

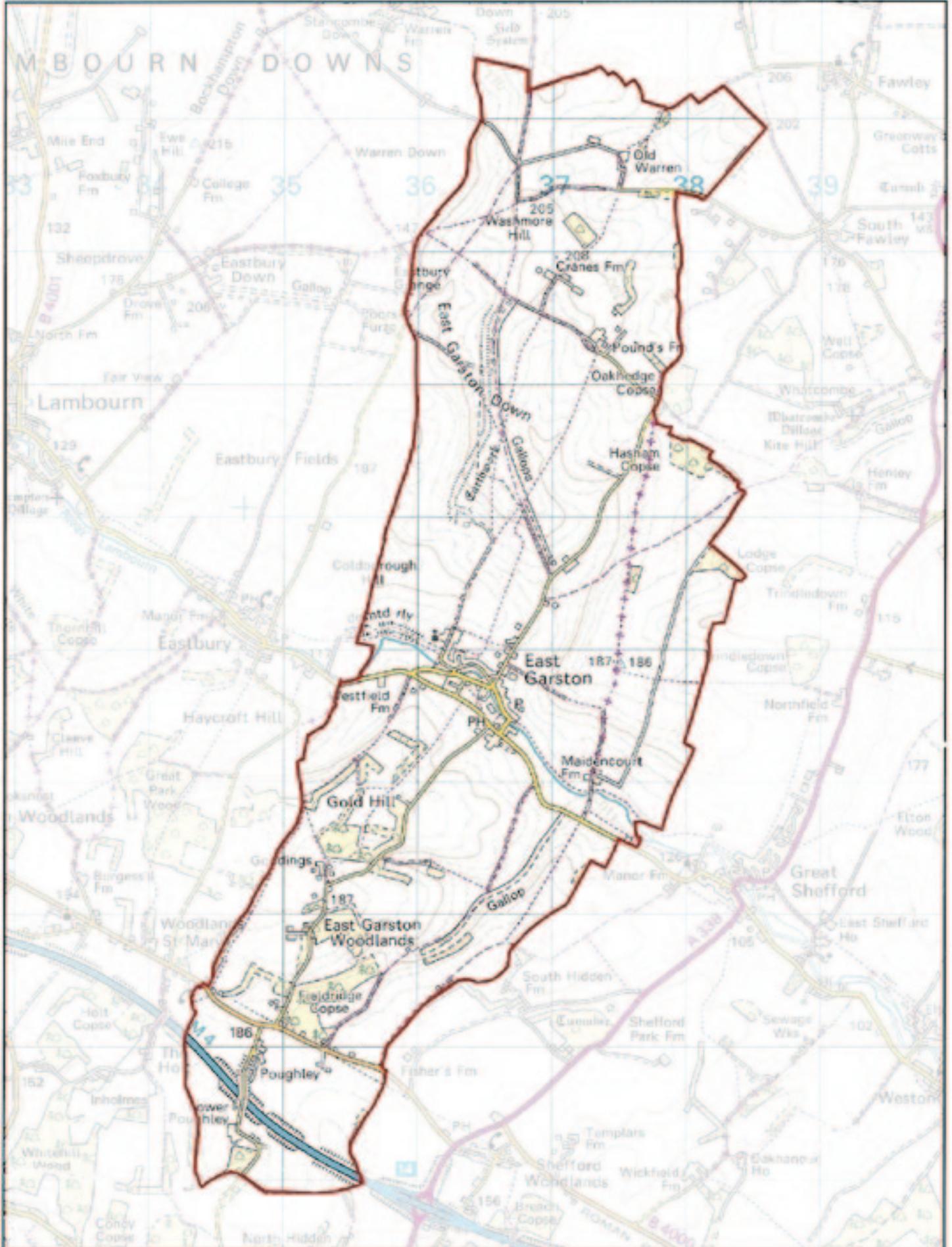
EAST GARSTON PARISH COMMUNITY PLAN

JUNE 2010

EAST GARSTON CIVIL PARISH BOUNDARY

11/06/2009

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East Garston Parish Community Plan

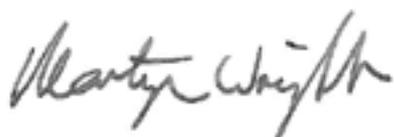
1. Acknowledgements

It is normal in these circumstances to thank all those who have contributed to the development and production of this Parish Community Plan. This gives us a problem. There have been so many contributors, from those who have given many hours over many months, to those who may have simply made a passing comment at one of the open consultation sessions. All contributions, however small, have been valuable, and so, rather than attempt to list them all, we publicly thank everybody who has helped to bring this Plan to fruition.

I will however, make recognition of the Planning Group team who have taken all of those contributions and turned them into what we believe will be a constructive and challenging Plan of actions that will bring improvements to the lives of the residents of East Garston Parish. They each took responsibility for at least one section of the Plan and I would like to thank them enormously for all their hard work and support in bringing this Plan to life. They are:

Alan Breadmore	Planning Group Treasurer/Parish Council/Technology
Jean Banfield	Planning Group Secretary
Vikki Brooks	Environment
Deana Carpenter	Village Hall & Club (supporting Ed James)
Maria Carver	Shop/Transport
Zak Frost	Allotments
Micky Highnett	Sport & Leisure (Cricket Club)
Ed James	Village Hall & Club
Penny Locke	Young People/Communications
James Pryer	Planning & Development
Chris Tonge	Parish Council/Road Safety/Crime & Security
Sally Wright	All Saints Church

There is one other person I will mention, as without her this Plan would never have been completed. Sarah Ward, the Community Council for Berkshire's (CCB) Community Planning Development Worker, has been a tremendous help to us in mentoring us through the process, pointing us in the right direction and oiling the wheels when we needed specialist help. We all owe her a huge vote of thanks.



Martyn Wright

Planning Group Chairman and Employment & Local Business section

2. Summary

2.1. The Process

The process of producing a Parish Community Plan started in April 2008 with a group of volunteers seeking the views of the residents as to improvements they would like to see within the Parish. After a lengthy consultation process, key issues were identified, and actions to address them agreed and adopted by the Parish, and West Berks, Councils

2.1.1. Timeline

April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to produce a Parish Community Plan agreed at the Annual Parish Meeting
May 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Planning Group established
June 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Survey Questionnaire distributed and completed
July 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Open Day held to display results of Survey and to seek views and suggestions of residents
Autumn/ Winter 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of key areas to be addressed • Recruitment of additional Planning Group members • Formation of Planning Group Sub-Groups for each subject area
Spring 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and advice from West Berks Council • Development of main Questionnaires
May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lottery Grant application approved
June/July 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution and return of main Questionnaires
Summer 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of Questionnaire results • Key issues identified
September 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and consultation with residents at Village Fête
Autumn/ Winter 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plans to address issues drawn up • Plan written
December 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Plan sent to West Berks for approval • Draft Plan reviewed and adopted by East Garston Parish Council
March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final consultation event held • Plan approved by West Berks Council
June 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan published, launched and distributed to all residents

2.2. Background – East Garston Past and Present

The area around East Garston Parish has a long history with evidence of habitation dating back to Neolithic times. The major Roman road, Ermin Street, ran through the Southern end of what is now the Parish, and East Garston is recorded in the Domesday Book under its original name of Asgar's Tun. (For more details of Parish history see section 4.1)

The rural environment and picturesque nature of the area, with open downland and gin-clear chalk stream, make it a very attractive and sought after place to live and, as made clear in the responses to the questionnaires, this is very much appreciated by the residents.

Although very much a rural Parish, East Garston enjoys the benefits of excellent communications with the M4 and A34 giving easy access East-West and North-South, and good rail links. London, the South Coast, South Wales and the Midlands are all no more than an hour and a half away.

The Parish has a friendly, supportive atmosphere with a good range of activities for all ages. At the centre, in East Garston village, there is an active Social Club attached to the Village Hall that is used for various activities such as Table Tennis Club, Kids Club, Toddlers Group and Film Club. There is a good pub with restaurant, a Community Shop, an active Church and a Quakers Friends Meeting House, and an Allotment Association. An active Parish website ensures that the increasing majority of residents who have access to the internet are kept well informed of Parish news.

There is local employment in agriculture, engineering, hospitality, catering and horse racing as well as a high level of self employment in other fields.

2.3. The Future – Key Issues and Actions

The high number of responses to the questionnaires, which were divided into a number of specific sections, gave the Planning Group a strong mandate to develop action plans that would meet the needs expressed by the residents of the Parish.

Only a brief summary of those actions can be given here, and to see the full action plans please refer to the main body of the Parish Community Plan.

Summary of Actions by Section

Objective	Summary of Actions
Parish Council: Ensure residents understand the role and responsibilities of the Parish Council and to improve communications between the Council and the residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain the role and responsibilities of the Parish Council and publish profiles of the Councillors● Use website and hold surgeries to improve consultation with residents● Co-opt residents onto the PC, who would ensure representation across the whole of the Parish

Objective	Summary of Actions
<p>Planning & Development: To ensure that the housing needs of the residents are met whilst preserving the much valued rural nature of the area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further clarify the needs and views of the residents by detailed survey ● Produce a Village Design Statement and Parish housing strategy that reflects the views of the residents ● Re-confirm the existing Settlement Boundaries
<p>Road Safety: To improve road safety in the Parish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Press for lower speed limits in specific areas ● Reduce hazards in identified areas e.g. junctions with poor visibility, roads constricted with parking, hedge-cutting, provide cycle proficiency training for young people and improve road maintenance
<p>Crime & Security: To reduce crime, vandalism and abuse and to make people feel more secure in the Parish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seek and promote advice from the Police on improving home security ● More regular attendance by the Police Community Service Officer at open meetings ● Re-generate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme
<p>Transport: Improve transport availability within the Parish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further consultation to assess real need ● Lobby transport companies and make representation to West Berks Council ● Investigate alternative methods of transport e.g. Community bus, car share scheme
<p>Communications: Improve communication of Parish news</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop further the Parish e-newsletter with printed copy sent to non-email residents ● Re-launch the East Garston website ● Create a Parish events diary, directory and newcomers welcome pack
<p>All Saints Church: To ensure that a thriving church continues to serve the whole community whenever it is needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain close contact with Parishioners to determine what is needed ● Provide services that meet Parishioners' changing needs ● Increase fundraising efforts to properly maintain the fabric of the historic building
<p>Village Hall & Social Club: Improve the facilities in the Hall and Social Club and promote increased usage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Re-surface car park (in conjunction with Shop) ● Re-furbish interior of Hall and Club ● Advertise facilities and encourage wider range of interest groups to use them
<p>Community Shop: To meet the needs of the customers and to increase usage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carry out more surveys to find out people's views and needs ● Promote the Shop with advertising, tasting events and other activities

Objective	Summary of Actions
<p>Sport & Leisure: To facilitate and encourage participation in a wide range of sport and leisure activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find leaders for the numerous activities people have shown interest in ● Establish an “umbrella” Sports & Leisure organisation to co-ordinate fund raising, grant application and activities
<p>Environment: To encourage, and further enable, enjoyment of the local environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve clearance of dog fouling ● Improve footpaths and river maintenance ● Provide opportunities for residents to participate in specific local environment projects and activities ● Provide information on energy saving initiatives
<p>Employment & Local Business: To facilitate support for local businesses and to assist residents in finding work locally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set up a local, self help “Business Club” to provide business information and networking opportunities ● Use website for local vacancies and job search skill base
<p>Technology: To maximise the use of Information and Communications Technology for the benefit of the residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide ICT training for those that want it ● Provide a range of ICT equipment available for all to use ● Attempt to achieve an improvement in Mobile Telephony service
<p>Young People: To increase young people’s access to a wider range of activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further investigate real need against current availability ● Organise, or arrange access to, popular activities ● Find solutions to the problem of lack of transport ● Improve toddler play facilities
<p>East Garston Allotment Association: To provide allotments for residents who want them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set up an Association and find suitable land ● Apply for start-up grant ● Prepare ground <p>(This project is now well underway, with allotments opened 1 January 2010)</p>

3. The Community Plan Process

3.1. Conception:

It was in April 2008, at the Annual Parish Meeting, that it was agreed to produce a Parish Community Plan. The subject had been discussed for a while at Parish Council meetings before putting it to the Annual Meeting and the general view was that this would be a beneficial project to undertake. The Parish Council were keen to involve other residents outside of the Council and at the Annual Meeting, a number of volunteers agreed to take it on.

3.2. The planning process:

The members of the Planning Group were determined to make this a Plan that addressed the views and concerns of the majority of residents rather than their own. Therefore, it was decided to start the process by finding out what people thought about living in the Parish in as open ended a way as possible, and from there, to focus on the issues that mattered most to them.

