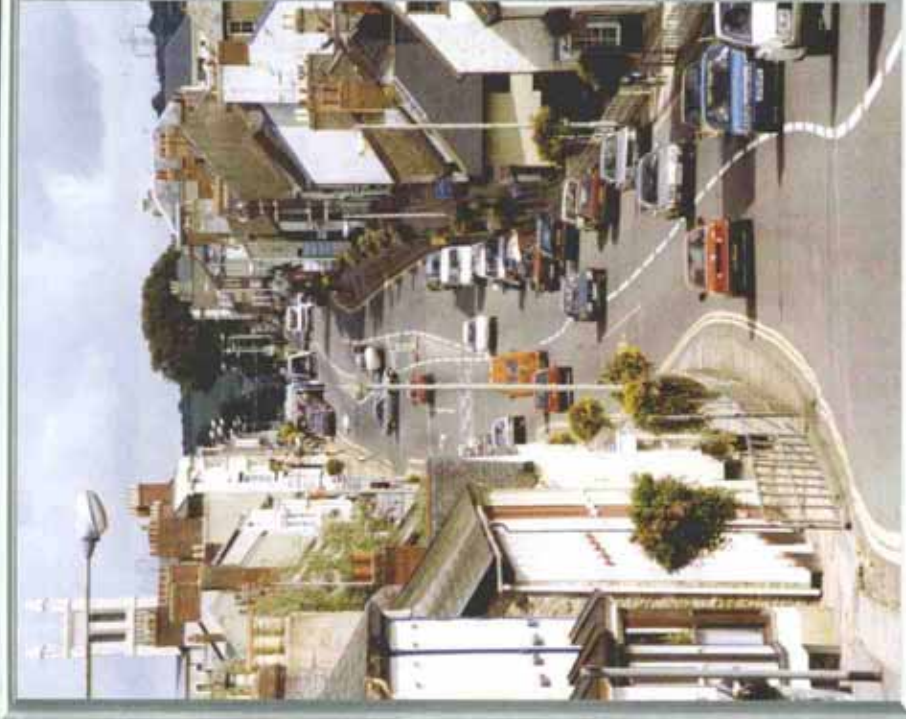
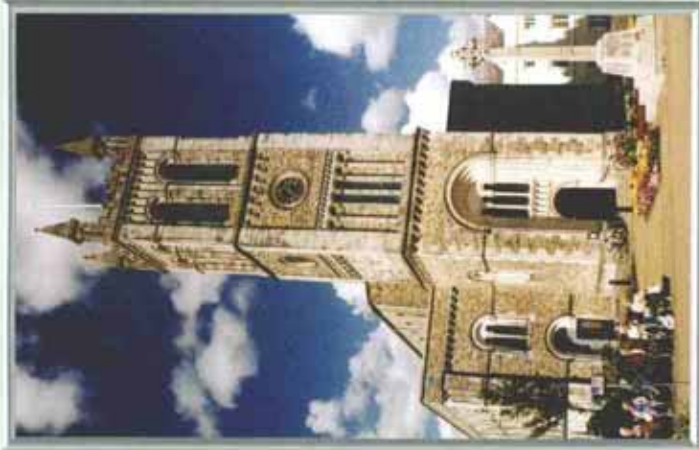


BACKGROUND

A process looking at the town and its needs has been going on for some years. It started in the Honiton Town Council in 1999 as H2K and continued under the auspices of the Honiton Regeneration Trust. This group unfortunately failed to achieve funding, and despite wide public support had to cease operating in August 2001. However, all the evidence of public concerns and wishes gathered by these groups was preserved. The opportunity to revive the process came with the initiative of the Countryside Agency which encouraged villages and towns to undertake a funded process and come up with a plan for their own community. This process had to be under the auspices of the Town or Parish Council, but also involve lay community members. For Honiton our Council launched the process in January 2002.

