

## CHISELDON PARISH PLAN

### SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

#### Approach

Since June of 2015, a group of residents has been working to gather views on what people like about life in Chiseldon Parish and what they dislike / would like to see improved.

Consultation activities have included speeches at local events, notices on Parish noticeboards, articles and a flyer in the Ridgeway Bell, numerous Facebook posts, the creation of an online form, four guided placewalks and, finally, a leaflet drop to all households within the Parish with collection boxes at several village locations.

#### Response

The number of responses received to date is **159**. Of these 86% were from residents of Chiseldon itself, reflecting the concentration of the population. There was a relatively even split between respondents over 60 and under 60 - which means over 60s may be slightly over represented in these responses.

Due to the free text nature of the survey the responses generated over 1,250 statements about likes, dislikes and things that would improve the Parish. This gives a rich source of insight to help inform the development of the Parish Plan.

#### Summary of findings

Our analysis of responses shows some clear themes emerging:

##### *What people value about life in Chiseldon Parish*

- **Location and feel** (250 mentions) – the rural location of the Parish coupled with its proximity to Swindon and good transport links are highlighted as key benefits. The village feel is also appreciated, giving a sense of peacefulness. The Washpool and access to the countryside are also highly valued.
- **Facilities** (224) – there is a strong appreciation of the facilities in the Parish and the variety of activities available to residents.
- **Community spirit** (78) – The community spirit, friendliness and general feeling of safety across the villages were also praised.

##### *What people dislike about life in the Parish, and would like to see improved*

- **Traffic and transport** (309) – issues around speeding, traffic volume, inconsiderate parking, rat runs and the need for improvement at major road junctions were the most frequently mentioned dislikes.
- **Environment** (163) – village appearance was also mentioned by many, particularly litter, dog mess and the need for better maintenance of both public and private spaces.

- **Development** (69) – future housing development should only be small scale and in character with village settings. There was also a sense that Chiseldon could benefit from a more defined village centre.
- **Crime** (50) – concerns were raised about increases in burglaries and theft as well as a worry about anti-social behavior and vandalism.
- **Community activities** (46) – some thought there should be more community wide events and there were also mentions of a need to instill greater civic pride and encourage volunteering.
- **Recreation** (66) – there were several suggestions for improving recreation areas, a sense that we need greater broadband speeds and awareness that there are few facilities for teenagers. However, appreciation of facilities and recreational opportunities generally outweighed requests for more.

The Appendix provides a more detailed breakdown of responses across these themed areas.

### **Conclusions and next steps**

The Parish Plan Steering Group believes that this feedback identifies the issues that are of most importance to Parishioners at this time.

It is now for the Parish Council to consider the topics raised, determine their sphere of control and/or influence over those issues and develop a plan commensurate with the resources that are available.

To help with this process, the Steering Group has produced a ‘top priorities’ spreadsheet which identifies the issues that the weight of responses suggest are of most importance (those mentioned by at least 10% of respondents). A draft of that document is enclosed.

Once the Council has developed its strategy, the Steering Group will be happy to meet again and to act as a sounding board / point of review for the proposed approach.

In the meantime, the Steering Group would like to issue a short communication to Parishioners, to let them know that their feedback has been analysed and is with the Council for its consideration. A draft of that communication is also enclosed.

## Appendix – Breakdown of Responses

Demographic breakdown of respondents:

<b>Location</b>	4 from Badbury 1 from Badbury Park 2 from Burderop 137 from Chiseldon 1 from Chiseldon Camp / Ridgeway View 0 from Draycot Foliat 6 from Hodson 8 with no specified location
<b>Age</b>	4 aged 21 or under 66 aged 22 to 60 85 aged over 60 4 with age unspecified
<b>Method of response</b>	51 via leaflet drop 60 via email 7 through a Placewalk 38 via handouts in Ridgeway Bell or at village meetings 3 letters

## WHAT DO PEOPLE VALUE ABOUT LIFE IN CHISELDON PARISH?

### **Location**

The aspects of life in the Parish that residents value most are tied to its location, namely:

- Our rural setting, with access to the countryside, walks and cycle paths – **88 mentions**
- Transport links and convenience for nearby towns – **55 mentions**
- The fact that settlements remain villages and are not over-developed – **33 mentions**
- The peaceful atmosphere of village life – **29 mentions**
- Having the Washpool as a piece of countryside at the heart of Chiseldon – **29 mentions**
- A decent bus service (at present) – **16 mentions**

### **Community**

There is also considerable value placed on the community spirit within the villages:

- The community spirit, friendly neighbours and a general feeling of safety – **61 mentions**
- The fact that many people live in the villages long-term – **9 mentions**
- A sense of a diverse population – **6 mentions**

## Facilities

The facilities within the villages themselves are the next important aspect of Parish life for most respondents:

- Village shops – **48 mentions**
- Village clubs – **29 mentions**
- Village pubs – **25 mentions**
- Holy Cross Church – **17 mentions**
- GP surgery and proximity to GWH – **16 mentions**
- General comments on 'good facilities' – **9 mentions**
- School – **8 mentions**
- Ridgeway Bell – **8 mentions**
- Tennis Club – **7 mentions**
- Village museum – **6 mentions**
- Service station – **5 mentions**
- Village events such as the Church fete and Funday – **5 mentions**
- An active Parish Council with good communication – **5 mentions**
- There was also support for the Hotel, the provision of dog bins, efforts to manage the environment, the CVPA, the new Farmers' Market, the Recreation Ground and the mobile library, the hairdressers, the allotments and the Parish Facebook Group – **2 mentions or more**

