives – as a product of the community it demonstrates the commitment of the parish to the project seeking funds.

The Value of a Parish Plan

We live in an age of greater formality of plans, with national, regional, county and district plans. We need our own local plan, based firmly on our village's needs and views, so that we can lodge a clear statement, directly visible to all these planners. That is more likely to be successful than issue-by-issue rearguard action.

Once endorsed by East Devon District Council, the Parish Plan will be taken into consideration in local authority decision making processes.

A Parish Plan is also a prerequisite of "Quality Parish" status – a key objective for Lympstone in order to unlock access to new funding opportunities.

What will make the Parish Plan successful?

For Lympstone's Parish Plan to be worthwhile:

- it must be geared to help deliver some tangible improvement in parish life, rather than gather dust on a shelf;
- it must remain current and sufficiently flexible to take account of changing circumstances in Lympstone;
- it must be usable – and seen to be useful, to gain credibility and support.

What does the Parish Plan comprise?

The Plan is broken up into short sections focusing on an aspect of life in Lympstone. Each section is concise and only covers the main issues. Detailed supporting documentation for each section is available on a website and in an "evidence" archive. At the end of each section there are suggested "action points". These are developed in an Action Plan at the back of the document, showing how real benefit to our community can flow from the Plan. Some will be achieved more quickly and easily than others – some may prove impossible at this time, but can be retained as aims for the future.

What period does the Plan cover?

The initial range of the Parish Plan is 10 years, but it is constructed with an eye to flexibility. Thus it can take account of subsequent developments in parish thinking and seize new opportunities that may arise. The Plan and Action Plan will be reviewed and updated twice a year by a Parish Plan Steering Group.

Key themes

- A changing past
- An adaptable present
- A positive future

2. Lympstone past and present



Lympstone is a small parish containing a populous village on the eastern shore of the Exe Estuary. The parish runs from the Exe in a thin strip about 1km x 3km up to the wooded heathland of the common. It consists of waterfront and harbour, long-established settlements, meadow and farmland and common; these elements have shaped its history and its appearance today.

Medieval farming brought prosperity to Lympstone, with a fine church tower built in 1409. Maritime adventuring and enterprise and modest tourism in the early 19th Century brought subsequent waves of prosperity, still reflected in many of the 70+ older listed houses of the village. Cod fishing, whaling, boat and ship-building, river and inshore fishing for mackerel and salmon have all boomed and faded, leaving a rich history and heritage. The links between sea and land are exemplified by old limekilns where sea-borne lime and coal were burnt to make fertilizers to sweeten the soil of parish farms.

Agriculture too has changed over time. The parish once had 12 active farms, 8 dairy herds and over 40 hectares of orchards, in a landscape of compact fields and narrow lanes. Modern agricultural methods and economy fit badly with this, and agriculture has been replaced by other uses and now perhaps fewer than a dozen people in the parish earn their living from the land.

The parish was, before the mid twentieth century, self-contained to a remarkable extent with over 20 village shops and most of the 1000+ population earning their living locally, especially in fishing and agriculture. Since WW2 the population has grown slowly to around 2000, with infill in the higher village and a succession of modest-sized new housing estates.

The population mix has changed, with a considerable flow of ‘incomers’ from outside the immediate area living alongside ‘indigenous’ parishioners. Most of the population now work outside the parish, in Exmouth, Exeter and beyond. The Royal Marines Commando Training Centre, outside the parish boundary, has an influence, with a housing estate on the edge of the parish and young families feeding the parish school.

Traditional parish businesses have decreased in number, with one of the four pubs and the dairy being the latest closures (in 2008). The largest businesses are now a private school and a garden centre. A number of new, less visible businesses use IT and communications in ways unforeseen a few years ago.

The maritime nature of the parish continues to be a major aspect, with the water drawing holidaymakers to stay in the several dozen holiday cottages, and the sailing club a key leisure and social focal point. The parish presents a well-kept, easy-going and even affluent image, though this does not mean that all of its residents are older or affluent. Lympstone remains a happily mixed community of younger and older, larger and smaller houses, single people and families, ‘incomers’ and ‘locals’ and this mix forms a basis for a balanced, sustainable community.

Lympstone has thus changed repeatedly throughout its long history, and no doubt must and will change further. The history and heritage from past changes is a key attraction of the parish; this Parish Plan aims to give positive shape and direction to changes yet to come. The Plan sits alongside the Village Design Statement (2004) already adopted by EDDC.

Key themes

- Lypstone today
- A sustainable community
- Values and principles

3. Our Vision



Lypstone is the quintessential Devon estuaryside village. Quiet, characterful and charming - an oasis of tranquillity in the modern world – yet teeming with vitality, art and social activity at its very core.

Whilst being prepared to accept change and development, the Community wish the parish to retain this unique and scarce character.

Lypstone will remain a sustainable community, where people want to live and work, now and in the future. The Community will meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, be sensitive to our environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. Our parish will be safe, inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.

Specifically, the Community will: -

- promote sustainability of the parish
- be a community with values, principles, traditions and respect - in all activities by all parish bodies, promote and honour these attributes
- care about the future - maintain influence within the parish over development, amenities, activities and facilities
- be accessible - maintain and improve transport, affordable housing, infrastructure
- suffer no coalescence - retain our rural identity and independence from Exmouth.

All local priorities or policies will respect five principles:

1. live within environmental limits,
2. contribute to a strong, healthy and just society,
3. achieve a sustainable economy,
4. promote good governance, and
5. use sound science responsibly.



Key themes

- An inclusive approach
- Adding value to the parish
- Making it happen

4. The Approach



Background

The concept of the Parish Plan has its origins in the Government's earlier Vital Villages programme. The programme was anxious to ensure that the very best of British village life was captured and sustained. The process of building this plan for Lympstone was started in 1989 with the production of a "Lympstone Parish Appraisal" coordinated by Ian Angus.

The Plan Process - a bid for inclusiveness

It has been essential that the plan process sought to be inclusive, rather than somehow imposing itself upon parishioners.

A number of steps were taken to generate this inclusiveness:

1. The Parish Council was involved from the outset, representing in theory all parishioners (although not all residents take an active interest in parish council affairs)
2. There was an attempt to draw the membership of the Co-ordinating Group in a way which balanced the need for inclusiveness with manageable size
3. The outline of the intent was published in the Lympstone Herald, delivered to every household in the parish
4. Parish-based focus groups were used to generate help and ideas along with consultation with over 70 parish bodies, listed in Section 3. Other relevant bodies were consulted and over 60 people attended two open days.
5. A draft of the Plan was presented to the members of the Parish Council for adoption on behalf of the parish before being released to the parishioners as a whole for their comments. This was the main focus of open days in the Village Hall and Methodist Hall.
6. As a result of these comments and also comments received from the open day a final Plan has been produced.

Objective

To bring added benefit where possible to every aspect of Lympstone Parish life, whether for parishioners or those visiting on business or for pleasure, either through direct action or through influencing East Devon District Council or Devon County Council, and either alone or in partnership with other parishes or organisations.

