

# Bloxham Village Parish Questionnaire - Feedback & Action Plan

1<sup>st</sup> July 2010



## Introduction

An open meeting, to present the potential and advantages of a parish plan, was organised by Bloxham Parish Council and held at the Jubilee Hall in the autumn of 2006. The meeting agreed that Bloxham Parish Council should initiate the formation of a Parish Plan Steering Committee for the village. The committee once formed would operate separately from the Parish Council. Volunteers were asked to come forward and the Steering Committee was established in February 2007. The members were:

Keith Janes	Chairman
David Powell	Vice Chairman
David Godfrey	Treasurer
Ann Shaw	Secretary
Wendy Arnold	
Paul Barnes	
Stuart Cruickshank	
Phil Cavill	
Paul Christmas	
Sue Godfrey	
Joan Lawrence	
Rowena Rouse	
Peter Shaw	

A launch event was held at the Ex Servicemen's Village Hall in June 2007. Prior to the day, the children attending the three village schools were invited to submit artwork for the design of a "logo" that would be used in publicity material for the Parish Plan. All entries were displayed. Prizes were presented by local Councillor, Eric Heath. Overall winner of the competition was Bethan Chislett of Bloxham Primary School. Awards were given to a further 28 entries.

Subsequently members of the committee attended village events, meetings and functions to obtain the views of all age groups on what villagers thought were the key issues of concern and the positives of life in Bloxham, using a "love it; hate it questionnaire", filled in by individuals, young and elderly. Information was collected at the launch event and subsequently at the Primary School Fete, St Mary's Church Fair, the Village Show at Jubilee Park, after services at St Mary's Church, the Baptist Church and the Spiritualist Church, and from the Scouts & Cubs, Lunch Club, Day Centre and Play Bus. Village businesses were consulted, a traffic survey and bus survey were undertaken by members of the Steering Committee, and the Warriner School provided details of a traffic survey undertaken by pupils. The Primary School Governors and the Bloxham Football Club Committee also provided input.

From the information obtained a questionnaire was designed and distributed to each household in the village during January and February 2009 by volunteers, who then personally collected the forms. This contributed to the high return rate of 76%.

The results from the analysis of the data enabled us to produce the Action Plan to be found in this booklet, whilst some information obtained has already been given to Bloxham Parish Council to take action.

## The Village of Bloxham

A settlement was established along the banks of the village brook during the Saxon period. The village name itself is derived from the 6th century Anglo-Saxon, “Blocces Ham” (the home of Blocc). The village name evolved over time with the modern name of Bloxham being first recorded in 1316.

The dominant building in the village is St Mary’s Church dating mainly from the 14th and 15th centuries, with fragments from the 12th and 13th centuries. The size of the church indicates that the village was prosperous during the medieval period benefiting from the wool trade at that time. The medieval street plan of winding streets and alleyways is still apparent in the older parts of village and many of the 45 listed buildings are to be found here. Most of the listed buildings are built of local iron stone and many have their origins in the 16th and 17th centuries when the wool trade and the prosperity associated with it was at its peak.

From its origins until the mid-19th century Bloxham was a largely self supporting farming community with most inhabitants tied to the village, but with the development of industry in Banbury, the opening of the railway, and the improved road communications, the socio-economic structure of the village gradually changed so that people could leave, or work away from the immediate area of the village. However there has been a gradual increase in population, and the additional housing to support it, with the late 19th century building along Banbury Road, the development in The Avenue, and the more recent estates, Chipperfield Park and Gascoigne Way, on the periphery of the village dating from the 1960’s to 1980’s. Latterly there have been housing developments on the Barford Road and opposite the Warriner, and those in progress along the Milton Road.

Over time many of the services and employers that supported a self contained community have declined or disappeared, the shops, public houses and the farms that were in the village are now residential properties and the weaving industry, the railway and quarries are no more. In the last 20 years the loss of shops, services and facilities has continued; a bank, 2 public houses ( The White Lion and Hawk & Partridge), an hotel/restaurant (The School House), the Beauchamp Centre with the squash courts, a butcher, 2 hairdressers, a DIY store, a small department store, a convenience store, a garden centre, an antique restorer, an antique shop, an art gallery and a car servicing and sales outlet have all closed for business. .

Bloxham currently retains a number of shops, outlets, services and facilities, St Mary’s Church, a Baptist Church, a Spiritualist Church, a primary school, a secondary school ( The Warriner to age 16), a public school ( Bloxham School), The Bloxham Museum, a weekly country market, a Post Office/newsagents, a small Coop supermarket, 3 public houses with restaurants, a doctors’ surgery with restricted dispensing facilities, a dental surgery, a veterinary surgery, a car maintenance workshop, a hairdresser, a delicatessen, an interior furnishing shop, a leisure shop, an estate agent, and a petrol filling station which includes a small convenience store. Since the completion of the questionnaires some of the shops have had a change of use so a dispensing pharmacy, a takeaway and kitchen showroom have replaced the previous outlets. Bloxham Mill Business Centre provides managed office accommodation for around 50 small businesses

although many employees there are from outside the village. The schools in the village are significant employers for village residents whilst there are some small workshops along the Ridgeway providing employment. The village is on the bus route from Banbury to Chipping Norton which operates Monday to Saturday during working hours.

There are more than 40 clubs and societies within the village, which between them cater for activities and interests across all age groups. There are several venues that can stage activities and events. Leisure activities are available with football club catering for all school age groups, a bowls club and a golf range. Some facilities at Bloxham School including the pool and gym are available for village residents to use at certain times.

