

Ipplepen Community Strategy Plan

2010 – 2015



**Ipplepen Parish Council in partnership
with the Community**

**'To provide the best for all without unfair disadvantage
to any public, private or voluntary group or individual.'**

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Introduction

In 2005 Ipplepen Parish Council began work on the first Parish Plan with the distribution of a questionnaire to every household. This solicited responses on issues such as housing and community services across all age groups and those replies shaped the 2006 Parish Plan. Action or monitoring has been taken on all of the issues raised and the outcomes of those actions are outlined within.

After 3 years of adoption and changing circumstances a fresh round of public consultation clearly showed that the scope of the Parish Plan had to be expanded to take into account the views and needs of groups as well as individuals. The Parish Plan has now been relaunched as a wide reaching 'Community Strategy Plan'.

Some of the issues raised could potentially be addressed by the Parish Council alone whilst others can only be acted upon by the Parish Council working with individuals and private or voluntary organisations. Our community has a wealth of expertise, ability and enthusiasm and working on all issues with the community rather than by proxy ensures that there will be greater flexibility, more opportunity and more success whilst at the same time the whole community will be preparing for the future.

Furthermore, whilst some issues are local and can be resolved locally, others reflect concerns shared by parishes throughout Devon or nationally. During the life of the 2006 Parish Plan the spectre of local government reorganisation and a unitary financial future for Devon was raised and it is anticipated that during the new plan period some form of reorganisation is set to become a reality. This reality for Ipplepen Parish means that we will have to look beyond our boundaries and pool expertise and resources with neighbouring parishes and such partnerships are already being established.

This Community Strategy Plan builds on the achievements of the previous Parish Plan which brought together public, voluntary and private organisations. It is the purpose of this plan to continue with and extend the scope of these positive collaborations.

Ipplepen Parish Council believes this community strategy plan gives a sound basis for delivery of the quality services the parish deserves and that it will ensure that the vibrancy of the parish is preserved whilst meeting the needs of the present and future.

Our Parish

Ipplepen is a large rural parish midway between Newton Abbot and Totnes in South Devon. The population of around 800 at the turn of the 20th century had grown to 2500 by the Millennium. As the village has grown it has achieved a happy fusion between the original character; typified by the older buildings around the village square, and successive stages of development.

A look through the parish magazine reveals a thriving, vibrant community with a friendly atmosphere where many and varied clubs and societies are open to all. There are also many well supported annual events such as the Village Show and Carnival.



Many employment opportunities are available within the parish, ranging from traditional agriculture, building and retail businesses to computer services and alternative therapy practitioners. In many cases these are sole traders but some employ a number of residents.

Much of the village lies within a conservation area; a diverse landscape of great natural beauty, including green fields, lanes and woods, and rolling hills that are fondly remembered by all those who have taken part in the Beating of the Bounds walks. Orley and Miltor Mater Commons are Sites of Special Scientific Interest representing nationally important areas of limestone grassland with many rare plant and insect species.

The 2006 Parish Plan – what you told us, what has been achieved and works in progress



Environment

Since 2006 work on the parish's footpaths has been ongoing, the greatest improvements being the footpath to Fermoys and the installation of a traffic island on the main A381. Flood prevention work has also been carried out on the highway at Dainton Cross.

The condition of the Wrigwell Footpath remains a concern and remedial work is part of the ongoing program.

A programme of tree planting has begun. This has been focussed initially around the playing field, with the aims of providing shade for the benches and play areas and to enhance the visual aspect. Further planting will take place at the playing field and elsewhere within the parish.

In association with Teignbridge Cleansing Services the cleanliness of the village has been enhanced and dog fouling

reduced.

Additional house building has continued. However, this has predominantly been restricted to infill and brown-field sites and the Parish Council has used its influence to ensure that development has been sustainable and in keeping with the nature of the parish.

New low energy street lighting has been introduced and additional lights installed where a need was proven by residents.

Transport

Speeding traffic and obstructive parking were identified by a great many residents in the 2005 questionnaire as their prime concerns together with the environmental impact from traffic.

The Parish Council has worked closely with the Police Community Support Officers who have implemented an ongoing program of traffic monitoring. They have reported frequently at parish council meetings with the information that the majority of vehicles travel between 18 and 25 miles per hour in the 20mph zone. All those recorded exceeding the 30mph limit receive an information leaflet or a speeding notice.

