

SAHAM TONEY PARISH

ACTION POINTS



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parish action points were originally established in consultation with villagers as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. At the formal consultation on the plan in March / April 2018 more than 93% agreed with the action points. Since the action points address issues that do not relate directly to the development of land and therefore cannot be included in the Neighbourhood Plan policies, they will not be used by planners and others when planning applications are decided, and so their inclusion in the Plan serves no further purpose. However the action points continue to represent the aspirations of the Parish Council and residents to improve conditions in the Neighbourhood Area. Hence as of October 2018, they are handed over to Parish Council ownership in this dedicated document.

1.2 This document does not seek to make definitive provisions on exactly how parish action points will be implemented. That will be a matter for the Parish Council to study and review in consultation with parishioners and others when the action points are addressed.



2. SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

2.1 Consultations with villagers during the course of developing the Neighbourhood Plan identified the following main non-land development issues and concerns amongst parishioners, and with one exception these give rise to the Parish Action Points:

- a. Address road safety and condition, and traffic control;
- b. Cars parked on narrow public roads and lack of off-road parking;
- c. Footpaths and pedestrian access;
- d. Public transport;
- e. Improvements in the provision of healthcare locally;
- f. School capacity;
- g. Village shop and leisure facilities;
- h. Prioritisation of housing for those with local connections;
- i. Surface water drainage problems.

2.2 One issue above raised by parishioners of those noted has not been included as a parish action point, although 50 people expressed a wish for it: provision of a village shop. That is because when this was investigated by a parish councillor in 2015 the following factors showed a shop to be not viable:

- a. The initial set up costs;
- b. Finding a suitable building;
- c. Insurance costs; employee salaries, business rates, utilities and other associated costs;
- d. Competition from Watton shops and online shopping;
- e. The need to combine a shop with a full-time post office to achieve a satisfactory profit margin;
- f. Incompatibility between achieving an acceptable profit margin and being able to offer "sensible" prices.

g. A shop that previously served the village was closed for the very reason of non-viability.

Hence the Parish Council itself does not feel action on its part is warranted, but this is not intended to preclude any individual from opening a new shop in the village.



3. THE PARISH ACTION POINTS AND THEIR BACKGROUND

PARISH ACTION POINT 1: ROADS AND TRAFFIC

PAP1.1 Background: The majority of the households in the village are situated adjacent to, or between two main routes; Richmond Road on the west side and Bell Lane, Saham Road, Pages Lane, Chequers Lane, Hills Road and Cley Lane to the east. See Map 1 for these western and eastern routes. These two routes link Saham Toney to the neighbouring town of Watton and further afield. Most of the remaining properties are situated adjacent to Hills Road / Long Road which is a single lane road with passing places. Richmond Road, although a narrow rural road on which it is not possible for HGV's and other large vehicles to pass, is the main route between Watton and Swaffham, with some footpaths and a pedestrian bridge. Speed Watch traffic surveys have recorded more than 2000 vehicles per day on it, in one direction only, with an average speed of 37 mph (the speed limit is 30 mph). This explains why residents are concerned about both the volume and speed of traffic on this residential road with its sharp, blind bends. The eastern routes are also a concern since they are becoming busier and attracting quite heavy vehicles using them as a shortcut to / from their junctions with Richmond Road. The eastern routes have almost no footpaths, making them dangerous for the pedestrians who use them. A single lane bridge on Cley Lane as it passes across the parish boundary towards Watton has no traffic control and has been damaged on numerous occasions by vehicles. Traffic along eastern routes is also damaging road edges, increasing the hazard for both cyclists and pedestrians. Residents are also concerned about poor visibility at the junctions of (a) Bell Lane, Cley Lane and Ovington Road; (b) Pound Hill and Richmond Road; and (c) Chequers Lane and Mill Corner.

PAP1.2 Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will work with the Highways Authority, Breckland District Council and others as appropriate, to seek to achieve the following aims:

PAP1.3 ACTION 1A: If justified by a study; a reduction in the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph, and /or traffic calming measures along Richmond Road, and Pages Lane, Chequers Lane and Cley Lane as they pass through the village. Extend the speed limit zone on Cley Lane south to the parish boundary.