Delivery

Lympstone Parish Council and its elected members remain the formal means by which the above objective is to be attained. Of course, much is already achieved formally and informally by other individuals and groupings within the parish and the preparation of this plan is intended only to encourage and support those well established creative processes. The Parish Plan Steering Group, in consultation with the Parish Council, will from time to time help to bring together groups of volunteers to assist wherever it can.

Key issues

- No coalescence with Exmouth
- Protecting our rural identity
- Retention of policies protecting the parish

5. The Parish Community

The Community believe that the protection of “the Lypstone way of life” is of greatest concern to all parishioners. This can be difficult to put into words but the following sound bites give a flavour.

- *“The village community - people, friends & relatives.”*
- *“The environment - open spaces, peace, views.”*
- *“Lypstone is still a village with a good community spirit; development will kill it and we will become part of Exmouth.”*
- *“Its accessibility to sea, country, local towns, theatres and University.”*
- *“A haven of peace compared to the urban sprawl of Exmouth.”*
- *“Individuality, it's not a suburb of Exmouth or Exeter.”*
- *“Lypstone is unique, it stays as it is - growth is the last thing it needs.”*

Undoubtedly one of the strongest characteristics is the “Community” spirit – described by Devon Life as a “Community Powerhouse”, and recognised as Devon Village of the Year in 2007. The real possibility of being swallowed up by the development of Exmouth is considered the greatest threat this community faces – it has happened to Littleham and it must not happen to Lypstone.

The current East Devon Local Plan 2006 gives protection to the parish from coalescence with Exmouth through

- Policy S6 (Development in Green Wedges)
- Policy EN2 (Areas of Great Landscape Value)
- Coastal Preservation Areas
- A tight development envelope around the village centre.

These Policies are the only defence the parish has against the urban sprawl of Exmouth swamping Lypstone. An initiative by EDDC called “The Local Development Framework” will replace the East Devon Local Plan – the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is the first element of the LDF to threaten these policies. The Parish will resist SHLAA as it threatens the Parish Community.

The character of Lypstone is one of a discrete settlement and the preservation of the ‘Green Wedge’, ‘The Coastal Preservation Area’ and ‘The Area of Great Landscape Value’ between Lypstone and Exmouth are of supreme importance and must be preserved at all costs.

Action points:

- ‘The Green Wedge’, ‘Coastal Preservation Area’ and ‘The Area of Great Landscape Value’ must be retained within the LDF for posterity to preserve Lypstone as a rural parish
- A need to raise awareness of threats to the Parish
- Resist any development under SHLAA at the extremities of the Parish and disconnected from the central settlement
- Consider carefully any minor amendment to the development envelope under SHLAA & LDF .

Key issues

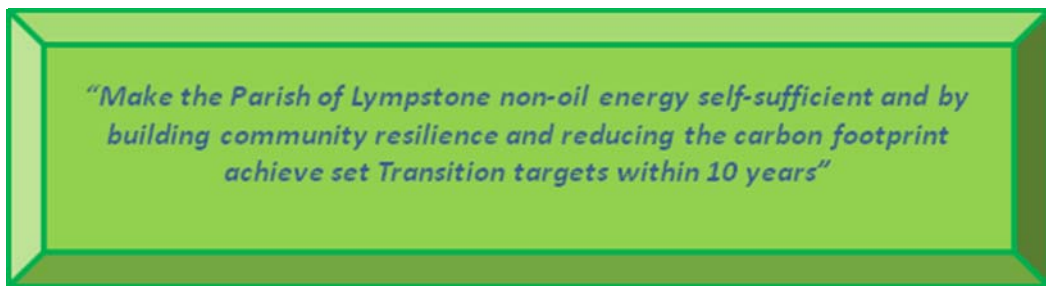
- Seek commitment from the parish
- Establish a Steering Group
- Develop targets and a plan to achieve them

6. Green Lymptstone

“Environment” today embodies far greater and increasingly urgent issues than in our past, with action seen as necessary at individual, community, regional, national and international levels. At a public meeting in the village on 22nd January 2009 the Community Council of Devon presented a project to raise awareness of climate change and the need to respond to its challenge. The public response at this meeting encouraged the Steering Group developing the Parish Plan to bring into public debate the whole “Green Agenda”. This anecdotal evidence of public approval needs verifying.

The “Transition Town” concept is a well documented and forward looking approach to improving the Environment through reducing oil dependant energy usage, reducing waste and increasing self support – this all contributing to reducing the carbon footprint and enhancing sustainability.

To this end the Parish Plan issues a challenge to the parish to



Compost collection

Lymptstone Compost operates a recycling scheme for garden waste. Future demand is likely to increase. The scheme is struggling to continue its present service due to lack of voluntary effort so it is anticipated that it will need to undergo change, to employing operatives. This may require additional funding from Parish or District Councils.

Action points:

- broad endorsement of this objective by the Parish Council
- formation of an “Environment Committee” with co-options from relevant Parish action groups
- the Environment Committee to
 - verify the achievability of this objective and re-align as necessary
 - seek a broad measure of support by survey of the Parish, or otherwise, for this initiative
- the Committee to develop an Environmental Action Plan, along with measurable milestones, to achieve this target. This to be written into the Parish Plan
- maintain Lymptstone Compost.

Key issues

- Current facilities are disparate and poor
- Need for a new “sports complex”
- Location and funding required

8. Recreation and Sports Facilities

Football - Lympstone Football Club (LFC) currently has a pitch on Cliff Field with changing rooms adjacent to the Village Hall. These are approximately 800m apart. LFC are a successful side in the local leagues. Their continued promotion to higher leagues is dependent upon an upgrade of their facilities. LFC have 45 senior and 20 junior members, including committee.

Cricket – After lying dormant for ten years, Lympstone Cricket Club was reborn in 2007. A trial year proved that there is enough support to keep the Club going. The number of fixtures, mostly played in the evening, has increased year on year, with 20 in 2009 involving more than 25 villagers. Three “home” grounds in three seasons have all been outside the Parish. Funding is an issue.

Tennis - The Tennis Club has almost 100 adult and another 100 juniors. They use 2 all weather courts adjacent to the Village Hall, with the Committee Room as their club house.

Sailing Club - Lympstone Sailing Club occupies a prime central site behind the Strand. The Club is run by its members for its members - some 220 families of whom 172 reside in the parish. Dinghy and tender park space is reaching full capacity and innovative plans to increase it through racking are being progressed with the Lympstone Harbour and Fisheries Association, with whom the Club works closely. Both organizations fully recognize development controls and the sensitivity of access to the estuary as a parish amenity.

Ladies’ Netball - A Lympstone Ladies’ Netball team was formed in 2008 with over 20 members. Based around a group of service wives they train at CTCRM or Exmouth. They seek indoor training and match facilities.

Horse Riding - There are an estimated 75 horses in the parish in private and rented stabling.

Tug-of-war - The Tug of War Team re-formed in 2008, has 22 members (and growing) and has established training facilities off Courtlands Lane.

Leisure complex - Provision of sports facilities in Lympstone is generally poor. Lympstone teams find far better provision at away games in villages with no greater population – if they can do it so can we! Examples include the pavilion and playing fields at Newton Poppleford (pop 1,682) and the recreation ground and clubhouse at Newton St Cyres (pop 867).