Once these issues were understood and grouped into appropriate, manageable subjects, each member of the Planning Group took responsibility for at least one of them and developed it through the stages of:

- Further questionnaires
- Analysis of residents' responses
- Development of proposed actions
- Further consultation
- Advice from Local Authority sources
- Drafting the final Plan for adoption by the Parish Council and West Berkshire Council

3.3. Consultation:

Effective consultation was critical to the whole process. For the final Plan to be received with any sort of credibility, residents had to know that their views had been sought, that their views had been considered along with others, and that they had had the chance to comment on the proposed actions that had been put forward. Whether residents chose to take part or not, it was vital, for the credibility of the project, for them to know that they had been given the opportunity.

Using a combination of the 2001 census and local knowledge the estimated profile of the Parish in July 2009 was:

Households (occupied): 232

Adults: 450

Children (all ages): 110

Geographical spread: The Parish is spread over a wide area covering a number of hamlets to the North and South of East Garston village. Approximately 20% of households are outside of the village boundary, some as far as 6 miles away.

The first stage of consultation, in June 2008, was to send out an explanatory note about the project with a brief questionnaire to simply ask households what they liked and disliked about living in the Parish and to make any suggestions for improvements. The response was modest with 78 questionnaires collected, a 34% return. As mentioned above, it was felt essential to make people aware that their views were considered important and several attempts were made to retrieve a response by personal visit, letters with stamped addressed envelopes, and telephone calls.

Looking back now, the project might well have ended there and then! Many of the responses indicated that residents were very happy with things as they were and did not want any changes. Comments such as "It's perfect as it is, don't change anything" were commonplace. However, there were sufficient additional comments, not all complimentary, to convince the Planning Group members that they were not wasting their time, and to prompt them to seek further feedback. An Open Day was held in July 2008 in the Village Hall to display the results, with a Parish model made by the children to serve as a visual aid. This very successful format was repeated at the Village Fête in September with a Parish Plan stand displaying the results of the questionnaire and a progress report.

The next stage, in June/July 2009, was to design and distribute the suite of three further, detailed questionnaires: A household questionnaire that sought some basic information about number of adults and children living there, vehicles and parking, and whether it was a main, secondary or temporary residence. An Adult questionnaire contained 100 questions covering 13 different subjects together with information on age and length of time lived in the Parish. The third questionnaire was for young people aged 5 to 15 years. For this stage, officers of West Berkshire Council provided some very helpful advice and assistance in both subject matter and questionnaire design.

This time there was much more interest with some form of reply, i.e. at least one of the three questionnaires, from 170 different households. A 71% return. Of the three questionnaires, the following returns were received:

Household:	140 questionnaires returned	60%
Adults:	262 questionnaires returned	58%.
Young people (5-15):	40 questionnaires returned	60% (est. insufficient data obtainable)

This level of response was considered satisfactory as a representative sample for the Parish. From the analysis of the responses, detailed actions were agreed to address the main concerns and suggestions that had been put forward. The full analysis can be found on the East Garston Website www.east-garston.com

During consultation sessions, and in speaking to residents in the outlying hamlets during delivery and collection of questionnaires, a number of them did not feel part of the Parish as they did not live in East Garston Village, and in some cases a feeling of isolation exists. A few even believed that they actually belonged to neighbouring Parishes.

On the other hand, comment was made by some people that they did not want to be included in this project as they were quite happy being isolated from the main Village and did not feel the Plan was relevant to them. This particular point has been borne in mind when drawing up the Plan to ensure that every effort is made to include all residents, wherever they live, and then the choice is theirs whether or not they participate.

In December 2009, the final draft of the Plan was presented to East Garston Parish Council for their approval and to West Berks Council for endorsement

3.4.Implementation:

The Planning Group members are willing to follow through the process by making the Action Plan happen and further volunteers will be sought to assist them. However, it is recognised that the Parish Council have an important role in this. It was never the intention to form an “alternative” PC and there is a danger that some confusion could be caused with two separate bodies both dealing with Parish matters that affect the residents. It is therefore planned that the Parish Council will adopt, and take joint responsibility for, the Community Plan and will make every effort in supporting the Planning Group to ensure that it comes to fruition, as well as regularly reviewing and updating it in conjunction with the Planning Group.

4. Background - East Garston Past and Present

4.1. East Garston Past:

Evidence of human habitation in the East Garston area has been found dating back to prehistoric times, some thousands of years BC. There are Neolithic earthworks, ditches and enclosures to be seen, as well as pottery fragments and metalwork found that date back to the Bronze Age.

During Roman times, around 43 to 410 AD, local natives must have felt the very close presence of the occupying legions with Ermin Street, the Roman road that linked the important towns of Silchester and Cirencester, passing through the Southern end of the Parish by Woodlands St Mary and Poughley.

With the collapse of their Empire, the Romans left Britain in around 410. Next to invade were the Angles and Saxons, entering Berkshire via the Thames and from Southampton, and occupying the Berkshire Downs in about 560 AD with many Britons fleeing or being enslaved. There is little recorded history of this early Anglo Saxon period other than a book written by Gildas, a British monk, the title of which, "The Ruin of Britain", sums up what he thought about it.

The Vikings were next to visit, and it was in 871 that a major battle was fought at nearby Ashdown, against the Scandinavian invaders. It was here that King Alfred the Great, who was born at Wantage, defeated the Vikings having travelled to Shefford and Eddington, passing close to East Garston, the day before the Battle. It is hard to believe that local inhabitants would not have been drawn in to fight for the local King Alfred.

During the time leading up to the Norman invasion 1066, a man named Asgar held the position of provider of horses to King Edward. As well as other land, he owned the Lambourn Hundred, an area of land which included a place known as Asgar's tun, a tun being the Saxon name for a village. Over the years, the name Asgar's tun suffered many variations, including Esgarston, before finally appearing as East Garston on a map in 1607, although that did not stop the Revd John Tudor leading a spirited campaign in 1904, to change the name back to Esgarston. Despite having failed to win the day, he continued to use his version of the name throughout his ministry as can be seen in the Church registers of the time.

After the Norman Conquest, Asgar's land was taken from him and given to Geoffrey de Mandeville and shortly after, Asgar's tun was listed in the Domesday Book with the following assessment of its value:

30 hides (a hide being the amount of land required to feed a family and its dependants)

Land for 20 ploughs

2 Mills

5 acres of meadow

Woodland for 40 pigs

23 villagers, 12 smallholders and 3 slaves!

With a total value set at £20.

All Saints Church dates back to 1190, although, there may have been a previous Saxon church on the site. Some of the Norman architectural features still remain today, notably the doors in the North and South walls of the nave and South transept. The Church provides numerous other tangible links with history with a 1576 chalice, still used for special services, and historic registers of baptisms, deaths and marriages, one dating back to 1554. Even some of the yew trees in the churchyard are believed to be between 400 and 600 years old. It is fascinating to think that when that chalice was first used, when those early records were written, and possibly when some of the yew trees were young saplings, Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne, Shakespeare was writing his plays, and Sir Francis Drake was defeating the Spanish Armada.

Despite the Berkshire Downland being reserved for the Royal Chase with the area being regularly frequented by various kings' hunting parties, the next few centuries were hard for ordinary people who suffered from famine, plague and war as the Crusades, followed by the Hundred Years War, drained the country's wealth. The Black Death of 1349 alone killed about a third of the population and East Garston did not escape its grip.

The ownership of East Garston changed hands many times throughout the following centuries until, finally, in 1919, it was sold by the last Lord of the Manor, Sir Francis Burdett, and the properties went into private ownership.

As if any further evidence were needed that small, remote rural communities do not escape the impact of major world events, the War Memorial in East Garston village proudly displays the names of those who fell in the two World Wars and the roll is called annually on Remembrance Sunday.

4.2. And present:

East Garston Parish covers an area of around 1,800 hectares of mainly agricultural land and contains the village of East Garston, the hamlets of Woodlands St Mary and Lower Poughley, and even a few houses in Shefford Woodlands and South Fawley. It is well placed with easy access to the M4, and excellent rail links available at Newbury and Didcot. There are good shopping facilities in East Garston Village Community Shop and nearby towns of Lambourn, Hungerford, Newbury, Swindon and Reading.

The Parish is a very attractive place to live. Not only because of its picturesque, rural, peaceful ambience, with "chocolate box" cottages and gin-clear chalk stream, but also because it has a thriving, lively and friendly community. This friendly and supportive atmosphere was commented upon strongly in the responses to the first questionnaire.

There is a good range of activities for all ages. At the centre, in East Garston village, there is an active Social Club attached to the Village Hall that is used for various activities such as Table Tennis Club, Kids Club, Toddlers Group and Film Club. There is a good pub with restaurant, an active Church and a Quakers Friends Meeting House, and an Allotment Association. An active Parish website ensures that the increasing majority of residents who have access to the internet are kept well informed of Parish news, and for those that are not, regular notices and posters are displayed.

There are a number of good schools in the area, both Primary and Secondary, and unemployment is low with a high percentage of people either self employed or running their own small businesses. Employment opportunities are found in a range of small enterprises including agriculture, engineering, hospitality, catering and, of course, horse racing.

In nearby Lambourn, 3 miles away, there is a good GP Surgery with a team of doctors and nurses, and also a Library.

Crime is below average for the region and people generally feel safe where they live, although the ever present hazard of speeding vehicles in quiet villages and narrow lanes is a concern.

As in most rural areas, local public transport is fairly sparse and the vast majority of residents have their own transport. House prices tend to be fairly high which makes it difficult for many local first time buyers.

Anecdotally, there seem to have been more young families moving into the area over the last 10 years or so and certainly there has been a rise in the number of babies and toddlers in the last 2 or 3 years. This is a very welcome development as much of the vibrant activity that exists is centred on these young families.

From the questionnaire responses, the following statistics were obtained. However there is a feeling amongst the Planning Group, that perhaps a larger than average proportion of older people who have lived in the Parish for a long time, declined to return their questionnaires. The Planning Group will attempt to verify this and if necessary take it into account in further developing their action plans:

Not all respondents answered all questions; therefore, percentages do not necessarily total 100%.

Years lived in East Garston Parish: Adults (262)

0 - 4	5 - 9	10 -19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 69	70 - 79	80 - 89
21%	12%	19%	12%	9%	5%	3%	1%	1%	0%

Age profile: Adults (262)

16 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 100
2%	6%	16%	18%	22%	22%	8%	4%	0%

Age profile: Young people (62)

0 - 4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
35%	3%	7%	7%	7%	5%	5%	8%	5%	3%	13%	2%

5. The Future - Key Issues and Actions

This chapter forms the main body of the Plan and deals with each of the sections in turn by: summarising the responses to the questionnaire, defining the specific objective to be achieved that addresses the key concerns, and describing the conclusions drawn and the actions that will be taken to achieve the objective.

N.B.

- Questionnaires were completed by 262 adults and 40 young people.
- References to percentages are the number of relevant responses to a question as a percentage of the number of people who returned a questionnaire, i.e. 262 or 40 respectively.
- For ease of reference, 2% equals just over 5 adults, 10% equals 26, and 50% equals 131 adults.
- Not all respondents answered all questions; therefore, percentages do not necessarily total 100%.

5.1. The Parish Council

5.1.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- Almost half (44%) do not know who was on the Parish Council.
- A similar number (43%) do not know what the Parish Council responsibilities are.
- Most people (60%) know that they can attend normal Parish Council meetings, although few do.
- 40% thought the Parish Council do a good job, only 2% thought it does not, but 26% said they did not know how the PC performed.
- 5% suggested there should be more communication.
- 42% of people think the Parish Council takes notice of their views with 10% thinking they do not.

5.1.2. Objective to be achieved:

To ensure that all residents of East Garston Parish understand the role, responsibilities and membership of the Parish Council, have their views and concerns heard, and are kept informed of its activities in order that they can judge how effectively they are being represented.

5.1.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

From the responses to the questionnaire, it is clear that a significant proportion of residents do not have a clear understanding of the composition, role and responsibilities, or performance of the Parish Council.

The Parish Councillors recognise that this is not a satisfactory position, are committed to establishing a stronger engagement with parishioners and acknowledge that communication needs to improve in order to achieve this.

To ensure that the Parish Council effectively represents all areas of the community, the Councillors want to actively encourage residents to become more involved in the activities of the Parish Council in order that their views, concerns and aspirations are made known.

Although Council meeting agendas and minutes are already posted in the Website, more effective communication is considered key to achieving these objectives. With the increased use of internet technology across the Parish, the East Garston Website and email are seen as the main channel for speedy, interactive communication. More publicity will be given to this and the same information will be distributed in printed form to those who do not yet have access to the technology.

The most urgent requirement is to inform all residents of the roles and responsibilities of the Council, and who the Councillors are. This will be done via the Website and newsletter as well as on the established notice boards, and reinforced at the Annual Parish meeting.

Improvements to the way in which Council business, activity and decisions are communicated will be achieved by more regular newsletters, up-dating of the Website pages and encouragement to attend open meetings. Consideration will be given to holding meetings at different venues across the Parish and to other ways of encouraging involvement of residents in Goodings, Poughley and other outlying hamlets.

