

IDEN



ACTION PLAN

2010-2015

IDEN VILLAGE

OVER ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH

As a place name, Iden is almost unchanged since the 11th century when it was “Idene”. The derivation of the name comes from two sources. “Den” indicates a Danish settlement, and the “I” or “E” describes a watery place. True villagers emphasize the final syllable, giving us “I’den” rather than “Id’n”- the pronunciation is something along the lines of Oi’dene

Iden is situated about 2 miles north of Rye, East Sussex, with a population of approximately 450 residents with 237 households. The village sits comfortably astride a cross roads, with the Bell Inn, War Memorial, Bowls Club and Iden Stores providing the centre around which the village has developed. The housing development at Elmsmead was built in the 1950s and that of Parkwood in the 1970s- between them they account for 59 dwellings



The main traffic (B2082) runs north to south; from the Isle of Oxney, through Iden and then southwards towards Playden and Rye. Crossing the main route towards the east is Grove Lane. This runs towards Bosney Farm before looping south towards Houghton Green, tumbling down the ancient Saxon Shore Way and on towards the Military Road and Canal, built to repel Napoleon in 1807. The final part of the cross is formed by Church Lane, running west past the village shop, the Church of All Saints, the village playing field and down towards Rye Foreign and Peasmarsh.

Rising from Romney Marsh, Iden sits at the highest point north of Rye, some 51 meters above sea level. About 80 acres of the 2000 within village are “drowned. The remainder provides good arable land for mixed farming, with gently undulating ground easily accessible to farm machinery.

The boundary also extends down to Iden Lock and a part of Military Road.

The population of Iden as quoted in the Domesday Book is shown as 2 Lords- Ednoth, the original Saxon owner and Geoffrey, the Norman owner. In addition there are seven cottagers and one village. Since then the village would have grown very slowly, beginning around 1284 when Edmund de Paseley, with the blessing of Edward I, built a castellated house surrounded by a moat- “Iden Mote“- a fortified structure dating from about 1260, built in a strategic position guarding the upper reaches of the river Rother, which was then far wider, and overlooking Rye.



It was to become the home of Alexander Iden the Sheriff of Kent in the 15th century. In 1450 he captured and killed Jack Cade ,who led the Kentish rebellion against Henry VI. Unfortunately all that remains of the 'castle' today is the gateway, but the lines of the moat can still be seen. Thanks to English Heritage and the local Landowner, the site can now be accessed on the tourist trail.



All Saints Church can be found up a path off Church Lane. It has a castellated bell tower which dates from the 11th Century. It has seen several restoration projects over the years, and unlike most churches has been made smaller, not larger. During the 117 years from 1807 to 1924 the Church had only 2 rectors, and for this it is mentioned in the Guinness Book of Records. The building is well maintained and continues to have regular services as part of the Rye team, being served by a Vicar who is also responsible for Playden Church.

Iden's oldest house stands at the northern end of the village. It is a 15th century timber-framed hall house, called Oxenbridge, probably named after the Oxenbridge family of Brede. The village is also well endowed with other grade 2 listed properties.

Iden was at one time dominated by hop farming, with workers being paid in hop tokens. One of the largest hop growers in the South East in the 19th century was Jeremiah Smith, who was known to be a firebrand at the time of the Reform Bill of 1832 and lived at Park Farm, Iden

Before the Second World War and for a time thereafter, the village was dominated by a few large mostly farming families. Although agriculture still plays a major role, it was a major employer before mechanisation and the decline of the hop industry. The number of children in Iden in 1868 merited the opening of a National Church School next to the Church, but as pupil numbers declined, it closed in 1936 with children being sent on to Playden



Over the years the village has been very fortunate to have had generous benefactors, with the playing field, village hall and bowls club being donated. The Village shop ("Iden Stores") was saved from closure by a local farmer who owns the freehold together with the Iden Stores Association who raised 20% from villagers towards the purchase price in 1998.

