

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Ad hoc research conducted at the Otford Society Meeting 16th Oct 08

The 70 members were asked to complete three post-it notes showing their Likes / Dislikes & Hopes for Otford.

LIKES (Otford Society Meeting)	DISLIKES (Otford Society Meeting)	HOPES (Otford Society Meeting)
The Village itself	Traffic	Housing
Village Hall	No through road to by-pass village centre	No inappropriate housing developments
The village Memorial hall	"Traffic" x18 responses	No unsuitable planning approvals
Churches	Traffic volume & speed	Less infilling and 2-for-1 developments
Nice selection of churches	Traffic building up on roads	More local low-cost development
The ancient church	So much through traffic	Sheltered('Care'?) housing for the community
The listed phone box on the Green	Speed	Homes for older people
Pond	Not observing the speed limit	Protect the Green Belt
Pond and village environment	Speeding in Shoreham Rd.	No development on the existing Green Belt
The duck pond	Too much, too fast.	Limit the new houses being built
The pond & ducks	Speed and numbers	No more large developments
The pond and ducks	Quantity and speed of traffic	No further building, making roads even more crowded
Duck pond and ducks	Volume of traffic	Stop pulling down old houses without need.
Please have water lilies and water fowl back	Traffic noise from M26	Better and more thoughtful planning
The Crown pub	Noise from traffic on motorway & main roads	Allow Otford to evolve naturally. Do not impose house numbers
Lovely Recreation Ground.	Well Rd development will cause traffic congestion	An un-corrupt planning committee which takes account of the village's wishes and make speedy decisions.
The recreation ground	Traffic from the school parents	
The planet system	School traffic	
The shops & pharmacy	Poor care of signs (particularly Rye Lane)	Character of the village
The shops & pharmacy	Heavy lorries through village	Retaining our identity
Interesting shops, especially antiques	Heavy traffic	Maintain the essential character of our village
Lively village - shops, pubs and restaurants	Restrict HGVs using village as a cut-through	Maintain a village atmosphere x2 responses
Medical centre and pharmacy available	HGVs in country lanes (Sat Nav problem)	Extend the village green to include the pond. Divert the traffic.
High Street atmosphere / flower baskets etc.	6'6" rule not observed by heavy lorries through High St.	
The small country village & community feel	Size of very long delivery lorries to OBM/pubs etc.	Pave the Conservation area.
The village character	Big heavy lorries which were never previously allowed	Pedestrianise the village centre
The village atmosphere	Need OAP's bus to/from Sevenoaks	A quieter village
The village setting is lovely	Development	Make safer pavements & footways
The village	Excessive building	To increase the rural quiet
The village character	Unnecessary developments	Introduce an arts & crafts centre (at Heritage Centre?)
Unspoilt village	New houses built for untypically high density	Traffic
The village centre	Over development	Less traffic
The centre of the village (pond and pubs)	Developers	Reduction or control of traffic
The established village centre	Inappropriate developmentx2	Introduce speed cameras / more police presence
The attractive village centre	Too much in-filling between homes	Solving of traffic problems
Living in a village	Infilling. How do we enforce this?	More traffic restrictions
The well-kept appearance of the village	Infilling development & loss of gardens	Traffic amelioration
The trees in the village	Development in conflict with village character lay-out.	A by-pass to divert through traffic
Local trees & gardens	Huge houses being built	By-pass road from bottom of Polehill to Sevenoaks Rd.
The green spaces	New big houses dominate too much. Not like the village	Re-introduce the park & ride scheme to SO
our rural setting with the accessibility to London culture	Building expensive houses No chance for young people	Community activities
Village History	Extra housing when we don't need it	More community activities

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The history of the village	Too many new houses	More involvement with the community
Its long history makes it special	No "care" housing for elderly residents	Consolidation of the community (Parish Plan?)
No Lighting	Parking	Preservation of our community
The lack of lights	Paving in roads around station	Continuation of a strong community spirit
The lack of street lights	Commuter parking	Introduce the concept of Otford to newcomers
Countryside surrounding village	Commuter on-street parking	Shops
The open countryside & farm animals	Commuter parking on narrow roads	Development of village shopping facilities. Butcher?
The rural atmosphere	Parking problems	Christmas lights in the High Street (!)
The rural atmosphere	Parking in car park,	Introduce small, friendly shops. Close the supermarket.
The rural aspect of the village	Car park too small	More supply shops. No more closures
Rural ambiance	Introduce grass grating for some parking	Parking
All rural aspects	Lack of provision shops	better control of parking
The country round Otford.	Lack of food shops & small amenities	Create a landscaped (natural) parking area
Our countryside heritage	Lack of proper village shops	Sports
The countryside and many walks	Absence of local general store	Being able to do more sports instead of going to SO
Views and walking areas	Lack of general provision shops	Would like swimming pool and gym.
Beautiful walks	Lack of variety of shops	Un-specific
Being in the country	Supermarkets kill the village shops. Too many car trips	Access to Becketts Well - our most historic place.
The lovely countryside	Rubbish	Refurbish the village hall. (!)
Surrounding countryside	Litter x2 responses	Young people
The countryside	Rubbish	Provide more to do for the young people
The countryside	Litter especially near station	Donations
Our countryside	Overgrown hedges	Wealthy residents & businesses providing recourses
The views	Overgrown hedges and trees	
The desire to protect the Green Belt	Lack of tree pruning	<i>That things won't get any worse in my lifetime!</i>
The footpaths	Hedges not kept trimmed on footpaths & local roads	<i>Peace will return</i>
The social community atmosphere	Lighting	
The vibrant community	Lack of lighting on path to station	
The village community	People	
The friendly atmosphere	Snobby attitude. Nobody walks and talks	
Friendship	Cultural life	
The friendly community	Lack of cultural life, concerts, plays	
The friendly people	Anti-social behaviour	
Friendly residents	Vandalism x3 responses	
Friendliness of the villagers	Bad behaviour late at night	
Friendliness	General Village items	
Friends and neighbours	Uneven pavements x 3 responses	
The people	Narrow pavement in High Street. Too close to fast cars	
The community	No central meeting area	
The sense of belonging	No hub to the village.	
Belonging to a community	Street furniture	
The community feeling	Dog fouling on the Rec x2 responses	
The community spirit in the village	Poor maintenance of Pickmoss lane footpath	

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Community of the village. The ambiance.	Need wheely bins for elderly who cannot lift bags.	
Friendly active community	Dormitory residents	
Friendly people	Things are going ahead without the consequences to	
Friendliness	the village being thought through first.	
The community spirit in the village	Frog Farm to keep hedge cut on PWW to enable views.	
The 'hopeful' community spirit in the village	(Nothing yet as we're newcomers)	
Local courtesy		
Good neighbours		
Good neighbours		
Easier to get to know neighbours		
An active community		
Societies and clubs		
The many societies in the village		
All the many societies		
Friendly interesting societies		
At whatever age, there is always a club or society		
Number of societies & activities to take part in		
The number of organisations to suit every need.		
The organisations		
Community facilities		
Interlocking community networks		
Plenty of Associations to join		
Good church choir		
Activities (fetes etc)		
Support the village fete		
Train connections		
Good train connections		
Station is good		
Sports facilities		
The sports facilities		
Excellent rec for cricket, football, tennis.		
Surprisingly good standard due to dedicated coaches		