

PARISH PLAN REFRESH IMPLEMENTATION

The Parish Council, who will monitor implementation of the Parish Action Plan, will undertake the following steps:

- Restructure the Parish Council's Committee structure in line with the Action Plan to ensure timely, efficient delivery
- Key individuals and organisations will be approached, as necessary to ensure full implementation of key actions identified
- Liaise with existing groups will continue with enhanced communication being a key action
- Where identified, form Partnerships to ensure progression of key actions and implementation of the future vision for Burghfield
- Continue to provide quality services to parishioners and where identified make improvements

Community-based projects can only be achieved with the support of and within the Community. If any of the projects are of interest to you and you would like to become involved please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council



BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



BURGHFIELD PARISH PLAN REFRESH 2012



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BURGHFIELD PARISH PLAN

The Burghfield Parish Plan is about protecting the valued assets within Burghfield Parish and ensuring that future developments are in harmony with the character of the surrounding Parish as well as being in accordance with Parish needs. The Parish Plan is about helping local communities to help themselves by showing how they can participate in influencing the way issues are addressed locally.

This leaflet provides a summary of what we hope to achieve over the next 5 years. A full copy of the Burghfield Parish Plan Refresh document can be found on the parish website at:

www.burghfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Or by contacting the Clerk via email on burghfieldclerk@gmail.com for a copy.

THE REFRESH PROCESS

A Parish Plan is a living document requiring communities to revisit and refresh every 5 years. The purpose of the process being to update the Action Plans following consultation, ensuring the documents are up to date to meet the changing populations and emerging topics of interest.

The refresh process was initiated in November 2011 with every household receiving a questionnaire for completion. Over 900 replies were received, representing over 40% of residents having returned their completed questionnaires, a larger response rate than the original document. Parish Councillors attended the May Fayre, held an open day and distributed further leaflets at the Diamond jubilee party to encourage residents to become involved in the process.

THE PARISH PLAN REFRESH ACTION PLAN

The process of Parish Planning has developed extensively since the Council published its first Parish Plan in 2003. Establishing best practice from the experience of many differing communities, West Berks Council developed a template for communities to use when formulating their individual Parish Plans. The underlying requirement for communities, in accordance with the objectives set by West Berks Council, was to consider the needs and aspirations under the following five key Sustainable Community strategy themes:

- **A Stronger Community** – actions in this category should seek to include everyone, fostering a sense of belonging and participation in community life, providing similar life opportunities and accessible services for all
- **A Greener Community** – this will include reduction of the community carbon footprint, reducing waste and increasing recycling, encouraging consumption of local produce and increasing the diversity of local wildlife
- **A Safer Community** - examples of this include reducing anti-social behavior, reducing speed on roads and planning for emergencies
- **A Prosperous Community** - supporting the economy of the village and rural employment, and encouraging tourism
- **A Healthy Community** – communities have been asked to think widely about health, including such issues as fostering a sense of place and belonging, improving the health and well-being of local people, including young people, and promoting the independence of those residents who are vulnerable

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- **The Willink Leisure Centre**
59% of parishioners who responded use the Willink Leisure Centre. 30% wanted to see an improvement in the quality of the swimming facilities provided with an additional desire for a reduction in cost.
- **Provision of Youth facilities**
42% of respondents cited that one of the areas requiring improvement within the parish was the provision of additional youth activities. 60% of respondents also expressed that teenagers hanging around on the streets was a problem within the parish.
- **Provision of Play Areas**
75% of residents who responded advised they used the play areas provided by the parish council. The provision of such areas is an integral and important aspect of family life and general well-being for the children of Burghfield Parish.

ACTION PLAN

- **The Willink Leisure Centre**
Promote, support and encourage the development of Leisure Facilities to ensure the well-being of parishioners
- **Provision of Youth facilities**
To expand the provision for the youth of Burghfield Parish by instigating a youth led, all-inclusive activities program for the next and future generation. By putting into place the framework that will enable Burghfield Parish Youth to develop their own activities with the support of the Parish Council
- **Provision of Play Areas**
To maintain the high quality play areas and facilities provided, identifying the importance of natural play for children within the parish

PARISH PLAN REFRESH MONITORING

Once the Parish Plan Refresh document has been adopted by the Parish Council, the actions identified within it need constant monitoring to check on progress. Review of the Parish Plan will be a regular ongoing process to ensure the actions can be achieved.

The Parish Action Plan will become a regular item on the Parish Council Agenda to ensure it stays fresh in people's minds; keeping people alert to what is happening and be useful in resolving any blockages or problems that may occur along the way

PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

- **New housing development**
90% of respondents want to see the number of new houses limited. Burghfield Parish to remain a place where its distinctive character is maintained. Expansion both within and outside the settlement boundary in the parish to be limited.
- **National and Local Planning Policy compliance**
80% want to see new developments in accordance with National and Local Planning Policies, ensuring enforcement particularly in respect of site over-development.
- **Parish led documents**
73% believe that new developments should be in accordance with the Village Design Statement (adopted August 2011) which sets out the standard of house design, quality, character, style and space to complement the rural setting of Burghfield.
- **Shopping facilities within Burghfield**
75% of respondents stated that Burghfield provides adequate grocery shopping for the next 5 to 10 years, with the emphasis on smaller shops offering personalised customer service, accessibility and value for money being most important.
- **Local support**
70% of respondents support local retail and community services to encourage local businesses, maintain services and to retain the economic vitality of the parish.

