



Village Plan 2017





Introduction

A “Village Plan” is a form of community-led plan which determines the future of a community and how it can change for the better. These are documents that set out a vision for the future of a Parish and outline how that can be achieved in an action plan.

The newly elected Parish Council decided to create a Village or Parish Plan in 2015 and formed a Working Party to complete the task, consisting of both Parish Councillors (Simon Goodwin, Debbie Asher and Helen Tomblin) and co-opted members of the community (Emma Thomson, Jeff Davies, Butch Baker and Andy Sharp). The Terms of Reference for the working party were;

- **Vision:** make Easton on the Hill an even better place to live
- **Objective:** define, develop, refine and verify the plan, which will have a lifespan of 10 years
- **Scope:** the needs and wants of the community living within village – taking as a start point the key points raised in the Village Survey and follow up Focus Group Meetings
- **Key deliverable:** a coherent and articulate village plan document

The starting point for the plan was the

Village Survey, which was completed in late 2015. This involved a detailed questionnaire being hand delivered to all properties in the village. Each household was subsequently visited again to collect, or prompt completion of the questionnaire. 43% of households completed the questionnaire, representing the views of nearly 60% of the population of 1,050 people. This was an excellent response rate and we are very grateful for the level of support and engagement. The survey questionnaire and report can be seen via the links shown opposite.

The survey identified the community was really pretty satisfied with their lives and the village; with 85% of the community stating the village is a friendly place and a Net Promoter Score of 53% (which is



very high). A significant proportion of respondents wanted absolutely nothing to change in the village. The one clear area of frustration identified, perhaps unsurprisingly, was the negative impact of traffic (speed, congestion and parking) - which the Parish Council has already taken steps to investigate.

However, once we looked more carefully at the detailed feedback it was clear there were a number of areas of unmet need, particularly for the younger and older members of our community – some of which were creating a blight on people's lives. This plan seeks to help address this situation.

During the summer of 2016 a series of focus group discussion meetings were held to discuss the developing plan and to seek feedback and comment. These meetings were open to everyone in the village. More than 50 people attended the sessions, representing 6% of the adult population. In addition a youth focused session was held in which 20 under 16's views and feedback were sought, representing 10% of the young population. This Plan is the outcome of this comprehensive process.



What happens now?

This plan contains a number of recommendations which the community wants implementing. The Village Plan represents an agreement between the community and the Parish Council as to how we would like Easton on the Hill to develop in the future. The Village Plan is not a guarantee of immediate action on all areas affected by policy decisions at central, regional, county and district level. What the Plan will do is provide those bodies with a very clear view of the needs and expectations of our community.

Will the Plan have an effect?

If all or even some of the recommendations contained in the Plan are achieved then clearly the village will be a better place to live. It will be necessary to prioritise the



recommendations because some issues will require more urgent action. A high priority though does not necessarily mean rapid action as some will need considerable input of resources and co-operation from other authorities. The ongoing success of this Village Plan can only be assured if the whole community is involved and actively supports it.

We would like to thank the many people who have contributed to the creation of this plan by giving up so much of their time.

Further sources of information

- Village Survey Questionnaire <http://bit.ly/2IHLe4l>
- Village Survey Report <http://bit.ly/2m3MHgU>
- Previous (1992) Village Appraisal <http://bit.ly/2mYFnli>



All internal photographs in this publication were courtesy of resident photographers Jeff Davies and Anthony Vaughan

History & Heritage

Easton on the Hill is a Northamptonshire village, lying on the north eastern tip of the county where it tapers to a point just outside Stamford. The hill upon which Easton stands forms the watershed between the river Welland to the north and the river Nene to the south.

The village is built on two small valleys at right angles to one another. The two streams mentioned above, both arising from springs, must have determined the choice of Easton as a site for settlement since good water supply is a basic requirement.

The village was already well established by 1086 when the Domesday Book records 31 households (including 4 slaves). The population is believed to have numbered over 100 people by 1300 AD.

The area must have had its inhabitants in the Romano-British period since there

was vigorous exploitation at this time of the mineral deposits of the 'Jurassic Ridge' in Northamptonshire and therefore of the local iron ore and limestone quarries, also of Collyweston slate.

Easton is in easy reach of important thoroughfares and in the 13th & 15th centuries Stamford was a centre of the wool and fine cloth trade and in 1794 the road from Kettering to Stamford was turn-piked. A toll gate was erected and a cottage built beside the road (now the A43) just before the High Street dives off down into the village. Today the spot is marked only with a holly tree.

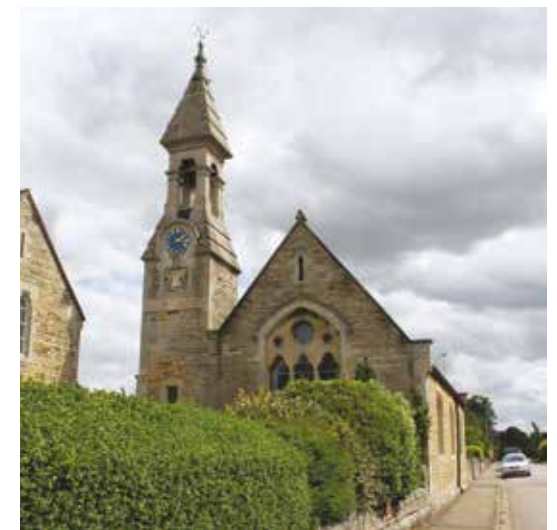
The most fundamental changes in village life have been sociological. A considerable expansion in the population of the village from 821 in 1901 to the present day of 1050

One of the National Trust's smallest buildings is situated within the village

Did you know?

