

Individual Decision

The attached report(s) will be taken as
Individual Portfolio Member Decision(s) on:

Monday, 4th July, 2011

| Ref: | Title | Portfolio Member(s) | Page No. |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| ID2233A | Adoption of Beenham Parish Plan | Councillor Pamela Bale | 1 - 36 |



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Individual Executive Member Decision

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Title of Report: | Beenham Parish Plan |
| Report to be considered by: | Individual Executive Member Decision |
| Date on which Decision is to be taken: | 4 th July 2011 |
| Forward Plan Ref: | ID2233A |

Purpose of Report: To seek adoption of the Beenham Parish Plan by the council

Recommended Action: The Plan be formally adopted by the Council as an important document

Reason for decision to be taken: Formal adoption of the Parish Plan

Statutory: **Non-Statutory:**
Other:

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: Beenham Parish Plan

| Portfolio Member Details | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Name & Telephone No.: | Councillor Pamela Bale - Tel (0118) 9842980 |
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| Contact Officer Details | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
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Implications

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Policy: | Parish Plans are an integral part of the Council's Vibrant Villages theme within the Council Plan |
| Financial: | There are no specific financial implications arising from this report at this stage. Any of the actions in the Parish Plan that have financial implications for services will need to be addressed as and when those actions are moved forward. If actions require additional resources these will be brought to Members for consideration in due course. |
| Personnel: | There are no personnel implications at this stage |
| Legal/Procurement: | There are no direct legal implications at this stage |
| Environmental: | Parish Plans often raise many local environmental issues and as such can play a very useful role in conserving and enhancing the environment at a very local level. |
| Partnering: | Parish Plans are an excellent example of partnering between the local community and the Council. |
| Property: | No specific property implications. Any property related matters within the action plan will be addressed by the relevant service as and when the action is moved forward by the community in conjunction with the Council. |
| Risk Management: | There are no direct risk management issues arising from the plan. As and when actions are moved forward any risk issues will be addressed by the relevant service area. |
| Community Safety: | There are no specific or direct Community Safety implications. |
| Equalities: | The consultation carried out in support of the Parish Plan helps ensure that all people have an opportunity to have their views and concerns heard. |

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Councillor Graham Jones

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Councillor Brian Bedwell

Ward Members: Councillor Keith Chopping

Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor Jeff Brooks

Local Stakeholders: WBC, Safer Communities Partnership, Voluntary Sector

Officers Consulted: Senior Management within WBC

Trade Union: N/A

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Is this item subject to call-in. | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box: | | |
| The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Item is Urgent Key Decision | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Since December 2008 Community Led Plans (or Parish Plans) have been formally endorsed by West Berkshire Council, via the Individual Decision process.
- 1.2 The endorsement of a Parish Plan means that the Council commits to working positively with the community to realise the vision set out in the plan. This means that the Council will give approval or sanction, where it can, actions that have the support of the community and have been included in the Parish Plan Action Plan. This is subject to the draft Action Plan having been circulated to the Council and its Partners by prior agreement and the actions discussed in consultation with the Principal Policy Officer for Community Planning.

Community Planning In West Berkshire

- 1.3 West Berkshire Council, working alongside other key partners from the Local Strategic Partnership such as the Community Council for Berkshire and the local community, has promoted the development of Community Planning across the District.
- 1.4 The Council's success in pushing forward this work has been recognised nationally; firstly through the award of Beacon Status for the local authority in 2006 as part of the "Empowering Communities Improving Rural Services" theme and subsequently through the successful joint local authorities bid to the national Beacon Peer mentoring fund, which the Council led, to further develop work in Community Planning.
- 1.5 Parish Plans are key documents that set out a vision for how a community wishes to develop in the future. They contain an action plan that will help to realise that vision.
- 1.6 Parish Plans are developed through a wide ranging consultation process with the local community. This helps ensure that the resulting plan reflects the needs and aspirations of local people. The Plans are therefore an important source of intelligence about the views and concerns of the community as well as highlighting specific actions that communities wish to see taken in their areas. This information plays an important part in shaping both service planning and delivery across the Council but is increasingly being used to inform Council strategy and policy development.
- 1.7 The process by which Parish Plans are developed involves extensive liaison and engagement with service providers and statutory organisations, most especially the Council. This close involvement and dialogue helps ensure that officers are aware of the direction and aspirations of the community and can help develop meaningful and realistic actions.

- 1.8 This close engagement between the Council and the community at a very practical level helps to provide an excellent platform for improving relationships and communications between the local authority and the communities it serves.
- 1.9 A further benefit emerging from Community Planning is that it has helped bring communities and organisations together to focus on developing solutions to local problems, for example; joint working on environmental issues, such as noise from the M4; allotment provision; growing food locally and development of local business groups.
- 1.10 The attached Beenham Parish Plan sets out the Parish aspirations and Action Plan for this community.
- 1.11 The action plan is built around the 5 themes of the sustainable community strategy. This provides an ideal focus for the plan and helps develop clear links between local activities and the overall strategic vision for the district.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the Plan be formally adopted by the Council as an important document.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Beenham Plan and Action Plan
- Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment Stage 1.

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Beenham Parish Plan

October 2010





Introduction

The Beenham Parish Plan identifies actions to support the aspirations the people in the parish have for their community. It is divided as per all parish plans into the following areas: strength, health, safety, prosperity and in tune with the environment. The Plan focuses on the village area in most detail. The plan does include actions which are specific to the people living in the Aldermaston Warf area of the parish but just lists them without further discussion. The rationale behind these actions can be found in the Padworth Parish Plan where they are elaborated upon.

