

**WESTON TURVILLE COMMUNITY LED PLAN STEERING GROUP**

# **A PLAN FOR WESTON TURVILLE**

**Based on the opinions of its residents**



**Prepared in 2012 by**

**Weston Turville Community Led Plan Steering Group**

**Includes 2013 information update**

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**Part funded by Weston Turville Parish Council and Community Impact Bucks.**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Community Led Plan Steering Group are very grateful to all those who completed their questionnaire, and for the many interesting, thoughtful and varied comments made, and to all who have assisted in any way in putting this Plan together. Initial contacts for the Group are Jim Paterson 01296 612352 (chairman) and Michael Foote 01296 612275 (vice-chairman). We are also grateful for the assistance provided by Community Impact Bucks. The Plan was developed using to a large extent the Acre (Action with Communities in Rural England) Community Led Planning Toolkit.

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## **WHY HAVE A PLAN?**

### **Who knows what residents really think?**

An important part of a councillor's role, be it at Parish, District or County level, is to represent the local hopes, needs and interests of those who live and have businesses in their communities. It is very easy for a councillor to believe they know what those hopes and needs are without any sound basis for doing so. They may rely for example on the views of a circle of acquaintances, on matters raised with the Parish Council by residents, or on those who shout the loudest. These are of course vital sources of opinion, but do not necessarily take into account what the silent majority think. Invariably, at Parish Council elections, the number of councillors nominated falls short of the available seats on the Council, which means there is no effective contest. This is not so much a comment on the quality of parish councillors, but a lack of testing of public opinion.

With this in mind, and the pressure on Weston Turville for large scale development and other issues, Community Impact Bucks were invited to speak at Parish Council meetings about the nature and benefits of a Parish or Community Led Plan. Such a Plan would provide:

- a basis on which to assess, (despite its geographically disparate form), what the parish wanted,
- a vision for its future,
- an authentic view of public opinion when applying for funding of various projects.

Furthermore, it was hoped that the Plan would provide an additional channel for that community spirit which undoubtedly exists in Weston Turville, as manifested by its many activity groups, and act as a catalyst for new groups where a need has yet to be met.

### **Discovering what residents really think.**

A Steering Group was formed in the summer of 2010, which immediately set about organizing an Open Day at the Village Hall. It was a chance for various Weston Turville groups and organizations to make themselves known and display their work, and most importantly, for residents to talk about and write down their opinions and wishes about any topic affecting the community. It was a successful and well attended event, and produced a great deal of interesting ideas and views, which were then collated, and became the basis of a questionnaire. This questionnaire was delivered to every household in the parish during March 2011 by a team of volunteers. Householders had the option of filling them in online, or returning them to specified addresses, or simply waiting for someone from our team to collect them during April and May of last year. Inevitably there were a number of addresses where despite a couple of visits, no response was obtained, but nevertheless there were 531 questionnaires completed, representing nearly 50% of the households in the parish. This included all areas with a postal address of Weston Turville.

### **Analysis of what residents think.**

What followed was the massive task by the Community Led Plan Steering Group team of collating and analysing the questionnaires. In March of this year we published two reports of our findings, one giving detailed analysis of the residents' responses, and another being an Interim commentary on those findings. They can be found by going to the [www.westonturvilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.westonturvilleparishcouncil.org.uk), and following the Community Led Plan links.

## The Plan.

Now we come to the Plan itself, which is intended to be distributed to every household and business in Weston Turville. It does not include all the topics appearing in the questionnaire, but those which gained substantial, (but not necessarily majority) support from respondents. For information on all topics in the questionnaire, see the published reports referred to in the previous paragraph. The Plan is intended to be a living document, not inscribed in stone for all time, but one which is developed, adapted and up-dated from time to time as circumstances change or new ideas come to the fore. It is hoped that the Plan will be acted upon and monitored not just by the Community Led Plan Group, but by the parish council and various activity and interest groups, who care enough about Weston Turville to make things happen. We commend the Plan to you in the hope that it will receive your support, and encourage your commitment to making it a reality.



Open Day September 2010



**Questionnaire for Community Led Plan**

40. a) Where would you hold the market? .....

b) Would you provide produce for the market? Yes No

c) Would you use it on a regular basis? Yes No

41. As part of planning for the future housing growth, AVDC would like each parish to indicate how they think the community feels about future growth over the next 20 years. This does not bind the parish council to anything, but will help inform how we work with AVDC in the future. The options the parish have are set out below.

**Please tick which you think Weston Turville should be in?**

a) Our community will want to see more development: ☐

b) We think the community will want to explore with AVDC the issues around development before coming to a conclusion. ☐

c) We think only very small scale development would be right for our community: ☐

d) We think no development whatsoever is right for our community: ☐

42. What type of development would you favour within the Parish? (See list below)

a) None Yes No

b) Housing for ownership Yes No

c) Housing association Yes No

d) Housing association on points scheme \* Yes No

e) Private housing for rent Yes No

f) Retirement property Yes No

g) Commercial businesses Yes No

**If Yes - please tick your preference below:**

1) Small: ☐ 2. Medium: ☐ 3. Large: ☐

\* (Points scheme can take account of living / working etc, information)

