

A PLAN FOR  
LOCAL  
ACTION  
TO  
IMPROVE  
OUR  
VILLAGE

# WATCHFIELD COMMUNITY PLAN

## 2016

Prepared with  
support from  
Watchfield Parish  
Council, Vale of  
White Horse District  
Council,  
Community First  
Oxfordshire &  
Oxfordshire County  
Council

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## Foreword

Watchfield is changing and in May 2014 a group of residents volunteered to collect everyone's views and prepare this community plan that sets out how everyone in the village can work together to improve Watchfield. The plan is designed to prompt local action on a voluntary basis, influence others such as local councils and support funding applications for village projects.

The preparation of the Watchfield Community Plan has been supported by Watchfield Parish Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Community First Oxfordshire.



Photo courtesy of Shrivenham Station HQ



## Executive summary

- More than 10% of the households in Watchfield returned a community plan survey questionnaire. Responses came from most parts of the village and from a wide range of age groups, who had lived in Watchfield for varying lengths of time.
- The recreation ground and green areas including the Folly Field, stand out as being very important to most respondents. Improvement projects need to focus on these areas.
- Most respondents considered that integration between the civilian and military communities is important and there was strong interest in activities and events to encourage integration and learning more about the work of the Defence Academy. Possible projects could be a welcome pack for new students and residents and to ask the Commanding Officer Shrivenham Station (which includes Watchfield) and 'The News' to provide regular updates on community activity at the Defence Academy. With organisers of village events reciprocating by providing details for the Academy's 'Grapevine' newsletter.
- The location of more dual dog waste/litter bins around the village would be appreciated by most of the respondents. The location most frequently mentioned for an additional bin was outside the primary school.
- There was strong interest in using trees and other planting to enhance the appearance of all parts of the village. A possible project could be to carry out a planting survey with detailed recommendations on where planting could take place, and volunteers then undertaking some of the planting.
- Respondents had a preference for public art, funded by house developers, to be ornate benches or some other kind of seating. There were also interesting ideas for other types of public art.
- A large majority of respondents were in favour of the preparation of a Watchfield Neighbourhood Plan, with policies on the development and use of land in the village.
- A third hall, internal improvements and additional activities would be likely to result in a significant increase in the use of the village hall.
- Respondents supported improvements to the pitches, play area and pavilion on the recreation ground.
- Speeding and parking was a problem in some parts of the village. A possible project could be to work with the existing community speed watch group to confirm the issues and identify appropriate solutions.
- There was some interest in volunteering to help with activities around the village but respondents want to know what is involved before volunteering.
- Many activities for young people take place outside Watchfield. However most of these activities take place in nearby towns like Faringdon, Highworth and Swindon. Young people were interested in Watchfield having a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).
- Many older people were able to get around the local area independently and have the help they need. They enjoy activities like the lunch club and bingo and would be interested in new activities like a cookery club. Volunteers will be needed to help with new activities.
- There were many concerns about the changes in Watchfield but respondents still had many positive things to say about the village.
- As a result of the analysis of the questionnaire the Watchfield Community Plan steering group identified a number of possible projects that have the potential to improve Watchfield, which are listed from page 24 of this plan.
- Most of the proposed projects require various amounts of funding and volunteer help.
- Research by the community plan steering group suggests that funding can be found for the projects that are proposed. However many of the projects will not happen if volunteers do not come forward to help with the projects.

## A changing Watchfield

Watchfield has a long and distinguished history. It has an Anglo-Saxon cemetery which is now classified as a scheduled ancient monument. In 1983 archaeological excavations that took place ahead of the building of the bypass, uncovered a grave containing a spearhead, shield boss and knife, a sword with a pattern welded blade and a copper-alloy cauldron<sup>1</sup>. Evidence of a late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement in the parish has also been identified.

Watchfield is mentioned in the Domesday Book, the nationwide survey which took place in 1086/7, and for many hundreds of years was a small farming community. By 1796, Lord Barrington, from his large mansion that is now Beckett House, controlled much of the day to day affairs in both Watchfield and Shrivenham. In 1936 Beckett House and parts of the Barrington Estate were purchased by the then War Office.

During the Second World War Watchfield was the site of a prisoner of war camp for captured German soldiers; a camp for American soldiers and RAF Watchfield. The RAF airfield opened in 1940 using grass runways and was operated by the RAF until 1950, after which it became Arnhem Camp and was used by the army for packing military supplies, parachute training and the development of vehicle air drops with planes<sup>2</sup>.

Arnhem Camp closed in 1972 and was the site of the Watchfield Free Festival in 1975<sup>3</sup>. The majority of the site then went back to being part of West Mill Farm, although part of it later became the Shrivenham Hundred Business Park<sup>4</sup>. In 2008 a wind farm was located on the former airfield land at West Mill Farm. The wind farm consists of five 49 metre high turbines and produces the equivalent to a year's electricity consumption by 2,600 homes. The adjacent solar farm came online in 2011 and consists of 30 acres of over 20,000 polycrystalline photovoltaic panels, and produces the equivalent to a year's electricity consumption by 1,100 homes. The wind farm and solar farm are community owned<sup>5</sup>.

Just after the end of the Second World War in 1946, the Military College of Science moved from Woolwich to Shrivenham. In 2000 the Joint Services Command and Staff College relocated to Watchfield. The Defence Academy was formed in April 2002 and is responsible for post-graduate education and the majority of command, staff, leadership, defence management, acquisition and technology training for members of the UK Armed Forces, MOD civil servants. It also hosts a number of overseas students.

The Headquarters, the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), the Technology School, the Business Skills College and the Shrivenham Leadership Centre are based at Watchfield and Shrivenham<sup>6</sup>.

Many of the military personnel, who work or study at the Defence Academy, live in Watchfield and personnel from RAF Brize Norton also live in the village.

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<sup>1</sup> Excavation and Survey at Watchfield, Oxfordshire, 1983-89: An Interim Report by Christopher Scull  
<http://oxoniensia.org/volumes/1990/scull.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Watchfield Chronicle <http://neil-maw.co.uk/watchfield.chronicle/>

<sup>3</sup> Watchfield Free Festival <http://www.ukrockfestivals.com/watchfieldfestival-menu.html>

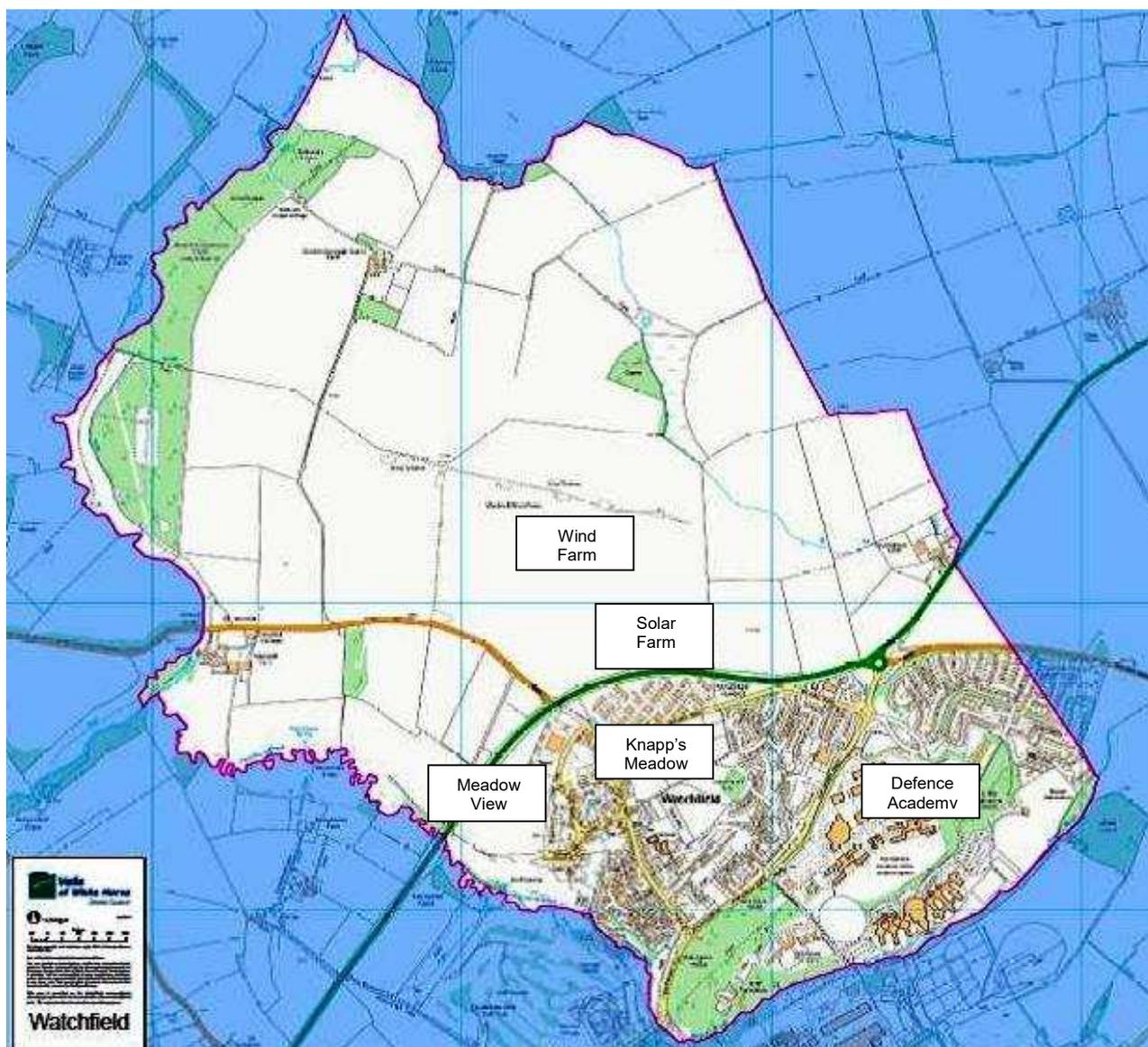
<sup>4</sup> Shrivenham Hundred Business Park <http://www.shrivenham100.com/>

<sup>5</sup> West Mill Sustainable Energy Trust <http://www.weset.org/index.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Defence Academy of the United Kingdom <http://www.da.mod.uk/About-Us>

At the time of the 2011 Census<sup>7</sup> Watchfield had a resident population of 1,702<sup>8</sup> of which 526 were aged 0 to 19 and 186 were aged 60 and over. There were 641 households. Since the time of the census there have been a number of planning applications for housing developments that will significantly increase Watchfield's population: 120 houses at Knapp's Meadow, opposite Shrivenham Hundred Business Park, Majors Road (Application approved with all the houses now built and the majority of the houses occupied.); 100 houses at the former Cowan's Camp Depot, High Street (Application approved with the houses being built and first occupation expected by the end of 2015. The new development is called Meadow View.); an additional 33 houses at the former Cowan's Camp Depot, High Street (Application approved.) and 16 houses at Majors Road (Application approved.).