PAP1.4 ACTION 1B: Greater use of speed awareness measures to reduce the occurrence of drivers breaking the speed limit.

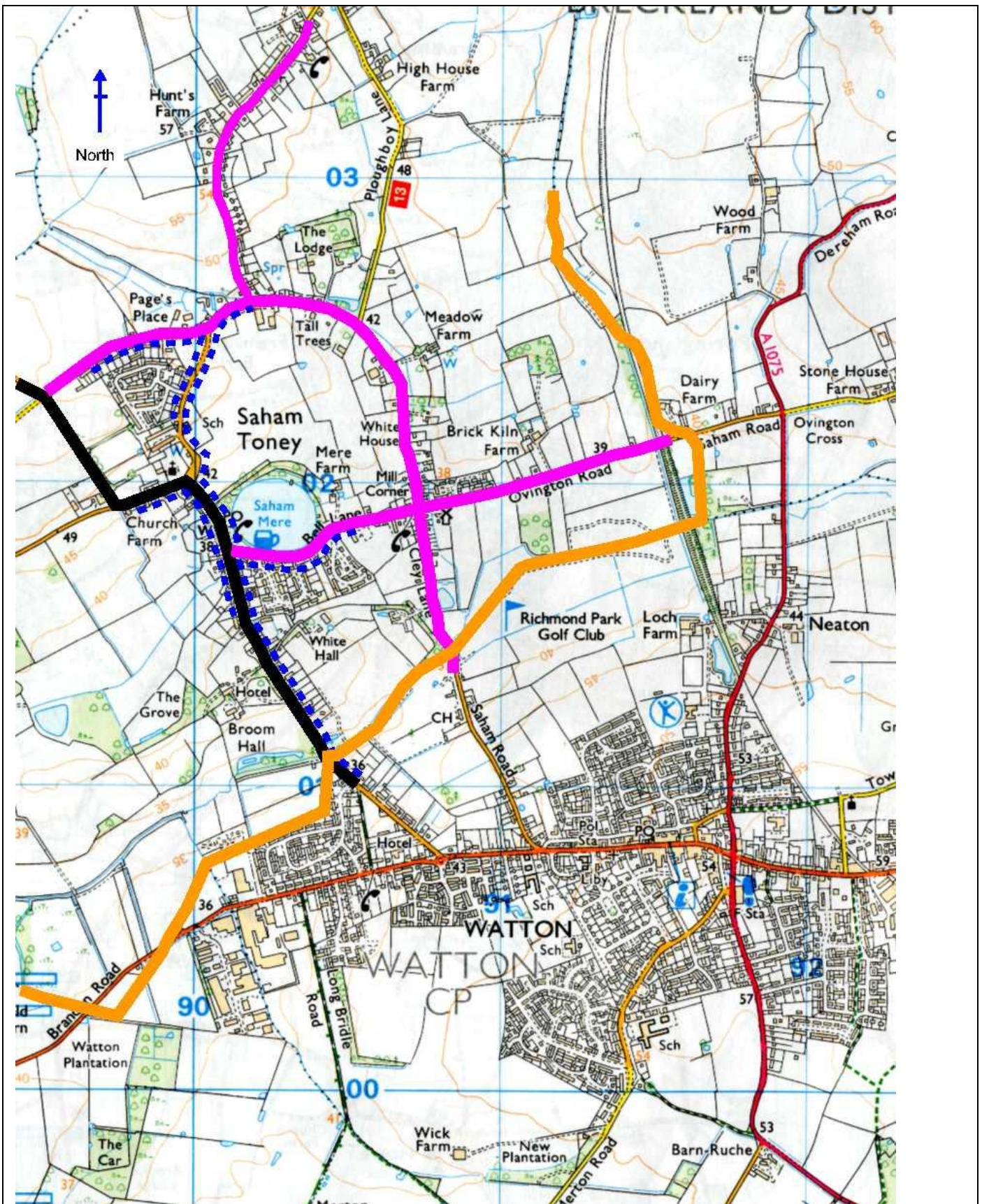
PAP1.5 ACTION 1C: Improved road edging throughout the village, and a pedestrian footpath along the Pages Lane, Chequers Lane, Cley Lane (eastern) route.

