

Burcot and Clifton Hampden  
VILLAGE PLAN  
2015



# Foreword

## About us

Burcot and Clifton Hampden is a friendly rural Parish community established in 1932 and comprising two villages. Clifton Hampden sits on the north bank of the River Thames, around 4 miles (6.5 km) east of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, and Burcot continues along the north bank east of Clifton Hampden. The 2011 Census recorded the parish population as 662. The villages face particular challenges, including traffic, transport, flooding, maintaining excellent amenities, securing support for village activities and the threat of a gravel extraction works.

## About the Plan

At the end of 2012 the Parish Council set up a Steering Group to formulate a Community Plan, which we now call the Village Plan. With valuable help from South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Oxford Rural Community Council (ORCC), the Steering Group put together a questionnaire which was delivered to every household in the Parish. Around 56% of residents completed them, thereby giving the Steering Group a mandate to represent the majority when drawing up the Village Plan.

Community-led Plans focus on village amenities and activities and, while they do not carry any legal force, they help communities organise themselves to address key issues and some of the results become an input to the Neighbourhood Plan. Introduced through the Localism Act 2011, Neighbourhood Plans are a right for communities and they become part of the Local Plan and the policies contained within will be used in the determination of planning applications.

## Members of the Steering Group

In November 2012, the Steering Group comprised the following 12 members from Clifton Hampden and Burcot:

*Giles Baxter OBE (Chair), John Cotton, Debbie Croft, Chris Dupond, John Hill, Stella Keeble, Jaqi Mason, Christine McCullogh, Annalisa Miller, Glenn Pereira, Viv Riches, Estelle Slafford.*

The Parish Council was represented at the meetings by various members and Anton Nath, from ORCC, helped the team start the process with valuable insights, guidelines and materials. Fiona Mullins took over this role at a later stage.









**We extend our grateful appreciation to all involved.**

We would like to extend a special thanks to Anne Richardson, at SODC, for her help and support, particularly with the processing of the Questionnaire results and to Sean Humphries at Bounce Design for his work on the design and printing of the Questionnaire and the final report.

For the last year, the Steering Group comprised five members, Glenn Pereira (Chair), Debbie Croft, John Hill, Annalisa Miller and James Walker (from the Parish Council). A special thanks to all of them for their sustained involvement and the hard work required to work through the questionnaire results, interview notes and various other pertinent information in order to produce this Village Plan for the benefit of our Parish.

**Chris Neill MBE, Chair of Parish Council for Burcot and Clifton Hampden**

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# Introduction

We used a comprehensive questionnaire to obtain a wide range of views about the future of the Parish. The aim was to find out what you cherish about village life, what you wish to preserve or change and to capture the most information about how to achieve these goals.

As part of the process we participated in events designed to involve villagers and obtain your opinions regarding the future development of our villages and we interviewed village clubs and societies, businesses and individuals with a view to understanding their future plans and aspirations. In addition, we have looked at other relevant information which would impact on our villages and future plans such as the planned expansion of the Culham Science Centre (CSC), housing development in Didcot and Transport Planning. Lastly, we shared our findings with the Parish Council of Burcot and Clifton Hampden (PC) as well as South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and the Oxford Rural Community Council (ORCC), who oversaw the entire process, and we took into account all feedback before finalising.

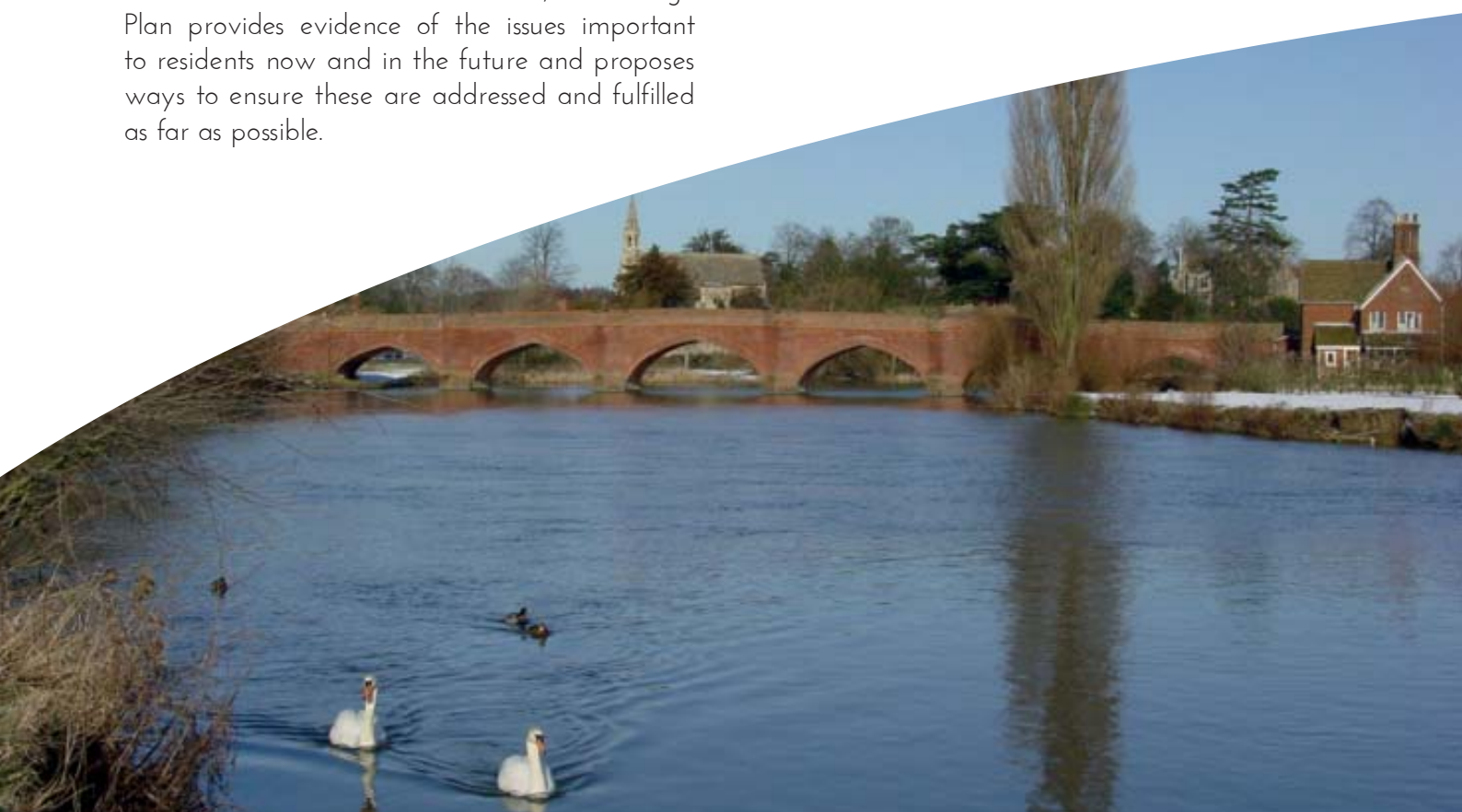
Based on the information collected, the Village Plan provides evidence of the issues important to residents now and in the future and proposes ways to ensure these are addressed and fulfilled as far as possible.

The Village Plan should lead to improvement of our villages, enabling them to develop and adapt to the changes ahead.

You are all part of these villages and your views, involvement and participation are crucial for the future. We already have a number of volunteers interested in making the results of the Village Plan a reality and some have been working closely with the Parish Council throughout the last 18 months on issues we were previously aware of. Working groups such as the Recreation Committee and the Joint Burcot and Clifton Hampden (BACH) Cycle, Footpath and Traffic committee have already achieved some successes for the villages.