This is a Beenham project and, in preparing this document, all of us who live in the village and the immediate locality have had the opportunity to state what we wish to see and equally importantly, what we do not wish to see over the next decade. In preparing this Plan we have identified a number of things which we can do for ourselves, with the support of the Parish Council, some things that we will have to do in partnership with West Berkshire Council and some which we could do in collaboration with other organisations.

We recognise, that in the real world it is unlikely that everything which we recommend can be achieved but if we do not make the effort to ensure that our voices are heard then we shall only have ourselves to blame if changes are imposed on us which are not to our liking.

It is essential that we remember that the publication of the Village Plan is not an end in itself — it is merely a means towards an end. The adoption of the Plan is the first step towards achieving the objectives that we collectively have identified. It provides the basis for initiatives that will only be realised through the involvement and commitment of local people. The Plan is not immutable. It provides a platform for future thinking and planning as we respond to changes in circumstances and grasp fresh opportunities as they arise.

The publication of this Plan is the culmination of work which has been undertaken over the course of the past four years. It was largely put together by volunteers who have committed considerable amounts of their time, energy and skills to the project.

We are grateful to Beenham Parish Council for their support throughout. We have also been helped by the Greenham Common Trust, in analysing the responses we received on the questionnaire. We are particularly grateful to Sarah Ward of Community Action West Berkshire, who has been an unfailing source of help and advice throughout.

Methodology

The final product of the Parish Plan has been the result of what can best be described as a village relay race.

It all began in summer 2006. Dick Russell, Chair of the Parish Council, arranged an open meeting in the School Hall, which was well attended. This introduced the concept of a Parish Plan, gained some ideas for topics of interest and produced some initial volunteers. A meeting on the village recreation ground later in the summer also elicited ideas.

September 2006 saw the establishment of a steering group with Chris Penley as project manager. The objectives of the Parish Plan were defined as follows:

- » To solicit and record attitudes towards life in Beenham Parish today and how it can be improved for the future
- » To highlight those features that the Parish must seek to retain
- » To identify deficiencies in services and raise them with the appropriate bodies
- » To involve as many residents as possible across the full age range
- » To produce a realistic Plan for the Parish Council to follow and to establish processes to monitor progress and maintain momentum.

Five working groups were identified to cover:

- » Roads and Transport
- » Footpaths and Environment
- » Youth, Sport and Learning
- » Housing, Planning and Services
- » Community Services.

By January 2007 two of the working groups had produced draft questions and two other working groups were being formed.

During 2007 progress was made on the questionnaire, including discussions with Greenham Trust on formatting the questions and analysing the results. By January 2008 the format and questions were agreed, including questions from the Aldermaston Wharf representative.

The questionnaire was sent out in 2008. Results from the questionnaire were collated by Greenham Trust. In autumn 2009 a new group was formed in the parish to analyse the results of the questionnaire and write the Parish Plan.