43. Does the parish need more trees/shrubs/bulbs and wild flowers? Yes No

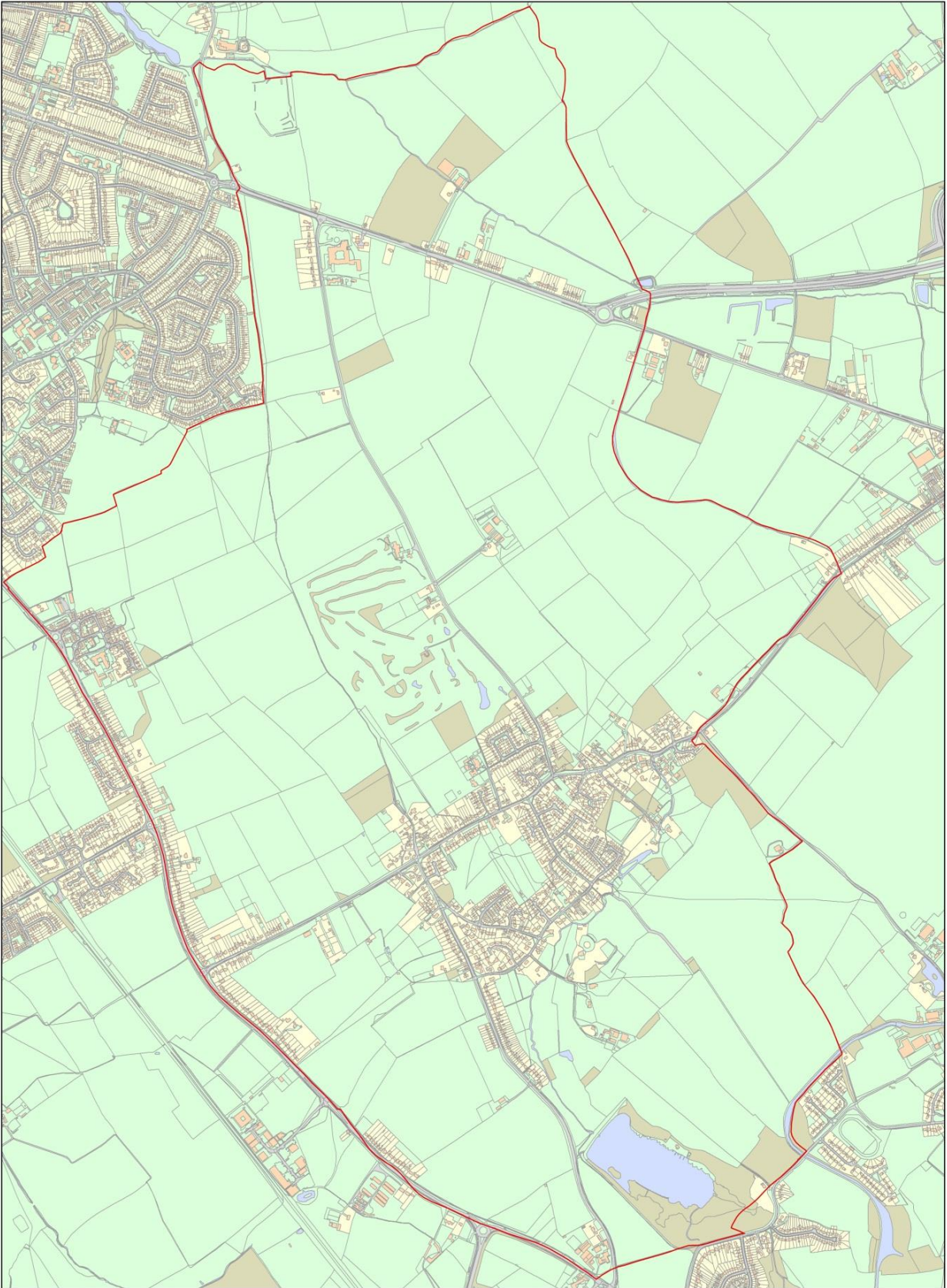
If Yes where should they be located? .....


44. Would you assist with the planting of more trees/shrubs/bulbs and wild flowers within the parish area? Yes No

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Part of the questionnaire April 2011





Weston Turville  
 Parish boundary

## **HISTORY**

It is believed that the Lower Icknield Way passed through Weston Turville from the south of England to the Norfolk coast. Mesolithic, late Stone and late Bronze Age items have been found in the parish. Akeman Street, a major Roman road, ran through the northern part of the parish. Roman amphora and other relics found in the rectory garden give evidence of their presence elsewhere in the parish. The origin of the village name 'Weston' is Anglo-Saxon. It means western homestead or western estate, as 'tun' was an Angle word which meant an enclosed farm.

After the Normans invaded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Anglo-Saxon settlement was awarded to Bishop Odo of Bayeux by his half-brother, William the Conqueror. Weston Turville was listed in 1086 as 'Westone' in the Domesday Book. Turville, the name of the lords of the parish, was added during the reign of King John in the thirteenth century.

Between 1236 and 1539, Weston Turville grew to have five distinct areas called 'ends'; Brook End, Church End, South End, World's End and West End. Since then the village has continued to expand, but has retained its shape of linked endships around agricultural fields. A centre of agricultural fields is unusual in a village and adds to the character of Weston Turville.

Much has been written about the rich history of our village, including the late Hamish Eaton's "Weston Turville a History". There is also a thriving Historical Society which has published its own material.

## **THE PARISH**

The total population of Weston Turville is just under 3000 in roughly 1200 households. The parish covers an area of some 2323 acres and is bordered by the A41 Akeman Street, known as Aston Clinton Road to the north, and the A413 Wendover Road to the south. The town of Aylesbury is situated to the north west of the parish, with the village of Wendover on the south east. The parishes of Stoke Mandeville, Aston Clinton, Halton and Wendover all border Weston Turville Parish.

The ancient parish church of St Mary the Virgin is situated next to The Manor at the far end of Church Walk, and The Union Chapel is in School Lane overlooking the War Memorial.

