



The Parish Of Mendlesham

Neighbourhood Plan

Parish location and facilities

August 2015



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1. Geography/Geology

Mendlesham parish land use is mainly arable with some pasture. In recent years woodland has been planted which may be the first woodland planting in a 1,000 years. The amount of pasture has also been growing in recent years. Old maps show most of the woodland which once covered the area having been felled by the 1600's.

The land is mainly grade 3, heavy loam over clay on a chalk bedrock. With an A band of grade 2 land in the valley from Denters Hill across to the A140. Total area 3,960 acres.

Two rivers drain from the parish, the river Gipping finds its source at Mendlesham Green to the South of the parish and two tributaries of the river Dove flow either side of the main settlement before entering the river Dove near Eye and finally flowing into the river Waveney.

2. Settlement

Mendlesham is first mentioned in Domesday in 1086 and its history is detailed in Appendix 1 at the end of this document

3. Socio-economic profile

The 2011 census showed that;

- 1,405 people lived in the parish,
- 260 were under 16,
- 905 people were working age adults,
- 240 people were aged over 65,
- 80 single pensioner households,
- 35 people were from black or minority ethnic groups.

In terms of the local economy, in 2011 there were;

- 746 economically active residents
- 292 economically inactive residents
- 382 full time employees
- 164 part time employees
- 141 residents were self employed
- 70 residents were working from home
- 180 residents were employed in the public sector.

In terms of job type, in 2011 the three highest employment sectors were;



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- Retail with 105 employees
- Transport and storage with 80 employees, and Education with 75 employees.

In 2011 within the parish;

- there were 621 homes
 - 286 detached houses
 - 195 semi detached houses
 - 104 terraced houses
 - 29 flats (purpose built)
 - 4 flats (other), and
 - 3 caravans or other temporary accommodation.
- 441 homes were owner occupied
- 86 homes were social rented
- 56 homes were private rented
- 17 homes were other rented
- 61 homes are in Council Tax Band A
- 138 homes are in Council Tax Band B
- 115 homes are in Council Tax Band C.

Housing in poor condition figures (2011) were;

- 22 households living in overcrowded conditions,
- 16 households had no central heating,
- 65 households were estimated to be in "fuel poverty".

Access to private transport figures (2011) showed that;

- 20 households had 4 or more cars,
- 75 households had 3 cars,
- 205 households had 2 cars,
- 240 households had 1 car and,
- 60 households did not have a car.

Travel by public transport times (2011) showed that, on average, it takes (by walking and / or public transport);

- 92 minutes to get to the nearest hospital,
- 10 minutes to get to the nearest supermarket,
- 26 minutes to get to the nearest town centre,
- 27 minutes for people travelling to work by public transport

In terms of deprivation the parish is not within the most deprived 20% of areas in England. In 2011 it had 79 working age DWP benefit claimants and only 2 households experiencing multiple deprivation. There were 24 children in "out of work" households.



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In 2010 there were 41 children in lone parent households and 24 children in poverty.

In 2011 there were 110 people with a limiting long term illness (aged 16-64).

In 2012 there were 35 people claiming Attendance Allowance and 45 people claiming Disability Living Allowance.

4. Community facilities

The Parish of Mendlesham is fortunate to have a variety of community facilities that make it a desirable place to live and demonstrates why it is considered to be a Key Service Area by Mid Suffolk District Council. These include:-

- Health Centre offering a range of services
- Primary School that will have 2 additional year groups over the next two years as a result of the Local Education Authority completing it's change from a 3 tier to a 2 tier system as part of the School Organisation Review (SOR)
- Community Centre
- Community playing field with tennis court, children's play area and two full size football pitches
- Childrens play area (Mendlesham Green)
- Cemetery (St. Mary's Church)
- Cemetery Mendlesham Green (adjacent to old Baptist Chapel)
- Allotments (Mendlesham Green)
- Millennium woodland
- Good established network of footpaths
- Post Office
- Village Shop and Bakery
- Public House
- Fish and chip shop
- Two Hairdressers.

There are 2 religious establishments in the parish.

- St Mary's Church which is of great historic significance with items of armoury from the English Civil War that are frequently on display. A new Memorial to the USAAF 34th Bomb Group Memorial was recently relocated to the churchyard adding to St Mary's historic importance.
- The United Reform Church is also a well established place of worship that provides a number of opportunities for its congregation and friends to meet and share social activities.