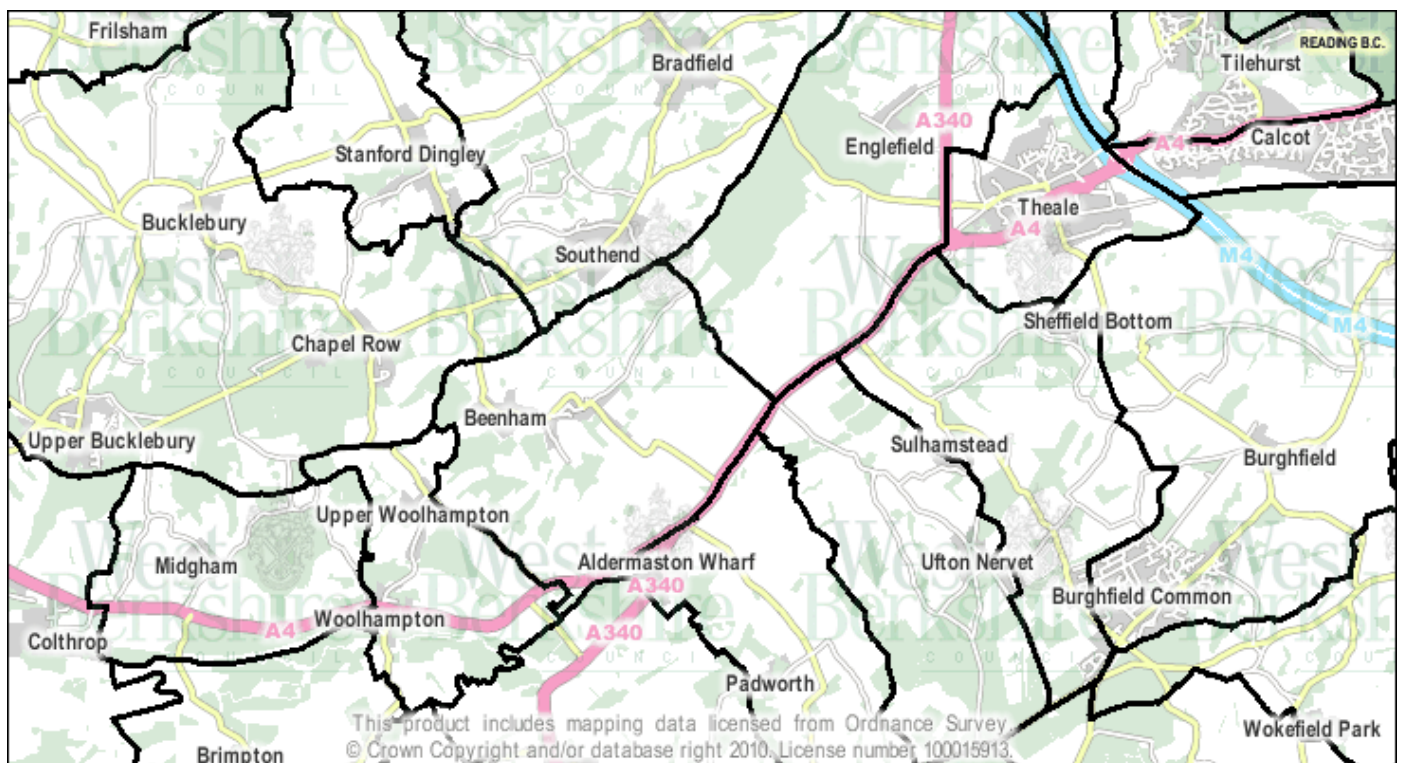
Geography, History, Demography

The geography, character and history of Beenham Village are extensively described in the Village Design Statement. This document was prepared at the beginning of this century and formally adopted by West Berkshire Council on 8 July, 2003. Its recommendations are taken into account when planning applications are assessed. The full text is available on the Beenham website www.beenhamonline.org. It contains many photographs which illustrate the character of the village and its geography very well.

To set a minimum context for this Parish Plan, whilst at the same time avoiding unnecessary duplication, only the key points are summarised here.

Geography and character

The parish is mainly situated in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Beenham lies on the north bank of the Kennet Valley mid-way between Reading and Newbury, 9 miles in either direction. The village of Beenham straddles a ridge of hills to the north of the London to Bath road, the A4. The surrounding countryside is made up of fields used for grazing and arable land interspersed by eleven ancient, semi-natural woods.



Ordnance Survey map showing Beenham, courtesy of West Berkshire Council

Originally the village comprised three separate settlements:

1. At the eastern end, around the former Stocks public house
2. Another, just over half a mile away at the western end, clustered near The Six Bells public house
3. The group of old houses on Beenham Hill

A mix of Victorian houses, twentieth century houses and bungalows and a small council estate, built in the early 1950's, have linked the older eastern and western settlements together. The primary school, built in 1985, and the Victory Hall/ Beenham Club buildings form the focal centre mid way between the two ends of the village. Much of the village is only one house deep; many houses back directly onto fields.

The Recreation Ground, a second focal point, is the main public open space and focus for the village. Edged by listed lime trees, 'the rec', as it is known, has children's play equipment, a small football pitch for informal games, a basketball net and two picnic tables. The rec is an important open space used for band concerts, community events and informal play.

The Six Bells public house is the third focal point. It is surrounded by old houses and cottages that front almost directly onto the road with very small gardens. Beyond a short single-track section by The Six Bells the road dips and curves down to the River Bourne. This narrow section marks a pinch point, a sense of closure, which indicates the end of the old village.



Beenham Primary School



The parish church of St Mary's, (part eighteenth-century and part Victorian), the adjacent Church Cottage (Grade II listed) and the site of the old village school, now occupied by two houses, are slightly separate from the village, along Church Lane. From the church and the burial ground there are striking views across the Kennet valley. The white facade of Beenham House, set below the ridge, is one of the few large buildings visible from the A4.

To the east of the former Stocks public house is Webbs Lane, comprising a mixture of post-war and earlier twentieth-century residential properties.

A further collection of houses can be found down Clay Lane, towards the industrial estate.

History

The earliest records for the parish show the grant of the Church and the Manor of Beenham (Bena's Hamme or Bena's Homestead or Manor) by Henry I to the Abbot and monks of Reading Abbey. After the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1539, records relate only to the larger farms in the area.

Many of the older listed buildings in the area, for example Park Farm, White Cottage, Oakwood (formerly Fodderhouse) Farm and Malthouse Farm and those on Beenham Hill were estate farms and workers' cottages belonging to an expanding Beenham Estate. The Beenham Estate and its farms preserved the area and prevented industrial development from taking place, in contrast to the situation in the valley below, where the development of the coaching road (A4), the construction of the Kennet and Avon Canal (1716) and the spread of the railways (1830–1860) are evident. The sale and break-up of much of the Beenham Estate in 1914 meant that land which had previously been protected became available for development. Most significant house building in the parish happened after World War II.



Historic images of Beenham, circa XXXX



Development: Industrial, agricultural, residential.

Industrial

Industrial development within the parish has been sporadic and mixed, concentrating along the valley floor and the A4 road. For instance, since World War II, the sand and gravel deposits have given rise to the development of gravel extraction works and an associated roof tile plant. Marley is one of the largest European manufacturers of roof tiles with extensive storage yards in the parish. Grundon, a substantial privately-owned waste disposal and recycling company, has a large site adjacent to the A4 which is currently being used for landfill and commercial composting. Methane from the filled pits is partly used to fire furnaces at Marley and some is converted to electricity and fed into the National Grid. There is a small industrial area (Grange Lane) which is quite separate from the village settlement some 50m up on the ridge above. More recent development includes warehousing and storage for businesses including Porsche.



Waste disposal and recycling centre

Agricultural

Farming in the form of livestock rearing on the upland areas and arable in the valley still predominates. Recent national changes in farming policy have led some farms to cease dairying: Oakwood and Malthouse Farms have become horse riding and horse breeding establishments respectively. Horse grazing is an increasing use for upland pastures. Nevertheless, Beenham still has working farms which form a critical part of the surrounding landscape.

Residential

The population of Beenham parish (estimated in 2001 by West Berkshire District Council to be about 982) is mainly concentrated in the village of Beenham, although the total does include some 200 people living in new houses at Aldermaston Wharf. These houses, which include some affordable housing, were built in 1998 on a brown-field site vacated by the Sterling Greengate cable factory. The Aldermaston Wharf development is geographically separate from the main bulk of the village and forms part of a small settlement which straddles three parishes — Beenham, Aldermaston and Padworth — at the canal crossing.

Demography

The 2001 Census identified 456 households and 1,175 inhabitants (source: Wikipedia). The survey conducted for the parish plan elicited more than 300 responses. The results showed that households with 1, 2 and 3 people make up 18, 42 and 18 per cent of the village respectively (see figure 1).

