

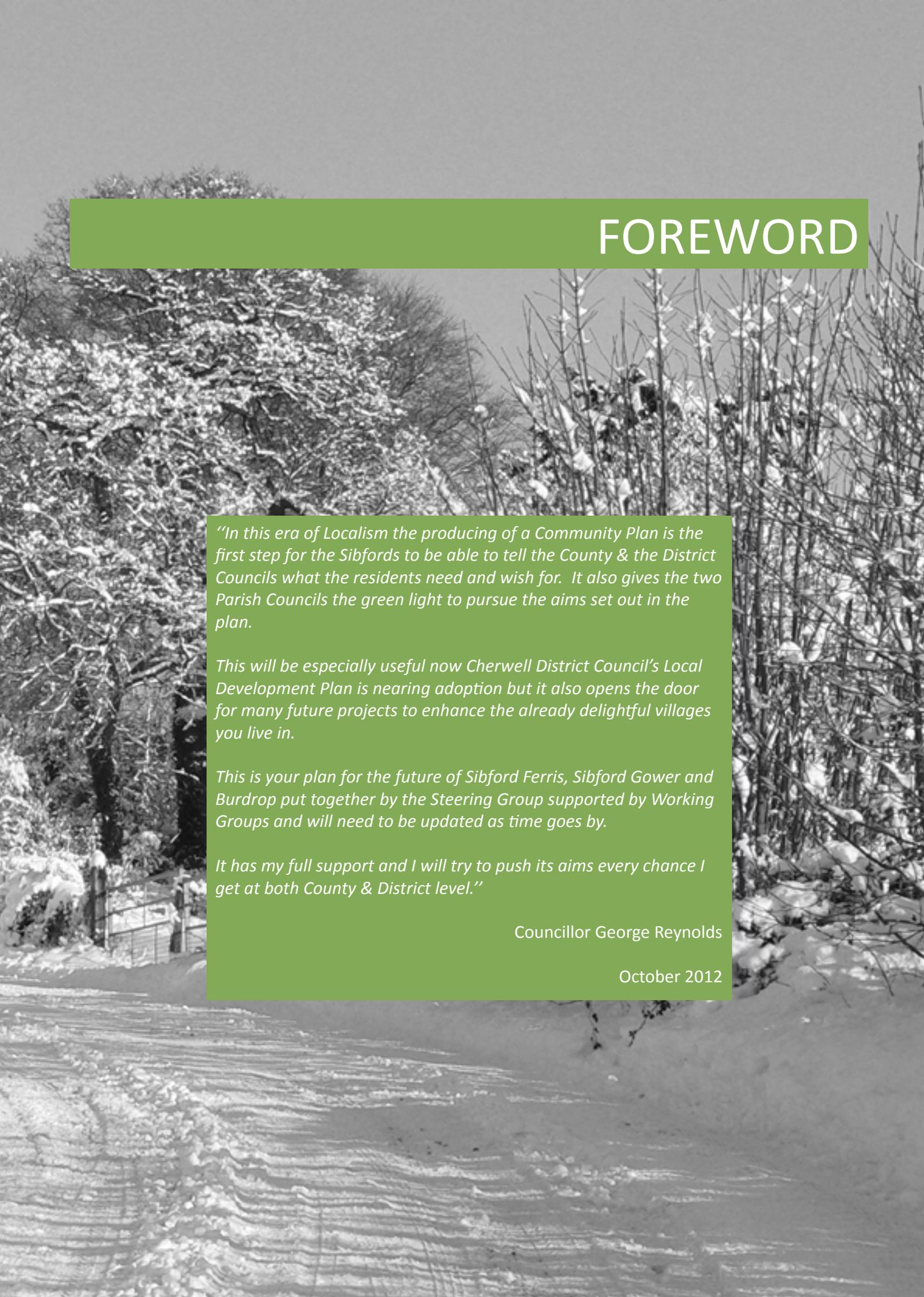


SIBFORDS

COMMUNITY PLAN

2012





# FOREWORD

*“In this era of Localism the producing of a Community Plan is the first step for the Sibfords to be able to tell the County & the District Councils what the residents need and wish for. It also gives the two Parish Councils the green light to pursue the aims set out in the plan.*

*This will be especially useful now Cherwell District Council’s Local Development Plan is nearing adoption but it also opens the door for many future projects to enhance the already delightful villages you live in.*

*This is your plan for the future of Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower and Burdrop put together by the Steering Group supported by Working Groups and will need to be updated as time goes by.*

*It has my full support and I will try to push its aims every chance I get at both County & District level.”*

Councillor George Reynolds

October 2012



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Aerial view of Sibford Gower with Burdrop at the top left of the image



Aerial View of Sibford Ferris with Sibford School at the top right of the image

# PREFACE

The villages of Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower and the hamlet of Burdrop are located in north western Oxfordshire in one of the highest parts of the county, characterised by a pattern of rolling rounded hills and ridgelines. Occupying hilltop positions, the villages overlook the valley of the Sib and the wider landscape beyond that forms an attractive rural setting to the settlements. To the west a section of the Cotswolds AONB extends up to the boundary of Sibford Gower Parish.

The Sibfords have evolved over many centuries. There is evidence of early occupation, including the Iron Age and Roman periods, and 'Sibford' is recorded in the Domesday Book. The Sibfords have a long tradition of nonconformity with the Friends Meeting House established in 1678 and a Methodist Chapel in 1877. Holy Trinity Church was consecrated in 1841, prior to which churchgoers in the Sibfords went to Swalcliffe Church to worship. The Sibfords have retained the Quaker links and Sibford School, an independent Quaker co-educational School, was established in Sibford Ferris in 1842.

Over the centuries the settlements have undergone a gradual process of change, whilst retaining their distinctive character and sense of place. This local character derives from a combination of features, notably the core of historic buildings within each of the settlements, many dating to the 17th and 18th centuries, the unifying effect of the warm brown hues of the iron rich local stone that many buildings are constructed in, and the landform setting.

The villages are blessed with a wide range of facilities notably a Shop and Post Office, a Village Hall, three churches, a Surgery, a public house and two schools. The 'Sibford Scene', a monthly magazine delivered to everyone in the two parishes, and the Sibfords website (<http://thesibfords.org.uk>) provide a strong network of community communication. Together, these keep the community well informed about a wide range of news, interests and upcoming events in the Sibfords.

The population of the Sibfords is approximately 900. A strong community spirit is evident through the many clubs, societies and voluntary associations that have established in response to shared interests. Building on this community spirit, there was a positive and enthusiastic response to the proposal to prepare a Sibfords Community Plan 'by and for the community' to help steer the future of the villages.

The Sibfords Community-led Plan is the outcome of an entirely volunteer effort by people from the villages during 2011 and 2012. It covers all aspects of social, environmental and economic life and has provided an opportunity for residents to voice their opinions and ideas on how they wish their villages to evolve through positive management of change. The Plan presents the information collected from the community and as well as celebrating positive features and activities, highlights local needs and aspirations. The Plan includes a range of actions and initiatives for the community to take forward and achieve the desired improvements as well as new opportunities, and concludes with sources of Advice and Contacts to help with this process.



A Community Plan sets out a vision of how the community wants to develop and identifies the actions needed to achieve it. The principal aims of a Community Plan are to:

- Generate a shared vision for the future of the community and initiate new projects towards that vision;
- Develop a greater sense of community spirit, and provide opportunities for everyone to contribute towards the projects; and
- Highlight issues of concern and suggest ways to address them.

## EARLY STAGES

In September 2010 the Parish Councils of Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower mutually agreed to initiate the development of a Community-led Plan. They invited a person from each parish to co-ordinate the process and initially to establish whether the community was supportive of the development of a Community Plan for the Sibfords, to be steered by local residents. Initial guidance was received from the Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council (ORCC).

The Launch of the Plan was held on 7 December 2010. Over 80 people attended and ORCC gave a presentation about Community Planning. Attendees were encouraged to join in a 'Like/Dislike' survey and at the close of the meeting the majority of those attending **confirmed their support for developing a Sibfords Community Plan.**

## THE STEERING GROUP AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A Steering Group of 8 members, including a member from each Parish Council, was established from the 27 volunteers who offered their help at the Launch Event. The Group decided that a follow-up Open Day would be held on a Saturday in March 2011 to provide another opportunity to engage with the community. It was also agreed to distribute a Plan Newsletter to all households on a regular basis to keep them in touch with progress.

The Open Day was attended by 110 people who took part in another 'Like/Dislike' survey and a further 20 people volunteered to help. A Logo competition was also held to provide a recognisable symbol for the Plan.

Following an analysis of the comments expressed at the two public meetings, particularly the 'Like/Dislike' surveys, the Steering Group decided that a comprehensive Household Questionnaire should form the principal basis for the community consultation to cover the range of issues raised by the community. General matters were also considered such as the working of the Parish Councils and demographic structure of the two villages.

## THE WORKING GROUPS

To guide the consultation process and development of the Questionnaire six Working Groups were established covering the following subjects:

- Housing and Planning
- Roads, Traffic, Footpaths and Bridleways
- Environment
- Leisure & Recreation
- Community Services
- Business & Economy

The Groups, which had up to 5 volunteer members from the community, undertook background research to familiarise themselves with their subjects.

## THE HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

The Working Groups' major task was the development of the Questions to be included in the Questionnaire. These went through a number of drafts which were reviewed by the Steering Group. ORCC, Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council were also consulted on the Final Draft of the Questionnaire and made very helpful comments. It was finalised in November 2011 with 364 Questionnaires distributed and 288 collected by a group of volunteers, many of whom help with the Newsletter delivery. Allowing for empty properties this amounted to **an overall response of 83%** which was a very satisfactory return. The results of the Questionnaire were then collated by a group of volunteers and summarised by the end of January 2012.