The Police also respond to cases of parking obstructions if it is likely to cause an accident and have issued a number of on the spot fines.

The Parish Council is working with local businesses making them aware of the concerns of residents with the aim of further reducing noise and congestion, whilst acknowledging that the closure of these businesses would have a detrimental effect on the well being of the whole community.

Traffic monitoring will continue and the possible introduction of options such as flashing speed signs or traffic calming measures will be regularly reviewed. Discussions are also in progress with the aim of providing 2 additional stretches of pavement alongside narrow, busy sections of highway for greater pedestrian safety and convenience.

However, in a village that had its origins in a time long before cars, the single best way in which traffic problems can be improved is for greater awareness and to impress on all residents the need for everyone to drive and park responsibly and to make fewer non-essential car journeys. The Police have asked that residents with concerns report them as soon as possible as they may then be able to respond immediately and take action whilst the incident is in progress.

There have been a number of improvements to public transport such as the new bus shelter on the A381 at Parkhill and it is hoped that greater demand will lead to more services.

The Police also monitor traffic on the main A381 road and as well as recording speeding offences have issued penalties for unsafe driving and mobile phone use.



Housing

From the previous Parish Plan it was clear there was a demand for new homes but equally there were concerns about over-development and the impact new housing would have on environmental and transport issues.

Over the past 3 years changes in the national economy have had an impact on Ipplepen. There has been a downturn in new builds and an increase in the number of planning applications relating to the modification of existing dwellings to provide accommodation for older or younger generations of the same family.

Employment

The lack of facilities to accommodate new businesses was highlighted in the previous Parish Plan. There are 4 industrial zones within the parish: Edgelands Lane, Causeway Cross, Laphorne and at Dainton, as well as many individual business premises. Any expansion of these must be undertaken sensitively in order that the essentially rural aspect of the parish is not marred.

There are many thriving local businesses and the Parish Council is committed to supporting these by helping to provide the facilities they need to grow and provide jobs locally. This has included refurbishment of the Millennium Centre and supporting the breakfast and after-school clubs at the centre which provide childcare for working parents.

Promotion of tourism was highlighted as an issue in the previous plan. The 2008 and 2009 Village Show and Beer Festivals were huge successes as was the return of the Carnival in 2009. Both drew many people from outside the parish. However, it did further highlight the need for additional parking for such events.

Sport and Leisure

In the previous plan there was a clearly stated need for additional facilities for the younger members of the community. The intervening years have seen the completion of the skate park which has been the envy of the youth of Teignbridge and the inspiration for skate parks elsewhere. Additional work to minimise the noise has been undertaken and monitoring of the environmental impact will remain ongoing. More recently, consultation events have taken place at Ipplepen Primary School across the whole school and the feedback received has shaped plans for the refurbishment of the play park equipment. Phase I: the area for under 8s, was completed in July 2009 and Phase II: equipment for the older youths and teenagers, is currently being installed.

Phase III: additional equipment for the older youths and teenagers, has reached the planning application stage with a projected installation date of spring 2010 and Phase IV: equipment for parents and grandparents is at the consultation stage, as are plans for the provision of shelters etc.



The sports facilities: cricket, football, bowling, tennis, are all well used and installation of an electricity distribution box has been commissioned at the playing field for use during events.

The 2008 Beating the Bounds walk saw 423 people complete the morning section and in all perhaps as many as 500 people or 20% of the total population of the village took part. In other parishes a 5% turnout is considered a resounding success. This event was a clear demonstration of the community spirit in Ipplepen, not only by those who took part, but also through the cooperation of all the organising groups, sponsors and landowners, to all of whom go special thanks.

Community Services

All community services remain well used. Many have been expanded and new ones, such as the Parish Council's web site, have been added over the last 3 years.

The provision of library services remains a key issue and is being actively worked on by the Parish Council (the proposal is available from the Parish Council's web site). Discussions are also in hand regarding the scope of the mobile library service provision.

Much work has been carried out on the Village Hall with the support of many organisations and is another symbol of how groups working together can achieve dramatic results.