The village now stretches for approximately one mile along the A361 which is the main road from Banbury and Chipping Norton. In recent years there has been a marked increase in traffic along this route. The associated speed, volume, noise and the number of heavy vehicles generated many of the comments received in the preparatory work for the parish plan and in the returned questionnaires.

## **Bibliography**

**Cherwell District Council** (2006) Bloxham Conservation Area Appraisal - Consultation Draft - November 2006

**David Gibbard** (1989) Bloxham : *village and folk*, Banbury Litho Limited, Banbury

## Foreword

A Parish Plan is an opportunity for a village to influence its future and make a difference. The government wants local communities to take more control of their own lives, to say what they want doing in their own neighbourhoods, and to work with other organisations to make it happen. Change cannot be prevented but you can influence it. By getting the views and opinions of as many people and interests as possible a plan can be put in place to highlight actions that can be taken by community members and to influence other service providers and agencies, for example, local authorities, the police and utility providers. The Parish Plan is the result of much hard work, and thanks should go to a number of organisations and individuals who have provided both time and support.

- The Parish Plan Steering Committee members and additional helpers who have given their own time over the last 3 years.
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) and Aimee Evans in particular, for their advice and guidance.
- Nick Ward who developed a database and associated reports that enabled volunteers to enter and analyse the (very) large amount of data that was collected from the questionnaires, and for loaning us some laptops.
- The volunteers from the village who keyed in the data from the questionnaires.
- Bloxham School for the provision of computer facilities and their pupils who assisted with data entry.
- Blinkhorns, The Elephant & Castle, The Joiners and The Red Lion for prizes and incentives awarded to village residents for participation.
- Bloxham Parish Council and ORCC for funding grants with up to £3500 available.
- ORCC, OCC, CDC, Bloxham Parish Council and District Councillor Eric Heath and County Councillor Keith Mitchell for their advice, guidance and support.
- Each of the organisations that allowed us to conduct consultations at their events or meetings.
- The 76% of households that took the time to complete the Questionnaire, and provide their views and comments.
- Diana Cavill for permission to use a photocopy of her original painting of Bloxham for the front cover.

The Parish Plan contained within this booklet is based upon the ideas, comments and opinions expressed by the village residents, and has been adopted by Bloxham Parish Council who will be responsible for managing the plan and providing feedback to the village on progress and achievements into the future.

### *Glossary*

The following is the list of abbreviations that are used within this document and the full name of the organisation to which they apply.

- **BPC** - Bloxham Parish Council
- **CDC** - Cherwell District Council
- **OCC** - Oxfordshire County Council
- **ORCC** - Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
- **LDF** – Local Development Framework

Keith Janes - Chairman, Parish Plan Steering Committee

July 2010

# **PARISH PLAN SUMMARY REPORT**

## **HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION**

### **Questions 1 to 5**

**Results** A questionnaire was delivered to each household in the village during January 2009.

Number of questionnaires delivered	1196
Number of questionnaires received	909
Return rate	76%

### **Total number of residents responding**

Total number of respondents ( <i>i.e.</i> aged 8 or over)	1916
Number of males	911 47.5%
Number of females	1005 52.5%

### **Length of residence in Bloxham by age group (as % of 1916 respondents)**

Less than a year	4.5%
1–5 years	16.5%
5–10 years	18.5%
10–20 years	26.5%
More than 20 years	34.0%

### **Respondents by age group (as % of 1916 respondents)**

8–11	4.5%
12–15	4.5%
16–24	9.0%
25–34	7.0%
35–44	18.0%
45–54	16.5%
55–64	19.0%
65–74	11.5%
75+	9.0%

### **Children under 8 years of age**

Households with children under 8 years	136 (15% of responding households)
Total number of children under 8 years	211

Addition of these 211 children to the 1916 respondents of 8 years or over gives a total of 2127 individuals representing approximately two thirds of the village population at the 2001 census.

**Action** *Provide results to CDC and BPC to assess for local service provision.*

## **SOCIAL ISSUES, CRIME & SAFETY**

### **Question 6 Do you feel safe in the parish environment?**

**Results** 1867 people responded to this question. 96% felt safe within the parish. For those over 75 years the figure was 92%.

**Action** *In general people of all age groups feel safe within Bloxham; although 71 people said they were not. No specific action is necessary but refer to action points for Q9 on policing.*

### **Question 7 As an individual have you been subjected to any of the following?**

**Results** Residents were asked to respond on whether or not they had been subject to vandalism, burglary or theft, assault or mugging, car crime, anti-social behaviour or noise.  
46% of 1916 respondents, 880 people, said they had not been subjected to any of the above  
404 (21% of respondents) had been subjected to noise  
357 (19% of respondents) had been subjected to antisocial behaviour  
289 (15% of respondents) had been subjected to vandalism  
274 (14% of respondents) had been subjected to burglary or theft  
233 (12% of respondents) had been subjected to car crime  
20 (1% of respondents) had been subjected to assault.

**Action** *See under Q9 on policing.*

**Question 8 If you have been subjected to any of the following did you report it to the police?**

**Results** Overall around 50% of the respondents subjected to any of the items listed in Q7 had reported it to the police. However in the age groups under 45 a majority had not reported incidents to the police. This represents a significant under-reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Action** *See under Q9 on policing.*

**Question 9 Do you think that any of the following measures are needed?**

**Results** Respondents were asked to tick from a list of measures that they thought would be beneficial to the village and were offered the opportunity to make additional comments.

876 (46% of respondents) wanted more visible policing

887 (46% of respondents) wanted more activities for young people

741 (39% of respondents) wanted improved street lighting

410 (21% of respondents) wanted a neighbourhood watch scheme in their area

331 (17% of respondents) wanted better consultation between the community and police.