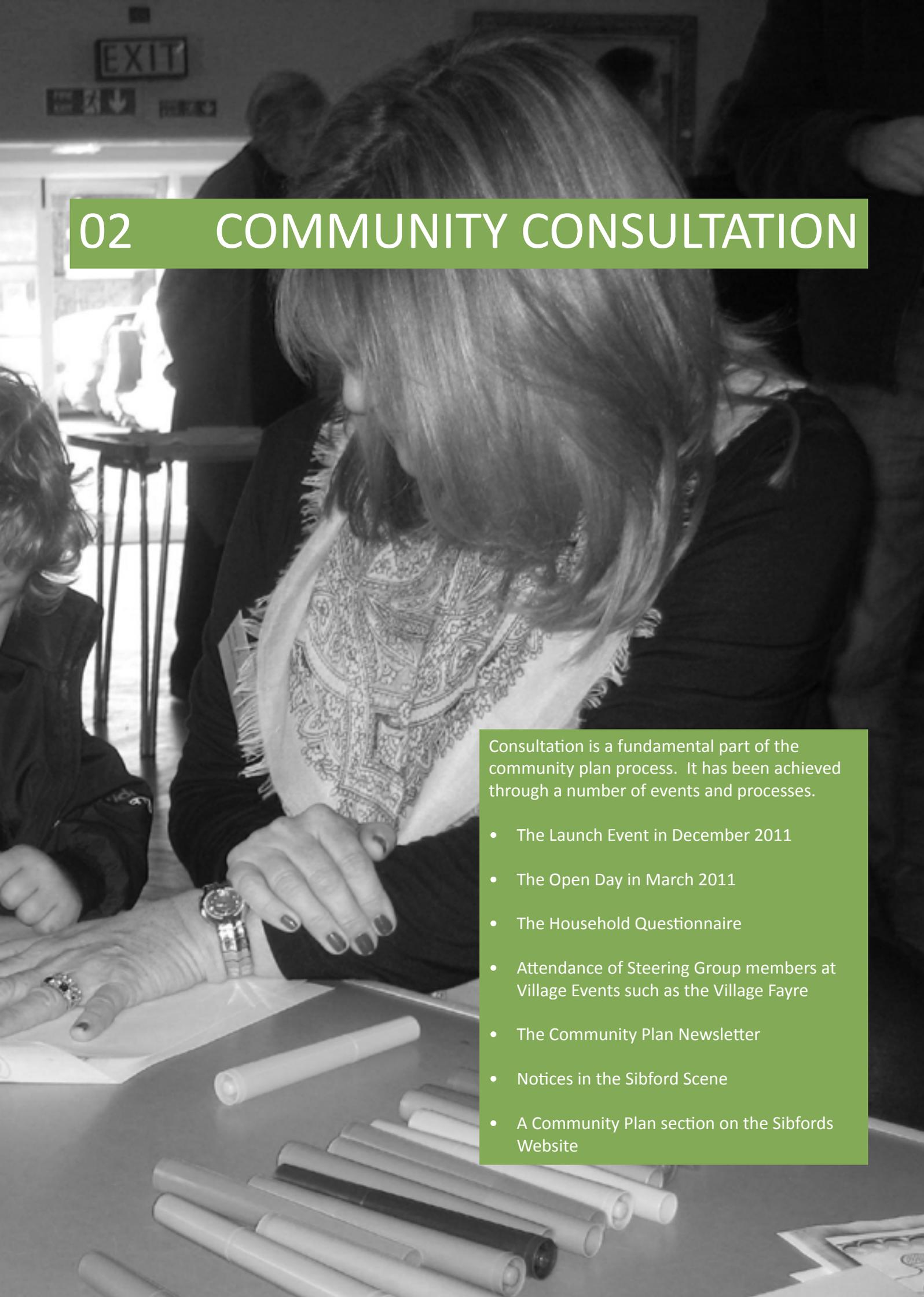
## DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

The Questionnaire results were passed to the Working Groups for further analysis and to guide them in the identification of the principal issues and opportunities for inclusion in the Final Plan. This was a lengthy process during which the Groups formulated their sections of the Plan and proposed a range of Next Steps to take the opportunities and initiatives forward for action.

## SUPPORT AND FUNDING FROM ORCC AND THE PARISH COUNCILS

ORCC has provided support and guidance throughout the Community Plan process and also awarded a grant of £900.00 towards the costs incurred in undertaking the work. The remaining costs have been shared by Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower Parish Councils.





## 02 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Consultation is a fundamental part of the community plan process. It has been achieved through a number of events and processes.

- The Launch Event in December 2011
- The Open Day in March 2011
- The Household Questionnaire
- Attendance of Steering Group members at Village Events such as the Village Fayre
- The Community Plan Newsletter
- Notices in the Sibford Scene
- A Community Plan section on the Sibfords Website

## INTRODUCTION

A Community Plan Newsletter was distributed on a regular basis to all households to give information about progress with the Plan and invite comments from the community. Although few formal comments were received, there has been positive feedback from many members of the community.

The younger generation was also invited to add their ideas to a Graffiti Wall that was available at the Village Fayre and later at the Church Summer Fete

The Questionnaire was the major community consultation and as well as capturing a range of opinions on the principal topic areas that the Working Groups were responsible for, also provided some interesting general facts and figures about the Community. Some of these are set out below:

- Questionnaires were delivered to 364 households and 287 were returned; allowing for the vacant houses this amounted to a very satisfactory 83% response;
- 98% described their property as their main residence and 80% owned the property;
- Male and Female were evenly split in the responses. Of the 647 replies on which age group people belonged to, the 16-24, 45-54, and 55-64 groups each made up approximately 15% of the total. The 65 and over age groups amounted to 24% of the total.
- 80% of the respondents had lived in the Sibfords for over 5 years; 30% had resided in the Sibfords between 10-20 years and a further 29% for more than 20 years;
- Of those travelling to work, school or college, 16% travel between 5 and 10 miles. 47% use a car as a driver or passenger, and 4% public transport; 10% walk to their destination. 27% do not work.

## COMBINING THE TWO PARISH COUNCILS

Question 15 asked: Do you think that a possible combining of Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower Parish Councils should be studied?

Replies received were Yes: 327, No: 73, Don't Know: 124. With 62% of the respondents agreeing to a study being undertaken, this confirmed a considerable interest in the possibility of combining the two Councils.

The decision to combine the two Parish Councils rests with Cherwell District Council and will be considered in the Local Governance Review, which they intend to carry out in the latter part of 2012.

In the response to the Consultation Draft, James Doble, Cherwell District Council's Democratic Services Manager, commented: 'The Local Governance Review is a community led process. Combining two Parish Councils is a big step, so there would need to be a strongly expressed wish for it from the communities of the two parishes. Responses to Q15 mandate the Parish Councils (and/or the Community Plan Group) to conduct a study into the possible merger. It would be the outcome of such a study that could give a clear steer to the governance review'.

The minutes of meetings of both Councils for the past three years show that they deal with similar issues without showing significant differences

in approach. The only issue on which they have disagreed is that of meeting the maintenance costs of the Churchyard attached to Holy Trinity Church, which is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council. Resolution of this issue needs a community approach which a combined Ferris and Gower Council could achieve more easily. Agreement has been reached, however, on the maintenance of the new Burial Ground, the costs of which are shared equally by the two Parish Councils.

The Councils have some reservation about combination, and prefer to remain separate for a number of reasons:

- Two small and separate Parishes Councils are perceived as better able to present local views on planning matters;
- The separate Parish Councils can each conserve the local differences between the villages which have value to some of the community;
- There are concerns about the difficulty of finding a Clerk to act for a combined Parish Council as this would entail a greater level of time and commitment than the scope of work required for the separate Councils.

## NEXT STEPS

- Present this report to Cherwell District Council and await the outcome of the Local Governance Review.



## HEADLINES

- Apart from those unwilling to see any building at all, two thirds of villagers are willing to see up to ten new houses, one third up to twenty;
- Small to medium groupings are preferred (1-6 or 7-10 houses);
- In determining any expansion in the Sibfords, Cherwell District Council should report on the number of new houses constructed in surrounding villages, and count these against any quota proposed for the Sibfords;
- Villagers would prefer to see 1/2 bedroom houses for first time buyers, and 3 bedroom family houses, together with sheltered housing for the elderly;
- They have a very strong preference for traditional style architecture;
- New or upgraded facilities as a result of development should include extra off-road parking, upgraded roads, play areas (within the housing group), village recreation/play facilities, trees and woodland.

## INTRODUCTION

The Draft Cherwell Local Plan proposes housing growth of up to 189 dwellings in the next 20 years shared between a group of 5 villages that include the Sibfords. The responses to Questions 16 to 21 has enabled the Housing & Planning Group to identify the community's views on new housing development and growth; the number and groupings of houses; their preferred size and type; and the potential location of new housing should new development occur. This information will be made available to Cherwell District Council to enable it to be taken account in relation to any future development proposals.

### **Question 16: How many new houses do you think would be acceptable?**

Of the 270 replies received, the vast majority (95%) are not prepared to see more than 20 new houses. Leaving aside the significant minority who do not wish to see any new housing at all, 64% are willing to envisage up to 10 new houses, 31% up to 20 and only 6% over 20. This suggests that the Plan would reflect the majority consensus of villagers if it included the possibility of up to 10 new houses; more than 20 would be controversial.

### **Grouping of Houses: what is the maximum in any group?**

315 people did not respond to this question, whether because they wanted no housing, or did not complete the housing question, or because it was fairly obvious how many they wanted in a group from the maximum total they had suggested; this will have significantly reduced the numbers opting for small or medium groupings. The responses from those who did reply were divided into four bands:

- Small Groupings (1-6 houses) 37%
- Medium Groupings (7-10 houses) 26%
- Larger Estates (11-20 houses) 29%
- Very Large Estates (more than 20) 8%

Statistically this correlates reasonably well with the numbers of houses above; and it appears to suggest that a majority of villagers would prefer to see small or medium developments. Among those who wanted major development there was an obvious willingness to envisage larger concentrations of housing.