- There were 110 families living in the village in 1673 and 128 in 1801.
- The population was 1066 persons at the time of the 1851 census.

and was built by John Stokes, Rector of Easton from 1456 until he died in 1495. John Stokes left money in his will for a chantry priest to pray for his soul, which became illegal following the dissolution of the monasteries and the funds were appropriated by the Crown. The building contains many interesting architectural features.



Recommendations

- Protect the unique history and heritage of our rural village community by safeguarding the legacy we have been bequeathed.
- Share and communicate with visitors and residents the history and heritage of our community.







All Saints Church

The Church stands on a crest of a hill 285 feet (87m) above sea level and overlooks the Welland Valley. The oldest portions of the church are probably the two large pillars, or responds as they are correctly named, on the north side of the Chancel, which are about 900 years old. It is likely there has been a place of Christian worship in Easton for at least 1,000 years.

At the beginning of the 13th century most of the existing Church was rebuilt. The chancel and nave were extended, an aisle added, to the south, and a long chapel added to the south side of the chancel. The chantry chapel dates from circa 1200 and the vestry from about 1230.

The outstanding feature of the Church is its tower, added in the 15th century. It is 100ft (30.5 m) to the top of the pinnacles and is a fine example of regional design. It is said to be an almost replica of the tower of St John's Church in Stamford. Ely cathedral and the Boston stump can be seen from the tower in clear weather.

The large clear glass windows fill it with light on a bright day and it is a place of tranquillity and peace.

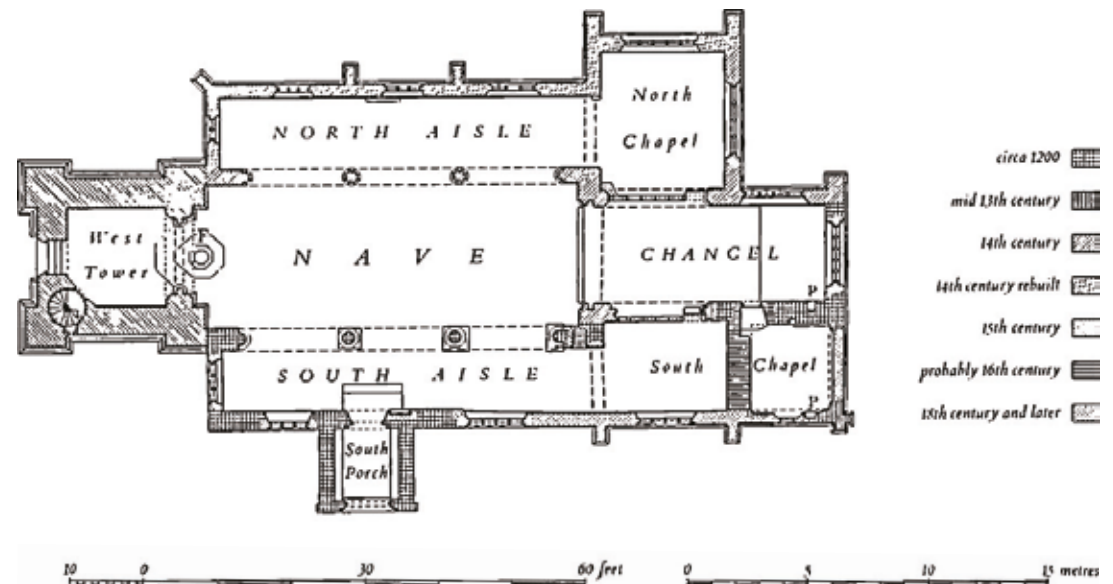
The Church has been lovingly cared for over the years, each succeeding generation

having made its contribution.

The Friends of the Church have come together to preserve and maintain the Church's use for future generations. Grants are being sought for the connection of a water supply, provision of toilets and tea/coffee making facilities. Also a grant is being sought for the construction of a Peace Labyrinth, which will be a place for reflection and contemplation, in the recent Churchyard extension. All Saints no longer has its own vicar, but like most parishes today shares a one with several neighbouring parishes.

Did you know?

The Church Bells. Originally there were four bells in the All Saints' tower, with two added in 1997 to commemorate the Millenium. The oldest was cast in Nottingham c1510 and two others in Stamford in 1640 by Thomas Norris (whose foundry was on the site of a now well-known pub).







The Natural Environment

Despite being so close to two main roads we benefit from a beautiful local environment. The village community is fortunate to be able to easily escape into the local countryside. There are plenty of green spaces that have evolved as meeting or resting places.

We have three important areas that harbour wildlife and encourage biodiversity.

- **All Saints Church** is managed sympathetically with conservation in mind, whilst keeping an appearance befitting an ancient churchyard. The Friends of the Church aim to achieve accreditation with the Northants Conservation Churchyard award scheme.

Recommendations

- Create a documented, mapped wildlife walk around the village linking our rural paths and walks.
- Plant trees and shrubs in sensible places and maintain them.
- Involve our local school and enterprises to sponsor environmental improvements and projects.

The flora and fauna in the churchyard is stunning in spring and with the addition of nesting boxes, managed trails, new meadows and information boards make it a very pleasant place to visit.

- **Collyweston Deeps** or Quarry, a Sight of Special Scientific Interest, is managed by Northants, Beds and Bucks Wildlife trust. This open grass grassland is regularly used by walkers, dog lovers and, due to having rare flora and fauna, wildlife groups.
- **The Pocket Park** is located off the High Street and is the source of a natural spring. There is no formal definition of a pocket park, but ours was created on land gifted from Burghley Estates in 1977. The area has been sensitively landscaped and is the site of a replica of the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade memorial, which commemorates this elite WW II allied unit billeted in the village prior to deployment at the bold, but ill fated Battle of Arnhem in September 1944. The original memorial is located on Park Walk.