100 (5% of respondents) wanted more information on crime prevention

30 people made additional comments, mostly related to policing.

**Action**

- 1. Review figures with BPC and Thames Valley Police to agree action plan to correct the under-reporting of incidents in Bloxham and to resolve the expressed concerns regarding the absence of police presence.*
- 2. Identify which areas of the village are not covered by Neighbourhood Watch and agree a way to resolve.*
- 3. Discuss the formation of a Youth Club and seek volunteers.*
- 4. Identify where in the village street lighting is inadequate and discuss solutions with BPC/OCC/CDC.*

## **TRAFFIC, PARKING & PUBLIC TRANSPORT** **FEEDBACK**

### **Question 10 Where is your main place of work, training or study?**

**Results** 50% of respondents travel out of Bloxham, 22% are either employed or studying in Bloxham and 28% are retired or not employed.

**Action** *Discuss results with CDC reference recommendations in their Local Development Framework (LDF) plans.*

### **Question 11 What is your main means of transport to work, training or study?**

**Results** 55% use a car as their main means of transport, 12% walk, 2% cycle, 2% use the public bus, 2% use the train and the balance are retired or not employed.

**Action** *As per action in Q10.*

### **Question 12 Do you experience difficulties getting from Bloxham to other places?**

**Results** 93% said never or occasionally, 7% often had difficulties.

**Action** *Refer to actions in Q13 & Q14.*

### **Question 13 What are the most serious traffic issues in Bloxham?**

**Results** Residents were asked to name three categories they thought most important. Almost 5,300 responses placed the top five issues as:

1. Traffic volume by 1053 residents
2. Parking near the shops by 912 residents
3. Parking at schools by 831 residents
4. Traffic speed by 731 residents
5. No. of HGV's on A361 by 694 residents.

**Action** *Discuss remedial measures or improvements with OCC, CDC, Police, School Governing Bodies, shop owners.*

**Question 14 Which measures could reduce traffic issues in Bloxham?**

- Results** Residents were asked to nominate three initiatives, from over 5,000 responses the top five were:
1. Improve the school drop off/pick up points by 894 residents
  2. A bypass for Bloxham by 852 residents
  3. Weight restriction on the A361 by 748 residents
  4. Upgrade to junction at Courtington Lane/A361 by 416 residents
  5. Pedestrian crossing on Church Street by 400 residents.
- Action** *Discuss potential solutions with OCC, School Governing Bodies, for possible inclusion in their local transport and travel plans.*

**Question 15 If you own a vehicle is parking an issue for you?**

- Results** 74% of people of driving age said no, 15% said yes and the remainder do not own a vehicle.
- Action** *Refer to Q16 & Q17.*

**Question 16 Do you have the use of off-road parking?**

- Results** 88% of people of driving age said yes, 12% said no.
- Action** *BPC to request residents with off-street parking to use it.*

**Question 17 Is street parking a safety risk in Bloxham?**

- Results** Over 1706 residents replied to this question. 1370 residents said yes there was a problem, 422 said no problems and 335 replied 'don't know'. 421 people commented on where the main issues were; in order of priority they are:
1. Village shops
  2. Primary School
  3. Narrow streets in old part of village, e.g. Unicorn St, Little Green, Sycamore Terrace, Kings Rd, Queen St
  4. The Warriner
  5. Church Street area & Strawberry Terrace.
- Action** *Discuss potential remedial action with OCC Highways Department, CDC & Police to see if a plan can be agreed.*

**Question 18 Would you support some form of parking control on the streets of Bloxham?**

**Results** 56% or 912 residents said yes, 44% or 712 said no.

**Action** *Parking on streets and pavements is a problem in a few areas of the village. Potential solutions to be discussed with key local authorities.*

**Question 19 If you think more parking is needed where should it be provided?**

**Results** 36% or 1300 people said at the village shops, 24% or 863 people said at the Primary School, 16% or 611 people said at the St Mary's Church area and 14% or 463 people said at The Warriner. Bloxham School and Jubilee Hall, Strawberry Terrace and older parts of the village also had significant mentions.

**Action** *Discussion required with the organisations involved and relevant local authorities, e.g. CDC, OCC and BPC.*

**Question 20 How often do you use public transport services?**

**Results** 1504 responses from people saying they used these services at least once per month.

	Bus	Dial a Ride	Taxi	Train
Daily	30	1	3	20
Weekly	100	15	68	62
Monthly	245	10	411	539

**Action** *Bus service usage has doubled in 4 years, our rail service is excellent. We now have a taxi service in the village and we are fighting to keep our Dial a Ride services. Ensure timetables and contact numbers are widely published in the village, e.g. the Bloxham Broadsheet, Village Website, notice boards, and bus stops.*

**Question 21 Do you drive and have regular access to a car?**

**Results** 1736 residents that answered this question were of driving age, 1268 or 73% of these can drive.

**Action** *Highlight number of non-drivers in the village to Public Transport decision makers.*

**Question 22 If you use the bus, what do you use it for?**

**Results** Going shopping 42%, social or leisure purposes 33%, getting to work 10%, going to school 7% and for medical visits 7%. A number of people commented that they use the bus when catching the train or when their car was in a garage for repair.

**Action** *As per action for Q23.*

**Question 23 How do you rate the bus service?**

<b>Results</b>	Good	Reasonable	Poor
Route	49%	39%	12%
Timetable	18%	47%	35%
Reliability	44%	45%	11%
Cost	13%	43%	44%
Disabled access	28%	49%	23%

Cost was rated poor by a higher percentage of under 25 year olds than other age categories. Timetabling was rated poor across all age groups up to 65 year olds.

