

Individual Decision

The attached report will be taken as an
Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

26th January 2009

Ref:	Title	Portfolio Member	Page No.
ID1681	Stanford Dingley Parish Plan	Councillor Pamela Bale	3 - 38

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Stanford Dingley Parish Plan		
Report to be considered by:	Pamela Bale	on:	26th January 2009
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1681		

Purpose of Report: To seek endorsement of the Stanford Dingley Parish Plan by the Council

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

Reason for decision to be taken: Formal endorsement of the Parish Plan; the Plan having gone through the agreed processes with West Berkshire Council.

List of other options considered: None

Key background documentation: Stanford Dingley Parish Plan

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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 During 2008 the decision was taken by West Berkshire Council to cease holding Area Forums. These have been subsequently replaced with other public events and methods of communicating with the people of West Berkshire.
- 1.2 West Berkshire Council felt however, that it was vital that the commitment to Parish Plans that has been established for some time in West Berkshire be continued in the form of a more formal endorsement of the Parish Plans coming up from communities. Parish Plans are now endorsed through the democratic process by Individual Decision.
- 1.3 The endorsement of a Parish Plan means that the Council commits to working positively with the community to realise the vision set out in the plan. This means that the Council will give approval to or, where it can, sanction actions that have the support of the community and have been included in the Parish or Community Plan Action Plan. This is subject to the draft Action Plan having been circulated to the Council by prior agreement and the actions discussed by both parties involved.

2. Parish Planning In West Berkshire

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

- 2.6 This close engagement between the Council and the community at a very practical level helps to provide an excellent platform for improving relationships and communications between the local authority and the communities it serves.
- 2.7 A further benefit emerging from Community Planning is that it has helped bring communities and organisations together to focus on developing solutions to local problems, for example; joint working on environmental issues, such as noise from the M4; establishment of a Citizen's Advice Bureau outreach point in the eastern part of West Berkshire and work on reduction of CO2 emissions.
- 2.8 This report (and the accompanying Community Plan) brings to Members' attention the contents of the Community Plan for Stanford Dingley along with the above accompanying contextual information about the basis and progress on parish planning in West Berkshire.
- 2.9 Stanford Dingley's Plan (Appendix A) includes projects covering the following areas:
- Improving the environment
 - Rights of Way
 - River management and conservation
 - Reducing speed on local roads
 - Improving bus services
 - Providing a new village hall
 - Development of a Village Design Statement
 - Recycling
- 2.10 Comments received from the services within West Berkshire Council, Ward Members and Executive Members are listed at Appendix B.

Appendices

Appendix A - Stanford Dingley Community Plan and Action Plan
Appendix B - Comments from Service Units and Members

Implications

Policy: Parish Plans are an integral part of the Council's Vibrant Villages theme within the Council Plan.

Financial:	£60,000 annual Parish Plan Grant Funding, where communities are able to bid for £5k in any one year towards funding items of capital expenditure on projects in their Action Plans. Any of the actions in the Parish Plan that have financial implications for services will need to be addressed as and when those actions are moved forward and will be accommodated within existing budgets. These actions will be apparent usually at the time that Heads of Service see the Action Plans in draft, prior to endorsement and formal signing off by Individual Decision. If actions require additional resources these will be brought to members for consideration in due course.
Personnel:	There are no personnel implications at this stage
Legal:	There are no direct legal implications at this stage
Environmental:	Parish Plans often raise many local environmental issues and as such can play a very useful role in conserving and enhancing the environment at a very local level.
Equalities:	The consultation (55% response rate) carried out in support of the Parish Plan helps ensure that all people have an opportunity to have their views and concerns heard.
Partnering:	Parish Plans are an excellent example of partnering between the local community and the Council.
Property:	No specific property implications. Any property related matters within the action plan will be addressed by the relevant service as and when the action is moved forward by the community in conjunction with the Council.
Risk Management:	There are no direct risk management issues arising from the plan. As and when actions are moved forward any risk issues will be addressed by the relevant service area
Community Safety:	There are no specific or direct Community Safety implications

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Councillor Graham Jones
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell
Policy Development Commission Chairman:	Councillor Quentin Webb Councillor Marcus Franks Councillor Irene Neill
Ward Members:	Quentin Webb, Graham Pask.

Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor Jeff Brooks

Local Stakeholders: WBC, GCT, Safer Communities Partnership, Voluntary Sector.

Officers Consulted: All Senior Management within WBC

Trade Union: N/A

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

STANFORD DINGLEY PARISH PLAN JANUARY 2009

This Parish Plan is the culmination of work undertaken over a 3 year period by a number of dedicated volunteers who generously gave the project much of their time. However, more importantly, it is the product of extensive consultation with parishioners through numerous public meetings and the production and distribution of a questionnaire. It is essential that every resident of Stanford Dingley feels that they had a part to play in the production of the Plan since it is a record of their collective aspirations and concerns for their parish.

Based on the level of response to the questionnaire, we parishioners can be proud that there is clearly a strong collective sense of involvement in the welfare of our community since we achieved a better than 90% response rate to the adult questionnaire and more than 95% response rate to the youth version, both figures substantially above national averages. The working party would, therefore, like to thank all the parishioners of Stanford Dingley who contributed to the consultation process by completing the questionnaires or attending some or all of the meetings.

Our thanks also to everyone who contributed to the joint Bradfield and Stanford Dingley Working Party from September 2005 until November 2007, particularly Dave Swan and David Crawford from Bradfield. We must particularly thank the staff of Bradfield College who kindly printed, free of charge, the joint questionnaire and those residents of Stanford Dingley who delivered and painstakingly collected those questionnaires.

The Plan was supported throughout by the Stanford Dingley Parish Council and Community Action West Berkshire, whose Parish Plan Development Officer Sarah Ward was a consistent source of excellent advice.

A fuller list of supporters, sources, volunteers and providers of funds is attached as Appendix 1.

Needless to say this is only the start of a long journey. We now have a Parish Plan which has and will continue to guide us in developing a set of "Actions" to meet the aspirations of people in the parish and the opportunities and challenges that we shall face in the years to come. It will also help to guide us in the development of appropriate contingency plans to deal with possible emergencies in our area.

These "Actions" will need ongoing (and more) participation and commitment from the people in the parish. This will require anticipation of and response to changes affecting our community over time and close cooperation with other organisations in West Berkshire.