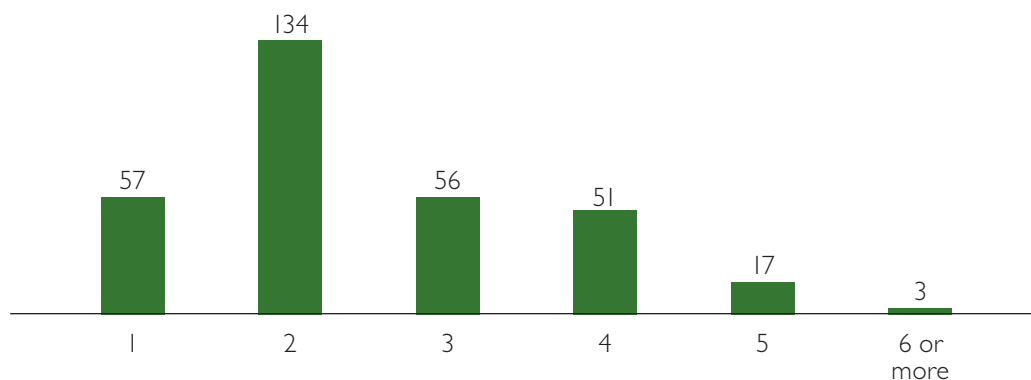


Figure 1: Number of people per household

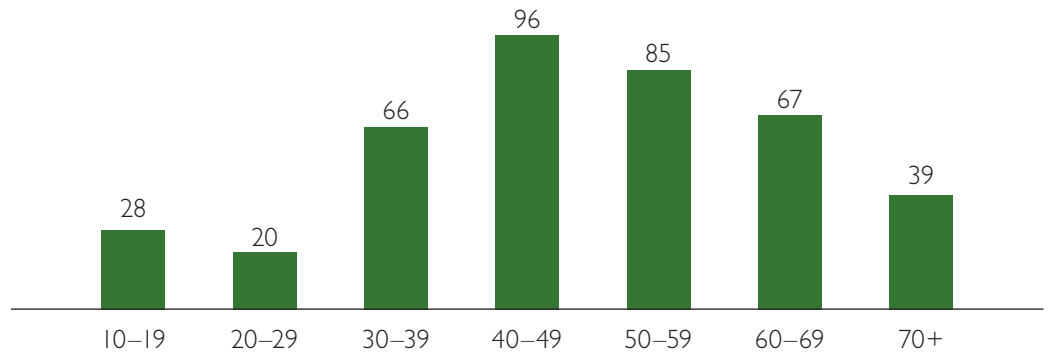


Figure 2: Age group

Half of the people who responded were less than 50 years of age (see figure 2).

Most people are satisfied with where they live and with the village location. Around 76 per cent of respondents stated that they have no intention of moving whatsoever (see figure 3).

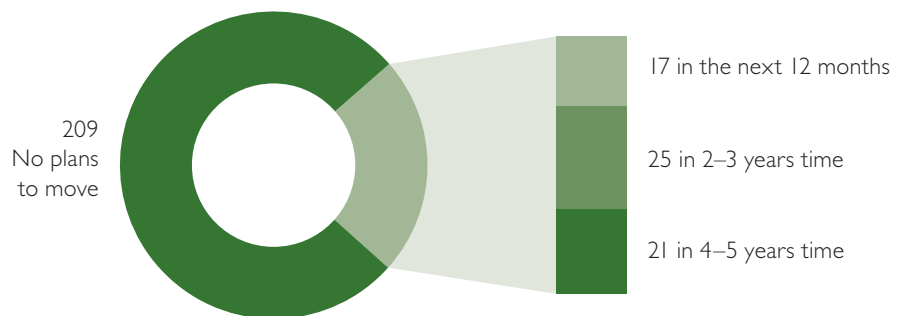


Figure 3: Likelihood of moving

82 per cent of respondents said that the character of the village was very important. 71 per cent said that the size of the village was important. Few people will want the size and character of the village to change much.

How we perceive living in the village and what is important to us

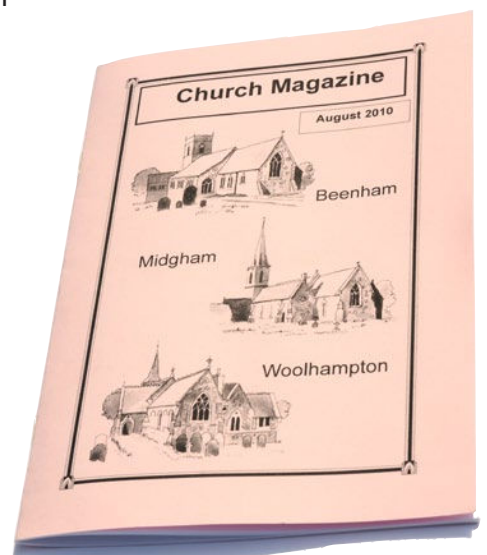
The information in this section is organised along the five themes as laid down by West Berkshire Council:

1. **Strength of our community** — including everyone, fostering a sense of belonging and participation in community life, similar life opportunities, including accessible services for all.
2. **Healthiness** — fostering a sense of place and belonging, improving health and well-being of local people and young people, promoting independence of vulnerable people.
3. **Safety** — reducing anti-social behaviour, reducing speed on roads, emergency planning.
4. **Prosperity** — supporting the economy of villages, tourism, supporting employment in rural areas.
5. **Greenness** — reducing carbon footprint in the community, reducing waste and increasing recycling, encouraging consumption of local produce, increasing diversity of local wildlife.