Iden nowadays has a high percentage of retired residents and comparatively few children. There are a few second homes and residents are anxious that any new housing is handled in a sensitive way noting that Iden remains one of the few villages in the locality that has not be subjected to ribbon development.

Iden is also and importantly, one of the very few small villages locally that can boast of having its own shop and Post Office, playing field and organizations that cater for most of its residents' needs, promoting a special sense of community spirit and well being.

Words by Michael Miller

All photographs (except Oxenbridge) taken by Rod Stuart

IDEN AS A COMMUNITY

IDEN PLAYING FIELD

This wonderful village asset was given to the residents by the late Eric Mason in 1934 and is owned by the Parish Council as Trustees who also manage it.

On the field (3 hectares) is a children's play area and football and cricket pitches which are hired out currently to Iden Cricket Club, Peasmarsch and Iden Football Club and Iden Park Football Club.

The only building permitted is the Sports Pavilion which has been enlarged over the years and is let to the Iden Pavilion Association by the Parish Council.



The Field has many established trees around its boundary with an adequate car park and is popular with walkers and dogs. It and the Pavilion are available to hire from the Parish Council and the Pavilion Association.

The Parish Burial Ground was hived off from the playing field when the Church Graveyard was closed many years ago and attached to this is a small area for contemplation which was donated to the village in 1998.



The Parish Council maintains the old graveyard around the church, the Playing Field and play area, Parish Burial Ground and the attached donated area.

The children's play area is adequate but during the coming months items will require replacing.

The Parish Council also maintains the War Memorial and two bus shelters at the centre of the village.

IDEN BUSINESSES

Agriculture remains a large part of village life, with arable, sheep and beef continuing to feature. Top fruit also continues to dominate with reliance upon seasonal labour. Large orchards have recently been planted in Readers Lane for the juice market.



The village has one public house (the Bell) and a shop (Iden Stores) both in its centre. The shop also has a Post Office which is well used, especially as this is the only one between Iden and Tenterden, 8 miles away. Iden is one of the few villages locally that has retained its village shop and the community is determined that this and the Post Office continue.

One of the largest employers is Lankelma Ltd and there are also pine furniture manufacturers, a removal company and a hairdressers. There are small industrial units in the village. There are also riding stables, a cattery in Readers Lane and boarding kennels and cattery in Coldharbour Lane.

IDEN CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

FRIENDS OF IDEN CHURCH

Although the Church of All Saints was restored in the 1960s, maintenance work continues to be needed and Friends fund raise for this purpose, with Open Gardens, Art shows and music events.

The old Village Hall alongside the entrance to the Church will be restored in 2010 with the help of Friends to provide toilet, kitchen and meeting facilities for Church events.

The Church is a popular venue for the annual Rye Festival.

IDEN AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This group meets every other Friday evening in the Autumn/Winter months in Iden Village Hall where lectures are given to members and also guests.

IDEN AND PLAYDEN GARDEN SOCIETY

A long standing Society open to all residents for a modest annual subscription. Members hold 4 shows a year in the Village Hall and lectures are also held in the autumn and winter months.

IDEN BOWLS CLUB

The land in the centre of the village was donated by a former resident and is a very popular facility where members fund raise with their annual jumble sale and their concert every other year.



IDEN CRICKET CLUB

One of the oldest village clubs, this usually plays each Saturday in Iden Playing Field as part of the East Sussex Cricket League. The setting in the playing field against the Church background is one of the most attractive in the South of England, as the photograph on page 4 shows.



IDEN FETE COMMITTEE

On the last Saturday in July, the annual Iden Fete is held in the Playing Field. This well attended event was started many years ago and continues to raise monies primarily for the Village Hall and the Sports Pavilion, although donations are also given to local organisations when funds permit.

IDEN FIELD TROTTERS

An ad hoc group of ladies who walk every third Tuesday monthly-except August and January. In the summer months there are also evening walks for both men and ladies.

IDEN FLOWER FESTIVAL

This is held in Iden Church every other year with the next one being in May 2010. Funds raised go towards the upkeep and restoration of the Church.