LFC wish to develop a new “leisure complex” predominantly for football and cricket pitches and incorporating a large indoor exercise area, together with changing rooms and storage. Details need to be agreed with interested sports organisations within the parish once outline approval is gained. The complex could be built on land secured under a Section 106 agreement.

Action points

- identify location for leisure complex
- secure section 106 and outline planning permission
- secure funding.

Key issues

- No coalescence - protect our identity
- Protect our building exclusion zones
- Need for some development

9. Housing for Villagers

The Community believe that the history and heritage of our parish are fundamental to its character, very important to its present attractiveness, and of critical importance to the future development of the parish. The Community do not see this position as leading to a 'fossilisation' of the parish, but the historic core of the village must be protected, whilst change must be well managed and cautious. The Community do not wish to stifle innovative design which has its place in the evolution of the parish.

The character of Lypstone is one of a discrete settlement and the preservation of the 'Green Wedge', 'The Estuary Protection Zone' and 'The Area of Special Scenic Interest' between Lypstone and Exmouth are of supreme importance and must be preserved. The Community also see the wider preservation of the landscape around the parish as important and wish to support moves to prevent adverse visual effects from changes in farming and land ownership.

The Lypstone Landowners' Association has 23 members with some 36 other dependents who may wish to infill the small plots of land in and around the village to retain families that go back many generations in the community.

Without affordable housing (see next section) even more local young people will leave and Lypstone could become as many other villages in the South West, a holiday or retirement area for the wealthy with 50% or more empty properties for 6 months of the year. Thus the Community welcome certain types of 100% affordable housing development for parishioners and their children. In order to ensure responsible and restricted development, there should be limited easing of the building boundary line. The Conservation Area Appraisal should be updated.

Action points

- 'Green Wedge', 'The Estuary Protection Zone' and 'The Area of Special Scenic Interest' must be retained within the Local Development Framework for posterity
- review of the planning boundary to allow limited development
- 1999 Conservation Area Appraisal to be updated.



Key issues

- Made up predominantly of small businesses
- Founded on tourism and support services
- Space/Storage & Advertising/Promotion
- Broadband width

11. Commerce

The Parish Plan Steering Group sent out a short survey of businesses in the Parish. 59 businesses were identified and 43 completed questionnaires – 73%

Main findings:-

- of the 43 respondents 31 were in business or self employment full time and a further 12 part-time
- 50% of respondents worked “away” from a home base
- a “business centre” within the parish received a very low positive response
- a “list of local businesses” received a 90% positive response
- storage and space was a major concern to respondents – there is a demand for cheap, secure, small space for the storage of equipment and materials. Whilst this may not be economically possible within the heart of the village it may be achievable elsewhere within the parish
- broadband speed was a major concern to many of the home based businesses. This is covered within Utilities, but is developing as a major concern.

Kings Garden Centre, St Peter’s School, the four pubs and Londis are the principal employers by numbers. The growth of the small business (fewer than 5 employees) is seen as the way forward for the parish.

The four pubs, Londis and the Post Office serve a unique function in maintaining the “sustainability” of the community and additionally act as meeting points within the village.

Action points

- form a “Chamber of Commerce” for Lymstone
- produce a list of local businesses
- seek to produce low cost storage
- increase broadband width
- continue to support and promote local businesses
- ensure the survivability of the “sustainability” businesses.



	Businesses	Employees
No employees	24	0
1-3 employees	10	16
4-5 employees	2	9
6-12 employees	4	44
Greater than 12	3	97

Key issues

- Estuary of international importance
- Common is privately owned

12. Natural Environment

Lympstone Foreshore

The Exe estuary is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Protection Area and a Ramsar Site in order to protect the approximately 20,000 wading birds and wildfowl that live on and around the estuary. Within this internationally important total, the estuary supports nationally important populations of oystercatcher, grey plover, black-tailed godwit and dunlin plus significant numbers of the British populations of greenshank, ringed plover and widgeon.

Other birds found on the estuary include over wintering brent geese, lapwing and golden plover, breeding shelduck, plus cormorant, kingfisher, peregrine falcon, and the recently immigrated little egret. Many species feed on the abundant invertebrate animals, live in and on the sand flats of the estuary and especially on the highly productive mudflats.

Lympstone Common

Lympstone Common is situated to the east of the parish. Its 56 acres extends from "Downlands" at the top of Higher Hulham Road, which is the narrowest part of the Parish Boundary of only about 150 metres, opening out to the area known as "the frying pan", towards Blackhill, returning past Squabmoor House and back to Pine Ridge.

The vegetation comprises good mature fir trees and areas of coppice, bracken and gorse which provides valuable habitat for nesting birds and other wild life. There are several public footpaths and bridleways that cross the area.

Lympstone Common was registered on 14th May 1974, Nutwell Devon Estates Ltd was granted the Freehold under the Common Registration Act of 1965. According to the Land Register, it was sold in 1998 to someone named Codie and a Government Officer. This does not preclude the common land use.

Action point

- protect the natural environment
- develop policy for this action.



The setting sun behind Darling Rock, from Lympstone Boat Shelter

Key issues

- Parish amenity in private ownership
- Need to preserve functionality and environment
- Open access vs. owners' rights and responsibilities

13. The Estuary

The Estuary foreshore provides large numbers of people with enjoyment. At low tide, walking, crabbing from the harbour wall, cockle-picking on the sand beyond Lypstone Lake are popular; at high tide, there is boating and fishing. Whatever the tide, many enjoy watching the birds, photographing and painting or just simply enjoying the exceptional west-facing views across the estuary with the enormous range of changing colours and textures that make the foreshore so appealing.

The Lypstone Fisheries and Harbour Association (LFHA) owns the foreshore at Lypstone, part of which is leased from the Crown. LFHA is responsible for the administration of the Lypstone harbour area and the maintenance of the harbour wall. It manages its property according to a constitution and the wishes of its members and does not anticipate any significant change to current management objectives:

- to continue to maintain the fabric of the harbour in a manner conducive to the membership
- to have regard for the marine environment within the confines of its property and the Exe Estuary as a whole
- where appropriate (and subject to the thoughts of members) to support a harbour administration, if established
- consonant with regular risk assessment and members' needs, to continue to maintain the harbour as a parish amenity.

Currently, moorings are leased at a preferential rate to people who live locally – this should be continued.

There is uncertainty about the possible effects of the imminent establishment of an Exe Estuary Harbour Authority. It may be necessary to protect local interests against any threats to them.

Sailing Club

In their submission Lypstone Sailing Club supported the concerns of the LFHA regarding the Estuary Management Scheme and the Harbour Revision Order. Additionally they raised concerns over the continued silting of the estuary.

Action points

- protect local interests against possible future threats
- continue to provide moorings at preferential rates to local people
- monitor silting of the estuary.