**If you would like to join one of the groups working to further the development of our villages and their services and amenities, please let us know by sending a message through the PC website at <http://cliftonhampden.org.uk/contact> or by contacting Chris Neill at the Post Office. Your contribution will be very welcome.**

**If you wish to see the summary of results of the questionnaire responses, they are available on the PC website.**



## Demographics



Over half (56%) of people in the Parish completed and returned the questionnaire. Around 44% of the respondents are over 60 years old while 7% are aged 12-17. Some 37% have lived in Burcot and Clifton Hampden for more than 20 years, 29% have lived in the Parish for 11-20 years and 7% moved in within the last year. There was a 50:50 split of males to females completing the questionnaire.

The most popular reason for living in Burcot and Clifton Hampden is 'Love of the Country Way of Life', followed by 'Working within 10 miles' and the 'Proximity to Major Cities and Towns', 'Ease of Commuting' and 'Schooling'.

There was a fairly even split between Burcot (47%), and Clifton Hampden (53%), residents completing the questionnaire.

Of those who participated 42% have children, comprising 71 teenagers aged under 18, and 96 children aged up to 12 years old.

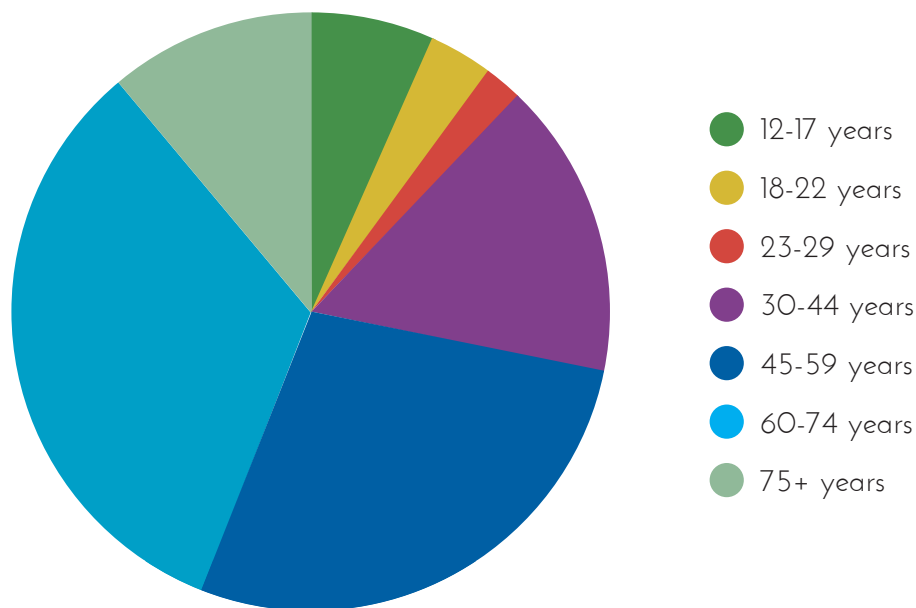
A number of people expressed their reasons in individual comments:

*'fell in love with house and village';*

*'like being near the river';*

*'lovely hamlet close to the Thames';*

*'love the listed properties and beauty of this village'.*

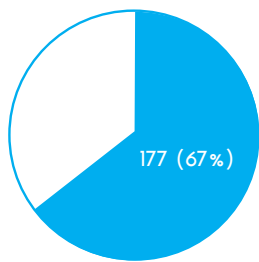


## Visitor Destination

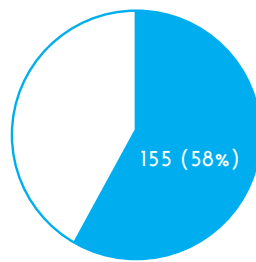


Parishioners are keen to see Clifton Hampden restored to its former position as a prime visitor destination. This is an important way of supporting local amenities such as the shop, post office, church and pub. The questionnaire suggested many ways of achieving this but those **most popular with respondents (pooling between 35 and 67% of the responses) were;**

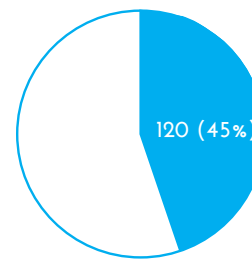
● % of total respondents



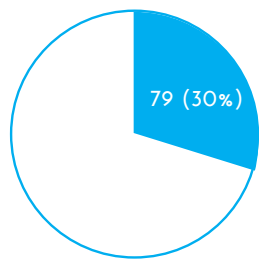
Wharf development



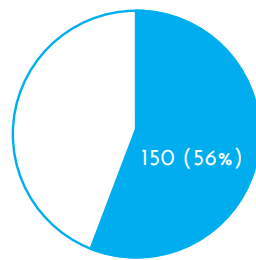
Information booklet



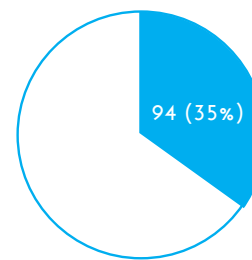
Events in the church



Wedding venue



Annual village fete



Open garden days

There were additional comments suggesting that improved mooring facilities be provided to encourage overnight visitors and that better seating and picnic facilities would also be desirable, as well as:

*'proper mooring at the wharf'*

*'pubs as hubs for the community'*

*'major pruning of trees & hedgerows between Clifton Hampden and Burcot'*

*'cycling event'*

*'development of pavilion and amenities'*

*'promote historical side and famous locations'*

### Proposed Actions/Activities

- the Parish Council approach the owners of the wharf to investigate the feasibility of developing the Wharf
- Review, update and promote the existing Clifton Hampden village leaflet, developed by the school PTA.
- The Friends of St Michael and All Angels, with the vicar, be asked to examine the feasibility of extending church facilities

# Housing



At least 66% of residents agree there is a need for a limited increase in the housing stock within the Parish and recognise a requirement for 'retirement' properties and low cost homes for first time buyers. Most residents would like to see some new properties of 1 to 4 bedroom size, preferably in small developments. This could enable elderly residents to downsize, younger people to remain in the village and new families to move into the village, thereby increasing the viability of local amenities.

The SODC Local Housing Plan may allocate housing to the village to meet Government housing targets.

Suggested sites for new housing included ground currently used for allotments, the village hall and the old airfield.

A few comments about new housing locations:

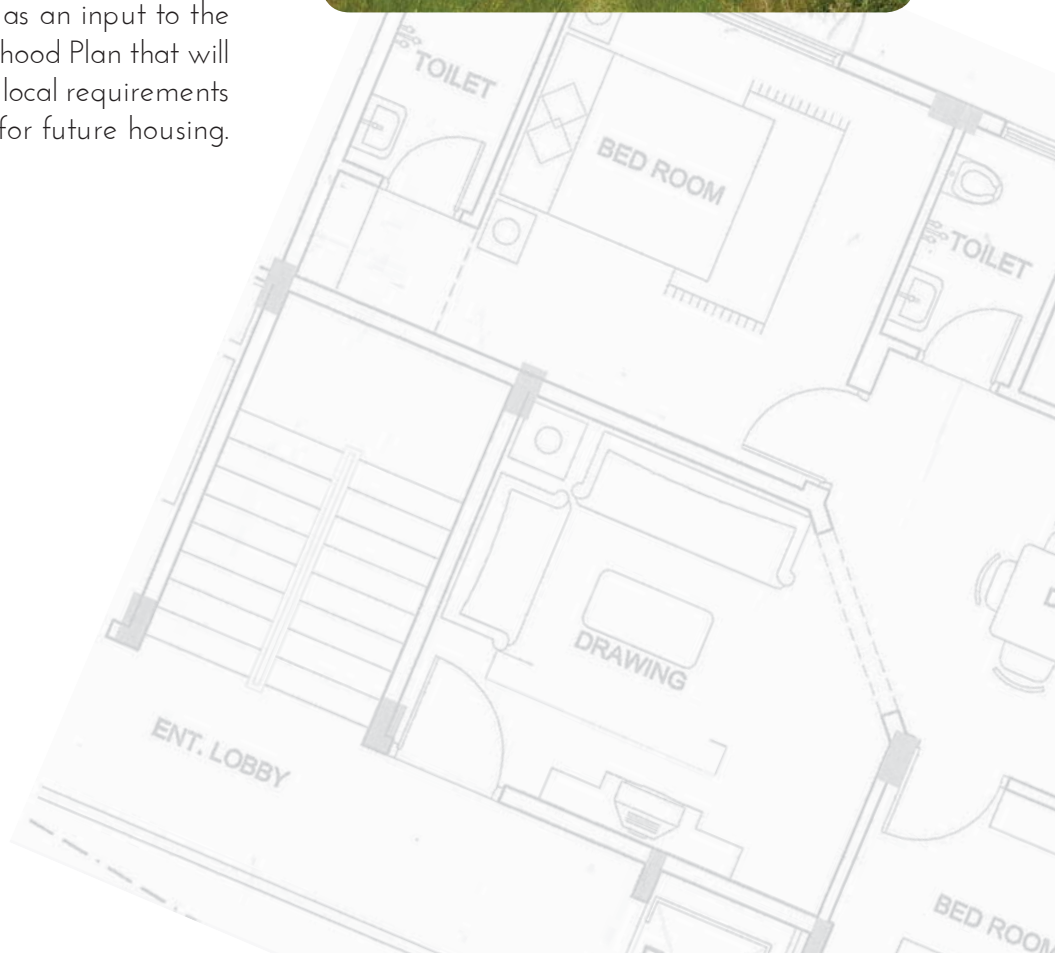
*'on village hall site and behind'*  
*'oppose building new houses in existing gardens'*

