

DECEMBER 2005



the village in the past :

ACTION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE : Introduction

Filkins and Broughton Poggs Action Plan began in January 2004 at a public meeting promoted by the Parish Council. A Steering Committee of volunteers, independent of the Parish Council, was formed and started work in February 2004. Regular meetings have taken place with Parish Councillors attending as observers and supporting the committee and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) has given advice.

A comprehensive questionnaire was devised and delivered personally in the summer of 2004 to everyone in the parish over 16 years. There were supplements for young persons aged 11 to 15 years and for businesses within the parish. There was a splendid response from 222 adults, 19 young persons and 21 businesses. Data analysis was a lengthy process and a progress report was delivered to all households in March 2005 which included a list of the major and minor actions selected as priorities for the Action Plan. A further public presentation and discussion was held that month with an exhibition prepared by committee members. Additional volunteers were co-opted to assist in the formation of Action Groups and others are welcome.

Many items are proceeding already – in particular Our Village Shop, which was the most widely supported proposal arising from the questionnaire. Also a footpath along the Alvescot Road has been completed.

ORCC and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recommend that Village Action Plans be approved and adopted by a Parish Council before publication. All of the actions proposed by the Steering Committee were adopted by the Parish Council at meetings in July and August 2005.

The proposed life span of the Action Plan is five years, to 2010. The Steering Committee will meet twice a year to monitor progress on all the proposed actions, which will now become the responsibility of the Action Groups, Parish Council and other organisations listed.

CURRENT STEERING COMMITTEE

alan ashforth smith
cris hoad
helen holden
lindsey knott
sue long
keith perry (chairman)
andrew ward
lesley white
chris woodford

PLUS IN 2004

diane blackett
chris dobson
alan green
alan long
peter white

PARISH COUNCILLORS

chris bristow
trish poole

ACTION GROUPS

our village shop

john hayes, helen holden (860159), sally peach, trish poole, mandy scott, hilary ward

environment and planning

john hayes, keith perry (860673), andrew ward, lesley white

transport and traffic

alan ashforth smith (860229), roger chitty, mike clark, ann cripps, daniel porter, neil redman

health, education and recreation

sue long, chris woodford (860319)

OUR VILLAGE SHOP – PHASE 1

• Assess the feasibility of a village shop

- what - To carry out a feasibility study into a village shop and, if viable, to set-up a village shop
- how- Form an action group, develop a business plan and apply for funding.
Set-up a test project (Phase 1) and if successful develop Phase 2
- who - Action Group, Parish Council
- when - Phase 1 has been completed.

Our Village Shop has been set up as an 'Industrial and Provident Benefit Society', the main features of which are

- Our Village Shop is owned by its members (shareholders)
- Our Village Shop is run by a management committee
- Any surplus generated by the Our Village Shop must either be re-invested into the shop or distributed to another organisation for the general benefit of the community
- No individual can benefit from this community project

Our Village Shop has been trading since 13th August offering sweets, drinks and snacks primarily to the visitors to the play park and swimming pool

OUR VILLAGE SHOP – PHASE 2

- what** - To extend the range of goods available
To extend the opening hours
- how-** Apply for funding to help with capital and set-up costs
Seek financial support from the community to cover other costs such as the cost of stock
- who** - Action Group, Parish Council,
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- when** - Applications for funding from ORCC and DEFRA have been successful
The Parish Council have made the shop premises in the village centre available at a pepper-corn rent and are bearing the costs of the community charge
The community have raised funds directly both by buying shares (see below) and supporting the Auction of Promises held on 12th November which raised £3750

OPEN FROM 17th DECEMBER AT 12.00 pm

New opening hours:

	AM	PM
Monday	Closed	3 – 5 pm
Tuesday	10 – 12 pm	3 – 5 pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	10 – 12 pm	3 – 5 pm
Friday	Closed	3 – 5 pm
Saturday	9 – 12 pm	3 – 5 pm
Sunday	Closed	3 – 5 pm

Shares in Our Village Shop are on sale for £10 each. You can buy one share per person over the age of 16. If you are under the age of 16 you can offer the shop a loan of £10, which can be exchanged for a share on your 16th birthday. Shareholders will be invited to attend the first annual general meeting in Autumn 2006.

Everyone who works in the village shop is a volunteer and with the extra opening hours more people are needed. Shifts are short to make the workload lighter
Interested? Contact Sally Peach on 860998.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING ISSUES

- **Formulate a Village Conservation Area Design Statement**

what - To formulate a design and conservation statement to increase control and better protect stone walling and roofing, drystone and 'plank' stone slab walls and trees

how - Report the strength of the support shown in the questionnaire to West Oxfordshire District Council

Produce a conservation and planning design statement for submission to WODC for consideration as policy advice for the Parish. Consideration will be given as to whether additional buildings and 'plank' stone slab walls should be recommended for listing by English Heritage

who - Action Group, Parish Council and WODC conservation and planning officers

when - The Action Group have already commented to WODC conservation officers on their draft Filkins and Broughton Poggs Conservation Area Appraisal.