Other options to promote greater involvement that will be considered are holding Parish Council surgeries and encouraging representatives from a wider cross section of the Parish to stand on the Council.

The majority of respondents to the Questionnaire seem satisfied with the performance of the Parish Council, although the concern is the lack of awareness of the work it does. By implementing the proposed actions, it is hoped that residents will be able to become more involved in the business of running the Parish and even more relevant decisions and initiatives will be forthcoming.

5.2. Planning & Development

5.2.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- 54% of respondents anticipate staying in the Parish for more than 10 years or the rest of their lives.
- 16% of respondents said that their current accommodation will not meet their requirements for the future. The 2 main requirements are for bungalows or bigger houses.
- 3% of respondents are living with family or friends but would prefer their own accommodation in the Parish. However, they are unable to find anything suitable.
- 69% of respondents take the view that there should either be no future development in the Parish or that any should be limited to within the existing built boundaries. 11% think that it should be allowed beyond the current boundary.
- Types of housing development considered to be acceptable:
 - Extensions to existing buildings 55%
 - Affordable housing 30%
 - Single dwellings 22%
 - No further development 20%
 - Small group(s) of less than 5 18%
 - Sheltered housing for those needing care 16%
 - Tied housing i.e. owned by a business for the use of employees 8%
 - Carefully designed larger groups 4%
- There was support for the following in and around the Parish:
 - Small business development 36%
 - Tourism development / attractions 26%
 - Small scale industrial workshops 24%
 - Small scale service industries 21%
 - Large scale industrial development 0%
- 7% of respondents are not satisfied with the way in which Planning Applications affecting the Parish are publicised. The 2 main suggestions were to publicise them in the shop and on the East Garston web site.

5.2.2. Objective to be achieved:

To protect and enhance the rural character of the parish's built, and natural, environment by guiding and influencing the quantity, character, design and location of any future development within the parish of East Garston, for the benefit of its community.

5.2.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

From the initial residents' survey that was carried out at the early stages of the Community Plan process, it became very clear that people in the Parish very much appreciate the picturesque, rural nature of the area and are very much against development that would spoil that character.

It was no surprise therefore, to find the same sentiments expressed when more detailed, specific questions were asked in the main Questionnaire. A large majority, almost 70%, of respondents would prefer no, or at least very limited, further development to take place. The only type of development that is found to be acceptable to more than half of respondents is extension to existing buildings, although there is some support for affordable housing, single dwellings and small scale business development.

Obviously residents' housing requirements change. Families grow, then shrink when offspring flee the nest and seek their own accommodation, people age and sometimes need different facilities. As a result, development needs are unlikely to remain constant. Added to this, it is recognised that as an aid to maintaining a vibrant community, some element of local business activity is desirable.

With these factors in mind, the focus of this section of the Community Plan is to implement actions that ensure the preservation of the picturesque, rural and architecturally attractive aspects of the area and, at the same time, ensure the housing and business needs of the residents are accommodated.

The first stage of this is to clearly define the consensus view as to what is acceptable development both in architectural terms and location. This will be achieved by further detailed consultation with residents. A Village Design Statement, which is a recognised formal process, is to be agreed and published, again, after due consultation with all residents and acceptance by West Berkshire Council. This then becomes the benchmark against which any further development requests are judged.

The existing Settlement Boundary, the area in which development is permitted, also needs to be re-confirmed. In addition, representation of residents' views on development will be made at the consultation stage of the West Berkshire Local Development Framework project.

More detailed, and regularly updated, surveys will be carried out to ascertain the changing housing needs of the residents and these will be measured against the Village Design Statement criteria.

In order that residents have ample opportunity to comment on planning proposals and applications, ways will be found to ensure that interested parties are alerted to any new applications in time for them to make representation. This could be by Website, RSS feed, newsletter or via the Parish notice boards.

By completing the actions above, it is hoped that the two, sometimes conflicting, objectives of meeting the housing and development needs of the residents and local industry, and maintaining the character of the villages and hamlets of the Parish, can be achieved in harmony.

5.3. Road Safety

5.3.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- 80% of residents consider speeding to be a problem either big or slight.
- Of the 7 speed restricting options suggested, only 2 received more than a 50% support or rejection. These were:
 - 20mph speed limit in villages with 61% in favour and
 - Speed cushions (humps) with 68% against
- There were no other individual suggestions made that were mentioned by more than 4 people.
- 65% of residents think that there are certain locations that pose dangerous traffic conditions. The main ones being:
 - The parked cars at Hillside
 - Speeding along Lambourn Road
 - Most of the junctions with main roads
- 46% of the respondents do not think current parking practice causes safety problems but 40% do, Hillside is mentioned by 24% and the war Memorial area by 9%.
- Only 23% want more parking areas with 19 people suggesting Hillside as the area where it is needed most.
- The majority (77%) do not want street lighting with 15% saying they do.
- Within the 15% that want street lighting, the predominant area mentioned is Humphries Lane.
- 34% are dissatisfied with the condition of our roads, with School Lane up to Pounds Farm being of most concern, mentioned by 6%.
- Although most people feel that roadside hedges are kept in a safe condition, a significant number think that some should be better kept. The main locations of concern are Front Street and most road junctions.

5.3.2. Objective to be achieved:

To improve road safety within East Garston Parish by addressing the concerns of the residents as far as possible within the limitations set by local authorities and reasonable cost.

5.3.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

Road safety, in particular speeding, is one of the issues that respondents to the Questionnaire feel most strongly about with 80% saying they think speeding is a problem. There is also a strong consensus that there are certain locations that pose dangerous traffic conditions such as roads with concentrated parking and road junctions with limited visibility.

The Parish Council is committed to taking all reasonable actions possible to improve road safety within the Parish and will liaise with the Traffic Management Department of West Berkshire Council to help to achieve its objectives.

One of the major concerns mentioned in the responses to the Questionnaire was speeding along the main road from Great Shefford to Lambourn, in particular past the parked cars on Hillside. The Parish Council had already presented a case to the Council for a 30mph speed limit at the time the questionnaire was distributed and approval was given and signs erected prior to this Plan being produced. However there are a number of other suggestions and requests that will vie for position on the priority list.

Speeding within villages and hamlets is a major concern and there is strong support for a 20mph limit in these places. Views on other methods of controlling speed are fairly evenly divided with the only real consensus being a strong dislike of speed cushions (humps). It is felt that children are most at risk, particularly during holiday times, and a concerted effort will be made to not only remind local drivers of the dangers of driving in quiet streets and lanes, but also to educate children about the inherent risks of traffic in these circumstances where quiet, rural roads are often seen by children as a natural place to play. As a specific measure, cycling proficiency training is being planned as part of the Action Plan in the Young Peoples' section.

Further surveys and study will be undertaken to find solutions to the problems caused by concentrated parking at certain locations. This is a particularly difficult situation as in many cases the residents are not to blame as they do not have a sensible alternative place to park. However, investigations will continue to see if suitable off road parking can be provided.

Visibility at a number of road junctions can be difficult at times and particular attention will be paid to these areas with cutting back of vegetation and ensuring that signs and fences do not block drivers' views. Similarly, residents' hedges that have been left uncut can cause hazards by restricting both visibility and the width of narrow roads. Polite reminders will be given to those residents to ensure the risks are minimised.

The condition of public roads in some areas gives some concern, particularly some of the most rural lanes. The Highways and Transport Service has confirmed it is happy to receive the Parish Council's views on road maintenance, although the Council works to a 5-year plan which is based on surveys and prioritisation according to greatest need. The Parish will bring to the attention of the local authority roads that they consider are in need of repair for possible inclusion in the maintenance programme, and to make representation if that does not seem adequate.

Finally, street lighting. This often contentious issue again resulted in a divided response, with a large majority (77%) against the idea albeit with a significant number (15%) requesting it. Interestingly the majority of those wanting street lighting come from one specific area, and as a result further investigation and consultation will be carried out to ascertain why it is felt necessary and to examine any possible options.

5.4. Crime and Security

5.4.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- Burglary, break-in and theft in the last 5 years:
 - 22 cases from homes,
 - 18 cases from vehicles
 - of these 31 reported to police
- Vandalism:
 - 9 cases at homes,
 - 13 cases involving vehicles
 - of these 16 reported to police
- Abusive behaviour:
 - 8 cases
 - of these 5 reported to police
- Safety for Adults:
 - 61% of people thought the village “very safe”
 - Only 2% thought it “not very safe”
- Safety for Children:
 - 42% of people thought the village “very safe”
 - Only 4% thought it “not very safe”
- Reasons people, who felt it was “fairly” or “not very” safe, gave were:
 - Roads and speeding - 8%
 - Lack of footpaths - 1%
 - Lack of Street lighting - 1%
 - Burglary - 3%
 - Vandalism - 1%
- In the last five years 56 people had requested a response from the police. Of these
 - 51 were satisfied with the police response.
- 45% of people would like to see a more regular police presence.
- 84% of people had never seen our Police Community Support Officer.
- 72% of people do not know who their Neighbourhood Watch contact is.

5.4.2. The following statistics report has been obtained from Thames Valley Police

5.4.2.1. East Garston Crime Levels Summary

The information below relates to offences between 1st December 2008 and 30th November 2009. The methodology behind the figures provided is below and should be referred to when drawing conclusions.

5.4.2.2. Methodology – key points

- The parish of East Garston has been isolated using GIS mapping so only crimes which occurred within the parish have been counted.
- The other three areas (Hungerford, Lambourn and Newbury) are neighbourhoods within the policing structure and as such are considerably larger in size.

- The Lambourn neighbourhood includes East Garston and so its figures will include those from East Garston.
- The Newbury South West Neighbourhood does not include Newbury town centre, which is identified by Thames Valley Police as a neighbourhood in its own right, for policing purposes.
- Population levels for East Garston were taken from the website www.east-garston.com
- Populations for the other areas used are taken from the 2001 census.
- All figures are provided “per thousand population” to allow fair comparison.

5.4.2.3. Overall Crime Table

Area	Total Crimes per 1,000 pop
East Garston Parish	69.6
Hungerford Neighbourhood	88.0
Lambourn Neighbourhood	84.9
Newbury South West Neighbourhood	79.5

5.4.2.4. Crime Types Table

Area	Crimes per 1,000 pop			
	Violent Crime	Vehicle Crime	Burglary of a Dwelling	Other
East Garston Parish	11.3	16.9	3.8	37.6
Hungerford Neighbourhood	17.3	9.5	3.6	57.6
Lambourn Neighbourhood	13.2	12.5	3.7	55.5
Newbury South West Neighbourhood	15.7	8.2	7.1	48.5

5.4.3. Objective to be achieved:

To reduce crime, vandalism and abuse in East Garston Parish and to take actions that are aimed to make the residents feel more secure.

5.4.4. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

The crime statistics retrieved from the responses to the Questionnaire need to be put in some context to be able to decide what actions can be suggested to improve the security of the residents of the Parish.

From statistics obtained from Thames Valley Police, the overall crime rate in East Garston Parish in the last 12 months was about 15% lower than that in Lambourn, Hungerford or Newbury South West, which themselves classify as

average for the Thames Valley Area. However, the vehicle crime rate is higher in East Garston Parish than elsewhere.

From the results of the Questionnaire, the majority of respondents feel that the Parish is a safe place to live both for adults and children. However the concern about crime and security is probably even less than these figures indicate as those people that had concerns, mentioned road safety and speeding as their main worry. For the purpose of this Plan, these issues are not considered to be factors affecting crime and security and are covered elsewhere in the Road Safety section.

The actions in this Plan are focused on two specific aspects of the overall objective; to reduce crime, and to raise, even further, peoples' confidence in the security of the area in which they live.

To reduce crime, the emphasis will be on prevention. Residents will be advised to make their properties more secure with specific advice being given by Police and Neighbourhood Watch personnel. Reminders about car security will be regularly highlighted as (anecdotally) it is understood that during a recent spate, a number of car crimes were carried out on, mainly, vehicles that were left unlocked with valuables left inside.

To help make residents feel even more secure, the Parish Council will attempt to persuade the Police to increase their visibility with more visits from the PCSO. They will also be invited to attend Parish open meetings. The Parish Council will also liaise with the local Neighbourhood Action Group on relevant Crime and Security issues.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme will be re-vitalised and re-launched with residents being encouraged to take an active part.