I. Strength of our Community

The village of Beenham has an established sense of community with many options for social activity within the village. This is supported by the presence of a village primary school, an attractive village church and a thriving public house. A number of initiatives and activities enhance the sense of community within the village of Beenham and the surrounding parish.

The Church Magazine is a good source of information for the parishioners with minutes of club meetings and advance notice of forthcoming events; it is distributed free of charge. Beenham Parish Council produces a note of Parish Council Meetings which is inserted in the Church Magazine for all Beenham households. The Parish Council also supports the village website www.beenhamonline.org where residents of the parish can get useful and up-to-date information.



The village of Beenham is fortunate to have several venues which provide significant social focal points and where community activities regularly take place: the Victory Hall, the Community Room, the school hall, Beenham Club and the function room of the Six Bells public House. These activities are well supported by a range of age groups within the parish. They are supplemented by both ad hoc and regular events on the Recreation Ground, in the local primary school and in the village church of St Mary's.

Many groups thrive within the parish, covering a broad spectrum of interests. Organisations and clubs such as Beenham Pre-School, Beenham Band, Women's Institute, Friendship Club, Beenham Walkers, Bell Ringing, Badminton Club, Scottish Dancing, St Mary's Church and the Village Market are an integral part of village life. During the year, some of these organisations invite parishioners to attend both indoor and outdoor social events and make a valuable contribution to the whole community. A unique feature of the village is the presence of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, with its observation and education centre which attracts visitors from all over the world. Among the six wolves are the first two European wolves to be raised in the UK in over 500 years.



Top: European wolf. Below: Beenham bell ringers (L), The Beenham Bank (M), Beenham Scottish Dancing (R)

One of the great assets of the parish is its location, surrounded by beautiful, quiet countryside. A high number of people expressed their wish to preserve the rural feel of the village. The character of the parish was considered to be important (indicated by 379 people compared with just seven who felt it was not important). Similarly, the size of Beenham village was also considered to be important by 355 people, compared with 13 people who felt that it was not important.



The results of the Parish Plan questionnaire identify areas where the parish can further strengthen the sense of community, as follows:

One aspect of the parish is that there is no village shop, either in Beenham or in Aldermaston Wharf. Groceries can currently be purchased from the service station on the A4 or from the neighbouring village of Bradfield Southend. There were 397 responses to the questionnaire wanting easy access to local shopping facilities.

The use of the Victory Hall and Beenham Club amenities should be increased, as indicated by multiple responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire.

The general view from young people in the parish is that there are not enough facilities and activities. Parishioners believe that more facilities should be provided for youth activities, especially with young people of secondary school age who are affected by the lack of public transport in Beenham village. It is important for young people to feel that they have a stake in the life of the community and that opportunities are provided for them.

The vulnerable residents of the parish also need support to ensure that they have the best quality of life within their homes. The Action Plan aims to achieve this by way of both formal and informal initiatives.

2. Healthiness

Walking around Beenham village is a popular pastime and there was a high positive response in the Parish Plan questionnaire for improving the network of footpaths and maintaining them for use by walkers, cyclists and horse riders as appropriate. The provision of paths suitable for buggies and pushchairs would also be welcomed within the parish.



Other sport and leisure activities have been supported locally in the past and would be welcomed in the future. For example, Yoga classes, Keep Fit, Dancing and organised cycle rides have all been suggested for inclusion in the Parish Action Plan.

The Parish Council sponsors a transport service to provide lifts to patients needing to attend the Chapel Row surgery and to collect prescriptions for Beenham parish residents. This initiative supports vulnerable residents of the parish who can find it difficult to travel to the surgery. There are no residential care facilities in the parish.

In Beenham village there is a Recreation ground with play facilities for younger children and a grass area with football goals; this equipment does suffer occasionally from vandalism. There is also an area on Stoneyfield where ball games are played. Both these areas are popular and well used by the young people in the village.

The general view expressed in the responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire is that there are not enough facilities and activities for the younger residents in the parish, especially for young people of secondary school age. Requests for a youth club and a tarmac recreation area were raised 50 times in responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire.

3. Safety

The parish is considered to provide a relatively safe and peaceful environment and there is thankfully little serious crime. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is supported in the parish, promoting simple security measures and raising people's awareness when specific incidents occur locally. There is little evidence of strong concerns about other anti-social behaviour such as theft and vandalism, although these do occur from time to time within the parish.

A proportion of residents have some concerns about road safety in certain areas of the parish. Within Beenham village itself these concerns include speeding traffic and the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles that pass through the village. Road signs have already been installed which cover some of the concerns of village residents, for example where the road narrows near the Six Bells. There was a high response from the questionnaire to reduce speeding in the village; other areas such as Webbs Lane



Speed control in Beenham

and Bourne Lane could be considered for a 30mph speed limit. Actions to reduce unnecessary HGV movement would also be welcomed.

Another suggestion arising from the questionnaire is the provision of grit boxes for known black ice spots.

Improvement of mobile phone reception would be welcomed, giving residents the certainty of being able to call from anywhere in the village.

4. Prosperity

There is diversity of business activity within the parish including the gravel works, Marley Tiles and the Beenham Industrial area near the A4 boundary of the parish. There are a number of agricultural and related businesses and the Six Bells public house. The Parish Plan questionnaire covered residential households and not the local business community.



The village has no general store within its boundaries, the nearest shops being in Southend Bradfield and at the petrol station on the A4. Although there was a positive response to the concept of a shop within the village, it is more likely that promotion of local services and encouragement to use local amenities will be an action point for the Parish Plan.

5. Greenness

Responses from the questionnaire suggested a number of ways to preserve the local environment, most of which will require active community involvement.