Craning in on the slip

Key issues

- Growing number of visitors
- Better information & signposting
- Parish business should benefit more

14. Tourism

Lympstone is visually an attractive place and historically an interesting place; add to that the waterside location and it is not surprising that Lympstone is popular with visitors. Perhaps in the recent past it has been 'off the beaten track' and not in guide books, possibly because there is no coach access, no large sea front promenade or pub and no major 'attraction'.

(The Steering Group use the term visitors to recognize that perhaps the majority of outsiders coming to the parish will be from other parts of Devon, not long-distance 'classic' tourists.)

Changes in how people spend leisure time and the investment by DCC in the Exe Estuary Trail are bringing more visitors to Lympstone. Hence meeting their needs should be an important part of the Parish Plan.

Appropriate action can channel tourism into forms which do not damage the fabric or life of the parish (cycling visitors rather than cars, for example).

For people who want to stay in the village for a short break or longer, there should be a proper listing of options, probably sponsored by the Parish Council.

For people coming for an hour or a day there should be improved signposting, provision of interpretation boards and/or booklets and good provision of facilities such as toilets and cycle racks.

A consolidated 'visitors information' board should be sited near the station.

At present, even in the peak season, some of the main places for tourists to spend their money (Post Office for souvenirs, Shears Place café) are closed for all or part of a day. More flexible opening and an increase in commercial facilities for visitors should be supported by the Parish Council (gallery, cycle hire etc.) The provision of walks and talks by e.g. History Society should be encouraged and supported.

Action points

- accommodation listing required
- improved signposting
- interpretation boards
- encourage businesses to open longer
- facilitate new business opportunities.

The Strand, Lympstone



Key issues

- Boat shelter and estuary are biggest assets
- Parish owns open spaces, benches, notice boards
- Footpaths and bridleways in good shape

15. Amenities



The biggest amenity that Lympstone has is the Harbour or Boat Shelter (albeit this is owned by the Lympstone Harbour and Fisheries Association) and the River Exe Estuary itself. These are by far the largest draw to the parish .

The Parish Council owns Candy’s Field, the main recreational area, with a play area for toddlers, an activity trail, a cycle track, junior football pitch and a youth area. These are well used by parishioners of all ages.

The Parish Council also owns the Rag at Sowden End, which is an area for inspiring views of the Exe Estuary and beyond.

The Parish Council are Trustees, for the National Trust, of the Cliff and Avenue fields, the former being home to Lympstone Football Club for many decades.

The parish boasts some 36 benches, scattered around the parish, and 6 notice boards, all maintained by the Parish Council, as are the recreational areas.

The Parish has 4.63km (2.88miles) of foot paths and 1.45km (0.9 miles) of bridleway, some of which form part of the East Devon Way. Most are kept to a reasonable standard, by landowners and Devon County Council.

Action points

- ensure the parish’s recreational areas remain for the parish, and are not developed or spoilt
- maintain and renew, as required, the parish assets, ie benches, notice boards etc.
- complete the youth area, maintain and upgrade all play areas and equipment
- ensure footpaths and bridleways are maintained to an acceptable standard
- sustain a good relationship between the parish and the Harbour Association to ensure our greatest asset remains accessible.



Lympstone Boat Shelter

Key issues

- Lymptone Herald
- Web Site
- Notice Boards
- Word of Mouth

16. Information & Communication

Lymptone Herald - the Lymptone Herald is a monthly magazine carrying information about Parish Council meetings and news submitted by societies and organisations in the parish. Every household in Lymptone receives a copy – usually within a week of the Parish Council meeting which starts the production cycle. A volunteer editor devotes about three and a half days a month to producing the Herald, which is then distributed by about thirty other volunteers.

The Herald is funded by advertising but is free at the point of delivery – a pre-requisite as it is the official communication of the Parish Council. Requirements to publish information may increase in 2009 under the Freedom of Information Act.

Possible changes to the Herald have been suggested, including increasing the quality of production and the use of colour. Whilst these might be nice to have, they cannot be at the expense of a free at point of delivery magazine.

Website - the content of www.Lymptone.org, run privately by the Editor of the Lymptone Herald, includes:

- description of the parish, photo galleries and a street map
- details of local clubs and societies, including “What’s On”
- accommodation and other listings, plus advertisements
- back copies of Lymptone Herald
- Parish Council members, meetings and accounts

In order to achieve Quality Status Lymptone Parish Council must own a website. Its functionality should be defined, which may include the storage of Parish Records, History, Archives, and the Parish Plan. A modern, interactive site is imperative, to provide a medium for communication to and within the community.

Notice Boards – although Parish Council notice boards are positioned around the parish, there are none for general use by community bodies, organisations and clubs to advertise forthcoming events. Instead, they have traditionally tacked or stapled notices to the many wooden telegraph poles in Lymptone.

Word of Mouth - in this parish community word spreads quickly, for instance when a death occurs or a desirable parish residence is to go on the market.

Action points

- establish parish council ownership of a website
- define the purposes and functionality of the parish website
- look for the best website of its kind and seek to emulate it
- identify sites for and provide general user notice boards.

Key issues

- A vibrant parish school
- Inadequate facilities
- At capacity
- Need for replacement



17. Education



Lympstone Primary School currently has 155 children, taught in six classes. A further tranche of applications (10) are expected from families moving into St. Mary’s Meadow. For the last two years the school have taken significantly more children into the reception class than the Local Authority planned admission number, up to 30% over the technical limit in some year groups. The school is obviously very popular.

The current site is a very good one in terms of access to our church, the village hall, tennis courts and recreation field. Over 80% of the children live in Lympstone, many of these really very close to the school (especially the married quarters) so again this shows the school is well-sited.

Some of the school's current buildings are not fit for their purpose, especially the temporary classrooms where half the children are taught. Some of this accommodation is in a poor condition. There is no suitable venue for music lessons, art groups or special needs work and nowhere suitable to store P.E equipment. The existing buildings certainly couldn't meet the needs or even accommodate adequately any more children.

The Local Authority formula would suggest that every 100 new homes would bring about 25 children to the school. Further housing development in the parish would therefore need additional classrooms, increased playground space, toilets, admin capacity etc. This may not be possible on the existing land footprint.

Action points:

- identify long term number requirements
- press Devon County Council to provide new permanent accommodation
- maintain close liaison between School and Village Hall.

Key issues

- Provision of facilities
- Provision and support of clubs by parents
- Support by the community
- New leaders required

18. Youth



The number of youth in the parish (under 18) is 372. Their proportion of the parish population however has fallen from an estimated 22% in 1989 to 20% in 2008¹.

A focus group meeting was held at the Youth Club to seek their views on Lymptstone. They present a view of their community and an awareness of the problems facing their society. They acknowledge the unique “Lymptstone Character” and the majority wish to stay or return – The community need to make that possible.

The following comments were made at the focus group meeting:

- Lymptstone is:** - *Boring; Better than Exmouth; Friendly; My friends are here – a community; An old peoples’ village; There are no stabbings like London; Safe*
- Positives:** - *Londis; Candy’s Field; Football goals on Candy’s Field; Environment – but we need to do more; Majority wish to remain in Lymptstone or return here – it holds “that something”*
- Negatives:** - *Too many cars; Too many houses; Youth just hang around and get into trouble; We get spied on by the oldies; Employment – now and in the future*
- Lymptstone needs:** - *More activities for youth; Skate park; Cycle park; Swimming Pool; Football facilities*

There has been a huge push in the parish over the last five years to provide good play areas and activities for the youth of the parish. This has brought a toddler play area, activity area for 5 -12 yr olds, a recently completed cycle area for younger children, a multisports area and swing, and recently a “youth shelter” adjacent to the Youth Club. The next phase is some form of cycle track for 8-13 year olds.