Michael Vaughan-Fowler
Chairman, Stanford Dingley Parish Plan Working Party

SCENIC PICTURE

Stanford Dingley History

Stanford Dingley, located in the North Wessex Downs “Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty” is known variously as “the Jewel in the Crown of West Berkshire” or “the most immoral village in Berkshire”. It has an enduring appeal, as evidenced by the fact that it has had a church for over a thousand years and a pub for over five hundred years. Lying equidistant between Reading and Newbury, the earliest map, dated 1838 shows most of the village centred on the river Pang.

Agriculture has been the main source of employment in Stanford Dingley throughout its long history, indeed probably until the last half century. The census of 1851 recorded 6 farmers and 24 labourers, but one industry in particular which would have depended on the Pang was the tannery, which thrived in the middle of the nineteenth century. That same census recorded that there were a Master Tanner, 5 tanner labourers and 5 journeymen tanners employed in Stanford Dingley. The oak bark used in the process was probably crushed in the mill, which was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as “...rendering 12 shillings. It is and always was worth £4”.

OLD PICTURE OF CHURCH

Perhaps the most important building in the village is the Church. Our Church is one of the few churches in England to bear the name of St. Denys, the patron saint of France. It is believed to be one of the oldest foundations in Berkshire, a church having been built on its present site before the Norman Conquest (1066) and some of this original stonework still stands, though the main part of the present building dates from around 1200. Hailing from the same period is the door and the ancient wall paintings and frescoes all of which would have been used or appreciated by Margaret Dyneley (a possible origin for Dingley) who was buried in 1444 in the church and whose inscription in part states “Beneath this stone lies buried Margaret Dyneley....but now food for worms.... Therefore Jesus do thou remember her”.

NEW PICTURE OF CHURCH

No village can be complete without a pub and Stanford Dingley has two: the Bull Inn,

PICTURE OF BULL INN

a listed 15th century coaching inn with 19th and 20th century additions,

PICTURE OF BOOT INN

and the Old Boot Inn, which, though younger is reputedly haunted by a man who hanged himself in its orchard.

Many of the houses in the village are listed, dating back over 500 years in some cases. In the evolving life of any dynamic community, some houses are of more recent build and many dwellings – including several of the older ones – have undergone change or expansion. To keep the village identifiable to those 19th century farmers while making it relevant to 21st century living is the challenge the parishioners must accept and this Parish Plan will hopefully provide some assistance with that challenge.

PICTURES OF OLD RECTORY & MERE VIEW HOUSE??

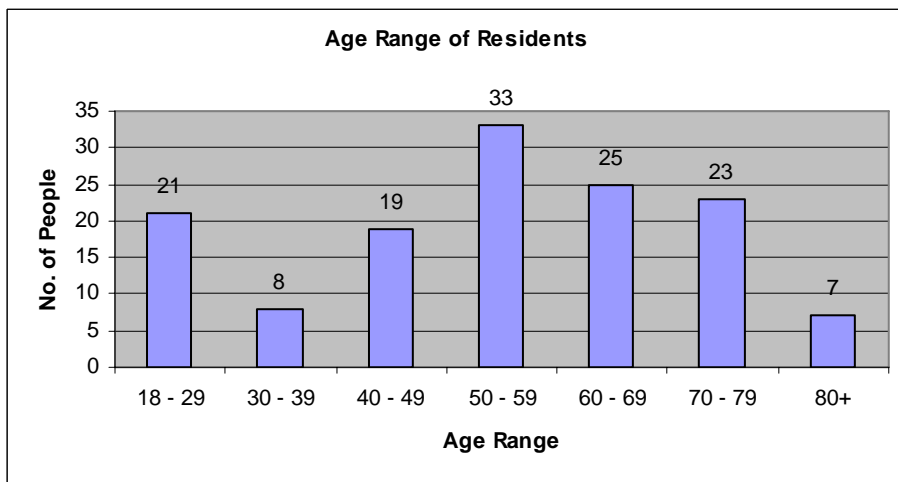
Much of the historical and archive material used in this brief history was gleaned from the excellent millennium book “Stanford Dingley – Stories of a Country Village” by Mary Platt and Maureen Park to whom we owe a large debt of gratitude. Our thanks go also to Dorcas Ward and Dick Greenaway whose writings on local history were further sources of information.

SCENIC VIEW OF VILLAGE

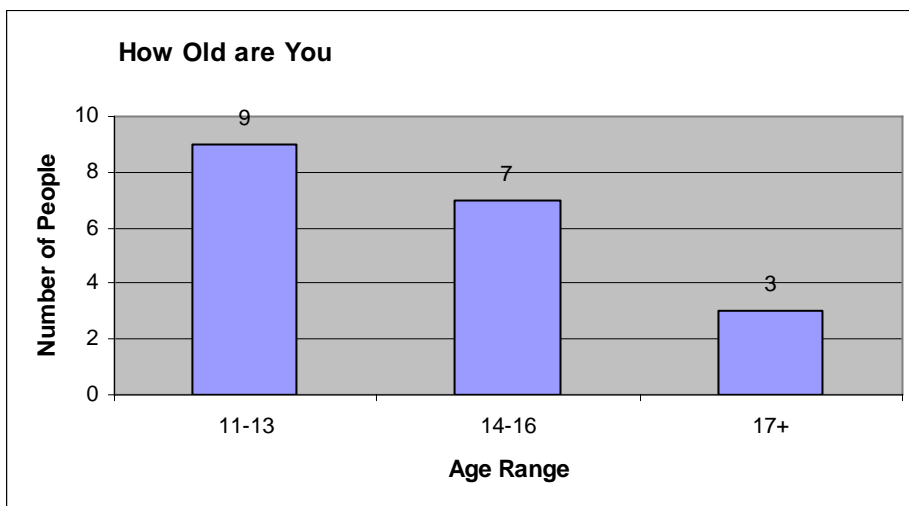
Character of the village community today

In 2007 when the questionnaire was completed, Stanford Dingley had 73 households and an electoral roll of 139. Census data is available from 1801 when the population was 133 and this increased to 178 in 1851 when Victorian farming reached a peak. At this time there were 40 children in the village. By 1901 the population had reduced to 130 as a result of a decline in agricultural and rural employment.

The demographic profile of the parish today presents an almost equal gender split of respondents. However the age of the respondents suggests an older population as 77% of respondents are aged 40 or over with 40% being 60 or over.



There are few children in the parish but 19 responded to the questionnaire. The age breakdown is illustrated in the table below.



