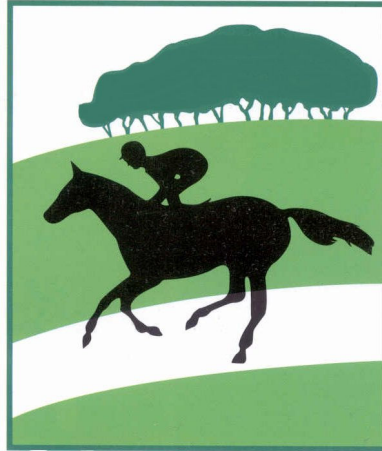


LAMBOURN



VALLEY OF THE RACEHORSE

Lambourn Parish Plan Refresh

*Planning the future of a community in the heart of the
valley of the racehorse*

Version 2.2 (draft)

3 September 2012

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Lambourn Parish Plan Refresh

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Acknowledgements

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Editor's Note

This plan applies to the Parish of Lambourn including the villages of Lambourn and Eastbury, along with the hamlets of Upper Lambourn, Lambourn Woodlands and Woodlands St Mary. References to Lambourn should be read in context and will often refer to the entire parish including the 4 villages, outlying farms and houses.

Disclaimer

It must be emphasised that neither the objectives nor the recommendations and action plan items form a legal obligation on any party, organisation or individual to deliver or produce the outcomes described. The plan is a statement of intent and is subject to continuous change.

Residents, prospective residents, developers and commercial operations should under no circumstances use the plan as the basis for making decisions of a commercial nature.

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Introduction

A Parish Plan refresh is a vision of how the community would like its town or village to be. For many communities, it's also the foundation for other applications for funding or local action. It aims to help rural communities to have a greater say in their own affairs. It is an opportunity for the people living in the community to set down their vision for the future of their town or village.

A Parish Plan Refresh can cover everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the parish, from social housing to places for children to play. It should address the needs of the entire community, including local businesses. Everyone should have an opportunity to contribute to its preparation.

Fundamentally it is about proactively managing change in a planned manner. The Parish Plan Refresh sets a direction and creates targets for actions to achieve the desired outcomes.

The approach to writing the Lambourn Parish Plan Refresh

The Lambourn Parish Council agreed to create a Parish Plan some years ago. The Parish Plan Refresh is an updated version of the existing Parish Plan which was written in October 2005. Public consultation is considered key in the development of a Parish Plan Refresh. This plan has been based on a large number of inputs from the community which have been collected through surveys, individual discussions and by seeking the input of organisations and groups in the parish who in turn represent many of the key stakeholders in the parish plan.

Whilst some plans focus on recording detailed statistics about the parish and its residents, often to a very detailed level, it was felt that the Lambourn Parish Plan Refresh should focus more on where the parish would like to be in five to ten years time. Thus much of the effort of research and opinion seeking has been focused on the desires and ambitions of the residents rather than the detailed recording of the attributes of the parish as it is today.

The plan is an expression of what is important to the residents of the parish, what is valued both physically and socially and how the parish should develop in the future in order to preserve and enhance these features. The plan is by its very nature a living document and will be updated over time as significant changes in attitudes or desires of the residents of the parish are noted.

It is anticipated that the Parish Council will establish a number of working groups to address the items in the action plan and thus be able to draw upon the experience and expertise of non-elected individuals.

Communication of progress

The Parish Plan Refresh and the action plan will naturally continue to evolve. Regular updates will be available to the residents of the parish through a number of different means:

- Open meetings (Annual Forum) of the Parish Council
- Parish Council meeting minutes – available from the Council or from www.lambourn.info
- Parish Plan pages on www.lambourn.info
- Specific updates posted in local newsletters such as Village Views
- Printed copies of the Parish Plan which will be available from the Lambourn Library, the Council offices and the Lambourn Centre

Background to Parish Plan Refresh

The original Parish Plan was published in 2005. To ensure that the Plan continues to reflect the parishioner's wishes, a Refresh process was started in 2010. This involved a Parish Consultation and various meetings to decide on the required questions for the questionnaire.