Clubs and facilities within the parish are good for youth – the challenge is to make maximum use of them.

Action points

- further development and promotion of youth activity clubs
- parents of the participating youth must be encouraged to play a more prominent role in the operation of these clubs
- seek a leader to form a cubs pack as a feed for the scouts
- Parish Council to continue to help with finance, advertising and support for youth facilities
- consider further activities/facilities for 8 - 15 year olds.

Age	2008
0 - 5	147
6 - 11	126
12 - 17	99
Total	372

¹ Family Health Services Authority (FHSA) 2008 Population Projections.

Key issues

- Now linked to Exmouth
- Worship
- Mission
- Finance and fabric

19. Church

The Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Parish Church is linked in a Mission Community with Littleham cum Exmouth from 1st July 2009. i.e. the churches of Holy Trinity and Littleham plus Lympstone. Their Mission Plan at 2009 sets out the following main aims:

Worship

- to continue all-age worship services and nurturing children and young families
- to continue to meet individuals needs by encouraging family, house and prayer groups, lent courses and other similar activities
- to provide pastoral care for the bereaved, elderly, sick and others in need
- work with other parish and community groups to seek ways in which to support the vulnerable in the parish.

Mission

- to maintain and enhance the profile of the church in the community
- to reach out to the community through lunches, social events, newcomers' parties, Sea Sunday, flower arrangers, bell ringers and other events
- to communicate with the parish using the Lympstone Herald and notice-boards
- to continue to support the Lympstone CofE Primary School to develop and achieve high standards of achievement in a happy and caring environment.

Finance and fabric

- to look at ways to balance the budget in difficult financial times
- to maintain and if possible increase charity giving
- to continue to maintain the fabric of the 600 year old Grade 2* listed building
- to encourage the use of the building by a wider range of groups and uses, by re-ordering to provide a variety of spaces, large and smaller, for meetings and concerts, as well as services
- improving the facilities of the church, by incorporating audio and video resources to support the above aim
- continue to use and support the Methodist Hall with lunches and meetings held there
- work towards the retention of parish facilities, shop, post office and school by encouraging use of the local resources
- seek to reduce carbon footprint and work towards sustainability
- to make full use of other property belonging to the PCC
- to explore ways of providing better parking for church users and local residents.

Action points

- continue meeting worship needs
- reach out to the community
- make full use of property
- continue process to close the church yard for burials and pass over to EDDC.

Key issues

- Parish is very well served
- No major issues or plans

20. Social, Clubs & Societies

Clubs and societies are a mainstay of parish life, alongside sport and the pubs. There are more than 30 active societies and groups, covering the arts (film, theatre, entertainments, art, community choir, bell ringing and four book groups), history and practical pastimes such as gardening and allotments. In addition some of the recreational groups such as sailing have other activities (in this case winter walks, lunches and talks). Activities range from quite formal to the informal and participative (Folk in the Globe). The Lympstone Shop Supporters' Club helped save the one village grocery store, whilst the Friends of Lympstone Village Station are transforming the station area.

These groups have more than 1000 paid up members in total, and every weekday evening there are several activities under way. They attract people from all ages, but do have a particular role in extending an active and enjoyable life for older parishioners. Overall they have a major role in social cohesion, and in enabling parishioners to interact with others as equals. Age and background seem unimportant, and the parish is fortunate in having people with a very wide range of talent, experience and skills.

Groups need a positive environment to flourish - places to meet, notably the Village Hall, people with time to organise them, and ways of communicating (the Herald and notice boards as well as individual newsletters). These factors have helped new groups to be established, including a Film Society in 2007 and a community choir in 2008, the former with a membership equal to 11% of the adult population, whilst the latter already has 40 adult and 20 junior members. In some cases lottery and other grants (including from the Parish Council) are important aids to establishment and growth. For a number of groups the willingness of the Post Office to sell tickets is important.

Over time, and as calls on the time of key individuals increases, it has become more difficult to find volunteers for formal 'officer' posts, and a move towards less formal groupings is becoming established. As society and interests change, some older groups may reduce in scale whilst new ones emerge. This is healthy and in keeping with Lympstone's adaptability, whilst local branches of national bodies such as the WI and Royal British Legion look set to continue indefinitely.

Submissions were sought from all Lympstone societies and have been recorded within the "Evidence" Appendix. "No Comments" merely reflect the lack of formal planning by the club/society not a lack of interest or purpose.

Right: The Garden Club Annual Show takes place in the Village Hall



Action points

- support Village Hall as a venue
- support Post Office as a place for non-PO business such as ticket sales
- Parish Council to consider selective use of grants to help clubs and societies.

Key issues

- Traffic speed
- Car parking
- Rail line development
- Bus links
- Cycle path facilities

Roads

The narrow village streets require lower speeds than the current 30mph limit. The introduction of a 20mph speed limit, within the village centre has been outstanding for too long (20 years) and is a prime requirement.

There is inadequate off-street car parking provision especially along Longmeadow Road and into the lower village. The car park in Underhill has 84 spaces and is increasingly insufficient for use by residents with no other parking options, plus visitors. As a result there is indiscriminate parking on double yellow lines. Better signage may help direct drivers to the car park. Visible parking enforcement by East Devon District Council may improve the situation in the short-term.

Rail

Lympstone is unique as a village in Devon in having a high frequency branch line rail service - with up to 66 trains a day running from 6am to midnight. The service is vital to many in the lower village where buses do not run. Rail is much the best choice for travel to central Exeter or to Exmouth. Passenger numbers are growing, with almost 71,000 in 2006/2007. Traffic on the line has grown by 30% in the past five years.

The Avocet Line Rail Users' Group is seeking improvements, including regular use of four coach trains, better information and ticketing at the village station and more Sunday trains. In the longer term a 15 minute service interval may be needed, which would probably require a passing loop at Lympstone, for which railway land is already available in the station vicinity and nearby cutting.

Bus

Bus travel is growing in importance, especially for older and younger travellers. The possibility of service within the village, perhaps by re-routing the 56, should be explored.

The Exmouth & District Community Transport Group runs a Ring & Ride service for people who cannot access public transport. This serves Lympstone for weekly trips to Exmouth, Exeter and other destinations.

Cycle path

The Exe Estuary Trail cycle path runs through the village. The Community want to see this well used and serviced, whilst current safety issues in the lower village need to be addressed.

Action points:

- 20mph speed limit in village
- 30mph speed limit for Wotton Lane
- explore options for off-street parking in upper village and secure land
- support Avocet Line Rail Users Group to achieve rail service improvements
- work to improve public transport availability and options for parish by detailed plan
- develop business opportunities from cycle path
- address cycle path safety and signage issues
- seek to get a bus service through the village with a stop at station hill.