**Question 17: Would you expect any housing allocation to be shared across neighbouring villages?**

144 answered yes, 87 answered no, 11 made no comment. The second figure probably includes a number of people who gave low figures for the total number of houses, and therefore saw no reason to call on other villages. A conclusion might be that, in determining any expansion in the Sibfords, Cherwell District Council should report on the number of new houses constructed in surrounding villages, and count these against any quota proposed for the Sibfords.

**Question 18: What size of houses do you consider they should be?**

- Smaller sheltered housing for elderly 23%
- 1/2 bedroom/first time buyers 34%
- 3 bedroom family houses 27%
- 4 bedroom family houses 12%
- Larger 'executive' type housing 4%

A total of 115 people answered this question with the balance of responses suggesting that there is a preference for 1/2 bedroom houses for first time buyers, and 3 bedroom family houses, together with sheltered housing for the elderly.

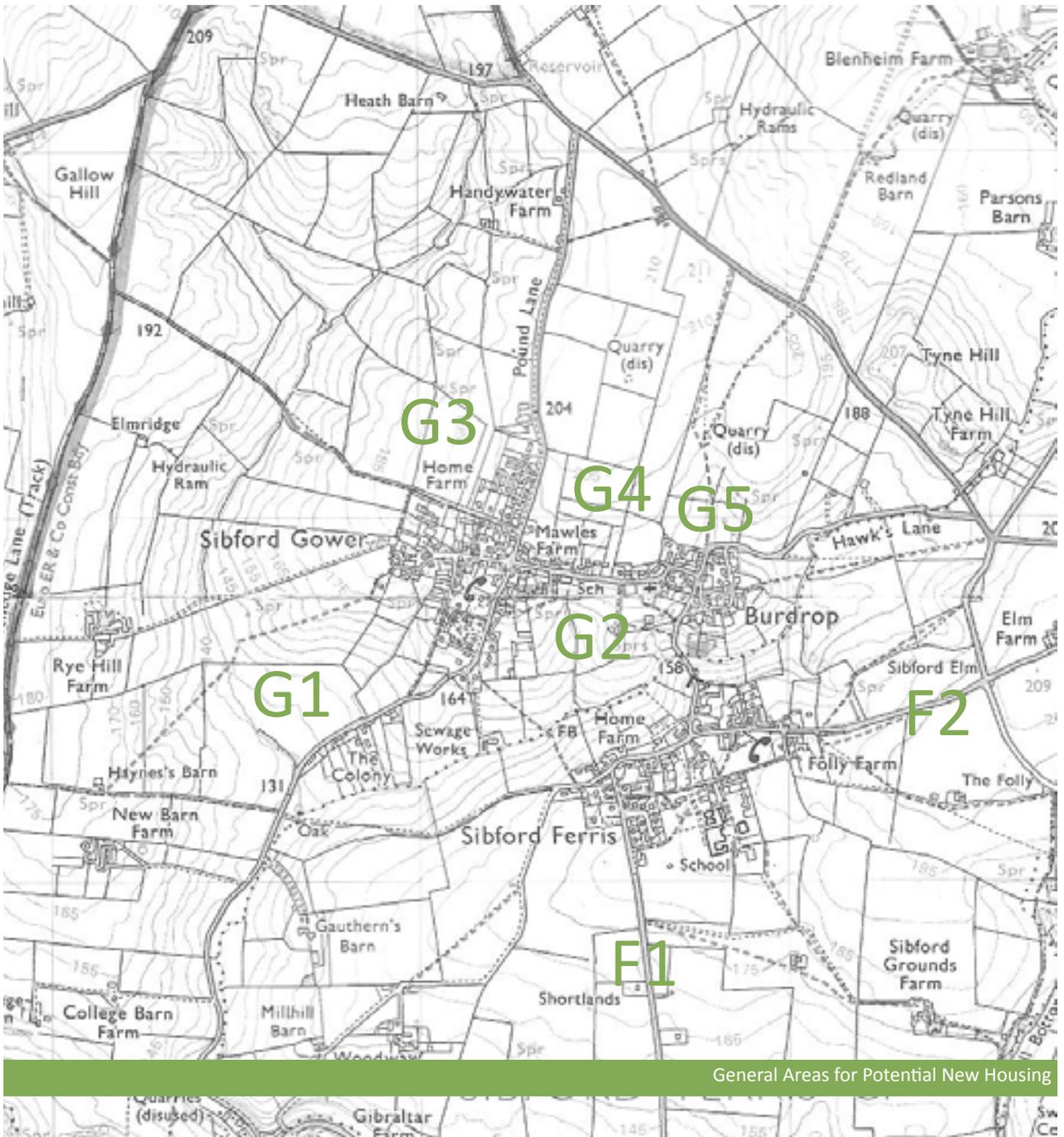
**Question 19: What type of houses should they be?**

- Traditional style in keeping with local vernacular 76%
- Bespoke contemporary architecture 15%
- Developers standard style 4%
- No preference 5%

This indicates a very strong preference for traditional style architecture.

**Question 20. New developments could enable new or upgraded facilities to be provided for the benefit of the Sibfords community. Please tick up to three favourites.**

- Extra off-road parking 25%
- Upgraded roads 21%
- Play areas (within the housing group) 5%
- Village recreation/play facilities 21%
- Trees and Woodland 28%



General Areas for Potential New Housing

### Question 21: Possible location of new housing

The community was offered seven possible locations for new housing, two in the Ferris and five in the Gower. The responses were graded in terms of preferences, as follows.

Preference	Location	For	Against
Strong	F1 Hook Norton Road	319 (76%)	102 (24%)
	G4 Pound Lane	279 (20%)	121 (30%)
	G5 Hawkes Lane	238 (59%)	164 (41%)
Mild Preference	G3 (High Meadow)	207 (51%)	198 (49%)
Almost Equal	F2 Sibford Elm	195 (50%)	192 (50%)
Mild Opposition	G1 Colony Road	178 (46%)	212 (54%)
Strong Opposition	G2 Wheathills / Sib Valley	47 (12%)	334 (88%)

The implication of these figures is that villagers would be more prepared to see new housing on the Hook Norton Road, and on the roads leading to the B4035. They wish to protect the view across Wheathills and the Sib Valley between the villages.

#### NEXT STEPS

- The Parish Councils will make these Community views on numbers, types, grouping and location of new housing known to CDC and OCC Planning authorities



# 04 ROADS, TRAFFIC, FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

## HEADLINES

- More than 50% are happy with road maintenance;
- Gower do not want kerbs, Ferris not so sure;
- On-road parking seen as a major problem in some areas of both Gower and Ferris;
- Speed reduction measures wanted;
- Problems for pedestrians are identified in Ferris and Burdrop;
- Footpaths can be improved - especially for the less able;
- Ferris would like to link or extend footpaths, Gower not so sure;
- More dog-bins wanted.

## INTRODUCTION

The Sibfords are fortunate to be located off the B4035 which limits the level of traffic through the villages, although both Sibford School and the Primary School generate traffic at peak times. The community expressed its concerns about the dangers of speeding; traffic hazards, particularly for pedestrians; on-road parking; and road conditions, in particular maintenance of potholes.

There is a wide network of footpaths and bridleways within and surrounding the Sibfords. Although concerns were expressed about the condition and accessibility of the rights of way in some locations, there was a general acknowledgement of the benefit they provide in enabling good access to the surrounding countryside.

## ROADS AND PAVEMENTS

### **Question 22: Satisfaction with upkeep of roads and pavements**

The total responses show a very even split between generally satisfied and not generally satisfied (260 satisfied, 257 not). Of these, the Ferris responses were 132 satisfied, 111 not; and the Gower generally dissatisfied with 128 satisfied and 146 not. Potholes and other very localised defects were those most mentioned.

### **Question 23: Would you like to see more road kerbs?**

The Gower were very much against road kerbing with 58 wanting more but 213 not wanting further kerbing. The Ferris response was not so clear cut with 106 wanting more and 122 not. Kerbs were seen as 'suburban' rather than 'village' features.

### **Question 24: Where do you park your car?**

Of the responses received, 83 park on the road while 383 park within property boundaries or an allocated space.

### **Question 25: Is on-road parking a problem?**

Both villages considered on-road parking to be a problem with the Ferris responding with 197 Yes, 39 No, and therefore indicating a greater level of concern than the Gower which responded with 186 Yes, 67 No. This amounted to three quarters of the community acknowledging that on road parking is a problem.

From the written responses the Ferris has most concern about the area near the top of the village from The Forge, past the shop to Malvern House, with further problems on Main Street and the Hook Norton Road to Cotswold Close.

In the Gower the major problem seems to be from the Primary School to and past the Village Hall for most parts of the day and exacerbated at school drop-off and pick-up times. There is a wide verge here which might be used to create more parking space.

**Question 26: Would you support speed reduction measures?**

The general consensus is that some form of speed reduction measures are wanted in both villages (Ferris: 141 Yes, 96 No; Gower: 193 Yes, 79 No). Some written responses received noted 'not sleeping policemen' but with no indication of suggested locations.

**Question 27: Other hazards for drivers or pedestrians?**

The general consensus in both villages was that there are hazards that could be reduced (Ferris: 143 Yes, 97 No; Gower: 149 Yes, 99 No).

From the written responses these included a footpath around Shepherds Close in Burdrop, and 'priority traffic' from Lanes End to Malvern House in the Ferris to reduce the traffic lane to one and thus allow pedestrians a wider area to walk in.

## FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

**Question 28: Do you use the footpaths and bridleways?**

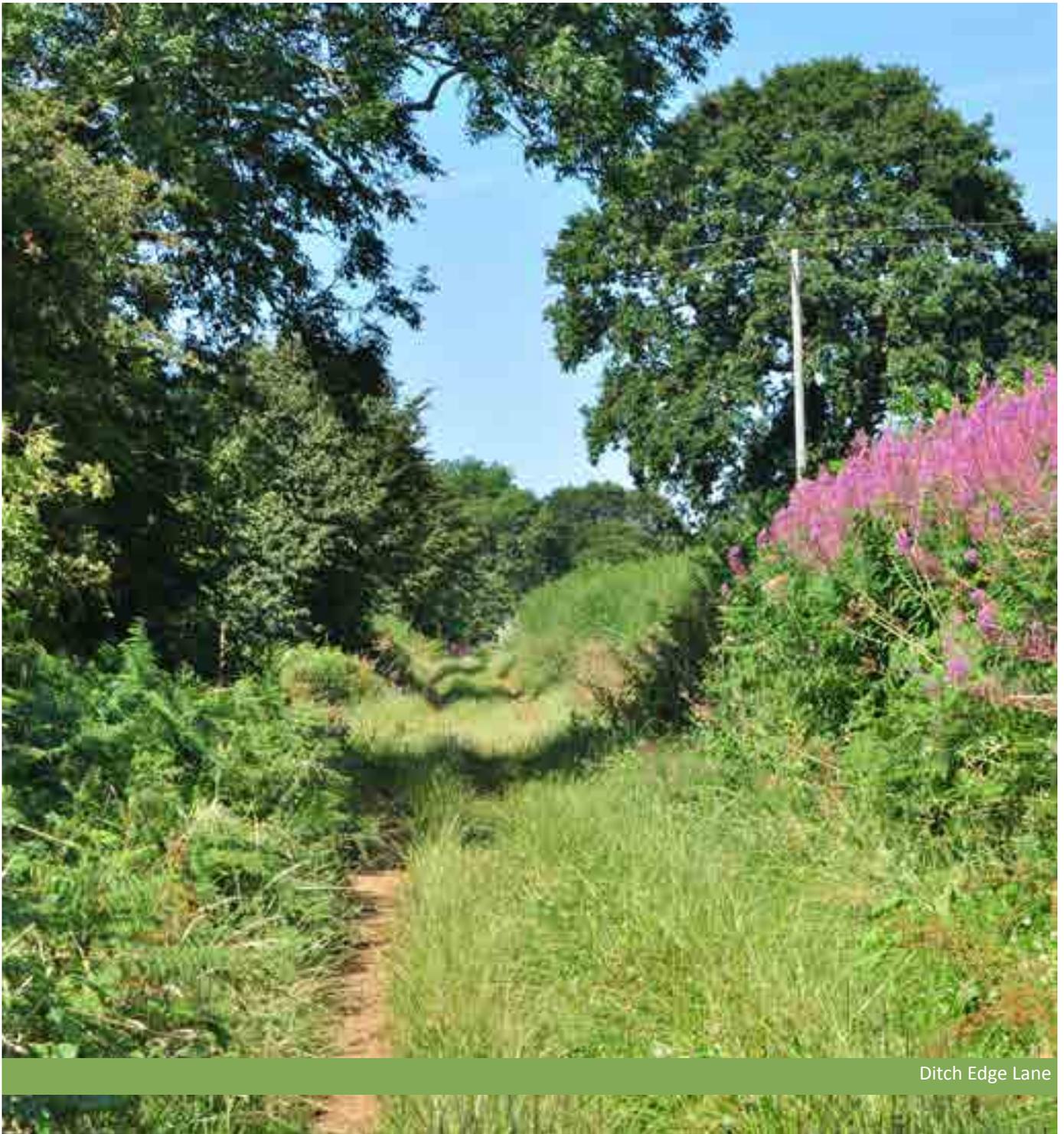
The highest use was 'recreational' walking which is no surprise but the next three most used are walking to Church, shop or village facilities. It is a little disappointing to see that 'walking to school' is only seventh.

**Question 29: Problems with footpaths and bridleways**

This was a difficult one to give accurate figures for as some people ticked the 'no problems' box and then went on to also tick some of the 'problem' boxes.

The numbers for 'no problems' were Ferris 144 and Gower 192. However, the number of 'problems' ticked (but mostly not identified) was Ferris 140 and Gower 85.

Of these, the majority concerned access, especially for the less agile; awkward stiles and gates; poor signing; lack of dog gates and poor access for pushchairs.



Ditch Edge Lane

### **Question 30: Opportunities to extend or link footpaths or bridleways**

The Ferris responses confirmed a greater level of interest in extending or linking footpaths and bridleways with 148 Yes responses and 86 No, while the Gower responded with 128 Yes, and 116 No.

Some locations were suggested for extensions to footpaths and bridleways, but of the written responses received, the majority stated that footpaths should not be upgraded to bridleways.

### **Question 31: Do you want more dog-bins?**

The general consensus is for more dog-bins (Ferris: 131 Yes, 90 No; Gower: 128 Yes, 116 No) amounting to an overall 56 % in favour of more dog bins.

The written responses suggest that near to the Primary School and Woodway Road would be the most needed positions but the provision of any new bins will have to be located on the refuse collection route.

### **PUBLIC BUS SERVICE**

#### **Question 32: How often do you use the Public Bus Service?**

Of the bus users a total of 102 people use the service either daily, weekly or a few times a month.

#### **Question 33: If rarely or don't use the Bus Service confirm reasons.**

The main reasons for not using the bus service are inconvenient timetable, particularly no evening or Sunday services; fares too expensive; and preference to use a car.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- It is proposed that the Parish Councils arrange a public meeting with an OCC Highways Officer to discuss a range of items concerning roads and traffic, and to inform people about the various actions that might be taken . Most actions would require a Community contribution towards the costs.
- Parish Councils will plan for a regular survey of footpaths and bridleways in the Parishes at three to five year intervals. They will seek volunteers or students to undertake the task.
- It is proposed that the Parish Councils arrange a public meeting with OCC Rights of Way Officer to give interested members of the community the opportunity to learn about the issues relating to Footpaths and Bridleways.
- Parish Councils to review the situation regarding the provision of dog bins; it is anticipated that Gower PC will provide some.



## HEADLINES

- Three quarters of village respondents to the questionnaire use oil as their primary source of heating;
- Just over one quarter is in a bulk buying scheme and over half would like to join one;
- The use of home produced energy is currently low but solar heat pumps and photovoltaics are popular options for future consideration;
- A significant proportion of households have improved heat retention and reduced their energy costs, most notably through double glazing or improved loft insulation;
- Most respondents use supermarkets for the majority of their shopping although local shops and farm shops are popular for smaller purchases;
- Three fifths grow their own vegetables and over a quarter of respondents would use a village allotment;
- Three fifths would like facilities for glass recycling in the village;
- Conservation of the natural environment and protection of wildlife are priorities for a large majority of respondents;
- There is strong support for village meetings to inform and stimulate discussion about these issues.

## INTRODUCTION

The responses received on environmental issues, and particularly the need for a range of measures to reduce energy costs and carbon footprint, is indicative of the importance that the Sibfords community places on this topic.

The attractive character of the Sibfords' countryside setting and its contribution to quality of life was frequently mentioned in the general responses at the end of the questionnaire. This value was also emphasised in the strong response to the importance of conserving and creating local habitats. The role of the farming community in the management of the land that forms the rural setting enjoyed by residents of the Sibfords was also recognised.

## ENERGY SAVING (Questions 34-38)

267 respondents provided information about their primary source of heating, of which three quarters confirmed this was oil. Of these, 54 were in a bulk buying scheme and 110 said they would consider joining one.

Of the remainder, 45 households cited electricity as their primary heating source, and a further 14 households, coal; only 8 households used LPG.

The responses for secondary heating supply were more evenly distributed with 93 households using wood and 43, electricity (16%). Fewer than 10% used coal or wood pellets /chips (in a boiler). Use of LPG was low at 5%.

Householders were asked if they currently use any home produced energy. The use of photovoltaic panels was the most common type but this represented less than 10% of all respondents. Numbers for other sources of home energy were low with 6% using solar hot water, 4% using air-source heat pumps and only 2% using ground-source heat pumps or domestic wind turbines.

There was a lower level of response when households were asked if they would consider using home produced energy sources in the future.

Nevertheless, a solar hot water system proved the most popular option for consideration with over half of the overall respondents (52%). Two fifths (42%) would consider photovoltaics. One third said that they would consider ground source heat pumps and 29% air source heat pumps. The least popular option was a wind turbine at 23%.

A significant proportion of households had taken steps to improve heat retention and reduce their energy costs with 68% having installed double glazing and 62% having new or improved loft insulation. Over one third (37%) had cavity wall insulation and draft proofing. Less popular measures included a condenser boiler and solid wall insulation.

The majority of households (69%) did not confirm if they would consider taking such measures in the future. However, amongst those that did, the most popular option was loft insulation followed by a condensing boiler. The least popular option was cavity wall insulation.

The majority of respondents overall (63%) were aware that grants were available for energy saving measures.

## **FOOD SOURCING** **(Questions 39-41)**

Nearly three fifths of households use supermarkets for between 60% and 100% of their food shopping with less than 10% overall relying mostly on online supermarket delivery services. Other food sources were very popular, even though goods bought from these sources represented less of the overall regular shop. For example, nearly three quarters of respondents used the village shop but for only up to 30% of their shopping overall. Similarly, farm shops were a popular choice for a third of respondents. Other responses were shared fairly evenly between the other options with local vegetable box schemes proving the least popular.

167 households (61%) told us that they grow their own vegetables and/or fruit. Most of these were grown in their own gardens with some grown in an unspecified growing space. Use of an allotment was very low at less than 5% use amongst those that do 'grow their own'. However, the suggestion of village allotments was popular with 66 respondents saying that they would use one if available.

## **RECYCLING** **(Questions 42 & 43)**

Two fifths of respondents overall were dissatisfied with current recycling arrangements in the village including the blue and brown bin collections.

Nearly three fifths were in favour of glass recycling facilities being made available. One quarter were keen to see electrical goods facilities and just under one quarter would like a clothes bank.



Photovoltaic Panels

## CONSERVING AND CREATING LOCAL HABITATS

### (Question 44)

It is clear from many of the comments received in the last section of the questionnaire that the natural environment is highly valued by residents of the Sibfords and Burdrop. This was reinforced by the answers given in the Environment section where 62% respondents overall described how environmentally friendly farm management was important to them, as was the creation of wildflower areas on publicly accessed land (69%).