Health and Well Being

The Parish Council continues to work for the greater health and general well-being of all residents. This includes the provision of a safe environment; street lighting, highway maintenance etc., enhancing the cleanliness of the village; extra bins, street cleaning, etc., the prompt and adequate maintenance of existing facilities and delivery of new facilities; additional benches etc.

The play equipment at the playing field is being replaced and additional equipment added to serve the needs of the under-8s and 9-to-adult age ranges. A further development under consideration is static exercise equipment for adults.

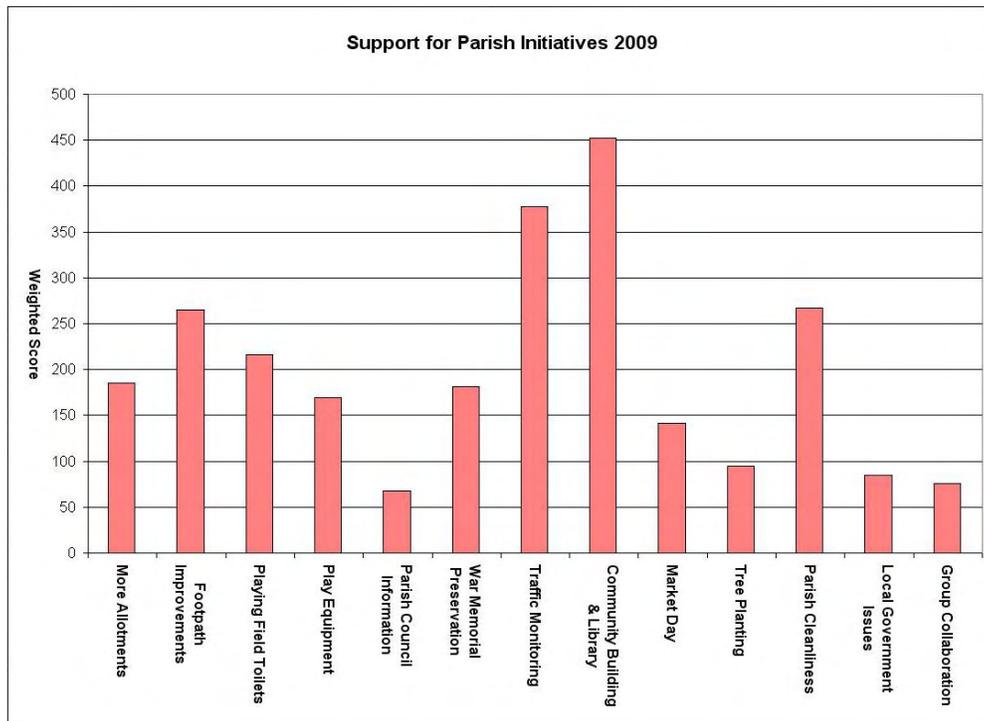
The parish councillors have also recently received training in the use of the 'Community Well Being Fund'. This enables the Parish Council to establish a small working fund that can be used to support any individual or any private or voluntary group that provides a service that is accessible to and to the benefit of all members of the community. The same fund also empowers the Parish Council to undertake larger projects such as a combined Library and Lifelong Learning Centre by raising funds from grants or through loans and donations.



Results of Public Consultations

Consultations have been held at public events and within the primary school. Active groups within the parish have been separately canvassed for their views. In September 2009 a supplementary questionnaire was delivered to every home in the Ipplepen Parish, nearly 1000 copies in total.

Over 220 completed questionnaires were returned and these have provided not only a general overview for the parish, but have also enabled us to identify through postcode information, 'hotspots' for specific concerns such as traffic calming.



The above table provides a simple analysis of the questionnaire responses. Where an item was selected as a first choice it was given a score of 5, 2nd choice a score of 4, etc. The number of choices was then multiplied by the choice score and the scores added to give the weighted score. We believe that this approach balances the relative importance of issues to respondents against the overall frequency with which the issues were selected.

A detailed analysis of the collected data in terms of the number of choices each item received and responses to comments are available in portable document format (pdf) from the Parish Council Web Site or as a printed document from the Parish Clerk for a small charge.

Responses were also mapped through the postcode data. Respondents who rated Cleanliness and Visual Quality as their 1st or 2nd choice were evenly distributed through the parish. Respondents who rated Traffic issues as their 1st or 2nd choice highlighted several hotspots: The Square, Clampitt Road, Orley Road and Dornafeld Drive East which will enable the Parish Council and Police Community Support Officer to concentrate traffic management efforts.

