

## **EAST STOUR'S VILLAGE ACTION PLAN - LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Village Plan committee was set up in 2010 under the auspices of the Parish Council. An Open Day was held in the village hall in 2011 to seek comments and ideas from residents about the village, its facilities and what they would like to see in the future. A questionnaire was then devised and delivered to every household.

80% of the 276 households in the village responded, answering 107 questions (454 answer options). These were summarised into our 32 page Village Plan, which was published in December 2012 and a copy delivered to every household. It included an Action Plan listing the 40 most popular and desirable improvements.

Three villagers (John Gould, Penny Brentnall and David Little) got the VAP started in January 2013. Fundraising events were held and, along with the working parties, were very sociable!

25 projects were achieved, with the others being Not Feasible or Insufficient Actual Support.

The VAP fund was finally closed in 2023, accounts audited, and the remaining balance of £573 passed over to TESS.

### **Achievements**

1. Village weekly Coffee Morning, started by Ann and David Morphew following the Open Day
2. Compiled list of VAP volunteers; opened account at Lloyds Bank
3. Replaced overgrown hedge in front of village hall with low rail fence, beech hedge and kerb realignment to improve access and visibility
4. Planted 8,500 daffodil bulbs around village initially, later increased to 11,000
5. Created village website and Facebook page
6. Playing field improvements - better grass cutting, new trees play equipment and picnic tables, made tree protection frames, six bird boxes, improved Witch Lane entrance, built compost bin
7. Map of village footpaths
8. Erected signs re dog fouling
9. Joined community oil buying consortium, creating commission income on deliveries
10. Yoga class set up
11. Stours Villages market started by Julia Gould
12. Range of fundraising events
13. Donations received from village businesses (GMB Solutions, Karen Tester Garden Design), TESS, Stours Villages Market, and several villagers
14. Achieved grants/donations from Three Rivers Partnership, North Dorset District Council, Waitrose Community Matters, and commission from Find My Heating Oil consortium,
15. Created the Wild Flower Meadow with bird boxes on eyesore piece of land on A30 near crossroads
16. Introduced Community Speed Watch
17. Created the village's external war memorial (opened November 2018 on WW1 Centenary) on the playing field; donations received included those from relatives of the fallen soldiers (and from USA)
18. Moviola Film Club started
19. Village Hall Refurbishment - a massive task! - completed at cost of £25,000 (via village fundraising events and £10,000 Lottery Award)
20. Refurbished derelict telephone box into a library
21. Installed seats on playing field and at wild flower meadow
22. Installed defibrillator at village hall
23. Installed footpath around playing field (section 1 of 2)
24. Pleck renovation and creation of wild flower meadow (on A30 village entrance from West Stour)
25. Installed flagpole with union flag.

David Little  
VAP Coordinator  
June 2023