To summarise, relatively speaking, East Garston Parish does not have a serious crime problem, in fact it is generally better off than its neighbouring areas. However, it is recognised that, to the individual victim, such comparisons do not diminish the devastating effect of a suffering a crime. It is therefore considered very important to keep a clear focus on the crime prevention actions that have been detailed in the Plan

5.5. Transport

5.5.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- The majority of the respondents, 91%, have their own transport. 5% do not.
- Although 79% of the respondents do not use a bus service, 13% do.
- Newbury was the most common destination (11%), and Hungerford next (2%)
- 21% of the respondents would use a bus service more regularly if there was a service that suited their needs. 51% said they would not.
- 8% of respondents agree that the main improvement to the transport system would be the provision of more buses, with a revised timetable (4%) and a direct bus to Hungerford (3%) also suggested.
- 90% of the respondents did not use a taxi service during the day but, 11% used a taxi once a month or more during the evening.
- 83% of the respondents did not car-share regularly, but 11% would be interested in an organised car-sharing scheme.
- 84% of the respondents would not be interested in renting a car on an hourly basis, 6% would.

5.5.2. Objective to be achieved:

To assist those people who do not have their own transport by improving public transport availability or finding suitable alternatives, and to facilitate cost/energy saving transport schemes.

5.5.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

From the responses to the Questionnaire, the immediate impression is that mobility is not really an issue in the Parish, with only 5% of respondents saying they do not have their own transport.

However, this may be a rather superficial conclusion as it does not take account of residents' preference. Some people may own a car simply because there is no alternative if they are to continue living where they do. There is an indication of a different conclusion in the fact that 13% of residents already use public transport, and over 20% saying that they would do so more, if there were services that suited them. In an age of concern for the environment, this is an issue that should not be ignored. It is apparent, however, that not all residents are aware of all the public transport services that are available and efforts will be made to better publicise these.

Of course, the problem of viable public transport in rural areas is not unique to the Parish of East Garston, nor even to the Lambourn Valley, and to attempt to square this particular circle within this Community Plan would be more than ambitious. For all the concern that is felt, this is not a problem that can be solved locally and there are already national initiatives and consultations underway into which local voices should contribute. All local Highway Authorities are required to produce a long term Local Transport Plan and West Berkshire Council is about to enter the consultation stage of up-dating theirs. East Garston Parish will

contribute to this consultation process to represent the views and needs of its parishioners. The West Berks Council Transport Policy Team has assured the Planning Group that comments and involvement with the Local Transport Plan would be welcomed. The Parish Council will be notified of the stages of consultation for the plan that has to be in place by April 2011. However, ongoing dialogue throughout the life of the plan will also be important so engagement periodically after April 2011 will also be beneficial.

However, even if not able to solve the UK's rural transport problems overnight, there are local initiatives that can be taken within the Parish to assist those that need help with transport, and to lessen the impact that current practice has on the environment. These are the areas that are targeted in this Community Plan.

After further, detailed consultation and research, representation will be made to the local public transport providers in an attempt to persuade them to provide more resident friendly services. This could form part of a co-ordinated Lambourn Valley initiative.

A study will be carried out to assess the feasibility of setting up a volunteer driver scheme to assist those who do not have access to their own transport, and a further, and rather more ambitious, study will look at the viability of a community bus. This idea could be particularly relevant to the needs of young people who find the limited access to sport and leisure activities often prohibitive. As Lambourn already operate a volunteer scheme, advice will be sought from the people who organise it with a view to exploring possible co-ordination within the valley and investigating the opportunities for grant funding.

There was a reasonable degree of support for a car sharing scheme and this will be explored further and promoted if found to be viable. It is felt that, where parties are willing to share transport, it is probably already being done on an informal basis so any more organised scheme would be additional to that already underway.

To summarise, the bigger issue of public transport in rural areas is felt to be outside the remit of this Plan other than local representation to providers for minor changes and representation into the consultation process of the West Berkshire Local Transport Plan. A parish the size of East Garston simply does not have the mass to significantly influence rural transport provision on its own. Therefore the actions in this Plan are aimed at producing self help solutions to solve specific local problems.

5.6. Communications

5.6.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- Parishioners find out what is going on locally via: word of mouth (66%), Village Views (58%), posters (48%), notice boards (41%), EG website (35%), email (26%)
- 30% said they want to be on the Parish communications e-mail list. (NB. The established e-mail list now contains more than 140 residents, over 50% of the number of respondents)

5.6.2. Objective to be achieved:

To help people become more aware of what is going on in the Parish.

5.6.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

For a small Parish, East Garston has quite an active community with numerous events organised by a wide range of local groups. With the Parish spread over an extensive geographic area, communication of all these activities is not easy and the responses from the Questionnaire show that word of mouth is the most common method of hearing news. Village Views magazine is fairly popular but does not have sufficient space to publicise, or report on, all that is going on. Posters and notice boards have only limited exposure and although 80% of respondents to the Questionnaire have access to the Internet, only 35% use the well respected East Garston website to find out about Parish news.

Considering that it was only started as an informal correspondence amongst the Film Society, The East Garston Email Newsletter has achieved an impressive following of more than 140 people. A large number of new subscribers have been added following interest shown in the Questionnaire, and it is now planned to make the Email Newsletter the main source of news distribution within the Parish. The website will be re-vamped to accommodate pages from more groups but the free Newsletter provides subscribers with weekly bulletins and instant updates without users having to remember to access the website. For those who do not yet have access to the Internet, a monthly version of the Newsletter will be printed and delivered.

Because of the geographic spread of hamlets around East Garston village that make up the Parish, local “correspondents” will be recruited into the Communications Team from the outlying residential areas to keep the news and events information flowing in for publication.

A Parish events diary will be set up on the website to make it easier for organisers to plan and book facilities as well as giving everyone a simple guide to “what’s on” and a Parish directory will also be made available.

Finally, to ensure that newcomers to the Parish are made welcome and gain speedy access to Parish events, a welcome pack will be produced and given to all known new residents. To achieve this it will require the support of all residents to let the Communications Team know of newcomers.

5.7. All Saints Church

5.7.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- 80% of those responding think that it is very, or quite, important that there is an active local Church as a place of worship (even if they do not attend). Only 10% said it is not important at all.
- 86% think that it is very, or quite, important that the Church, as a 12th century historic building, is properly maintained. Only 2% think it is not important at all.
- 43% said the Church provides all that they require from it, whilst only 2% said it does not. However, 37% considered the question not applicable to them.

5.7.2. Objective to be achieved:

In a fast moving, changing world, to ensure that the constant, unchanging Christian message is effectively delivered and that a thriving Church continues to serve the community by being there for everyone when they need it.

5.7.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

It is clear, from the response to the questionnaire, that a large majority of residents believe that it is important that the Parish has an active Church as a place of worship. Equally, the majority recognise the importance of maintaining the Church as an historic building of significance.

The aim of the Vicar, Churchwarden and Parochial Church Council is to make the Church fully inclusive and relevant to the community today. They will continue to deliver the Christian message and welcome everybody whether they attend on a regular basis, or only on major festivals and special occasions such as weddings, baptisms and funerals. A great deal of pastoral work is carried out in private, behind the scenes, and this fundamental part of Church work will continue.

The Vicar, Churchwarden and Parochial Church Council will continue to seek the views of parishioners to ensure the Church provides for their changing needs, and will continue to involve the young people in Church activities so that they also feel welcome, and see it as their church and not just a place for adults.

Contrary to the myth that the Church of England is wealthy, the opposite is true. East Garston Church, along with many others, is constantly struggling to make ends meet, and the ever increasing drain on funds to properly maintain the historic building, which dates back to medieval times, is a major concern. Fundraising, therefore, is an ongoing activity. The Vicar, Churchwarden and Parochial Church Council are very grateful to its regular donors, without whom the Church could not survive, and will continue to raise funds by trying to give back something in return, whether it is a concert, exhibition of ancient records or interesting talks on specific subjects such as the recent Railway evenings.

Wherever possible maintenance will be carried out by volunteers and the popular Maintenance Days will be expanded with help from new volunteers who have put their names forward in response to the Community Plan Questionnaire.

5.8. East Garston Village Hall & Social Club

5.8.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- 91% of respondents thought that it is very, or quite, important that there is a village hall. Nobody said it is not at all important.
- 75% are prepared to contribute to its upkeep through an increase in Council Tax (up to £3 pa per household). 13% are not.
- Just over half of the respondents (52%) feel the Club meets the needs of the Parish, 8% feel it does not.
- 5% feel that it does not attract a wide enough cross section of residents.
- 6% feel that the Club needed a re-fit or upgrade.

5.8.2. Objective to be achieved:

The objectives are to continue to update and improve the facilities of the Village Hall and Social Club, to promote wider usage through existing, and new, groups and to ensure finances remain healthy.

5.8.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

From the replies to the Questionnaire, it is clear that the vast majority of respondents believe it is important that there is a Village Hall in East Garston and half the respondents believe that the Social Club meets the needs of the Parish. It is recognised, however, that both the Hall, and attached Club building, require regular maintenance and are in need of some refurbishment.

The two operations of the Hall and Club are inextricably linked and are mutually dependent. However, the Village Hall is organised under charitable status, managed by trustees, and the Social Club is run by a small group of volunteers on a cash generating business basis. The Club contributes financially to the upkeep of the Hall, and the Hall generates funds through letting fees. The Social Club operates an alcohol licence on the basis that it is a members-only club and benefits financially when providing bar facilities for functions held in the Hall. The joint operation is currently enjoying a successful period with some funds available, but it relies heavily on the small number of volunteers to run it.

The actions set out within this Plan, agreed by the Trustees and Social Club Committee, are designed to meet the objectives of maintaining and improving the Hall and Club facilities and to promote their usage to raise further funds.

The major refurbishment items include the re-surfacing of the car park (responsibility of the Parish Council), re-furbishing the Hall floor and laying a new carpet in the Club lounge (now complete). Longer term projects include re-furbishing the Hall toilets, insulation and other energy saving improvements, lighting, and roof repairs.

To increase funding, it is planned to promote the facilities by word of mouth amongst current and potential user groups and by advertising, as well as pursuing any possible grants that are available.

5.9. Community Shop

5.9.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- 84% of respondents have visited the Shop.
- Summary of positive comments with more than 5% response
 - Good range of products 29%
 - Friendly 20%
 - Clean & Tidy 7%
 - Well lit 6%
 - Parking 5%
- Summary of Negative comments with more than 5% response
 - Too hot 6% (Air con now installed)
 - Expensive 5%
- 16 Volunteers offered to help

5.9.2. Objective to be achieved:

To constantly review the operation to ensure the Shop meets the needs of the Residents and to promote the Shop as widely as possible

5.9.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

The idea of setting up a Community Shop was discussed even before the Community Plan project was conceived and the initial Plan survey that was carried out re-enforced the belief that a shop was high on the list of residents' "wants".

As a result of a great deal of hard work, a committed team of volunteers have successfully established a valued resource in the community as the responses from the latest Questionnaire show. The only significant negative that was mentioned was the lack of air conditioning and this has now been installed.

The Shop management team is committed to making the venture a success and are keen to listen to any feedback and suggestions. To this end they will carry out regular customer surveys and product range reviews.

In order to increase sales, which are needed to ensure viability, there will be more advertising and special events to attract new customers.

Although it is still early days, the Shop is highly valued but needs to build on its current level of business to be sure of a secure future. The activities planned are aimed at achieving this and gaining still further support from the residents of the Parish, and other local areas, on which it depends.

5.10. Sport & Leisure

5.10.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- A significant number of people already partake in sports and leisure activities – some locally but some not available within the Parish.
- There is a significant level of interest in taking part in a wide range of sports and leisure activities.
- The most popular sports or physical activities are:
 - Walking 112 Respondents
 - Keep fit 56
 - Cycling 46
 - Running 41
 - Tennis 39
 - Yoga 31
 - Cricket 25
 - Table tennis 21
- The most popular leisure interests are:
 - Wine tasting 56 respondents
 - Theatre 43
 - Film Society 39
 - Gardening Club 38
 - Photography 37
 - Music 29
 - Allotments 24
 - Adult Education 22
- There is no “umbrella” organisation to co-ordinate activities or facilities, it is left to individuals to arrange things themselves e.g. Cricket Club, Table Tennis.
- 19 volunteers have offered their help covering a wide range of activities.

5.10.2. Objective to be achieved:

To facilitate and encourage participation in a wider range of sports and leisure activities within the Parish, and to assist in providing appropriate facilities.

5.10.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

From the responses to the Questionnaire, it is clear that there is a great deal of interest in a wide range of sports and non-sports activities. A number of people are already active in some of these, but sometimes by necessity, outside of the Parish.

Some people already meet together informally to enjoy their particular interest e.g. Table Tennis, or the recent Allotment initiative (see section 5.15. and 6.15.), but there are other activities that significant numbers of people are interested in, that have not been organised e.g. Keep Fit and Photography.

It is felt that if some of these other activities could be properly organised, a number of people would be able to enjoy a range of activities that otherwise they would not have been able to.

From the responses to the Questionnaire, there are a number of volunteers who are willing to help with the organisation of activities, and these will be approached to secure their help. However, it is recognised that it could be more effective if there was an “umbrella” organisation that could co-ordinate the various specific activity groups, in particular in fundraising and grant application. It is planned to find someone from the Parish to take the lead in the task of pulling together the various interest groups.

