

## Community Profile

The Parish of Great Wilbraham extends over an area of 1178 hectares (about 2910 acres). Little Wilbraham Parish, which includes Six Mile Bottom, covers an area of 800 Hectares (about 1977 acres).

The area is mainly residential, surrounded by arable fields. It is situated on the edge of fenland in chalk down land.

## Population, Housing & Development

Statistics from the 2001 census profile state the resident population of Great Wilbraham at the time was 638 in 259 households. The population of Little Wilbraham Parish was 394 in 175 households.

There has been minimal housing development in our Parishes over recent years, the largest developments being The Squire's Field in Great Wilbraham and The Paddocks in Six Mile Bottom. There has been a small amount of infill or demolition and redevelopment of existing sites.



*The Hole in The Wall, Little Wilbraham*

## Community Services and Facilities

We have a Public House in each village, two Social Clubs and a Memorial Hall. There is also a commercially run Day Nursery. There is a Country House Hotel and a specialist Veterinary Practice in Six Mile Bottom.



*Dick White Referrals, Six Mile Bottom*

The Post Office Stores in Great Wilbraham is used at least once a week by over 70% of the residents who took part in our survey. Proof that this is an essential asset for many local people and its survival is paramount to our community.

The Cambridge County Council Mobile Library visits all three villages on a regular basis. A mobile fish and chip van also services Great and Little Wilbraham every week.



Many years ago, the Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall and Recreation ground were given to our Parishes by local land owner, Squire Hicks, so effectively they belong to everybody in the Great and Little Wilbraham Parishes.

The Hall is the hub of our community and is host to an array of clubs and societies, from children's groups to Over 60s. It also houses a Sports Club, Social Club and is a well known venue in the Country & Western circuit.

The Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall is in desperate need of redevelopment in the near future to allow these activities to continue. The Parish Plan survey highlighted a



requirement for several new activities so any redevelopment of the hall should try to incorporate these ideas.

Just the fact that we have all of these thriving services and facilities speaks volumes. We are two relatively small Parishes and maintaining these services takes a huge amount of dedication and shows we have a committed and integrated community.

There are outdoor recreational areas in all three villages. Soccer and cricket can be played at Six Mile Bottom and Great Wilbraham. There is children's play equipment at Great Wilbraham and the Recreation Ground at Little Wilbraham is currently undergoing improvements. More funding will be needed to maintain these areas.

## Transport

All three villages are currently served by Stagecoach bus number 17 from Mondays to Saturdays enabling residents to travel to Cambridge or Newmarket. The service is subsidised by Cambridgeshire County Council.

## Health and social Care

The villages are served by two doctors' surgeries, Bottisham Medical Practice and Fulbourn Health Centre. House calls and transport to the surgery can be provided, on request, to Bottisham Medical Practice. An "after hours" service is also available and Addenbrooke's Hospital is a short distance away. There is also a Dental Practice at Bottisham.

## Worship/Churches & burial grounds

There are four places of worship within our Parishes. Our three churches, St Nicholas, St John the Evangelist and St Georges' are highly valued by our community as historic buildings as well as places of worship. There

are regular meetings at the Baptist Chapel in Great Wilbraham.

A planning Application has recently been submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council to change the use of a plot of land in Great Wilbraham to a burial ground. The application was accepted and work is already in progress.



*St John The Evangelist, Little Wilbraham*



*St Nicholas, Great Wilbraham*



*This wall hanging, designed and made by members of the local WI, is on display in St Nicholas Church, Great Wilbraham.*

## Education

Great Wilbraham Church of England Primary school offers a broad and balanced curriculum to children aged 4 to 11 years. The school is committed to providing an excellent standard of education with a Christian ethos. Replacing a Victorian building, the new school was built on a nearby site in 1994, accommodating around 100 children. It has extensive grounds with superb play and nature facilities.



The school has close links with St Nicholas Church, Great Wilbraham and St John the Evangelist, Little Wilbraham. There are regular acts of collective worship at the school. The school welcomes the active involvement of governors, clergy, parents and the community.

Most children of Secondary age attend the nearby Village College in Bottisham.

Little Warblers Pre-school is located in a mobile classroom on the Primary School site. Most children who attend Pre-School transfer to Great Wilbraham Primary School.

Pre-School is a Registered Charity, managed by a voluntary Committee, run by a Level 3 qualified Playgroup Leader and her dedicated staff team. They earned an "Outstanding" rating from OFSTED in 2009.

The mobile classroom is shared with WOOSH – Wilbrahams' Out Of School Hours club. This has been run by a dedicated voluntary Committee since 2001, to provide safe, fun, high quality childcare before school and after school, every day during term-time

## FACTS and *Folklore*

300 burials were found when an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was excavated, a mile South-East of Little Wilbraham village.

Notorious highwayman Dick Turpin was reputed to have held up people travelling along the Six Mile Bottom road.

There have been many shops in our Parishes over the years, including a fish & chip shop, Co-op, bakery, cycle shop and Post Offices.

Unexplained ghostly footsteps have been heard along the upstairs corridor of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Carpenters' Arms pub, Great Wilbraham.



A golden coach is thought to be buried under Mutlow Hill, the mid Bronze-age Roundbarrow next to Fleam Dyke.

There were separate sides at Little Wilbraham school – one for girls and one for boys.

There were several plane crashes in our Parishes during the Second World War and the Army camped on Great Wilbraham Recreation Ground.

There was believed to be an underground passage linking the Temple with St. Nicholas' Church during the times of the Knight's Templar.