Other areas of wildlife interest within the village boundaries include the Tank Road track down to the River Welland, at Tinwell,

Did you know?

- The quarries date from 1211 and are recorded as the Colleyweston Enclosure Award in 1839. Over 200 species of flowering plant have been recorded and many of them are only found in unimproved limestone grassland.

the Park Walk loop, Bluebell or Dotterel wood and the now overgrown old Iron works to the north west of the village.

Volunteer groups, local farmers and societies within the village are regularly involved in enhancing the natural environment, such as bulb planting, creating bird nesting habitat, planting nectar and wildflower crops, the latter helping pollinate the fruit and veg in our three allotments. Information about these projects is often covered within our News and Views magazine and talks at the Horticultural and History societies, as well as free guided walks. The National Trust managed Priest's House also stages local exhibitions which promote local wildlife trusts.



Welcome to Collyweston Quarries

Collyweston Quarries Nature reserve, known locally as "The Dings", is one of only a few remaining fragments of limestone grassland in the county. Nationally these anthropogenic grasslands have become scarce, mainly due to building development and changes in farming practices, with an estimated 80% loss nationally since the late 1980s. For this reason most of Collyweston Quarries is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Historically the site was a quarrying operation in particular Collyweston stone, which is well known as a building stone. The quarrying impact is the reason the site has the name Collyweston Quarries.

What to look for

The limestone, when exposed, creates a very dry and open habitat. The site is rich in limestone grassland, which is a rare and important habitat. The site is also home to a variety of rare and unusual plants and animals.

With over 100 species of plants and animals, the site is a rich and diverse habitat. The limestone, when exposed, creates a very dry and open habitat. The site is rich in limestone grassland, which is a rare and important habitat.

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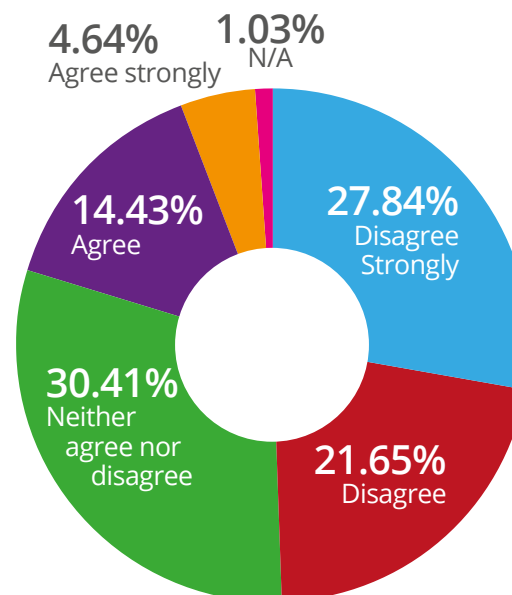


The Built Environment

Responses to the village survey show that the majority of community think Easton on the Hill is a beautiful and peaceful place to live. Average occupancy at above 19 years (2.4 x the national average) indicates people are reluctant to move once they settle here. People reported they are satisfied with their own and the villages buildings and infrastructure and that their present accommodation suits their needs.

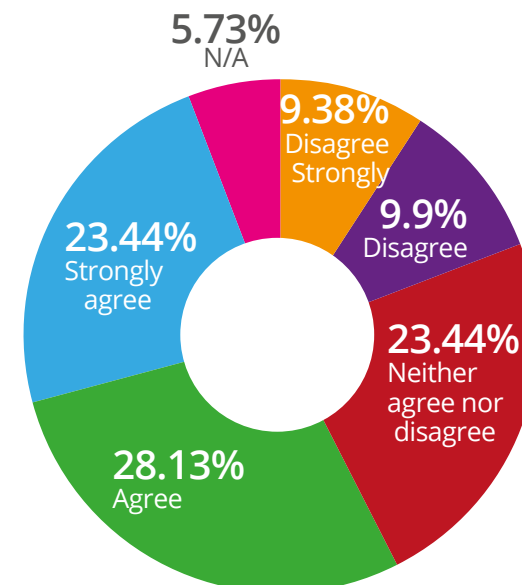
The village has a wide variety of dwellings some as much as 500 years old, but the majority were constructed within the last 75 years. Approximately 50% of the settlement lies within the much appreciated and respected Conservation Area, which is seen as an important part of the village and contributes to the overall attractiveness of our community.

Although there is limited enthusiasm for further housing development within



I would like to see further housing development in the village

the village, it is strongly felt that if development is to take place, it should be within the current village boundary and be sensitive to the character of the village