Watchfield will continue to change: as the residents of the new developments become integrated within our village community; and local services and businesses change (For example, the 65 bus service was withdrawn and Absolutely Gorgeous hairdressers closed just after the survey questionnaire for this community plan had been printed and now Bellaviso hair and beauty has opened.).



<sup>7</sup>2011 Census <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/District%20Data/Watchfield%20Census%202011%20data.xls> and appendix to this plan

<sup>8</sup> This figure includes armed forces personnel who at the time of the census were living in Watchfield.

## **Community plans**

Community led plans or community plans can help a community assess current and future potential issues and think about all aspects of community life in an area, and set out a plan of action to tackle issues and bring about improvements. A community led plan provides clear evidence of community aspirations and priorities. This evidence helps when bidding for funds to improve a community. A community led plan can inform local councils and other agencies working in a community and influence others to take action.

Although they do not have a statutory status as other forms of plan might, community led plans are encouraged and supported by councils and agencies. The Vale of White Horse District Council for example, uses the information within community led plans, including the results from the questionnaire, in many ways. A community led plan can influence and inform policy makers when developing the district council's corporate plan and the local development framework. A community led plan can also provide evidence to support a neighbourhood plan which includes policies on the development and use of land in a community<sup>9</sup>.

The Watchfield Community Plan launch was on Saturday 17 May 2014 at Watchfield Village Hall. At the event Sue Nodder, chairman of the parish council briefed everyone on the benefits of community led planning and the process for producing a plan. The meeting agreed that it would be a good idea to prepare a community plan for Watchfield and a number of people volunteered to be part of a steering group that would consult with residents and prepare the community plan.

## **How the Watchfield Community Plan was prepared**

### **Starting out**

To start the plan off everyone at the plan launch meeting was asked to write down what they liked or disliked about the village and what improvements they would like to see. There was also a community plan stall at the village fete on 7 June 2014 and more villagers contributed thoughts and ideas.

A community led plan steering group was set up on 30th June 2014. It was made up of the following Watchfield residents:

Kathleen Aitken  
Sue Nodder  
Jeremy Redford  
Linda Skeffington  
Sheila Skeffington  
Toby Warren

It was agreed that Toby Warren should chair the group.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/community-led-planning>

To cover the cost of preparing the plan such as organising consultation events, applications were made for grants. The following organisations granted funding:

- Watchfield Parish Council £350
- Vale of White Horse District Council (administered on behalf of the council by Community First Oxfordshire [formerly Oxfordshire Rural Community Council]) £1,500
- Oxfordshire County Council £500

## Consultation

It was agreed that the main way of consulting everyone, on what they like about Watchfield and what they would like improved, should be a questionnaire distributed to every house in Watchfield. However to make sure that relevant questions were asked, the steering group first of all needed to know more about what people who live in Watchfield think about the village.

The steering group had suggestion cards designed and printed, to encourage more villagers to submit their views. Everyone who completed a card and gave their name was entered in a draw to win a £50 hamper from Bloomfields.

To help us understand how we can improve Watchfield together, please let us know:

### Three things I like about Watchfield

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

### Three things I would like to improve in Watchfield

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

To enter the prize draw and to be kept informed about the community plan, please give your name and email address or postal address in the section below.

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Name

Email or postal address



Suggestion boxes with cards available were placed outside the village hall and in the Eagle and the Jubilee Centre.



The steering group also organised a number of events to encourage villagers of all ages and backgrounds to complete cards. All the events were publicised in 'The News' and on posters around the village.

- A film night (The film was 'Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day')



- A pot luck supper



- A family fun event



**FREE FAMILY FUN**

**SAT MAY 9TH**  
**2-4PM**  
**WATCHFIELD RECREATION GROUND SPORTS PAVILION**

TELL US YOUR IDEAS FOR A BETTER VILLAGE

**FREE BOUNCY CASTLE & DISCO**

**FREE CREAM TEAS**

**FREE HOT DOGS**

**FREE TEA, COFFEE & SOFT DRINKS**

**COME ALONG AND BRING A NEIGHBOUR**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
WATCHFIELD COMMUNITY LED PLAN  
SUPPORTED BY  
WATCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL, OXFORDSHIRE REGIONAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL, VILLAGE OF WHITE HORSE FOURSIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL & OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Steering group members also attended other events and meetings, such as bingo and the Acorn Club, resulting in more completed cards. The cards and events generated nearly six hundred suggestions about what was liked about Watchfield and what could be improved. The top five suggestions in terms of popularity were:

- Enforce speed limits/ reduced limit on some roads/ traffic calming
- Run more village social/cultural/ educational events at the village hall
- Restrict development in the village to that which supports a village, not town/ maintain the quietness
- Preserve the green open spaces
- Preserve the golf course between Watchfield and Shrivenham and the footpath

The suggestions submitted by villagers helped the steering group decide what questions should be included in the community plan questionnaire.



**TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT FACILITIES IN OUR VILLAGE**

**GET INVOLVED IN WATCHFIELD COMMUNITY PLAN**

**Complete this questionnaire and enter the prize draw**

WATCHFIELD COMMUNITY PLAN with support from Watchfield Parish Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council & Oxfordshire County Council

The questionnaire was distributed to every house in Watchfield at the beginning of June 2015 and villagers were asked to return completed questionnaires to the village hall post box or to the collection boxes in the Eagle, College Farm and Co-op by 27th June 2015. Some of the questionnaires were also returned to the community plan stall at the village fete on 6th June. Everyone who completed a questionnaire had the chance to win a Bloomfields food hamper worth £100 in a prize draw. The prize draw took place at the end of a free cream teas afternoon at Watchfield Village Hall on 27th June.

The questionnaire sought the views of each household, as a whole, and there were some specific questions for younger and older people in the household. Replies were anonymous, as there was no need to provide a name, full address or phone number on the questionnaire itself.

Returned questionnaires were not read or analysed by the steering group. They were delivered to the Vale of White Horse District Council, who collected together the information provided in the individual questionnaires and where appropriate, carried out a statistical analysis of the range of replies to each question. The district council retained the completed questionnaires to make sure that the confidentiality of respondents is maintained.

The steering group analysed the results provided by the district council to help them identify the type of projects that are likely to be appreciated by villagers.

A draft plan was prepared by the steering group and sent for comment to local councils and other organisations that will definitely need to be involved if many of the projects listed in the plan are going to be successfully delivered:

Watchfield Parish Council Vale of White Horse District Council Oxfordshire County Council Community First Oxfordshire (formerly Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) Watchfield Primary School Village Hall Management Committee	Defence Academy of the UK (Shrivenham Station) Thames Valley Police Age UK Acorn Club Friendly Club
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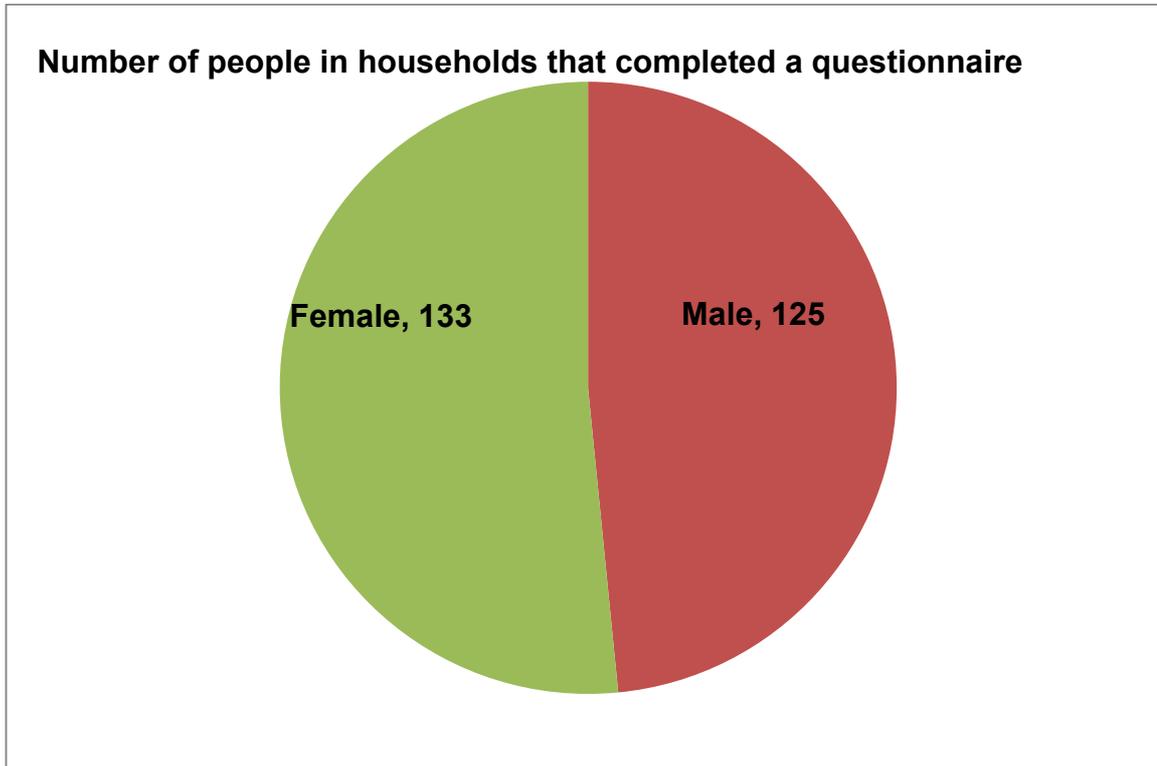
Comments were positive and helpful. For example the Vale of White Horse District Council's Community Infrastructure Support Officer commented 'The content will provide a really great basis for my consultations with the parish. I wish more CLPs [community led plans] provided such insights on their projects.'