The protection and enhancement of habitats was also valued highly with respect to trees and woodland (84%); hedgerows (78%); gardens and orchards (60%); road verges (56%); and species rich 'wastelands' (52%).

The vast majority of respondents are concerned about the protection and enhancement of birdlife (82%), butterflies (76%) and bats (62%).

With the impending ownership of the village pond by Sibford Gower PC, there is potential to undertake further works to the pond to enrich the habitat value and appearance of this valued village amenity.

## FUTURE GUIDANCE

### (Question 45)

In this last section, respondents expressed a high level of enthusiasm for discussion and learning more about environmental issues through attending village meetings.

Just over a half of all respondents said they would be interested in attending a meeting about reducing fuel costs and just under a half were interested in community schemes for sustainable heating and electricity generation. Reducing heat loss and carbon footprint each attracted one third.

Just over two fifths were keen to find out more about local food sourcing and also recycling and re-use schemes.

Two fifths were interested in local action groups for conserving and creating local habitats and species.

Over one quarter were interested in measures to deal with living in a radon affected area.

### NEXT STEPS

- A note was included in the August/September 2012 issue of the Sibford Scene inviting the many people who responded positively to the environmental section of the questionnaire to get in touch. It is anticipated that a number of initiatives will follow over the coming months, including a promising collaboration with parallel initiatives already well-established in the neighbouring village of Hook Norton, and elsewhere.
- If you are keen to learn more, or would like to become involved in some way do let us know: [matthewconisbee@gmail.com](mailto:matthewconisbee@gmail.com) or phone 01295 780641



## HEADLINES

- More play provision for 4 – 11 year olds;
- Outdoor Adult Exercise equipment would be popular;
- More use should be made of the Village Hall Field;
- A Climbing Wall together with a wall for Tennis and Cricket were the most popular suggestions for the area adjacent to the MUGA;
- Interest was shown in forming new clubs and groups with a Walking Club receiving the most support.

## INTRODUCTION

The responses to the Leisure & Recreation questions highlight the degree of interest shown in a range of additional social and recreational facilities that residents would like to see in the Sibfords. These cover all age groups, and both social and sporting activities, and provide a basis for moving forward to introduce new opportunities to extend the existing range of facilities that are available.

## ACTIVITY AND PLAY SPACE

### **Question 46: Is there a need for or would you use a range of outdoor play / exercise equipment in the Sibfords?**

- Pre-school children in the Gower : 109
- Children's play 4 – 11 years: 170
- Older children, 11+, for provision of eg a teen shelter: 146
- Adults and Seniors Exercise: 156
- None: 164

30% felt that more provision was needed for 4 – 11 year olds, and 28% would welcome adult outdoor exercise equipment being available. 29% felt that nothing more was needed in the Sibfords.

### **Question 47: Use of a Sports Field and Public Open Space area for sports eg cricket and football, with youth coaching opportunities?**

There were 519 responses to this question of which 35% confirmed they would use these facilities. However, it was mentioned that there should be more use made of the Village Hall Field and that it would also be good to have a recreational area for girls.

### **Question 48: What would you like to have in the area next to the Multi Use Games Area at Sibford School?**

A climbing wall was a popular suggestion, closely followed by a wall for hitting tennis balls. Cricket nets were also suggested.

### **Question 49: Use of village tennis courts (additional to the facilities available in Sibford School)**

There were 507 responses to this question of which 37% confirmed they would use these facilities.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### Question 50: How many of the existing 22 village societies and organisations do you belong to?

Although 57% of the respondents don't belong to any societies or organisations, many residents support the wide range of facilities, with 29% of the respondents belonging to between one and six groups.

### Question 51: Would any of the following 'club' activities interest you?

Club / Society	Responses
Chess	19
Bridge	29
Bingo	12
Drama Group	55
Youth Club	38
Coffee / Social Group	29
Book Club	56
General Games Club	21
Walking Club	94

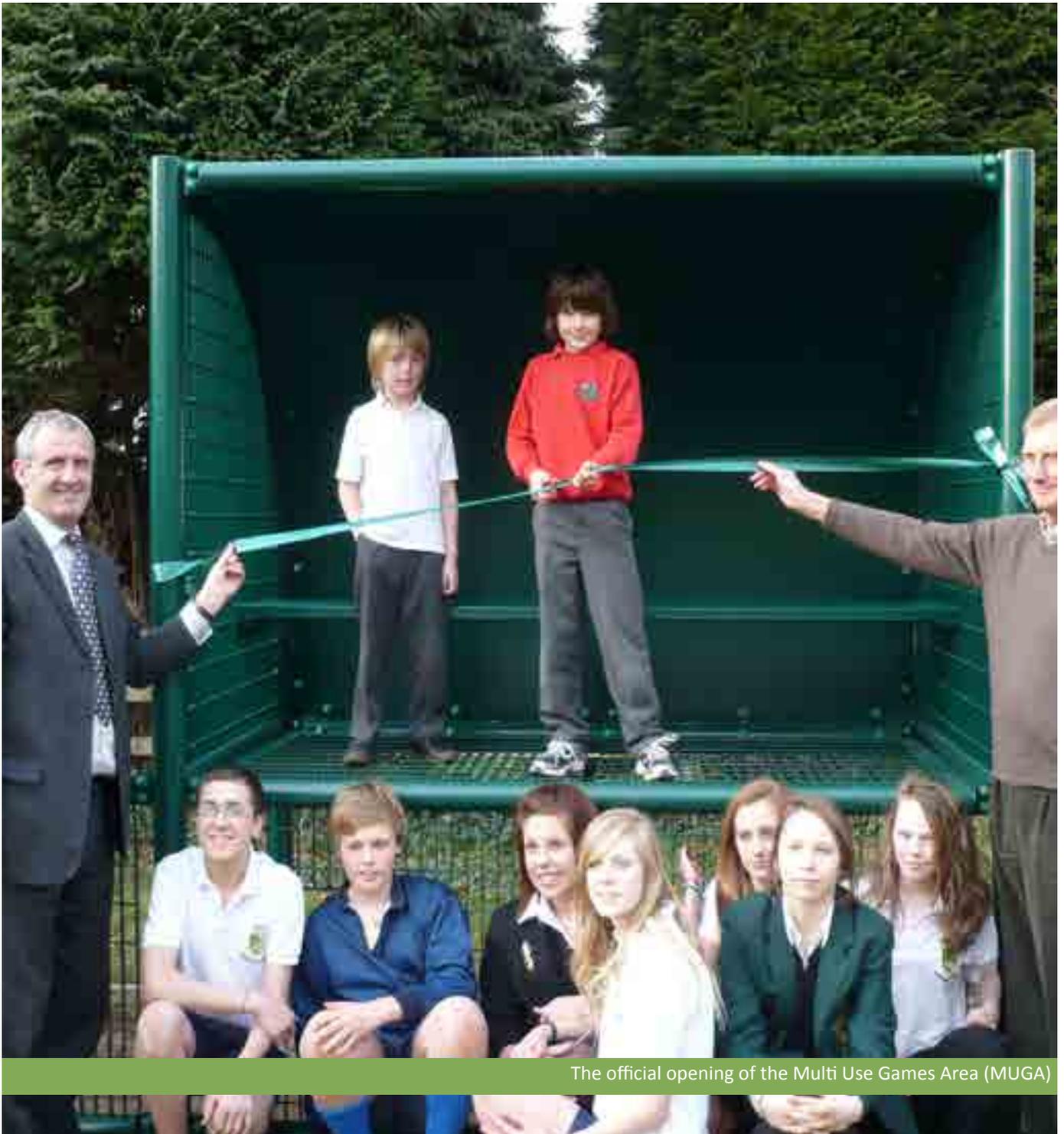
The responses received confirmed a wide interest in creating new clubs and societies, but will require volunteer groups to establish these.

In response to the interest shown in setting up new clubs, an evening event in the Village Hall was held in April 2012 to enable people to get together and share their interests and begin the process of setting up new groups. Although there was limited interest at this first meeting, future opportunities to continue this process could be provided.

## VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS

### Question 41 (Environment)

Question 41 in the Environment section of the Questionnaire confirmed that 66 people might be interested in using an allotment if they were available. There are no village allotment sites provided by the Parish Councils at present but Sibford Gower PC has identified two potential sites in Burdrop which together have capacity to accommodate six plots. However, to move the process forward will require the establishment of a volunteer Allotment Group.



The official opening of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

## NEXT STEPS

- The provision of a Play Area for 4 – 11 year olds in the Gower and Outdoor Adult Exercise equipment should be examined, but both would need funding and long term maintenance;
- Wider use of the open area behind the Village Hall should be encouraged although the cost of any improvement works or facilities could not be borne by the Village Hall. Plans should therefore be prepared for the field including the sourcing the funding for capital and maintenance expenditures;
- The MUGA is a popular venue for the youngsters, and many suggestions have come forward for other facilities on the adjacent site; this would be determined jointly by Sibford Ferris PC, which would provide the capital funding, and Sibford School as owners of the land;
- The forming of new clubs and societies should be encouraged but these will require volunteer groups to be established to take on the task of setting up and running them;
- Building on the great facilities at Sibford School, who already accommodate Sibford Cricket Club, the possibility of forming a Tennis Club could be initiated;
- Sibford Gower PC will put out a notice inviting people to form an Allotment Group to enable the request for allotments to move forward.



## HEADLINES

- The Sibford Stores and Post Office are used by nearly everyone in the Sibfords although in some instances only occasionally;
- The Wykham Arms serves a combined purpose of both eating and drinking although the majority of people responding only used the facility once a month or less;
- The use of the Wykham Arms as a place to drink has increased since the Bishop Blaize closed;
- Villagers identified the atmosphere of a public house being critical to its success;
- Sibford School is well recognised as a venue for a wide range of events open to the public;
- There is a strong demand for a range of evening classes which Sibford School would be able to provide.