Key issues

- A376 corridor capacity
- Short term tactical measures
- Long term replacement by a new dual carriageway

22. Traffic on the A376

Lympstone's proximity to Exeter and Exmouth, and the wide range of destinations for parishioners working outside the parish, makes road transport of critical importance. Add holiday, shopping and leisure traffic and growing heavy goods vehicle traffic, and the main route (A376) through the Parish is now inadequate and often severely congested.

In the 1980s Devon County Council (DCC) adopted a proposal to build a new dual carriageway described as the "Blue Route". This route was not fully supported by Lympstone. The parish favoured a "Red-Yellow Route" that took a more easterly direction away from the centre of the parish.

In 1995 the scheme was abandoned by DCC. In October 2007, DCC stated that "the emphasis is to concentrate on improving sustainable transport links between Exeter and Exmouth through the provision of the Exe Estuary cycle route, improvements to the rail service and stations, and enhanced facilities for bus passengers".

The Parish Council dispute this decision:-

- it takes no account of the increased HGVs due to retail developments in Exmouth
- it takes no account of the fact that most employment is out of Exmouth and parishes and also out of Exeter
- the Cycle Way is mainly a leisure amenity and not only could not cope with the perceived growth but is not desired by residents to do so
- Dinan Way to A376 via Summer Lane does not alleviate congestion – it merely gets people to the queue faster and the queue longer
- is not defensible with c4,000 extra houses that were not planned in 1995
- the policy does not reflect the wishes of the communities DCC serves
- the main reason for not doing the scheme is that it is perceived that the scheme itself will generate traffic
- Sustainable Transport Policy of Cycle Route plus enhanced train and bus services will not cope with the demands of the corridor.

Current situation

- 'Tactical' improvements are needed at junctions in the short term.
- A 'strategic' initiative must be considered to cater for the proposed developments in Exmouth.
- As a result of the consultation process the Study Team noticed a softening of attitude towards "new roads" – other solutions should be investigated and public debate encouraged.

Action points:

- actively contribute to lobbying and planning for 'tactical' improvements to A376 and to Exmouth
- lobby for a public consultation process to explore solutions to resolve the A376 congestion
- Dinan Way to A376 via Summer Lane is not supported and needs to be reconsidered as part of the consultation process.

See part 3, tables 2-4, which show that, at an average of 20,120 vehicles a day, the A376 is the third busiest commuter route into Exeter. Traffic has grown 36% since 1986 and with a projected further 3,000 homes in Exmouth, it is anticipated that traffic would increase further to almost 30,000 vehicles a day.

Key issues

- Underhill surgery is vital to community
- Maintain *Friends of Underhill Surgery*
- Senior Citizen care

23. Health & Community Care



The Lypstone NHS surgery is a satellite operation from the main surgery of the Claremont Practice in Exmouth. It is currently allocated two doctors, a nurse and two receptionists. Specialist medical staff i.e. midwife are sourced from the main practice as required. This satellite status is considered a strength as it is not considered a stand alone operation. There are currently 1,200 patients on the register.

Recently two new consulting rooms have been added to the rear of the building in readiness for any additional demand. Indeed it may be that some patients will be referred to Lypstone from Exmouth as the demand at the Exmouth Practice is creating pressure on space. An additional 750 patients could be accommodated at Lypstone, subject to doctors' availability. There are currently no further plans for expansion.

"Friends of Underhill Surgery" operate a taxi service for patients and prescriptions within the community. This is a valued service and needs to be supported.

The Steering Group received representations for the services at the Underhill surgery to be extended. These included notably:-

- extension of surgery hours
- availability of flu jabs at the surgery to avoid travelling to Exmouth
- provision of a limited pharmacy.

Residential and nursing care within the local area is extensive although heavily utilised. There are over 70 residential or nursing homes within the western half of East Devon District. Within the parish, Lypstone House provides 25 rooms and is registered for CSCI care categories "Old Age, not falling within any other category" and "Physical Disability".

Action points

- extend opening hours
- extend provision of local service
- in-house pharmacy.

Key issues

- Parish is well served by mains utilities
- EDDC refuse collection
- Upgrade of BT Broadband speed

24. Utilities



Electricity

Western Power report that they have no plans for any major changes within Lymptstone and are able to respond to any required increase in demand.

Gas

No changes are anticipated and supply is able to meet demand.

Water & Sewerage

South West Water respond that they have no plans for any major upgrade within the parish and that spare capacity exists within the system to accommodate any envisaged new housing.

EDDC new refuse plans

Under the new refuse service every household will receive

- a wheeled bin for general household waste – this to be collected fortnightly
- a bin and caddy for food waste - this to be collected weekly
- a recycle box for dry recyclables – this to be collected weekly.

This service change will be implemented in Lymptstone within the next 3 years. The purpose is to improve recycling by collecting a wider range of materials, reduce methane emissions by using industrial processes to make electricity and reduce landfill to a minimum.

These proposals will place new challenges on the community – notably storage of the containers and assistance for the elderly and infirm. The Parish Council will work with the community and EDDC to resolve these and other identified issues to ensure that the introduction is as trouble free as possible.

Telephone and broadband

For home-based and other small businesses, and for people working from home for larger companies, high speed broadband is an essential modern business tool.

As a result of long cable lengths from BT's Exmouth telephone exchange, broadband speeds in Lymptstone are slow - places close to exchanges in large towns may be up to 32 times faster. Faster speeds are necessary for streaming of video and TV, and computer applications are increasingly 'bandwidth hungry'. BT has announced plans to upgrade its local distribution network selectively but early indications are that Lymptstone may be missed out. BT has a local monopoly which is unlikely to change.

Action points:

- LPC to be proactive and seek early meeting with EDDC to identify the waste disposal issues, specifically: cottages with no storage space, communal bin parks, elderly assistance, and restricted/difficult access
- agree exception cases with EDDC
- ensure a full understanding of the system by public information meetings
- lobby BT for improved broadband speeds.

Key issues

- Parish is intrinsically safe and secure
- Crime is minor and low level
- PCSOs at heart of policing
- PACT

25. Security

Lympstone Parish is intrinsically safe and secure with very low levels of crime within the parish – a rate of around 2.5 crimes per '000 population compared to 3.5/4 for East Devon as a whole². Minor nuisance and minor domestic issues are the main source of call out for the police. The A376 passing through the parish can tend to distort the statistics. The fear of crime and perception is a bigger issue than crime levels themselves.

The introduction of the PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) has worked well in the parish and given a face to policing. This is the foreseeable future of policing in the parish.

PACT – Stands for **Partners And Communities Together**. It is a method, which allows the police and their partner agencies to engage with all elements of the community. Through PACT your neighbourhood policing team will identify the issues that affect you. With the community and partner agencies the top three priorities will be agreed, along with how everyone can work together to resolve them. It is important that the priorities chosen are ones that can be achieved.