Over 1500 questionnaires were sent out either by post or hand delivered to each house in the Parish.

We received 452 responses. These were in the form of the completed questionnaires returned to the Parish office or completed on-line.

We would like to thank Greenham Common Trust for all the assistance in both the printing of the questionnaire, the creation of the on-line questionnaire and the compiling of the responses.

The Achievements from the 2005 Parish Plan

The following actions were achieved:

- Installation of CCTV cameras in Lambourn was completed in 2008.
- Refurbishment of Eastbury Play Area was completed in December 2007.
- A Website has been created which hosts the Lambourn Parish Information and meeting minutes.
- A 'What's Happening?' diary has been included on the website.
- A notice board was installed in Upper Lambourn.
- Streetlighting was improved and a cleaning schedule implemented
- A Disaster Management plan was created and is in place.
- Additional facilities were provided at the Old Cricket Field Skate Park (i.e. Youth Shelter and Ball Wall)

The Action Plan

The Action Plan was created from the responses received under pre-defined headings.

- The Lambourn Parish Council will continue to work very closely with the West Berkshire Council, the Police and traffic wardens to ensure a safer community.
- The Lambourn Parish Council will create an information brochure, assist in the creation of a history museum to celebrate the horse racing industry and is committed to upgrading the local broadband
- The Lambourn Parish Council will actively work toward creating Open Spaces that encourage parishioners to use them more.
- The Lambourn Parish Council will work with West Berkshire Council to re-instate the byways and to maintain them in a state that they can be used as cycle/pushchair paths.
- The Lambourn Parish Council will work with the District Council and Local Dog Warden to reduce the litter and dog fouling incidents within the Parish.
- The Lambourn Parish Council will work with West Berkshire to encourage longer Library opening hours.
- The Lambourn Parish Council will set up a Youth Club to provide an alcohol-free, drug-free safe environment for the local teenagers to meet at.
- The Lambourn Parish Council will support the creation of day trips for the elderly.

A Safer Community

Speeding

Speeding traffic is a major concern within the Village with a 56% response to prove it. Parishioners want drivers to stay below the speed limits throughout the Parish. The Police are targeting specific areas of concern to compile statistics to prove whether this is a major problem and if so, try to reduce the risk of injury/accidents.

Parking illegally on the pavements on the High Street, Newbury Street and Oxford Street

Parking on the pavements causes obstruction to drivers and pedestrians alike. The Parish Council are working in conjunction with the Civil Enforcement Officer and West Berkshire Council to try to reduce this risk.

Parking illegally on double yellow lines on the High Street

Parking on the double yellow lines causes major obstruction down the High Street of Lambourn. This issue is being tackled by the Lambourn Parish Council and the West Berkshire Council in an attempt to reduce the incidence of this major risk.

Poor Road Condition

Poor road conditions cause a hazard to all road users (in this case drivers, pedestrians and horses). The Parish Council will continue to work closely with the West Berkshire Council to identify the hazards and get them repaired in a timely fashion.

We would like to encourage all road users to report unsatisfactory road conditions to Customer Services at West Berkshire Council via email - Streetcare@westberks.gov.uk or by phone on 01635 519080.

Uneven Pavements

Uneven pavements cause a trip hazard to the young and elderly within the parish.

The Parish Council will continue to work closely with the West Berkshire Council to identify the hazards and get them repaired in a timely fashion.

We would like to encourage all parishioners to report unsatisfactory pavement conditions to Customer Services at West Berkshire Council via email - Streetcare@westberks.gov.uk or by phone on 01635 519080.

Improved Horse Signage

75% of the respondents requested additional horse signage for within the Parish to warn all drivers of the risk of injury to all road users (drivers, pedestrians and horses) in the event of unsafe driving practises within the Parish.

Most Parishioners are proud of the local link to the horseracing industry and would like this information to be more broadly recognised.

