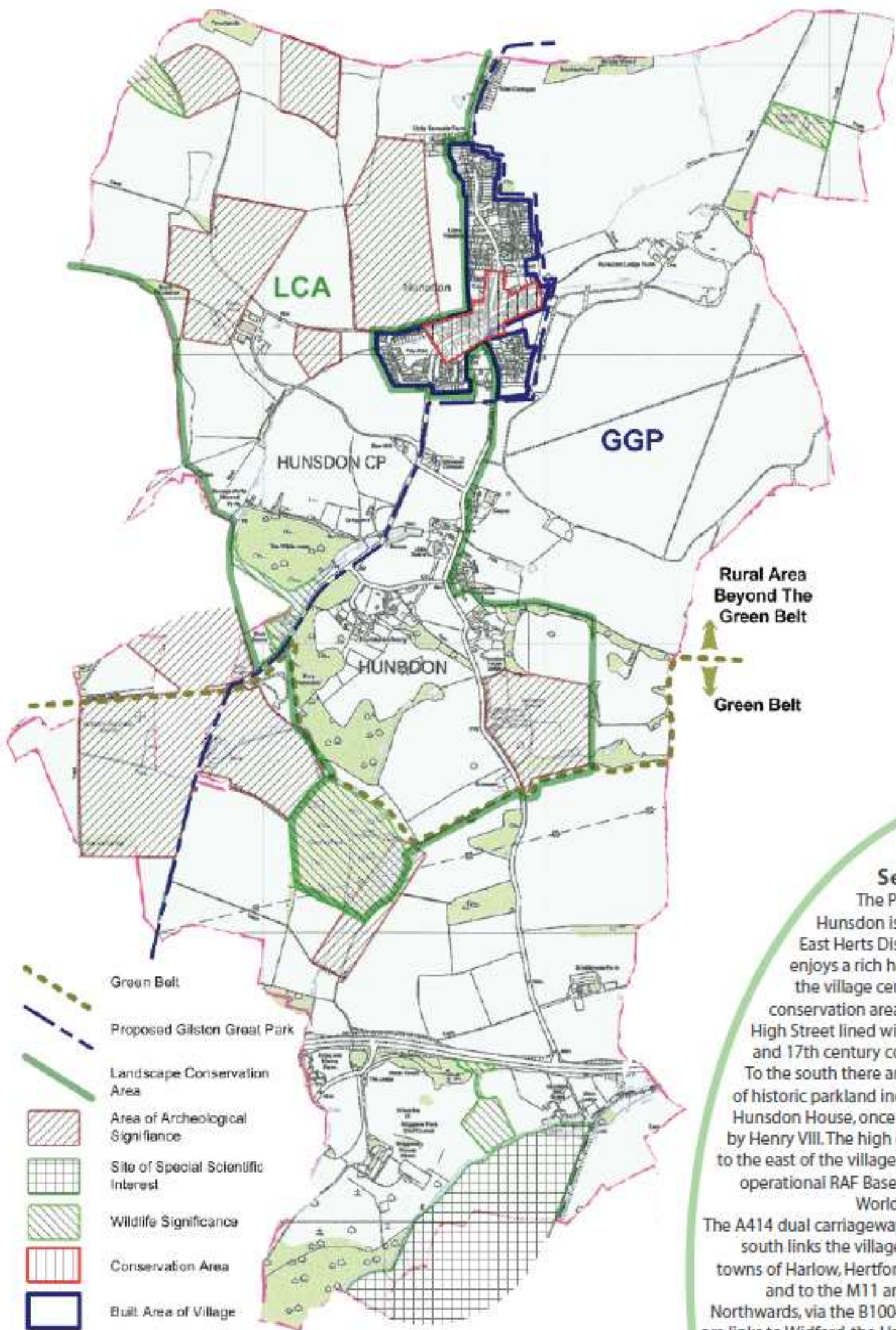


A plan for the community **by** the community:
to **conserve our environment**
to **improve safety**
to **meet our local housing needs**
to **support our social life and facilities**

HUNSDON

PARISH PLAN



**Rural Area
Beyond The
Green Belt**

Green Belt

The Setting

The Parish of Hunsdon is within East Herts District. It enjoys a rich heritage: the village centre is a conservation area with a High Street lined with 16th and 17th century cottages. To the south there are areas of historic parkland including Hunsdon House, once owned by Henry VIII. The high ground to the east of the village was an operational RAF Base during World War II. The A414 dual carriageway in the south links the village to the towns of Harlow, Hertford, Ware and to the M11 and A10. Northwards, via the B1004, there are links to Widford, the Hadhams