*'how about the allotments?'*  
*'maintain greenbelts'*



## Proposed Actions/Activities

The survey findings will be passed to the Parish Council so they can be used as an input to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan that will also take external targets and local requirements into account within the plan for future housing.



## Amenities



Only 4% of residents have an allotment with 7% saying they intend to apply for one. The lack of a water pump may be one of the factors preventing residents from considering an allotment. The pump was stolen many years ago and has not been replaced.

The use of the land currently used as allotments provided mixed comments ranging from building houses to establishing a new Surgery and car park. Plans were drawn up by the Parish Council some time ago for a dedicated Surgery on the allotment site and these will be revisited as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

There was strong support to build a boathouse and/or café on the wharf, which is an increasingly popular venue for boaters, fishermen, walkers and tourists.

Therefore an investigation is needed into the viability of establishing a Boathouse/Café on the Wharf, taking into account not only the positives but also any potential detrimental effects such as a café making the village shop non-viable. Any impact on the scenic beauty of the riverside should also be considered.

Nearly two thirds of residents expressed an interest in the building of a new community and social centre on the recreation ground incorporating the village hall and the current facilities on the recreation ground - Scouts Hut, Cricket Club and Tennis Club.

Residents strongly supported the village shop, the Plough Inn and the school being registered as Assets of Community Value and the Parish Council has submitted applications for these.

Additional comments included several complaints about the way the Plough Inn has deteriorated in recent times from its earlier position as a community centre for Clifton Hampden.

In consultation with Clifton Hampden Surgery it is apparent that more suitable premises are needed, to include improved disabled access and increased parking and, perhaps, a dental surgery attached.





The priorities for Clifton Hampden Church of England Primary School are to ensure the safety of children and parents, their ease of travel to and from the school and securing use of village facilities to support essential school activities (for example, with no hall on the school site, having use of a village hall is fundamental).

- Reduce volume and speed of traffic
- Availability of a village hall for use by the school at reasonable cost
- Improved cycle/footpath between villages to reduce school traffic, *funding could come from Science Vale Plan/LTP 4, based on Section 106, now called Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)*
- Faster Broadband - essential for meeting the curriculum and currently far too slow, *Gigaclear or the promised BT Infinity should offer the school very good possibilities to address this*
- Installation of playground facilities on the recreation ground (this has since been achieved)



### Proposed Actions/Activities

The Parish Council is currently in discussion with the allotment agents regarding the reinstatement of a water supply.

**As part of the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan, the following will be considered:**

- The feasibility of development of a boathouse and/or café and other facilities on the wharf
- The viability of establishing a new combined Community and Social Centre on the Recreation Ground
- Options for more suitable premises for the Surgery

Residents suggested appropriate uses for the existing village hall and its site

*'as the medical centre'*

*'few small retail shops, farmers market'*

*'(new location for) village shop and Post Office (plus) coffee shop'*

*'enlarge the carpark'*

*'use for the school as PE hall, drama, dance, play, assemblies'*

*'keep as a hall for the village and the school'*

*The Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that if any amenities such as allotments or recreation land are reduced, due consideration will be given to providing the same elsewhere in accordance with the requirements of the Parish.*



# Parking



Most residents state parking is not an issue for them and their visitors, with over 70% never having a problem and 22% rarely. Regarding other people's parking there are occasional problems at the surgery and more often at the village shop.

Parking is more of an issue for people visiting the village. The Village Hall car park is primarily for users of the hall but it is also used by patients of the surgery and parents of school children.

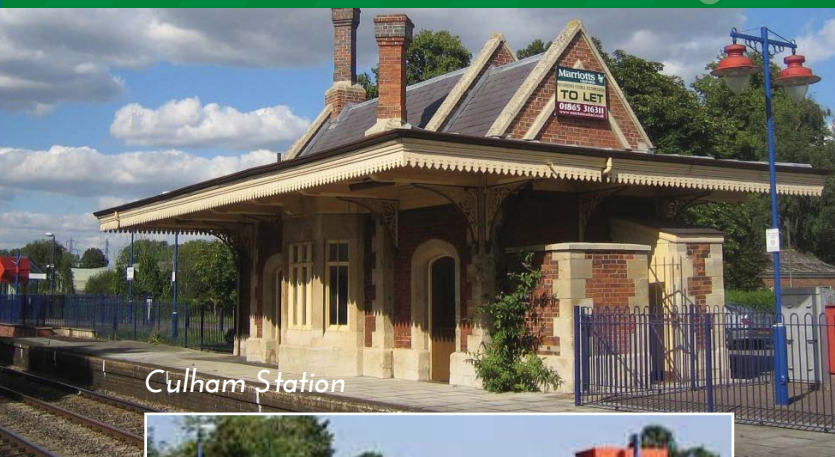
A new pre-school group began using the Village Hall during term time commencing in September and this has exacerbated the lack of parking facilities. Limited parking is available in the lay-by adjacent to the Wharf. The car park opposite the Barley Mow is a designated village car park but necessitates walking along the road with no path and crossing the bridge to get back into the village.

## Proposed Actions/Activities

Parking to be considered as part of any future development and the total parking requirements for both villages will be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.



# Transport



Culham Station



## Other views expressed by respondents:

*'better transport to Abingdon and Oxford is needed'*

*'more direct (bus route) to Oxford'*

*'shuttle connecting non-rail connected villages with the railways'*

*'Clifton Hampden to Didcot school bus service'*

*'return of late bus from Abingdon'*

## Buses

The vast majority of parishioners rarely or never use buses and, of those who responded to the question on "satisfaction", around **30%** are generally satisfied with the service they receive, with the top three suggested improvements being:

- 1) **Increased frequency**
- 2) **Later/earlier services**
- 3) **Ease of interchange**

**53** people would like new (or amended/improved) routes covering local destinations such as Berinsfield, Dorchester, Drayton, Harwell, Long Wittenham, Wallingford and further afield to Reading, London.

Bus services to Didcot may become more important to reduce traffic congestion following the expansion of housing in Didcot. The suggestions for new routes and additions to current routes will be passed on to the Parish Council.

## Trains

Only 7 respondents reported one or more journeys a week made from Culham to Oxford, Didcot, Reading or London and it can be surmised that over 50% of respondents never use Culham station. Of those who responded to the question on "satisfaction", around **40%** are generally satisfied with the service they receive, with the top three suggested improvements being:

- 1) **Increased frequency**
- 2) **Ease of interchange between train services**
- 3) **Later services**

**105 (39%)** of respondents would use the trains more if a regular bus service connected Burcot and Clifton Hampden to the station.