In terms of property, the majority of respondents (76%) own their own home and only 24% of properties have less than three bedrooms. 50% of respondents have a broadband link for internet access.

Over 50% of respondents have lived in the parish for 20 years or more. For those leaving the parish in the last ten years the main reason has been as a result of a change in domestic circumstances.



Traffic, Roads and Transport.

Traffic

Whilst Stanford Dingley does not have a serious traffic problem, primarily because its roads don't appear to be used as rat runs, there was considerable concern (71%) about speeding traffic. The current level of signage was considered by (66%) to be sufficient "to control and direct traffic through the village" but a range of options for traffic calming, including speed restriction signs, received strong support. In a question which asked for opinions of the most serious traffic problems, heavy goods vehicles came just after speed as a major concern.

KEY ISSUE

Slow down traffic through the Village, and consider restricting HGV's.

ACTION PLAN

Approach WBC about introducing speed limits in Stanford Dingley.
Approach WBC about restrictions for HGVs.

Roads

The poor condition of the roads, their lack of maintenance (74%) and the lack of hedge trimming (52%) were high on people's concerns.

PICTURE

The need for more/improved passing places on the approach to the Village on the narrower roads was also well supported (58%).

KEY ISSUE

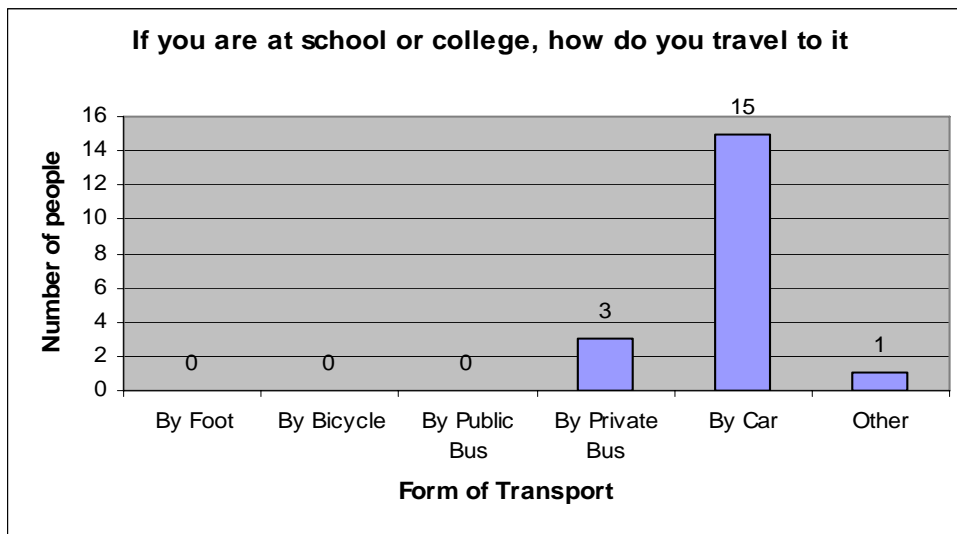
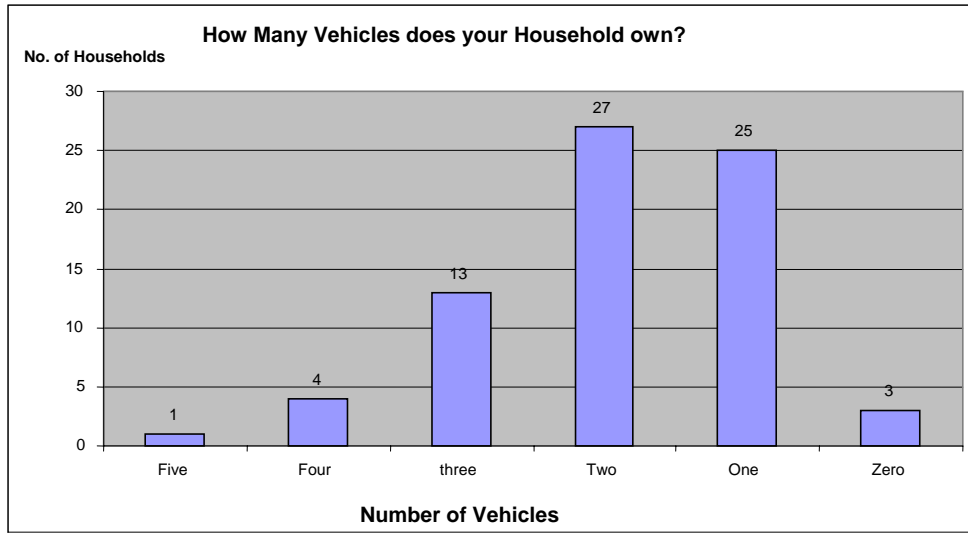
Improve maintenance.

ACTION PLAN

Approach WBC about implementing a more regular maintenance programme for all aspects of our roads, and the improvement of Passing Places.

Transport

There is a high usage of private cars (82%) as the main method of transport in the Village. Hence there is little demand for public Transport (<8%).



There could be more support for a bus service, but there would need to be a much improved service. Cycling is not a favoured means of transport, even though it would be more environmentally friendly. Hills of various gradients on all approaches to the village could be a contributing factor.