Once the all comments had been taken into account some minor amendments were made to the plan, before it was publicly launched at the village hall on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016. At the launch villagers who attended, were invited to comment on the plan and express their interest in getting involved in the proposed projects.

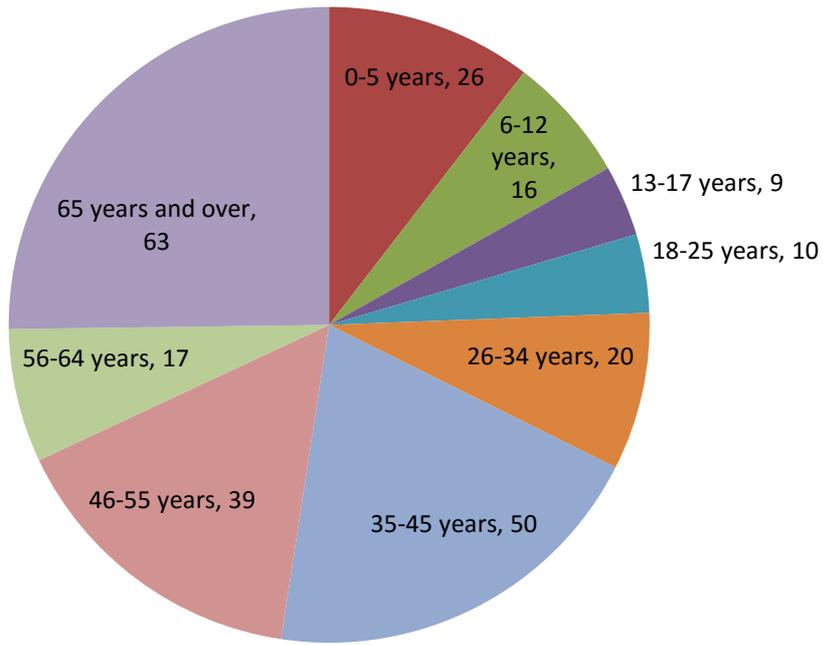
## The questionnaire results and analysis

### Numbers and types of households that returned questionnaires

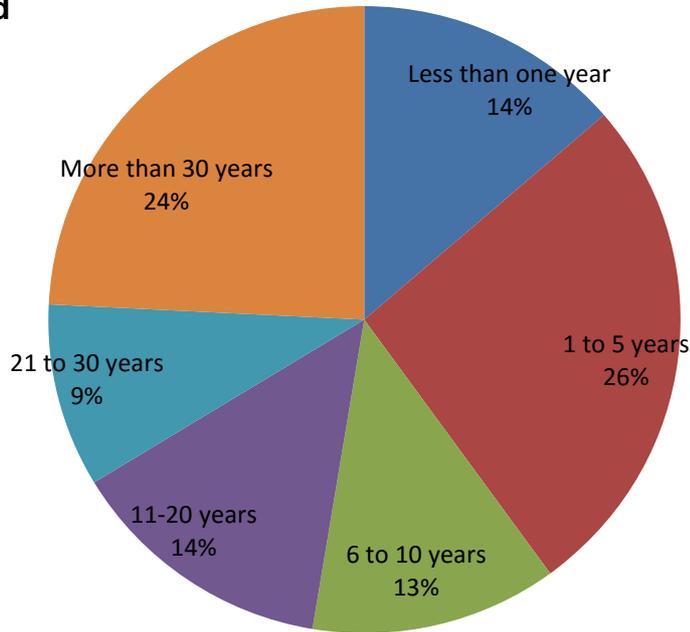
100 questionnaires were returned and analysed (NB Some respondents did not complete every question in the questionnaire. Therefore in the results the total number of responses does not always add up to 100.)



### Ages of people in households that completed questionnaires



### Length of time that households that completed a questionnaire, have lived in Watchfield





**Analysis of number of questionnaires returned** – There were approximately 761 households in Watchfield when the survey took place in June 2015 (641 households at the time of the 2011 Census plus an additional 120 households at Knapp's Meadow). 100 households returned questionnaires, giving a response rate of approximately 13%. Responses came from most parts of the village; from a wide range of age groups, who had lived in Watchfield for varying lengths of time.

**Analysis of the responses to each question (please see page 34 in the appendix for the full detail of the responses to each question)**

**Q1 How often do you and your family use village amenities and facilities?**

The Co-op was the most used facility in the village. Whilst fewer questionnaire respondents used the sports pitches, sports pavilion, allotments, primary school, churches, book swap and shopperbus, they were still considered to be particularly valuable for the village. Projects that benefit these amenities and facilities are likely to be appreciated by villagers.

The results also suggest there maybe opportunities for some of the commercial businesses in the village to build their local customer base.

**Q2 How do you and your family find out about what is happening in the village?**

'The News' was the main way of finding out about what is happening in the village but the village notice boards and community website were also important. Some respondents added comments to advise that they also rely on word of mouth, Facebook, posters around the village and flyers through the front door.

**Q3 Many people would like increased integration of the military community with other residents. What ideas do you think would encourage integration?**

Most respondents considered that a village welcome pack for new arrivals would help integration. There was also strong interest in events to encourage integration and learning more about the work of the Defence Academy.

Possible projects could be a welcome pack and asking the Commanding Officer Shrivenham Station (which includes Watchfield) provide regular updates on community activity at the Defence Academy via 'The News' and organisers of village events to provide details in the Academy's 'Grapevine' publication'.

**Village environment**

**Q4 Which features of the village are important to your life and that of your family?**

The recreation ground and green areas including the Folly Field, stand out as being very important as are dual dog waste/litter bins and street lighting also stand out. One respondent added a comment that there was too much street lighting in some parts of the village.

Possible projects could include enhancements to the recreation ground, Folly Field and other green areas; additional dog/waste litter bins and a survey of street lighting to inform councils and private landowners where there is not enough or too much street lighting.

**Q5 Are there additional features that you would like to see in the village if funding or voluntary capacity was available to support them?**

Many of the suggestions put forward are covered in other questions in the questionnaire. At the time this plan was prepared much of the work needed to make Superfast Broadband (Speeds of at least 24Mbps) available in Watchfield has been completed and broadband providers are taking orders for the new service. However, the start date for the service had not yet been announced<sup>10</sup>. To find out about other projects that are already been progressed, see one of the appendices to this plan 'What are the parish council and others already doing?'

**Q6 If funding was available for more dual dog waste/litter bins in Watchfield, where do you and your family think are the best locations?**

The location of more bins around the village would be appreciated by many of the respondents.

The location most frequently mentioned was outside the primary school. The wind turbines and golf course are located on privately owned land and other areas are owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). On these areas it would for the relevant owners to decide if a bin or bins should be located there.

Any additional bins are subject to available funding and the resource to empty the bins. The Vale of White Horse District Council is responsible for providing bins on public streets and verges. On Parish owned land, the parish council would provide bins and pay for emptying through the village precept (the parish council element of your council tax). One respondent commented 'As a dog walker I can say there are more than enough around the village - but perhaps need emptying more frequently'. Regardless of the number of bins, there is a still a need for dog owners to be responsible and clean up after their dog. One respondent commented 'it's becoming an increasing problem with owners not clearing up'.

**Q7 If funding was available to plant more trees in public areas, where do you and your family think are the best locations?**

The recreation ground was most frequently mentioned as a location for new trees. Housing developers generally have obligations to provide landscaping which includes trees. Several respondents referred to the need to regularly maintain existing trees as well as any new trees ('If funding was available, some of the trees along the Faringdon Road are getting very big and could do with pruning'; 'None. Enough problems with neglect of present'; 'Who will pay to maintain?'). Many trees are on privately owned land or MOD land and are not directly the responsibility of the local councils.

A possible project could be to carry out a tree survey with detailed recommendations on where new trees could be planted and where existing trees need maintaining. Any new planting would be subject to landowner's permission to plant, and funding for planting and maintenance.

**Q8 If funding was available to provide planting other than trees in public areas, where do you and your family think are the best locations?**

There was strong interest in using planting to enhance the appearance of all parts of the village. A possible project could be to carry out a planting survey with detailed recommendations on where

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<sup>10</sup>Better Broadband for Oxfordshire coverage map

<http://public.tableau.com/views/OxonCoverage/Viewcoverageinyourarea?:showVizHome=no#1>

planting could take place. Any new planting would be subject to landowner's permission to plant, and funding for planting and maintenance.

**Q9 If an annual Watchfield in Bloom competition was organised would you and your family enter the competition?**

61% of respondents indicated that they would, or could be interested in a Watchfield in Bloom competition. Dedicated gardeners in Watchfield may feel that the questionnaire results suggest that there is sufficient interest to set up a competition, even if the competition only attracts dedicated gardeners.

**Q10 Developers of large new building schemes are asked to make a contribution to local arts projects. If developers in Watchfield made a contribution for an arts project in Watchfield, what sort of project would you and your family prefer**

The most preferred projects were benches or other seating. The Vale of White Horse District Council's art development officer will be commissioning the projects and will receive details of the questionnaire results.

**Q11 Many people are concerned about further development in the village. Would you and your family support the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Watchfield, which would include policies on the development and use of land in Watchfield? (However, the plan cannot be used to propose a lower level of housing growth than that proposed within Vale of White Horse District Council planning policies)**

There was very strong support for a Neighbourhood Plan for Watchfield and as a result the preparation of a plan should be a high priority. Funding<sup>11</sup> is available to help with the preparation of neighbourhood plans but plan preparation also requires a lot of input from volunteers<sup>12</sup>.

**Village Hall**

**Q12 Are you a frequent or infrequent user of the village hall?**

The majority of the questionnaire respondents did not use the village hall very often.

**Q13 Plans have been submitted to extend the village hall by adding a third hall. The plans are subject to funding but if a third hall was added what kind of activities would you and your family be likely to use the hall for?**

There was interest in using the third hall for social and fitness activities. There were also several ideas for new activities, particularly those that bring people together.

However, it appears that for many, new activities would not encourage them to use the hall. Although one respondent commented 'More capacity will hopefully bring more clubs.'