## INTRODUCTION

The Sibfords are fortunate to have a wide range of community facilities notably the Village Hall, the Sibford Stores and Post Office, Sibford Surgery with its dispensing facility, the Primary School and Sibford School, and a Public House. There are three places of worship and the villages are also served by a regular bus service between Banbury and Stratford upon Avon. A Mobile Library also calls at the villages every fortnight.

### **Question 52: How often do you use the Sibford Stores?**

354 of the total of 517 responses stated that they used the village shop at least once a week. The 23% of the respondents who only occasionally or never use the facility may include young persons.

These figures are supported by the response to Question 39 where 26% of those responding use the stores for some form of food shopping - a surprisingly high number in comparison to the national usage of village stores.

With only 20 respondents never using the shop this is a clear demonstration of the importance of the shop's role and its benefit to the local community. The shop also provides a daily household newspaper delivery round in the Sibfords and neighbouring villages.

As the Sibford Stores and Post Office is a privately owned business there is little scope for community initiatives. Nevertheless, the dedication of the Sibford Stores and Post Office owners to the local community was demonstrated during the recent winter snows, when they were publicly thanked for remaining open as a vital source of supply throughout the period when the villages were cut off.

**Question 53: How often do you use the Post Office in Sibford Stores?**

A much smaller number of people use the Post Office on a weekly or more regular basis. The largest proportion of those responding (189) only visited occasionally. This may be due to the reduction in the use of post office services rather than other Post Offices being used in preference.

Neither Question 52 nor 53 considered the use of the shop and post office by Sibford School (during the school term it becomes the students' Tuck Shop); local businesses; and people from nearby villages. These are a significant part of the business.

General comments received also acknowledged that the community was very fortunate to have a Shop and Post Office and that continued and regular support for these services was essential if they are to achieve commercial success and remain as a vital community facility.

**Question 54: How often do you use the Wykham Arms?**

Of the total of 535 responses, a surprisingly low number of respondents (71) use the Wykham Arms once a week or more, with 71% using the facility occasionally or never. This follows a national trend towards less frequent use of Public Houses in rural communities for local social and drinking and their appeal, based on good food, becoming wider than their local community.

**Question 55: If you visit the Wykham Arms, how do you use the facility?**

55% use the Public House for food with the remaining seeing the facility as a drinking/ socialising location. This supports the general feeling that the Wykham Arms serves a joint role within the Community.

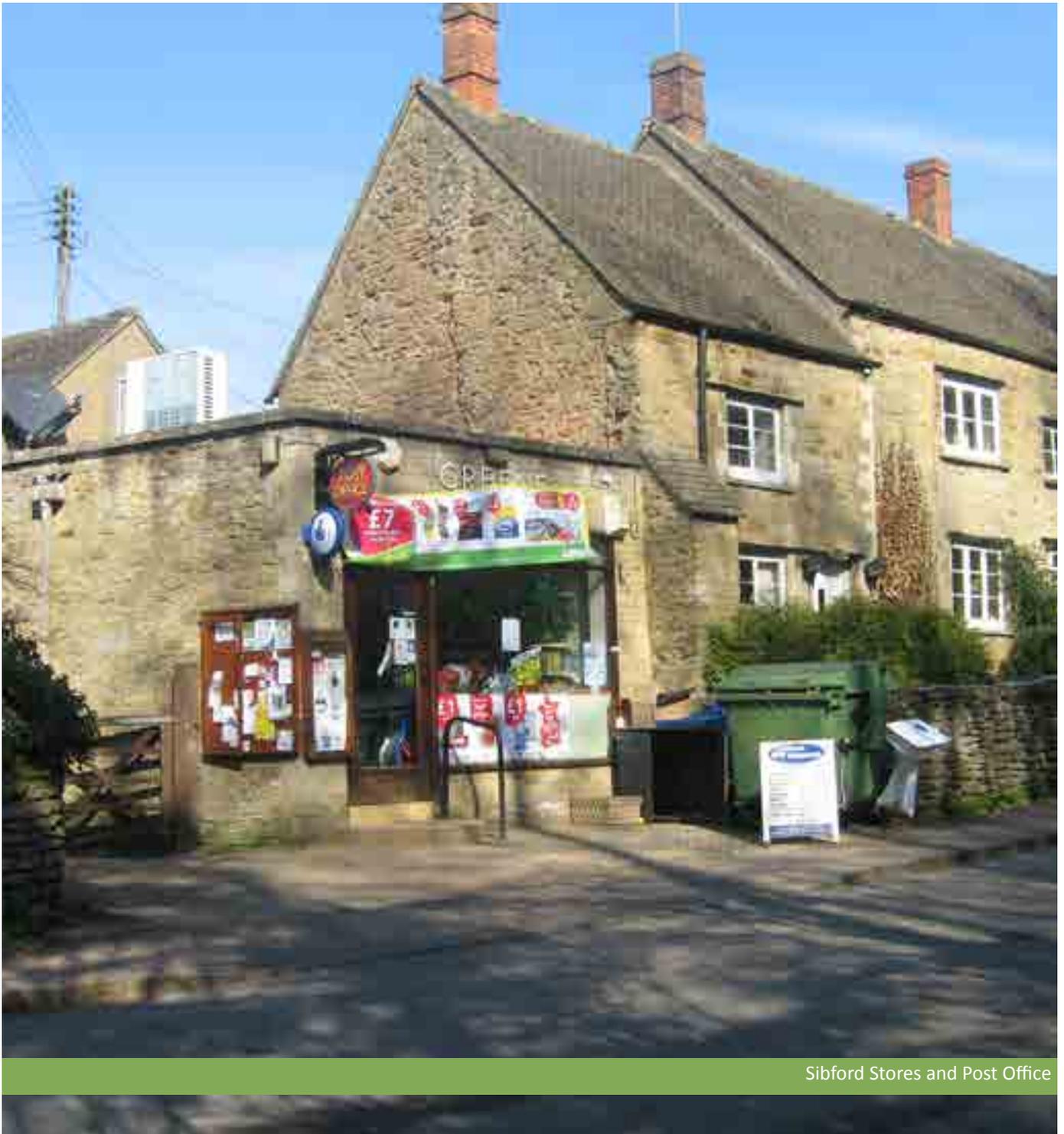
**Question 56: If the Bishop Blaize were re-opened, how often would you use the facility?**

Responses indicate that the Bishop Blaize would, if open, be used more frequently by customers; this indicates that the facility was seen more as a drinking/socialising venue within the Sibfords.

Many responses from the community supported the general view that such a facility needs to be welcoming and engaging.

**Question 57: How often do you attend events open to the public at Sibford School?**

Nearly 60% of respondents have attended events at the school. A number of comments noted that people were unaware of events taking place and that they were open to the public. These comments are replicated elsewhere in the questionnaire where respondents are not aware of functions and activities in the community. There were also some comments on the opportunity to use some of the community facilities available at the School.



Sibford Stores and Post Office

**Question 58: If Sibford School provided evening classes, what would you be interested in attending?**

This question prompted a wide range of responses from art and pottery classes through to languages and computer training. There is a clear demand for these classes and should be considered alongside the range of other clubs and activities that the village is keen to pursue as a vital community facility.

**Question 59: Is there anyone in your household that is housebound or has mobility problems?**

Only 24 respondents confirmed that mobility was an issue for them. Of those responding who did have a requirement, (Question 60) there was no specific identified need for additional services beyond those currently offered.

**Question 62: Do you attend any of the following places of worship in Sibford: Holy Trinity Church, Methodists and Friends Meeting House?**

Over 90% of those completing the questionnaire either did not answer the question or indicated that they never attended any of the places of worship.

**NEXT STEPS**

- Sibford School could possibly offer more evening classes and be active in informing the community about what they offer;
- Voluntary groups must decide how best to publicise their activities through the Sibford Scene, Sibfords Website and Parish Notice Boards. The Groups should also consider which facilities are most appropriate for their activities, subject to availability ie Members' homes, Village Hall, Wykham Arms and Places of Worship.



## HEADLINES

- The majority of the community has a Broadband service with two thirds of these confirming their service is satisfactory, contrary to the findings of the Swalcliffe Exchange User Groups Broadband Speed survey in progress;
- Over two thirds confirmed that mobile reception is poor;
- There are over 100 businesses in the Sibfords with half of these operating as sole traders, many working from home;
- Business networking was the most popular request for business support services followed by business premises; offers of premises for potential business use was low;
- The majority of the community was in favour of encouraging new businesses and creating new jobs;
- The community strongly supported a promotion to attract more visitors to the Sibfords including the development of a Guide Book for both visitors and locals.

## INTRODUCTION

The responses confirm that a wide range of businesses operate in the Sibfords, many of which are sole traders. However, a few businesses and organisations are particularly important as a source of local employment notably Sibford School, the Primary School, Sibford Surgery and the Wykham Arms. The community has endorsed the benefit of creating new business opportunities and sources of employment including the promotion of the leisure and tourism assets linked to the attractive landscape setting of the Sibfords.

### **Question 63: Do you have a home / business Broadband Service?**

86% of the 279 responses confirmed that they had Broadband confirming that most of the community had embraced current communication technology.

### **Question 64: If 'Yes' to Q63, is the service satisfactory?**

Of those who confirmed they had a Broadband service, 67% indicated that their service was satisfactory, and across a wide range of providers. This is a surprising response in view of the wider study in progress by the Swalcliffe Exchange User Group and the bid to be upgraded to Superfast Broadband (40Mbps). The supporting survey confirms that Broadband speeds in the villages are generally poor. It is assumed that people's satisfaction with their current level of service is linked to domestic use and lower levels of expectation. However, fast and efficient Broadband speed is an essential requisite for business efficiency and increasingly for domestic use with wider use of HDTV streamed through the internet.

### **Question 65: If you have a Mobile Phone, is the service satisfactory?**

Of the 249 respondents, only 30% confirmed they received a satisfactory service. This was spread across a range of providers.