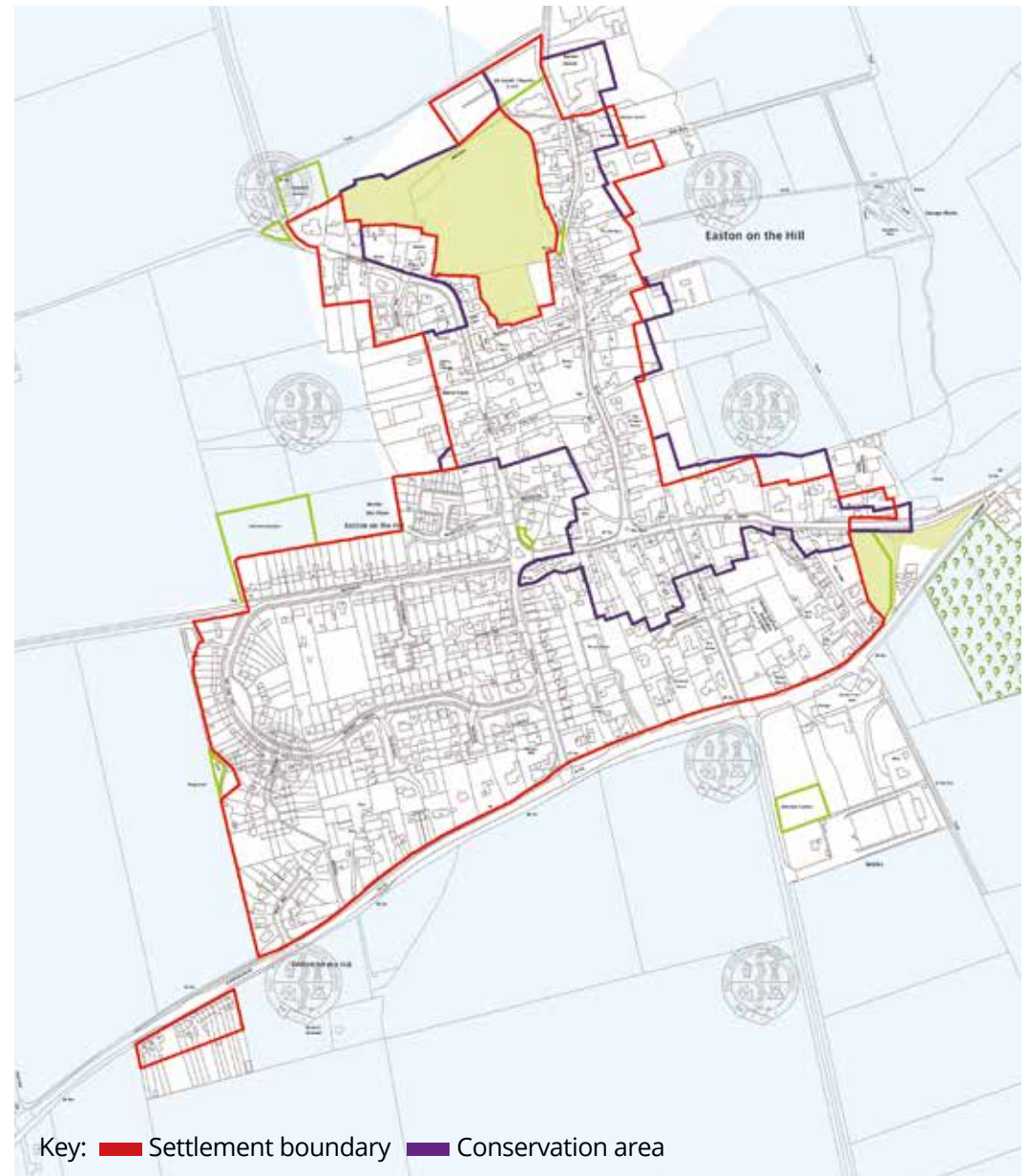
Any further development in the village should be within the current boundary

and Conservation Area. It should be noted that 19% of respondents were open to extending the village boundary – though there was widespread uncertainty as to where the village boundary lay (see map). The written commentary in the survey and focus group discussions suggest there is some support for additional family housing, particularly for members of the village who would like to stay within the village community – when they either up-size, or down-size.

Recommendations

- Any future housing development should be sensitive and proportionate to the character of the village and aligned with East Northants Council Local Plan. Conservation Area
- The PC should ensure that the village maintains its unique and widely appreciated character and protect the Conservation Area

The focus group discussions confirmed there is support for selective and sensitive development, but that this must be proportionate to the existing community. Development would be more acceptable if it generated benefit to the wider community.



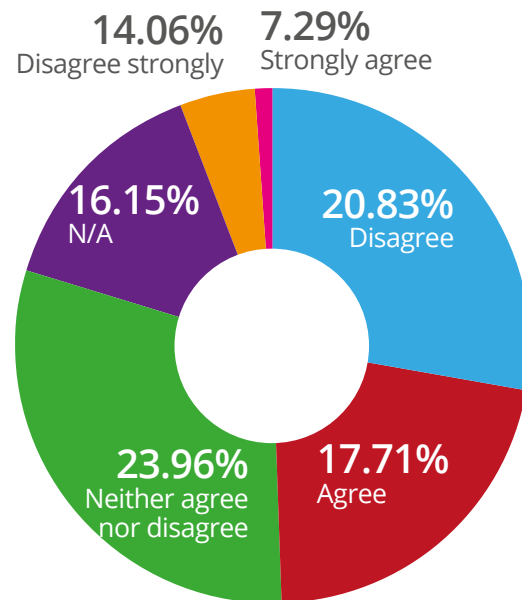
Recreation & Leisure

The community has very limited recreational space within the village. The village-owned sports and playing fields are more than 1,000m from the

centre of the village. Unfortunately, this remoteness combined with the tired and limited range of activities on offer means that only 6.8% of our community use the facility on a monthly basis.

The village survey identified clear frustration and unmet needs around sports and leisure activities. This applied to all ages within the community. In particular, the current location and range of facilities, at the Playing Fields, are widely regarded as unacceptable – being too far from the village to be safely used by young people, and children's playground is very poor.

The cricket pavilion is used regularly, but is much in need of refurbishment. Unfortunately the “new” pavilion and changing rooms, which were started more than 20 years ago, have never been completed. This white elephant has had



I would be healthier if there were better sports facilities nearby

Recommendations

- Develop a plan to relocate the Sports Fields and Playground closer to the village and upgrade the facilities to the highest possible standards. This should include a new pavilion, with changing rooms and provide a modern community owned space for meetings and gatherings. Or, if relocation proves unattainable, to redevelop and upgrade at the existing site.