Issues

The Parish Plan consultation processes identified 4 main themes:

1. Conservation and enhancement of the local environment, particularly in the light of pressure to build extensive housing on the Green Belt and countryside north of Harlow.
2. Improvements to safety by calming traffic together with improved public transport.
3. Providing for local housing needs to overcome the lack of affordable stock within the Parish.
4. Greater priority for retention and enhancement of services and social facilities especially facilities for young people. Strengthening measures to reduce crime and vandalism.

Summary of Proposals

- Provide an active voice on all issues that affect our future and demand a higher priority for rural communities and the countryside
- Object to the development of 25,000 houses north of Harlow. Extend the Green Belt north of Harlow to the whole Parish
- Support the establishment of Gilston Great Park including landscape improvements, new woodlands and leisure facilities including a 'trim trail' near the Village centre
 - Conserve the Village and surrounding countryside
 - Create a Domesday Book recording our heritage. Support the creation of a Village Museum and an RAF Museum within Gilston Great Park
 - Continue priority for litter picking in Parish Council budget
 - Campaign for traffic calming measures with Village signs and 'gateways'. Consider new car parks at the Village centre and Hunsdon Meads and design improvements to A414 junction
 - Improve pavement maintenance. Construct a new pavement to the Church
 - Seek improvements to and improved publicity for bus services
 - Consider improvements to safety by street lighting outside The Dell
 - Research local housing needs and review policies to meet it. Negotiate on development sites / proposals to meet local housing needs
 - Support existing services in the Village and take action if threatened
 - Support Village Hall development including a medical centre
 - Seek better recycling facilities. Promote solar and wind energy schemes
 - Widen support for the 'Neighbourhood Watch' scheme
 - Revitalise 'Good Neighbour' and 'Welcome Pack' schemes
 - Investigate feasibility of a swimming pool associated with the school
 - Provide for the needs of Hunsdon's worshipping community by supporting maintenance of our historic Parish Church and lower churchyard
 - Support provision of a village centre venue for worship and informal meetings



The Community

The Parish has a population of about 1000 people housed in some 400 dwellings. Hunsdon is a vibrant community with a successful JMI School for some 100 pupils. There is a Village Post Office/stores recently saved from closure. We have a garage for repairs, servicing and fuel and two public houses. The Village Hall is a major centre for community activities including amateur dramatics, beavers, cubs and scouts, toddlers, badminton, gardening club, history society, carpet bowls and is organiser of the annual fete and summer ball. The Hall also provides for 3 morning surgeries and a prescription service from the Much Hadham practice. The Parish Church of St Dunstan is situated adjacent to Hunsdon House. Hunsdon achieved the Village of the Year award in 2004/05 and has twice been awarded Business Village of the Year

Consultation

Every effort has been made to involve the whole community in the preparation of this Plan. Work began at the Village Fete in 2004 with a survey of views on a range of issues. In December 2006 the Parish Council asked a small Steering Group of Hunsdon residents to prepare a Parish Plan. A grant of £1500 was given by East Herts Council to cover costs. The Group first prepared a consultation leaflet, based on the results of the 2004 survey, to be delivered to every home. A special contribution was made by the Village School. The Village Fete 2007 was again used to promote and consult on ideas for the Plan.

An analysis of responses received was used by the Group to prepare a Draft Plan. This was summarised in a further leaflet delivered to each house and discussions were also held with school children. The Draft Plan was then presented to a Village public meeting on 4th December 2007. The outcome of the meeting, attended by 200 residents, was overwhelming approval of the Draft Plan. It was later adopted by the Parish Council in January 2008.

The Parish Plan is a 'work in progress'. It is regularly discussed and reviewed by the Group and the Parish Council when updating and appropriate revisions are made. By 2009 progress is being made on traffic studies, a BMX track in The Dell, regeneration of the Good Neighbour Scheme & Welcome Pack, and a local housing needs survey. The Plan has also been used as a basis for comments on the East Herts Local Development Framework and the Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

All village residents are welcome to make comments or proposals at any time by contacting any member of the Parish Council.