If, after consultation, it was thought to be viable, an “East Garston Sports & Leisure Club” would be formed, within which, various sections (or clubs within a club) would be responsible for their specific activities.

5.11. Environment

5.11.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- The vast majority of parish residents (77%) were very or fairly satisfied with the current state of local footpaths.
- However a reasonable number of individuals (5%) expressed a concern regarding some paths that are overgrown.
- 84% of residents are satisfied with the way in which the open spaces in the Parish are kept.
- 80% are satisfied with current litter clearance.
- The local issue which generated the greatest level of dissatisfaction (24%) is that of dog foul clearance.
- River maintenance has the second highest level of dissatisfaction (11%) however 75% of residents have stated that they are satisfied with current clearance.
- 44% of respondents stated that they would be interested in finding out more about energy efficient initiatives.
- Significant numbers of residents would be interested in taking part in the suggested environment projects. These include; circular wildlife walks (62 people), a day's wildlife course (52), bird/butterfly survey (55), river survey (49).

5.11.2. Objective to be achieved:

To encourage, and further enable, enjoyment of the local environment and promote sustainable practices in the Parish of East Garston.

5.11.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

From the responses to the initial survey that was carried out, it is clear that residents greatly value the rural nature of the Parish and gain considerable enjoyment from, and care about, the environment. In this section of the Plan, the focus is on both the local environment; footpaths, wildlife, litter etc. and the wider issues such as re-cycling, energy conservation and other sustainable practices.

The majority of respondents who completed the main Plan Questionnaire are generally satisfied with the condition of footpaths, open spaces and litter clearance within the Parish, albeit with some specific or localised concerns. However, there is a significant concern about dog fouling and, to a lesser extent, river clearance. Both of these issues are addressed in the Action Plan.

It is clear that people gain a great deal of pleasure from the countryside, and it was felt that this could be further enhanced by some more structured activities. From the Questionnaire responses, this proved to be a popular initiative and, as a result, it is planned to organise a number of environmental projects that will enable residents to learn and understand more about their local flora and fauna. These will include wildlife courses and guided walks, and surveys covering the river, local birdlife, butterflies etc.

There is a great amount of interest in sustainable practices such as energy saving schemes with almost half of respondents wanting to learn more about such initiatives. It is therefore planned to publish and distribute a leaflet giving energy saving advice and heating oil co-operative purchasing.

There are a number of local schemes currently underway, or planned, in West Berkshire, e.g. Village Community Bus scheme, loft and cavity wall insulation and the “Greening Campaign” that the Parish may be able to access, and this will be further investigated with the West Berkshire Partnership or the individual Council Service Areas.

There are also a number of national schemes specifically aimed at community groups such as the Energy Saving Trust and these will also be researched.

Car sharing is also considered and is included in the Transport section of this Plan.

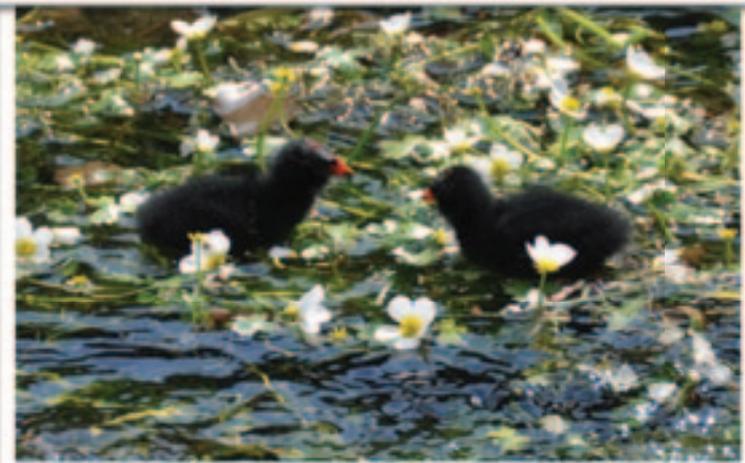
Within the Parish there is obviously an appreciation of the environment and a concern that it should be protected. It is believed that the actions set out in this Plan will contribute to both the enjoyment and protection of the local environment and will assist in a small way in tackling the broader issues facing us today.

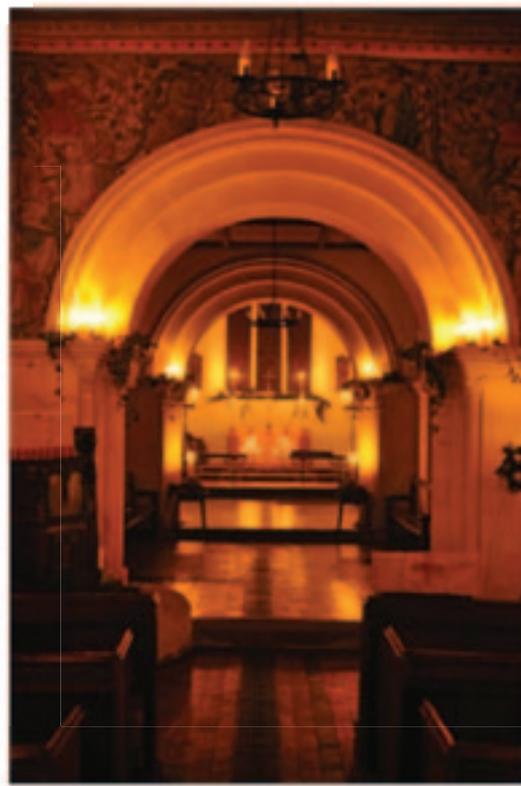




THE SHOP







5.12. Employment & Local Business

5.12.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- The majority of respondents are in employment (57%).
- Around 30% are retired.
- Only 2% are unemployed and seeking work.
- 14% work in EG Parish, 40% outside, 13% self employed.
- 20% would be interested in working locally.
- The type of work people want is very diverse.
- 20% run their own businesses.
- The range of businesses that people run is very diverse (8 in consultancy/IT consultancy, 4 in building).
- 18 businesses employ 248 people (not all in EG Parish).
- 5 businesses plan to employ an additional 17 people within the next 12 months.
- 7 businesses would find some assistance helpful (4 mentioned advertising inc. on EG website).

5.12.2. Objective to be achieved:

To assist residents in finding suitable work locally and to assist local businesses where some form of support would be useful.

5.12.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

The employment situation for residents in the Parish is quite positive. There are very few people who are unemployed and seeking work and the unemployment level of 2% is about the average for West Berkshire.

Of those working, not surprisingly, the majority work outside of the Parish although many would prefer to find employment locally. The range of work that people would seek is very wide.

There are a significant number of people who are self employed, or who run their own businesses employing people. Several of these have said they would welcome some form of assistance.

There are two areas that are thought to be worth pursuing within the Community Plan; helping people to find employment locally and helping to create a local business network within which, businesses can help each other.

5.12.3.1. Employment.

The majority of people in the Parish have access to a computer and to the Internet. It is therefore planned to use this medium to both advertise local jobs, and to create a facility where people seeking work locally can promote their skills and experience to potential employers.

Consideration will also be given to the need for establishing a Job Club in which people seeking employment meet on a regular basis for networking, help with

CVs and other mutual help initiatives. With the current low level of unemployment it is felt unlikely that there would be sufficient demand, however, should the situation worsen this option could be pursued.

5.12.3.2. Local Business Network

Further consultation will be carried out to determine whether such a network would be of interest to businesses and self employed people in the Parish. If the idea receives support, then the network would be established, agenda and programme agreed, and organising committee elected. The Network would have its own website or pages on the East Garston website and a web based, members only, discussion forum would be set up on which members could seek advice, exchange business leads, spread local business news etc.

5.13. Technology

5.13.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- The vast majority of respondents (83%) have access to a personal computer at home.
- The vast majority (81%) have access to the internet.
- Most people (77%) use broadband for access to the internet.
- More than half of broadband users are dissatisfied with the speed of their broadband connection.
- There appears to be a high degree of personal computing awareness, capability and capacity within the community.
- However there is some demand for computer training (5%), public access to a PC (9%) and shared access to specialised facilities (18%), A3 printer and scanner being the most popular requests.
- The vast majority of respondents (88%) own a mobile phone.
- The network provider profile is substantially different to the national average (58% Vodafone compared with 25% nationally).
- Only 19% of respondents are satisfied with reception in their home.
- 40% of respondents would be prepared to change provider for significantly better reception in their home.

5.13.2. Objective to be achieved:

To identify the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) needs of local residents and businesses and where a community based approach would be appropriate to:

- define the actions required to enable those needs to be met
- develop strategies to improve ICT infrastructures in the community
- work with other sub groups to identify where ICT centric actions may enable their objectives.

5.13.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

Increasingly, the availability of the Internet has benefitted those who live in rural areas by improving communications and easing access to a wider range of goods and services.

The extent to which computers are used is often related to age profile, so in a community where 34% of the respondents to the Questionnaire are over 60 yrs of age it is encouraging to note that over 80% of respondents have access to a computer and the Internet.

Even if nothing is done, it is only a matter of time before computer usage reaches virtually 100% as the generations evolve. However, until then, assistance will be given to those who are interested in entering the computer age now. About 5% have registered an interest in computer training and nearly double that number would appreciate some level of shared technology facility.

To meet this need, it is planned to form a cadre of volunteer trainers and coaches, as well as assessing the need for formal training via adult education courses. To meet the hardware requirements, further assessment will be carried out to determine if the need can be met with either shared or donated equipment or whether hardware will need to be purchased, in which case grant aid will be explored.

A large majority of respondents use Broadband but more than half are dissatisfied with the speed of connection. It is recognised that part of the problem could lie with “operator error” or the way in which their connection is set up. The first step, therefore, will be an education process advising people of the best ways to speed up connection with a “Guide to Broadband in East Garston” leaflet produced to go to all households. The volunteer trainers will also be available to give practical help in maximising individual broadband speed.

Research will be carried out to determine what relevance the Government Rural Broadband initiative has for East Garston Parish and if necessary representation will be made to BT with regard to capacity. Another possible option for enhanced connection speeds that could be pursued is Mobile Broadband connection. However, current mobile service would have to improve dramatically before this could become a reality.

Whilst almost 90% of respondents own a mobile telephone, within a large area of the Parish, mobile reception, from all network providers, is poor to non-existent. A high proportion of users are on Vodafone network and 40% of respondents said they would change providers for a better service. Therefore a concerted lobbying of network providers will take place to persuade them to review their approach to rural network provision. There will also be lobbying of local authorities and central government to support rural network coverage

A further avenue that will be pursued will be to investigate technical solutions that may enable a community led rather than network provider led initiative.

To summarise, it is felt that with the continuous advances being made in information technology, a rural community such as East Garston Parish can benefit hugely by maximising the opportunities that this brings, and to do so, all residents have to be able to access, and know how to use, the technology available. The actions outlined in this Plan aim to achieve this.

5.14. Young People

5.14.1. Summary of responses to the Questionnaire:

- The age range of the respondents was 5 - 15 yrs with a fairly even spread across all ages
- Respondents go to a total of 15 different primary or secondary schools
- 46% go by car, 39% by school bus, 8% by public bus
- what the children liked most about the village is the peaceful, spacious countryside, their friends in the village and the shop
- most popular activities were: computer games, football, reading/drawing, tennis, swimming, walking the dog, shopping
- 25% of respondents wished there was more to do in the village or more outdoor facilities; 25% complained about fast traffic and state of the roads; 10% asked for more buses
- activities they'd like to do but don't do now: dance, swimming, tennis, skateboarding
- 25% would join a youth club for teenagers if it was started now; 20% would when they were old enough
- 65% would like to have cycling proficiency training

5.14.2. Objective to be achieved:

To increase awareness of, and access to, facilities and activities in the local area, and to increase facilities and activities for children within the Parish.

5.14.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

It is estimated that there are approximately 100 young people aged 15 and below in the parish of East Garston with a fairly even spread across all ages.

With these relatively small numbers, particularly as they are spread over several villages or hamlets, it is difficult to provide significant facilities that are easily accessible to all. However, there is a reasonable amount of leisure provision in the wider locality; Hungerford, Great Shefford, Lambourn etc. particularly for older children.

This section of the Plan focuses on the dual objective of increasing young peoples' awareness, and access to, facilities and activities in neighbouring communities, and to improving the local facilities and activities in the immediate area in which the young people currently live.

There is already a degree of awareness about youth activities and facilities in the locality, but further work will be done, in liaison with West Berkshire Youth Service, to find out the full range that is available. The Youth Service has already indicated its willingness to help. The options will be publicised and all young people, and their parents, will be contacted to ascertain the level of interest, then arrangements will be made for young people to take part in those activities or use the facilities.