PAP1.6 ACTION 1D: A pedestrian bridge over Watton Brook on the Pages Lane, Chequers Lane, Cley Lane (eastern) route and measures to protect the existing bridge from excessive vehicle weights.

PAP1.7 ACTION 1E: Improved visibility at the junctions of (a) Chequers Lane, Bell Lane, Cley Lane and Ovington Road; and (b) Pound Hill and Richmond Road.

PAP1.8 ACTION 1F: Address parking problems on Richmond Road by the disused post office, adjacent to Saham Mere, and on Pound Hill outside the primary school.

PAP1.9 ACTION 1G: Hills Road / Long Road, Ovington Road and Ploughboy Lane are single lane roads with passing places and while they are likely to remain as such, but improvements to their surfacing, including all passing places will be sought.



	Main western route	Parish boundary	Scale
	Main eastern routes	Pavements	Background map source: Ordnance Survey

MAP 1: MAIN VEHICLE ROUTES AND PAVEMENTS

PARISH ACTION POINT 2: FOOTPATHS AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

PAP2.1 Background: There are presently very few pavements (i.e. raised paved or asphalted paths for pedestrians at the side of a road) along the main routes in the parish. Those that do exist are shown on Map 1. Particularly along the eastern routes parishioners expressed a wish for improved pedestrian access. This is not simply a convenience issue, but also a safety one. As well as pavements there was a general desire for footpaths (i.e. unpaved rural tracks). At present there are no official footpaths in open country in the neighbourhood area, and those that border highways are unfit for pedestrian use, being as many respondents pointed out, too narrow and exposed to traffic. Trod paths was another suggestion: to be effective in some cases regular cutting back of overgrowing trees and edges would be required.

PAP2.2 ACTION 2: Following further consultation with parishioners to establish a solution likely to be both practical and achievable, Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will work with the Highways Authority, Breckland District Council and others as appropriate, to seek to improve pedestrian routes through the village, particularly along eastern routes, and if feasible also across open country, particularly towards Watton. Among possible measures to implement this, the construction of pavements locally via conditions to planning permissions will be sought.

PARISH ACTION POINT 3: PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROVISION

PAP3.1 Background: Saham Toney has very limited public transport provision and parishioners have expressed wishes for improvements.

PAP3.2 A school bus (Konectbus Route 15) operates once a day in each direction to take pupils to and from the Wayland secondary academy in neighbouring Watton, but is not available for other members of the public (although many developers claim it as a service when justifying planning applications).

PAP3.3 A bus (Konectbus Route 11) running between Dereham, Watton and Swaffham is the only public transport serving Saham Toney, stopping eleven times a day in each direction on weekdays, less at weekends, at approximately hourly intervals. Saham Toney is in the Watton - Swaffham leg of the route.

PAP3.4 The village has only three bus stops in each direction of travel of bus 11, one on Richmond Road near the Bell Lane junction, one on Pound Hill near the Oval and a third on Pages Lane. Given the lack of pavements along the eastern routes and the distance involved, it is not always convenient or comfortable for residents on the eastern side of the village to get to these bus stops.

PAP3.5 There is no direct bus route from Saham Toney to Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital; parishioners without their own transport have to take a bus, or walk, to Watton to catch a bus to the hospital.

PAP3.6 Other than voluntary provision, there is no public transport to or from the village that caters especially for disabled passengers. Norfolk County Council offers a "dial-a-ride service" from Mondays to Saturdays offering door to door transport to those with no alternate means. It also provides a flexibus service between neighbouring Watton and Attleborough, but by definition Saham Toney parishioners wishing to use that service would find it difficult to access.

PAP3.7 ACTION 3: Following further consultation with parishioners to establish a solution likely to be both practical and achievable, Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will work with the

local bus service operator, Norfolk County Council, Breckland District Council and others as appropriate, to seek to improve the provision of public and community transport to and from through the village, particularly along eastern routes.