**62 (24%)** of respondents used Didcot Station more than 1-3 times per month. Most were satisfied with or neutral about parking although **47%** of respondents said they would use the station more with cheaper parking and the same percentage would use it more if there were better connections from Culham.

Long gaps in the morning train service and a lack of a proper link between bus services and train services make it difficult for regular commuters to make use of Culham station.

## Proposed Actions/Activities

Frequency of services directly impacts usage and vice versa. An integrated transport infrastructure servicing our villages and the wider area will be reviewed as part of LTP4 with input from the Parish Council. In addition the Parish Council is in discussion with CSC, which runs an active campaign to encourage as many employees as possible to use car-sharing, cycles and public transport.

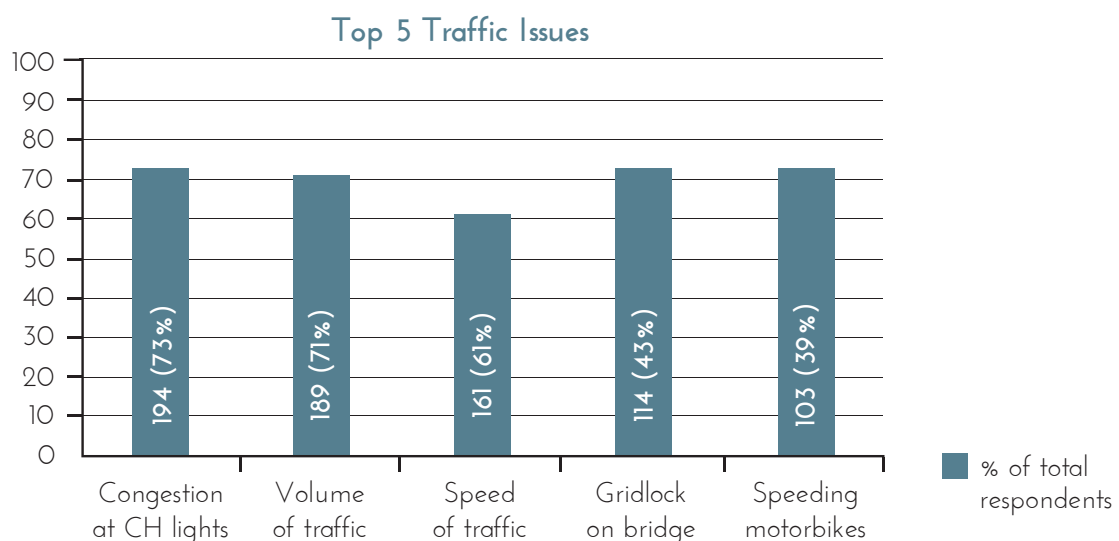
# Traffic



Traffic queuing from the lights on the Oxford Road, Clifton Hampden

Traffic has consistently emerged as the highest priority issue that people would like to see addressed and the questionnaire results confirmed this with 239 (90%) of total respondents agreeing there is a need to improve the traffic situation.

Residents were asked to pick their top five issues to be addressed from a list of 12 and the following emerged as highest priority:



The issue of speeding motorbikes polled 39% and for those living on the affected roads it is a very serious issue, particularly on designated local motorbike meeting evenings.

Over 40% of respondents feel a designated crossing point by the village shop would improve safety.

The planned expansion of Culham Science Centre (CSC) and provision of more housing in Didcot as well as the threat of a Quarry and Gravel Works in Clifton Hampden/Culham are clearly of concern to residents, in particular the effect on our already congested roads and the bridges at Clifton Hampden and Culham.

### Around three quarters of respondents would like the Parish Council to pursue the following:

- Alternative access from south, avoiding use of Clifton Hampden and Culham Bridges, 223 (84%)
- Alternative access from north, reducing traffic through Clifton Hampden and Burcot, 214 (81%)
- More frequent bus services, 214 (81%)
- More frequent rail and bus services, 188 (71%)
- Improved road layout at the main entrance to Culham Science Centre off the A415, 137 (51%)

### Proposed Actions/Activities

There is already an Action Group for Traffic in place, working within the Joint Burcot and Clifton Hampden (BACH) Cycle, Footpath and Traffic committee. This group has overseen two traffic surveys and a speed sign erected in Burcot. A subsequent speed survey was conducted by the Speedwatch team, comprising members of the Parish, with two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), followed by a meeting in March 2015.

#### Discussions are ongoing with OCC/SODC to address a number of issues, as follows:

- erection of signs such as "Welcome to Clifton Hampden/Burcot" to make people aware they are entering a village. These would need parish funding.
- warning signs, such as by the bend outside Riverside and hidden exits onto the A415. These would also need parish funding.
- clearance of shrubs and overhanging branches that affect the footpaths/cyclepaths, OCC responsibility
- clearance of debris along the paths, SODC responsibility
- speeding along the Oxford Road, the High Street and along the A415, in particular motor cyclists, needs the involvement of Thames Valley Police
- possibility for "speedgun" monitoring of traffic speeds, needs involvement of Thames Valley Police.

#### Individual comments highlighted various opinions:

*'Pedestrian crossing by the shop should be given highest priority to ensure safety of school children and parents crossing during rush-hour';*

*'It's very dangerous to walk from Clifton Hampden to the Barley Mow and Long Wittenham'.*

The longer term solution to traffic issues is the development of a bypass and purpose built bridge to alleviate the traffic through our villages and across local bridges. This has become a more realistic goal although it could take some time to finally achieve.

In her October 2014 Report to Parish Councils, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale included a remark "There is a hook in the Strategic Economic Plan to justify the possibility of a bypass for the village, plus a new road linking the A415 to Didcot via a new river crossing". Since then LTP4 has passed a proposal for a new river crossing on September 8th 2015.

The Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan, currently at stage LTP4, acknowledges the concerns expressed by our residents on Traffic issues as well as Transport and Cycle/Footpaths. With regards to the consultation request last year, the Parish Council response can be seen on the PC website.

# Footpath and Cycle Path



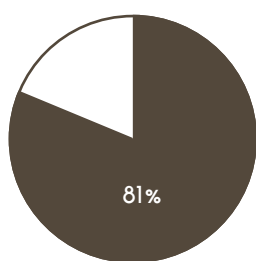
The most frequent mode of transport unsurprisingly is driving (81% daily or weekly), followed by walking (65%), cycling (20%) and public transport (12%).

The most popular reasons for walking are to reach amenities and for leisure, which is the main reason residents take to their cycles. Only the A415 and the road to Dorchester are cycled for reasons other than leisure, usually to visit amenities

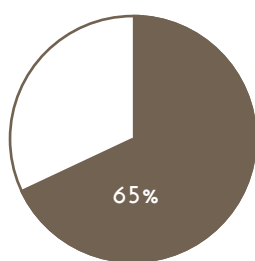
outside people's village. Just 3% use their bikes for commuting to and from work, mostly to CSC/Culham station.

Nearly 30% would walk more if the paths were improved and 76 people said they would cycle regularly and a further 72 said they would cycle occasionally if paths were good enough. This represents 56% of respondents, so the challenge is to make the paths good enough.

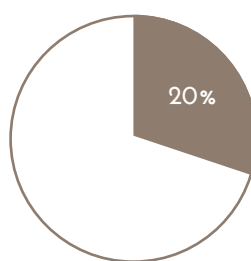
## Most Frequent Mode of Transport



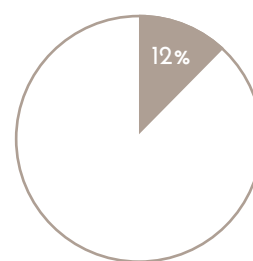
Driving



Walking



Cycling



Public Transport

## Difficulties

The paths where most people cited difficulty walking are across Clifton Hampden Bridge, along the Oxford Road and by the river. These paths are particularly difficult with children and pushchairs. Other difficult paths include the road from the bridge to the forge, the A415 and the road to Long Wittenham.

Runners find the bridge, the paths along the river and the A415 through Clifton Hampden to be the most difficult areas to traverse.