Did you know?

This situation was discussed extensively at the focus group meetings. There is overwhelming support for an effort to reinvigorate the Sports and Playing Fields and create a village asset we can all use and benefit from.

more than £35,000 spent on it since its inception. And although these funds have mainly come from outside sources, it is an eye sore which has diverted funds from other projects.





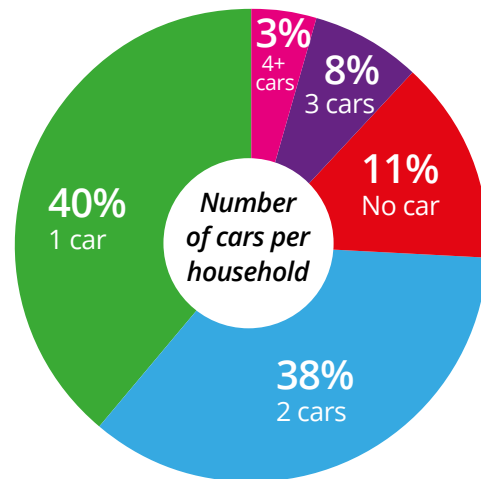
Why not try?

There are many activities, clubs and societies which make Easton on the Hill the vibrant place that it is to live. Here are some of the things on offer. Why not give them a go? Information and contact details can be found on the village website, on one of the noticeboards and will also be published in the Village Guide.

- Afternoon Tea Club
- Bell Ringing
- Bowls Club
- Burghley Crafty Patchers
- Caged Bird Society
- Circuit Training
- Cricket Club
- Darts
- Dominoes
- Friends of the Church
- History Group
- Horticultural and Crafts
- Line Dancing
- Philosophy - 'Think and Drink'
- Village Gala Committee
- Yoga

Transport

Easton on the Hill is conveniently situated just off the A1 linking London with the north, a couple of miles from the beauty and wealth of facilities in



Distance travelled to work

Recommendations

- Provide clear and up to date information about existing public transport services which serve the village and wider area.

Stamford, which is also well connected by train.

Most of our population has access to at least one car. In our village survey, most people said they find it easy to get out and about and to access local services. Many of our residents also travel at least a short distance to their place of work.

A small number of residents do rely exclusively on public transport and there are wider calls for services to be improved. And for these people the very poor level of public transport is a cause of great inconvenience.

The Parish Council is unable to provide public transport services but does recognise the need for more information about the public services already available, for example the local CallConnect services designed to improve transport links for rural communities where there is not already a frequent commercial bus service.



Did you know?

The CallConnect bus service is a unique service whose timetable is not fixed but responds to passenger requests. This means its routes are different each day depending on the bookings made by passengers. Journey requests can be made by telephone or online.

Open to all, it is operated by modern, fully accessible minibuses between 7am-7pm Monday to Friday 8am and 6pm on Saturdays.

The minibuss will pick up and set down at designated locations in each village or town. Home pick-ups and drop offs are also available for people who are elderly, have a disability or mobility impairment. It also operates regular journeys from Stamford to local towns throughout the week.

Registration to become a member is FREE, but you must be registered to book a journey. You can call register online on this website or by calling **0345 2638153** (or **01733 317461**) or go online **www.wellandcallconnect.co.uk/information.phtml**

Locations served by the CallConnect Stamford service:

Ailsworth	Easton on the Hill	Marholm	Tallington
Adlgate	Peterborough City	Market Deeping	Tallington Lakes
Apethorpe	Hospital	Morcott	Thistleton
Ashton	Edith Weston	Nassington	Thornhaugh
Bainton	Empingham	Newstead	Tickencote
Barholm	Essendine	Normanton	Tinwell
Barnack	Exton	North Luffenham	Tixover
Barrowden	Fineshade Abbey	Pickworth	Tixover Grange
Baston	Foster's Bridge	Pilsgate	Uffington
Belmesthorpe	Fotheringhay	Pilton	Ufford
Blatherwycke	Geeston	Peterborough	Upton
Braceborough	Glaston	RAF Wittering	Wakerley
Bretton Centre	Great Casterton	Rutland Water	Wansford
Bulwick	Greatford	Ryhall	Werrington
Burghley House	Greetham	Seaton	West Deeping
Carlby	Harrington	South Luffenham	Whitwell
Castor	Helpston	Southorpe	Wilsthorpe
Clipsham	Kendrew Barracks	South Witham	Wing
Collyweston	Ketton	Stamford	Wittering
Cottesmore	Kings Cliffe	Stamford Town	Woodnewton
Deene	Langtoft	Journeys	Wothorpe
Deenethorpe	Laxton	Stretton	
Deeping St James	Little Casterton	Sutton	
Duddington	Lyndon		

Locations served by the CallConnect Peterborough service:

Ailsworth	Fitzwilliam Hospital	RAF Wittering	Ufford
Apethorpe	Fotheringhay	Southorpe	Upton
Ashton	Glaphorn	Southwick	Wansford
Bainton	Helpston*	Stamford	Warmington
Barnack	Kings Cliffe	Serpentine Green	Werrington
Bretton Centre	Marholm	Sutton	West Deeping
Burghley House	Market Deeping	Tallington	Wittering
Castor	Nassington	Tallington Lakes	Woodnewton
Collyweston	Newstead	Tixover	Wothorpe
Cotterstock	Peterborough	Tixover Grange	Yarwell
Deeping St James	Peterborough City	Tansor	
Duddington	Hospital	Thornhaugh	
Easton On The Hill	Pilsgate	Uffington	

Friday timetabled service

CallConnect operates a timetabled service from Oundle to Stamford on Fridays.