Our Vision for Ipplepen

The aim of the 2010 - 2015 Ipplepen Community Strategy Plan is to deliver quality services across the whole community through the involvement of the community but to ensure those facilities are not detrimental to the amenity of nearby residents.

Our priorities for now and the future are:

- ✓ To complete the rejuvenation of the play equipment at the playing field,
- ✓ Continued traffic monitoring and control for a safer parish,
- ✓ Extensions to the footpaths at Orley Road and Foredown Road and improvements to all the existing footpaths,
- ✓ The provision of more allotments,
- ✓ The provision of toilet facilities at the playing field,
- ✓ To provide a new community building to include a library, lifelong learning centre, village archive, meeting room, public internet access computers and parish council office,
- ✓ Tree planting and a woodland picnic area at the playing field,
- ✓ Protection and preservation of the War Memorial,
- ✓ To promote and keep a clean and visually appealing parish,
 - ✓ To establish a local market day,
 - ✓ To promote greater awareness of the roles, responsibilities and activities of the Parish Council and to promote other local events,
 - ✓ To address the challenges presented by local government reorganisation to the greatest benefit of Ipplepen Parish.
 - ✓ To promote greater collaboration between the public, voluntary and private groups and individuals in the community.



How This Vision Can be Delivered.

Each of these objectives must meet criteria for sustainability in so much as each must integrate with the overall need of the community and must not operate to the unfair disadvantage of any individual or any private or voluntary group.

The Parish Council cannot deliver this vision without the participation of the whole community. Indeed some of these issues cannot be solved by direct action by the Parish Council, it is only through the raising of greater public awareness that they can be moderated or resolved.

At Parish Council meetings we will continue to bring to public attention issues that affect the community, as well as through consultation events, more direct liaison with private and voluntary groups and through the parish newsletter, web site, notice board and parish magazine.

Some of the above targets can only be managed as they arise but for others the Parish Council has formulated the following strategies:

Traffic and Transport.

Pedestrian and driver safety are of paramount importance.

However, in a village that had its origins in a time long before cars, the single best way in which traffic problems can be improved is for greater awareness and to impress on all residents the need for each individual to drive and park responsibly; a so called 'Self Policing Strategy'.

Implementation of options such as flashing speed signs or traffic calming measures will be regularly reviewed but the need for ready access to local businesses, easy access for the emergency services and the visual impact of additional signs are also significant considerations.



Housing and Development.

There has always been and will always be a need for affordable homes. National planning policies place obligations on developers to provide a percentage of affordable housing but only above a threshold development level, which is unlikely to happen in Ipplepen Parish in the foreseeable future.

The Parish Council is only an advisory body in the planning process. It can however use its influence to ensure that developments with far reaching implications are thoroughly considered at Teignbridge District Council level.

The Parish Council will continue to oppose developments at any scale which it believes would be to the detriment of any individual resident or existing development.

Community Services.