**Action** *Share results with OCC Public Transport contacts and Stagecoach Bus Co. Discuss potential for later services on Friday/Saturday and a Sunday service.*

**Question 24 If you use the bus once a month or less, what deters you from using it more frequently?**

**Results** 1,983 responses were received with 11% saying they would use the bus more if there were a Sunday or later service in the evening. 13% said the timetable was wrong for them. 10% said the fares were too expensive, 6% don't know about the services and 3% said there were not enough shelters or seating at the stops. The majority, 55%, said that the car was more convenient. Only 1% said that overcrowding was an issue.

**Action** *Discuss findings with Stagecoach Bus Co. and OCC Public Transport contacts. Publish the timetable on the Broadsheet Website and in the magazine, ensure the timetable is posted on all bus stops and have copies available in the Post Office. Upgrade the existing bus shelter at junction of A361 and Strawberry Terrace; provide a new shelter at the other end of the village.*

**Question 25 If you go to school in Bloxham, how do you get there?**

**Results** Children from outside Bloxham attend our village schools but this question was answered by those residing in the village and the adults that work there. 327 responded. Excellent to see that the majority, 63%, walk, 25% travel by car, 8% use a cycle. Some parents commented that they go to school by car as they are going on to work afterwards.

**Action** *Discuss the findings with the school head teachers, ensure school travel plans are well publicised, encourage the 25% using a car to walk or cycle when possible.*

**Question 26 Are you aware of the services offered by the following Community Transport schemes?**

**Results** In total, 1916 responded to the questionnaire but only 722 answered this question. Of those that did, 535 were aware of the Cherwell Dial a Ride service and 187 knew about the Banbury Volunteer Driver Bureau service.

**Action** *Ask the Parish Council to establish a register of people eligible to use these services and publish details of the service on the Parish Council Website, notice boards and in the Broadsheet.*

**Question 27 Do you cycle?**

**Results** 1779 people responded and 41% said yes, 59% no. The highest % of people cycling was in the 8 to 44 year age group.

**Action** *Refer to Q29.*

**Question 28 If you do, when do you use your cycle?**

**Results** 884 people responded, 79% cycle for recreation & leisure purposes, 11% for getting to school or work and 10% when shopping.

**Action** *Refer to Q29.*

**Question 29 If you do not cycle, would you if there were any of the following?**

**Results** 954 residents responded. 51% said cycle paths would encourage them to use a cycle, 20% wanted safe places to leave cycles or cycle racks, 13% said stiles on public footpaths were a problem, 15% wanted better signposting and rest/viewing points.

*Action*      *A reduction in car journeys and better public health are key objectives for our local government bodies. Discuss findings with OCC & CDC; can any of these pro-cycling initiatives be included in the Local Transport Plans?*

## **HOUSING AND PLANNING FEEDBACK**

### **Question 30 Do you think more houses should be built in Bloxham?**

**Results**      Of the 1800 answers to this question, 1298 or 72% did not want more houses. These were from all ages but were mainly from the 35 to 74 age range. The age spread was similar for the 304 or 17% who said yes to more houses. 198 or 11% had no opinion.

*Action*      *Discuss findings with BPC and use to ensure that the planning recommendations by BPC for the village are communicated to CDC Planning Department.*

### **Question 31 If yes, what sort of houses would you like to see?**

**Results**      This question offered up to seven choices, any or all of which could be chosen. The majority of the choices (52%) included affordable housing, 32% for people with a local connection. 23% chose sheltered housing for the elderly. The answers were spread across most ages, but those calling for sheltered accommodation for the elderly tended to come from the older age groups. There were also choices for smaller properties and executive houses.

*Action*      *See actions for Q30.*

### **Question 32 Do you think any future residential development should be limited to within existing village boundaries?**

**Results**      There were 1714 answers to this question of which 1181 or 69% said that new housing should be limited to within the village boundaries, but 216 or 13% felt that there should be no restriction. There were 317 or 18% who were uncommitted. Those aged under 25 were less concerned about development outside existing boundaries.

**Action** *Pass this information to all housing and planning authorities. It is information that will be useful to the Planning Sub-Committee of Bloxham Parish Council in their discussions with Cherwell District Council on future building in Bloxham.*

### **VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE and COMMUNICATIONS IN BLOXHAM**

**Question 33** **Do you feel sufficiently informed or involved with activities in Bloxham?**

**Results** Of the 1782 answers, 1357 or 76% of all ages felt that they were sufficiently informed or involved, but 254 or 14% were not. There were 171 or 10% who said that they did not know. These were mainly from the under 25's. 118 made a specific comment and/or suggestions.

**Action** *Since the majority of those who felt uninformed or not involved were aged under 25, advice should be sought on the best ways to communicate with and involve the younger age groups. Ways should also be found to promote those areas where information is available, such as the Village Website, the Broadsheet, Banbury Guardian and the notice boards around the village.*

**Question 34** **Would you like to see more community events?**

**Results** Disappointingly, 497 or 28% of the answers to this question were 'don't know' but 940 or 53% would like to see more events.

**Action** *Bloxfest is a festival that aims to appeal to all members of the community. It is recommended that the feedback from this event is reviewed to ascertain strength of participation by villagers and the desire to repeat the event.*

**Question 35 If you want more community events, would you help with the organisation?**

**Results** Although 940 or 53% of the answers to the previous question were yes, only 304 or 26% of the respondents to this question were prepared to help. These were spread across the ages 16 to 74. 400 or 34% do not wish to help and 469 or 40%, spread across all ages, 'don't know'.