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<sup>11</sup> Neighbourhood Planning - Grants & Support [http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/?\\_a=funding](http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/?_a=funding)

<sup>12</sup> Neighbourhood Planning: How to resource your neighbourhood plan <http://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-how-to-resource-your-neighbourhood-plan/>

**Q14 If you are an infrequent user of the village hall, do you think a third hall would encourage you to use the village hall more frequently?**

A third hall alone would not encourage the majority of respondents to use the village hall.

**Q15 If funding was available to improve the interior of the village hall, what improvements would you and your family like?**

The most preferred internal improvement to the village hall was a better equipped kitchen, followed by a bigger kitchen. There were also many good suggestions for other improvements to the village hall.

**Q16 If you are an infrequent user of the village hall, do you think the improvements you prefer would encourage you to use the village hall more frequently?**

Internal improvements, as well as a third hall are likely to encourage more use of the village hall.

**Q17 If additional social activities could be organised at the village hall, which activities would you and your family be most likely to attend?**

Craft fairs and exercise classes were the most popular additional activity. Whatever additional activities are suggested there is a need for somebody to organise the activity. A possible project could be the drawing of these results to the attention of individuals and groups that are already organising similar activities in village halls and community centres across the Vale of White Horse and Swindon areas. Evidence of interest in Watchfield may encourage them to also run their activity at the village hall.

**Q18 If you are an infrequent user of the village hall, do you think if the activities you prefer were organised would you use the village hall more frequently?**

A third hall, internal improvements and additional activities would be likely to result in a significant increase in the use of the village hall.

**Sports and play**

**Q19 Are you a frequent or infrequent user of the sports pitches on the recreation ground?**

The majority of respondents were infrequent users of the sports pitches. However it should be noted that in answer to Q1, 49% of respondents valued the availability of sports pitches in the village, even though they did not use them.

**Q20 If funding was available to improve the sports pitches on the recreation ground, what improvement would you and your family prefer?**

Of those who answered this question, the majority considered that the priority should be the maintenance of the existing pitches rather than additional pitches. However, there were some interesting suggestions for additional improvements.

**Q21 If you are an infrequent user of the pitches, do you think if the improvements were carried out, you would use the pitches more frequently?**

Pitch improvement may not result in a significant increase in usage, but would result in better pitches for existing users.

**Q22 Are you a frequent or infrequent of the sports pavilion on the recreation ground?**

Frequent use of the sport pavilion was very low, perhaps not surprisingly, because the majority of respondents were not frequent users of the pitches. However the pavilion can be hired for meetings and other uses and some publicity could make villagers more aware that it is available for hire for uses other than sport.

**Q23 If funding was available to improve the sports pavilion on the recreation ground, what improvements would you and your family like?**

Better kitchen facilities were the most preferred improvement.

**Q24 If you are an infrequent user of the pavilion, do you think if the improvements you prefer were carried out, you would use the pavilion more frequently?**

The majority of infrequent users did not think they would increase their usage of the pavilion if it is improved. However organising new activities in the pavilion with associated publicity (to show how it can benefit more villagers), along with improvements could increase usage.

**Q25 If funding was available to improve the play area on the recreation ground, what improvements would you and your family like?**

Fencing around the play area was the most popular improvement. The range of additional comments suggests that there are numerous ways that the play area could be improved. It is also interesting to note that someone points out that fencing the area, which is usually considered an improvement, may not be an improvement for the Watchfield play area.

**Q26 If funding and suitable locations were available to provide a tennis court or fitness/trim track, how often would you and your family be likely to use them?**

59% of respondents indicated they would use a tennis court and 70% would use a fitness/trim track.

**Services, transport and roads**

**Q27 If funding was available to run more frequent bus services in the evening how often would you and your family be likely to use the later services?**

Respondents had limited interest in more frequent bus services in the evening.

**Q28 Some people have suggested that there should be a post office in Watchfield. How often do you and your family use a post office?**

Respondents had some interest in a post office in Watchfield. Watchfield Parish Council has contacted the Post Office who would be willing to consider installing a sub-post office if a suitable local business or premises were identified.

**Q29 If funding was available for more bus shelters, where do you and your family think are the best locations?**

The withdrawal of the 65 bus service means that there are a limited number of potential locations for more bus shelters. Most respondents thought there should be shelters at the roundabout stop on the Faringdon Road near Defence Academy/Jubilee Centre.

Several respondents also expressed their disappointment at the end of the 65 bus service. It was suggested that there needed to be a service for the new development at Cowan's Camp.

**Q30 If funding was available on which village roads do you and your family think it is important to have measures to reduce vehicle speeds; such as more speed humps and lower speed limits?**

There was strong interest in measures to reduce speeds on what are probably the busier roads in the village. A community speed watch group, organised by Watchfield Parish Council already exists and needs more volunteers to monitor speeds on village roads and assess the need to introduce measures to reduce speeds. Several respondents supported measures to reduce speeds but were against speed bumps.

**Q31 Do you and your family think that measures to restrict car or other vehicle parking on village roads and verges are required?**

There was fairly strong support to restrict parking.

**Q32 If you and your family have cars or other vehicle are you able to park them off the public road?**

It should be noted that most respondents could park their vehicles off the road.

**Q33 At your property, do you have a problem with other people's parking?**

A majority of respondents did not directly have a problem with other peoples' parking.

**Q34 Is there anywhere in Watchfield where you think parking is a particular problem?**

There were a lot of locations where parking was seen as a problem. It should be noted that one respondent commented 'The parking on the High Street actually works as a natural traffic calming and everyone drives very courteously to others and I've never experienced any problems or hostility. This is especially important at school times'

A possible project could be a survey to confirm where and when parking is a problem. The survey could be used for evidence to encourage more considerate parking or support the introduction of appropriate parking restrictions. However, given that most people in Watchfield need to keep a vehicle the survey will need to consider where alternative parking could be made available for any residents directly affected by any parking restrictions.

### **Volunteering to help in the village**

**Q35 Would you or someone in your family be willing to volunteer to help with the village fete activities and or helping older or housebound people in the village stay independent and socially connected?**

There was some interest in volunteering but respondents, understandably, wanted to know what is involved. The village fete organisers could publish and distribute a list of volunteer jobs that need to be filled for the next fete and ask for applicants. Depending on the responses from older people to Q39-41, there may positive be opportunities to volunteer to help with existing or new activities for older people.

### **Younger people in your household (This section to be answered by residents 18 or under only)**

**Q36 What are your interests/hobbies/sports? Please indicate the venue/location against each activity.**

Most of the interests/hobbies/sports mentioned take place in Watchfield or nearby.

**Q37 Do you belong to any clubs? Please indicate the venue/location against each club.**

Many of the clubs mentioned are in Watchfield or nearby.

**Q38 A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) consists of a fenced area where a number of sports can be played, for example tennis, netball, football and basketball. If funding and a suitable location were available for a MUGA, how often do you think you would use it?**

Although 30% of respondents thought they would never use a MUGA, 51% thought they would use it from almost every day to once a month.

### **Older people in your household (This section to be answered by residents 65 or over only)**

**Q39 How do you get around the village and surrounding area?**

It appears that the majority of older respondents were able to get around the local area independently.

**Q40 Do you have support and what further support would you like?**

The majority of older respondents already received support from family, friends and neighbours.

**Q41 Which activities do you participate in and are there any other activities you would like to see more of?**

The lunch club and bingo was popular. There was particular interest in a cookery club. Despite the existing activities that are available, one respondent wanted a club for people living alone. A similar response was given in response to Q13, which was about activities that could take place in a third hall at the village hall. This could be because some older people are not aware of the existing activities for older people, or some do not feel that the existing activities meet their needs.

Existing activities may require volunteers to help with their organisation and any new activities will require volunteers. Responses to Q35 suggest that there is some interest in volunteering. A possible project could be more publicity about activities for older people and a call for volunteers.

**Any other comments**

**Q42 Please make any other comments here about what you like about Watchfield.**

There were lots of positive comments!

**Q43 Please make any other comments here about how you think the village can be improved?**

There were lots of constructive comments, many of which will be addressed by the proposed improvement projects that are listed in the next section of this plan. The comment 'Don't embark on facilities that need a lot of maintenance - because after funding has been used, Council tax will increase to pay for it.' is noted. All the listed projects have been proposed because they are considered to be sustainable. There is a need and sufficient resources should be available to deliver and maintain each project.

## Proposed projects and priorities

As a result of the analysis of the survey questionnaire the Watchfield Community Plan steering group has identified a number of possible projects that have the potential to improve Watchfield. The successful completion of these projects is very dependent on the availability of the funding and in kind support (principally volunteer time) that is needed to deliver the projects.

Research by the community plan steering group suggests that funding can be found for the projects that are proposed. However, many of the projects will not happen if volunteers do not come forward to help with the projects.

The publication of the questionnaire results means that other residents or local businesses may be able to identify other project opportunities. There is no reason why individual residents, group of residents or local businesses can not consider how they could successfully deliver these other projects.