Lympstone will have its own PACT panel, which will be a group of local people who will meet on a regular basis to bring forward local issues and look at ways to problem solve and hopefully resolve issues. Through this panel we will then be able to feed back to the community the work that has been done and the progress made. PACT boxes have been placed in key areas around the village with PACT cards, which will allow people to write their comments and which will then be brought forward to the PACT panel to discuss.

The increasing use of factual evidence means that increased use of CCTV would be supported by the police. CCTV for the car park is considered a priority.

Neighbourhood Watch operates successfully within the parish. Currently there are 8 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. The opinion of the Police is that 12 is the optimum number.

The Lympstone Sailing Club highlighted crime as an issue: unlike our sister clubs on the river that benefit from secure perimeter fences, LSC and its members' property is very vulnerable. The Club has already installed security lighting and security cameras to deter antisocial and criminal activity around the boats. LSC currently benefits from a number of members who live beside the harbour and maintain a passing watch. There may be scope to reinvigorate the local Crime Watch initiative to increase community protection.

Action points:

- Introduce 'PACT'
- CCTV for the car park
- Neighbourhood Watch – increase coordinators by four
- Increase surveillance of the Boat Shelter and Boat Compound.

² Devon & Cornwall Police 2008/9

Illustrations

Table 1 – Population over the ages

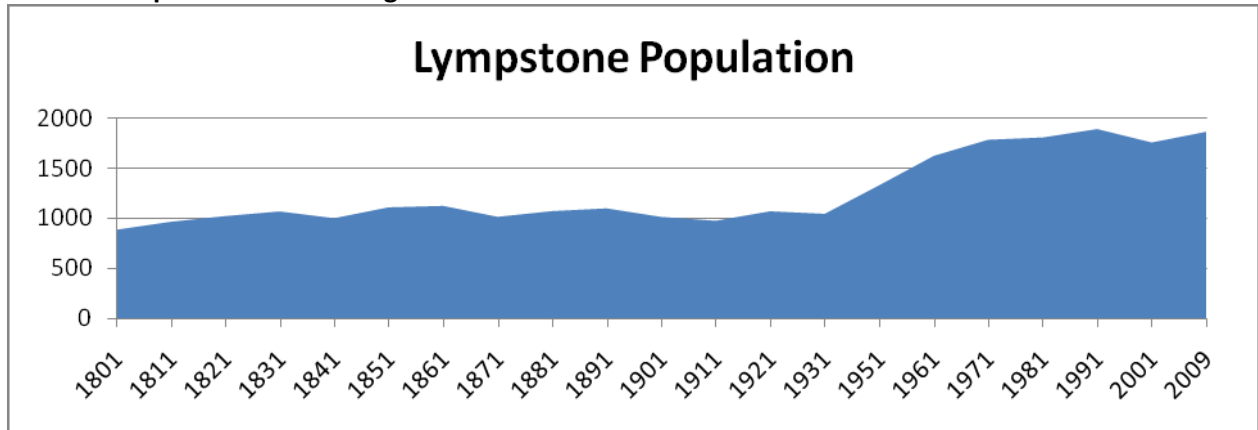
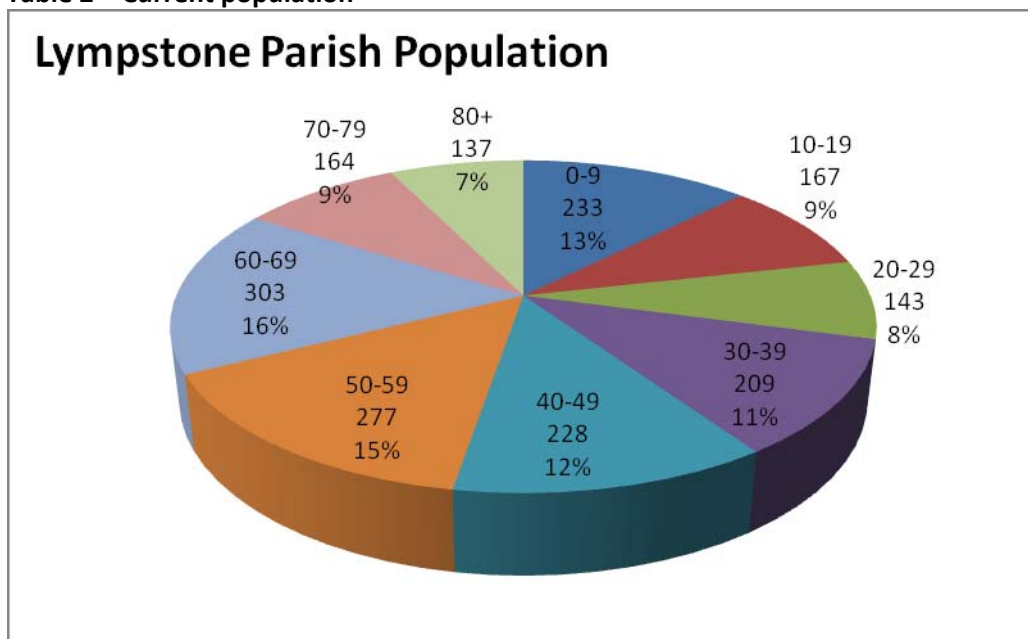


Table 2 – Current population³



Of the current population of 1,861 – 604 (32.5%) are over 60, and 446 (24%) are over 65.

³ Family Health Services Authority (FHSA) 2008 Population Projections.

Table 3 - Principal Commuter Routes into Exeter

Name/Location	Annual Average 24-hr day flow 2003
A38 Kennford	72,540
A379 Bridge Road	33,620
A376 Ebford (prev George & Dragon)	20,120
A377 Half Moon (prev Cowley & Newbridge)	12,040
A3052 Farrington (prev E. Cat & Fiddle)	10,400
A379 Exminster	9,710
B3181 Broadclyst	9,560
A396 Rewe	6,340

