

# The Great Wakering Parish Plan 2015



The way we are today and our vision for the future.



Abridged Survey Analysis

The **co-operative** membership  
community fund

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PARISH PLAN 2015

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***“A golden  
opportunity for  
every voice to be  
heard”***

# Survey notes and welcome

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The view of central government is that local communities in the UK should have their own voice and their own say in policies and plans that affect local life and opportunities. As a step in establishing what people think or need, a survey has been conducted by The Great Waking Parish Plan Steering Group. This document contains the abridged results of that survey, hence its formal title of The Abridged Survey Analysis. The purpose of which is to set out the key responses to the questionnaire, which was distributed to 2,500 households in the Great Waking area during 2012.

This document will be available on request and has been used to provide the platform of evidence leading to the next and final publication – The Action Plan document - which will present actions to be pursued into the future.

## A warm welcome to the Great Waking Parish Plan

### A message from Laurie Street - Chairman of Great Waking Parish Plan Steering Group.

The funding provided by Essex County Council, the Co-operative Community Fund and the Big Lottery Fund have been a remarkable investment. From the first meeting to form a steering group to the holding of public meetings to identify the desires and needs of parishioners, it has been a long, hard road but the committee formed to manage the work of GWPP has been more than equal to the task and are to be congratulated on their work.

The Parish Plan has been an opportunity for all residents to have a genuine say in the shape of the parish in the future and once formally adopted, will influence the principal councils, Great Waking Parish, Rochford District, Essex County and others, to take seriously the aspirations put forward. The principal authorities will now have a cogent, well thought out vision for the future of the Parish. The parish plan is grateful to all those who took the time to complete the questionnaire and give a genuine representative picture across the Parish.

I feel fortunate to have been born and lived for many years in Great Waking. We are among the lowest crime rate in Rochford District, which is already one of the lowest in Essex. We are blessed with living in a green and pleasant land with wide-open spaces.

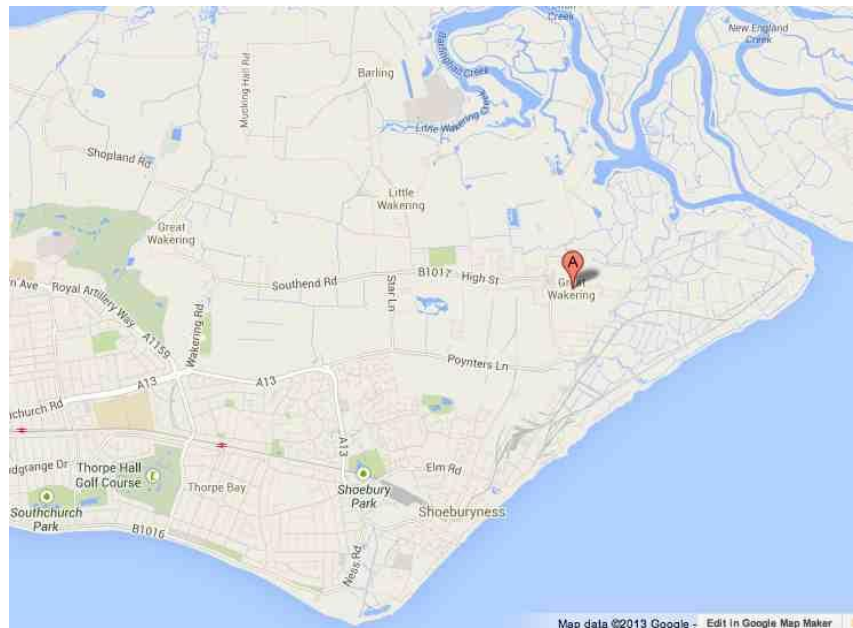
However, the Parish faces many challenges in the coming years. Hopefully by giving our Parish, District and County Councillors guidance by way of this report we will all end up with the Parish we would like to see.

Laurie Street  
April 2015



# About Great Waking

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Great Waking is located in the south-eastern corner of the County of Essex. The geographical coordinates are 51.33.5N and 00.48.8E.

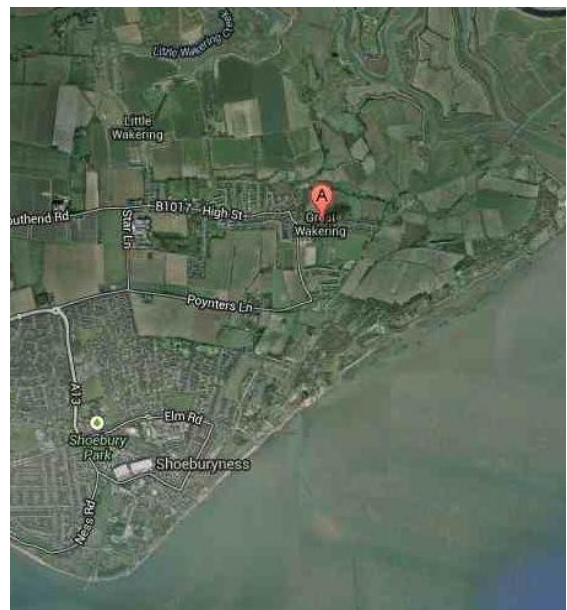


- Most of the village lies within two miles of the coastline and is surrounded by productive agricultural land, except the south-eastern boundary which is formed by the junction of the Thames estuary and the North Sea. The south-western boundary extends into the Thames estuary as far as the centre of the river.