In 1975, Lady Delamere opened the former school at Six Mile Bottom as a community centre (Sports & Social Club).



## RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The response to the questionnaire was almost 35%, which is not ideal, but we felt it gives a fair representation of our community. 100 households replied from Great Wilbraham, 43 from Little Wilbraham and 11 from Six Mile Bottom. 320 individual residents undertook the survey. Efforts were made to maximise the number of returned questionnaires with a reminder in The Wilbrahams' Warbler parish magazine and an extension of the return end date.

The steering group analysed the responses. This procedure highlighted the most pressing issues to be included in next stage – the Action Plan.

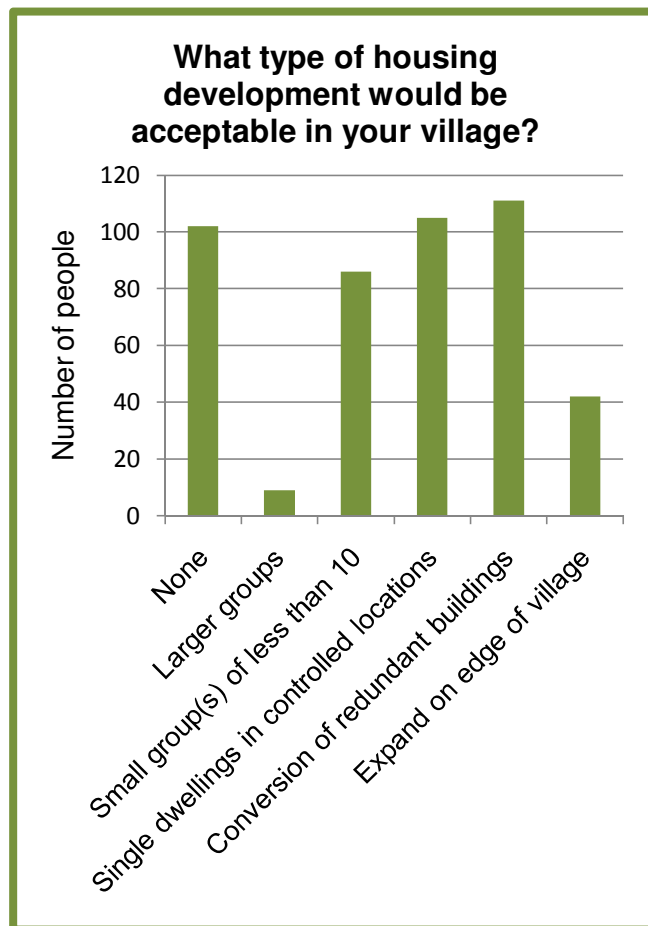
We very much appreciate that some people took the time and effort to include comments on their questionnaire. Unfortunately we are unable to use them all, but have included some anonymous comments that we hope will be of interest.

### The Environment

The majority of residents who responded to the questionnaire had strong views about maintaining the character of the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom and felt that our local environment should be protected. Two of the most favoured ways to do this were improving public transport and reducing traffic.

#### Built Environment

The most significant recent housing developments in the Parishes are The Squire's Field in Great Wilbraham and The Paddocks in Six Mile Bottom. Other than these two sites, the rest has been mainly infill or demolition and redevelopment of existing sites. There was a mixed response as to whether more accommodation is needed or not, as the bar chart in the next column illustrates.



When asked, "What do you think about the number of houses built in your village over the last 10 years?", 173 residents out of 254 who answered that question said it was, "about right".

102 out of 246 people surveyed felt that no more homes were needed, whereas 108 people felt that small family homes were required. Any development should be done slowly and sympathetically.



255 residents responded to the question asking what type of accommodation is needed. There is considerable support for the conversion of redundant buildings (111 people in favour) or single dwellings in controlled locations (105 people). Small groups of less than ten properties were deemed acceptable by 86 respondents.

Residents have demonstrated that larger groups of houses and expansion on the edge of their villages are less favourable.

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*...there are some opportunities for infill, such as front of the pub in Little Wilbraham.*

*...the envelope in local plans are drawn much too tightly around existing buildings and should be relaxed.*

*Our villages should be maintained as a peaceful residential area. If developed, there would be no case to argue against being joined up with Fulbourn and Bottisham, thus becoming suburban.*

*We have so much to preserve, that too much development is a big threat.*

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We asked people to rate the quality of roads and pavements to see how user friendly they were. Facilities for cyclists and pedestrians were mostly considered “good” or “reasonable”. However, 44% of the surveyed people considered the paths to be poor for people with disabilities or pushchair users. 23% reported a need for wider footpaths in some places.

It was encouraging to find that several people were willing to help maintain footpaths and bridleways. Regrettably, the Parish Councils are unable to accept these offers of help due to health and safety and insurance implications.

The standard of street lighting was considered “good” or “reasonable” in the majority of places. The road between Great and Little Wilbraham at night was an area

where some people felt unsafe due to the lack of street lighting. The Toft Lane footpath and the lay-by near St Nicholas Church in Great Wilbraham were also areas where it was felt the lighting was poor, causing concern for residents.



High Street, Great Wilbraham

## Natural Environment

The quality of our surrounding countryside was “very important” to 89% of surveyed residents. Over half of the people thought their village could be improved by planting more hedges and trees and 40% thought that single trees in special places should be preserved. It was felt unnecessary to cut down existing trees.

Some residents would like to see more spring bulbs planted at the entrance and exit points of their village.