A Prosperous Community

Information Brochure

During the survey it became clear that most parishioners were unaware of all that the Local Parish has to offer, thus the Lambourn Parish Council will endeavour to create an information brochure which lists all the activities which take place on a weekly, monthly or annual basis within the Parish.

Creating a racing museum

53% of the respondents would like to see the creation of a racing museum to celebrate the local link to the horseracing industry. Most would also like to find out more about the winners which have successfully been training within our parish.

Broadband

The Lambourn Parish Council has committed over £22 000 to the improvement of the local internet facilities to improve the broadband speed and connectivity within the Parish. This is in conjunction with West Berkshire Council and the relevant Broadband suppliers. 71 % of the respondents agree that this is a priority within the Parish.

A Healthy Community

Cycle Paths/Pushchair paths between Eastbury and Lambourn

Of all the local paths linking the various villages of the Parish, the Lambourn to Eastbury footpath was recognised as the one requiring the most attention as there are no pavements within the Eastbury village and the link would allow for a safe connection between the 2 villages.

Lambourn Parish Council will endeavour to create this link to allow for the safe access between villages and encourage a healthier lifestyle of cycling or simply taking walks within this area of outstanding natural beauty.

Benches/picnic tables at Old Cricket Field

A large percentage of the parishioners within Lambourn are dog walkers and often make use of the Old Cricket Field. Thus it was felt that additional picnic table or benches would encourage a longer visit to this particular Open Space within the Parish. 54% of respondents requested additional benches so they could enjoy spending time at the Old Cricket Field.

Benches/picnic tables at Mill Lane

The Mill Lane play area is a children's play area which encourages outdoor activities. It was felt that additional picnic table would encourage entire families to use the facility more and encourage a healthier lifestyle. 45% of respondents felt that additional picnic benches would be useful.

Benches/picnic tables at Eastbury

The Eastbury play area is a children's play area which encourages outdoor activities. It was felt that additional picnic table would encourage entire families to use the facility more and encourage healthier life style. Although only receiving a 27 % response this was requested by all Parishioners who completed the questionnaire living in Eastbury.

A Greener Community

Anti-litter

Lambourn Parish Council will continue to work closely with the District Council to ensure that the local area is litter free.

We will also continue to encourage working parties to ensure the River Lambourn is kept litter free.

Dog Fouling

Additional Dog bins have been provided in the Parish to allow dog walkers to pick up after their dogs. These have been placed in Greenways and Walkers Lane.

Dog Fouling is a particularly anti social behaviour which needs to be addressed with the threat of fines and action being taken by the Dog Warden.

Not only is this unpleasant but it could potentially be a health risk.

Lambourn Parish Council will continue to work closely with West Berkshire and the local Dog Warden.

A Stronger Community

Creation of Social Club for Teens

Although only 28% of respondents requested this facility, we must bear in mind that the average age of the respondents were over 40 with only 17% of respondents being under that age (4% of respondents did not include their age).

After the completion of the questionnaire it was brought to our attention that 2 of the 3 local Youth Clubs within Lambourn have been closed.

With the withdrawing of funding from West Berkshire and the lack of volunteers to continue running the second Youth Club, this is causing major concern within the Parish.

The youth need a safe place to meet to foster a sense of belonging and participation in community life. This will also encourage friendship and teamwork.

The Lambourn Parish Council will endeavour to set up a Youth Club to provide a safe alcohol - free and drug free environment. It will encourage the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation, as well as promoting religious and racial harmony, equality and diversity.

The Sub-committee will be fund-raising to cover the cost of the venue, the social workers and any other costs which may be incurred.

It will also encourage the advancement of amateur sport.

Creation of day trips for the Elderly

The Lambourn Parish Council will support the creation of day trips for the elderly. We currently advertise any event in our notice board. 52% of respondents requested additional theatre trips or days out. We will encourage the creation of additional trips and assist where possible.

64% of respondents were over the age of 50 and would appreciate the additional facilities.