During the past months the group has taken the information from Honiton Regeneration, has consulted local groups and individuals widely, and sought by means of a questionnaire, the public's opinions on the town, its values and facilities, and hoped-for improvements. As part of the process an action day was organised on 15th April 2003 which aimed to encourage the public to express their evaluation of the town, its buildings and surroundings. The principal purpose of this day was to inform the group with a view to drawing up a Town Design Statement. Such a statement once accepted by the local Council, and East Devon District Council would be used as supplementary planning guidance, empowering the local council to work with East Devon District Council ensuring respect for the built environment of Honiton, and its key features in all planning matters.

Once we had collected a broad spectrum of opinion, as well as that of special interest groups, we had the task of prioritising the issues raised. A further meeting of the public was arranged on 2nd July 2003 at which several groups were tasked to take the issues and work through them. The aim was to clarify each issue, ascertain why it was important, to decide how urgent an issue was, and finally who should take the issue forward. This has enabled us to draw up the Action Plan which is given overleaf.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Countryside Agency

East Devon District Council

Devon County Council

Honiton Town Council

Devon Association of Parish Councils

The People of Honiton

HONITON TOWN PLAN



ACTION PLAN

ISSUE	WHY IS ACTION NEEDED	ACTION PROPOSED	PARTNERS	SUGGESTED TIME SCALE
Environment	(a) Cleanliness (b) Graffiti (c) Recycling (d) Composting (e) Waste Collection (f) Grass cutting	General concern re cleanliness esp. litter, dog mess around town and playing fields Detracts from town Absence of central facility Lack of site for community composting Black bags being attacked To enhance the appearance of the town (and control knotweed)	EDDC/HTC Community Action? EDDC/HTC EDDC Community EDDC Volunteer Group EDDC EDDC/Highways Agency	Now Now Soon Soon
Town Centre	(a) High Street	Much valued – as expressing the town and its history	Everyone DCC Chamber of Commerce EDDC/HTC Traders Chamber of Commerce EDDC HTC EDDC/Saall Holders Market Organisers Police/EDDC	High Priority- ongoing work Soon Soon
(b) Street market (c) Farmers Market (d) Toilets	Felt to be vitally important both for commerce and tourism Valued, but felt to be inaccessible Close too early (although conflict with avoidance of vandalism is recognised)	Protect what we have – and enhance with care • improve traffic flow • make pedestrian friendly • more seating in town • reduce number of bill boards. Improve access to shop premises for the disabled • encourage well maintained shop fronts • keep clean • complete water channel, protect Enhance appearance of stalls, Publicise market e.g. in tourist leaflets Look for permanent site. Better publicity e.g. as to location Increase policing and security in this area to enable traders to close later	DCC Chamber of Commerce DCC Local community EDDC Primary Care Trust Chamber of Commerce/HTC DCC EDDC HTC	Now Now
Traffic & Transport	(a) Pedestrian safety (b) Pedestrian access	Difficulty in getting around the town for pedestrians. It was felt that improved safe access in and out of town was needed – mentioned by children and older people	Investigate more crossings. Identify particular links missing and work with partners to improve pedestrian access	
(c) Parking	Complex needs of shoppers, workers, tourists and visitors to hospital/doctors surgery – need to balance short and long term parking	Look at total picture of parking in Honiton to find solutions. Consider Park & Ride. Ensure that there is adequate, well positioned parking for disabled	DCC	
(d) Traffic flow improvements	Congestion has been identified as a problem, e.g. New Street area and Dorset Street area	Link with Community Transport Plan to improve road network and traffic control	EDDC	
(e) Street signs	Street names are not very clear	Look at making street signs clearer/more visible	EDDC	
(f) Links	Suggestions were made for improvements to links with Exeter and Taunton, as well as outlying villages	Commission a Transport Survey to identify real needs and possible providers (as part of Market and Coastal Towns Initiative)	HTC	
Recreational Facilities	(a) Community Centre	General agreement: this is a much needed facility – requests for cinema/theatre/youth activities/society meeting place Feeling that more general playing field around space would be valued	Build on work of Community Centre Association in order to achieve funding to build multi-purpose Community Centre Can Alhambra field be used as public open space? Could land at St. Rita's Seminary be used for some general activity All sports clubs in Honiton have responded to a questionnaire Make the most of all available open space e.g. along water ways Link areas of open space Create a "Town Trail" leaflet	High Priority- Long term project Soon
(b) Playing fields	Requests have been made for Astro turf/all-weather facilities, etc.	Plaques on buildings to identify special places Information leaflets on pathways rights of way, open spaces, recreational facilities Signage?	EDDC/HTC HCCA/Traders St. Rita's Seminary/EDDC HTC/EDDC Sports Clubs EDDC Chamber of Commerce? HTC Rotary/Library/TIC/HTC	Now
(c) Outdoor sports	Lack of open space near the town centre	Cafe/meeting place needed – possibly near station A further skateboard facility was requested	DCC/EDDC Community College Youth Organisations Chamber of Commerce	Now
(d) Open spaces	Existing pathways not joined up or publicised	The Chamber of Commerce are organising a wide-ranging questionnaire to businesses in the town. The results will feed into future Action plans	Chamber of Commerce working with partners	Medium priority
(e) Network of pathways	There was felt to be a need for more information on what was on offer and where it is: there is often a lot on offer!	These issues are being addressed through the Town Design Statement which forms part of the Town Plan	HTC/EDDC	
(f) Information	Young people were asked for their ideas at the Consultation Day and more work will be done with young people attending the Community College at a later date. There were also requests from parents for child-friendly facilities			
Young People	A strong economy is vital to the vibrancy of Honiton – and local employment opportunities should be encouraged.			
Employment and Economy	Honiton has a tightly drawn development boundary which places pressure on the town. There is a need to maintain the character of the town.			
Housing and Development				