There is a strong attachment to the natural environment particularly in respect of preserving woodlands and maintaining footpaths and bridleways. There were 300 responses requesting dog litter bins to keep the paths clean. There were 365 positive responses to preserving and encouraging bio-diversity within the parish and supporting interest in the woodland areas. This could include working with wildlife experts and the farming community to agree priorities and to implement actions which would maintain the green and peaceful nature of the parish.



Recycling facilities are currently provided by roadside collection. Some respondents to the questionnaire suggested improvements such as a central point for clothing and shoe collections.

There were 79 positive responses to encouraging the community to use the station at Aldermaston, for example by ensuring that the walking route from the village is maintained to a suitable standard, as well as including the provision of a pedestrian central refuge at the A4 crossing point. A more integrated timetable for train and bus services was also requested by 108 people.

It was also noted that an improved broadband connection would promote the possibility of home working and thereby reduce traffic pollution.

Actions to improve our village and its community

| Objective | Actions | Justification/comments | Other Partners | Priority |
|---|--|---|---|----------|
| I. Stronger | | | | |
| Including everyone, fostering a sense of belonging and participation in community life, similar life opportunities — including accessible services for all | | | | |
| To promote the use of the village hall and the community room | Investigate ways of making more of this facility within the community | Multiple mentions of community events wanted and preservation of Hall | | L |
| To provide a sustainable mechanism through which the community can remain better connected and can interact with each other and other agreed organisations. | Improve public communications, e.g. website. Parish magazine. | | | M |
| Ensure that young people have a stake in the village and the parish provides services for them locally too | Engage with young people via Theale Green, Kennet and Willink school and obtain their input into the formulation and implementation of the Parish Plan. | | Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People | H |
| To support vulnerable residents of the Parish and help them stay in their homes as long as possible and give them the best quality of life | Encourage informal and formal networks in which people help each other throughout the village, e.g. the Women Institute and the Friendship club, the Surgery run. Also consider tie-ins into West Berks initiatives. | | WB Community services | L |
| To have a Beenham Village plan for when the Parish has to deal with emergencies | Assemble a list of people (skills) and assets which form resources in case of emergencies | | WB civil contingencies manager | M |
| Develop facilities to engage the interest of children and young people. | | To provide opportunities for young people close to their homes | Alder Bridge School | H |
| Increase local involvement in village activities | Encourage representation on Parish Council from newly developed areas of village, plan village social events | To increase involvement in village activities | 3PC | H |
| Increase awareness throughout the village of events and developments | Support the Padworth Newsletter; improve the Padworth website | To enhance a sense of community | Padworth Parish Council | H |

Actions to be supported by Beenham Parish Council

Actions specific to Aldermaston Wharf

| Objective | Actions | Justification/comments | Other Partners | Priority |
|---|--|---|---|----------|
| 2 Healthy | | | | |
| Fostering a sense of place and belonging, improving health and well-being of local people and young people, promoting independence of vulnerable people | | | | |
| To encourage people to exercise and enjoy the environment | Ensure all footpaths and bridleways are useable so it is easy for residents to use an alternative to the car | 397 positive responses (Q30) | | M |
| To encourage walking within the community | Creation of circular walks within the Parish. | 111 positive responses (Q30) | | M |
| Encourage the use of non motorised transport and maintain existing footpaths and bridleways to a minimum standard | Ensure all footpaths and bridleways and biways are useable as appropriate by walkers, cyclists and horses. Ensure all are walked on a regular basis and remedial work necessary reported | 120 positive responses (Q30) | | M |
| To encourage usage of the village play area. | Seek investment to improve existing playarea and improve access to it (for buggies and wheelchairs) | 169 positive responses (Q20) | | H |
| Increase bicycle usage | Investigate possible locations for cycle routes & produce a cycle map | To encourage healthier living & reduce car usage | WBC, 3PC, Spokes | M |
| Increase use of public footpaths & bridleways. Investigate the development of new linkage rights of way | Ensure footpaths & access are maintained, produce a rights of way map of the village. Establish a programme of village walks & cycle rides | To encourage healthier living & greater appreciation of natural environment | WBC Rights of Way Officer | H |
| Increase recreational/ sports facilities for adults and children | Investigate facilities for tennis, keep fit, dancing to meet wishes expressed by local people | To encourage healthier living & meet wishes of local people of all ages | WBC Adult & Community Learning, Extended & Youth Service, Alder Bridge School & St Luke's Trust | H |
| Develop leisure opportunities to meet wishes expressed by local people | Take steps to establish clubs for gardening, local history and an environmental group | | 3PC & WBC Adult & Community Learning & Arts & Leisure | M |

| Objective | Actions | Justification/comments | Other Partners | Priority |
|---|---|--|--|----------|
| 3 Safer Reducing anti-social behaviour, reducing speed on roads, emergency planning | | | | |
| To reduce speeding within the Parish | To provide flashing warning signs at the entrances to the village at specific locations to be determined by the Parish Council and assessed by WBC Highways department. | 201 positive responses (Q37) | WBC Highways | M |
| To provide pavements where necessary and practical | The Parish to identify specific locations where they consider existing footpaths are inadequate and invite WBC Highways to assess as part of ongoing footway improvements program. | | WBC Highways | L |
| To provide passing places where necessary | The Parish to identify specific locations where they consider additional passing places are required and invite WBC Highways to cost these with a view to using available S.106 monies. | | WBC Highways | L |
| To limit the number of freight vehicles through the village | To improve signage to the industrial estate | | | H |
| | To investigate if sat nav systems can be corrected | 304 positive responses (Q40) | | H |
| To improve road signage and road markings at specific points within the village | Further improve markings at Six Bells to improve safety. Also improve signage at entrances to village — investigate if speed limit can be painted on road too. | | WBC Highways | H |
| To encourage the community to use the station at Aldermaston | Provision of safety refuge on A4 to aid crossing | 76 positive responses (Q30) | WBC Highways | H |
| To provide grit boxes at known black ice points in the Parish | Request from West Berks Council | | | M |
| To maintain and extend the neighbourhood watch scheme | Ensure residents of the parish understands how it works, how to participate and those who do participate, their responsibilities | 179 feel fairly safe 5 feel not that safe (Q27) | Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Thames Valley Police | L |
| Improved sense of safety through the knowledge of being able to call from anywhere in the parish. | Work with Mobile Phone network providers to improve the network coverage, reliability and quality in the Parish | | | H |