**Action** *Encourage those prepared to help to do so and try to convert the 'don't knows' to yes. Special efforts should be made to encourage younger age groups to help with organisation. Collate list of contact details for those volunteering to use at future events.*

**Question 36 Have you ever attended a Bloxham Parish Council Meeting?**

**Results** Of the 1806 answers to this question, 1521 or 84% said that they had not attended

**Action** *Recommend that Bloxham Parish Council look at ways to encourage more attendance.*

**Question 37 If yes, did you feel that the issues discussed reflected local concerns?**

**Results** Although only 285 said that they had attended a meeting of the Parish Council, 362 answered this question and 238 or 66% felt that local concerns were reflected. 37 or 10% said that they were not and 87 or 24% didn't know.

**Action** *Since so few felt that local concerns weren't reflected, no action or further comment is felt necessary.*

**Question 38 How well does Bloxham Parish Council publicise its decisions and activities?**

**Results** Of the 1750 answers to this question, the majority of 981 or 56% thought that they were reasonably well done. 214 or 14% thought that they were very well done and 198 or 11% felt that they were badly publicised. The answers were spread across all ages.

**Action** *Ways should also be found to promote those areas where information is available, such as the Village Website, the Broadsheet, Banbury Guardian and the notice boards around the village.*

**Question 39 Some areas of the village have experienced power cuts over the last few years. Do you think that this is an issue?**

**Results** The majority, 1124 or 62% of the 1799 answers to this question, thought that this was an issue and 479 or 27% thought that it was not.

**Action** *Although there has been some improvement, the actions of the electricity suppliers should be continually monitored to ensure the supplies continue to improve. Recommend that BPC request a presentation from Central Networks to explain why the village has power cuts and what plans are in hand to reduce outages.*

**Question 40 Some areas of the village have been flooded in the last few years. Has flooding affected your home?**

**Results** Of the 1821 who answered this question, 1639 or 90% had not been affected. 182 or 10% have suffered flooding.

**Action** *This has been a major problem for those affected. A Flood Action Group has been set up that has already done considerable work. The BPC should ensure that assistance is given to help the group with this work to ensure improvements.*

**Question 41 Are you satisfied with sewage disposal and water supply in your area of the village?**

**Results** Of the 1797 replies to this question, 1474 or 82% were satisfied, 204 or 11% were not.

**Action** *A deeper analysis of any problems should be carried out. Some of the problems are connected to the previous question about flooding.*

**Question 42** Are you satisfied with mobile phone reception in the village?

**Results** The 1796 answers to this question were fairly evenly split, with 917 or 51% satisfied and 764 or 43% dissatisfied. There were 6% 'don't knows'.

**Action** *Mobile phone reception appears to depend upon which supplier is used. From the feedback received, the main issues were on the O2 & Orange networks. Contact should be made with them to improve coverage in the area.*

**Question 43** Do you have access to the Internet in your home?

**Results** Of the 1808 answers to this question, 1546 or 86% have Internet access and 262 or 14% do not. The access to the Internet declined with age, 40% of over 65's do not have access to the Internet in their home.

**Action** *Although access to the Internet is high, it declines rapidly among the higher age groups who therefore need other means of access to information. Ways should therefore be found to promote those areas where information is available generally, such as the Village Website, the Broadsheet, Banbury Guardian and the notice boards around the village.*

**Question 44** If yes, are you satisfied with Internet access in the village?

**Results** There were 1586 answers to this question of which 1204 or 76% were satisfied, 288 or 18% were not and 94 or 6% did not know.

**Action** *Although the majorities are happy with Internet access in the village, the level of access should be continually monitored, with the aim of further improvement.*

## VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

**Question 45** How user friendly are the pavements for pedestrians, people with disabilities, wheelchairs or parents with young children?

**Results** 52% thought that pavements were reasonable or better. 20% thought they were poor. 14% thought parking on pavements was a problem. 9% thought overhanging branches and hedges were a problem. Generally dissatisfaction was higher by older age groups.

**Action** *See Q46 results.*

**Question 46** Are you unhappy with any of the following?

**Results** There were 3742 responses to this question. While parking on the pavements is the most serious issue, followed by street lighting, all the issues have provoked a response.  
20% were unhappy with parking on the pavements  
18% were unhappy with the street lighting  
14% were unhappy with dog fouling.  
13% were unhappy with litter  
13% were unhappy with cracked and uneven pavements  
13% were unhappy with overhanging branches  
9% were unhappy with blocked drains.

**Action** *Each of the issues needs to be studied, and recommendations made about what can be done.  
Bloxham Parish Council is reviewing the number of litter bins and dog bins. We intend to analyse the locations given in Q47.  
Some of this work has already been completed.*

**Question 47** If you have ticked any of the above, please state where the problem is in the village?

**Results** The most prevalent problem areas against each heading are detailed below.

**Street Lighting** Tadmarton Rd, Courtington Lane, Church Street, Rose Bank/Brickle Lane, Barford Road, Cumberford Hill, A361 Banbury Road.

**Litter** High Street shops area, The Goggs, Cumberford Hill, Tadmarton Road, Courtington Lane, A361 Banbury Road.

**Dog Fouling** Courtington Lane, The Goggs, Tadmarton Road, Cumberford Hill

**Uneven Cracked Pavements** Church Street, High Street by the shops, Barford Road, Courtington Lane, Chapel Street, Old Bridge Road, A361 Banbury Road.

**Blocked Drains** Courtington Lane, Tadmarton Road, High Street, Barford Road

**Overhanging Branches** Tadmarton Road, High Street, Courtington Lane, The Goggs, Cumberford Hill, Barford Road, Church Street, A361 Banbury Road.