**Question 66: Does anyone in the household run a business within the Sibfords?**

101 respondents confirmed that they run a business, of which 50% are sole traders. The remainder cover an even balance between Partnerships and Limited Companies. The range of business types was wide including farming and associated businesses and many service and professional consultancies.

**Question 67: If 'Yes' to Q66, which support facilities would be helpful?**

Only 28 of the 101 businesses responded to this question. Of these, business networking was the most popular with 17 requests, followed by 12 for business premises. Shared services, a business directory and storage space attracted a lower level of interest.

**Question 68: Do you have space or premises that could be made available for existing or new businesses?**

The response to this question was low with only 9 offers of potential premises. The implications of such provision need to be carefully considered. One written response confirmed that there are financial risks involved because a change of use is required if a building is adapted for commercial use and if approved, business rates apply.



Sibford School - A major employer

**Question 69: Should more businesses be encouraged to establish in the Sibfords with the potential to create more jobs?**

From a total of 478 responses, 73% confirmed their approval for more businesses to establish within and around the Sibfords with the potential benefit of creating more local jobs.

**Question 70: Should there be a promotion to attract more visitors to the Sibfords to encourage stopovers or wider use of local facilities?**

64% of the 500 respondents confirmed their support for the promotion of the Sibfords to encourage wider use of local facilities building on the area's tourism potential.

**Question 71: Would it be useful to produce a Guide Book about the Sibfords for use by both visitors and local residents?**

Building on the positive response to Question 70, 81% of the 515 respondents to this question supported the idea of producing a local Guide Book on the Sibfords.

**NEXT STEPS**

- Promote and support the Swalcliffe Exchange User Group's study and bid to upgrade the level of provision to Superfast Broadband;
- Encourage the setting up of a Business Networking facility for local businesses;
- Encourage new businesses to set up in the Sibfords together with an examination of the opportunities and constraints for the conversion of existing premises for business use;
- Support an initiative to encourage more visitors to the Sibfords linked to a promotion of the attractive landscape setting and supported by a Guide Book on the Sibfords.





The potential actions and initiatives arising from the Plan are described in each Working Group's section of the plan under 'Next Steps'. These initiatives, to be undertaken by the Parish Councils and by Volunteers, are summarised on the following two pages.

## INITIATIVES BY PARISH COUNCILS

<b>Housing &amp; Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform CDC of the community's views</li> </ul>
<b>Roads, Traffic, Footpaths &amp; Bridleways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange an open meeting with OCC Highways so that the community can understand roads and traffic issues more fully</li> <li>• Review the provision of Dog-Bins</li> <li>• Arrange an open meeting with the OCC Rights of Way Officer to give interested members of the Community the opportunity to learn about the issues relating to Footpaths and Bridleways</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with CDC to establish a glass recycling facility</li> </ul>
<b>Leisure and Recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify a possible site for a 4-11 year old Play Area in the Gower Parish</li> <li>• Sibford Gower PC to invite members of the Community to establish a Volunteer Allotment Group</li> </ul>
<b>Community Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Business and Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Swalcliffe Exchange User Group</li> <li>• Support the promotion of the Sibfords as a tourism destination</li> </ul>

## INITIATIVES BY VOLUNTEERS

<b>Housing &amp; Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Roads, Traffic, Footpaths &amp; Bridleways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Parish Councils' Public Rights Of Way surveys</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring together people with a shared interest in developing more sustainable ways of living</li> <li>• Arrange informal meetings on alternative sources of energy, energy saving, reduction of fuel costs and Low Carbon Initiatives</li> <li>• Form local action groups on habitat conservation</li> <li>• Explore public funding possibilities to progress local environmental initiatives</li> <li>• Collaborate with interest groups already established in neighbouring villages</li> </ul>
<b>Leisure and Recreation</b>	<p>Establish groups to develop plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-11 year old Play Area and equipment in the Gower Parish</li> <li>• Outdoor Adult Exercise Area and equipment</li> <li>• Uses for the open area behind the Village Hall</li> <li>• Additional facilities adjacent to the MUGA, in conjunction with Sibford School</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an Allotment Group</li> </ul>
<b>Community Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create opportunities for the establishment of new voluntary groups to take forward activities that the Community has expressed an interest in</li> </ul>
<b>Business and Economy</b>	<p>Establish groups to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Superfast Broadband availability from the Swalcliffe Exchange</li> <li>• Establish a local business networking facility</li> <li>• Encourage new businesses to the Sibfords</li> <li>• Produce a local Guide Book and encourage more tourist visitors to the Sibfords</li> </ul>



The Consultation Draft of the Community Plan was sent to Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC), Cherwell District Council (CDC) and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). They provided a range of helpful comments and guidance including the contacts and sources of advice that are listed in the following section. These could be useful to the Volunteer Groups working to implement the Actions and Initiatives listed in the previous Section 9.

INITIATIVES	SOURCES OF ADVICE / CONTACTS
<b>General Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Funding Advice and Development Service available from Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) <a href="http://www.oxnet.org.uk/development">www.oxnet.org.uk/development</a> is helpful for some projects. OCC's website includes a specific page with information about funding and grants: <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/funding-and-grants">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/funding-and-grants</a></li> <li>OCC Big Society Funds are now resting with County Councillors who have these funds to spend in their local division. For more details, see <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/councillor-community-budgets">http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/councillor-community-budgets</a>. George Reynolds is the local County Councillor.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Actions and Initiatives will be co-ordinated by the Parish Councils.</li> </ul>
<b>Roads, Traffic, Footpaths &amp; Bridleways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Actions and Initiatives will be co-ordinated by the Parish Councils.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>  <b>Energy Saving</b> <b>Recycling</b> <b>Conserving and Creating Local Habitats</b>	<p>ORCC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The TOE2, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, can be contacted if funding is needed for any of the environmental activities e.g. the village pond. These projects may be eligible for grants. See <a href="http://www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk/what-we-fund.htm">http://www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk/what-we-fund.htm</a> or phone Fiona Danks for more information on 01865 883488</li> <li>For help and information about local meetings about environmental issues, the following website is helpful <a href="http://www.lowcarbonhub.org/advice/setting-up-running-a-climate-change-community-group">http://www.lowcarbonhub.org/advice/setting-up-running-a-climate-change-community-group</a>. The Low Carbon Hub website in general is also very useful.</li> <li>The Community Action Groups Low Carbon Community Toolkit may also be of interest: <a href="http://www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/low-carbon-communities-handbook">http://www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/low-carbon-communities-handbook</a>.</li> </ul>

INITIATIVES	SOURCES OF ADVICE / CONTACTS
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p><b>Energy Saving</b></p> <p><b>Recycling</b></p> <p><b>Conserving and Creating Local Habitats</b></p>	<p>CDC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Saving: CDC has energy monitors and a thermal imaging camera for loan to Parish Councils and community groups. The link to the successful community action group programme is at: <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/community-action-groups">http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/community-action-groups</a>.</li> <li>• Recycling: CDC is keen to put additional recycling facilities in the Sibfords. CDC's Recycling Officer, Andrew Jenkins will be back in touch with the Parish Councils to see if progress can be made. Meanwhile, for queries or useful suggestions please contact Andrew Jenkins, on <a href="mailto:Andrew.Jenkins@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">Andrew.Jenkins@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a> or 01295 221913.</li> <li>• With regard to the village pond, if it is important to maintain the tidy appearance (tidy edges and an unbroken surface), then the potential for biodiversity will remain very limited. If it is acceptable to significantly increase the vegetation (and perhaps re-profile some of the sides), then the biodiversity potential increases. This being the case, Sue Marchand, CDC's Biodiversity &amp; Countryside Officer can provide a link to the Ponds Conservation Trust for some professional advice. Contact Sue Marchand on <a href="mailto:sue.marchand@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">sue.marchand@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a> or 01295 221707.</li> </ul>

INITIATIVES	SOURCES OF ADVICE / CONTACTS
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p><b>Energy Saving</b></p> <p><b>Recycling</b></p> <p><b>Conserving and Creating Local Habitats</b></p>	<p>OCC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste: Eiles Robinson, OCC’s Household Waste Reduction Officer, would like to offer a visit by one of OCC’s Master Composter volunteers, to talk about the wonders of home composting and to offer advice with any problems you may be having. More information and contact details for Eiles can be found at: <a href="http://www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/OWP/Home/Reduce+and+reuse/OWP+-+Reduce+-+Master+composters">www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/OWP/Home/Reduce+and+reuse/OWP+-+Reduce+-+Master+composters</a>.</li> <li>Meetings to discuss Environmental Issues: The CAG Project (Community Action Groups) may be able to help by getting a representative from another group to come along and talk to the proposed meeting. The nearest CAGs to the Sibfords are in Hook Norton and Chipping Norton, with other groups in Charlbury, Witney &amp; Kidlington. Please contact the Community Action Group as advertised on the website: <a href="http://www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/">www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/</a>. The TOE2, the Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment, <a href="http://www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk">www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk</a> distributes small environmental grants.</li> <li>Local Habitats: Gavin Bird, Records Centre Manager at OCC’s Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, suggests that any group set up to explore environmental issues to get in touch with the Centre to identify the wildlife information held on their area, as well as information-gathering services that can be provided. The Records Centre is a ‘not for profit’ operation run by a partnership of organisations and one in a national network of Local Environmental Records Centres. It collects, collates and makes available information to help people make sound decisions about our natural environment in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. The information is also widely used for education and research purposes. Please contact Gavin Bird on 01865 815411 or see the Centre’s website: <a href="http://www.tverc.org">www.tverc.org</a>.</li> </ul> <p>Sibfords Community Plan Environment Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are keen to learn more about the Environment Group’s initiatives and future activities, or would like to become involved in some way, please contact with Matthew Conisbee: <a href="mailto:matthewconisbee@gmail.com">matthewconisbee@gmail.com</a> or phone 01295 780641</li> </ul>