R - Request stop.

- Please note these times read in reverse order

Please call 0345 263 8153 to book or visit

www.wellandcallconnect.co.uk

Oundle - Stamford 180

Friday Only

Oundle Market Place	0935	1352
Oundle North Street	0937	1349
Oundle St Peters Rd/ St Wilfreds Rd	0939	1347
Oundle Lime Avenue	0941	1345
Oundle Glaphorn Road	0942	1344
Oundle Rockingham Hills	0944	1342
Glaphorn	R	R
Southwick	R	R
Cotterstock	R	R
Woodnewton Main Street	0955	1334
Apethorpe Church	0959	1330
Kings Cliffe West Street	1003	1326
Kings Cliffe Wood Road	1005	1324
Collyweston Slater	1014	1315
Easton On The Hill Crescent	1019	1310
Easton On The Hill Bluebell Inn	1020	1309
Wothorpe	1024	1305
Stamford Bus Station	1030	1300
Stamford Morrisons	R	R

Traffic/Roads and Paths

The village community is negatively impacted by road traffic and parking congestion and is well aware of, and vocal about, the inconvenience caused – as evidenced by 35% of respondents to the survey stating traffic was the “worst aspect of living in the village”. There are a number of reasons for the high profile and passion this subject creates.

The village is materially impacted by the very busy A43, which runs through the edge of the village and accounts for the vast majority of traffic (and inconvenience: speed, noise and volume). This is a major regional arterial route and typically generates more than 10,000 vehicle movements a day (an increase of 200% in the last 25 years). Unfortunately this situation is most unlikely to change in the foreseeable future and is under the direct control of the National Highways Agency.

Easton on the Hill's topography, with only three routes into the centre of the village and several narrow roads and lanes, creates a number of traffic choke points, leading to congestion, particularly at peak commuter times. Our street layout and road widths predate the current high

volume of traffic and car ownership (to say nothing of on-line shopping deliveries). This challenging situation further exacerbates a shortage of easy on-street parking space, which is a problem most clearly seen in the vicinity of the much used and very popular Post Office shop.



Recommendations

- Upgrade traffic street furniture and village lighting.
- Work with traffic management experts to develop and deliver appropriate actions to mitigate against the impact of traffic and parking congestion.
- Develop and deliver a sustainable solution to the parking problems in the vicinity of the Post Office which presently creates excessive wear to the immediate environs.
- Ensure appropriate speed awareness and enforcement throughout the village. In the longer term reduce the speed limit, within the village centre, from 30mph to 20mph.



THE CLOSE
NO THROUGH ROAD

Education

Education in Easton on the Hill has been provided at a primary level by Easton Garford Church of England Endowed Primary School since 1870. However, Richard Garford endowed a school in the village in 1670 since when one has been constantly in operation. The school presently provides education from age 5 (Early Years Foundation Stage) to age 11 (Year 6) with 26 children currently on its register.

The School converted to an academy with the Peterborough Diocese Education Trust in 2015 and has since undergone many positive changes. With the support of the Garford Trust, a grant of £100,000 was secured in the Autumn of 2016 and the school has undergone a major redevelopment and refurbishment. In September 2016 the school recruited an Executive Headteacher to work in partnership with Polebrook School near Oundle.



Also operating on the school premises has been a well regarded pre-school since the 1970s. However, unfortunately at the time of publication it has closed with the future of the building still to be decided.

Secondary education

There are several state co-educational options with many village children travelling by buses provided by Northamptonshire County Council. The catchment secondary school for Easton on the Hill is Prince William School in Oundle. However, a significant number of children also attend Casterton College Rutland, attracted by the offer of free transport to this school. Other local options include Stamford Welland Academy (co-educational) and independent Stamford Endowed Schools (boys and girls separately). Further afield there is the selective Bourne Grammar School and The King's School in Peterborough which are accessible by public transport from Stamford.

Sixth form and further education

Prince William School, Casterton College Rutland, Bourne Grammar and The King's School all have state sixth form provision

with Stamford Endowed Schools also providing a co-educational facility.

An alternative to traditional sixth form and the local further education option is New College Stamford. Providing courses from A Levels and vocational apprenticeships to professional business training with part-time adult options also available. Tresham College in Corby and Peterborough Regional College cater for a wider range of further education options.

Did you know?

In 1670 Richard Garford endowed a school with property in London; this school was held in the church until 1766 when the Earl of Exeter bought a house and the Countess provided for six girls to be educated there. In 1830 the Marchioness of Exeter transferred the girls to a new girls' school which she was establishing on Stamford Road, the boys only moving in 1867 to a new school in the High Street, designed by Edward Browning. The Village Hall was the infant school until 1975.

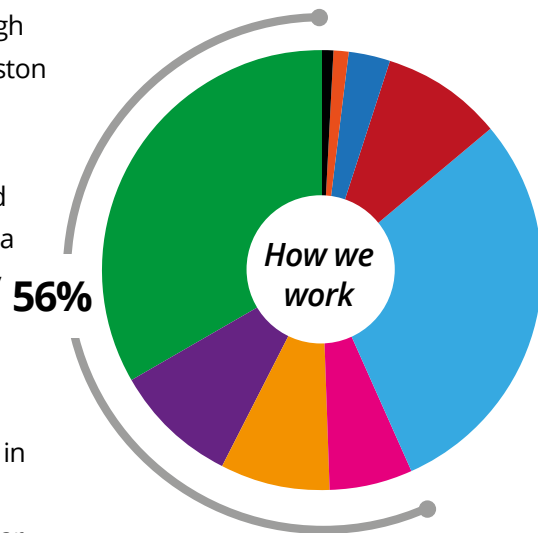
Employment

The good news is that there is a high level of employment amongst Easton residents, including many who are self-employed. About 24% of people who responded to the village survey said they would welcome support in starting a business. About 40% of people said they would welcome access to new skills and training.