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The congregation has been a long term fund raiser for the local Seaman's Mission.

5. Sports and leisure facilities

Mendlesham has a Community Centre that consists of a Main Hall that has a stage and bar area that is able to accommodate indoor sporting activities as well as a variety of celebratory events. There is also a Small Hall that is used by Village Organisations predominantly Pre-School. Shower facilities are also available.

Mendlesham has a large number of village organisations that provides clubs and activities for all ages.

Mendlesham has a large and recently extended Playing Field area due to the purchase of additional land. Currently there is play equipment, football pitches and a tennis court area. There are plans to develop a cricket pitch over the next 5 years as well as upgrading the tennis court to include an all-weather surface that will accommodate a range of sporting activities.

In Mendlesham Green there is a much smaller Playing Field that provides a range of equipment and a small football area. Both facilities are well used by the local community.

The Neighbourhood Questionnaires indicate however that residents do not take full advantage of the facilities available and as a result a review of the sport and leisure facilities is currently underway by the Parish Council to address this.

The parish is fortunate to have a woodland area that was planted to mark the Millennium. There is a wildflower area, sections of native trees and meadowland. This is a resource that is popular with the residents of the whole parish. Recently a pathway from Mendlesham Community Primary School to the woodland was constructed so that the pupils have the opportunity for first hand studying of the local flora and fauna on a regular basis.

The parish has a network of well used footpaths that have been repaired and mapped by the local Walking Group.

6. Transport facilities

Mendlesham and Mendlesham Green are currently served by routes 113, 114 and 456 that operate between Diss and Stowmarket.



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Monday to Friday there are five bus trips in each direction and on Saturdays one. There are no services on Sunday.

The bus service only provides a daytime service so cars or motorcycles are the only source of travel for leisure activities in the evening. This is particularly the case for youngsters who rely heavily on their parents to allow them to access a social life outside of the parish.

These services are particularly important for residents needing to travel to and from work or college to both Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.

There are school buses to Bacton and Stowupland.

7. Footpath network

The footpath network is monitored by the Mendlesham Walking Group which also liaises with Suffolk County Council over footpath, bridleway and byway issues. In conjunction with SCC the group also carries out limited maintenance of the local footpaths.

The group holds regular walks around the parish and has identified and documented three circular walks that can be used by ramblers.

Footpaths and bridleways are used primarily for leisure purposes, rambling, dog walking and horse riding and there is no identified requirement for other purposes.

8. Rural broadband

Inconsistent access to Broadband services, both for personal and business use, has been a significant issue raised by parishioners who completed the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires.

As part of the consultation process in respect of businesses it was evident how much employers and employees rely on a reliable and fast Broadband service to carry out the daily task of running a business.

Mendlesham Parish Council arranged a broadband consultation event for local businesses that was supported by representatives from BT and Suffolk County Council. The BT and Suffolk County Council representatives at the consultation event assured those attending that the Parish of Mendlesham is part of the current upgrade of the local Broadband scheme. This will mean that Mendlesham village should be in receipt of faster Broadband by



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September 2014 and Mendlesham Green in the late summer of 2015.

However, this much needed improvement in Broadband access will not necessarily include new housing or business development and must be an important consideration when planning permission is sought.

8. Village organisations

Mendlesham residents have an excellent network of social and support organisations available to them, including,

- Ancient Order of Foresters,
- Beaver Scouts,
- Bowls Club,
- Brownies,
- Carpet Bowls,
- Community Centre,
- Community Council,
- Cub Scouts,
- Football,
- Friends of Mendlesham Health Centre,
- Friends of Mendlesham School Association,
- History Group,
- Over 60's club,
- Mendlesham pre school,
- Mendlesham Toddler Group,
- Mendlesham Walking Group,
- Rainbows Scouts,
- St Mary's Parish Church,
- St Mary's Church Council,
- Trustees of charities,
- United Reform Church,
- Village recorder,
- Women's Institute.

Additionally there are small support groups mobilised to deal with maintenance issues in and around the village; including

- minor works in and around the Community Centre,
- grass and verge cutting,
- woodland and pathway clearance, and,
- support at events organised by the Community Council, e.g. the annual May Fayre.



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