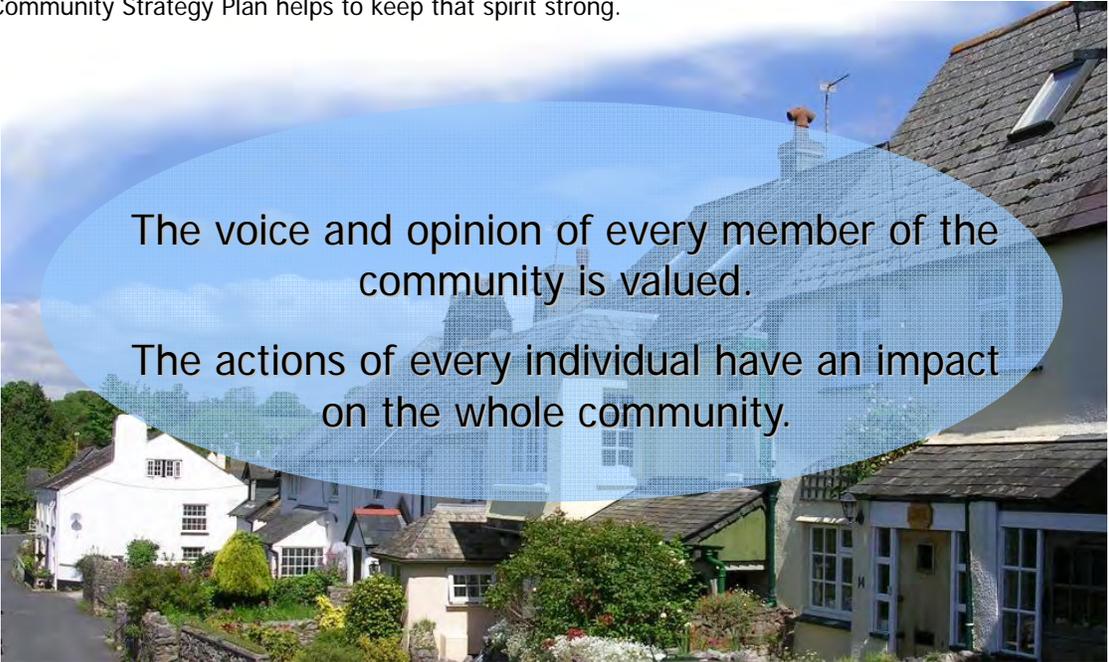
The Parish Council will promote to the best of its ability any private or public service that brings a benefit to the community as a whole but which is not to the detriment of any individual resident or private or voluntary group. At the present time there are 2 main objectives in this category.

- ◆ Sport and leisure equipment and activities to promote the health of all age groups and ensure their well-being now and in the future.
- ◆ Education and communication through the provision of a library service, a lifelong learning centre, public access computers, access to public documents and information, promotion of the role of the Parish Council and greater awareness of the activities of private and voluntary groups within the local and wider community.

Ipplepen Parish does not exist in isolation and events in the wider community and nationally exert their influence on the lives of all residents. The biggest force for change currently facing the Parish Council is the prospect of a wide-ranging reorganisation of the structure of government at district and county levels. The aim of the reorganisation is to cut costs and give greater accessibility to and accountability for services. Ipplepen Parish Council will continue to monitor and participate in this process in order that it can quickly adapt to a new framework and continue to obtain the best services for the community.

The Parish Council relies on your views as to the needs of the community. Your help is needed to implement the policies and your feedback on the outcome. You can express your views to the Parish Council through the Parish Council's web site www.ipplepenparishcouncil.gov.uk by email or by post. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Parish Council meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. At the beginning of each meeting there is an opportunity to ask questions or express your views. There is a further opportunity to comment on any of the proceedings should you wish to stay until the end of the meeting at about 9:00pm.

Ipplepen continues to be a vibrant parish with a strong sense of community and a willingness to participate and we hope this Community Strategy Plan helps to keep that spirit strong.



The voice and opinion of every member of the community is valued.

The actions of every individual have an impact on the whole community.

Community Engagement: Statement of Intent.

Aims and Objectives

Ipplepen Parish Council will endeavour to provide the best for all without unfair disadvantage to any public, private or voluntary group or individual.

Defining the Community

Ipplepen has a diverse population spanning all age, ability and social groups. Many of these groups are represented by targeted interest organisations whereas other organisations encompass all individuals. The parish council will consult with parishioners, organisations and external organisations such as the emergency services and upper tiers of government to achieve the Community Strategy Plan objectives.

Provision of Information to the Community

The Parish Council will continue to bring to public attention issues that affect the community through consultation events, direct liaison with private and voluntary groups, through the parish newsletter, web site, notice board and parish magazine. A summary of the minutes of Parish Council meetings are published monthly in the parish magazine. The Parish Annual Assembly will be an opportunity to provide a review of the Parish Council's achievements and objectives.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

Parishioners may express their views to the Parish Council through the Parish Council's web site www.ipplepenparishcouncil.gov.uk, by email or by post. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Parish Council meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. At the beginning of each meeting there is an opportunity to ask questions or express your views. There is a further opportunity to comment on any of the proceedings should you wish to stay until the end of the meeting at about 9:00pm.

Consultation events will be held before the April Parish Annual General Meeting and the October council meeting and at other times as the need arises in relation to specific objectives.

Opportunities for Formal Presentations to the Council

The Parish Council welcomes written representations at any time. Correspondence will, if necessary, be addressed by the subsequent parish council meeting and responses will be recorded in the minutes. If further action or external consultation is necessary the item will remain on the parish council agenda under matters arising and will continue to be reported in the minutes until resolved.