PARISH ACTION POINT 4: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

PAP4.1 Background: There are no health care facilities in the parish. There is a medical practice in neighbouring Watton, but villagers raised concerns about both its capacity and quality of service, and wish to see improvements to both. Many parishioners feel they have no choice but to travel further afield to places such as Shipdham, Necton and Swaffham to attend better quality doctors' surgeries, and indeed 1500 patients were forced to do so in 2014 when they were deregistered from the Watton practice without any choice due to a lack of doctors. Naturally many parishioners would prefer somewhere closer to home. There is also a dental practice in Watton which attracted favourable comments.

PAP4.2 ACTION 4: Following further consultation with parishioners to establish more precise needs and potential solutions, Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will work with the medical practice in Watton and Breckland District Council and others as appropriate, to seek to improve the provision and reliability of health care to parishioners.

PARISH ACTION POINT 5: EDUCATION PROVISION FOR PARISH CHILDREN

PAP5.1 Background: Schooling provision in the parish comprises Parkers Church of England (VC) Primary School, which caters for around 100 pupils between the ages of 4 and 11.

PAP5.2 Consultation responses relating to schooling referred mostly to two issues:

- (a) A lack of capacity at Parkers Primary School and the difficulties sometimes experienced in gaining admittance of parish children there; and
- (b) Parking problems and resulting dangers on the narrow road outside the school at drop-off and pick-up times.

PAP5.3 Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will work with the headmaster, governors and parents of Parkers primary school, the local education authority (Norfolk County Council, who are responsible for allocating school places) and others as appropriate to seek to:

PAP5.4 ACTION 5A: Ensure primary age children from the parish can attend their local school.

PAP5.5 ACTION 5B: Address or alleviate the chronic parking problems and congestion around the school at the start and close of the school day.

PAP5.6 The village pre-school closed in the summer of 2017, due to viability problems and there is no other similar provision in the parish. Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will work with the Community Centre and others as appropriate to seek to:

PAP5.7 ACTION 5C: Find ways to reinstate pre-school provision within the parish.

PARISH ACTION POINT 6: LEISURE FACILITIES

PAP6.1 Background: 44 respondents to preliminary consultations expressed wishes for enhanced or additional leisure facilities.

PAP6.2 Since the preliminary consultations:

- a. Outdoor fitness equipment has been purchased for installation and use at the Wells Cole Community Centre land;
- b. A "growing for wildlife" area has been established on the Wells Cole Community Centre land; and
- c. With the support of the Parish Council has a community orchard has been established on land at the edge of the sports field.

PAP6.3 ACTION 6: Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will continue to work with parishioners and others as appropriate to define more specifically which leisure facilities it would be possible to add or improve.

PARISH ACTION POINT 7: HOUSING PRIORITY FOR THOSE WITH LOCAL CONNECTIONS

PAP7.1 Background: In preliminary consultations parishioners were asked "Do you think a proportion of new housing should be provided specifically to serve local needs?". Two hundred and thirty five people answered "yes". Hence the Parish Council seeks a way to address this significant response, while staying within the constraints of planning regulations.

PAP7.2 ACTION 7: Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will work with parishioners, Breckland District Council, developers of land, housing associations and others as appropriate to establish what opportunities may exist to in some way prioritise an element of housing provision in the parish for those who live and/or work in the parish.

PARISH ACTION POINT 8: ALLEVIATION OF SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE PROBLEMS

PAP8.1 Background: Parts of the village regularly experience flooding problems at times of heavy or prolonged rain. In the past this has included serious flooding of a number of properties. Norfolk County Council estimates that 100 properties in the parish are at risk of surface water flooding. A in the Neighbourhood Plan addresses this issue, but can only do so for new developments. Flood risk to existing properties and infrastructure (other than due to new development) is deemed not to be a planning issue and so could not be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

PAP8.2 Other than the rainfall itself, there is no single reason for the problems that arise during periods of heavy or prolonged rainfall. A Norfolk County Council investigation into the flooding of 23 June 2016 identified the following contributory factors:

- a) Over-loaded surface water drainage sewers;
- b) Ingress of rainfall into the foul sewer system via unsealed manholes and connections of surface water drainage from properties to the foul sewer system;

- c) Dropped or absent roadside kerbs allowing run-off from roads onto neighbouring land / properties;
- d) Water ingress to buildings via unprotected features including low entrance thresholds, unprotected air bricks and service conduits.