IDEN FOOTPATHS GROUP

This ad hoc group has been replacing stiles and gates on the footpaths in and around Iden under the supervision and control of East Sussex County Council

IDEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council consists of five members and a Clerk. Its meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month- October- May in the Village Hall and for the rest of the year in the Pavilion on the Playing Field. Usually County and District Councillors attend and regular spots are reserved for the Police. There is always an agenda item for the public to ask questions on either a current planning application or matters that may concern

IDEN PAVILION ASSOCIATION

This group leases the Pavilion in the Playing Field from the Parish Council and is responsible for its maintenance and the facilities for Pavilion users.

IDEN SINGERS

Formed in 2008, the Singers give regular concerts in Iden and Church and sing at the annual Carol Service. In 2009, over £1200 was raised for Charity



IDEN STORES ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1998, this holds the Village's 20% investment in the freehold of Iden Stores. Membership of the Association is open to all. With the owner of the 80% of the freehold the Association ensures that the shop is adequately maintained and that it and the Post Office continues as an invaluable village resource.

IDEN VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

The Village Hall was donated in the early 1950s and is managed by Trustees comprising representatives from the village organisations.

IDEN VILLAGE SIGN GROUP

This was formed in 2009 in order to raise monies for a village sign.

IDEN WOMENS INSTITUTE

Founded over 90 years ago, this Branch meets every second Tuesday evening in the Village Hall.

PEASMARSH AND IDEN FOOTBALL CLUB/IDEN PARK FOOTBALL CLUB

The former has used the village playing fields for many years with local support. The latter club was only formed recently and is generally made up of younger players who hire the playing field usually for matches on Sunday mornings.



What is an Action Plan and why is it important?

- Local Action Plans identify community priorities through consultation
- They cover the issues that affect the daily lives of the community
- The Actions within the Plan detail what is required to address community needs
- Delivering the actions will mean improvements to the quality of life for local people
- Copies of the Iden Parish Action Plan will be presented to Iden Parish Council, Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council and other agencies and service providers to aid their decision making
- The implementation of this Action Plan gives the community the opportunity to gauge how successful their Parish Council is in helping to achieve the aims and aspirations of those living and working in the Parish
- The Iden Parish Action Plan will be reviewed annually and updated every 5 years to ensure that it continues to be relevant to the local people and that the actions within it are reasonable, feasible and achievable

Who did we consult?

During the period of heavy snow of Christmas 2009 and New Year 2010 copies of the Iden 'Have Your Say' questionnaire were delivered by volunteers to the 237 households in the Parish, accompanied by a letter from the Chairman of Iden Parish Council urging all residents to complete and return the questionnaire to the box provided in Iden Stores. Additional copies were made available and help was on hand to assist those who may have experienced difficulty with participating in this consultation.

A total of 104 completed questionnaires were returned which is an excellent result, meaning that approximately 44% of all households responded to the survey. The data collected has been analysed and used to inform the actions within this Plan.

Get Involved!

To make the Iden Action Plan a success and to ensure the Parish continues to be a great place to live and work, we would like any member of the community who has a particular interest, skill, knowledge or expertise to offer to help us to take these actions forward. If you would like to join any working groups, share your experience, contribute to the development of local projects or just find out a little bit more about being involved, please contact:

Michael Miller
Old School House
Church Lane
Iden
TN31 7XD

Telephone: 01797 280304 Email: michael@thehollyhocks.freeserve.co.uk

IDEN PARISH ACTIONS

The lead organisation is written in **bold**, the other named stakeholders will have an interest in the following actions.