The results of consultations will be summarised at a subsequent parish council meeting and the breakdown published on the Parish Council's web site and made available at the annual assembly.

Involvement in Partnerships

The Parish Council will distribute parish newsletters to groups and organisations and follow up with personal representations if requested.

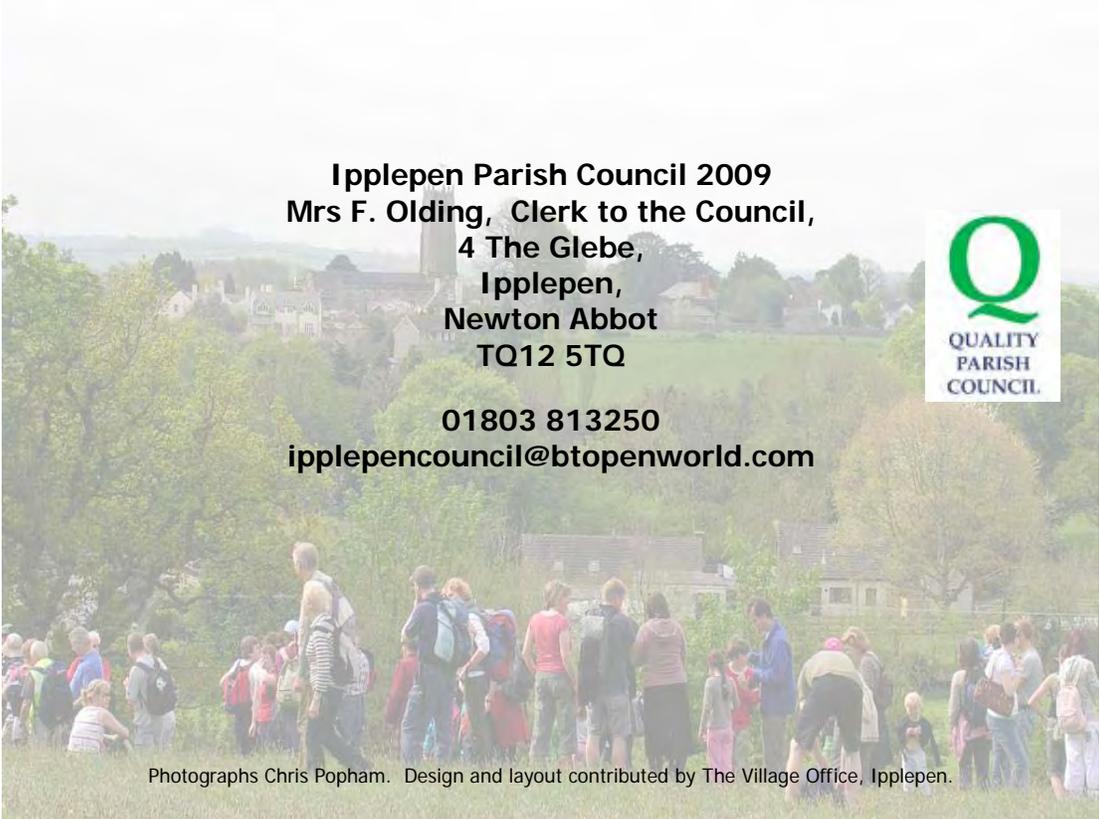
Specific Areas for Community Involvement

The Parish Council is currently replacing and adding additional play equipment at the playing field and is conducting a feasibility study for the building of a community building for a lifelong learning centre, library, meeting rooms and offices.

Partners in the Ipplepen Community Strategy Plan

Ipplepen Quality Parish Council,
Ipplepen Amateur Dramatics,
Village Hall Committee,
Ipplepen Primary School,
Ipplepen Youth Club,
Ipplepen Tennis Club,
Women's Institute,

Cottage Garden Society,
Ipplepen Twinning Association,
Saplings,
Ipplepen Ramblers,
Ipplepen Bowling Club,
Ipplepen Carnival,



Ipplepen Parish Council 2009
Mrs F. Olding, Clerk to the Council,
4 The Glebe,
Ipplepen,
Newton Abbot
TQ12 5TQ

01803 813250
ipplepencouncil@btopenworld.com



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