PAP8.3 The County Council report also highlighted that flood impact was exacerbated by:

- a) The loss of drainage features such as dykes, ditches and ponds within the catchment area;
- b) The amendment of principal drains and watercourses through straightening, embanking and culverting;
- c) The obstruction of culverts.

PAP8.4 In addition much of the parish has high groundwater levels, which reduces capacity for rainfall to drain away naturally into the ground.

PAP8.5 To clarify responsibilities it is noted that Environment Agency guidance to riparian owners clearly states: 'If your land boundary is next to a watercourse it is assumed that you own the land to its centre'. In such cases Norfolk County Council Highways is responsible for the other half of all roadside ditches.

PAP8.6 **ACTION 8**: Saham Toney Parish Council and other elected representatives will work with parishioners, the Lead Local Flood Authority, Anglian Water, The Environment Agency, landowners, affected householders and others as appropriate to establish what practical measures feasibly be implemented to address surface water flood issues affecting existing properties, land and infrastructure. Such measures may include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) Clearing of roadside ditches and culverts within them in a logical pattern that will not simply pass on problems from one area to another;
- b) After initial ditch clearing, a regular planned programme of ditch maintenance and upkeep;
- c) Routing of highway flood water away from affected properties to alternative discharge points;
- d) Reminding riparian owners of their responsibilities;
- e) Removing surface water drainage connections to the foul water sewer system;
- f) Seeking improvements in land management to reduce levels of run-off from agricultural land; and furthermore:
- g) In conjunction with Norfolk County Council, identify:
 - i. Opportunities for flood mitigation;
 - ii. The feasibility of installing property protection devices; and
 - iii. Measures to attenuate flood water.



4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 In handing over this document from the Neighbourhood Plan to the ownership and responsibility of the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Work Group offers the following recommendations for implementing the Parish Action Points:

- a) Appoint a specific Councillor to take overall responsibility for each Action Point;
- b) Establish and publish a clear strategy for addressing each Action Point, including a list of stakeholders to be involved, consulted and /or informed regarding measures to be implemented;
- c) Investigate possible sources of funding;
- d) Gain the support of villagers for any proposed measures prior to their implementation;
- e) Set an outline timetable for implementation of agreed measures;
- f) Communicate any updates on progress at Parish Council meetings;
- g) Instigate regular monitoring to check progress and to identify the effectiveness of measures taken;
- h) Over time, make modifications and / or additions to the Action Points to reflect the results of monitoring checks, villager feedback and changing circumstances.



5. MONITORING

5.1 Monitoring indicators for the Parish Action Points are as follows:

ITEM	MONITORING INDICATORS	TARGETS
Parish Action Point 1	Traffic speeds on the main routes.	Reduction in speed limits; Compliance with speed limits.
	Visibility at main road junctions.	Tangible improvements in visibility over 2017 levels.
	Parking.	Elimination or reduction of parking problems outside the primary school and by the old post office on Richmond Road.
Parish Action Point 2	Pedestrian routes.	Improvements made to pedestrian routes compared to 2018 status.
Parish Action Point 3	Public transport.	Improvements to the frequency and choice of public transport.
Parish Action Point 4	Local health care	Improved parishioner access to local health care (i.e. in either Saham Toney or Watton); Tangible improvement in the reliability and quality of health care, as measured by parishioner feedback.
Parish Action Point 5	Education provision	All Parish children of primary school age able

		to attend Parker's primary school.
Parish Action Point 6	Leisure facilities.	Number and type of new public leisure facilities since the making of this Plan.
Parish Action Point 7	Housing for local people.	Percentage of new housing marketed at a price that is affordable to local people.
Parish Action Point 8	Surface water drainage problems	Number of flood events affecting homes, land and infrastructure
		Approximate length of drainage ditches cleared
		Alleviation measures taken by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lead Local Authority; • The Highways Authority; and • Anglian Water