ACTION PLAN

- **New housing development**
Ensuring new development strengthens the character and function of the settlements in the parish by working in conjunction with the Local Planning Authority in the preparation of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.
- **National and local planning policy compliance**
To ensure future developments within the parish reflect, and are consistent with National and Local Planning policies (West Berkshire Local Plan).
- **Parish led documents**
Ensure that future development proposals respond to the guidelines set out in the Village Design Statement (August 2011).
- **Shopping facilities within Burghfield**
Draw up, publish and maintain a list of local businesses, making available on both parish and community websites.
- **Local support**
Support and encourage local businesses to promote the local economy.

Below shows the aspirations of the parishioners of Burghfield with the resultant future objectives and plan of action:

STRONGER COMMUNITY

- **Printed Newsletter**
88% of respondents expressed a preference for printed publications as a way for Burghfield Parish Council to communicate effectively
- **Parish Council Website**
40% of responses indicated that more information via the Parish website was desired with an auto email alert system for new information.
- **Conservation of surrounding Countryside**
72% of respondents expressed the preservation of the countryside within Burghfield as an important aspect, contributing to the overall well-being of the community
- **Maintaining a quiet environment**
Respondents expressed a desire to maintain and conserve the peaceful rural environment.
- **Open spaces within Burghfield Parish**
The conservation and enhancement of the open spaces within the parish is important to parishioners. Environmental management and conservation activities will help maintain this valued asset and its biodiversity.

ACTION PLAN

- **Printed Newsletter**
Closer local links with both businesses and schools to provide a printed newsletter for publication and circulation to Burghfield Parishioners.
- **Re-design parish website**
Implement changes to existing website to incorporate enhanced features such as email alert groups, parish documents and news, parish events and links to other Burghfield organisations.
- **Conservation of the surrounding countryside**
Identify priority areas and routes within Burghfield Parish for maintenance and enhancement. Working in conjunction with West Berkshire Council and professional organisations.
- **Maintaining a quiet environment**
Make the relevant authorities aware that Burghfield Parish is to remain a quiet and rural environment. Ensure this is reflected in the West Berkshire Local Plan.
- **Open spaces with Burghfield Parish**
Review and implement the Open spaces management plan to enhance and protect the open spaces within the parish.

GREENER COMMUNITY

- **Energy saving & conservation**
79% would like to see an increase in the use of alternative, sustainable energy sources being promoted in both existing and future housing developments to encourage a reduction in the carbon footprint within Burghfield Parish (Policies CS14 and CS15). 65% of respondents did not favour the use of wind turbines.
- **Energy provision**
80% of respondents expressed a desire for the introduction of solar powered street lighting as an energy saving option. However, 62% of respondents said they would be happy for street lights to be switched off between 12am and 5am.
- **Improved transport integration**
86% of respondents would like to see better integration between the train and bus service. Frequency of service, and a desire for a reduction in fares featuring as the main areas for further investigation

SAFER COMMUNITY

- **Improvement in general highway repairs**
58% of residents would like to see improvements in the on-going maintenance of roads and pavements within the parish by the local highway authority.
- **Road safety improvements**
66% of respondents identified specific “danger spots” within the parish. An area of major concern amongst residents is the speed of traffic along both Reading Road and Clayhill Road, as well as the parking of vehicles outside local schools.
- **Increased visibility and police presence**
50% of local residents would like to see an increase in police visibility and perceived presence within the parish, to increase public reassurance and reduce the fear of crime.
- **Increased facilities for the youth to reduce anti-social behavior**
54% of respondents considered anti-social behavior as a minor problem within the parish. A request for additional youth activities within the parish was requested to ensure the issue does not escalate.

ACTION PLAN

- **Energy saving & conservation**
Encourage the local Planning Authority to develop and enhance the provision of energy saving measures in existing and future housing developments within Burghfield Parish
- **Energy provision**
To reduce the carbon footprint by encouraging a reduction in energy consumption, the promotion of renewable energy and an increase in energy saving measures within Burghfield Parish
- **Improved transport integration**
To investigate and identify potential improvements for the integration of local transport services



GET INVOLVED

The Parish Council is always looking for people to get involved within the local community. If you are interested in what goes on in your community please contact the Clerk burghfieldclerk@gmail.com

ACTION PLAN

- **Improvement in highway repairs**
To establish a formal mechanism of engaging with WBC Highways & Transport Services in order to ensure regular identification and prioritisation of roads for future improvements.
- **Road safety improvement**
In partnership with the Local Authority, investigate traffic calming measures for potential implementation within the parish to address identified “danger spots”
- **Increased police presence**
To continue working with the Local Neighbourhood Police Team to promote the safety and wellbeing of Burghfield parishioners
- **Increased facilities for youth**
Promote, support and encourage the provision of additional youth activities within Burghfield Parish



THANKYOU

The Parish Council would like to thank the 40% of residents who completed the questionnaires. Thanks are also expressed to the members of the parish council involved in the completion of the refresh document.