Conservation and planning village design statement to be submitted in the short term

- **Investigate the provision of affordable housing**

how - Publicise the results of the survey undertaken by Oxford Rural Community Council and the Parish Council

Investigate potential developments

who - ORCC, Parish Council and WODC

when - The survey results will be publicised in the short term

The Action Group have commented on the potential site options raised in the ORCC survey and provided a drawing to the Parish Council

- **Provide facilities for garden waste recycling**

A facility already exists. WODC will collect 4 – 12 bags of garden waste free of charge if pre-booked on 01993 861020. They are running a trial elsewhere of a fortnightly green waste collection from wheelie bins. The results of this trial will be evaluated in early 2006 and a decision taken on whether this will be extended to our area

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING ISSUES

- **Investigate extensions to gas mains and mains drainage**

how - Report the extent of the survey response in favour to British Gas and Thames Water

who - Action Group and Parish Council with British Gas and Thames Water

when - British Gas to be approached in the short term
Preliminary drilling and surveying of water table levels and investigation of the impact of sewerage on groundwater is currently underway by Thames Water, who have advised provisional date for mains drainage as 2010

- **Investigate the feasibility of underground power cables**

how - Report the results of the survey to Southern Electric and promote the removal of overhead power cables on grounds of both reliability and visual improvement in a Conservation Area

who - Action Group and Parish Council

when - Electricity company to be approached in the short term

- **Provide more litter bins and control dog fouling**

how - Draw the problems to the attention of residents by publicity in The Parish Pump and St. Filica Newsletter, emphasising the fact that residents are expected to take a responsible attitude.

Formal measures will not be adopted at this time

who - Action Group

when - In the short term

TRANSPORT ISSUES

- **Dangerous driving areas and parking problems**

what - The questionnaire responses showed that the areas identified as most dangerous for driving within the village are closely allied to parking problems and the two issues should be addressed together

The major areas of danger/parking concern are –

- the junction with the B4477 at Broughton Mill
- Pear Tree Farm corner

Other parking concerns have also been identified at –

- the stretch of road from Broughton Mill to the Church
- adjacent to Pigeon Cottage
- outside Bulls Close
- from the bus stop layby to the crossroads
- along Hazells Lane

High speed traffic and consequent accidents and casualties have been identified as causes for concern at –

- A361 junction, with inadequate clarity
- A361 to Lechlade
- B4477 Alvescot Road from Hazells Lane to the bridge at the Mill

how - Ongoing dialogue and identification of feasible actions

who - Action Group, Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council

when - Speed limit signs have already been installed on the Alvescot Road, the Burford Road and Clockground and village marker stones have also been installed on the Alvescot Road

The effect of these traffic slowing measures will be evaluated by the Parish Council in January 2006, when the option of installing a band of red tarmac between the stones will be considered

A mobile speed indicator has been used on the B4477. A traffic survey has been undertaken to establish the numbers and speed of vehicles – this will be repeated following the measures listed above

Oxfordshire County Council have undertaken a survey of the A361 junction and confirmed that re-painting of the road markings at the junction will be done in the near future

TRANSPORT ISSUES

- **Investigate the feasibility of reducing traffic noise from A361**

how - Identify the owners of land within the Parish that is adjacent to A361 and approach them for permission to site an environmental tree belt on that land

Investigate potential assistance and funding from the Woodland Trust, DEFRA and similar bodies

who - Action Group, Parish Council, landowners and DEFRA etc.

when - This is a long term measure

- **Refinements to the scheduled bus services**

how - Report the questionnaire results to Oxfordshire County Council and Stagecoach and negotiate refinements to the services

Regularly publicise bus services in The Parish Pump, St. Filica Newsletter and in the bus shelter and shop

Construct and distribute a comprehensive bus timetable linking the services of Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire service providers

who - Action Group, Parish Council, OCC and Stagecoach

when - Timetables of existing bus services are displayed at the bus shelter and are available from the Parish Transport Representative – Ann Cripps (860209)

These are short term actions

- **Investigate the feasibility of a Parish mini bus**

how - Investigate and publicise details of and access to the existing Lechlade Lions mini bus

Investigate the procurement, economics and operational concerns of running a Parish mini bus by examination of that operated for Aston & Cote

who - Action Group and Parish Council

when - In the medium term

HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL/RECREATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Health Clinic**

- what - Investigate the feasibility of some health clinic provision within the Parish
- how - Results from the village survey were used to respond to a South East and South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust Health Scrutiny questionnaire in July 2005
- who - Action Group
- when – In one year's time the need for health clinic provision in the Parish will be re-evaluated, taking into account the results from the South East and South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust Health Scrutiny questionnaire

- **Educational/Recreational requirements**

- what - Provide additional classes and clubs for interest groups
- how - Publicise the proposed group or club in The Parish Pump, St. Filica Newsletter and on notice boards with contact names and telephone numbers/e-mail addresses
- Existing groups/clubs are listed on the back page of the St. Filica Calendar
Proposed new interest groups are listed below
- who - Use of a tennis court at Filkins Mill has been offered.
Contact – Chris Woodford (860319)
- Cricket coaching/playing
Contact – Chris Woodford (860319)
- Reading Club
Contact – Lindsey Knott (860167)
- Gardening Club
Contact – Chris Woodford (860319)