- Part of the District of Rochford, the population of Great Waking is thought to be in the region of 10,000 souls. It is part of the District postal code SS3.
- Great Waking comprises 2,775 acres of land. The Ordnance Survey grid reference for Saint Nicholas Church is 948876 TQ.

- The village lies approximately 4 miles east of Southend on Sea. The Parish encompasses Rushley Island.

- Great Waking is approximately 40 miles from central London and 33 miles from London City Airport. London Stansted Airport is some 33 miles distant.



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# About Great Waking

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Great Waking is a village in Essex, England. The nearest large town is Southend which is approximately four miles to the west of the village. Public transportation to and from the village is via bus, but the village is well served with several historical public houses, a primary school, a Co-operative supermarket, post office, hairdressers and several small, independent and characterful shops. Great Waking consists mainly of two roads, the High Street which runs from the junction of Star Lane, and New Road which begins outside St. Nicholas parish church and runs down to the bridges for Foulness Island.

According to a mediaeval tradition, Waking was the site of a monastery during the seventh century AD. Two Christian cousins of King Ecgberht of Kent, named Aethelred and Aethelberht, were murdered at Eastry, a royal dwelling in the Kingdom of Kent, during King Ecgberht's reign (664-673). They were prevented by a miracle from being buried at Canterbury, and were taken instead to an existing monastery at Waking (the site of St. Nicholas Church) in the Kingdom of Essex and enshrined there as saints.



The village church dates back to Norman times and the board of rectors or vicars inside begins in the year 1200 with simply "Robert", the next incumbent equally simply named "Peter". The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas and dates back to the 12th Century. There is also a Methodist and an Evangelical (formerly Peculiar People) Church on Great Waking High Street.

The village was badly hit during the 1953 floods. After agriculture, brick-making was once the main industry in Waking at various sites including Havengore, Millhead and Landwick. There was brick-making in the area in Roman Times.. The old brickworks (now demolished) at Star Lane was served by an industrial narrow-gauge railway, the remains of which can still be seen in the bushes. The factory finally closed in 1991, but the four towers remained a focal point on the horizon until September, 2007, when they were finally torn down.

Great Waking has many community links to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) governed Foulness Island. Much of the land area around Great Waking is closed off to the public as it forms part of a MOD firing range. When firing is not taking place however the MOD beach at Waking Stairs can be accessed via a rough road at Landwick security check-in. You can also cross MOD land and walk across the Range from Cupid's Corner to follow a strange and very muddy track to the seawall which offers great views over the Maplin Sands. The MOD beach is very craggy and deserted, a great spot for watching Brent Geese and waders. You will find much military debris around the area such as old firing targets, train tracks, graffiti trains, a lookout tower and several ruined batteries. Plus it is here you can access the fabled tidal path 'The Broomway' and follow it at your peril to Fisherman's Head on Foulness Island.



The local football team Great Waking Rovers play in the Isthmian League First Division North. Their home ground Burroughs Park is adjacent to the village recreation ground.



# The Great Waking Parish Plan

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## The Great Waking Parish Plan

The Great Waking Parish Plan Steering Group and the Great Waking Parish Council are two completely separate organisations. The Parish Plan Steering Group is responsible for producing this document and the survey on which it is based. Though both groups each have Great Waking's best interests in mind, it should be noted that the Parish Plan Steering Group operates independently of the Parish Council.

More information on the Great Waking Parish Council can be found on their website [www.greatwaking-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greatwaking-pc.gov.uk).

The Great Waking Parish Plan Steering Group was formed to work with the residents of Great Waking with a view to producing a representative Parish Plan. A separate website has been developed which is dedicated to this ambition. In accordance with overarching aims the Parish Plan should be formed for the Community, by the Community.

In order to find out more please visit the Parish Plan website at [www.greatwakingparishplan.org.uk](http://www.greatwakingparishplan.org.uk).

## The Steering Group

The Steering Group are all volunteers and are:

Laurie Street - Chairman  
Marion Sawyer - Secretary and Treasurer  
Deborah Hitchman - Vice Chair  
Phil Hitchman - Website  
Margaret Flynn - Minutes Recorder  
Daniel Efde - Publicity Officer

## Why do we need a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is an ideal way to set out what people think about the area they live in - what's good, what's bad and what needs to be changed to ensure it's a great place to live. Creating a Parish Plan is a step towards making sure that your community is one where everyone enjoys a good quality of life - and that you and your family will continue to enjoy into the future.

The Parish Plan provides a structure that will:

- Reflect the views of all sections of the community
- Identify features and local characteristics that people value
- Identify local needs and opportunities
- Set out a vision of how people want their community to develop and improve both in the present and the future
- Include an Action Plan to achieve this vision (see separate document)



The Steering Group has gathered your views from the completed questionnaires on how the community sees the future of the 'village', what is good, what is bad, how the good can be made better and how the bad can be made very much better. This forms the content of this publication.