Actions to be supported by Beenham Parish Council

Actions specific to Aldermaston Wharf

| Objective | Actions | Justification/comments | Other Partners | Priority |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 3 Safer (continued) | | | | |
| Reducing anti-social behaviour, reducing speed on roads, emergency planning | | | | |
| Reduce speeding and enhance traffic calming | Continue working with WB Highways Department and adjoining parishes to improve road safety and pedestrian crossing provision in the Wharf area | Major concerns in the survey (82 — 86%). Long-standing Issues — now more pressing due to population growth i(particularly young people), absence of safe road crossings for pedestrians & expected increase of traffic generated by waste site. Dialogue with WBC established. | WBC & TVP | H |
| Improve safety for pedestrians | Install pedestrian crossings and flashing school signs, widen pavements , enhance footpath over canal & railway bridge | Ditto | WBC & TVP | H |
| Improve public parking around Aldermaston Wharf | Explore possibilities with WBC, TVP, British Waterways and Network Rail | Ditto | Network Rail & British Waterways | M |
| Improve surfacing of roads in the area | Undertake an audit of road surfaces in area and liaise with WBC on maintenance needs | Many surfaces poor & deteriorating. Some work in hand. | WBC | L |
| Adoption of roads on the newly developed estates in the Wharf area | Work with developers, WBC and TWA to resolve outstanding issues | | 3PC, WBC, TWA, Persimmon & Wimpey | M |
| Introduce/strengthen NHW schemes in the area | Identify and recruit area coordinators to develop schemes | To address concerns over anti-social behaviour | TVP | M |
| Improve flood protection | Work with WBC and EA to ensure gullies are cleared regularly | To minimise risk of further flooding of domestic properties as in 2007 | WBC & Environment Agency | H |

Actions to be supported by Beenham Parish Council

Actions specific to Aldermaston Wharf

| Objective | Actions | Justification/comments | Other Partners | Priority |
|---|---|---|----------------|----------|
| 4 Prosperous Supporting economy of villages, Tourism, Supporting employment in rural areas | | | | |
| Support local tradespeople working in the Parish | Provide low cost, easy to use way for local people to promote their services to local people in addition to through Parish Magazine | | | M |
| To encourage and support equitable access to learning of skills and activities for all members of the community | Identify the types of learning people want, activities they wish to do and skills they wish to acquire in the parish and work with Adult and Community Learning to define and organise programmes | | | L |
| Development of a village shop in the Wharf area | Engage with Kennet and Avon Canal Trust to discuss proposals | To meet needs of local people (52%) — particularly those reliant on public transport & reduce car usage | | M |
| Improve public access to the canal and river and public parking | Explore possibilities with WBC, Kennet and Avon Canal Trust and British Waterways | Enhance leisure opportunities for West Berkshire | | M |
| Ensure that future housing developments are in keeping with the existing environment | Work with WBC and developers to ensure maximum benefits for the community | To adopt a positive approach to future developments & ensure maximum benefit for local people | | H |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 5 Greener Reducing carbon footprint in the community, reducing waste and increasing recycling, encourage consumption of local produce, increasing diversity of local wildlife. | | | | |
| To encourage the community to use the station at Aldermaston | To ensure route from village is at a suitable standard. | 79 positive responses (Q23) | | H |
| To make footpaths and bridleways clean (no dog fouling) | To provide dog litter bins at appropriate points within the village. Monitor the usage of the dogbins. | 300 positive responses for more dog litter bins (Q31) | | H |
| Promote the availability of Home-working | Work with BT to improve the broadband connection to the village. | 190 positive responses (Q9) | | H |
| To improve access to trains through more integrated public transport timetables | Work with bus and train companies to co-ordinate times they arrive and leave Aldermaston and Theale Railway Stations Ensure that time tables of village buses are published | 108 positive responses (Q17) | | M |

Actions to be supported by Beenham Parish Council

Actions specific to Aldermaston Wharf

| Objective | Actions | Justification/comments | Other Partners | Priority |
|--|--|--|--|----------|
| 5 Greener (continued) | | | | |
| Reducing carbon footprint in the community, reducing waste and increasing recycling, encourage consumption of local produce, increasing diversity of local wildlife. | | | | |
| Preserve, improve and value the woodland within the Parish | Encourage access to, and interest in, the woodland areas to raise awareness of their importance. Work with wildlife experts, farmers, landowners and residents to agree priorities, develop plans and implement them. See if any areas can be designated as "special" and afford protection — e.g. SSSI. Then ensure compliance to agreed plans. | 365 Positive responses on countryside greenness 372 positive responses to peaceful nature (Q28) | | L |
| Preserve and encourage the bio-diversity within the Parish | Work with wildlife experts, farmers, landowners and residents to understand if any areas can be designated as "special" and afforded protection — e.g. SSSI. | 365 Positive responses on countryside greenness 372 positive responses to peaceful nature (Q28) | | M |
| Further improve recycling done in the Parish | Provide local recycling facilities (e.g. a person collecting old shoes). | 69 people take recycling to a central recycling point outside of Parish. 45 people say that street collection does not collect what they want to recycle. 13 people cannot get to recycling points (Q10) | | L |
| Help each-other to reduce environmental footprint (in particular carbon) of the parish | Provide mechanism to share ideas on renewable ways of providing household energy needs and reducing carbon footprint of households (internet — word of mouth) | | | M |
| Maintain & improve the natural environment | Continue development of environmental group & set up parish watch group | | 3PC, BBOWT | H |
| Promote community & personal efforts to reduce carbon emissions& energy consumption | Link with National Greening Initiative, Lett schemes & explore possibility of establishing a swap shop. Develop reduce, reuse & recycle initiatives | To contribute to local & national efforts to reduce carbon emissions | National Greening Campaign & Veolia | H |
| Improve and develop natural habitats (the common, canal & river banks, verges, gravel pits, hedges & woodland etc) | Develop a plan for local involvement in maintaining & enhancing the natural environment. Explore possible partners to develop the grave pits. | To maintain & develop local environment. used widely by local people for leisure & recreational purposes (<93%). To encourage greater involvement in care of the countryside. | 3PC , local landowners, countryside ranger & TVERC | M |
| Carry out practical conservation work to improve biodiversity on the Common and by the Fallows | Work with the Countryside Ranger to develop specific projects to encourage and monitor populations of birds, moths & butterflies, reptiles, adders, dragonflies etc | Ditto | 3PC, countryside ranger & BTCV | M |