ACTION 1	PERIODICALLY LIAISE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES
Why	To maintain the Village Hall as a well used and valued facility that evolves to meet the needs of future users. To encourage feedback on the Village Hall facilities
Stakeholders	Village Hall Trustees , Iden Parish Council, community groups
Timeframe	Ongoing
ACTION 2	PROVIDE IMPROVED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNGER PEOPLE
Why	To ensure that children and younger people feel a sense of inclusion and that their needs and aspirations are met. The current children's play facilities are becoming dated and will need replacing in the near future
Stakeholders	Iden Parish Council , Rother District Council, Youth Development Service, Sussex Police, PCSOs
Timeframe	1-5 years
ACTION 3	REVIEW PROGRESS WITH THE VILLAGE SIGN COMMITTEE
Why	There is support for the provision of an appropriate village sign
Stakeholders	Village Sign Committee , East Sussex County Council
Timeframe	1-3 years
ACTION 4	RESEARCH AND DEVELOP A SUITABLE VENUE TO HOUSE A LOCAL INFORMATION POINT
Why	So that the community have access to information regarding services and events and to encourage social inclusion
Stakeholders	Iden Parish Council
Timeframe	1-2 years
ACTION 5	ENCOURAGE AN ACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME
Why	To reduce crime and promote community awareness generally
Stakeholders	PCSO's , Safer Rother Partnership, Sussex Police, Iden Parish Council
Timeframe	1 year
ACTION 6	CONTINUE REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE POLICE AND PCSOs
Why	To address the communities concerns, improve communication with the Police and PCSOs and encourage their greater visibility within the Parish
Stakeholders	Sussex Police , Safer Rother Partnership, PCSO's, Iden Parish Council
Timeframe	Ongoing

ACTION 7**ARRANGE THE PROVISION OF LOCAL COMPUTER CLASSES****Why**

So that people are not disadvantaged by a lack of computer skills and to encourage independence

Stakeholders

Jim Wood, Iden Parish Council

Timeframe

Ongoing

ACTION 8**ENCOURAGE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT BY UTILISING THE PROPOSED INFORMATION POINT AS A MEANS OF RECRUITMENT FOR LOCAL EMPLOYERS****Why**

So that those living within the Parish are able to access opportunities for local employment

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, local businesses

Timeframe

1-2 years

ACTION 9**REACT TO REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES AND RECREATIONAL CLASSES****Why**

So that people have the opportunity to acquire and develop new skills

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council

Timeframe

Ongoing

ACTION 10**RESPOND TO ANY ENQUIRIES FOR KEEP FIT AND EXERCISE CLASSES****Why**

To promote health and well being.

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, Village Hall Trustees

Timeframe

Ongoing

ACTION 11**CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING THE PROVISION OF A CYCLE PATH****Why**

So that people can exercise and travel by cycle in safety

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, East Sussex County Council

Timeframe

4-5 years

ACTION 12**INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF A FOOTPATH ON THE RYE ROAD TO THE PEACE AND PLENTY****Why**

To improve the safety of pedestrians and other vulnerable road users

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, Playden Parish Council,

East Sussex County Council

Timeframe

4-5 years

ACTION 13

CONTINUE TO BE AWARE OF HOUSING NEEDS

Why

45% of those responding to the questionnaire agreed that more affordable housing should be built in the Parish and 33% felt there was a need for sheltered or assisted housing locally. Provision of appropriate housing for local people could enable both younger and older members of the community to continue to live in the parish

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, Action in Rural Sussex, Rother District Council, Housing Associations

Timeframe

Ongoing

ACTION 14

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Why

To ensure that the character and sensitivities of the village remain and that new development, alterations and extensions are 'in keeping'

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, Rother District Council

Timeframe

1-2 years

ACTION 15

SUPPORT IDEN STORES

Why

It is essential that the Iden Stores continues to provide Post Office services, to cater for the daily needs of local people and remains a viable business. Encouraging the community to shop locally will help to reduce the Parish's carbon footprint and could develop the sale of more local produce

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, Iden Stores Association, Christopher Strangeways, tenants of the Iden Stores

Timeframe

Ongoing

ACTION 16

CONTINUE TO WORK WITH EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL TO EXPLORE THE NEEDS FOR PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Why

There is a positive need to provide a better and later running bus and rail service. So that those without a car have access to services, education, entertainment and employment. To reduce the reliance on private vehicles.