## WHAT DO PEOPLE DISLIKE ABOUT LIFE IN CHISELDON PARISH AND HOW COULD IT BE IMPROVED?

### Traffic and transport

The most problematic elements of life in Chiseldon Parish relate to transport and traffic management. Specific concerns are as follows:

- Speeding – **48 mentions**
- Volume of traffic, villages turning into rat runs – **41 mentions**
- Too many HGVs, heavy farm vehicles and coaches coming through the villages – **33 mentions**
- Inconsiderate parking on narrow streets – **31 mentions**
- Improvements to the junction of the A346 and New Road – **29 mentions**
- Improvements to traffic flow around Junction 15 of the M4 – **29 mentions**
- Protect bus services and add a route to Wroughton / Old Town – **25 mentions**
- Damage to verges from heavy vehicles and poor parking – **20 mentions**
- Poor road and pavement surfaces – **14 mentions**

- More pedestrian crossings (especially at Patriots Arms, across Hodson Road to the Rec and at Allotments) – **8 mentions**
- More traffic calming measures (with particular reference to Hodson Road, High Street, Butts Road, New Road, entrance to Home Close, Badbury) – **7 mentions**
- Too much unnecessary street furniture (e.g. messy signage) – **7 mentions**
- Introduce safe 'pavement' areas or painted pedestrian lanes on narrow streets (with particular reference to Turnball, Mays Lane, Badbury) – **5 mentions**
- More parking space (at the Post Office, along Norris Close, Downs Road, in Hodson) – **5 mentions**
- Replace New Road buildout with speed bumps or an 'active sign' – **4 mentions**
- There were also comments relating to better roadside drainage and extra streetlights – **2 mentions or more**

Specific suggestions for improvement included:

- More speedwatch sessions (although 3 residents actively disliked these)
- A 20mph limit in the centre of villages
- Limiting some streets by making them one-way or access to residents only
- Introducing weight restrictions
- Working with sat nav companies to remove villages as recommended cut-throughs
- Greater enforcement of drop kerbs
- Additional yellow lines
- More roundabouts, traffic lights or filter lanes
- Removal of verges or increased measures to prevent inappropriate parking - e.g. bollards
- Take out some greens or use brownfield sites to provide more parking.

## Environmental issues

The second substantive area of concern relates to the environment across the villages. Namely:

- Too much litter – **36 mentions**
- Overgrown vegetation, lack of leaf clearance from pavements – **24 mentions**
- Dog mess – **23 mentions**
- Poorly maintained footpaths – **14 mentions**
- A need for more tree planting and floral displays – **11 mentions**
- Noise pollution from planes – **7 mentions**
- Noise pollution from mopeds/motorbikes – **7 mentions**
- Stricter requirements for Council tenants with regard to maintenance – **7 mentions**
- Need a dedicated street cleaner – **6 mentions**

- Development of garage is spoiling entrance to village – **5 mentions**
- There were also comments relating to poor lines of sight at some road crossings due to lack of verge maintenance, a need for continued investment in the Washpool, too much bonfire smoke and scruffy grounds at the school (which are attracting rats) – **2 mentions or more**

Specific suggestions for improvement included:

- More litter bins
- More litter picks (advertised in advance)
- Weekly refuse collections
- More dog bins and an educational campaign
- Lights for footpaths within the village
- Best kept street or house competitions
- Ask local businesses to sponsor a street cleaner

### **Village development**

The next area that was frequently mentioned was sensitive development and enhancement of key village locations:

- No more large-scale developments such as Badbury Park, as these threaten the character of our villages – **22 mentions**
- Chiseldon lacks a village centre or heart. Strouds Hill was the most popular location with suggestions including moving the war memorial, adding seating and perhaps a central village hall – **16 mentions**
- Affordable housing is an issue, for first-time buyers and elderly residents – **8 mentions**
- Any new developments should be aesthetically appropriate and include parking – **8 mentions**
- More shops and businesses should be encouraged – **8 mentions**
- Safeguard the fields around the villages that give the rural feel – **4 mentions**

### **Crime**

Although most people do feel safe, there is some evidence that crime is an increasing concern:

- I am concerned about the increase in thefts and burglaries – **18 mentions**
- Like to see a more visible police presence, more community policing – **16 mentions**
- Anti-social behavior and vandalism is a worry – **14 mentions**

## Community activities

There is also a sense that more needs to be done to bring the communities together:

- We need more community-wide events (such as fun days, races, carnival, pub crawls, summer camps) – **18 mentions**
- More effort is needed to instill civic pride and encourage volunteering – **17 mentions**
- The PC can do more to promote all of the good work being done locally (one suggestion was to subsidize the Bell so it can be distributed more widely) – **4 mentions**
- More local groups are needed (e.g. bingo nights, health club, men's shed club, community café) – **3 mentions**

## Recreation

Suggestions relating to recreation facilities were as follows:

- Add a play area at the Recreation Ground – **13 mentions**
- We need more facilities for teenagers – **9 mentions**
- Improved broadband speed is important – **8 mentions**
- Protect the library service – **7 mentions**
- Reinstate a café at Barbury Castle – **5 mentions**
- Improve the play area at Castle View – **4 mentions**
- Expand the Recreation Ground – **4 mentions**
- There were also comments regarding the use of old phone boxes as book exchanges, working with local pubs, improving signage to the Rec and adding a mirror at the entrance to the track, trying to encourage more GPs and using the school's training facilities for community events – **2 mentions or more**