Actions to be supported by Beenham Parish Council

Actions specific to Aldermaston Wharf

| Objective | Actions | Justification/comments | Other Partners | Priority |
|--|---|---|---|----------|
| 5 Greener (continued) | | | | |
| Reducing carbon footprint in the community, reducing waste and increasing recycling, encourage consumption of local produce, increasing diversity of local wildlife. | | | | |
| Reduce litter & dog fouling | Organise litter picks, install dog bins | | 3PC—in partnership with Kennet & Avon Canal Trust | M |
| Establish allotments & village orchard for local residents | Investigate possibility of providing allotments | To meet the expressed need of local residents committed to gardening and healthier living | Allotment society, PEG & 3PC | H |

Actions to be supported by Beenham Parish Council

Actions specific to Aldermaston Wharf

Membership of Steering and Working Groups

By mentioning the names of people we inevitably run the risk of omitting others who also contributed their time, effort and ideas. Still, we felt that the inclusion of names was important to add to the credibility of this document. It will also enable readers to contact those who know more about how the Parish Plan came into existence and encourage people to make positive contributions to its implementation.

The original steering group was led by Chris Penley and its members were Rob Whittenbury (Treasurer), Allison Humphreys (Parish Council representative), Lesly Selby, Jackie Johnson, Edgar Valentine. The subgroups brought additional people onto the stage, including Linda Wright and Vicky Mitra.

The group that took the helm in 2009 to complete the work comprised the following villagers:

- » Barbara Stacey
- » Edgar Valentine
- » Jackie Johnson
- » Linda Wright
- » Mike Berry
- » Philip Leijten
- » Peter McEwen
- » David Hancock
- » Sally Ferguson
- » Katrina Alderton

How the action plan will be implemented

The publication of a Parish Plan is not an end in itself — it is a means to an end. The work which has brought us to this point has already served a valuable purpose. It has engaged the interest of a number of people from all parts of the village and it has led directly to the development of a number of initiatives which have been referred to within this document. There is, however, a great deal more work to be done if the village is to achieve its aspirations. It is proposed that Plan Implementation Groups should be established to take forward specific issues itemised in the Plan; other actions will be taken up by the Parish Council.

All parties involved in the implementation of the parish plan will be guided by the priority assigned to each action, as indicated in the last column in the action table. Priorities range between Low (L), Medium (M) and High (H). This rating reflects the importance of the action as seen by the community and the ease with which it can be completed. So an action has High priority when it's well aligned with what the majority of the community wants and when it's relatively easy to complete.

The priorities were developed by the Parish Plan Committee striking a balance between directions emerging from the community survey and the Committee members' judgement of how easily the action can be carried out.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the many people who have contributed to the creation of this Parish Plan — to those people already mentioned elsewhere in this report and to those who haven't been mentioned but who contributed in their own way. Thanks to Linda, Barbara, David and Katrina for attending the Parish Plan surgery on Thursday 26 November, 2009, and a special thanks to Jackie Johnson who took it upon herself to ensure that the content for the Plan finally came together. Further thanks to Michael Fitzmaurice who took all the photographs used in the Plan, Alastair Rolfe who edited the final draft, and Keith Fryer who produced the design.





Beenham

Equality Impact Assessment Template – Stage One

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of item being assessed: | Beenham Parish Plan |
| Version and release date of item (if applicable): | 4 th July 2011 (release date same as Individual Decision date). |
| Owner of item being assessed: | Jo Naylor |
| Name of assessor: | Jo Naylor |
| Date of assessment: | 23 June 2011 |

1 What are the main aims of the item?

To endorse the Beenham Parish Plan

2 Note which groups may be affected by the item, consider how they may be affected and what sources of information have been used to determine this.

(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion or Belief and Sexual Orientation.)

| Group Affected | What might be the effect? | Information to support this. |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Further Comments relating to the item:

The consultation carried out in support of the Parish Plan helps ensure that all people have an opportunity to have their views and concerns heard.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 3 Result (please tick) | |
| | High Relevance This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment. |
| | Medium Relevance This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment |
| | Low Relevance This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment |
| √ | No Relevance This does not need to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment |

For items requiring a Stage 2 equality impact assessment, begin the planning of this now, referring to the equality impact assessment guidance and Stage 2 template.

| | |
|--|--|
| 4 Identify next steps as appropriate: | |
| Stage Two required | |
| Owner of Stage Two assessment: | |
| Timescale for Stage Two assessment: | |
| Stage Two not required: | |

Signed: Jo Naylor

Date: 23 June 2011