**Parking on Pavements** High Street/shops, Courtington Lane, Kings Road, Sycamore Terrace, Church Street, Rose Bank, Brickle Lane, near Primary School, The Warriner, Jubilee Park, Brookside Way.

**Action** *Contact the relevant agencies/bodies to communicate the problems and agree an action plan.*

**Question 48 Do you use public footpaths and bridleways in Bloxham?**

**Results** 82% use the footpaths and bridleways around Bloxham. The positive responses were spread evenly over all of the age groups.

**Action** *See action under Q49.*

**Question 49 What would encourage you to use the public footpaths and bridleways more?**

**Results** Good use is already being made of the footpaths and bridleways in Bloxham, however 33% thought maps/leaflets for specific walks should be prepared; 22% wanted better signposting; 20% wanted user-friendly gates and stiles and 19% wanted better access for everyone. 111 people made suggestions on how to improve foot and bridle paths including changing stiles to gates, improving drainage around stiles and upgrading paths with gravel.

**Action** *Identify local walks, can a circular Bloxham walk be established? Identify where improved signposting, gates & stiles are needed and discuss with CDC.*

## **SUSTAINABILITY/ECONOMY**

### **Question 50 How often do you shop in the village?**

**Results** 99% of the 1808 respondents used the village shops. 37% used them 3 times a week or more.

**Action** *Refer to Q52.*

### **Question 51 Which shops do you use in the village?**

**Results** This was a multiple answer question in which it was possible to tick all of the 12 shops listed. The most popular shops were the Co-op with 21% and the Post Office with 21%. The garage and garage shop were each used by 13%. All shops received some custom.

**Action** *Refer to Q52.*

### **Question 52 Would you like to see more shops or services in the village?**

**Results** The 1666 answers were evenly divided between those who did not want more shops at 683 or 41% and 643 or 39% who would like more. In addition, 282 specified which additional shops or services they would like. The most popular suggestions were a takeaway, fish & chip shop, butchers, restaurant (Indian, Chinese, Bistro), bakery, chemist, larger supermarket.

**Action** *Provide information on users to CDC, BPC, shop proprietors plus the analysis of shops and services specifically requested.*

### **Question 53 Do you use the pubs in the village?**

**Results** Of the 1598 answers, 757 or 47% said that they used the pubs as both pubs and restaurants and 580 or 36% as restaurants only. 262 or 16% used them as pubs only.

**Action** *Provide information on users to pub proprietors.*

### **Question 54 Should more jobs, businesses, small industries and tourism be encouraged in or around Bloxham?**

**Results** 64% were in favour of both creating more jobs in Bloxham and small business development, most of the remainder had no strong opinions. 48% were in favour of small-scale industrial units, most of the remainder had no strong opinions. 45% supported encouraging tourism development; most of the remainder had no strong opinion. Support came from all age groups.

**Action**      *Feedback the information to CDC, BPC for incorporation into development plans for Bloxham to encourage more businesses and employers to provide jobs in Bloxham.*

**Question 55** **If you run a business in Bloxham, what type of business is it?**

**Results**      There are 62 respondents running companies or partnerships in Bloxham, a further 116 are self-employed.

**Action**      *Review with OCC, CDC, BPC. Consider generating a register of local businesses and employment types to understand the skills & qualifications required.*

## **COMMUNITY**

**Question 56** **How many Bloxham organisations, societies and clubs are you involved in?**

**Results**      1786 residents responded to the question.  
68% were involved in no organisations in Bloxham  
27% were involved in one or two  
5% were involved with 3 or more.

**Action**      *Develop a communication plan for the village that includes contact details and a meeting calendar for all clubs and societies. Include details in a village welcome pack for new residents.*

**Question 57** **Do you think there are adequate facilities for pre-school children in Bloxham?**

**Results**      Bloxham has good pre-school facilities, organisers should ensure the services are well publicised. Of those expressing an opinion, 82% thought there were adequate facilities, 18% did not.

**Action**      *Let the organisers of pre-school facilities know the survey results, include details in a welcome pack for new residents. Provide information to OCC.*

**Question 58 Do you think there are adequate amenities and recreational facilities for primary school children in Bloxham?**

**Results** Excluding the ‘don’t knows’, 61% said there was adequate provision for primary age children, 39% said there was not. Those under 45 were more negative about the facilities. A number of suggestions for improved facilities were made, including better play facilities, indoor sports hall/adventure centre, skate park, multi-use games area.

**Action** *Write a statement about what amenities and recreational facilities for primary school children are available and ensure that this is communicated with all who want to know about them. Review the suggested improvements with OCC, CDC and BPC.*

**Question 59 Do you think there are adequate amenities and recreational facilities for young people aged 12 -18 in Bloxham?**

**Results** Excluding the ‘don’t knows’, 88% said that amenities and facilities for 12-18 year olds were not adequate, 12% said they were. Suggestions for improved facilities were setting up a Youth Club and a meeting place for older children. Some of the suggestions in the previous age group also apply, e.g. indoor sports hall, adventure centre, skate park & BMX track, multi-use games area, better access to existing facilities at Bloxham & Warriner Schools, tennis courts.

**Action** *Write a statement about what amenities and recreational facilities for 12 to 18 year olds are available and ensure that this is communicated with all who want to know about them. Review the suggested improvements with OCC, CDC and BPC.*

*There is a move to set up a Youth Club with community volunteers in place to run it, but as yet no venue has been identified or agreed.*

**Question 60 Are the local sports and social facilities adequate for the following age groups?**

**Results** Excluding the ‘don’t knows’, 70% said that facilities for people of working age were satisfactory, 30% said they were not. For those in retirement, 71% said that facilities were satisfactory, 29% said they were not.