Communication and co-ordination are two factors that will be key to success. Contact via the e-newsletter and Website will be promoted to achieve speedy communication, and the various organisations that currently arrange events and activities will be encouraged to discuss and agree programmes and timetables to avoid conflicting dates and duplication.

One of the major difficulties is transport with the current bus services being extremely sparse and unlikely to be of much use. Obviously pooled “parent transport” is going to be the most likely option, however, one other possibility that will be investigated, is the provision of a community bus. This issue is also being addressed in the Transport section of this Plan, where the possibility of some form of community transport is also being studied.

With regard to providing improved facilities and activities locally, again, further surveys will be carried out amongst children and parents to find the most popular and feasible activities and facilities required, and then look for ways of funding them. A Kids Club already operates in East Garston Village and further volunteers will be sought to expand the range of activities currently run. Again, the advice and support of such organisations as West Berkshire Youth Services and Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People will be sought.

Another area that was identified as desirable in the Questionnaire responses was the provision of further play area equipment for younger children, the toddler to 5s group. Since this need was identified, a scheme has been devised, grant applied for and approved, and the work planned.

There are various grants available for youth projects but they require some fairly demanding criteria to be met before being approved. However this will be pursued once sufficient back-up information is collected and plans prepared.

There are currently more young people in the Parish than there have been for some time and it is considered vital they are able to enjoy a wide range of challenging and healthy activities and interests within a reasonable distance from their homes. The actions detailed in this Plan aim to achieve this important objective.

5.15. East Garston Allotment Association

This section is included as an example of the type of project that can be achieved when a small group of keen individuals take the initiative and make it happen.

5.15.1 Summary of responses to questionnaire:

- 6 people said they were already active in allotments
- 18 said they would be interested in having an allotment
- 38 said they would be interested in joining a Horticulture/Gardening Club

5.15.2. Objective to be achieved:

To provide allotments for those residents of the Parish who wish to have them

5.15.3. Conclusions and actions planned to be taken:

An interest in allotments had already been shown at the time that the Community Plan was conceived. Now an Allotments sub group has been established, the planning process has enabled much faster progress to be made as well as involving a wider cross section of the Parish. The establishment of Allotments will be an early success in the Community Plan.

One of the risks in setting up an Allotment Association from scratch is the possibility of drop-out in the early days. By seeking, via the Questionnaire, other residents that would be interested, the Association can go ahead and make long term commitments for leasing land, preparing the site etc. secure in the knowledge that there are others on a waiting list should any of the original allotmenters fall by the wayside.

Progress on setting up the Allotment Association and finding some land, has run in parallel with developing the Community Plan. The Allotments sub group has valuable links with other groups including the Community Shop (sale and donation of surplus produce) and the Sports & Leisure group (keen interest registered in a Horticultural Club)

The project is well under way with an Association formed, a site found, lease signed and grant application submitted with a planned date of January 2010 for the work to start.

6. Action Plans

The tables on the following pages set out the detailed actions that have been agreed to achieve the objectives for each section of the Parish Community Plan.

The Action Plans include details of who is responsible for making the actions happen, priorities, timescales and information about other partners that may be involved.

The final column in the table is used by West Berkshire Council to categorise each of the actions under the main themes found in the West Berkshire Partnership's Sustainable Communities Strategy which sets out its approach to improving the lives of West Berkshire residents.

The Planning Group is seeking further volunteers to help bring these plans to fruition, so if you are interested in becoming involved in any aspect of the Parish Community Plan, please contact any member of the team.

6. Action Plans

6.1. Parish Council - Sub Group Lead: Chris Tonge							
Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.1.1. To ensure residents understand the role, responsibilities and membership of the Parish Council	6.1.1.1. Publish the Parish Council role and responsibilities Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On East Garston Website On notice boards At the Annual Parish Council public meeting 	High	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webmaster Parish Councillors Producer of newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 44% of respondents do not know who is on the Parish Council. 43% do not know what the PC responsibilities are. 60% know that they can attend normal PC meetings, although few do. 40% thought the PC do a good job, only 2% thought it does not, but 26% said they did not know how the PC performed. 5% suggested there should be more communication. 42% of people think the PC takes notice of their views with 10% thinking they do not. 	Stronger (fostering a sense of belonging and participation in community life, similar life opportunities - including accessible services for all).
	6.1.1.2. Publish the details of the current Parish Councillors Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names, addresses and tel. numbers of councillors stating whether they have been elected or co-opted and when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Website On notice boards At public meetings 	High	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Councillors Webmaster 		Stronger
6.1.2. Improve communication between P.C. and residents	6.1.2.1. Communicate more effectively on activities, decisions, issues, funding, minutes of meetings etc. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use website more with on line suggestions/grievance/feedback process More newsletters/e-newsletter Investigate feasibility of a surgery in the village hall/Goodings/Poughley Notice boards More open meetings 	High	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webmaster Parish Councillors Producer of newsletter 		Stronger
	6.1.2.2 Encourage more people to attend P.C. meetings Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More advertising with agenda and minutes published Consider changing venue and/or times 	High	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Councillors 		Stronger
	6.1.2.3 Consider wider representation on P.C. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage younger residents and people from un-represented areas to be councillors Co-opt younger residents and people from un-represented areas 	Med	Ongoing at APMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Councillors 		Stronger

6.2. Planning & Development - Sub Group Lead: James Pryer

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.2.1.To ensure that development within the Parish is in keeping, appropriate and in the best interests of the whole community	6.2.1.1.Influence housing developments to reflect the wishes of the Parish through the Local Development Framework Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek advice from West Berkshire Council 	High	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Group Parish Council West Berks Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 54% of respondents anticipate staying in the Parish for more than 10 years or the rest of their lives. 16% say their current accommodation will not meet their requirements for the future. The main requirements are for bungalows or bigger houses. 	Healthy (fostering a sense of place and belonging, improving health and well-being of local people and young people, promoting independence of vulnerable people) Stronger
	6.2.1.2 Produce a Village Design Statement that is adopted by West Berkshire Council Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek advice from West Berkshire Council 	High	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Group Parish Council West Berks Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3% are living with family or friends but would prefer their own accommodation in the Parish. However, they are unable to find anything suitable. 	Healthy Stronger
	6.2.1.3. Re-confirm existing Settlement Boundaries Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek advice from West Berkshire Council 	High	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Group Parish Council West Berks Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69% feel that there should either be no future development in the Parish or that any should be limited to within the existing built boundaries. 11% think that it should be allowed beyond the current boundary. 	Healthy Stronger
	6.2.1.4. Identify the Parish's character and promote its residents' desires to preserve it Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek advice from West Berkshire Council 	High	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Group Parish Council West Berks Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7% are not satisfied with the way in which Planning Applications are publicised. Suggestions included publicising them in the shop and on the East Garston website. 	Healthy Stronger
6.2.2. To ensure that all Parishioners are fully informed about any relevant proposed developments	6.2.2.1. Establish a system whereby Parishioners are proactively notified Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use electronic newsletter Setup an RSS feed on East Garston website Send paper notifications to relevant households Parish notice boards and Shop 	Med	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Group Parish Council Webmaster 		Healthy Stronger

6.2.3. To ensure that people wishing to remain in the Parish but whose current accommodation arrangements are unsuitable are able to do so	6.2.3.1. Produce a parish housing strategy Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up working party • Seek expert advice • Consider specialist training for volunteers where needed 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Group • Parish Council • West Berks Council 		Healthy Stronger
	6.2.3.2. Agree a definition of 'affordable housing' and other housing types to allow further debate on the question of local need Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with West Berkshire Council 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Group • Parish Council • West Berks Council 		Healthy Stronger
	6.2.3.3. Clarify the housing need of the community for affordable and other types of housing Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use results from the Questionnaire • Carry out a detailed Housing Needs survey 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Group • Parish Council • West Berks Council • CCB 		Healthy Stronger

6.3. Road Safety - Sub Group Lead: Chris Tonge

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.3.1.To improve road safety within East Garston Parish	6.3.1.1.Reduce speeding on main roads Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 mph limit on Lambourn Road (already installed since questionnaire issued) Consult with local authority and Police on how speeding traffic can be reduced on B4000 Consider 40 mph limit on B4000 and other speed controlling measures Consider use of Speed Indication Displays by trained Parish Councillors 	High	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council West Berks Council Traffic Dept and Speed Limit Task Group Police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of residents consider speeding to be a problem Of the 7 speed restricting options proposed, only 2 received more than a 50% support or rejection. These were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20mph speed limit in villages (61% in favour) Speed cushions (68% against) 	Safer (Reducing anti-social behaviour, reducing speed on roads, emergency planning)
	6.3.1.2. Reduce speeding In Villages Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC to write occasional polite, constructive reminders to Village inhabitants about speeding, especially in summer and school holidays Hold imaginative road safety training sessions for all children Encourage all children to attend cycle proficiency training Investigate feasibility of 20 mph limit Consult with local authority and Police on other measures that could be used e.g. mobile electronic speed indicators 	High	2010 and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council West Berks Council Traffic Dept Senior Road Safety Officer and School Travel Plan Advisor Police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of residents think that there are certain locations that pose dangerous traffic conditions. The main ones being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parked cars at Hillside Speeding along Lambourn Road Most of the junctions with main roads 	Safer
	6.3.1.3. Reduce the hazard caused by parking on Hillside Cost Estimate: To be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve the residents of Hillside in investigating possible solutions to the problem of parked cars on Hillside, to include provision of new off-road car parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On land opposite Hillside In the millennium field 	High	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Residents of Hillside West Berks Council Traffic/ Planning Depts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46% of the respondents do not think current parking practice causes safety problems but 40% do, Hillside is mentioned by 24% and the war Memorial area by 9%. Only 23% want more parking areas with 19 people suggesting Hillside as the area where it is needed most. 	Safer
	6.3.1.4. Reduce hazards at road junctions Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all adjacent hedges and grass verges are regularly cut back to improve visibility 	High	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council West Berks 		Safer

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persuade Queens Arms to improve visibility at exit from their car park and on their land at road junction Consult with local authority and Police on other measures that could be used e.g. concealed entrance warning signs 			<p>Council Traffic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dept Landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority (77%) do not want street lighting with 15% saying they do. Within the 15% that want street lighting, the predominant area mentioned is Humphreys Lane. 34% are dissatisfied with the condition of our roads, with School Lane up to Pounds Farm being of most concern, mentioned by 6%. Although most people feel that roadside hedges are kept in a safe condition, a significant number think that some should be better kept. The main locations of concern are Front Street and most road junctions. 	
6.3.1.5. Minimise hazard caused by parked cars around the war memorial area Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate, with appropriate residents, possible solutions to reduce on-road parking in the congested area of the war memorial 	Med	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Residents adjacent to war memorial 	Safer		
6.3.1.6.Reduce hazard of restricted road along Front Street, and other places, where hedges are not cut back sufficiently Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polite reminders to be given to residents who do not cut their hedges sufficiently Parish Council to take responsibility where un-owned hedges require trimming 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Residents with uncut roadside hedges 	Safer		
6.3.1.7. Ensure roads are maintained to a safe standard Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council will bring to the attention of the local authority, roads that they consider are in need of maintenance for possible inclusion in the maintenance programme Pay particular attention in the short term to School Lane up to Pounds Farm 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council West Berks Council Highways and Transport Service 	Safer		
6.3.1.8.Consider limited street lighting in Humphreys Lane Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further consult with residents, about the real need for street lighting in Humphreys Lane bearing in mind that three quarters of East Garston residents are against it Consider alternative solutions to meet the need 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council 	Safer		

6.4. Crime & Security - Sub Group Lead: Chris Tonge

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.4.1.To reduce crime, vandalism and abuse in the Parish	6.4.1.1.Reduce burglary from homes Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make homes more secure • Advice from crime reduction unit: Intruder alarms, Security lighting Improved locks, post code valuables. • Improved neighbourhood watch 	High	2010 and annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Police • Neighbourhood watch • N.A.G. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim of crime in last 5 yrs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Burglary, break-in or theft: 22 cases from homes, 18 from vehicles (of these 31 reported to police) ○ Vandalism: 9 cases at homes, 13 involving vehicles (16 reported) ○ Abusive behaviour: 8 cases (5 reported) • Safety for Adults: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 61% of people thought the village “very safe” ○ Only 2% thought it “not very safe” • Safety for Children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 42% of people thought the village “very safe” ○ Only 4% thought it “not very safe” • 45% of people would like to see a more regular police presence. • 84% of people had never seen our Police Community Support Officer. • 72% of people do not know who their Neighbourhood Watch contact is. 	Safer
	6.4.1.2. Reduce theft from vehicles Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage people to keep vehicles locked • Open meeting in village with crime reduction unit and P.C.S.O. 	High	2010 and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Police • Neighbourhood watch • N.A.G. 		Safer
	6.4.1.3. Reduce vandalism and abusive behaviour Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out why 10 cases were not reported • Encourage people to report and name perpetrators 	Med	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Police • Neighbourhood watch • N.A.G. 		Safer
6.4.2.To make people feel more secure in the Parish	6.4.2.1. Get more police patrols Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out why 84% of responders had never seen P.C.S.O. • Talk to police and P.C.S.O. • Have street meetings 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Police • Neighbourhood watch • N.A.G. 		Safer
	6.4.2.2. Update and advertise neighbourhood watch Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have meeting in hall re neighbourhood watch. • Get more members/coordinator 	Med	2010 and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Neighbourhood watch 	Safer	