Adjacent to the Weston Turville C.of E.School in School Approach are the Village Hall and the recreational areas, including children's swings, roundabout, etc, playing fields and tennis courts.

There are a considerable number of businesses, large and small, operating within the parish. We have for example, two care homes, one at Hampden Hall and the other at Worlds End, Wendover Road. There are four drinking and eating establishments; The Chandos Arms and



**The Five Bells**



**The Chequers**



**The Chandos**

The Five Bells, both on Main Street, The Chequers in Church Lane and The Holiday Inn at the end of New Road. Weston Turville Golf Club is located on New Road. Perry's Peugeot car showrooms can be found on Aston Clinton Road (A41), and at Worlds End (Wendover Rd) we have the Wyevale Garden Centre. We also have a village grocery and paper shop, fish and chip shop, and at least two hairdressers.



**The Holiday Inn**



**Allotments**



**Village shops**

There is a large range of activities in Weston Turville, many of which take place in the Village Hall. We cannot hope to include them all, but among them are:

|                                                       |                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Allotment Association                                 | Horse Riding School                |
| Aston Clinton Colts junior football teams             | Horticultural Society              |
| Aston Clinton F.C. who use our pitches                | Keep Fit                           |
| Brownies                                              | Monday Club                        |
| Calibre Audio Library                                 | Parish Council                     |
| Camera Club                                           | Sea Scouts and Cubs                |
| Church Bell Ringers                                   | Tai Kwan Do                        |
| Church Choir                                          | The Fringe Church Youth Club       |
| Church of England Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin | Toddlers Club                      |
| Church of England Primary School                      | Topsy Turvey Pre-school            |
| Community Led Plan Steering Group                     | U3A Weston Turville                |
| Community Pantomime                                   | Union Chapel (Baptist)             |
| Concerts in the Parish Church                         | Voluntary Community Service        |
| Explorers Club in the Parish Church                   | Weston Turville Historical Society |
| Hand Bell Ringers                                     | Weston Turville Football Team      |
| Horizons magazine                                     | Youth Café                         |



## **DEMOGRAPHICS, ETC**

### **AGE GROUPS**

Among the respondents, the largest age group were the 31 to 59 years, very closely followed by the 60+ years. This does not necessarily reflect a true picture of the whole parish, as just under one-half of all households completed the questionnaire, and it is possible that a larger proportion of these two age groups felt more inclined to take part in the survey. Nevertheless, it is near the expected result, and should be a reliable guide. The numbers and percentages of the different age groups out of a population of 1,312 persons living in the 521 households, which completed this part of the survey, are:

|                            |              |                |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 60 years and over          | 481          | 36.66%         |
| 31 to 59 years             | 486          | 37.04%         |
| 19 to 30 years             | 94           | 7.16%          |
| 13 to 18 years             | 81           | 6.18%          |
| 5 to 12 years              | 108          | 8.23%          |
| Under 5 years              | 62           | 4.73%          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>1,312</b> | <b>100.00%</b> |
| (School age 5 to 18 years) | (189)        | (14.41%)       |

### **OCCUPANTS PER HOUSEHOLD**

Nearly one-half of the households which completed this part of the questionnaire were occupied by two people, and 15.5% of households occupied by someone living on their own. The table below provides the complete picture of occupancy:

| Living in household | Number of households in each category | Percentage of total households |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| One occupant only   | 81                                    | 15.5%                          |
| 2 occupants         | 259                                   | 49.4%                          |
| 3 occupants         | 67                                    | 12.8%                          |
| 4 occupants         | 84                                    | 16.0%                          |
| 5 or more           | 33                                    | 6.3%                           |

The average occupancy works out at just over two and a half persons per household.

### **CHILDREN AT SCHOOL**

Of the 531 responses, 115 (22%) households had children at school. Of those 115 households, 43.5% had one child attending school, 45.2% had two attending, while 11.3% had three or more.

### **RESIDENTS IN PAID WORK**

397 households responded to the question, "How many are in work?"

| Number at work living in household                         | Households in category | Percentage of total households |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Households with none at work (including retired residents) | 75                     | 18.9%                          |
| Households with one at work                                | 95                     | 23.9%                          |
| Households with two at work                                | 179                    | 45.1%                          |
| Households with three or more at work                      | 31                     | 7.8%                           |
| Other responses                                            | 17                     | 4.3%                           |

The above households include 78 residents who work within Weston Turville.



