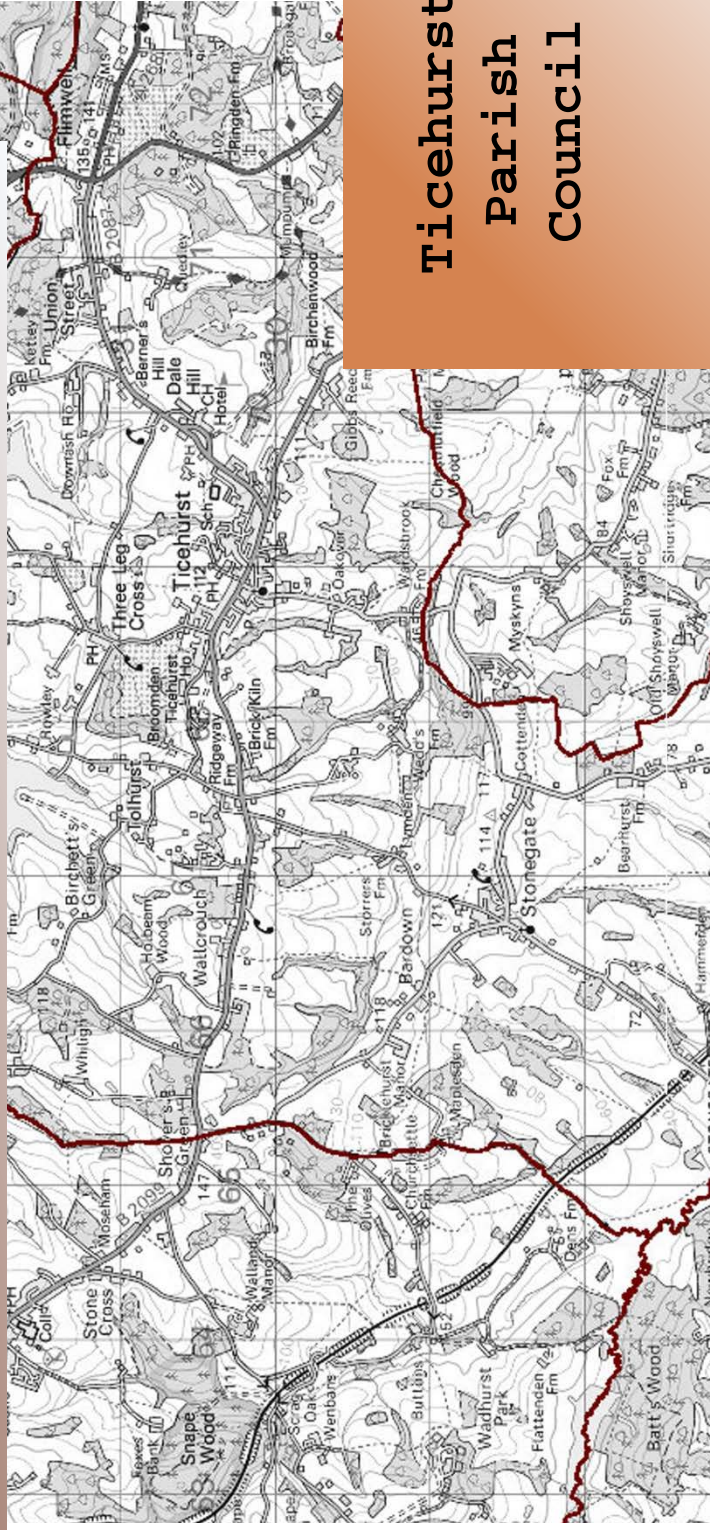


Various views from families & children (gathered by Glynnis Tucker)

POSITION STATEMENT March 2016



**Ticehurst
Parish
Council**

Various views from families and children – what they said

(Springfields, Farthing Hill, The Warren, Hillbury Gardens)

POSITIVES

'It feels safe and peaceful'

'It's nice to know your children are growing up in an area where there is plenty of green space, with access to the countryside' (from a man who grew up in London)

'It's usually friendly – people talk to you in the street'

'It feels relaxing to be here. There's less rushing around than other places'

'I like the mix of people you get here – most of them anyway'