Most cyclists using the A415 and the route across the bridge experience difficulties. The High Street to the forge, the road to Long Wittenham and the Oxford Road are also mentioned as being difficult to use.

## Improvements

Suggested improvements vary by location with 'wider paths' being the most popular solution for the High Street to the bridge, across the bridge, along the Oxford Road and the A415 from Clifton Hampden to Burcot and Berinsfield.

A new, separate path across the river is the preferred solution for the route from Clifton Hampden to Long Wittenham.

Better, regular maintenance is the preferred solution for the already established routes along the A415 and better surfaces are suggested for the paths along the river, for Watery Lane and for the current paths along the A415.



## Proposed Actions/Activities

The existing action group, working within the Joint Burcot and Clifton Hampden (BACH) Cycle, Footpath and Traffic committee has the following priorities:

**The road linking Clifton Hampden to Long Wittenham** is narrow, with fast traffic putting pedestrians and cyclists at risk. A current team, comprising representatives from Long Wittenham, Clifton Hampden and a CSC employee from Didcot, is working to establish a safe route (hopefully cross-country) to connect the two villages. The group is in close contact with OCC which has funds to develop a number of paths in accordance with their aim to make all parts of Science Vale accessible by cycle.

**The A415 path** is often in poor condition due to bad surface conditions, hanging branches and debris (mostly falling from trees) and in places is too narrow for cyclists to pass pedestrians and each other safely.

*'would like to be able to walk to Long Wittenham safely with children'*

*'we need a safe path across the bridge to the Barley Mow'*

*'cyclepaths need clearing as hedge cutting drops sharp thorns and leaves make the paths slippery'*

*'a path is needed on the East side of the Oxford Road to the lights'*



### Actions are needed to:

- Improve surface conditions and widen where necessary. Need to involve OCC, SODC in funding and responsibility.
- Provide regular maintenance to clear debris and overhanging branches. Either raise a volunteer work force from Burcot, Clifton Hampden, Culham and Berinsfield or request OCC (re: overhanging branches etc) and SODC (re: debris on paths) to supply.
- Proactively request residents to ensure paths are not blocked (by broken, leaning fences, dustbins etc.), through an awareness campaign of potential dangers.

**Across the Bridge:** Options need to be examined for crossing the Bridge safely (particularly for children and people with small children and/or pushchairs). Ideas include making one wider path on one side of the Bridge and dispensing with the path on the other side and/or having pedestrian time operated by a button on either side of the Bridge.

**Clifton Hampden to Nuneham Courtenay:** There is some demand for a route between Clifton Hampden and Nuneham Courtenay for walking and perhaps cycling. There is already a track in place that could be properly surfaced and used for these purposes, subject to obtaining relevant consents from owners.

**Crossing Points:** Based on the comments received in the questionnaire, there is a significant demand from villagers for safe crossing points. A study should be launched to check the danger points and practicality of establishing lights, zebra crossings and/or other means of increasing the safety and convenience for pedestrians.

**Paths along the river:** Clearly there is a demand for easier paths along the river. The current path is bumpy, narrow and sometimes overgrown.

# Flooding



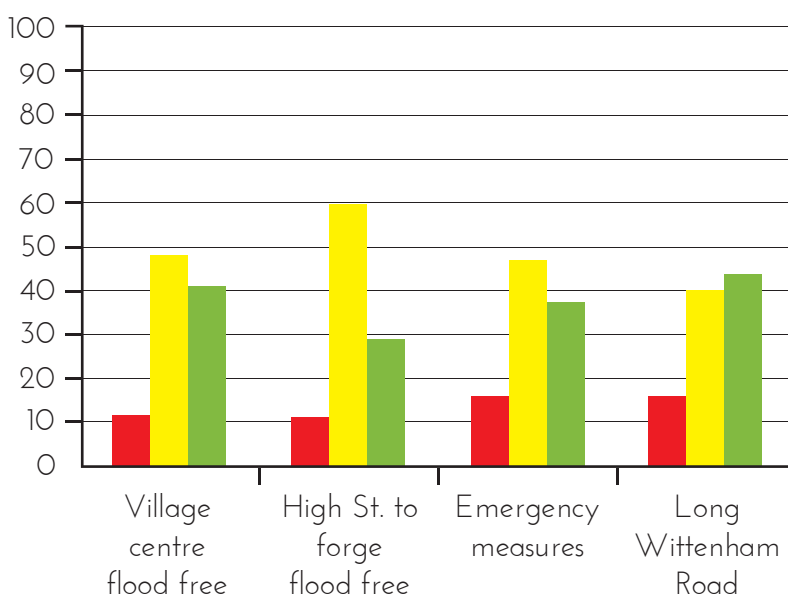
Up to 14% of respondents experience a serious threat to their property when there is flooding in the Parish and 74 respondents (28%) said that their travel times are seriously affected during these periods.

Amongst those respondents who answered questions relating to Flooding, there is an overwhelming support to have the flooding issues properly addressed with 191 (89%) asking for steps to be taken to ensure the Clifton Hampden village centre is kept flood free, while 186 (89%) want to ensure the High Street to the forge remains clear. In addition, 188 (84%) people wish to see the road to Long Wittenham kept clear and 178 (84%) support temporary emergency measures to allow Forge Lane to be used in both directions when the village centre is not passable.

## Proposed Actions/Activities

The Parish Council is requested to address the concerns expressed in the Village Plan and to explore measures to combat the flooding as part of the structural development to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

In addition, there is a need to address the drainage facilities and to ensure farmers with fields adjacent to roads and lanes continue to clear their drains regularly.