## **LIST OF QUESTIONS IN THE 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE**

| <b>Question</b> | <b>Content</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>        | Are you a resident, business or organisation in the Parish of Weston Turville?                                                                                                     |
| <b>2</b>        | How many occupants in total are there in your household?                                                                                                                           |
| <b>3</b>        | How many occupants are there in each of the following groups – under 5 etc.                                                                                                        |
| <b>4</b>        | How many attend school?                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>5</b>        | For those in work, how many work within the Parish                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>6</b>        | Do you use the bus service?                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>7</b>        | How often do you or members of your household use the bus service to Aylesbury; Wendover; Other locations?                                                                         |
| <b>8</b>        | If the regular bus service route was extended or altered, would you use it more often?                                                                                             |
| <b>9</b>        | If the evening bus service was reinstated would you use it?                                                                                                                        |
| <b>10</b>       | Would you use a bus service that connected Weston Turville with these locations?                                                                                                   |
| <b>11</b>       | Are the speed limits within the area adequate?                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>12</b>       | If the answer is No – please indicate which road or street should be changed – up or down?                                                                                         |
| <b>13</b>       | Would you like to see more “Slow Down 30mph” signs installed in the village?                                                                                                       |
| <b>14</b>       | Under the “Speedwatch” scheme, members of the public can be trained to operate a hand held device (SID). Would you be interested in helping to monitor traffic speeds in this way? |
| <b>15</b>       | Is a zebra crossing required in the village?                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>16</b>       | Would the school children benefit from a lollypop person?                                                                                                                          |
| <b>17</b>       | Is the current method of traffic calming adequate?                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>18</b>       | Would you like to see more 30mph roundels painted on the road surface?                                                                                                             |
| <b>19</b>       | Should street lighting be switched off?                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>20</b>       | Does the area require more street lights? If Yes – where are they required?                                                                                                        |
| <b>21</b>       | Do you think a “No Right Turn” at the New Road junction with the A41 Tring Road would be beneficial?                                                                               |
| <b>22</b>       | Does the Parish require more waste and/or dog litter bins?                                                                                                                         |
| <b>23</b>       | Do you feel that the number of power cuts in Weston Turville is a significant problem?                                                                                             |
| <b>24</b>       | Do you own/use a computer or laptop?                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>25</b>       | Is the current broadband speed adequate?                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>26</b>       | The Parish Council has a website. Do you or would you visit it and/or use it?                                                                                                      |
| <b>27</b>       | If the community were to form a group of volunteers to improve the local environment, would you volunteer?                                                                         |
| <b>28</b>       | Is the car park facility at the Village Hall sufficient?                                                                                                                           |
| <b>29</b>       | We have received many comments regarding a Youth Club – would you support and/or volunteer for this initiative?                                                                    |
| <b>30</b>       | What facilities do you think a youth club should have and/or offer?                                                                                                                |
| <b>31</b>       | If the Parish were to organise an annual Fare, Fete or Open Day, would you volunteer to assist?                                                                                    |
| <b>32</b>       | Do you support the need for a Weston Turville newsletter delivered to all households?                                                                                              |

## **LIST OF QUESTIONS IN THE 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE continued**

|    |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 33 |   | If there were such a newsletter, would you supply articles, adverts, assist with delivery?                                                                                                                                                   |
| 34 |   | What community activities in Weston Turville do you, or members of your household, attend or are involved in?                                                                                                                                |
| 34 | a | If you have moved into Weston Turville from elsewhere, which if any of the above were influential in your choice of living here?                                                                                                             |
| 34 | b | Were there other reasons for moving here, such as being close to relatives, friends, work, rural aspect, or something else? (please specify)...                                                                                              |
| 35 |   | Would you support the provision of a skate park for young people of the Parish?                                                                                                                                                              |
| 36 |   | Do you think there should be a youth shelter in the Parish?                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 37 |   | What community activities would you like to see in the Parish?                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 38 |   | Are you prepared to assist in organising such activities?                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 39 |   | Does the Parish need a local market selling local produce?                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 40 |   | If the answer to the above question is yes – would you provide produce / use it, and where should it be located?                                                                                                                             |
| 41 |   | As part of the planning for future housing growth, AVDC would like each Parish to indicate how they think the community feels about future growth over the next 20 years. Please tick which category you think Weston Turville should be in. |
| 42 |   | What type of development would you favour within the Parish?                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 43 |   | Does the Parish need more trees, shrubs, bulbs and wild flowers?                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 44 |   | Would you assist with the planting of more trees, shrubs, bulbs and wild flowers with the Parish area?                                                                                                                                       |
| 45 |   | Should the village hall or any other public buildings be powered by renewable sources of energy?                                                                                                                                             |
| 46 |   | There are many footpaths and bridleways with the Parish that need to be maintained. Please answer the following questions.                                                                                                                   |
| 47 |   | Are you prepared to assist in monitoring and/or maintaining the footpaths?                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 48 |   | Post Office facility – required? Are you prepared to assist in running a PO?                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 49 |   | How inconvenient is the lack of the Post Office to you and your household?                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 50 |   | Do you feel safe in Weston Turville?                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 51 |   | Have you experienced any of the following? Vandalism, crime, intimidation, etc.                                                                                                                                                              |
| 52 |   | What suggestions would you make to help improve the local environment?                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 53 |   | What three principal improvements would you like to see in the Parish?                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 54 |   | What three things do you like about the Parish?                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 55 |   | If you have any other comments you wish to make, please do so below                                                                                                                                                                          |

## **FUTURE ACTION SUPPORTED BY RESIDENTS**

To facilitate cross reference to the Analysis and Summary Report published in March 2012 (which can be found as a link from [www.westonturvilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.westonturvilleparishcouncil.org.uk), - the Parish Council website), we have, in the pages which follow, quoted next to each topic the question number in that report, which also corresponds with the full list above. As we have said earlier, this Plan does not include all the topics appearing in the questionnaire, but those which gained substantial, (but not necessarily majority) support from respondents.

## **TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

### **Bus Services (questions 7 – 10)**

231 out of 444 (51%) residents said they would use a bus service which connected Weston Turville with Stoke Mandeville Hospital. However, the bus companies say that there would be an insufficient number of daily users to make this viable.

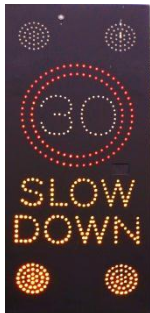
One possibility which has been jointly explored by Weston Turville and Halton parish councils with Arriva is an alteration to the number 50 bus route, to take in the Middlefield shops and Halton village, as there was significant interest in this idea expressed in our survey, and one carried out among Halton residents. However, Arriva have after consideration, turned down this suggestion, but we intend to pursue this further.