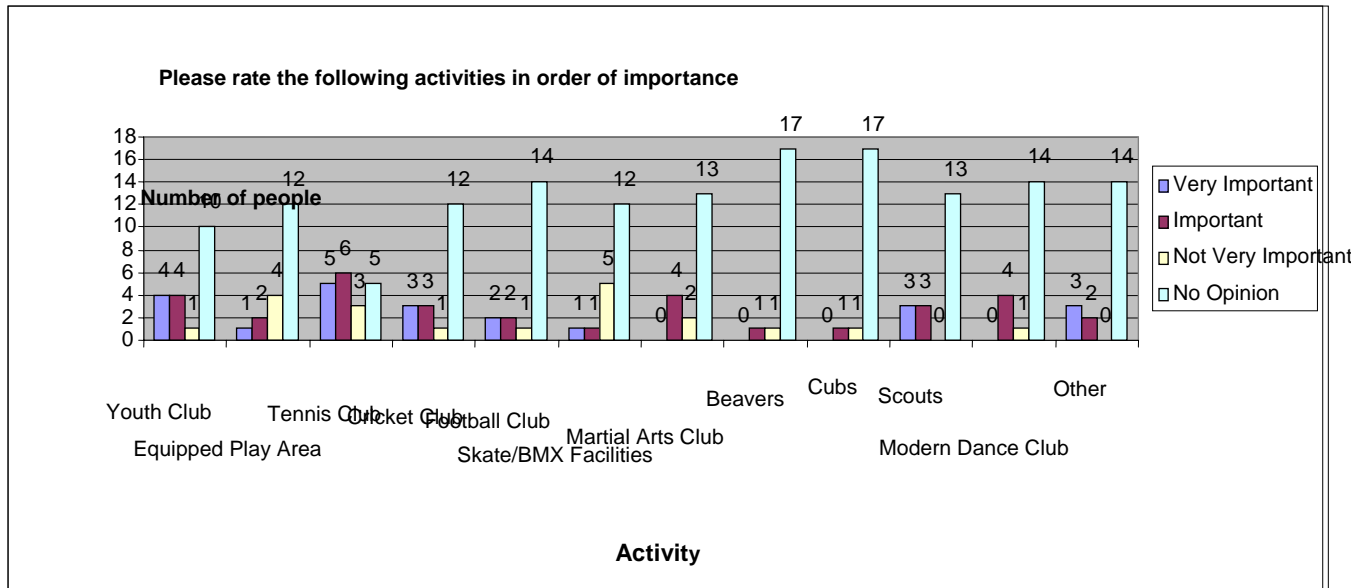
KEY ISSUE

Improved service would engender improved usage

ACTION PLAN

Approach WBC concerning an improved bus service.

Youth Activities



KEY ISSUE

From the results of the survey over 85% of those questioned said there was little for the youth to do in Stanford Dingley. There is no suitable park/playground in the village or football pitch. More than 50% of the youth said they would like a village hall as a base for their activities, which points to the fact that the existing hall doesn't meet their expectations. The conclusion of the survey is there is no focal point in the village for its youth.

ACTION PLAN

It is felt that the building of a more useable village hall and an associated playground will help act as a focal point for the young people of Stanford Dingley where various activities can take place.

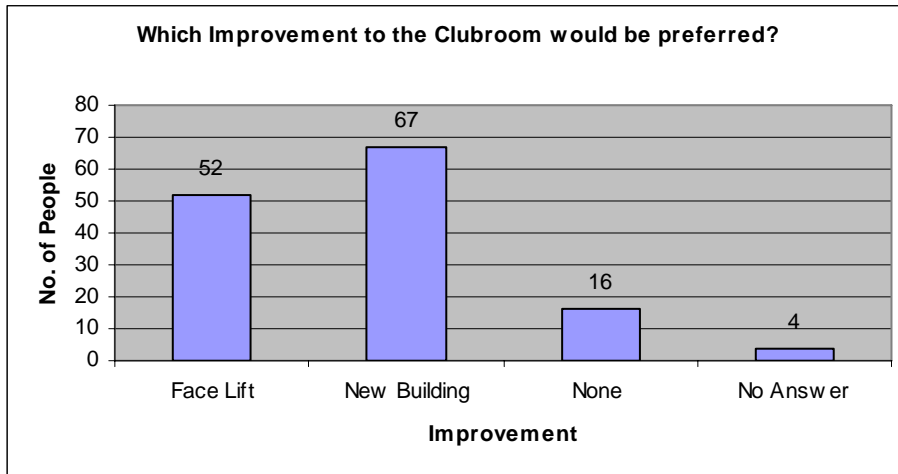
PICTURE

Facilities

St. Denys' Church and the Village Hall

A very strong majority – 98% think St. Denys' Church worth preserving and almost as many – 92% support its use for more community activities.

When considering community activities, the village hall doesn't appear to meet people's expectations as to what is needed to provide facilities for those activities



53% don't think the Clubroom is big enough for the village and 86% favour either a facelift or the construction of a new building on a larger site. Only 12% want no change to the village hall.

KEY ISSUE

St. Denys' Church is very important to the residents of Stanford Dingley, whether church-goers or not so its continued survival must be ensured. Though not owned by the village, Stanford Dingley residents have a crucial part to play in helping its owners – the Diocese of Oxford – give it a viable future. Following dialogue between Stanford Dingley Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council for St. Denys' Church, the Diocese began consultation into possible changes to the church's interior to accommodate more secular activities. This consultation included the possible installation of lavatories, a kitchen, make it more handicapped accessible and removing the pews to replace them with chairs. The Diocese's conclusion and decision was that the size and shape of the building and the historical sensitivity of the interior made it unsuitable to adaptation.

A Village Hall, therefore, will still be needed to house most of the secular community activities which might be contemplated.

Many of these were listed in the Questionnaire:

47 residents would have liked gym facilities

36 residents would support exercise classes

97 residents would support adult education, local history and gardening classes.

ACTION PLAN

Given that the existing Village Hall is considered too small, another building has to be contemplated on another site. Since the village already owns a sufficiently big parcel

of land and certainly couldn't afford to buy another, a key action point for the Parish Plan must be to build a replacement Village Hall on the village field.

PICTURE

Recycling

Stanford Dingley currently has a kerbside recycling collection fortnightly. This is a free service and the items collected are: newspapers and magazines; food and drink cans and glass bottles and jars

The questionnaire asked residents what additional recycling they would like to see in the village and answers showed a desire to increase the level of kerbside recycling.

From the materials suggested, the collection of plastic bottles was most popular with 63% of respondents and all plastic collection was next with 62% of respondents. The next most popular was cardboard with 55% of respondents requesting that this should also be collected.

A new service has been introduced during summer 2008 by WBC which includes the collection of plastic bottles. Recycling is collected fortnightly and each household is entitled to two green boxes and one sack. One green box is for paper and cardboard and the other for glass bottles and jars. The sack is for plastic bottles and cans. Textiles will continue to be collected if put out for collection in a carrier bag.

Later in the summer, green waste collections were also introduced and each household was given a green bin for garden waste.

Planning and Development

Two parts:

First part – was about the performance of different public bodies in handling planning matters.

A sizeable minority of residents (48%) thought planning matters got insufficient publicity.

Generally Stanford Dingley Parish Council got a better score than WBC on dealing with planning applications: - 53% of respondents said Stanford Dingley "assessed" them extremely well or adequately, while 32% said WBC did so.

Monitoring or enforcement of planning matters were viewed as poor by 42% of respondents and only 22% thought handling was extremely good or adequate.

KEY ISSUE

Typically unless it involves a near neighbour, residents aren't concerned about planning matters. When it involves a site of 'public interest' (e.g. a pub) then interest rises and the Parish Council needs to be mindful of ensuring such applications get sufficient publicity throughout the village.