Source: Road Transport and Casualty Statistics for Devon 2004

Table 4 – Growth in Traffic on Commuter Routes into Exeter, 1986-2008

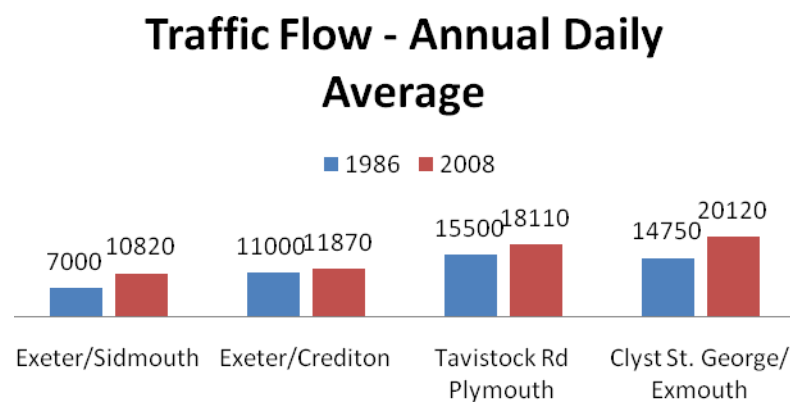
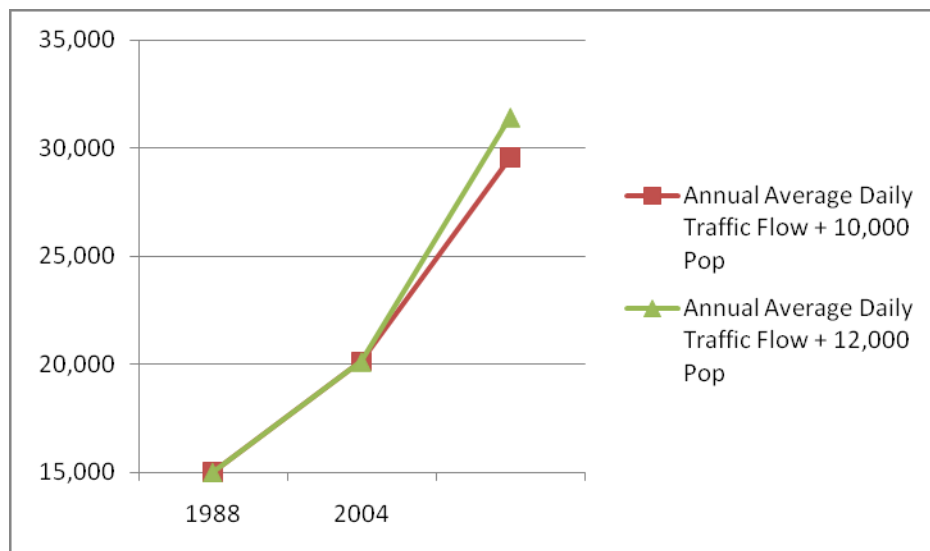


Table 5 – Projected Increase in Traffic, A376



The resultant traffic flow is a 46% increase to 29,549 vehicles per day. If the population increases by 12,000, which is not unrealistic, then the resultant traffic flow would be 31,435 vehicles per day. (Source: DCC Data 1988 and 2004/8 – LDF 2008 Housing projections)

Table 6 – List of Lympstone organisations consulted

Allotments	John Newton
Fishery & Harbour Assn.	Neil Downes
Friends of Underhill Surgery	
Furry Dance	
Garden Club	Chairman: Shirley Wilkes
Lympstone History Society	Chairman: Don Mildenhall
Royal British Legion	Mrs Lynda Jellard
Sailing Club	Former Commodore: Rosemary Maltby
Sea Scouts	Mike Hales
The Band	
Twinning Association	Richard Crisp
Kings GC	Richard King
Language School	
Local Small Businesses	Survey
Londis	
Lympstone Nurseries	Julie Russell
Post Office	Peter and Debbie Chisman
Swan Inn	
Globe Inn	
Redwing Inn	
Shops Supporters Club	Chris Carter
Bell-ringers	John Newton
Methodist Church	Edgar Norton
Methodist Hall	Bookings: Miss P Hancock
Mothers Union	Jan Wrayford
Parish Church	Rev.d John Clapham
Parochial Church Council	Secretary: Brian Mather
USPG	Mrs Vanessa Simpson
Composting	Jenepher Allen
Ring & Ride	WJ Bailey
Third Age Project	Dorothy Livingstone
Wednesday Lunch Club	Mary Blair
WI	Jo Cotton
Art Group	Jenny Delahaye
Band	Robert Steel (Sec.)
Lympstone Entertainments	
Lympstone Film Society	Don Mildenhall
Lympstone Players	Mrs Bobby Brunt
English Nature	
RSPB	
Local Land Owners	Richard Eastleigh
National Trust	David Jenkins

Councillor	Ben Ingham EDDC
Councillor	David Atkins EDDC
Councillor	Bernard Hughes DC
LPC Amenities Committee	
LPC Transport & Travel Committee	
LPC Planning Committee	
Village Design Statement	Harland Walshaw
Electricity	Western Power
Environment Agency	
Fire Service	
Gas	
Household Waste	EDDC
Police	PCSO Sarah Trayhurn
Telephone & Internet	BT
Water & Sewage	SW Water
Boxing	Neil Parsons
Cricket	John Goss-Custard
Football	C Gooding
Tennis Club	Jill Dixon
Tug of War Club	Jim Holman
Avocet Line Rail Users Group (ALRUG)	Tony Day
Baby and Toddler Group	Debbie Foxon
Brownies	Brownie Guider
Lympstone@Play	Jane Moffat
Pre-school	Debbie Foxon
Primary School	Headmaster
Primary School	Chair Board of Governors - Victoria Laney-Hubbard
St Peters School	(Headmaster)
Youth Club	Youth
Youth Club	Jane Moffat & Jenny Clark
Health Centre	Dr.Tom Debenham
Historic Houses Group	Don Mildenhall
Lifeboats (RNLI)	Alan Burton
Lympstone Herald	Chris Carter
Village Hall	Don Mildenhall

List of documents available on website

Introduction

Extracts from East Devon Local Plan – 2006 (relating to Lympstone and its environs)
Responses from Cllrs. Ingham and Atkins – August 2008

Lympstone Past & Present

Lympstone population over the ages

Our Vision

The Approach

Lympstone Parish Appraisal 1989 (summary)
Lympstone demographics 1989

The Village Community

Lympstone History Society and the Lympstone Historic Houses Group – August 2008

Green Lympstone

Environmental issues (green in Lympstone) January 2009

Village Hall

Village Hall - November 2008
Village Hall update March 2009

Recreation & Sports Facilities

Notes of interviews with sports clubs in Lympstone
Interview with Lympstone Football Club – June 2008

Housing for Parishioners

Housing and Development - January 2009
Lympstone Landowners Association

Affordable Housing

Housing Needs Survey Report (draft) – August 2008
Affordable housing - January 2009
Affordable housing (unsigned and undated)
Affordable housing draft chapter

Commerce

Commerce - February 2009

Natural Environment

Foreshore - February 2009
Lympstone Common

The Estuary

Lympstone Fisheries and Harbour Association

Tourism

Tourism

Amenities

Amenities

Information & Communication

Broadband Communications - November 2008

Lympstone Herald - March 2009

Lympstone Website - March 2009

Information & Communication - March 2009

Education

Statement from primary school headmaster – May 2008

Youth

Focus group Lympstone Youth Club – June 2008

Youth – submission by Cllr. J. Moffat - January 2009

The Church

Parish Church

Social, Clubs and Societies

Reponses from clubs and societies – August 2008

Lympstone Entertainments

Lympstone Film Society

Lympstone Players

Mothers Union

Royal British Legion

Shop Supporters Club

Transport

Travel & Transport (unsigned & undated)

Statement from Transport and Travel Committee – April 2008

Statement from Avocet Line Rail Users Group – May 2008

Community Transport Group

Traffic on the A376

A376 data

Health & Community Care

Interview with Dr. Tom Debenham - June 2008

Utilities

EDDC new refuse plans

Letter from Environment Agency re flood defence and surface water drainage plans

Letter from South West Water re water and sewerage services – May 2008

Letter from Head of Streetscene Services, EDDC, re recycling and refuse

Letter from Wales and West Utilities re gas pipes

Letter from Western Power Distribution re electricity supply – June 2008

Security

Statement from Police - February 2009