### **Traffic Calming (question 17)**

A significant number of people stated the existing method of traffic calming was adequate and no change was necessary. It was felt the chicanes are a helpful deterrent in reducing the number of large, heavy goods vehicles using the route between the A41 and the A413. If the chicanes were removed the volume of traffic would increase. Since the presence of the chicanes, there have been no fatalities in Main Street. If the chicanes were replaced by the “sleeping policemen” road bumps, emergency vehicles would have greater difficulty negotiating them and they could cause distress to the patient(s). The recommendation is that the chicanes should remain, but they need to be properly maintained.

### **Speeding (questions 12 – 14, and 18)**



The parish in general has a problem with the speed of vehicles. The question as to how this could be addressed was answered by 61.5% suggesting more “Slow Down – 30 mph” signs should be suitably sited. The electronic warning signs are favoured; however the cost to the community is high. Weston Turville currently has two, one located at New Road and another at Brook End. More use of the existing Community Speed Watch equipment would help, with the data going to Wendover Police in order that letters can be sent out to offending drivers. A weight restriction could be considered, allowing for a special exemption clause if and when a diversion was required.

### **Pedestrian Crossing (question 15)**

Although less than 40% (237 out of 404) of respondents favoured a Zebra Crossing in Main Street, nearly 60% felt that school children’s safety would be improved by having a “Lollypop” person at the critical times. The lack of a pavement on the east side of Main Street makes it difficult to decide where they should operate. It will be necessary to investigate the possible options, which might include one of the following for example:



## **TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS continued**

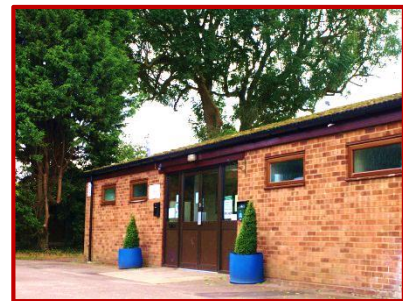
1. Paving the east side of Main Street, with the patrolled crossing at the School Approach junction;
2. The same location, but without the above paving, and relying instead on the arrangement for parents to use the Five Bells car park for dropping off children;
3. Locating the patrolled crossing at the Bates Lane junction;
4. Locating the patrolled crossing by the Chandos Arms.
5. Working with the school and parents in looking at other options.

Hopefully, an advantageous outcome from implementing one of these options would be an easing of the problem of congestion in School Approach at peak times.

### **Village Hall Car Park (question 28)**

The general feeling is that the Village Hall car park facility is adequate for most occasions, but there are certain times of the day when this is not the case. The main problem appears to be when parents drop or collect the children from school, but this may be largely solved by the provision of a patrolled crossing as above.

Two designated disabled parking spaces should be made available and suitably marked out. The need for clearly marked parking bays was mentioned.



**Village Hall**

### **New Road junction A41 (question 21)**

The question with regard to the junction of New Road and Aston Clinton Road, A41, and whether a “No Right Turn” for vehicles turning towards Aston Clinton should be in place, had 62.7% saying “yes” and 37.3% saying “no”. The major difficulty would be for articulated vehicles, which would have to negotiate one of the roundabouts at the Bedgrove junction. They are unlikely to be able to use the one at Broughton Lane because in most cases it would be too tight for them to get round safely. However, an added difficulty has now arisen, as it is proposed to replace these roundabouts with traffic lights, which it is understood will not allow for U turns at all.

Any major improvement to the junction of New Road with the A41 is unlikely to happen until the planned commercial and residential development on the opposite side of the A41 occurs, at some unknown date in the future. The number of serious injuries or fatal accidents would be a major factor in achieving any interim change to the existing junction.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Power Cuts (question 23)**

The responses were fairly evenly divided in regard to this question. There would appear to be fewer power cuts in the village area as opposed to the peripheral areas, Marroway,

## **ENVIRONMENT continued**

Hampden Hall, and Wendover Road, where there has been a higher percentage of power cuts. When there is a power cut, anything electrical needs to be reset, for example, clocks, cookers, televisions, etc, which all takes time, especially where there are a number of units. The most worrying factor is freezers, particularly if the occupants of the property are at work or on holiday. Most of the cuts would appear to be due to inclement weather conditions, e.g. heavy rain, snow or high winds. It should be mentioned there appear to have been fewer cuts in the last year or so than before.

### **Trees, Shrubs, Bulbs and Wild Flowers (question 43 & 44)**



The question asked if Weston Turville needed more trees, shrubs, bulbs and wildflowers planted. The response was fairly evenly divided, with 48% saying yes and 52% saying no. A total of 434 residents answered this question.

The question went on to ask, "If yes, where should they be located?" The most popular specific locations were the area in front of the shops, around the Village Hall and the War Memorial, but many of you said wherever there were grass verges and open spaces suitably available within the Parish.

### **Improvements (question 52)**

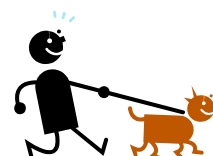
We asked, if the community were to form a group of helpers to improve the local environment, would you volunteer? The responses out of 451 were:-

|     |           |
|-----|-----------|
| Yes | 129 (29%) |
| No  | 322 (71%) |

Nevertheless, a group has since been formed and have been at work in the Parish.

By far the most suggested improvement to the appearance of Weston Turville, was for more litter picking and general tidying up, particularly around the shops area.

61% of respondents were of the opinion that no further litter or dog litter bins were required in the Parish. Nevertheless, a sizeable number of you felt that there is a problem with dog litter, and that there is a lack of dog litter bins particularly on the local footpaths within the parish area. It needs to be borne in mind, however, that the cost of regularly emptying the bins is already a significant financial burden on the Parish, and therefore a strong case would need to be made for any additional bins. The removal of dog mess is of course the dog owners' responsibility. Heavy fines can be imposed on dog owners. Warning notices should be made available to householders who experience regular problems in this regard outside their properties.