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, East Sussex County Council, Rother District Council, Action in Rural Sussex, Rye and District Community Transport

Timeframe

Ongoing

ACTION 17

REQUEST THAT EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CARRY OUT A SAFETY SURVEY AT THE JUNCTION OF PLAYDEN LANE/MAIN ST.

Why

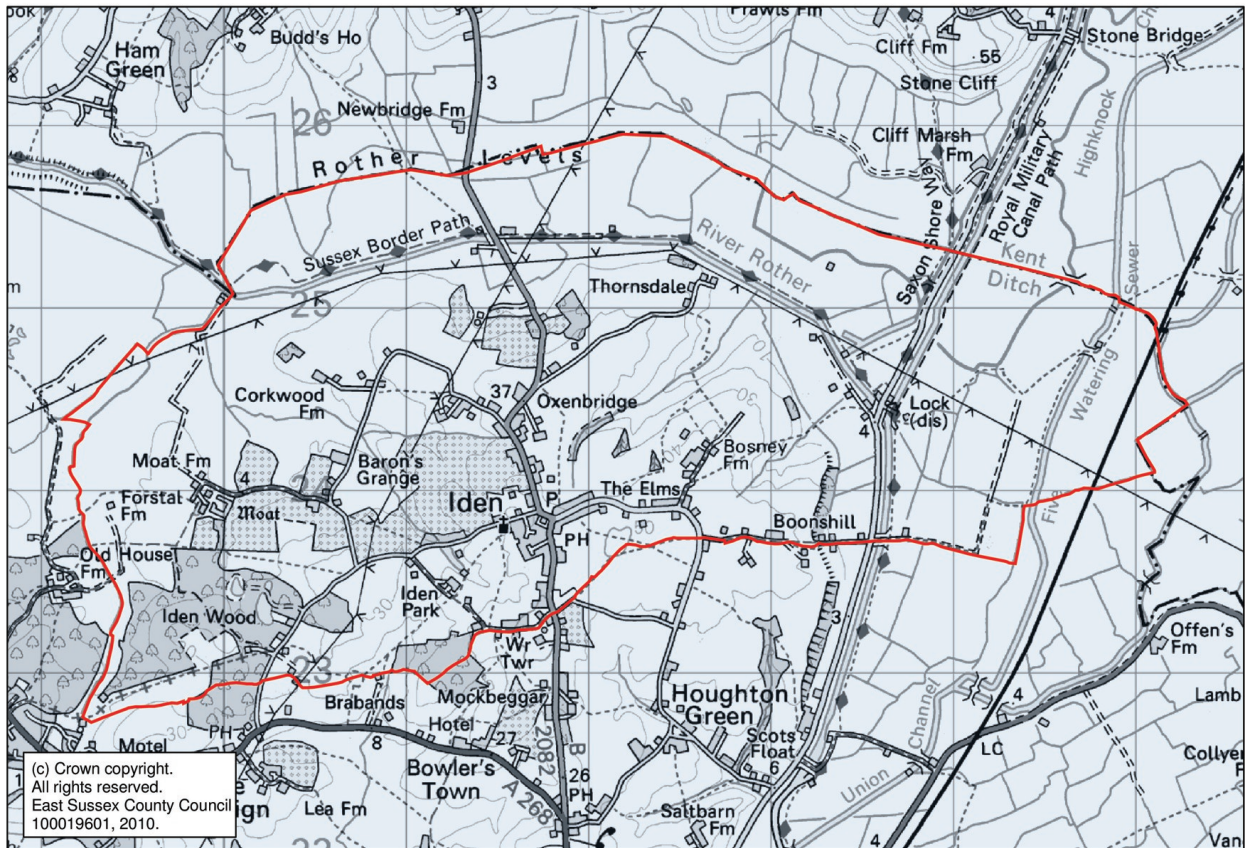
There is a problem of poor visibility and limited sight lines for motorists when exiting Playden Lane

Stakeholders

Iden Parish Council, East Sussex County Council

Timeframe

1-2 years



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Steering Group Members

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Words about the parish and community of Iden by Michael Miller

Photographs provided by Rod Stuart

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