6.5. Transport - Sub Group Lead: Maria Carver

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.5.1.Improve public transport	6.5.1.1. Investigate feasibility of more frequent buses, with an extended timetable, including later and earlier in the day. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey to assess accurate data on current usage and real need Better publicise current services Contact bus companies to examine options Liaise with other Lambourn Valley users for an integrated approach 	High	By mid 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Parish Council West Berks Senior Transport Services Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% of the respondents have their own transport. 5% do not. Although 79% of the respondents do not use a bus service, 13% do. Newbury was the most common destination (11%), and Hungerford next (2%) 21% would use a bus more regularly if there was a service that suited their needs. 51% said they would not. 8% agree that the main improvement to the transport system would be the provision of more buses, with a revised timetable (4%) and a direct bus to Hungerford (3%) also suggested. 90% did not use a taxi during the day but, 11% used a taxi once a month or more during the evening. 83% did not car-share regularly, but 11% would be interested in an organised car-sharing scheme. 	Stronger Greener (reducing carbon footprint reducing waste and increasing recycling, consumption of local produce, increasing diversity of local wildlife)
	6.5.1.2. Investigate feasibility of a direct bus to Hungerford with particular relevance to train connections. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey to assess real need Contact Dial-a-Bus and ask them to circulate their timetable. 	High	Early 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Dial-a-Bus 		Stronger Greener
	6.5.1.3.Representation into the West Berks Local Transport Plan consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council to use the results of further surveys to make representation 	High	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group 		Stronger Greener
6.5.2.Find alternative transport	6.5.2.1.Investigate 6.5.2.1.1. Volunteer drivers 6.5.2.1.2. Community bus (link with Young People needs) Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey to assess real need Seek list of potential volunteers Liaise with Lambourn valley groups Link with car share scheme Investigate costs of community bus Seek advice from other community bus operators Investigate sharing/hiring from other operators e.g. local schools 	Med	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Volunteers Possibly Local Schools 		Stronger Greener
6.5.3.Facilitate cost /energy saving transport schemes	6.5.3.1.Start up a car sharing scheme Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canvas opinion and gauge support Advertise in the shop, and Village Views Implement web based "booking" scheme 	Med	Mid 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Volunteers 	Stronger Greener	

6.6. Communications - Sub Group Lead: Penny Locke

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.6.1.To increase communication of Parish news.	6.6.1.1. Via e-mail newsletters Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect a database of e-mail addresses of Parishioners E-mail them Parish news as relevant Compile a monthly Parish e-newsletter - distribute this in print to those who don't use e-mail 	High	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Local businesses who want to advertise Parish Council East Garston Amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parishioners find out what is going on locally via: word of mouth (66%), Village Views (58%), posters (48%), notice boards (41%), EG website (35%), email (26%) 30% said they want to be on the Parish communications e-mail list. (NB. The established e-mail list now contains more than 140 residents, over 50% of the number of respondents) 	Prosperous (Supporting economy of villages, Tourism, Supporting employment in rural areas) Healthy Stronger
	6.6.1.2. Re-launching the website Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find someone to oversee the website with each group being responsible for updating their own pages Investigate possibilities of grants 	High	Early 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant funding for webmaster? Local businesses advertising Parish Council EGA 		Prosperous Healthy Stronger
	6.6.1.3. Welcome pack for newcomers to village Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a welcome letter with summary of village groups and invitation to receive the village newsletter 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Local businesses who want to advertise Parish Council EGA Church 		Prosperous Healthy Stronger
	6.6.1.4.Village diary Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An open diary to be kept on line with all events and activities planned All organisations to inform Diary keeper of events 	High	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group All organisations 		Prosperous Healthy Stronger
	6.6.1.5.Directory Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directory to be kept of all useful numbers/emails etc on line open to all 	Med	2011			Stronger

6.7. All Saints Church - Sub Group Lead: Sally Wright

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.7.1. To ensure that in a fast moving, changing world, the constant, unchanging Christian message is effectively delivered.	6.7.1.1. Promotion of the values of commitment, truthfulness, forgiveness, loyalty, steadfastness and love for one another Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vicar's message through services, pastoral visits, involvement with Parish activities etc. e.g. Prayer List Practising openness and healthy debate Showing care and consideration for others: parishioners bringing to the notice of the Vicar or Churchwarden those in need of help and those who are sick 	High	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vicar, Church-warden and PCC Parishioners Diocese of Oxford Arch-deaconry of Berkshire Newbury Deanery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of those responding think that it is very, or quite, important that there is an active local Church as a place of worship (even if they do not attend). Only 10% said it is not important at all. 86% think that it is very, or quite, important that the Church, as a 12th century historic building, is properly maintained. Only 2% think it is not important at all. 	Stronger Healthy
6.7.2. To ensure that a thriving Church continues to serve the community by being there for everyone when they need it	6.7.2.1. Continue to provide relevant and innovative services and support to parishioners whether regular churchgoers or not Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the pro-active communications policy Maintain close contact with parishioners to determine what is needed Consider the initiatives suggested in the questionnaire responses Particular attention to be paid to those in the community who would appreciate some support Continue to place particular emphasis on making children welcome, and involving them in the church in a way that interests them 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vicar, Church-warden and PCC Dedicated workgroups Volunteer Parishioners Young Families Group Newbury Deanery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43% said the Church provides all that they require from it, however, 37% considered the question not applicable to them. Only 2% said it does not provide all that they require from it. 	Stronger Healthy
	6.7.2.2. Continue to focus on the maintenance of the Church as an historic building Cost Estimate: Heating - £20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish contact with Diocesan Advisory Committee, Archdeacon, Area Dean for approval and support for all work to be executed in the Church and Churchyard Continue with the heating and other capital projects 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vicar, Church-warden and PCC Dedicated workgroups Volunteer 		Stronger Healthy

6.7. All Saints Church - Continued

	Other - TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact all those who have offered support to enlist their help • Increase the number of “maintenance days” when volunteers come to work on housekeeping activities • Organise fundraising initiatives focussed on the maintenance of the Church as an historic building • Explore all opportunities for grant funding • Complete the work already started on dealing with the restoration of the churchyard • Produce a booklet on the history of the Church for parishioners and visitors 			Parishioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chancellor of Oxford Diocese • Diocese Arch-deaconry • Deanery • Diocesan Advisory Committee • Architect • Art Historians etc. • Potential grant providers 		
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6.8. East Garston Village Hall & Social Club - Sub Group Lead: Ed James

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.8.1. To continue to update and improve the facilities of the Village Hall and Social Club	6.8.1.1. Improve car park Cost Estimate: £10,000+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarmac all or part of car park. (responsibility of the Parish Council) 	High	By end of 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council West Berks Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% of respondents thought that it is very, or quite, important that there is a village hall. Nobody said it is not at all important. 75% are prepared to contribute to its upkeep through an increase in Council Tax (up to £3 pa per household). 13% are not. 	Prosperous Stronger
	6.8.1.2. Improve Hall Floor Cost Estimate: £2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovate existing floor or replace 	High	By end of 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall Trustees & Club Fundraisers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just over half of the respondents (52%) feel the Club meets the needs of the Parish, 8% feel it does not. 	Safer Healthy Greener
	6.8.1.3. Replace carpet in Social Club Cost Estimate: Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done 	High	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall Trustees & Club Fundraisers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% are concerned that it does not attract a wide enough cross section of residents. 	Stronger
	6.8.1.4. General improvements/ changes earmarked for the future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More storage space Change doors on storage space Improve outside lighting at club Re-furbish loos in Hall & Club Re-furbish Games Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self help with volunteers wherever possible Prioritise those items needing finance Apply for grants if possible 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall Trustees & Club Fundraisers Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6% feel that the Club needed a re-fit or upgrade. 	Safer Prosperous Healthy Greener Stronger

6.8. East Garston Village Hall & Social Club - Continued

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair roof • Re-fit hall windows & add double glazing <p>Cost Estimate: £8,500+</p>					
6.8.2. To promote wider usage through existing, and new, groups	6.8.2.1. Advertise Club and Hall Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ads in the shop, on the Notice board, website, Penny's e-mail • Contact those people who expressed an interest in activities on the questionnaire to see if they would like to run an event 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall Trustees & Club • East Garston Amenities 	Healthy Stronger
	6.8.2.2. Speak to existing groups using Hall e.g. Darts club, Toddlers groups, Table tennis group, Film Club Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with these groups via e-mail, phone, meetings – explain that we want to spread the word and get them to maximise their usage of the Club and hall – for example encourage the parents of children at the Toddlers group to have their birthdays in the Hall • Set up a page on the EG website detailing who is taking the club and when and give further info about the groups that are using it 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall Trustees & Club • Volunteers • Darts Club • Toddlers group • Table tennis group • Cricket Club • Film Club 	Healthy Stronger
	6.8.2.3. Keep children back from the bar Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce rule that children under the age of 16 are not allowed on the lino in front of the bar 	Med	Now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall Trustees & Club 	Safer
6.8.3. To ensure finances remain healthy.	6.8.3.1. Make Hall more energy efficient Cost Estimate: Boiler - £3,000 Other - TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better insulation • Renovate floor • Install double glazing • Upgrade boiler • Investigate ground source heating possibilities linked with Millennium field project 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall Trustees & Club • Grants • East Garston Amenities 	Greener
	6.8.3.2. More Charity Fundraisers Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage individuals and groups to do them 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall Trustees & Club 	Stronger

6.9. Community Shop - Sub Group Lead: Maria Carver

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.9.1.To meet the needs of the customers	6.9.1.1. To regularly survey customers to ensure needs are met whenever viable Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires • By word • Suggestion box • Sample days/evenings e.g. wine tasting 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84% of respondents have visited the Shop. • Summary of positive comments with more than 5% response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good range of products 29% ○ Friendly 20% ○ Clean & Tidy 7% ○ Well lit 6% ○ Parking 5% • Summary of Negative comments with more than 5% response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Too hot 6% (Air con now installed) ○ Expensive 5% 	Prosperous Healthy Greener Stronger
	6.9.1.2. constantly review product range Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep in touch with local and other suppliers 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop team • Suppliers 		
6.9.2.Promote the shop as widely as possible	6.9.2.1.Regularly review advertising methods Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask new customers where they heard about shop • Review all local sources of advertising • Advertise events e.g. wine tasting in local villages 	Med	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop team 		

6.10 Sport & Leisure - Sub Group Lead: Vacant

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.10.1.To facilitate and encourage participation in a wider range of sports and leisure activities within the Parish and to assist in providing facilities for these activities.	6.10.1.1. Find someone to lead the Sports & Leisure sub group Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak to potential volunteers • Agree terms of reference 	High	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant number of people already partake in sports and leisure activities – some locally but some not available within the Parish. • There is a significant level of interest in taking part in a wide range of sports and leisure activities. The most popular sports or physical activities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walking (112 respondents) ○ Keep fit (56) ○ Cycling (46) ○ Running (41) ○ Tennis (39) ○ Yoga (31) ○ Cricket (25) ○ Table tennis (21) • The most popular leisure interests are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wine tasting (56 respondents) ○ Theatre (43) ○ Film Society (39) ○ Gardening Club (38) ○ Photography (37) ○ Music (29) ○ Allotments (24) ○ Adult Education (22) • There is no “umbrella” organisation to co-ordinate 	Healthy Stronger
	6.10.1.2 .Find leaders for each of the specific interest groups e.g. photography, keep fit etc. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact those who registered as volunteers and other known people 	High	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub group leader • Planning Group 		
	6.10.1.3. Set up specific interest groups Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit members, starting with those who registered interest in the Questionnaire • Start activities 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest group leaders 		
	6.10.1.4. Consider whether or not there is advantage in creating an “umbrella” organisation for sports and leisure activities with specific sections for each activity Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with interested parties to establish whether it would be beneficial to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-ordinate activities ○ Co-operate with fundraising and grant applications ○ Co-operate with shared facilities 	High	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub group leader • Planning Group 		
	If there is.....						
	6.10.1.5. Establish “EG Sports & Leisure Club”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee to comprise leaders of interest groups 	Med	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub group leader 		

	Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elect officers • Draw up constitution etc. as a legitimate organisation (for grant purposes) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest group leaders 	<p>activities or facilities; it is left to individuals to arrange things themselves e.g. Cricket Club, Table Tennis.</p>	
	6.10.1.6. Investigate feasibility of improving sports facilities by levelling Millennium field Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess potential usage for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket ○ Tennis ○ Football ○ Bowls • Apply for grants 	Med	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 volunteers have offered their help covering a wide range of activities. 	