INITIATIVES	SOURCES OF ADVICE / CONTACTS
<p><b>Leisure and Recreation</b></p>	<p>ORCC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For ideas and opportunities for play provision and equipment, contact Nicole O'Donnell from Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) who works from ORCC's offices. The link is: <a href="http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/who-we-are/partner-organisations/opfa">http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/who-we-are/partner-organisations/opfa</a>.</li> </ul> <p>CDC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As noted above by ORCC, Philip Rolls, CDC's Recreation &amp; Health Manager also recommends contact with the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) to discuss any aspirations and proposals.</li> <li>CDC has previously delivered 'Activator' work, targeted at young people, at the MUGA in Sibford School but was only able to do this for a short period. Sustainability requires volunteer leaders to keep the sessions going when the Activators move on. For further guidance, contact Philip Rolls on <a href="mailto:Philip.rolls@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">Philip.rolls@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a> or 01295 221697.</li> </ul> <p>OCC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play Opportunities for Children including a Youth Club: OCC's Children, Education &amp; Families Department are pleased to see the links to children and young people throughout. They suggest that some other 'play' equipment more suitable for the 9 – 13s age range is considered, such as a basket swing, zip wire, as they are aware that the use of small children's playgrounds by older children is a big issue in villages. Other villages locally have managed to get significant funding for these from a variety of sources – trusts and donations, and District Councils and OCC would be happy to receive a bid to their Chill Out Fund. For more information see: <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/fundingand-grant">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/fundingand-grant</a> and follow the links. Youth Club: This would only be possible if volunteers in the village are ready to run something. As numbers interested are around 38, unsupervised activity appears more realistic to explore at and certainly more sustainable. For organisations that can give advice, see <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/getting-help-putting-funding-bid-together">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/getting-help-putting-funding-bid-together</a>.</li> </ul>

INITIATIVES	SOURCES OF ADVICE / CONTACTS
<p><b>Community Facilities</b></p>	<p>ORCC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evening classes: Some villages have worked with the Workers Educational Association (WEA) to help put on some classes in the village. For more information, look at: <a href="http://southern.wea.org.uk/index.asp?m=5">http://southern.wea.org.uk/index.asp?m=5</a>.</li> </ul> <p>CDC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural &amp; Arts Events: Nicola Riley, CDC’s Arts and Visitor Services Manager, suggests there is a potential for provision of further cultural / arts events at the Village Hall. Nicola would be pleased to discuss the potential to re-establish the rural touring scheme that has been used on previous occasions comprising the ‘Good Night Out’ touring performances. Visit <a href="http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2757">http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2757</a>.</li> </ul> <p>OCC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult Learning: Carole Lushington, Delivery Manager Community Learning at the Oxfordshire Skills and Learning Service, would be very happy to meet with key people in the local area to discuss options for setting up a community led local Adult Learning offer, either in partnership with Sibford School or other local groups. Please contact Carole direct on 07766 367904 or email <a href="mailto:carole.lushington@oxfordshire.gov.uk">carole.lushington@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Business and Economy</b></p>	<p>ORCC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superfast Broadband: OCC is currently researching the demand for Superfast Broadband but to find out more see <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/broadband-oxfordshire">http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/broadband-oxfordshire</a> and below, under ‘OCC Guidance’.</li> <li>Home Workers Networking Toolkit: Further information is available on the ORCC website, at <a href="http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/what-we-do/village-business-groups">http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/what-we-do/village-business-groups</a>.</li> </ul>

INITIATIVES	SOURCES OF ADVICE / CONTACTS
<p><b>Business and Economy</b></p>	<p>CDC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design of Village Guide Book: Nicola Riley, CDC’s Arts and Visitor Services Manager, comments that CDC may be able help with some design support. If it does become a publication, CDC can host it on <a href="http://visitnorthoxfordshire.com">visitnorthoxfordshire.com</a> to be downloaded, and stock it in the Tourist Information Centres. Nicola can be contacted on <a href="mailto:Nicola.riley@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">Nicola.riley@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a> or 01295 221724.</li> <li>• Broadband: Steven Newman, CDC’s Economic Development Officer, notes that although contact has already been made with BT it is worth exploring the alternative at <a href="http://www.sugarnet.co.uk/">http://www.sugarnet.co.uk/</a>. OCC is collecting evidence of the need to improve connections so all residents and businesses could log their needs at: <a href="https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/onlinepersonal/respondByQuestionnaire">https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/onlinepersonal/respondByQuestionnaire</a>.</li> <li>• Business Network Group: Steven Newman, the Economic Development Service at CDC asks who will lead and suggests use of the Wykham Arms as a meeting place to enhance local Intertrading. He notes there is already a successful group in Adderbury. If any help is needed, contact Steven Newman on <a href="mailto:steven.newman@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">steven.newman@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a> or 01295 221860.</li> <li>• Encourage New Businesses to the Sibfords - Broadband will be part of this, and also premises and clusters developing as part of the Network Group. There is also potential to work with CDC &amp; partners <a href="http://www.cherwell-m40.co.uk">www.cherwell-m40.co.uk</a> to attract investors from a wider area, providing premises/land is available. An action could also be to locally identify buildings and contact their owners to identify if those premises are suitable for business use. Those that are available and already have planning permission could be marketed via CDC’s Economic Development Service. For further information and guidance, contact Steven Newman (details above).</li> </ul>



View of the landscape setting surrounding the Sibfords

INITIATIVES	SOURCES OF ADVICE / CONTACTS
<p><b>Business and Economy</b></p>	<p>OCC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superfast Broadband: OCC’s Broadband Project team note that ‘toolkits’ have been sent to Parish Councils previously. This included a business-focused questionnaire for businesses to register demand; in the Sibfords case this has been done through the Swalcliffe Exchange User Group. OCC will keep Parish Councils updated as the project progresses. Businesses can also register broadband needs through the online registration tool, which includes a question on how you use broadband and business, at: <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/get-involved-broadband-plan">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/get-involved-broadband-plan</a>. Both local residents and businesses are encouraged to use this opportunity to register demand for superfast broadband and elect a local Broadband champion to represent the area’s need for better broadband.</li> <li>• Business Support and Networking: The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is working on how to improve business support. Information about services available online can be found at: <a href="http://www.oxfordshirelep.org.uk/cms/content/business">www.oxfordshirelep.org.uk/cms/content/business</a>.</li> </ul>



The Sibfords Community Plan Steering Group:

- Richard Hartree (Chair)
- Sue Mattinson (Secretary)
- Peter Robinson (Treasurer)
- Joan Broady
- Maureen Hicks (Sibford Ferris Parish Council)
- Tim Huckvale (Sibford Ferris Parish Council)
- Ann Lewis
- Oswyn Murray (Sibford Gower Parish Council)
- Tracey Morbey
- Hugh Pidgeon (Chair of Environment Group).
- John Simms (Sibford Ferris Parish Council)

The Steering Group thanks the many individuals and organisations listed on the following pages for their generous help and commitment to the Community Plan.

## WORKING GROUPS

### **Housing and Planning:**

Oswyn Murray (Chair) / John Berry  
Robin Grimston / John Simms / Karen Websdale

### **Traffic, Roads, Footpaths & Bridleways:**

John Simms (Chair) / Robin Grimston / Paul Hobson  
Tony More / Fiona Pidgeon / Nicki Priestman  
Karen Websdale

### **Environment:**

Hugh Pidgeon (Chair) / Matthew Conisbee  
Julie Harris

### **Community Facilities:**

Peter Robinson (Chair)

### **Leisure and Recreation:**

Joan Broady (Chair) / Muriel Chandler  
Adrienne Platt

### **Business and Economy:**

Ann Lewis (Chair) / Tracey Morbey / John Wass

## NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

John Berry / Charlotte Bird / Cedric Brown  
Sue Colquhoun / Chris Franklin / Richard Hartree  
Paul Hobson / Margaret Hobson / Sally Layer  
Mike Lewis / Sue Mattinson / Bruce Petter  
Fiona Pidgeon / Adrienne Platt / Harry Robertson  
Peter Robinson / John Simms / Martin Thomas  
Gillian Watts / Lynn Woodvine

## QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTION AND COLLECTION

John Berry / Cedric Brown / Sue Colquhoun  
Chris Franklin / Richard Hartree / Margaret Hobson  
Sally Layer / Mike Lewis / Sue Mattinson  
Caroline More / Bruce Petter / Fiona Pidgeon  
Adrienne Platt / Harry Robertson / Peter Robinson  
John Simms / Annie Skowronska / Martin Thomas  
Clive Warner / Gillian Watts / Lynn Woodvine  
Kathy Yorke

## QUESTIONNAIRE COLLATION

Co-ordinator: Peter Robinson  
Collators: Sue Beach / Matthew Conisbee  
Richard Hartree / Paul Hobson / Hilary Maguire  
Sue Mattinson / Bruce Petter / Hugh Pidgeon  
Julian Ransom / Harry Robertson / Sue Sabin  
John Simms / Martin Thomas / Nicky White

## LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

- Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower Parish Councils for initiating the project, their financial contribution towards the Plan costs and support throughout.
- Village Hall Bookings and Co-ordination: Muriel Chandler, Secretary and Anita Spencer, Booking Secretary.
- Sibford Scene: Adrian Lamb, Editor for insertion of Community Plan items.
- The Sibfords Website: Tim Huckvale for management of the Community Plan page.
- Sibford School: Printing of Newsletters, Questionnaires and Final Plan Reports.
- John Berry, Keith Hicks, Maureen Hicks, Sue Mattinson and Karen Websdale, and Ali Bromhall on behalf of Sibford School, for imagery used throughout the Community Plan process.

## PROFESSIONAL, PLANNING AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

- Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council (ORCC): Anton Nath, Jo Ord and Aimee Evans.
- Cherwell District Council: Kevin Larner.
- Oxfordshire County Council: Kathrin Luddeke.
- Councillor George Reynolds.





Last but not least, thanks go to everyone in the Sibfords community who completed the household questionnaire, offered comments and attended meetings. It is now up to all of us to maintain the shared community interests generated by the Plan and turn the next steps and initiatives into a reality.



<http://thesibfords.org.uk/>