### General projects

**Making new residents welcome – Respondents’ comments included: ‘The new residents in the Knapp’s Meadow development need to be made to feel welcome and encouraged to participate in our village activities’, ‘How about welcome packs(?)’**

Project description	Project lead and partners	Resources required (funding and in kind support)	Project delivery risks and mitigation
Providing information about Watchfield in welcome packs to the military community and other new residents	Watchfield Community Plan Steering Group (to ask for volunteers to prepare and distribute packs)  Watchfield Parish Council  Local businesses  Defence Academy  Local clubs and societies	Volunteer time to prepare and distribute packs (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)  Design and printing costs (business sponsorship/advertising)	Difficulty in identifying new residents – Make packs available through show home, sales staff, estate agents and Defence Academy  Contributors do not keep their information up to date – Update at least annually

**Keeping residents informed – One respondent commented that the village website was not up to date. However with the pace of change in the village it is difficult to make sure it is always up to date with the latest news. Another resident commented that they found out what was happening from parish council emails; but many other residents may not aware that these emails are sent out.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Inviting residents to subscribe to parish council email alerts	Watchfield Parish Council	Clerk and councillor time to publicise availability of alerts; prepare and distribute emails (availability of time needs to be identified)	Excludes residents not on email – Print alerts and display on village notice boards

**Improving access around the village – Making it easier for all villagers regardless of age and physical ability to move around and enjoy the village and its amenities and features. Respondents’ comments included: ‘Tarmac drive to churchyard. Also join with cycle track for wheelchair access.’ 82% of older respondents walk to get around the village.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Identifying paths and pavements that need, improvement (including removal of obstacles) and locations for new seating	Watchfield Community Plan Steering Group (to ask for volunteers to carry out survey)  Vale of White Horse District Council (Equalities Officer)  Oxfordshire County Council  Watchfield Parish Council  Defence Academy	Volunteer time to carry out survey (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)  Funding for recommended improvements (availability of funding needs to be identified)	Insufficient funding for all recommended improvements – Prioritise improvements

**Integrating the military community – ‘A notice of Defence Academy facilities that villagers can use and how to access them through ‘The News’ would be great. A Defence Academy corner article in ‘The News’ also helpful’**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Inviting Defence Academy Chief of Staff/Commanding Officer Shrivenham Station to arrange for regular articles in ‘The News’ about community activities at Defence Academy	Watchfield Community Plan Steering Group  Defence Academy  ‘The News’  ‘The Grapevine’	Time to identify appropriate news items and write articles  Space in ‘The News’ and ‘The Grapevine’ for articles	Defence Academy news out of date by time of publication – Regular short monthly articles rather than occasional longer articles

**Village environment projects**

**Providing more dog waste/litter bins - 77% of survey questionnaire respondents thought dual dog waste/litter bins were very important**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Providing more dual dog waste/litter bins around village (particularly near school)	Watchfield Parish Council  Vale of White Horse District Council  Oxfordshire County Council  Private landowners/Ministry of Defence	Funding for purchase, installation, emptying and maintenance, clean up awareness days (Watchfield Parish Council to advise on availability of funding)	Some dog owners do not clear up after dog despite additional bins – Continue to use publicity to create awareness of bins and penalties for not clearing up

**Providing new trees/planted areas and maintaining existing trees/planted areas – The questionnaire survey demonstrated a strong interest in using trees and other plants to enhance the village environment.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Carrying out survey of new planting locations and maintenance of existing trees/planted areas and then planting in appropriate locations and encourage landowners to maintain existing trees/planted	<p>Watchfield Community Plan Steering Group (to ask for volunteers for survey and planting group)</p> <p>Watchfield Parish Council</p> <p>Vale of White Horse District Council</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>Ministry of Defence</p> <p>Private Landowners</p>	<p>Volunteers to carry out survey and manage planting (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)</p> <p>Training and advice for volunteer group (Vale of White Horse DC Tree Officer?)</p> <p>Funding for trees and plants (Developer contributions, Woodland Trust, Tree Council, donations, business sponsorship)</p> <p>Funding for maintenance (landowners/ sponsors)</p>	Landowners not willing to allow planting or maintain – Survey identifies issues with existing trees/planted areas that are not maintained; identifies right new trees for preferred location; sponsorship/adopt-a-tree scheme reduces cost of maintaining new trees.

**Providing public art - The most preferred projects were benches or other types of seating.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Using developer contributions to provide public art at suitable locations around Watchfield	<p>Vale of White Horse District Council (Arts Development Officer)</p> <p>Watchfield Parish Council</p>	<p>Funding to commission, and install, insure and maintain public art (developer contributions)</p> <p>Funding to maintain public art (availability of funding needs to be identified)</p>	Artwork is disliked by majority of villagers – carry out public consultation on art concept before commissioning

**Preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Watchfield - There was very strong support for a Neighbourhood Plan for Watchfield**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which conforms with the Vale of White Horse Local Plan	<p>Watchfield Parish Council (to ask for volunteers for plan steering group)</p> <p>Vale of White Horse District Council (Neighbourhood Planning Officer)</p> <p>Community First Oxfordshire</p>	<p>Volunteer time to steer plan preparation (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)</p> <p>Funding for any planning studies and other costs (neighbourhood planning grants)</p>	<p>Insufficient volunteers and funding to prepare plan to required standard – Prepare project plan and budget prior to formally starting project</p>

**Village Hall**

**Increasing usage of the village hall - 72% of survey questionnaire respondents were infrequent users of the village hall. A third hall (which is already planned), internal improvements and additional activities would be likely to result in a significant increase in the use of the village hall.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Carrying out internal improvements to village hall	Village Hall Management Committee	Funding for improvements (developer contributions, Vale community grants, village hall fund raising)	Improvements do not encourage increased usage – Publicise improvements
Working with Community First Oxfordshire to attract organisers of new activities to village hall	<p>Village Hall Management Committee</p> <p>Community First Oxfordshire</p>	<p>Time to prepare publicity campaign (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)</p> <p>Funding for publicity campaign (availability of funding needs to be identified)</p>	<p>New activities not attracted – Emphasise in publicity evidence of strong local interest in new activities</p>

Promoting increased usage of the village hall	Village Hall Management Committee	Time to prepare publicity campaign (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)  Funding for publicity campaign (availability of funding needs to be identified)	Publicity campaign does not increase usage – Run campaign to coincide with improvements and new activities for maximum impact
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**Sports and play**

**Improving existing sports pitches – 71% of survey questionnaire respondents supported improvement of existing pitches**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Improving existing sports pitches on recreation ground	Watchfield Parish Council	Funding for improvements (developer contributions, Vale community grants)	Improvements do not result in additional usage – Publicise improvements

**Improving the sports pavilion - Better kitchen facilities were the most preferred improvement.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Improving existing sports pavilion on recreation ground	Watchfield Parish Council	Funding for improvements (developer contributions, Vale community grants)	Improvements do not result in additional usage – Publicise improvements

**Improving the play area – Fencing the play area was the most popular improvement. The range of additional comments by respondents suggests that there are numerous ways that the play area could be improved.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Improving existing play area on recreation ground	Watchfield Parish Council  Vale of White Horse District Council (Youth Development Co-ordinator)	Funding for improvements (developer contributions, Vale community grants)	Improvements do not meet needs of users – Carry out further consultation with young families before commissioning work

**Services, transport and roads**

**Investigating the possibility of a post office in Watchfield - Respondents had some interest in a post office in Watchfield**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Identifying suitable location	Watchfield Parish Council	Time to deliver project (availability of parish council time needs to be identified)	Suitable location that meets Post Office Ltd requirements can not be identified – Work with Shrivenham sub PO to identify other ways of providing post office services in village

**Providing additional bus shelters - The withdrawal of the 65 bus service means that there are a limited number of potential locations for more bus shelters. However; most respondents suggested at the roundabout stop near Defence Academy/Jubilee Centre as the best location.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Bus shelters at roundabout stop near Defence Academy/Jubilee Centre <sup>13</sup>	Watchfield Parish Council  Oxfordshire County Council  Stagecoach	Funding for installation and maintenance (Watchfield Parish Council to advise on availability of funding)	Funding for shelters cannot be identified – Investigate possibility of advertising/sponsorship to reduce cost

**Surveying speeding and parking issues and identifying solutions – There was strong interest in measures to reduce speeds on what are probably the busier roads in the village. There were a lot of locations where parking was seen as a problem. However, given that most people in Watchfield need to keep a vehicle the survey will need to consider where alternative parking could be made available for any residents directly affected by any parking restrictions.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Recruit more volunteers for the existing Watchfield community speed watch group and survey of speeding and parking issues to identify solutions (this project could also look at street lighting issues)	Watchfield Parish Council (to ask for volunteers for community speed watch and survey group)  Oxfordshire County Council  Thames Valley Police  Watchfield Parish Council	Time to deliver project (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)  Funding to implement survey group recommendations (availability of funding needs to be identified) <sup>14</sup>	Costs of solutions is prohibitive – Need to identify priorities  Solutions are ignored – Need to make sure that solutions are generally acceptable and respected and therefore do not need enforcement (which may not be available)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/bus-stops-and-shelters>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/externally-funded-traffic-schemes>

### Younger people

**51% of younger people thought they would use a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) from almost every day to once a month.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Providing a MUGA for young people	Watchfield Parish Council  Vale of White Horse District Council (Youth Development Co-ordinator)	Funding for installing, maintaining and insuring, MUGA (developer contributions, Vale community grants)	Suitable location/site cannot be identified – Identify and consult on site before proceeding with project (MUGA size could be scaled to fit site)  MUGA features do not meet needs of users – Carry out further consultation with young people before commissioning work

### Volunteering to help in the village

**Encouraging volunteering in the village - There was some interest in volunteering but respondents, understandably, wanted to know what is involved.**

<b>Project description</b>	<b>Project lead and partners</b>	<b>Resources required (funding and in kind support)</b>	<b>Project delivery risks and mitigation</b>
Publicise community plan projects and explain what volunteering to help involves	Watchfield Community Plan Steering Group	Time to prepare publicity campaign (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)	Volunteers reluctant to come forward – Make clear what time is involved
Publicise village fete jobs and explain what volunteering to help involves	Village Hall Management Committee (fete organisers)	Time to prepare publicity campaign (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)	Volunteers reluctant to come forward – Make clear what time is involved
Publicise what help is needed for existing and new activities for older people and explain what volunteering to help involves	Age UK <sup>15</sup> Acorn Club Friendly Club	Time to prepare publicity campaign (availability of volunteer time needs to be identified)	Volunteers reluctant to come forward – Make clear what time is involved

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/community-information-network/faringdon-grove-and-wantage/>  
<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/community-information-network/faringdon-grove-and-wantage/>

## **Monitoring delivery**

It is important that the various organisations and group that take forward the projects in this plan, take responsibility for the progress and success of the projects. They should not rely on the community plan steering group to provide the necessary advice, support and management. However, it important that the steering group does maintain an overview of progress to make sure that this plan does make a positive difference for the residents of Watchfield.

Once the various community plan projects have started the existing community plan steering group could meet more infrequently than the current once a month (e.g. quarterly) and report on plan progress at the annual parish assembly and village fete.

## **Reviewing the plan**

As Watchfield continues to change, this plan will change. Projects may have to change to meet changing circumstances and new projects may be needed to respond to changing circumstances.

It is important that Watchfield residents are consulted on any significant changes to the plan and are invited to suggest changes to the plan so that it remains relevant to their needs. Given that the plan is prepared by volunteers with limited time it recommended that a major review using a village wide questionnaire survey to collect views and suggestions should be carried out every five years.

## **Conclusion**

The Watchfield Community Plan has taken some time to prepare but it has been prepared by a group of residents who have spent time to make sure that that other Watchfield residents have had the opportunity to contribute. As a result, the plan provides a rich source of information about Watchfield which was not available before.