6.11.Environment - Sub Group Lead: Vikki Brooks

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.11.1. To encourage and further enable enjoyment of the local environment	6.11.1.1. Improve dog foul clearance. Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any particular problem locations. Provide additional foul bins at identified locations. Investigate possibility of providing bag dispensers/scoops next to bins. Educate owners as to problems of dogs being allowed to run free in specific areas, eg. The Churchyard 	High	Mid 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Dog walkers West Berks Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vast majority of parish residents (77%) were very or fairly satisfied with the current state of local footpaths. However a reasonable number of individuals (5%) expressed a concern regarding some paths that are overgrown. 	Healthy
	6.11.1.2. Manage and maintain access to local footpaths and public rights of way. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess current state of local rights of way/footpaths. Identify any parts which are difficult to navigate. Approach land owner to discuss any possible management required. 	Med	Summer/Autumn 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Land owners Local individuals Ramblers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84% of residents are satisfied with the way in which the open spaces in the Parish are kept. 80% are satisfied with current litter clearance. 	Healthy
	6.11.1.3. Manage and maintain the River Lambourn through the Parish of East Garston. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor levels of weed/plant growth in and along the River Lambourn. Encourage/provide help to riparian owners to maintain their own stretch of River. Ongoing River clearance and maintenance through the Parish. 	High	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Riparian owners Local Volunteers Environment Agency River Lambourn Environment Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local issue which generated the greatest level of dissatisfaction (24%) is that of dog foul clearance. River maintenance has the second highest level of dissatisfaction (11%) however 75% of residents have stated that they are satisfied with current clearance. 	Healthy Greener
	6.11.1.4. Encourage residents to learn more about their local environment by providing the opportunity to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speak to local experts on how to run a local, Parish wide, bird/butterfly survey. Consult on what other environment project individuals would like to take part in eg improving your garden for wildlife diversity 	Low	Ongoing through term of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Local Wildlife Group RSPB AONB River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 44% of respondents stated that they would be interested in finding out more about energy efficient initiatives. Significant numbers of 	Healthy

	participate in specific environmental projects. Cost Estimate: Minimal				Lambourn Environment Group	residents would be interested in taking part in the suggested environment projects. These include; circular wildlife walks (62 people), a day's wildlife course (52), bird/butterfly survey (55), river survey (49).	
	6.11.1.5. Enable further enjoyment of local footpaths and rights of way. Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify circular walks along existing footpaths of varying lengths and difficulty. Identify walks which would be passable by those using pushchairs and the infirm. identify circular cycle rides and horse rides. Identify local viewpoints and sites of interest. Map the above information and make available in The Shop. Provide way markers denoting local circular routes. Organise local group walking days. 	Med/Low	Ongoing through term of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Local walkers Cassini Maps Parish Council local cyclists and horse riders 		Healthy
6.11.2. To promote sustainable practices in the Parish of East Garston	6.11.2.1. Provide information to residents on ways in which we can all be more energy efficient in our homes. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce local energy efficiency leaflet to be made available to residents in the shop. Include what to do and how to do it, eg where locally one can buy energy efficient light bulbs. 	Med	Autumn 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group 		Greener
	6.11.2.2. investigate setting up an heating oil co-operative Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify residents who would be interested in joining. Speak to Oil Companies to access viability. 	Low	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Residents Oil providers 	Greener	

6.12 Employment & Local Business - Sub Group Lead: Martyn Wright

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.12.1.To assist residents in finding work locally	6.12.1.1. Set up page on EG website to advertise local vacancies Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up web page Contact local employers for details of their vacancies (free advertising) Investigate whether local Job Centres would co-operate Investigate possibility of links to wider search for local vacancies 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webmaster Volunteers Local employers Job Centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of respondents are in employment (57%). Around 30% are retired. Only 2% are unemployed and seeking work. 14% work in EG Parish, 40% outside, 13% self employed. 20% would be interested in working locally. The type of work people want is very diverse. 20% run their own businesses. The range of businesses that people run is very diverse (8 in consultancy/IT consultancy, 4 in building). 	Prosperous
	6.12.1.2. Set up page on website to advertise people seeking work Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up web page Help people prepare their own "ad" Investigate feasibility of a local skills database 	Low	2011			Stronger
	6.12.1.3. Investigate need for/ feasibility of a Job Club to offer assistance with advice, cv preparation and networking Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess need/feasibility by consultation Recruit volunteers to set up Job Club Publicise amongst residents and local employers 	Low	2011			
6.12.2.Provide assistance to local businesses where possible	6.12.2.1. Facilitate a self-help support and networking structure amongst local businesses (Business Club) Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the need/desirability of a forum by consulting local businesses Arrange networking meetings Set up a local skills/support services database including a network of retired businessmen willing to offer their help Set up business leads scheme Use external experts for advice, talks 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webmaster Volunteers (aim to be self supporting after set-up) External business advisors e.g. Business Link Retired businessmen willing to offer advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 businesses employ 248 people (not all in EG Parish). 5 businesses plan to employ an additional 17 people within the next 12 months. 7 businesses would find some assistance helpful (4 mentioned advertising inc. on EG website). 	Prosperous
	6.12.2.2. Further develop the local businesses web page on EG website e.g. more interactive, search facility etc. Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop web page Set up a local skills/support services database with search facility Set up web discussion forum Set up business leads page Assistance with web advertising 	Low	2010/11			Stronger

6.13. Technology - Sub Group Lead: Alan Breadmore

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.13.1. To have broadband services that exceed community members needs	6.13.1.1. Facilitate a self help group to advise residents on how to maximise broadband speed within the home Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a local "expert" to advise, preferably a volunteer Seek advice from West Berks adult Education IT team Offer advice to all households(see below) 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Volunteers West Berks Adult Education team? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vast majority of respondents (83%) have access to a personal computer at home. The vast majority (81%) have access to the internet. Most people (77%) use broadband for access to the internet. More than half of broadband users are dissatisfied with the speed of their broadband connection. There appears to be a high degree of personal computing awareness, capability and capacity within the community. However there is some demand for computer training (5%), public access to a PC (9%) and shared access to specialised facilities (18%), A3 printer and scanner being the most popular requests. The vast majority of respondents (88%) own a mobile phone. The network provider profile is substantially different to the national 	Prosperous Stronger
	6.13.1.2. Produce/ acquire a document that helps residents to understand what level of broadband service is appropriate for their needs Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a local "expert" to advise, preferably a volunteer Seek advice from West Berks adult Education IT team Write document and distribute to all households 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Volunteers West Berks Adult Education team? 		Prosperous Stronger
	6.13.1.3. Understand how the Government Rural Broadband initiative may be appropriate to East Garston Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek advice from West Berks adult Education IT team 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Volunteers 		Prosperous Stronger
	6.13.1.4. Together with action 6.13.2.1. Understand how mobile broadband may be a solution for (parts of) East Garston Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek advice from Vodafone and other network providers 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-group Volunteers Local Business Network Providers 		Prosperous Stronger
6.13.2. To improve mobile phone reception in the area	6.13.2.1. Lobby Network providers to get them to review their approach to rural network provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with Vodafone and other providers and present the financial advantage case to them 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers Other Valley villages WBC 		Prosperous Stronger

6.13 Technology - Continued

	Cost Estimate: Minimal					<p>average (58% Vodafone compared with 25% nationally).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 19% of respondents are satisfied with reception in their home. 40% of respondents would be prepared to change provider for significantly better reception in their home. 	
	6.13.2.2. Lobby local authorities and central government to support rural network coverage Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby West Berks Council 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers Local Business Other Valley villages WBC 		Prosperous Stronger
	6.13.2.3. Investigate technical solutions that may enable a community led rather than network provider led solution Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine most appropriate people to speak to for advice Obtain advice Assess feasibility 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers 		Prosperous Stronger
6.13.3. To enable any member of the community to have access to the personal computing services that they require	6.13.3.1. Establish a resource pool of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT competent trainers/coaches Hardware and software resource owners who are willing to “share” or provide a service Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek volunteers to act as trainers/coaches Seek advice from West Berks Adult Education team Seek donors of surplus equipment Seek grants for extra kit 	High	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers West Berks Adult Education team? 		Stronger
	6.13.3.2. Identify commercial/ voluntary bodies in the area that are prepared to offer residential based IT services Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with West Berks Adult Education team 	High	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers West Berks Adult Education team? 		Prosperous Stronger
	6.13.3.3. Identify the “real” need for public computer access in the parish and plan provision accordingly Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out detailed survey to assess need 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub Group 	Stronger	

6.14 Young People - Sub Group Lead: Penny Locke

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.14.1 To increase young people's access to activities & facilities in local area	6.14.1.1. Research what is available locally (ie Lambourn, Shefford, Hungerford) Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact local leisure centres, football clubs, youth clubs, Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People (BACYP) etc & find out what activities are available Liaise with West Berks Youth Services Department Provide organisational support to local clubs where necessary e.g. Gt Shefford Youth Club 	High	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local youth & leisure organisations West Berks Council Youth Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The age range of the respondents was 5 - 15 yrs with a fairly even spread across all ages Respondents go to a total of 15 different primary or secondary schools 46% go by car, 39% by school bus, 8% by public bus 	Healthy
	6.14.1.2 Communicate this information to families in village Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to as many families as possible E-mail this information to families Post notices in shop Set up contacts in the different hamlets to co-ordinate activities 	High	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> what the children liked most about the village is the peaceful, spacious countryside, their friends in the village and the shop 	Stronger
	6.14.1.3. Assist in transport where required Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help set up lift-share/ car rota where needed Raise funding for taxi or mini-bus hire as required Link with studies into community bus option under "Transport" section of this Plan 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub Group Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> most popular activities were: computer games, football, reading/drawing, tennis, swimming, walking the dog, shopping 25% of respondents wished there was more to do in the village or more facilities in the park; 25% complained about fast traffic and state of the roads; 10% asked for more buses 	Greener Stronger Healthy
6.14.2. To provide more activities in the village	6.14.2.1. Help the Kids Club increase the range of activities they can offer Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find volunteers to help run more activities like indoor hockey and cooking club Persuade the various organisations to discuss and agree programmes and timetables to avoid competition and duplication. 	High	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub Group Volunteers West Berks Council Youth Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> activities they'd like to do but don't do now: dance, swimming, tennis, skateboarding 	Healthy Stronger
	6.14.2.2. Organise one-off activity days or more ongoing clubs/courses in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask BACYP to run activity days as they do in Shefford Organise Cycling Proficiency course Invite a Lambourn Football club coach 	Med	2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BACYP West Berks Council Spokes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% would join a youth club for teenagers if it was 	Safer Stronger Greener

6.14 . Young People - Continued

	Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to come to East Garston Research possibility of young people taking part in Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lambourn Football Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> started now; 20% would when they were old enough 65% would like to have cycling proficiency training 	
6.14.3. To provide more play equipment in village for toddlers	6.14.3.1. Research what extra play equipment could be installed in Open Space Cost Estimate: £5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families to agree what equipment they would like eg swings 	High Done	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council East Garston Amenities 		Stronger Healthy
	6.14.3.2. Apply for grants Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out grant sources Obtain all necessary data Make application 	High Done	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub Group 		Stronger
	6.14.3.3. Discuss off-road biking and skateboard options Cost Estimate: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey groups Youth Service 	Med	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub Group 		Healthy

6.15 East Garston Allotment Association - Sub Group Lead: Zak Frost

Objective(s)	Actions and Cost Estimate	How	Priority	When	Resource and Partners	Justification based on Responses to Questionnaires	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme.
6.15.1. To provide allotments for those residents who want them	6.15.1.1. Gauge level of interest Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting already held for those already known to be interested Contact those others that responded positively to the Parish Plan Questionnaire 	High Med	Done Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 people said they were already active in allotments 18 said they would be interested in having an allotment 38 said they would be interested in joining a Horticulture/Gardening Club 	Healthy Greener Stronger
	6.15.1.2. Set up an East Garston Allotment Association Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek volunteers for officer roles Set up bank account 	High	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers 		
	6.15.1.3. Find suitable land Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Parish Council who have a responsibility to find land EGAA members to seek potential sites 	High	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EGAA Officers Members Parish Council 		
	6.15.1.4. Agree a lease for the land Cost Estimate: £500 (paid by members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up lease and agree with landowner Seek legal advice 	High	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Lawyer (volunteer) Landowner 		
	6.15.1.5. Assess costs of setting up the site Cost Estimate: £6,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide what needs to be done Obtain quotes for the work 	High	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Tenders Landowner 		
	6.15.1.6. Apply for grants to help fund set up costs Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek possible grant sources Make application 	High	Done Grant awarded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Grant bodies 		
	6.15.1.7. set up allotments Cost Estimate: Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare ground Fencing Security 	Med	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members Landowner 		





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