ENVIRONMENT



Cleanliness

Enhance Appearance; more litter and dog waste bins.

Recycling

Improve recycling facilities.
Explore sites for community composting.

Waste Collection

Black bags create rubbish spill.
Change to wheelie bins.

Grass Cutting

Vital for appearance (and control of Knotweed). Clean up afterwards.

Graffiti

Detracts from town.
Details should be recorded and appropriate action taken.



TOWN CENTRE

Enhance High Street

Much valued. Worries about change.
Improve traffic flow. Part pedestrianised.
More seating. Water Channel Project.

Street Market

Vital to town.
Enhance appearance.



Farmers' Market

Publicise more. Better venue. Extend over lunch hour.



Toilets

Increase open hours.

Plaques on Buildings of Interest

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Pedestrian Safety & Convenience

Improve footpaths and more street crossings. Links missing at present.
Short and long term plans are needed.

Parking

Increased parking spaces needed in the town and ? Park & Ride.

Traffic Flow Improvements

New Street, Clapper Lane and Dowell Street are particular problems to be considered.



Street Signs

Signage report held by council.
Improvements needed.

Improved Links from Town

More trains and later trains to Exeter.
Improve links to Taunton and villages.

RECREATION

Community Centre

Needed by many groups.

Network of Paths

Walkers & Cyclists.

Playing Fields

Both for sports and children's use.



Open Space

This is lacking in the centre of town:

Can Allhallows field become public open space?

Link open spaces with footpaths.

Individual Sports Needs

The Hockey Club has no pitch.

Whole playing field issue needs integration and long term plan.



YOUNG PEOPLE

Safe / Informal Meeting Place

Various ideas expressed.

Somewhere where the young feel comfortable.



Expanded Skateboard Facilities

Need for area in south west of town.

Services for Under 2's

Expanded access to crèche facilities.

Child-friendly café / meeting place.

Further questionnaire planned for secondary school-aged youngsters.

HOUSING & ECONOMY



Encourage Local Economy

Vital to develop town.

Ensure Housing / Services / Facilities are in balance

Maintain character of town.

Promote Honiton

Make it accessible to all, whether local or visitors.

Increased employment and facilities will attract people to the town.