Suggestions for improvements included multi-purpose building to host a wide range of activities, provision of tennis courts, reform the Bloxham Cricket Club, better access to existing facilities at Bloxham and Warriner Schools.

**Action** *Write a statement about what amenities and recreational facilities for people of working age and in retirement are available and ensure that this is communicated with all who want to know about them. Review the suggested improvements with OCC, CDC and BPC.*

**Question 61 Do you currently use any of these buildings for leisure and recreational purposes?**

**Results** The village has a number of buildings that are used for recreational and leisure purposes. In order of most used they are Jubilee Hall, Bloxham School, Ex Servicemen’s Village Hall, Parish Rooms, Warriner School, Primary School and Ellen Hinde Hall.

If respondents did not use a village facility they were asked to say why not. Of the over 400 responses, the most common were either the building didn’t meet their needs or there was no activity of interest to them, didn’t know what was available, there were better facilities elsewhere, facilities are inadequate and run down. There is an apparent lack of knowledge about what is available and people without children believe there is nothing for them.

**Action** *Publicise the calendars of clubs, societies and activities taking place in each location to encourage residents to participate. Ask each venue to publicise the details required for potential users/hirers.*

**Question 62 Do you think these buildings meet the leisure or recreational needs of the village?**

**Results** Excluding the 'don't knows', 81% thought the buildings did meet the leisure and recreational needs of the village. 19% did not.

**Action** *See Q63.*

**Question 63 What sort of buildings/facilities would meet Bloxham's needs?**

**Results** Of the 117 responses, a new community/leisure centre was the most popular response, followed by the need to upgrade existing buildings and provide additional sports and Youth Club facilities.

**Action** *Discuss findings with Bloxham Parish Council and the management committee/trustees of the various facilities to understand what changes and improvements would be beneficial.*

**Question 64 This was an open question for people to make comments or suggestions about life in Bloxham**

**Results** There were 362 questionnaires where residents had made comments, both positive and negative, and suggestions. The summary of the comments and suggestions received from Q64 plus the free response comments from the relevant questions in the questionnaire are available to support the development of action plans.

**Action** *Make summaries of free format feedback available to the nominated workgroups to develop action plans.*

## Action Plans

### Overview

The following pages are a summary of the key issues raised from the feedback received in the Parish Plan questionnaires. Each issue is presented as a *Topic* with a brief description under *Action*. Bloxham Parish Council has agreed to adopt this Parish Plan and take ownership of the overall plan as documented in the following pages. Each *Topic* will be assigned a lead owner to progress either individually or to lead the working group. Volunteers will be required from the village as leads or members of working groups. Once a working group is established they will need to meet with partners (e.g. CDC) to agree a detailed action plan to achieve the aspirations expressed by the residents of Bloxham. This will be documented in a work plan with a schedule. An element of the work plan will be to keep the village informed of progress either by website, village notice boards or the Bloxham Broadsheet. Where *Progress* has already been made then that is documented in the chart.

The following summary pages also indicate the *Priority* assigned to a *Topic*, the *Partners* involved in the delivery of the solution and the current expected *Timescale* to obtain the result. Any changes to *Priority* or *Timescale* as the work plan progresses will be reported under the village feedback referred to in previous paragraph.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
Demographics	Review demographic information with BPC and CDC to check if results can be utilised for services and support planning. Agree action plan if needed.	Low	Bloxham P.C. Cherwell D.C. Oxon C.C. Data Observatory Oxon Rural C.C.	6 months	
Crime and Antisocial Behaviour	Review results with Police and the Neighbourhood Action Group. Encourage residents to report incidents of antisocial behaviour & crime, and in the process securing a URN number.	High	Bloxham P.C. Env Grp Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Action Group Cherwell D.C.	6-12 months	
Street Lighting	Consolidate figures with Q46 & Q47 for Village Environment Section of Survey. There are seven specific areas needing improvement to lighting. Agree action plan with partners	Med	Bloxham P.C. H&T Grp Cherwell D.C. Oxon C.C. Street Lighting Team	6 months to 2 years	
Activities for Young People	Consolidate figures with Q59 Community Section of Survey to have coordinated picture. Meet with existing groups/organisers in village to agree how survey results can make positive contribution.	High	Bloxham P.C. Youth Grp Youth Support Groups Bloxham Village Schools & Churches Oxon C.C. Youth Service	6 months	
Neighbourhood Watch	Identify areas in village that do not have coordinators and are not covered. Agree action plan to give coverage for the whole village and recruit a village coordinator.	High	Bloxham P.C. Env Grp Neighbourhood Watch Thames Valley Police	6-12 months	

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
Traffic Issues	Discuss traffic volume/speed/HGV's with BPC/OCC/Police. Can improvements be built into the Local Transport Plan? Determine a plan of action to improve the situation.	High	Oxon C.C. Bloxham P.C. H&T Grp Cherwell D.C. Police	12 months	
Parking Issues	Discuss the problem of parking near shops, near schools, in narrow streets in the village with the District and County Councils, schools and shop owners and formulate a plan to improve the situation. Consideration to be given to disabled access on all issues concerning pavements, highways and public transport.	High	Bloxham P.C. H&T Grp Cherwell D.C. Oxon C.C. Police Village Schools Shop Owners	6-12 months	
Public Transport	Meet with the County Council Public Transport Officer and Stagecoach to discuss feedback on timetabling & cost. Seek alternative options for later/Sunday services. Provide additional shelter/seating at bus stops Publish timetables in Bloxham Broadsheet, have timetables available in village shops and at all stops.	Med	Oxon C.C. Stagecoach Bloxham P.C. Clerk	6-12 months	
Community Transport Schemes	Publish contacts and services available in Broadsheet and on Bloxham P.C. Website	Med	Bloxham P.C. Env Grp Oxon C.C. Broadsheet	6-12 months	
Cycle Ways	Discuss pro-cycling initiatives with BPC, Oxon C.C. and Cherwell D.C. contacts and determine what can be done.	Med to Low	Dial a Ride Volunteer Driver Bureau Bloxham P.C. Clerk Oxon Rural C.C. Bloxham P.C. H&T Grp Cherwell D.C. Oxon C.C. Banbury Cycle Club	6 months    12 months	