Litter "bugs" are represented by most age groups, but the younger members of the community are perceived to be the more frequent offenders. It is most likely that through

## **ENVIRONMENT continued**

education, they would take “ownership” of the problem. A children’s poster competition / campaign has had results in the past, and this could be revived under the auspices of the school, as indeed it was in 2012. Another effective measure would be to encourage people to report registration numbers of vehicles from which they see litter thrown, to the Police (the nationwide number 101), who can issue a fine of £75 or more. In the case of fly tipping, contact Aylesbury Vale District Council on 01296 585235.

### **Renewable Energy Sources (question 45)**

The question of renewable energy prompted a total of 429 responses, some making more than one selection. The majority, 386, went for solar panels to be fitted on the roofs of public buildings, e.g. the village hall and the school. The second option was for an underground heat source pump located in the playing field. The last two options were wind turbines and woodchip burners which were not so popular. The total number against these two systems was 380, compared to the 489 in favour of the solar panels and underground heat source.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

### **Homes and Business Property (questions 41 & 42)**

There were 490 responses to the question, of which only 17 wanted to see more major development. The highest number, 277, were for small scale development within the Parish; 139 indicated they did not wish to see any development whatsoever. Thereby lies the compromise. We will no doubt have to have some development, the question is on what scale? Any development must take into account the views of the local residents in conjunction with the Parish Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Bucks County Council.

Current indications are that the emergency services would not be able to cope with a significant additional population, which may prove a bar to a large scale development.

Combined with the increase in vehicle movements resulting from any major development, emergency vehicles could have difficulty in reaching an incident where their services were urgently required.



**“Hampden Fields” 2012**

Since the questionnaires were returned, a consortium of landowners and developers have proposed the building of 3200 new homes, plus schools, shops and major employment premises (“Hampden Fields”) in the area between Weston Turville and Bedgrove. A planning application has been with the District Council since March 2012. This application has proved to be deeply unpopular with Weston Turville residents and those in nearby communities, as evidenced by the overwhelming number of objections lodged with Aylesbury Vale District Council, and the support received by Hampden Fields Action Group.



## **DEVELOPMENT continued**

It reflects the feelings expressed by most of the respondents to our questionnaire, and together these provide ample evidence of local public opinion against large scale development within the Parish.

The Localism Act of 2011 makes provision for parish and town councils to produce Neighbourhood Plans. They are, however, somewhat prescriptive. Their aim is to enable local communities to influence planning through :-

- developing a shared vision for their area,
- choosing where homes, shops, business and other developments should be built,
- identifying and protecting important local green spaces,
- influencing what new buildings should look like.

Neighbourhood Plans cannot, however, be used to stop development, especially where the development falls within the criteria set by the Local Authority Plan.

## **COMMUNITY**

### **Broadband (question 25)**

302 out of 455 (66%) respondents felt that their broadband speed in Weston Turville was inadequate. The County Council is working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, and together they have recently been awarded £3.07million to bring superfast broadband to communities and businesses in the two counties by 2015. Contact should be established with Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF) to ensure Weston Turville is not overlooked.

### **Parish Council Website - [www.westonturvilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.westonturvilleparishcouncil.org.uk) (question 26)**

Of the 467 who answered the question, 269 said they do or would use the website. Although this is the majority of the respondents (57.6%), it is hoped that it will become a much more visited site for information on what is happening in our community, and a catalyst for residents to feel more engaged with their neighbourhood.

### **Newsletter (questions 32 & 33)**

A sizeable majority, 352 out of 486 (72%), of respondents supported the need for a Weston Turville newsletter delivered to all households. Of these, most were in favour of a quarterly edition.

Over 100 people said they would provide articles and assist with the production and delivery, although several would be happy to receive it by email or see it on a website.

63 respondents indicated they would be interested in advertising in the newsletter. This figure does not include any potential advertisers outside the parish. It is considered that income from advertising could fund the printing. The distribution would be carried out by volunteers as mentioned above. It is envisaged that it would be a secular newsletter, with as broad as possible coverage of news and activities in Weston Turville, and providing contact details where appropriate. It is hoped that residents, groups and businesses will wish to

## **COMMUNITY continued**

contribute articles of interest, so that the newsletter will be **for** and **of** the community, although the content will of course have to remain subject to the editor's discretion.

### **Activities**

#### **(Questions 27, 46 & 47)**

There were many suggestions on a whole variety of subjects with which the Parish could become involved. A number are already well established and supported; e.g. U3A; Weston Turville Historical Society; Youth Café; Allotment Association; Horticultural Society; the Pantomime Group; Camera Club; Monday Club, and various church groups. Just recently, as a result of the Community Led Plan initiative, new groups have been organised, one dealing with footpaths; another with litter around the village, and a group dealing with trees and shrubs. Also a number of residents are engaged in speed checks throughout the Parish.

#### **(Questions 31,39 & 40)**

The Queen's Jubilee celebration on 2 June was a one-off event which hopefully will develop into an annual one in the form of a fair or fete, run at the Village Hall and playing field area. A local market has been suggested, but only a few residents have said they are willing to supply vegetables and other items for sale. A good number of respondents said they would attend and purchase from the market stalls. The main question is what would be available to sell? This might for example be seasonal produce supplied by residents.



**Queen's Jubilee celebration 2012**

### **Young People**

#### **(Question 29)**

Since the Community Led Plan Steering Group was set up, the Weston Turville Youth Café has been formed, and is running successfully, drawing in a cross section of young people. It has some excellent up-to-date facilities, largely funded by Bucks. County Council, and gets a certain amount of ongoing funding from the Parish Council. There is always a call for more volunteer help with running it – an opportunity for anyone with the wish to work with young people! Contact: David & Rachel Blackmore 01296 614751.