# The Survey explained

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## How the survey information was gathered and interpreted



The Parish Plan Survey Questionnaire was distributed to 2,500 local households. Great Wakering residents were informed of the survey via six separate leaflet drops, community open days and at a variety of additional public events.

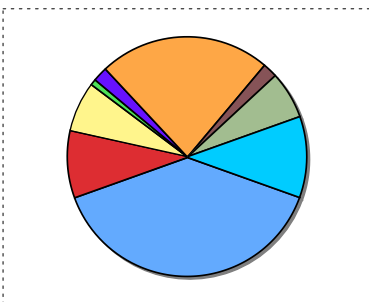
Sufficient responses were received to enable meaningful progress. Respondents were free to not answer questions that they were not interested in – so inevitably even within a section it cannot be assumed that each question was answered by an identical number of respondents.

At the Parish Plan Steering Group's discretion a very small number of incomplete/unclear responses, or where the number of responses were so small as to make the data unreliable, were dropped from the final analysis to save print and administration costs. However, every effort has been made to retain as much useful information as possible.

Besides answering the questions which have been translated into charts there were a very large number of comments. To have included all of these in the document would have doubled its size so we have not reproduced every individual comment in this document. This particularly applies when many different people have expressed the same view. However, you may be reassured that all views have been counted and the general weight of opinion has been recorded. The full comments will be available on the website in due course. No attempt has been made to influence the direction of opinion shown in this document.

Various methods of presenting the survey feedback data were tried in order to make the information as broadly accessible as possible. We finally settled on the use of coloured charts accompanied by written comments, as the most easily generated and simple method.

## Data Protection Privacy



The Data Protection Act 1998 applies to all information supplied in response to the questionnaires.

A typical example of the type of chart used throughout the survey to record the proportion of votes for each choice. There are two types of questions - multiple choice and single choice. In the case of multiple choice questions no percentages are shown next to the chart.

# Issues of particular concern

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The research gathered in forming The Great Wakering Parish Plan showed that many of us share common concerns. For example, the building of additional homes in our neighbourhood is a hot topic, as indeed is the anti-social matter of dog fouling. The issue of Sea Defences is already on the agenda with the appropriate organisations but the Parish Plan feedback will serve to add weight to the need for action. On an optimistic note, the inclusion into the Parish Plan of illustrations by some of our local children reminds us all that whatever we can achieve now will help ensure a better future for generations yet to come.

## Community

Many of the responders felt there should be a properly equipped Sports Centre in GW. Due to economic pressures the existing Sports Centre was no longer viable and as a result of the Olympic Legacy a number of sports are available at the Primary School including a Sports Hall, Atrium, two outdoor floodlit hard play courts, sports field, and outdoor heated swimming pool. Facilities at the school have been designed for groups within the community.

Over a third feel that dog fouling is a major problem.

## Education

Some of the responses regarding access to Computers led us to believe that some students did not have access to computers after school, however we found that the Teen Cafe at the Primary School has a suite of its own laptops that the children can use and a homework support group. There is also an after school computer club.

**KES** (King Edmund School) - The library has IT facilities and is open each night after school. Most subject areas are happy to provide support/access for students after school each day if needed. A late bus is provided each day after school at about 15:45 that students may sign up for. They can then stay for up to 90 minutes after the end of the school day and still access free travel home.

## Housing

A number of the replies regarding housing and development are proving difficult to address as they conflict with something called the LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF). This framework has been approved by national government and Rochford District Council who oversee planning matters. It is in response to a national housing shortage whereby all areas are expected to contribute towards sharing more housing.

Having an LDF in place does protect us from excessive over development. Areas where no such LDF is in place such as Castle Point appear to be experiencing a rush of development speculators.

Great Wakering has approaching 2,500 houses so it seems we could expect an increase of about 20% over quite a long period of time.

After years of debate and consultation plus a Planning



Inspectors investigation Great Waking has been allocated a total of 250 units to be built on two areas in the green belt to the western end of Great Waking (see map Appendix A Figure 15). This comprises land to the east of Star Lane and south of the High Street and that between Southend Road and Barrow Hall Road. This may increase as previously there was a cap of 5% over and above the 250 dwellings, which has been removed by the Government Inspector. This development is scheduled post 2021.

In addition a planning application has been approved for 116 dwellings for the former brown field Brickworks site on Star Lane (see map Appendix A Figure 3). However this should be seen in the light of the significant changes made to the original Star Lane plan. The initial plan for 140 dwellings has been reduced to 116, together with major changes to safety and aesthetics – due to the efforts of your District and Parish Councillors, the officers of the District and you the residents/community.

Also the present industrial estate (see map Appendix A Figure 3) is zoned for possible re-development for housing. This may or may not happen but could increase the number of new dwellings.

Therefore we are likely to end up with about 400 units, but it could be about 450 units if the industrial estate is re-developed.

This makes it difficult for us to recommend no development or even only a very small amount of new building.

## Sea Defences

The issue of Sea Defences will continue with the appropriate agencies and organisations.