'When I have a family of my own, I'd really like to be able to stay around here, not have to go to Hastings like my sister. It's safe and friendly here with lots of green space' (young man, 24)

'I can go to the shop on my own now I'm 10'

'Because it has a nice community feel, it's OK to let the children out to play or go to the shops. You know people will be looking out for them'

'It's a lovely area to live in'

'We like it here. It feels comfortable most of the time'

'It's really friendly. People mostly smile'

NEGATIVES

Traffic

'There are too many cars that drive too fast through the village, and through Springfields estate, making it unsafe'

'There's too much parking on the pavements, especially outside The Bell, and down the High Street. We can't always get our buggies past.'

'Parking on the square should be stopped – it's dangerous and ugly.'

'It would be nice to have a proper car park on Springfields, though cars parked on the street do slow traffic down a bit.'

'There's nowhere safe for people to cross (the High Street), especially when cars are parked on the bend beyond Pickforde Lane because then you can't see what's coming down the road.'

'Children can't cross safely'

'Nor can people in electric chairs'

'Parking on the pavement outside the Village Hall doesn't look very nice when you come into Ticehurst'

Housing

'We need to make sure there's a balance of new housing – not just big houses for rich people.'

'And it should be for families, not just older people.'

'Any new development should stay within the rough village 'boundary' so it can stay a tight-knit community'

'Hillbury Meadow is a poor choice for housing because of what would be lost – views, outlook, wildlife'

'Hillbury Meadow would be a good place to build because there's space there, and the Springfields end is already quite busy'

Amenities/transport

'Transport is rubbish for teenagers if your parents don't have a car, or can't take you places because of work, babysitting'

'The buses are expensive'

'Public transport is diabolical'

'If you haven't got a car to get to the supermarkets, it makes it very difficult. Tesco in Hawkhurst is OK but you try getting back from a family shop on the bus with bags and a buggy!'

'Tunbridge Wells shops are difficult to access too if you don't have a car'

'So is the hospital at Pembury – 2 bus trips, and not on a Sunday'.

'If we're having more houses, there needs to be proper infrastructure checks – especially transport issues, local schools, space for cars.'

Other

'There are some bullies out on the estate, so we don't always feel quite safe to go out'

'Ticehurst shops are really expensive. It must be difficult if you're old and can't get out'

'The square is a bit of a mess'

WHAT COULD HAPPEN

For children and families

'More local clubs for children.' (ALL the children and parents said it was a shame that there was so little on offer in Ticehurst itself when so many children live in the village.)

'We can't always get to Wadhurst or wherever to play sports or go to clubs, so there should be more to do in Ticehurst – we'd like a football club and a Youth Club and maybe other Sports clubs'

'Better facilities at the Rec. More equipment; a proper multi-use court for tennis, basketball etc.'

'I don't want to go to Cubs or Scouts, and that's the only clubs I know about here except the ones at the school'

Environment

'The square could be a proper centre'

'Parking in the square should be banned. Ticehurst Motors shouldn't be allowed to use more than a few spaces.'

'Pavement parking in the square and everywhere is a pain'

'Make a feature of the square'

'A one-way system in the square should be imposed'

'No parking on the square'

'No parking on the pavement outside The Bell'

'Bike rack on the square'

'Some houses and front-gardens are in a terrible state. If people aren't able to look after their properties nicely, there could be working groups to help out by weeding front gardens, cleaning windows, bit of clearing-

up, painting etc. Then people who can't (or don't) look after their homes well would feel they could ask for help. But some people don't care, especially if they're in private rented houses where the owner doesn't really care either. There's one on the main road that looks awful'

Housing

'More larger (4-bedroom) family homes in social housing'

'Mix of owner-occupied/social housing to continue'

'We'd like a bigger house so Mum and Dad don't have to sleep in the living-room, but we'd like to stay in Ticehurst because our friends are here and we like it.'

'We'd like there to be more 4 and 5-bedroom houses for those in social housing. Too many families in rented or social housing are in homes that are too small for the family's size'

'Keep new developments in Ticehurst, not spreading outside the village too much'

'Keep as much of the British countryside as possible because that's why we like living here. If we wanted to live in the suburbs, that's where we'd be'