#### **(Question 35)**

The response to the question regarding a skate park facility for the young people of the parish was favourable (214 out of 402 respondents). Of those in favour, 171 suggested it should be in the playing field behind the Village Hall. There were comments concerning the noise level when in use. This would be dependent of the type of materials used to construct the skate park. The majority were in favour of the unit being lit when it was in use in the evening. The cost related to the construction of a skate park is considerable, estimated to be around £30,000.

## **COMMUNITY continued**

However, although the majority were in favour of having a skate park, only 57 households indicated it would be used by any of their family. Although the number may seem small, it represents a large majority of respondent households (63), which have 13 to 18 year olds.

### **(Question 36)**

93 (27%) out of 348 households are in favour of a youth shelter. Of those in favour, most felt it should be lit. The greatest support for its location was behind the Village Hall. It would seem therefore that unless someone can make a strong case for a youth shelter, it should not be a priority.

### **Post Office (question 48 & 49)**



There is no likelihood of the Post Office being re-opened in the current climate. However with the possible changes that are taking place in regard to the postal service generally, i.e. more parcels being delivered by private companies; it may be that some form of office could be re-established. However it would take time, money and personnel to get the office up and running. It was evident that some people would like to see an office opened in one of the local Pubs.

**Golden post box commemorating Pamela Relph's Gold Medal for the Paralympics Mixed Coxed Four rowing**

### **Improvements - Weston Turville Parish (question 53)**

We asked what improvements you would like to see in Weston Turville. 288 of you gave answers, the top two being:

1. Highways: Fill in potholes, better road surfaces, repair pavements, and cut back overgrown hedges.
2. Re-instate post office facilities.

### **Improvements - Weston Turville Parish (question 53) continued**

Other common themes were enforcement of speed limits, improved street lighting, more and better shops, more facilities for young people, especially in the teenage bracket, litter clearance with a suggestion of having a "Tidy the parish day".

### **Most Popular Aspects of Weston Turville (question 54)**

337 of you answered the question, "What three things do you like about the parish?"

| The top 12 out of 78 different aspects were:- |                             | Response Count |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1                                             | Quiet / peaceful / calm     | 110            |
| 2                                             | Friendly                    | 106            |
| 3                                             | Rural / semi-rural location | 84             |

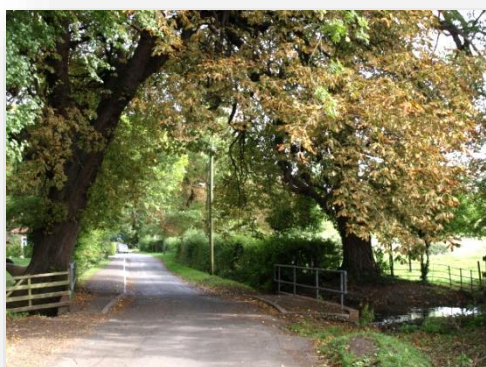


## **COMMUNITY continued**

|    |                                                                                          |    |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 4  | Convenient location                                                                      | 65 |
| 5  | Community spirit                                                                         | 53 |
| 6  | Safe place to live                                                                       | 37 |
| 7  | Good walks                                                                               | 34 |
| 8  | Church & Chapel                                                                          | 33 |
| 9  | Well kept, clean & tidy                                                                  | 32 |
| 10 | The pubs & restaurants                                                                   | 31 |
| 11 | The "village feel", despite development (with plea not to ruin it with over development) | 29 |
| 12 | Good number of footpaths                                                                 | 26 |

### **Safety & general Comments (questions 50, 51 and 55)**

It was satisfying to read the responses of the majority of respondents to the question of feeling safe in the Parish. A total of 503 people answered and only 34 indicated they did not feel safe in the Parish. The majority of residents enjoy the local village environment and friendliness within the parish. The people feel the village has a unique character which should be preserved. The single issue which attracted most comment was the desire that Weston Turville remain an independent community, not joined to Bedgrove, and for there to be no large scale developments on the outskirts of the parish.



## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Although the Community Led Plan Group can monitor the Plan, and arrange for it to be updated from time to time, its success is dependent on the willingness of individual residents and groups coming forward to assist in its implementation. Whatever time and energy, however little, you may feel able to give, can make all the difference. Previous experience is most definitely not essential. We look forward to hearing from you. The initial contacts are Jim Paterson 01296 612352 (chairman) and Michael Foote 01296 612275 (vice-chairman).

**October 2013 updates noted below in red.**

| TOPIC                                                   | ACTION                                                                                                                                                                                  | BY WHOM                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bus services<br><b>Extra alternatives being sought.</b> | Watch for developments in alterations to the number 50 route.                                                                                                                           | Parish Council and potential bus users.                      |
| Traffic calming                                         | Monitor and report maintenance issues to Parish Council / Highways on Call.                                                                                                             | Any resident.                                                |
| Speeding<br><b>In progress</b>                          | Increase in use of Community Speed Watch equipment, by recruiting more volunteers, and drawing up rota.                                                                                 | Any resident willing to be trained.                          |
| Crossing in Main Street                                 | Investigate the cost and practicalities of having a patrolled crossing, and working with school and parents in looking at other options, to provide greater safety for school children. | Parish Council, school and parents.                          |
| Village Hall parking<br><b>Completed</b>                | Renew marking for parking bays, and provide designated spaces for disabled visitors.                                                                                                    | Parish Council and Village Hall Management Committee.        |
| New Road junction with A41                              | Persuade highways authorities to improve this junction to make it safer, particularly for traffic emerging from New Road wishing to head in the Aston Clinton direction.                | Parish Council and any residents attending Local Area Forum. |
| Power cuts                                              | Monitor frequency, and if they occur at unreasonably regular intervals, the Parish Council are urged to pursue the matter formally with the appropriate authority.                      | Any resident and Parish Council                              |