% of total respondents

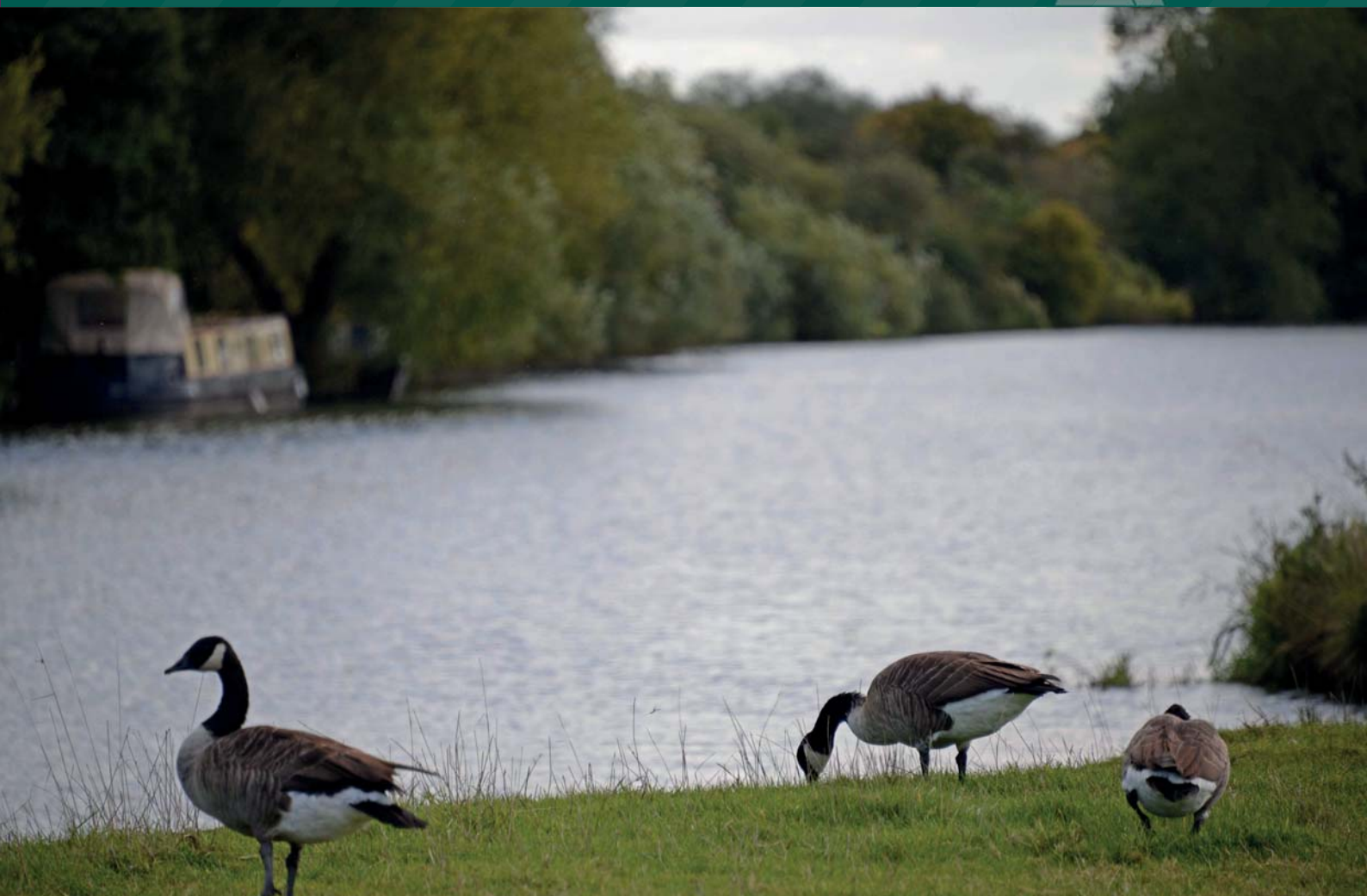
Not necessary

Addressed if not costly

Addressed as priority



# The Environment



During consultation on the Village Plan many people raised issues about preserving and supporting the development of the beautiful area in which we live. When asked if they wished to become involved in community action, 35 of respondents recorded a wish to help appreciate and improve our natural environment (river, trees and wildlife), and 19 wish to actively look at ways to develop a more sustainable way of living.

## Proposed Actions/Activities

A meeting should be organised in which respondents discuss ways in which they can contribute to a preservation and improvement of our environment. They should liaise with **BACHPORT (Burcot and Clifton Hampden for the Protection of the River Thames)**, an already established group and currently leading the fight against proposed quarry and processing plant in Clifton Hampden/Culham.



## Parish Events and Community



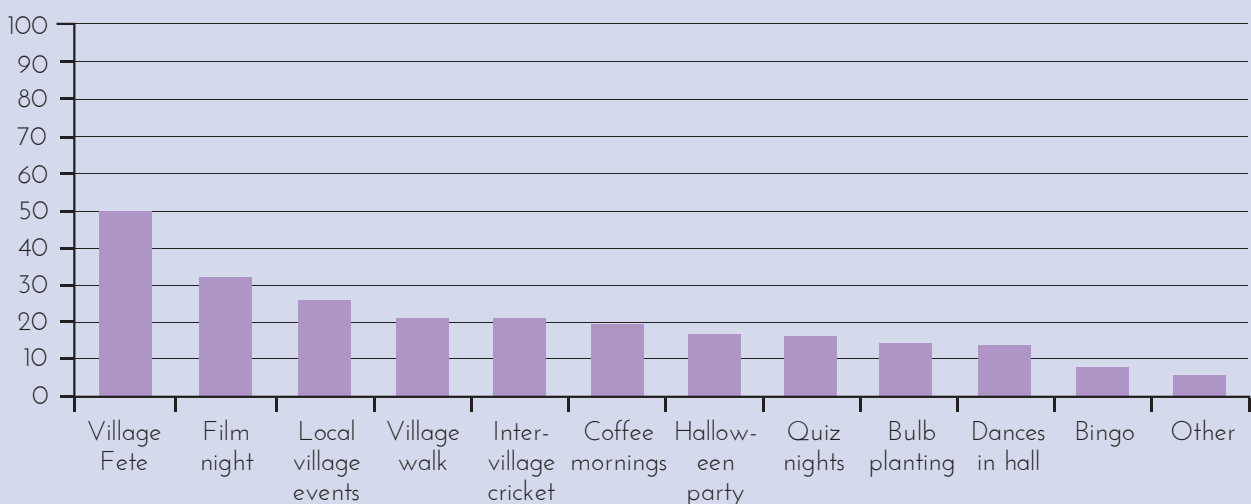
*The Chequers, Burcot*

More than half of total respondents believe there should be a Village Society or equivalent to promote events to bring people together. In addition there were several comments expressing a desire for a centrally located pub in Clifton Hampden to encourage greater social interaction.

Of events that have been organised in the past, the most popular are special events to mark country-wide celebrations (42%), school summer fetes (41%) and the annual quiz night (23%). Between 8% and 24% were unaware of various activities and, generally, more people do not attend events than do.

Nevertheless, a wide range of the social events presented in the questionnaire were ticked as desirable with a number of new suggestions added.

- village fete (138)
- film night (86)
- events with neighbouring villages (70)
- village walk (58)
- inter-village cricket match (57)
- coffee mornings (52)
- halloween party (46)
- regular quiz nights (45)
- bulb planting (39)
- dances in the hall (38)
- bingo (20)





*Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on the Recreation Ground in a Model T Ford*

*The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Time Capsule (top right) sponsored by Culham Centre for Fusion Energy was prepared by Clifton Hampden Primary School and buried by Clifton Hampden and Burcot Beaver Scouts in the recreation ground – not to be opened for at least 25 years.*



#### **Additional suggestions included:**

- Charity events
- Arts and Craft fair
- Croquet
- Music and more children events on the Wharf
- Inter village football match
- Fireworks and display
- Farmers market/local produce/veggie market
- Summer BBQ on the Wharf
- Wine club
- Boat race
- Cycling event
- Major pruning with volunteers keeping the firewood

Clearly there are relevant numbers to support a number of activities and a number of respondents said that they would be happy to help organise events.

### **Proposed Actions/Activities**

It is suggested that those who volunteered to organise activities be invited to meet and gauge parish support for the various activities and create teams to organise future events.

Some might be easier than others, for example a film night could be achieved by inviting a professional company to organise it.

## Younger People



There is significant agreement that more needs to be done for young people. Over half (56%) of respondents agree or strongly agree that more sports provision is needed - the most popular answer.

Clubs for special interest and entertainments were also voted for in strength, followed by transport to group activities in neighbouring communities (29%).

15 people said they would like to become involved in finding out what young people need, and in improving the activities and amenities for young people.

### Successes

A success of the Village Plan, through the Recreation Committee of the Parish Council, is the installation of the new playground and reinstated football goals on the recreation ground.

There are a number of established clubs, such as Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers as well as an after-school football club, women's cricket on a Monday, and a Tennis club for all ages.



### Proposed Actions/Activities

The Parish Council will approach the 15 volunteers to set up an event to determine how the younger people in our community can be better supported, and include some younger representatives to hear their views.

*'a community hub for younger people involving events and a place to go'*

*'jump trails for bicycles on the airfield which (previously), created a place for young people to enjoy within the village'*

*'playground facilities on the recreation ground for older children'*

*'girls / mixed football team'*

*'tennis for young people on the existing court'*



## Community Safety



SODC's community safety team wish to understand how many of our parishioners have signed up for Thames Valley Alert (TVA), and the answer is only 12. However 220 people stated that they were not actually aware of the system. Such systems do require sign up to improve effectiveness.

