

St. Ippolyts Travel Plan Questionnaire

Summary Report 8th May 2006

Further to the questions and answers raised in the Parish Plan, the Parish Council - Parish Plan Group, Hertfordshire Highways, CDA for Herts and other partners decided to undertake a more detailed Travel Plan survey. In March this year 850 Travel Plan questionnaires were distributed to every household and business in St. Ippolyts and Gosmore. Analysis has just been completed. 272 responses were returned giving a response rate of 32%.

In summary the key issues identified are:

- 80 households (42%) thought public transport should be improved. Particularly more buses and more frequency. It was also felt that more information on what was already there, i.e. local timetable. Hitchin and, in particular, Hitchin Station being the most popular destination with 201 (81%) residents indicating they used the train travelling from Hitchin
- 118 households (50%) said they do not use buses because of the convenience of the car. 183 residents (45%) drove themselves to the station and 135 (33%) were dropped off. (33%) residents said that the convenience of the car was the most influential reason for their choice in travel mode
- 24 households (13%) suggested that improving cycling paths would encourage people to use their car less

There was a huge response to the comments section and specific areas and key issues that were covered were: road safety, congestion, rat running, speed, signage, condition of the highway, size of vehicles, crossings, cycling and walking.

In summary the key issues identified which covered many areas in the parish were:

- Excessive speed and rat running, particularly with relation to congestion/volume of traffic at peak rush hour times
- Poor visibility on to the highway often due to parked cars and vegetation obscuring the line of vision
- Unsafe to cross roads at key identified points
- Poor drainage and pot holes on the highway
- No specific safe cycle routes to and around Hitchin
- Lack of adequate footways and narrow roads

The answers to the Travel Plan questionnaire provide a good picture of the situation in St. Ippolyts and Gosmore regarding transport, travel and traffic.

Together with the partners, the Parish Council - Parish Plan Group, CDA for Herts and HCC, we have already started addressing some of these issues e.g. the first proof is in progress for a pocket size local transport timetable, which will include walking and cycling links, and will be distributed to all households. Further work will be undertaken with the partners and in consultation with residents to look at possible solutions for the other issues identified.

Report St.Ippolyts Parish Council Annual Meeting 7.15pm 8.5.06
Jacque Grant – Community Development Agency (CDA) for Herts
On behalf of the partners, Parish Council – Parish Plan Group, Hertfordshire
County Council (Highways) and CDA for Herts

Ref: St. Ippolyts and Gosmore summary report.jg.8.5.06