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
Housing & Planning	BPC to put forward recommendations to CDC Planning Dept on which development sites and housing types Bloxham village would support.	High	Bloxham P.C. Plan Grp Cherwell D.C. Oxon C.C.	6 months	Bloxham P.C. currently developing a recommendation to share with C.D.C.
Communications	Explore ways to improve communications, particularly to the under-25's, through developing a preferred website for the village from the three currently existing. 40% of over-65's do not have Internet access and will therefore continue to require other forms of communication.	High	Bloxham P.C.Publicity Gp Bloxham Broadsheet Bloxham Village website Cherwell D.C.	6-12 months	
Village Events	BloxFest already established. Monitor success/reaction and support the organising committee(s) for future years. List of volunteers from the questionnaire has been retained for future use.	Medium	Bloxfest organisers Bloxham P.C.	3-6 months	Bloxfest on Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2010.
Parish Council	Encourage residents' involvement by improving communication of meetings, publishing agendas one week prior to meetings – via village notice boards and the approved website (see Communication above).	High	Bloxham P.C.Publicity Gp	Ongoing	
Infrastructure – electricity	Monitor improvements carried out by Central Networks and future power cuts. Request Central Networks to make presentation to BPC on how they will reduce the number of power failures.	Medium	Bloxham P.C. Clerk Central Networks	6-12 months	

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
Infrastructure – flooding & waste water	Flood Action Group already in place. BPC to work with group to ensure continued improvements to the identified flooding problem areas.	High	Bloxham P.C. Flood Rep Flood Action Group Oxon. C.C. Cherwell D.C. Thames Water Environment Agency	Ongoing	Flood Action Group working with relevant parties to implement flood alleviation plan.
Infrastructure – mobile phone & Internet connection	O2 & Orange reception poor. Contact each company to see if coverage can be improved in Bloxham. Internet connections generally good, find out when Bloxham can expect high-speed broadband.	Low	Bloxham P.C. Clerk Oxon C.C. O2 Orange B.T.	6–12 months	
Village environment	Contact relevant organisation re the 7 areas of cracked/uneven pavements. Ditto – street lighting in 7 areas. Ditto – overhanging branches in 8 areas. Ditto – blocked drains in 4 areas. Note: Some items are in the conservation area of the village and suitable materials need to be used.	Medium	Bloxham P.C. Env Grp Cherwell D.C. Oxon. C.C. Village Residents	6–12 months	
Village environment – litter & dog fouling	Install new litter & dog bins along the A361 during 2010. Other areas of village to be completed in 2011.	High	Bloxham P.C. Env Grp	12–18 months	New litter & dog bins installed along A361
Village environment – footpaths/bridleways	Identify and map local walks – print and make available in village shops/pubs/museum etc. Find out if a circular Bloxham Walk can be established. Identify where improvements can be made to sign-posting, gates and stiles on existing walks. Discuss with relevant authority.	Medium	Bloxham P.C. Env Grp Cherwell D.C. Local landowners. Oxon C.C. Countryside Ramblers Association Oxon Rural C.C. Health Walkers Group	6-12 months	

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
Sustainability and economy	Share Parish Plan feedback & additional services requested with shop, pub and business owners and Cherwell D.C.	Medium	Bloxham P.C. S&P Grp Local businesses Cherwell D.C.	6–12 months	
Community – clubs/societies	Compile list of contact details for clubs & societies. Include in a welcome pack for new residents?	Medium	To be confirmed Clubs & societies	6–12 months	
Community – school-age children	Under 12's – Discuss possibility of upgrading play facilities at Recreation ground/Jubilee Hall and providing a skate park/multi-use games area. Over 12's – Recruit volunteers to set up Youth Club. Establish meeting place for older children. Provide skate park/multi-use games area as above. Consideration to be given to access for disabled in all community initiatives.	High	Bloxham P.C. Jubilee Park M. C. Recreation Ground Trustees. Oxon Rural C.C. Cherwell D.C. Oxon C.C. Bloxham Village Schools Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association	1–2 years	A management group has already been formed to establish Youth Club.
Community – adults	Discuss possibility of re-forming Bloxham Cricket Club. Better access to Warriner/Bloxham School sports facilities, including tennis courts. Advertise and promote availability of facilities at Warriner, Bloxham School, Primary School, Jubilee Park Hall, Ex Servicemen's Village Hall, Parish Rooms and Ellen Hinde Hall. Set up working group to assess use/viability of existing four village halls and make recommendations Consideration to be given to access for disabled in all village venues.	Medium	Bloxham P.C. Trustees of the Recreation Ground Management Committees of Ex Servicemen's Hall, Jubilee Park Hall, Parish Rooms and Ellen Hinde Hall Bloxham Village Schools Oxon C.C. Oxon Rural C.C. (Village Halls Advisor)	9–12 months	