ACTION PLAN

The Parish Council needs to be very diligent in working with WBC in its monitoring of the implementation of consents and its handling of enforcement matters, since the questionnaire shows widespread disillusionment with how applications are policed once consent has been obtained. The council needs to ensure that our Ward district councillors are aware of and involved in enforcement debates.

Second part – was about development.

The largest number – with a 40% response – of those who expressed a single opinion, when looking at what type of development might be acceptable opted for no further development.

However 31% supported local facilities or shops and 35% supported small infill sites within the village or redevelopment/intensification of existing housing sites, so it could be argued that more people support some change – albeit on a small scale – than want no change.

When asked what type of housing the village needs or should support the largest number – 44% said none, but affordable housing, housing for specific needs (like the elderly) and small family homes were supported 134 times, though the question allowed multiple answers.

A clear majority of respondents – 71% - supported 'balanced' enlargement or redevelopment of existing sites.

The balance of the questions was asking for opinions **IF** development was permitted, not whether it should be allowed. These questions were focussed on infrastructure support for redevelopment or for new affordable housing and a clear majority of respondents (63% -71%) thought that the developer should bear responsibility for this.

KEY ISSUE

Clearly the Parish Council, when considering planning applications must bear in mind the clear preference for no or little change in Stanford Dingley and any such change should be in keeping with, or sympathetic to, the character of the village.

ACTION PLAN

Development of a Village Design Statement will identify key characteristics of design, materials and density for any potential developer or improver to consider when contemplating planning permission.

PICTURE

The Natural Environment

Environment

The Stanford Dingley parish is one of outstanding natural beauty with conservation area status and thus attracts many walkers and visitors. The questionnaire showed that a large majority of residents felt more could be done in order to keep the parish clean and tidy.

The Parish Council has replaced the rusted litter bin on the village green and an additional one will be installed when a suitable site has been identified. The PC has also recruited a caretaker for the village green who will mow the grass regularly and generally keep it tidy.

Approximately one third of respondents felt that recruiting volunteer litter wardens, providing dog litter bins and entering a best kept village competition would be good ideas.

Footpaths and Bridleways

A large number (73%) of respondents use the footpaths, bridleways and byways for pleasure ranging from daily to occasionally. Of this total 30% use the paths for dog walking, 14% use the routes for cycling and 7% ride along the bridleways.

Many of the respondents have concerns about the antisocial use of 4 x 4 vehicles and scrambler bikes (72%), the restriction of access to previously accessible parts of the river and countryside (68%), use of barbed wire and stock fencing along bridleways and footpaths (66%), the misuse of footpaths by cycles and horses (55%) and 47% of respondents are concerned about the condition and maintenance of the footpaths, bridleways and the styles and gates thereon. The suitability of the latter two is also of concern.

Insert Stanford Dingley parish map with numbered rights of way.

KEY ISSUE

Keep the Parish clean and tidy.

Improve the general condition of public rights of way and maintain them.

ACTION PLAN

Establish a barbed wire policy with full involvement of landowners.

Encourage maintenance of gates/styles by landowners.

Include guidance on bridle gate design in Parish Plan ([see Appendix 2](#)).

Encourage parishioners to voice their particular concerns direct to the landowner, via the footpaths and bridleway representative or to the WBC Senior RofW Officer.

PICTURE

Public footpaths: may be used by people on foot. There is no public right to push a bicycle or lead a horse, but a push chair may be used.

Public bridleways: may be used for riding, walking, leading horses or pedal cycling. Cyclists must give way to pedestrians and horse riders. There is no public right to use a horse-drawn vehicle.

Byways open to all traffic: may be used by vehicular and all other type of traffic, but are used mainly for walking or riding horses or cycles. Vehicles should give way to other users, and comply with all driving regulations as for ordinary traffic. They must be taxed, insured, roadworthy and properly silenced.

Restricted Byways: these may be used for walking, cycling, horse-riding and carriage-driving. They cannot be used by mechanically-propelled vehicles.

Conservation

The questionnaire asked residents about improvements that could be made to the local landscape. The village is centred on the River Pang which is a small chalk stream and is believed to have inspired Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*.

The youth of the village were encouraged to conduct a wildlife survey of Stanford Dingley and its surroundings. The results are to be found in [Appendix 3](#).

The Pang and its tributary the Ingle are integral features of the parish and 79% of respondents felt that the relevant landowners should be encouraged to protect and improve the general river habitat.

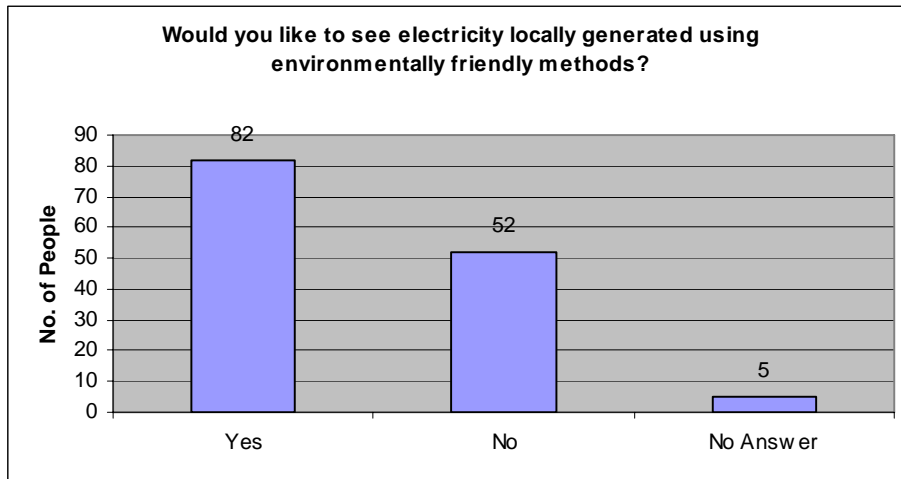
The 2002 Countryside Agency report "Our Countryside, Our Future" recommends working in partnership with local farmers and landowners particularly with regard to managing hedgerows and set-aside for wildlife. The Pang Valley Countryside Project was set up to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Pang Valley and to help people appreciate and care for the countryside.

81% of respondents showed a considerable strength of opinion that the ancient water meadows, a special feature of the village, should be safeguarded. 60% felt that more trees should be planted and more bird/bat boxes erected.