This information has resulted in proposals for a number of village projects that will hopefully be supported by residents and will help to improve a changing Watchfield.

## **Appendices**

- Community plan survey questionnaire – detailed responses
- What are the parish council and others already doing?
- What are developer contributions?
- Watchfield parish Census 2011 data extract

**Appendix - Community plan survey questionnaire – detailed responses**

**Q1 How often do you and your family use the following village amenities and facilities? (Please tick one box for each amenity listed)**

	Everyday / almost everyday	About once a week	About once a fortnight	About once a month	Less often	Never	We don't use but we still value it
Village Hall	1 (1%)	13 (13%)	5 (5%)	8 (8%)	44 (44%)	3 (3%)	25 (25%)
Recreation ground	24 (25%)	16 (16%)	8 (8%)	9 (9%)	20 (21%)	3 (3%)	17 (18%)
Sports pitches on recreation ground	5 (5%)	6 (6%)	2 (2%)	3 (3%)	11 (11%)	22 (23%)	48 (49%)
Sports pavilion	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	15 (16%)	32 (33%)	46 (48%)
Eagle pub	5 (5%)	5 (5%)	5 (5%)	15 (16%)	33 (35%)	15 (16%)	17 (18%)
College Farm pub	0 (0%)	4 (4%)	4 (4%)	28 (29%)	43 (44%)	12 (12%)	6 (6%)
Allotments	6 (6%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	36 (38%)	49 (52%)
Co-op	<b>34 (35%)</b>	50 (52%)	7 (7%)	3 (3%)	3 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Subway	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	10 (10%)	18 (18%)	60 (61%)	7 (7%)
Watchfield opticians	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)	43 (43%)	36 (36%)	15 (15%)
Absolutely Gorgeous hairdressers	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)	13 (14%)	66 (71%)	11 (12%)
Pierce James hairdressers	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	10 (11%)	11 (12%)	50 (53%)	20 (21%)
Watchfield Primary School	9 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	39 (40%)	48 (49%)
St Thomas' Church	0 (0%)	7 (7%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	17 (17%)	27 (28%)	46 (47%)
St Alban's Church	2 (2%)	3 (3%)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)	10 (11%)	45 (47%)	31 (33%)
Kingdom Hall	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	75 (78%)	19 (20%)
MacDonalds	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)	14 (14%)	35 (36%)	37 (38%)	8 (8%)
Bloomfields Cafe	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	10 (10%)	33 (34%)	33 (34%)	18 (19%)
Community book swap in phone box	0 (0%)	4 (4%)	5 (5%)	7 (7%)	27 (28%)	25 (26%)	29 (30%)
Number 65 bus	1 (1%)	8 (9%)	4 (4%)	5 (5%)	13 (14%)	30 (33%)	31 (34%)
Number 66 bus	7 (7%)	15 (16%)	5 (5%)	13 (14%)	24 (25%)	14 (15%)	18 (19%)
Village Shopperbus	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	49 (52%)	43 (45%)
Jubilee Centre	0 (0%)	6 (6%)	3 (3%)	5 (5%)	7 (8%)	47 (51%)	25 (27%)
Cottage Nursery	4 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)	57 (60%)	31 (33%)
Other	2 (13%)	2 (13%)	1 (7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (47%)	3 (20%)

**Q2 Which of the following do you and your family use for finding out about village information? (Tick all that apply)**

Watchfield community website (www.watchfield.org) .....	33 (34%)
'The News' magazine .....	<b>65 (68%)</b>
Village notice boards in the High Street.....	53 (55%)
Village notice board at the sports pavilion .....	10 (10%)
Village hall notice board .....	22 (23%)
Notice board in the Eagle .....	14 (15%)
Other .....	28 (29%)

**If other, please specify:**

- Word of mouth as website is not updated
- Faringdon, "what's on" monthly new sheet
- Facebook
- Notices on the island at Chapel Hill
- Flyers in the door
- Notice board by school
- Parish council emails
- Posters on telegraph poles etc.

**Q3 Many people would like increased integration of the military community with other residents. Please rank each of the following ideas 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in terms of how likely you think they would be to encourage integration (1= most likely to encourage integration, 5= least likely to encourage)**

	<b>Mean Score</b>
Residents tours of Defence Academy facilities	3.0
Community fair and reception in village hall or Defence Academy for new arrivals	2.3
Military and civilian social evening with quizzes, bowls, darts etc.	2.7
Village welcome pack for new arrivals	<b>2.2</b>
Individual personnel decide for themselves if they want to get involved in village life	3.4

Please write in any other ideas you have to encourage integration:

- Christmas ball/party. Craft fair to be better advertised. Summer barbecue. Shows in the theatre
- A notice of Defence Academy facilities that villagers can use and how to access them through 'The News' would be great. A Defence Academy corner article in 'The News' also helpful
- Encourage military involvement in village fete & ensure fete dates don't clash with other events. Ask military if we can have a stand and representation for village information
- Arrange twinning with countries at college or send welcome info to people before they arrive here
- Perhaps a village welcome pack at Defence Academy welcome evening in Aug/Sep with a stall in case new arrivals have a query. Perhaps a post info in the Defence Academy dependents Facebook page

**Village environment**

**Q4 The following is a list of some of the existing features of the village that have been suggested to us as important. How important to your life and that of your family are these aspects of Watchfield?**

	Very important	Fairly important	Not important	No opinion
Watchfield Folly Field	51 (57%)	24 (27%)	4 (4%)	10 (11%)
Recreation ground	<b>75 (77%)</b>	16 (16%)	4 (4%)	3 (3%)
Seating around village	42 (43%)	36 (37%)	15 (15%)	4 (4%)
Cemetery	43 (46%)	23 (24%)	15 (16%)	13 (14%)
Grass verges	62 (63%)	28 (29%)	6 (6%)	2 (2%)

Backlands (off Star Lane)	42 (48%)	23 (26%)	8 (9%)	15 (17%)
Dual dog waste/litter bins	<b>74 (77%)</b>	17 (18%)	4 (4%)	1 (1%)
Street lighting	61 (64%)	23 (24%)	11 (11%)	1 (1%)
Bus shelters on Faringdon Road	43 (45%)	32 (33%)	12 (13%)	9 (9%)

**Q5 Are there any additional features that you would like to see in the village if funding or voluntary capacity were available to support them?**

- Set of goal posts permanently erected on recreation field for children to use, instead of using the sports pavilion
- Flower beds/boxes etc.
- Community grow and share scheme for fresh fruit and veg
- Post office
- 5 historical boards on a walk at : RAF Watchfield, war graves, pill box by Folly Field Hill, Old High Street, Oxford Square
- Tarmac drive to churchyard. Also join with cycle track for wheelchair access
- Parking so that we could catch 66 bus
- Petrol station
- Better Internet access/fibre broadband
- Pest control - there seems to be a lot of rats about
- Wooden picnic tables around the recreation ground
- Youth club
- Speed cameras and speed bumps on the High Street
- Tidy up of cemetery and churchyard by volunteers
- Film nights
- An avenue of shade trees along play area on rec
- Dog waste bins and in particular near the school
- French bowls (boules/petanque) piste near sports pavilion in recreation ground
- Outdoor gym facilities
- Volley ball area
- Fencing along A420 to reduce vehicle noise
- Tennis courts
- Care home
- More teenager facilities, e.g. youth club, outdoor gym
- MUGA (Multi-use Games Area)
- Defibrillator
- Golf course and stream to be registered as a nature reserve
- Bandstand on recreation ground
- Skate board park
- Wildlife and wild flower areas
- More things to do for the kids
- Turn Backlands into village focal point e.g. pond, paths, seating, landscaping. i.e. a quiet centre compared to rec ground - a 'busy' centre
- While development is ongoing removal of overhead cabling (phone/electricity) and replaced by underground cabling, cable TV lines, high speed internet

**Q6 If funding was available for more dual dog waste/litter bins in Watchfield, where do you and your family think are the best locations?**

- By the school
- Star Lane - on verge other side of allotments
- Top, middle and bottom of High St
- More around rec. and Folly Field and in the military quarters
- Near The Eagle
- Near St Albans Church
- On path between Jubilee Centre and military housing
- Entrance to golf course off Star Lane
- South St/Hill Rd junction
- Barrington Avenue estate
- Outside Knapp's Meadow development
- Permanent bin by Cowan's Camp
- Bottom of Chapel Hill
- By Co-op
- M.O.D. ground near garages
- West Mill wind turbine walk

**Q7 If funding was available to plant more trees in public areas, where do you and your family think are the best locations?**

- Recreation ground
- Around new built up areas and to block out sound of by-pass traffic
- Round Co-op - it's so sterile
- Hill Road/Meadow Road where the big gaps are
- Allotment - be nice for fruit trees to be planted for community to pick fruit
- Folly Field (where trees felled)
- Around McDonalds/College Farm

**Q8 If funding was available to provide planting other than trees in public areas, where do you and your family think are the best locations?**

- Rejuvenate hedgerow adjacent Knapp's Meadow/Folly Field
- Flower baskets on walls
- Near churchyard and school
- Majors Road by Stone
- Round Co-op - sterile environment
- Better planting of A420 roundabout
- Near to the entry points to Watchfield - the roundabout by McDonalds & the High Street entrance from Shrivenham
- Around the village hall
- The High Street/Hill Road island
- Outside St Thomas's Church
- On the bank outside the village hall car park
- Triangles either end of High Street
- Daffodils in grass verges along High Street
- More flowers along Faringdon Road
- The triangle at top of Chapel Hill Road

- Near the school
- Folly Field
- Backlands
- Star Lane verges
- In public area of Cowan's Camp development

**Q9 If an annual Watchfield in Bloom competition was organised would you and your family enter the competition?**

Yes ..... 30 (31%) No ..... **37 (39%)** Maybe ..... 29 (30%)

**Q10 Developers of large new building schemes are asked to make a contribution to local arts projects. If developers in Watchfield made a contribution for an arts project in Watchfield, what sort of project would you and your family prefer?**

Please rank the following possible specially commissioned projects in order of preference 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 where (1=most preferred, 7=least preferred)

	<b>Mean Score</b>
Information trail	3.2
Sculpture	4.6
Benches or seating	<b>2.0</b>
Paving	3.7
Murals	5.6
Fencing and gateways	3.4
Water feature	3.9

**Please suggest below any other projects you feel should be developed:**

- Stained glass window for the church
- Art, crafts, exhibitions
- A replacement, worthy boundary stone at the entrance to the High Street from the Faringdon Road in place of the new dilapidated metal 'Jubilee' tree. The dignified stone on the incoming Major Road stands in stark contrast!
- Sculpture that lends itself to kids climbing about on it, like on the Folly Hill in Faringdon
- Band stand

**Q11 Many people are concerned about further development in the village. Would you and your family support the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Watchfield, which would include policies on the development and use of land in Watchfield? (However, the plan cannot be used to propose a lower level of housing growth than that proposed within Vale of White Horse District Council planning policies)**

Yes ..... **78 (85%)** No ..... 14 (15%)

**Village Hall**

**Q12 Are you a frequent or infrequent user of the village hall?**

Frequent ..... 28 (28%) Infrequent ..... **71 (72%)**

**Q13 Plans have been submitted to extend the village hall by adding a third hall. The plans are subject to funding but if a third hall was added what kind of activities would you and your family be likely to use the hall for?**

Please rank the following possible activities 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 where 1=most likely and 5=least likely.