There's also a strong appetite for a range of services in the village, including in the health and wellbeing sector for both the young and the elderly. There are clear opportunities for those wishing to start or expand businesses to help meet those needs.

Challenges we face include the lack of availability of suitable buildings and/or space for businesses to start or grow – about 20% of people said they would be interested in rentable office space, faster wifi and advice. About half of people said they would like to see more employment opportunities in the village.

We've much to celebrate too in terms of our local voluntary sector. Volunteers contribute hugely to many of the things that we cherish about village life – organising events; running bowls, horticultural



56% of residents in Easton on the Hill are in employment

and historical groups; acting as school governors and keeping our churchyard and other green spaces mowed and rich in flowers.

The largest employer in the village is The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, with more than 100 employees of whom 5% live in the village.

- 1% ● Rather not say
- 1% ● Unable to work due to disability
- 3% ● Able to work but currently unemployed
- 6% ● Self employed part time
- 8% ● Employed part time
- 9% ● Self employed full time
- 9% ● Full time education
- 29% ● Retired
- 33% ● Employed full time

Did you know?

- 88% of the community use the Village shop and Post Office at least on a monthly basis

Recommendations

- Create a village guide for all residents listing important information and contact details for businesses, local groups and other opportunities to contribute to village life.
- Take account of our local business community in its decision making, to ensure that local goods and service providers are not disadvantaged by Council policy or practice.



Health & Wellbeing

Doctors' surgeries and hospitals in Stamford and other local settlements provide for the majority of healthcare needs for Easton residents. Local towns also provide access to dentists and a range of other healthcare professionals and services, including chiropodists, osteopaths and chiropractors, counsellors and nutritionists. Within the village there are a number of health and fitness classes at the village hall and other locations, including

circuit training and yoga.

Responses to our survey suggested that these existing services don't meet everyone's needs. About 13% of people said they are affected by long term health issue; about 25% said they would be healthier if there were better sports facilities nearby; about 60% said they

would be interested in a health and wellbeing clinic. There was also strong appetite for services to be provided through visiting therapists including for hair and beauty, chiropody, physiotherapy and osteopathy.

And, it was more than just basic health and fitness that you were interested in.

Did you know?

The PC estimates that volunteers contributed over 10,000 man hours during 2016 to activities that improved and maintained our village environment and contributed to the local economy.



If the following facilities and services were available in the village how interested would you be in using them?

Recommendations

- Create a village guide for all residents to help raise awareness of the facilities and public and private services already in place which could meet the needs expressed.
- The Parish Council will work with others to explore how better use may be made of existing buildings, such as the Church, the school, the village hall and local land.
- The Parish Council will work with volunteer groups to explore how best to meet the identified social needs of the community that fall outside its capability and capacity.

About 40% of people said they would be interested in a citizens' advice service and about 51% said they would be interested in a mini library with IT facilities. There was also strong demand for more sports and leisure facilities and services for the young and the old. There is strong demand for more activities for different groups; such as singles, and more social events to involve the whole community.

It's fantastic to see that about 83% of people said they feel the village is friendly – but we also know that for some of you loneliness is the worst aspect of your lives. For a small group (less than 5%) loneliness is a blight on their lives. 5% of respondents said they have “no friends in the village at all”. And lest we hastily conclude and act, as we may easily do, that this is a very sad situation; we should be mindful that more than one person

Think about this

The wishlist of services unmet in our community could be a business opportunity and source of employment. Could this be a business idea for you?

stated, without irony, they were perfectly content with this situation.

The lack of suitable facilities, buildings and spaces in which to meet our varying needs is a real challenge. It is with this in mind we make the previously stated recommendation to relocate the Playing Fields and Playground and develop a new community centre and meeting facility.

Think about this

To provide a platform for greater social inclusion and combat the loneliness felt by some of our community, willing hands will be needed to make this happen. It could only be for a couple of hours a month - do you think you could step up and get involved?

The Hub on the Hill

As many of you will know a number of people tried to create a public interest company – called Hub on the Hill - centred on the village and for the benefit of the community. Unfortunately, this endeavour will not be able to proceed as originally envisaged. However, much of the component aspirations remain relevant and needed.

The fundamental purpose of the Hub on the Hill was to bring people together, physically and emotionally. To facilitate this, there is a need within the village for more appropriate space to have meetings and gatherings and to make it easier for people to deliver community services. The wider social, educational and wellbeing of the village is not being fully met from statutory services and is unlikely to be in the future.

The Parish Council is not in a position to actually deliver many of these elements of social support, but we believe they are very important and worthwhile and will do everything we can to support public spirited volunteers to develop and deliver solutions themselves.



Communications

There are many effective ways that local news is communicated to the residents of Easton on the Hill. All varieties of communication rely heavily on the goodwill of the residents with the professional skills and community spirit who give their time and expertise free of charge.



How we access digital information

- 96% ● Email
- 95% ● Fixed Line Broadband
- 82% ● Mobile internet
- 63% ● Facebook
- 31% ● Twitter

Village websites

There has been a web presence for the village since 2008 with www.eastononthehill.com for those with online access. A one-stop-shop for information of what is going on and where, clubs, societies and latest events.

