

Employment

Farming in Boarhunt

The farmland to the east and south of the village is still owned by the Southwick Estate. This area is a mixture of arable land and pastures, interspersed with woodland, some of which are used as hunting reserves, mostly for pheasant shooting. The contrast between the open fields and the abundance of ancient trees in this countryside is an important feature of the landscape.

Many fields are still bordered with ancient hedgerows, including hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, and dog-rose. The presence of several working farms within the parish, some of them on lease from the Southwick Estate, give the village its authentic rural community character and makes it very distinct from surrounding towns such as Waterlooville and Denmead which have become virtual suburbs of Portsmouth.

Other Employment

This is mainly land based e.g. groundworks, equestrian and service based rather than “industrial” or manufacturing activities which are not in keeping with the village setting.

Any development involving new employment in the village should reflect the characteristics of the village which does not include industrial type development.

The premises for any approved business development should aim to satisfy the same design and layout guidelines as laid down for housing.



A section of the Pilgrim's Way map



Petrol station, village shop and Post Office

Amenities

The village amenities, although somewhat widely spread, are important landmarks and essential for the parish and its future as they encourage a sense of community.

Of vital importance to the Parish is the 'Forest of Bere', rich in history and a haven for remarkably abundant and diverse flora and fauna. Since Saxon times it has been an important source of timber for Royal Navy ships and it now provides essential recreational benefits for parishioners and visitors alike with many miles of forest paths and tracks dedicated to walking, mountain biking and horse riding.

The village shop with its Post Office and petrol station is situated close to the population centre and many local residents rely on the amenities provided by this business. It is closely integrated with the local community, contributing greatly to the social and material needs of the rural population. As well as offering postal services, the Post Office enables financial transactions to be made without the need of a journey by car or public transport. This is likely to become increasingly valuable as banks close their smaller branches.

Although in urgent need of modernisation or rebuilding, the Memorial Hall provides an invaluable venue for a wide range of activities. It has a well-attended social club and is a meeting place for such groups as the Boarhunt WI., the local youth club and the Parish Council. It also provides a venue for such functions as dances, dinners, weddings, summer barbecues, auctions and many more. There is an active fundraising committee whose objective is to ensure the continuance and improvement of this amenity.

There is the Saxon church of St. Nicholas in South Boarhunt and a Methodist Chapel in North Boarhunt. At the north-east border of the parish lies the 'Horse and Jockey' public house.



Pounds Farm from Trampers Lane



A log pile in the Forest of Bere



The tranquility of dawn

At the southern extremity of the parish is Fort Nelson – one of Palmerston’s forts built around Portsmouth in the 1860s to guard the dockyard from the threat of French invasion. It provides an ideal setting for the Royal Armouries collection of artillery and is host to many special events and exhibitions during the year.

The old flour mill at South Boarhunt has become the Flower Mill and is a visitor attraction and teaching centre, specialising in the preservation and arranging of dried flowers.

The local recreation ground with its playground equipment provides limited off-road facilities for the village children and the associated playing field is used for occasional sporting events.

A bottle bank located behind the Memorial Hall is well used and posting boxes are suitably dispersed.



The Memorial Hall and Social Club



One of the entrances to the Forest of Bere from Trampers Lane



Dunroamin, a bungalow on Southwick Road



Lilliput Cottage, Trampers Lane

The Forest of Bere with its associated footpaths, bridle-paths and cycle-ways provides an important recreational facility and should be protected and conserved for present and future generations.

The village shop, Post Office and filling station are ideally situated centrally within the Parish and, being an important local amenity, its continued existence should be strongly encouraged.

The village hall fulfils an important role in the life of the community. Development of this hall, or its replacement, to meet the needs of the community should be encouraged in keeping with the relevant design guidelines.

The recreation ground, incorporating playground and sporting facilities, should be maintained and any development be restricted to enhancement of its amenity value to the Parish.



View of the Recreation Ground from Trampers Lane

Housing

Housing along both the Southwick Road and Trampers Lane follows a linear pattern. Along the Southwick Road there are a wide variety of detached dwellings including bungalows and individual houses, which are diverse in both age and style.

Similarly, on the west side of Trampers Lane, houses are quite individual with more of a mixture of semi-detached cottages – some over 100 years old, as well as detached properties near to the road line. On the whole, the older properties have been built on quite large plots.

Interspersed are modern houses – mainly detached, but with some semi-detached. Almost all recent ‘infill’ building in the last five years has been of bungalows and large ‘executive’ style houses.

On the east side of Trampers Lane there are few houses except for the Wine Cross council houses, some infill up to Chapel House, Pounds Farm, then further council housing at Birch Hill, some of which are now privately owned.

The village should keep its linear building form and the building of new housing behind existing dwellings should be discouraged.

For any new buildings there is a preference for properties whose size is in keeping with the majority of the existing houses – i.e. smaller rather than larger. In order to give younger residents, who are seeking their own accommodation, an opportunity to remain in the village as many as possible of new properties should comprise ‘affordable housing’.

A reasonable separation should be maintained between any new detached properties.

Snowy day in Trampers Lane