	<b>Mean Score</b>
Social activities (e.g. birthday parties)	<b>2.0</b>
Children's activities	2.3
Fitness activities	2.1
Business meetings	3.9
Very unlikely to use hall	3.8

**Please suggest below any other activities for the third hall:**

- Learn new skills e.g. arts/crafts, nights on flower arranging, jam making etc.
- Social club open maybe two evenings a week (licensed) for a chat, social drink, dominoes etc.
- Farmers market/craft sales
- Book club
- Games evenings (Bridge etc.)
- Youth club
- Film nights.
- "Singles" group for the elderly who live alone
- Music (piano) hire
- Talks on items of local interest

**Q14 If you are an infrequent user of the village hall, do you think a third hall would encourage you to use the village hall more frequently?**

Yes ..... 26 (34%) No..... **50 (66%)**

**Q15 If funding was available to improve the interior of the village hall, what improvements would you and your family like?**

Please rank the following possible improvements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, where 1=most likely and 9=least likely.

	<b>Mean Score</b>
Bigger kitchen	3.4
Better equipped kitchen	<b>3.0</b>
Better toilets	4.6
Better showers	6.4
Wi-Fi network	4.0
Overhead projector	4.7
New chairs	3.9
New tables	4.5
Public address system and hearing loop	5.1

**Please suggest below any other improvements for the village hall:**

- Advertise the space more
- Better parking
- Air conditioning, better sound proofing, internal decoration and paintings/photographs of local relevance
- Decent modern heating
- Gym equipment
- Better stage facilities: back drop curtain to hide chairs etc. new floor
- Sound control, the big hall is quite echoing
- Re-do the floors in the main hall.
- Improve lighting in main hall to make it more adaptable
- Improved signage; it can be hard to find those who aren't regular visitors to the village
- Improve exterior by soft planting. Improve green space at rear
- Range of toys stored in lockable cupboard for use at children's functions

**Q16** If you are an infrequent user of the village hall, do you think the improvements you prefer would encourage you to use the village hall more frequently?  
 Yes ..... **41 (56%)** No..... 32 (44%)

**Q17** If additional social activities could be organised at the village hall, which activities would you and your family be most likely to attend?  
 Please rank the following possible activities 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, where 1=most likely to attend and 8=least likely to attend.

	<b>Mean Score</b>
Discos	6.3
Film nights	3.3
Dances	5.3
Youth club	5.5
Craft fairs	<b>3.2</b>
Exercise classes	<b>3.2</b>
Indoor sports activities	4.4
Children's activities	4.7

**Please suggest below any other activities that should take place in the village hall:**

- Cream tea meetings
- Lots of bingo
- Dog training
- Community shop - local produce, crafts, baking etc. Maybe monthly
- Leisure classes for adults
- Evening pilates
- Adult dance classes
- Plays. Murder mystery evenings. Drama group
- Coffee mornings

**Q18** If you are an infrequent user of the village hall, do you think if the activities you prefer were organised would you use the village hall more frequently?  
 Yes ..... **60 (83%)** No..... 12 (17%)

**Sports and play**

**Q19 Are you a frequent or infrequent user of the sports pitches on the recreation ground?**  
 Frequent..... 14 (16%) Infrequent ..... **76 (84%)**

**Q20 If funding was available to improve the sports pitches on the recreation ground, what improvement would you and your family prefer?**  
 Better drainage and maintenance of existing pitches ..... **35 (71%)**  
 Additional pitch for football and other games..... 14 (29%)

**Please suggest below any other improvements to the sports pitches:**

- Rabbit control
- Cricket strip/pitch.
- MUGA (Multi-use Games Area)
- Basketball pitch
- Smaller 5 a side rugby pitch
- Tennis courts
- Crazy golf
- Lighting to enable evening/night play and night time dog walking safer

**Q21 If you are an infrequent user of the pitches, do you think if the improvements were carried out, you would use the pitches more frequently?**  
 Yes ..... 16 (21%) No..... **61 (79%)**

**Q22 Are you a frequent or infrequent of the sports pavilion on the recreation ground?**  
 Frequent..... 3 (3%) Infrequent ..... **86 (97%)**

**Q23 If funding was available to improve the sports pavilion on the recreation ground, what improvements would you and your family like?**  
 Please rank the following possible improvements 1, 2, 3, and 4, where 1=most important and 4=least important.

	Mean Score
Better changing facilities	2.8
Better toilets and showers	2.6
Better club/meeting room	2.3
Better kitchen	<b>2.2</b>

**Please suggest below any other improvements that should take place to the sports pavilion:**

- Drop the outside seating area wall and place a conservatory on top creating more under cover meeting space and a better view of the activities taking place
- Bigger kitchen would be of great benefit for fete, birthday parties etc.
- Screen and better chairs and tables in club room for business/club use
- Decent serving hatch from kitchen

**Q24** If you are an infrequent user of the pavilion, do you think if the improvements you prefer were carried out, you would use the pavilion more frequently?  
 Yes ..... 30 (40%) No..... **45 (60%)**

**Q25** If funding was available to improve the play area on the recreation ground, what improvements would you and your family like?  
 Please rank the following possible improvements in order of priority 1, 2, 3 and 4, where 1=most important and 4=least important)

	<b>Mean Score</b>
Fencing around the play area	<b>2.1</b>
More play equipment for pre-school children	2.2
More play equipment for children under 12	2.3
More play/activity equipment for teenagers	2.7

**Please suggest below any other improvements that should take place to the play area on the recreation ground:**

- More seating
- Better drainage - gets very muddy after raining
- In Shrivenham by Memorial Hall play area, they have barriers so children can't walk in front of the swings & get kicked. Simple and effective
- Most important of all - stop dogs being able to be left off leads and foul near that area. More severe warning notices!
- Adult equipment
- All purpose fenced court for older children & adults
- The play area is good as it is. Don't fence it, it would be less attractive. It has a natural feel and is popular
- Rubbish bin
- Signs in place (in different languages) to pick up litter/place it in bins!
- Perhaps CCTV to reduce any anti-social behaviour to lift their dog mess
- Toilet for mother and children during day
- BMX/Skate board area

**Q26** If funding and suitable locations were available to provide the following new facilities, how often would you and your family be likely to use them?

	Everyday / almost everyday	About once a week	About once a fortnight	About once a month	Less often	Never
Tennis court	3 (3%)	15 (17%)	7 (8%)	7 (8%)	20 (23%)	<b>36 (41%)</b>
Fitness / trim track	12 (14%)	20 (23%)	6 (7%)	9 (10%)	15 (17%)	<b>26 (30%)</b>

**Services, transport and roads**

**Q27** If funding was available to run more frequent bus services in the evening how often would you and your family be likely to use the later services?  
 Everyday / almost everyday ..... 3 (3%) About once a month ..... 18 (19%)  
 About once a week..... 14 (15%) Less often..... 27 (29%)  
 About once a fortnight ..... 4 (4%) Never..... **28 (30%)**

**Q28 Some people have suggested that there should be a post office in Watchfield. How often do you and your family use a post office?**

Everyday / almost everyday .....	9 (9%)	About once a month .....	21 (22%)
About once a week.....	<b>47 (49%)</b>	Less often.....	7 (7%)
About once a fortnight .....	11 (11%)	Never.....	1 (1%)

**Q29 If funding was available for more bus shelters, where do you and your family think are the best locations?**

- At roundabout stop near Defence Academy/Jubilee Centre

Several respondents also expressed their disappointment at the end of the 65 bus service. It was suggested that there needed to be a service for the new development at Cowan's Camp.

**Q30 If funding was available do you and your family think measures to reduce vehicle speeds, such as more speed humps and lower speed limits, are important on the following village roads?**

	Very important	Fairly important	Not important	No opinion
Faringdon Road	31 (38%)	21 (26%)	24 (30%)	5 (6%)
High Street	<b>46 (52%)</b>	18 (20%)	19 (22%)	5 (6%)
Majors Road	34 (41%)	23 (28%)	21 (25%)	5 (6%)

**Please suggest below any other village roads where measures to reduce speeds should be put in place:**

- Star Lane
- Barrington Road

Several respondents supported measures to reduce speeds but were against speed bumps. e.g.

- 'Speed limits - good! speed bumps - bad, damaging car suspensions and tyres, so they are dangerous'

**Q31 Do you and your family think that measures to restrict car or other vehicle parking on village roads and verges are required?**

Yes .....	<b>57 (59%)</b>	No.....	39 (41%)
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**Q32 If you and your family have cars or other vehicle are you able to park them off the public road?**

Yes .....	<b>80 (85%)</b>	No.....	14 (15%)
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**Q33 At your property, do you have a problem with other people's parking?**

Yes .....	31 (33%)	No.....	<b>62 (67%)</b>
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**Q34 Is there anywhere in Watchfield where you think parking is a particular problem? Please specify below:**

- In Chapel Hill. When there is a lack of parking at the village hall, people park down Chapel Hill and close to the junction with High Street
- Near recreation ground on football match days
- Parking on the pavement at the top of The High St. adjacent to Eagle Lane

- Non-military residents parking in car park at junction of High Street and Faringdon Road
- Parking on grass verge at junction of Barrington Road and High Street (Faringdon Road side) have ruined grassy area with trees - the ground is all churned up and looks terrible
- Outside the village pub - entry to Eagle Lane is regularly compromised
- Bottom of High Street, cars parked on verges and inconsiderately on the road
- High Street at the junction with Hill Road, cars/vehicles are always parked too close to the junction making it very dangerous turning out of Hill Road onto the High Street
- Around the school (there were more parking places last year)
- Parking of large lorries on main road outside Co-op is a hazard (especially in the mornings)
- Barrington Road, corner of Shute Ave
- Knapp's Meadow
- The slight bend on High Street. Where one cannot see if there is approaching traffic
- On the bend in Oxford Square

It should be noted that one respondent commented 'The parking on the High Street actually works as a natural traffic calming and everyone drives very courteously to others and I've never experienced any problems or hostility. This is especially important at school times'.