### Proposed Actions/Activities

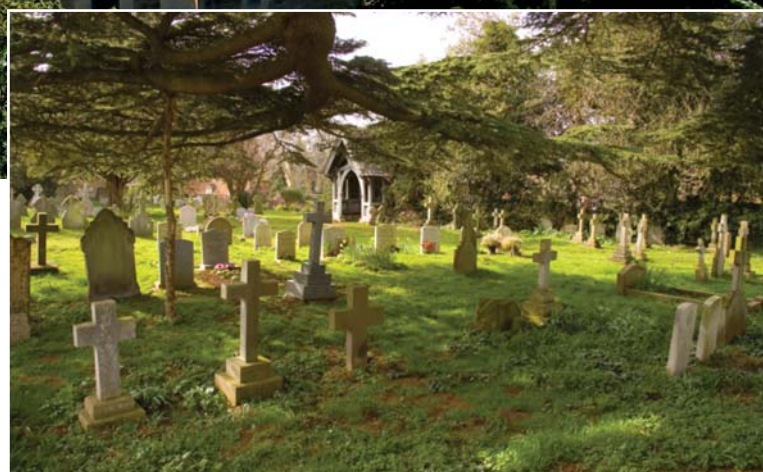
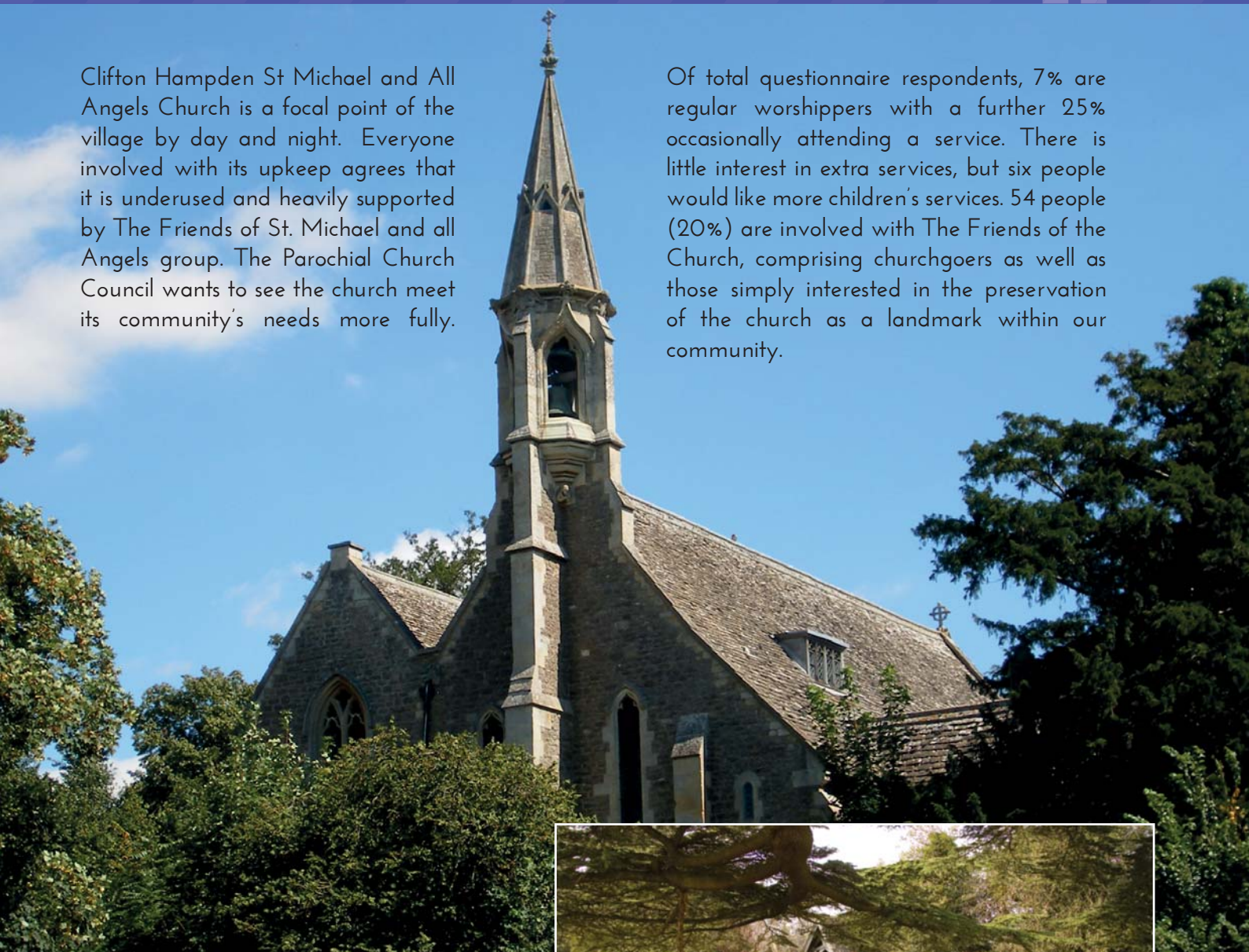
The Parish Council will pass the findings to the local PCSO and explore a possible link of information feed from TVA to the parish website.

# The Church



Clifton Hampden St Michael and All Angels Church is a focal point of the village by day and night. Everyone involved with its upkeep agrees that it is underused and heavily supported by The Friends of St. Michael and all Angels group. The Parochial Church Council wants to see the church meet its community's needs more fully.

Of total questionnaire respondents, 7% are regular worshippers with a further 25% occasionally attending a service. There is little interest in extra services, but six people would like more children's services. 54 people (20%) are involved with The Friends of the Church, comprising churchgoers as well as those simply interested in the preservation of the church as a landmark within our community.



## Proposed Actions/Activities

Friends of the Church and the Parochial Church Council will be given the results of the questionnaire and be included in discussions addressing community and commercial events and possible use of the church as a venue.

*The graveyard is reaching capacity and with 45 people expressing a wish to be buried there, plus five wishing to have ashes interred, space will become an issue.*

*'use the church for charity events and craft fairs'*

*'improve access especially the top path for wheelchairs'*

*'marriages of those outside (the Parish)'*

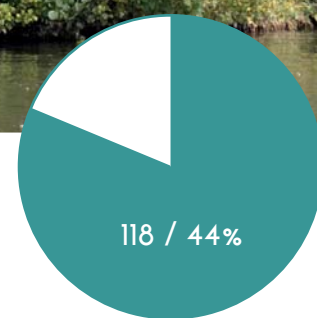
*'plays, school events, coffee & cake'*

*'BBQs'*

# Caring and Support



Although age is not the sole factor that determines an increased reliance on the support of others, the demographics of the questionnaire identified 118 (44%) respondents as aged over 60 and, in developing a plan for the future, we have to acknowledge that the number of people in this age category is likely to increase.



Aged over 60  
& planning for the future

Based on responses, the current situation is that a few people need support:

17 with gardening



11 moving heavy items



10 with cleaning



8 with fixing things



6 organising tradesmen



In the short-term it was clear that most transport needs were met but for a few exceptions. Although help is provided by relatives, friends and external service providers, it seems that up to 11 people receive no help at all.

It is important for community events in the parish to be provided across all age groups to enable friendships to be built and sustained into later years.

## Proposed Actions/Activities

Ten respondents said that they would be happy to help with visits or transport and one who could possibly be able to coordinate it. Unfortunately none of those 'in need' responded with their details. We suggest the Parish Council invite the 10 volunteers for a meeting to work out how we can identify people in need and provide the help they require.

It is necessary to establish a system (using the village website and telephone numbers) to coordinate and connect volunteers with those in need of transport and other assistance. In some cases it might be friend/family who will make the connection.