Rushall Farm is a mixed organic farm situated just outside the parish. It is home to the John Simonds Trust, an educational charity that works primarily with schools, promoting an understanding of farming and the countryside.

Many parishioners raised the importance of Rushall Organic Farm and Rushall Manor Farm (the Black Barn site). 83% felt these farms contributed hugely to the area and were particularly supportive of lambing days, facilities for schools, social activities, facilities for walking/riding and support for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, guided walks, facilities for scouts and overnight camping.

The questionnaire also showed that there was interest in generating electricity locally using environmentally friendly methods. 59% were in favour of this and the preferred choice of power generation for 80% of them was by small domestic solutions including solar panels and/or small scale wind turbines.



KEY ISSUE

There is a clear desire to maintain the natural environment of Stanford Dingley

ACTION PLAN

Ensure local landowners are aware of their responsibilities and are reminded regularly

Supply instructions on how to make bird and bat boxes – initiate a local competition?

Liaise with Pang Valley Countryside Project

Set up our own conservation group with volunteers managing rights of way and wildlife areas

Organise working party days focusing on practical conservation

Encourage tree planting

Work with Environment Agency, WBC and landowners to ensure regular cleaning of river to alleviate flooding (with additional information in the event of a flood contained in [Appendix 4](#)).

List of Appendices.

1. Those who have made this Parish Plan possible
2. Recommended Bridlegate design
3. 2008 bird and mammal survey
4. Disaster recovery information sheet

Appendix 1.

Acknowledgements

The Parish Plan Working Party would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their assistance and support in the production of this Parish Plan:

Bradfield College – for their help in printing the questionnaires

Bradfield Parish Council and their Parish Plan working party, particularly David Crawford, Dave Swan and David Noakes, for their invaluable help with producing the questionnaire

Sarah Ward - Community Action West Berkshire (CAWB)

Community Council for Berkshire (CCB)

DEFRA

Greenham Common Trust

West Berkshire Council

The many local residents who delivered and collected questionnaires and helped us to achieve such an excellent response rate

The many local residents who contributed thoughts and ideas throughout the various consultations

The following additional members of the Working Party and individual Action Groups:

Andrew Gilroy-Smith

Brian White

Jilly Hawkesworth

Katrina Rostrup

Peter Hall

Mark Hawkesworth (Village Design Statement)

Peter Trentham (VDS)

Peter McCurdy (VDS)

Fergus Madden (VDS)

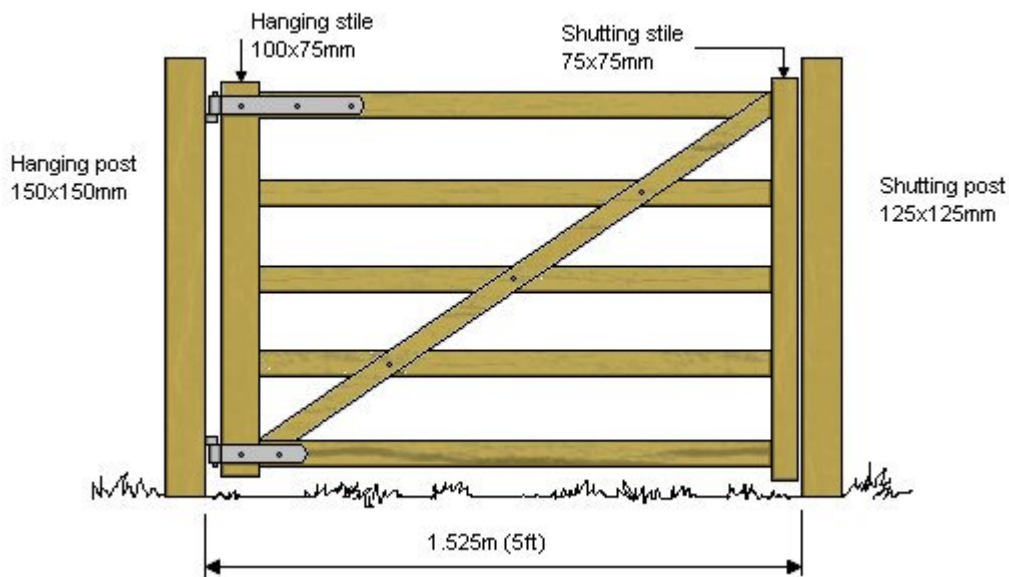
Peter Harvey (Neighbourhood Action Group)

Appendix 2

Bridlegates

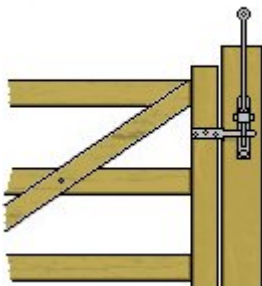
Wood Bridlegate

All bridleway gates should be at least 1.525m (5ft) wide. Ideally they should be openable on horseback. Where possible the bridlegate should have at least 1m clearance from adjacent hedging or fence.

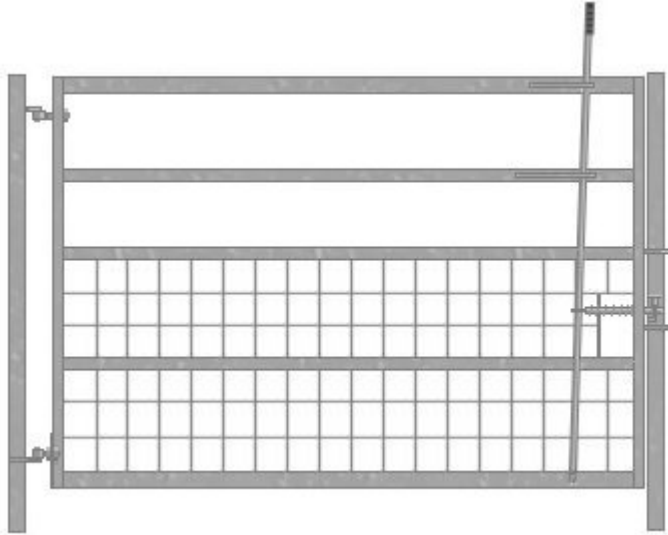


Latches recommended for closing bridlegates:

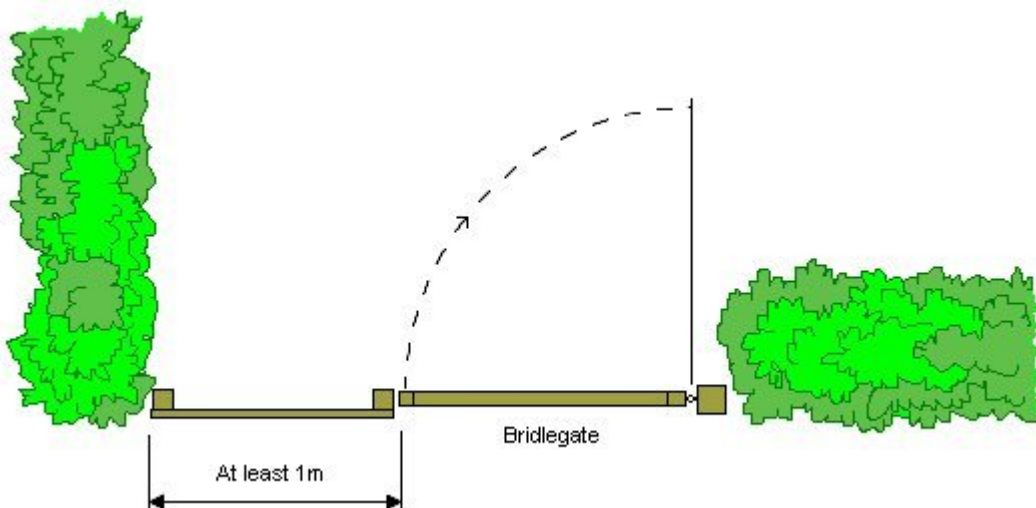
- The standard latch has an extended handle for ease of opening on horseback and will re-fasten when the gate is closed.
- These can be fitted to any wooden gate and come fitted as standard to most metal bridlegates.



Minimum width 1.525m (5ft)



Where bridlegates are situated near field corners it is recommended that there is at least 1m clearance from the adjacent hedge/fence line.



Appendix 3

2008 Bird and Mammal Survey undertaken by children of Stanford Dingley

Stanford Dingley has a wealth of wildlife. The development of the Parish Plan has provided an ideal opportunity to encourage and engage the children of the village to take part in a survey of just two groups of wildlife – birds and mammals.

All children 13 and under were invited to take part in a bird and mammal survey. This took place from mid April to the end of the summer holidays. Literature on birds was kindly provided by the RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology. Each child taking part was given a number of leaflets and posters with information on recognizing birds and their habitats. The aim of the survey was to encourage the children to recognize birds and mammals and appreciate their contribution to our village wildlife. This in turn will encourage children to understand how important it is to take responsibility for the local countryside, preserve the local habitat and value our village and surrounding countryside. The birds and mammals on this list may not contain all the regular birds, visiting birds and mammals in Stanford Dingley but contains the list of those identified by the children during the months of April through to the end of August.

Birds

Barn owl	Long tailed tit
Blackbird	Magpie
Blue Tit	Mallard
Bullfinch	House Martin
Canada Goose	Moorhen
Carrion Crow	Partridge
Chaffinch	Pheasant
Chiffchaff	Pied Wagtail
Coal Tit	Pied fly catcher
Collared dove	Red Kite
Coot	Robin
Crow	Rook
Cuckoo (heard)	Song thrush
Gold finch	Sparrow hawk
Great Spotted woodpecker	Starling
Green Finch	Swallow
Great tit	Swan
Green woodpecker	Tree creeper
Heron	Turtle Dove
House Sparrow	Wood pigeon
Jackdaw	Wren
Jay	
Kingfisher	

Mammals

Rabbit
Badger (dead)
Fox
Hare
Mink
Mole
Mouse
Muntjac deer
Rat
Roe Deer
Stoat
Vole



Appendix '4

Sources of Information and Advice
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**Thames Valley Police non emergency
Telephone number**

0845 8505 505

Neighbourhood Police Team

Subject	Source	Contact
Preparing for an Emergency	HM Government	www.pfe.gov.uk
Flooding	Environment Agency	0845 988 1188 www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood
Emergency Planning	West Berkshire Council	01635 519105 Emergency.planning@westberks.gov.uk
Gas	Transco	0800 111999
Electricity	EDF Energy	08007 838838
	Scottish & Southern Energy	08457 708090
Water/Sewerage	Thames Water	08459 200800

PARISH ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

STANFORD DINGLEY

PARISH ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE		STANFORD DINGLEY					
Objective	Actions	Prio rity H/M/ L	Start Date/Finish Date	Project Manager/Lead Partner	Other Partners	Justification (refer to community support from consultation)	Completed (Give Date)
ENVIRONMENT Improve environment	Caretaker for village green	H	Mar-08 done	Parish Council	none	Keep village tidy & encourage tourism	Mar-08
Prosperous	Replace & renew litter bins	H	June 08 and Dec 08	Parish Council	P. McCurdy	as above	
RIGHTS OF WAY Accessible Improve environment and Health	Improve condition and access on RoWs. Encourage user friendly gates & safe fencing (not barbed wire)	M	Jan-09 On going	Representatives of Footpaths and Bridleways (D. Bellin & J. Hawkesworth)	Stanford Dingley Farmers, Landowners & Sen. RoW officer - WBC (E. Cox)	Encourage use of RoWs for safety, health and well being	
CONSERVATION Conservation and improve environment	Bird & bat box making initiative	M	Feb-09	P. Trentham	Pang Valley Countryside Project	Increase diversity of local wildlife	
CONSERVATION River management & conservation	Set up conservation group with volunteers to help clear overgrown areas of river	H	Mar-09	Parish Council	Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers Environment Agency	To maintain habitat and keep waterway clear (flood management)	
TRAFFIC							
SAFER Reduce traffic speeds	Contact Highways and Transport WBC Mr. N. Stacey. Consult with NAGS. Conduct Village Traffic Survey	H	Mar-08 MID-09	WBC	NAGs	Parish Plan Questionnaire	
Reduce HGV's	Contact WBC Mr. Bryan Little. Review Freight Movements. Conduct Village Traffic Survey	H	Feb-09	Parish Council	NAGs	Parish Plan Questionnaire	

