



# A Village Plan for Toppesfield and Gainsford End



# Background

- Rural White Paper 2000
- Vital Villages programme
- Rural Social & Community Programme
- The Big Society



# What is a Village Plan?

- A document written by local people that sets out ...
  - A vision for the future of the village
  - Priorities and objectives
  - An Action Plan



# What do we need to do?

- Research
  - Current issues and local opinion
  - Existing services and facilities
  - Challenges for the Future
- Action Planning
  - Local projects
  - Partnership projects
  - Influencing policy



# Challenges for the Future

- Ageing population
- Younger generation
- Climate change
- Energy supply



# Ageing Population

- In 1950 people lived on average to 77 & 79; now it is 83 & 86 and increasing
- Life expectancy is higher in rural than urban areas
- Rural areas are ageing at a faster rate than urban areas
- Braintree district has one of the largest projected ageing growth rates in the UK



# Ageing Population

- Appropriate housing
- Transport and access to key services
- Health needs
- Security and safety
- Social activities



# Younger Generation

- Access to work
- Affordable housing
- Social activities
- Support for families





# Climate Change

The earth is surrounded by a blanket of gases which keeps it warm and able to sustain life.

Additional gases in the atmosphere are making this blanket thicker, trapping heat in. As a result, polar ice is melting and climate is changing.



# Climate Change

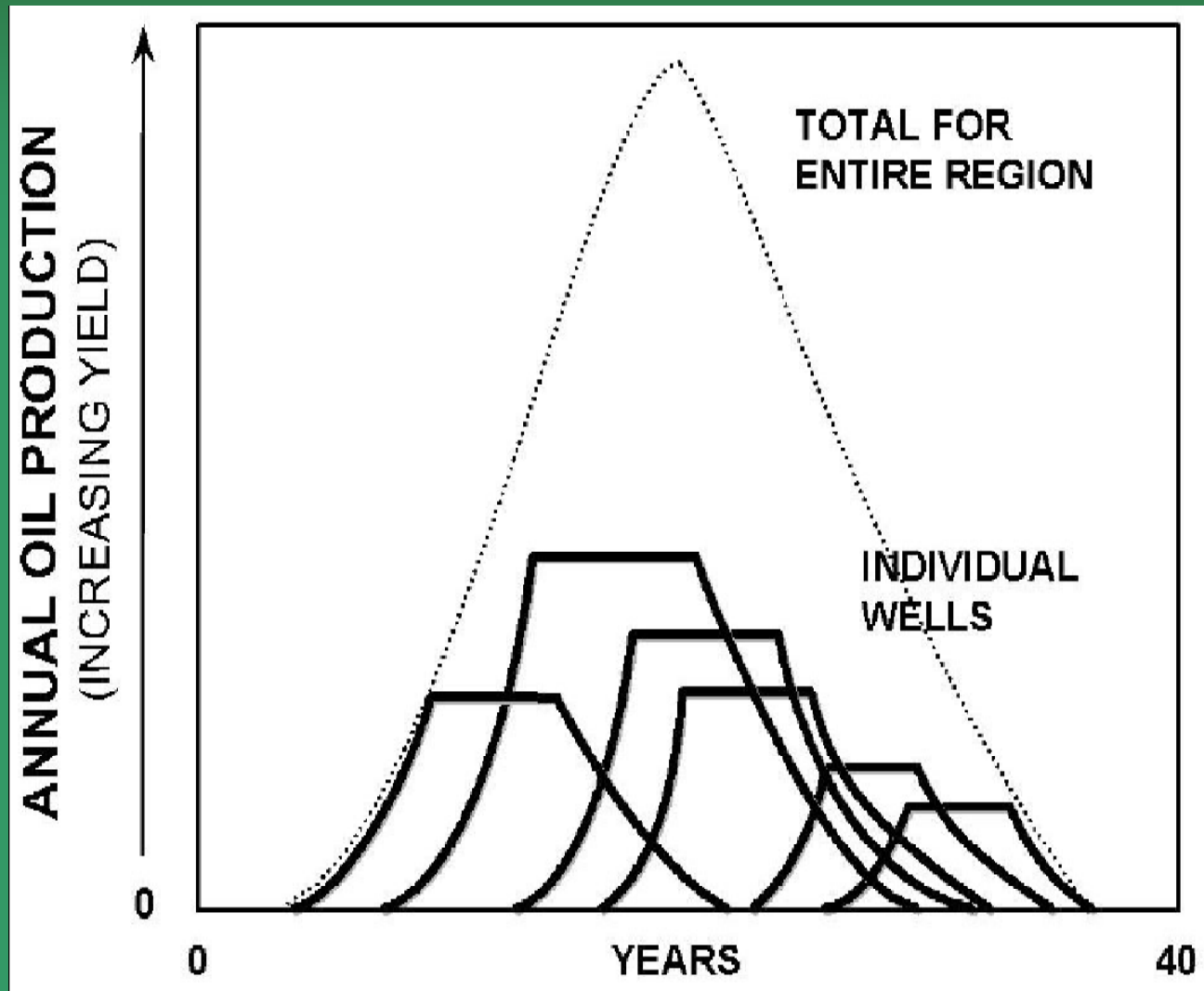
- Extreme weather conditions
- Drought and water shortages
- Flooding (rain / sea levels)
- Threats to food security
- Need for emergency plans



# Energy Supplies

'Peak Oil' is the point when worldwide production of conventional crude oil peaks in volume, after which the rate of production enters terminal decline.

The concept is based on the observed production rates of individual oil wells, and the combined production rate of a field of related oil wells.





# Energy Supplies

- Reliance on fossil fuels for transport
  - Access to employment
  - Cost of food
- Reliance on fossil fuels for heating
  - Oil costs
  - Electricity power cuts



# Community action

- How can we build local sustainability?
  - Energy supply
  - Access to services
  - Food supply
  - Support for the vulnerable of all ages
  - Emergency plans including climate change catastrophes



# What next?

- Establish governance of group
- Agree topics to explore
- Plan the consultation
- Set a time plan and budget
- Secure funding



# What support is available?

- Information Packs and website
- RCCE Community Engagement Officer support
- Community Led Planning network
- ECC Making it Happen Scheme
- Village Agents





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