

# Wheathampstead Parish Council

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Clerk to the Council: Julia Warren

Mr J Young  
Interim Head of Planning & Building Control  
St. Albans District Council  
District Council Offices  
St. Peter's Street  
St. Albans AL1 3JE

14 October 2009

Dear John

## **Rural Vision**

In preparation for the briefing meeting tonight I write to put on paper a synopsis of some comments from Wheathampstead Parish Council.

The Parish Council are pleased to note the existence of the Rural Vision to inform the LDF and see this as a useful conduit to feed in our own Village Plan to the planning system. The Council was pleased to work with yourselves and the Urban Practitioners to facilitate consultation exercises in the Village, the outcome of which is useful to us to inform and build our live Village Plan. It is pleasing too to see that the findings of the Village Plan are specifically mentioned on page 33. To make these crystal clear I suggest below a few amendments – the basis of our consultation being different to Urban Practitioners. WPC used a weighting system to prioritise issues when asking questions whereas Urban Practitioners used a freeform questionnaire. Thus, for example, one may have one priority issue may have one or two significant 'problems' whilst a more minor issue could have lots of 'problems'. So traffic has multiple identifiable 'problems' whilst empty shop units is less divisible into a plethora of 'problems'. An explanation of the two consultation methods is perhaps worth including as confusion may otherwise arise suggesting volume of responses equates to weighting/concern.

Our Village Plan does not contain detailed information on planning matters as that information will be covered by the Village Design Statement that is currently being finalised. It is hoped that this omission will not occur in the Rural Vision.

<b>page</b>	<b>text</b>	<b>Comment</b>
6	Heading & first line of text column 3 reads 'future priorities'	Suggest remove 'future' as these are current priorities

<b>page</b>	<b>text</b>	<b>Comment</b>
35 & 37		Would it be worth amalgamating the results of the consultation events at the Memorial Hall and Farmers' Market?
36	Map columns 3 & 4	The map is misleading as it is only upon investigation that it is apparent this relates to individual comments, some of which are contradictory. It is not well integrated into the text

Thank you for considering these comments and the verbal feedback from this evening's meeting.

Yours sincerely

Julia Warren  
Clerk to the Council