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS continued

| TOPIC                                                                                         | ACTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BY WHOM                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trees, shrubs and bulb planting<br><b>Active group in being – and in need of more helpers</b> | Continue planting bulbs and wildflowers in grass verges and open spaces. Planting trees and shrubs in appropriate locations, with approval from the Parish District and County Councils, and also replacing dead trees and shrubs.<br>The planting has usually been undertaken by the Parish Council, and more recently by the newly formed footpaths & environment group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Environment group and any willing helpers.                                                                                                                                          |
| Environmental improvements<br><b>Active group in being – more helpers needed.</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Litter has been identified as a key problem. Volunteer groups have now been formed which have taken on some litter picking, general tidying up, and public footpath monitoring. These groups should receive the support and encouragement from the Community Led Plan</li> <li>Use of children's poster competitions and/or campaigns to keep the Parish clear of litter.</li> <li>Encourage reporting litter discarded from vehicles, by calling 101, stating offender's vehicle registration number.</li> <li>Encourage reporting of fly tipping to AVDC on 01296 585235.</li> </ul> | <p>Environment group and any willing helpers.</p> <p>Parish Council, School and Environment Group.<br/>Parish Council and any resident.</p> <p>Parish Council and any resident.</p> |
| Renewable energy sources                                                                      | Expensive to install, although grant funding may be available. Parish Council has had to spend considerable sum on updating Village Hall heating system and insulation. Next stage is to investigate how the system can best be supplemented by renewable energy sources, etc, and how it will be funded.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Parish Council and Village Hall Management Committee.                                                                                                                               |



## **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS continued**

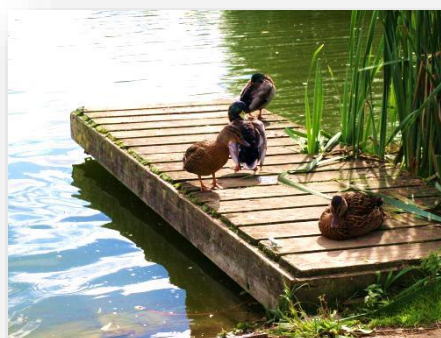
| TOPIC                                                                                                                                        | ACTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | BY WHOM                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Development<br><b>Major planning inquiry in progress re 'Hampden Fields'- outcome unlikely to be known until early 2014.</b>                 | Ensure that any development within the parish, especially of moderate to large scale, is measured against the findings of the questionnaire, and that the needs and views of the local community are given the greatest weight in planning decisions. The Parish Council should be encouraged to investigate the pros and cons of developing a Neighbourhood Plan under the Localism Act 2011. | Parish Council                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Broadband                                                                                                                                    | Establish contact with Buckinghamshire Business First, to ensure Weston Turville is not overlooked in the rolling out of superfast broadband. Contact:- Chris Rawson <a href="mailto:chris@bbf.uk.com">chris@bbf.uk.com</a> .                                                                                                                                                                  | Parish Council and interested residents and businesses.                                                                                                                                      |
| Parish newsletter<br><b>Weston Turville Times has now been running for a year. Articles and helpers always welcome. Editor: 01296 613188</b> | Form a group of volunteers to produce a quarterly Weston Turville newsletter for free distribution to all households throughout the parish, which is envisaged will be self-funding through advertising, and possibly some sponsorship. In order to reduce costs, the practicalities of residents opting for emailed copies will be explored.                                                  | Newsletter / magazine group which has been formed, but who are looking for anyone interested in contributing articles, advertising, and helping in running and distributing the publication. |
| Community activities                                                                                                                         | Foster, where desirable, voluntary activity groups, and encourage new ones where there are gaps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Community Led Plan Group.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Annual Fayre<br><b>Up and running – third one planned for 2014.</b>                                                                          | Encourage and promote the idea of an annual fayre, similar to the one held in June 2012.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Annual event group which organised the Jubilee Fair in June 2012.                                                                                                                            |
| Skate park                                                                                                                                   | Investigate the practicalities of having a skate park. This gained the support of 214 out of 402 respondents. Availability of grant funding would be a major factor in view of high cost.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Parish Council and youth groups.                                                                                                                                                             |

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS continued**

| TOPIC                                                                                       | ACTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | BY WHOM                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Postal services                                                                             | Investigate the call for and possibility of setting up a parcel collection & delivery service in Weston Turville.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Parish Council and Community Led Plan Group.               |
| Condition of highways<br><b>Problems routinely reported at quarterly Local Area Forums.</b> | Listen to residents' comments, and pass them on to the Parish Council, or in the event of matters requiring immediate attention, to contact Highways on Call, 0845 230 2882                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Community Led Plan Group, Parish Council and any resident. |
| Street lighting<br><b>As lamps expire, they are being replaced by more efficient types.</b> | Although the majority felt that this was adequate, it needs to be maintained to a good standard. Any lamps out or other faults should be reported to the Clerk to the Parish Council (see Parish Council notice boards for current phone number). The Parish Council has arrangements in place with a contractor to replace and repair most of them, although the County Council has responsibility for the orange lights on the main roads. | Any resident.                                              |



**Children's playground**



**Reservoir residents**



**The centre of the village**



**Hampden Hall**