News and information heralded from the Parish Council comes from its own website www.eastononthehillparishcouncil.com where local and County Council information is online to view.

The local magazine

News & Views, a bi-monthly compilation of news, information, articles of interest and local business advertising is available in paper format and delivered to those wishing to receive it, with a electronic version available by email.

Email address

The electronic round-up that is *What's On The Hill* pops into mailboxes on a monthly basis and shares bulletins that would go otherwise unannounced. Contributors are invited to submit suitable items for inclusion making this timely and accessible to those with email access. Go to the village website, www.eastononthehill.com, to sign up.

Social media

For those with their finger firmly on the village pulse there is a social media presence via Twitter

<https://twitter.com/Tweetsonthehill> and

Facebook

<https://facebook.com/eastononthehill>.

Facebook also keeps the village up to date with progress of the annual village Gala with

Recommendations

- Create a village guide for new residents listing important information and contact details for local businesses
- The Village Survey highlighted that the shop and post office was the place where most residents regularly visited within the village. A larger noticeboard is recommended at this location.

its own page, providing latest information, calls to action and photographs of past events.

The Stamford Mercury

To reach a wider local audience, village bulletins are also included in the Local News section of the *Stamford Mercury*.

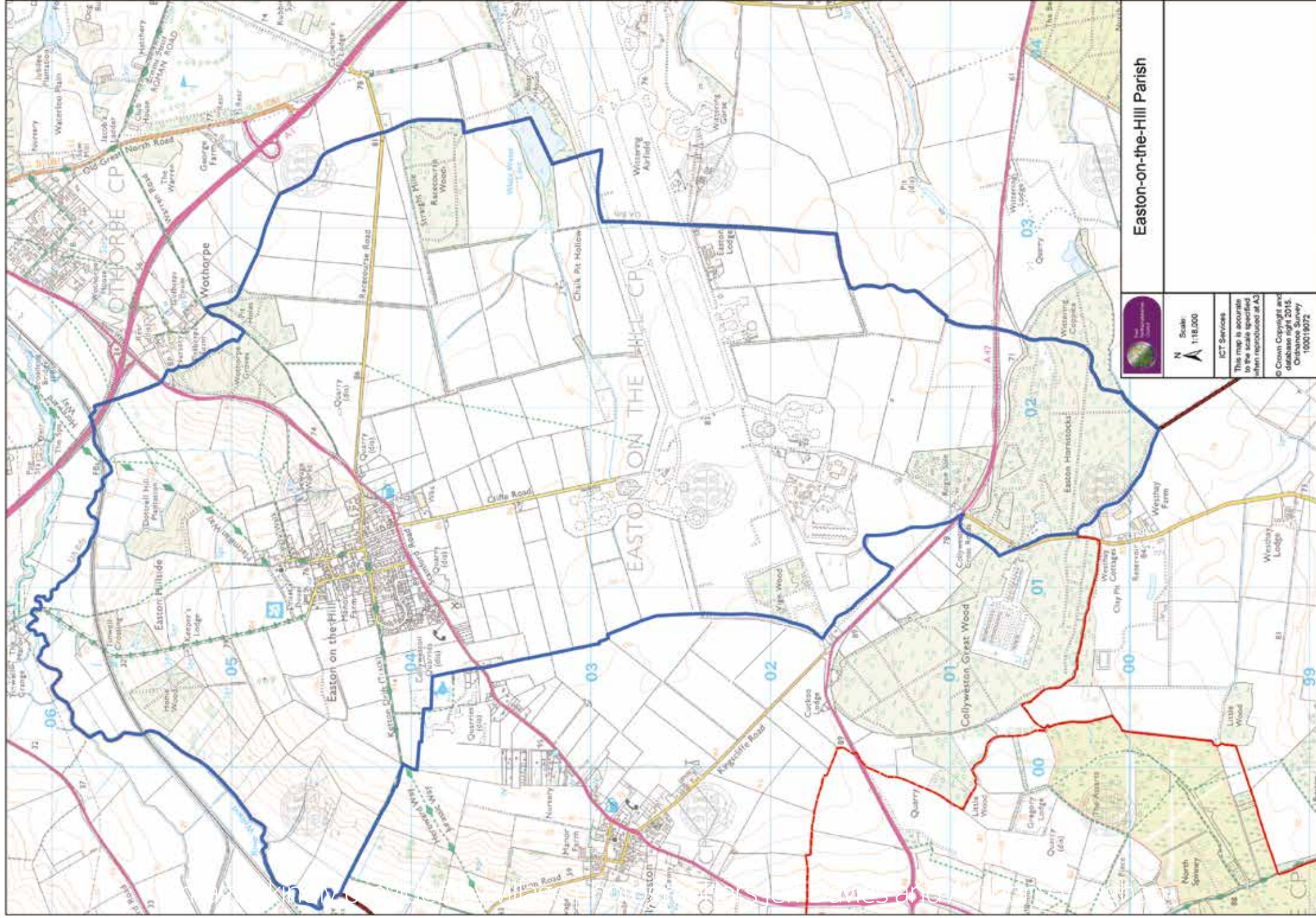
Did you know

A new app called *Nextdoor* has recently been launched with the aim to connect neighbours and people in their local area.

Formerly known as *Streetlife*, *Nextdoor* provides a platform for getting people together who have common interests. For instance dog walking, meeting for coffee, starting a club or for searching or advertising services as well as giving away or selling unwanted items.

Nextdoor can be found on nextdoor.co.uk with Easton on the Hill having its own group. Sign up online and download the app to join in!





Easton-on-the-Hill Parish



Scale: 1:18,000

ICT Services

This map is accurate to the scale specified when reproduced at A3

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