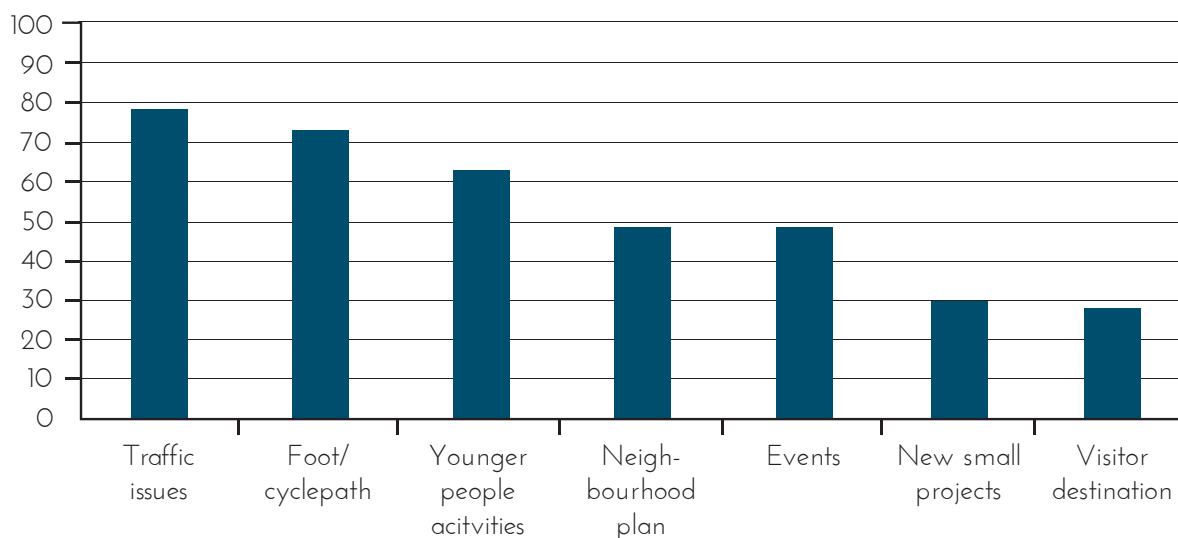
# Funding



The most acceptable increase in the annual precept to increase funding available to the Parish Council to support parish activities, events and small projects was deemed to be £20 (supported by 28% of respondents), while 17% supported £50, 14% £10 and 9% £35. 14% felt none would be acceptable and 18% declined to answer altogether.

The majority of respondents prioritised traffic issues for use of additional funds with nearly 70% ticking this as 'having their full support'. 'Footpath and cycle path improvements' (44%) and 'Activities and amenities for younger people' (30%) were the next most popular.

Priorities for Funding (includes 'full support' and 'good to have')



Less than half (44%), of respondents show any support for spending money on promoting the area as a visitor destination and 15% of respondents stated that they 'do not support' this.

Other suggestions included a volunteer tree and hedge tidy/trim and flower planting to improve the look of the villages.

Some 7% said they would like to become involved in fundraising for the projects described.

## Successes

The Parish Council increased the precept from £7,500 to £11,450 in 2013/4. Since then the precept rose from £11,450 to £11,850 in 2014/5 and to £12,000 in 2015/6. The increase went towards a speed sign in Burcot, in line with the priority of most residents, refurbishing the land at the bottom of the church steps and support for the playground project.

## Proposed Actions/Activities

Findings will be passed to the Parish Council as input to any funding activities, which might be initiated and as an additional guide to expenditure decisions.

# Action Plan and Successes

Theme	Action / Activity	Responsibility / Lead
Visitor Destination	<p>Approach the owners of the wharf regarding the possibility of development</p> <p>Promote the existing Clifton Hampden village leaflet, developed by the school PTA.</p> <p>Friends of St Michael and All Angels and the Diocese to be asked about the feasibility of extending church facilities</p>	Parish Council to lead
Housing	Use the questionnaire results to inform the Neighbourhood Plan	Parish Council to lead Neighbourhood Plan Group
Amenities	<p>Use the questionnaire results to inform the Neighbourhood Plan, and address specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• feasibility of wharf development</li> <li>• viability of Recreation Ground improvement</li> <li>• new surgery premises options</li> <li>• new village hall</li> </ul>	Parish Council to lead Neighbourhood Plan Group
Parking	Use the questionnaire results to inform the Neighbourhood Plan and address parking requirements as part of future development	Parish Council to lead Neighbourhood Plan Group
Transport	Review transport infrastructure as part of Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and Parish Council to support villages' interest	Parish Council
Traffic	<p>Continue discussions with OCC/SODC/TVA to address issues raised through the questionnaire, plus options since raised, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speeding along Oxford Road, High Street and A415</li> <li>• clearance of shrubs &amp; branches</li> <li>• clearance of debris along paths</li> <li>• erection of welcome signs at village entrances</li> <li>• warning signs on bends and hidden exits</li> </ul>	Parish Council to lead with the Joint Burcot & Clifton Hampden Cycle, Footpath & Traffic committee
	Support our villages' interest in Local Transport Plan (LTP4)	Parish Council to feed into and inform community
	Support for car-sharing, cycling and use of public transport to be encouraged	Parish Council and Culham Science Centre to liaise
Footpath & Cyclepath	<p>Prioritise and pursue the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• safe link between Clifton Hampden &amp; Long Wittenham</li> <li>• A415 path - improve surface, widen, regular maintenance</li> <li>• safe crossing over Clifton Hampden bridge</li> <li>• improved path between Clifton Hampden &amp; Nuneham Courtenay</li> <li>• safe crossings at designated points in the villages</li> <li>• improved access along river paths</li> </ul>	Joint Burcot & Clifton Hampden Cycle, Footpath & Traffic committee
Flooding	<p>Use the questionnaire results to inform the Neighbourhood Plan, and address specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measures to combat flooding</li> <li>• liaising with farmers to address drainage facilities</li> </ul>	Parish Council to lead with agencies and local landowners
The Environment	Organise a volunteers meeting to discuss ways of contributing to preservation and improvement of environment	Volunteers within the villages and Bachport to lead
Parish Events & Community	Invite existing volunteers to meet and create an Events Committee	Volunteers within the villages to progress



Younger people	Arrange an event comprising those who volunteered to support this age group, including exploring funding opportunities	Parish Council to facilitate
Community Safety	Share questionnaire results with the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to explore a possible link of information feed from the Thames Valley Alert (TVA), to the Parish website	Parish Council to coordinate
Church	Share questionnaire results and discuss venues for community and commercial events	Friends of the Church & the Parochial Church Council to liaise and progress
Caring and Support	Invite those who volunteered to help identify those in need and the help required	Parish Council to coordinate
Funding	Share questionnaire results with the Parish Council as input to funding activities and guide to expenditure decisions	Parish Council to coordinate

## Successes

Theme	Success	With thanks to
Sense of Community	There is a growing list of volunteers to help move the actions forward. Attendance at village events and meetings continues to remain strong. There is a desire for more community events.	Volunteers, Village Plan Committee, Parish Council
Broadband	Options for superfast Broadband via fibre optic to the door are available in Burcot and Clifton Hampden.	Support from local Broadband champions, Village Plan Committee, SODC, Parish Council
Transport	Links have been established with Appleford Rail Group which is campaigning for a better local rail service	Village Plan Committee, Bachport, Parish Council
Traffic	A speed sign was bought and erected in Burcot A 'Speedwatch' Group has been established and is proactive in addressing traffic issues, including 'speedgun' monitoring	Parish Council, Joint Burcot & Clifton Hampden Cycle, Footpath & Traffic committee, Village Plan Committee, OCC
	A public consultation on a proposed road route is expected before Christmas. A funding application for a further road (the Clifton Hampden bypass), has been made to Central Government and will be decided before Christmas	OCC, Parish Council, SODC, Bachport, Village Plan Committee
The Environment	The campaign against the proposed gravel pit and concrete plant has quickly mobilised wide support, raised funds and achieved good local publicity	Bachport, Parish Council, SODC, Culham Science Centre, Village Plan
Younger people	Playground equipment for younger children was installed and goalposts reinstated on the recreation ground leading to much increased use of the area by families.	Village Plan Committee (esp Annalisa), Recreation Committee, Parish Council
Assets of Significance	The Parish Council has registered Assets of Community Value (such as a village shop and pub), supported by Village Plan questionnaire feedback	Parish Council
Neighbourhood Plan	The Village Plan provides a strong platform to inform the Parish Council's forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan	Village Plan Committee, Questionnaire Respondents, Parish Council





To make your ideas and vision a reality for Burcot and Clifton Hampden we need volunteers to support and make it happen. Your feedback has resulted in a variety of potential projects and actions that will require different skills and amounts of effort and time.

To help make a difference to the future of our villages you can get involved and make any level of contribution. To register as a volunteer, please send a message through the Parish Council website at <http://cliftonhampden.org.uk/contact> or contact Chris Neill at Clifton Hampden Stores and Post Office.

Burcot and Clifton Hampden  
VILLAGE PLAN  
2015