<u>ROADS</u>									
Improve maintenance	Approach WBC with a view to decrease the times between inspections and maintenance.	Mar-09	On going	Traffic and Roads Representative - P. White	Parish Council	WBC	Parish Plan Questionnaire		
-	Identify problem places with WBC. Seek place on Capital Programme	-	-	-	H				
-	Passing Places	Mar-09	Apr-10						
<u>TRANSPORT</u>									
Improve bus services	- Consult with WBC	Feb-09	MID-09	B. White			Parish Plan Questionnaire		
Greener	Transport Services	L							
<u>FACILITIES - NEW VILLAGE HALL</u>									
Maintain and strengthen community links through providing facilities and events which encourage people of all ages to meet/talk/get together and educate.	KEY ACTION Carry through plans to build a new "fit for purpose" eco friendly village hall on the village field near the Church (green oak, cricket pavilion style) Exercise, gardening, computer and history classes + Church activities. Focal point for youth activities - playground area	Mar-09	Target - MAR-2012	Village Hall Working Party, Parish Council		West Berks. Council CCB Village Halls Adviser, other funding bodies	Parish Plan Questionnaire and consultation meetings		
ADULT Education and activities		When the village hall is built		Parish Council and Stanford Dingley Activities Committee		West Berks. Council CCB Village Halls Adviser, other funding bodies	Parish Plan Questionnaire		
YOUTH Focal point for the youth of the village.		H							

<u>PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT</u>									
Improve planning enforcement matters	Diligence in pursuing planning enforcement	H		On going	Parish Council	West Berks. Council		Parish Plan Questionnaire	
Development of a Village Design Statement which reflects the view of the community and to have it adopted by WBC	To identify key characteristics of design, materials and density for any potential developer or improver to consider when contemplating planning permission. Submit to WBC for adoption.	H	Mar-08	Nov.-09	Parish Council Village Design Statement Team			Parish Plan Questionnaire	
<u>RECYCLING</u>									
Greener All plastic products	Contact WBC to explore possibilities	M	Mar-09	Dec-09	Katrina Rostrup	WBC Recycling		Parish Plan Questionnaire	

Comments from Services at West Berkshire Council re Stanford Dingley Parish Plan 18th December 2008

Topic	Service Area/Officer	Comments
<p>Traffic and Roads</p>	<p>Highways and Transport Andrew Garratt (Principal Traffic and Road Safety Engineer)</p>	<p>Traffic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing a speed limit (especially with no street lighting) will increase the number of signs required to make the speed limit legal • Weight limits will require signing of the restriction and advance signing. Again this will increase the number of signs required, which is not what the Parish or community want. I would suggest that we work with the Parish and undertake surveys to determine the extent of speeding and HGV problem within the area. <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of the District's rural roads (Unclassified roads) are monitored every year. That means that a detailed inspection will be undertaken at last every 4 years. However, a safety inspection on these roads in undertaken every 6 months. If residents have a concern about

Topic	Service Area/Officer	Comments
Village Design Statement	Planning and Trading Standards Paula Amorelli (Principal Planning Officer)	<p>a certain location then they need to contact Streetcare so that the appropriate actions can be taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where hedges are causing a concern, residents can contact Streetcare for the maintenance section to assess and take the necessary action. This can be a long process if the vegetation is not located on a public highway. • The need for passing places will need to be identified and included in the Capital Programme for a future scheme. This could be put forward as a Member bid.
		<p>References to the VDS in the Action Plan will need changing as they are factually incorrect and the finish date is a little optimistic. I would suggest it is amended to read;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: Development of a VDS which reflects the views of the local community and to have it adopted by WBC. • Action: To identify key characteristics of design and materials for potential

Topic	Service Area/Officer	Comments
Conservation – River Management	Planning and Trading Standards Jeremy Davy (Principal Ecologist)	<p>developers and to submit to WBC for adoption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish date for this action – November 2009 <p>In the main document (p11) the Action Plan paragraph regarding enforcement - The Parish states that – “This authority drags its feet because of cost implications”. This is incorrect and there is no evidence that demonstrates this. There are occasions when enforcement matters can take some time to resolve, which can be for a variety of reasons. Cost implications is not one of them.</p> <p>Firstly, we will always try and resolve a breach of control through negotiation which can take time. On some occasions owners will submit planning applications and lodge appeals in order to regularise a breach. In such cases this will delay any action taking place.</p> <p>Finally, there are times when it is not expedient to take action because the breach of control does not cause harm in the opinion of this Council.</p>
		Under Conservation - River management & Conservation - Other partners; I suggest that the Pang

Topic	Service Area/Officer	Comments
Facilities for young people.	Children and Young People Mark Vernon (Youth Service Development Manager)	<p>Valley Countryside Project is added as well as the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers</p> <p>There are a very small number of young people who responded - 19. The 2001 census lists only 16 young people aged 13 - 19 in the parish so it appears they may all have contributed to the survey.</p> <p>The survey shows that out of all the respondents (ages not specified) only 8 people felt facilities for young people were Very Important or Important. The greater majority recorded no opinion.</p> <p>The text implies 50% of the youth (ie 9 or 10) wanted a base for youth activities in the village hall. This number is also small. The Parish will have to decide if it can justify developments to the hall which will accommodate the needs of this number of young people.</p> <p>Whilst acknowledging that for these individuals, lack of facilities is a factor of living in a rural community, the low numbers would suggest that the provision of a youth club would be unsustainable.</p>

Topic	Service Area/Officer	Comments
Traffic movements – Freight	Planning and Trading Standards Bryan Lyttle (Planning and Transport Policy Manager)	The Council will be adopting a Freight Route strategy in February. The parish will not be featured as part of the preferred freight route for West Berkshire. Officers, will however, continue to review freight movements throughout West Berkshire
Anti-social behaviour	Policy and Communication Community Safety Team Susan Powell (Safer Communities Partnership Team Manager)	I have read through and note that speeding traffic and anti-social use of 4x4 vehicles and scrambler bikes are issues of concern. I see that the NAGs have been identified within the Action Plan as partners to the Parish Council in addressing these concerns/issues. The NAG is the most appropriate forum for local problem solving but as before if anyone from Stanford Dingley Parish Plan Working Party requires any additional information please ask them to contact the SCP Team. It may be a good idea to include the Thames Valley Police non emergency telephone number (0845 8 505 505) in appendix 4 and maybe the local

Topic	Service Area/Officer	Comments
Transport	Highways and Transport Mike Trevallion (Transport Services Manager)	Neighbourhood Police Team contact number. With regard to the bus services improvement, I would suggest that B White does not speak to the bus companies as they have recently withdrawn their services due to lack of patronage. Transport Services have introduced a Village Shopper Service which we are operating in-house (see item 3.11 of the attached Service Action Plan) and for any further information should contact either Matthew Metcalfe on 519663 or Paul Hyde on 503248.