### Volunteering to help in the village

**Q35 Would you or someone in your family be willing to volunteer to help with the following activities?**

	Yes	No	Maybe, depends on what is involved
Annual village fete	31 (36%)	23 (27%)	<b>32 (37%)</b>
Helping older or housebound people in the village stay independent and socially connected	18 (22%)	28 (35%)	<b>35 (43%)</b>

**Please list below any other voluntary activities you would like to do:**

- Litter picking
- Leaflet delivery
- Planting/environmental activities

**Younger people in your household (This section to be answered by residents 18 or under only)**

**Q36 What are your interests/hobbies/sports? Please indicate the venue/location against each activity:**

- Swimming – Faringdon, Defence Academy, Swindon
- Tennis – Swindon, Highworth
- Rugby – Faringdon, Grove
- Football – various locations
- Hockey – Defence Academy
- Running
- Bike riding
- Playing - Rec & MOD play areas & Folly Field

**Q37 Do you belong to any clubs? Please indicate the venue/location against each club:**

- Rugby – Faringdon
- Cubs - Defence Academy
- Street Dance/Hop Hop - Swindon
- Golf club - Defence Academy
- Football Club - Highworth Town (Nothing local available)
- Swimming - Defence Academy
- Tae Kwon Do – Faringdon
- Sailing – Bowmoor
- Rugby - Grove
- Beavers - Defence Academy
- Swimming - Swindon
- Tennis - Highworth
- Scouts - Defence Academy

**Q38 A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) consists of a fenced area where a number of sports can be played, for example tennis, netball, football and basketball. If funding and a suitable location were available for a MUGA, how often do you think you would use it?**

Everyday/almost everyday .....	6 (13%)	About once a month .....	3 (7%)
About once a week.....	11 (24%)	Less often.....	9 (20%)
About once a fortnight .....	3 (7%)	Never.....	<b>14 (30%)</b>

**Older people in your household (This section to be answered by residents 65 or over only)**

**Q39 How do you get around the village and surrounding area? (Please tick all that apply)**

Walk .....	<b>36 (82%)</b>	Drive a Car .....	30 (68%)
Cycle .....	12 (27%)	Lifts from family or friends .....	12 (27%)
Bus .....	22 (50%)	Not able to get around.....	2 (5%)
Watchfield Shopperbus .....	3 (7%)	Other .....	1 (2%)

**Q40 Do you have support and what further support would you like?**

	Have	Would like	Not aware of any available	Not required
Meals on wheels	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	2 (6%)	<b>30 (91%)</b>
Nursing visits	3 (9%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	28 (82%)
Family and friends	<b>26 (65%)</b>	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	13 (33%)
Helpful neighbours	21 (58%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	12 (33%)

**Q41 Do you participate in any of these activities and would like to see more, if so which?**

	Current Member	Would like to attend
Book club	2	1
Lunch club	<b>9</b>	1
Knitting circle	0	3
Cookery	0	<b>5</b>
Bingo	7	1

**Please list below any other activities you would like to see more of:**

- Club for elderly people living alone
- Video library

**Any other comments**

**Q42 Please make any other comments here about what you like about Watchfield.**

- Friendly community
- Access to Wind farm and beyond (Coleshill, Great Coxwell). 2. Across field access to Shrivenham. 3. Old village gives special character, without which Watchfield would be much poorer
- Friendly neighbours. Good community feel
- Quiet rural setting with historic centres. Small enclosed environment. We should all know each other at least to wave to.
- The whole area is always kept tidy - grass cut regularly - security of Defence Academy Police
- I like the peace and quiet of the village and the fact that it is not yet over run by housing which will change the atmosphere of this village for ever
- In general the village is very well run. The Council are very active and good, and the recent new activities arranged by the Community Plan Group are most encouraging. It is a really good village in which to live

- It's a great place to live, I only wish we didn't have to move away at the end of summer
- Community/residents. Recreation ground. Church
- Good bus links. Eagle pub. Green spaces. Book swap
- We love the proximity to Oxford and its fab theatres and restaurants. We think the Rec. is fabulous but mis-used by residents (dogs!) and also the book exchange - amazing & simple. We now just need a more attractive High Street/Community shop!
- Its size...
- It's just such a lovely place to live, with such a variety of cultures! So many lovely people!!
- Small and quiet with lots of play areas for children. Basic shops and further shops within walking distance in Shrivenham
- It's quiet and out of the way
- We moved here just last year like it so far for its quietness and friendly people
- Nice and quiet, most people friendly
- Community feel. Very friendly
- Everything
- It's friendly, small, rural
- It's location - accessible with good communications. It's a nice tidy attractive village. Generally quiet. There are things to join in with if you wish to. It's not too big
- I like the peacefulness of the village and would hate to see it lost
- Great neighbours!
- We love all the playgrounds and green areas. We like the safety level and the international community. We like all the activities on offer within 15 minutes' drive and the quietness of the village. We like the closeness of the Co-op and post office in Shrivenham
- The school. The cycle train route. The recreation ground.
- The general kindness of neighbours and the hard work of all the volunteers that serve us in this village
- The village is pretty and relatively rural. We should do all we can to retain the character of Watchfield and not be overcome by urbanisation. 2. It's quiet - let's keep it so
- Pleasant people. Happy place
- Nice friendly people and village is quiet, nice park for younger kids and Folly so they can run around
- As a military person here for just one year, I think the village is lovely - peaceful and friendly. As a dog walker it was a shame to lose Cowan's Camp, as 'green spaces' left are now multi user. More than sufficient dog waste bins and signs but need to empty them more regularly (after closure of Cowan's Camp) as we are all having to use fewer spaces
- It's rural location, which is being spoilt by the new housing development
- I love the safety and secure feeling I get living here
- Most people are friendly. Safe place to live
- Friendly village active and committed parish council (I'm not on it!)
- It is a very pretty and generally cared for village, especially in the 'old' Watchfield area (Oxford Square, Oak Road, Chapel Hill and Star Lane areas)
- A nice friendly village to live in

- It is a great village, it's safe and friendly and has a good community feel. Be good if the Military tried to be more involved
- Feels relatively safe and friendly
- Good cycle paths covering estates. Good community spirit/feel to the village. Very welcoming to short term residents (Military families)
- Watchfield still manages to keep its countryside character, however I am concerned that this may soon be lost due to all the new developments.
- Community spirit. Attempt to resist urbanisation and maintain village feel
- Friendly village
- The open feeling on the High Street. Used to like the open spaces on all sides, now sadly gone. The village fete
- Convenience to neighbouring towns via bus routes. Quiet. Well-maintained houses and gardens. Clean roads/pavements (no litter and dog mess)

**Q43 Please make any other comments here about how you think the village can be improved?**

- More cream teas
- High Street parked cars can be a problem at peak times. A short stretch of double yellow lines (at the bend in the road) might be helpful
- Very much N/S split. Encourage mixing at social events. Include Military housing. They probably think they live in Shrivenham because of DA name. CCTV around pavilion/rec, High St, Eagle Lane
- It is very important to ensure Church is kept up and kept running. A church is central to village life, whether or not people worship on Sundays
- Increase some community activities
- Pavements, parking
- The new residents in the Knapp's Meadow development need to be made to feel welcome and encouraged to participate in our village activities
- Further dog walking areas. Post office. Cafe
- Improve parking on High Street (Barrington Road end). Better links between Brize personnel, the DA and the village e.g. welcome packs)
- For me, it can't be!!
- Some things are set up for parents who don't work. For example, the library, health visitor and Bloomfields Cafe are inaccessible if you work full-time. More options for library services or baby groups at weekends might improve things
- No more new housing! Enough is enough!
- Bring bus back. Social club. Post office, village shop (empty house on corner of Eagle Lane or in hairdressers)
- More tidy gardens to keep Watchfield on the map
- Opportunities for different interest groups to get together (e.g. merge trial meetings, with MP, church/faith etc.)
- Mend the roads & pavements. Keep roadside verges clear of litter & debris, paths. Ban bonfires before sunset, remove unnecessary & 'temporary signs'
- No more houses. MOD should increase size of car park next to quarters on High Street
- Doctors' surgery. Restaurant. Get other people from village involved. How about welcome packs and new families
- The 'village' lacks a proper 'centre' like a village square and we don't know if that can be changed?!

- "Absolutely Gorgeous" has closed, there is only one hairdressers left in Watchfield, it is not enough. Another nursery would be greatly appreciated "The Cottage" is fully booked in advance
- Persevere with social events
- The church is a focal point of Watchfield and needs money for its upkeep. the roof & building, the gardens and the cemetery
- Stop any further development. 2. Reduce speeding on the High Street. 3. Reduce litter (McDonalds & Subway) 4. Reduce A420 noise (fencing) 5. Fencing along hedgerow of rec. ground adjacent to Knapp's Meadow. 6. Regulation to reduce noise from Eagle pub at closing
- The removal of the out of date 2000 memorial! it is an embarrassment to the whole village
- Post Office. Few more shops
- Demolish the new housing estates and stop developers trashing the village
- Speed signs on Majors Road. People drive way too fast there
- The mess that is left by the Christmas tree, by the children playing should not be allowed. The wall by the path has been broken & peoples grassed areas ruined. Great the kids can play but some don't live there. Respect for others property
- Overtime future development involving substantial population and road traffic increases
- No more house building!!! Let's keep it as a village not an estate
- Much better maintenance of verges, kerbs, trees shrubs and clear alleys
- An in dependant cafe (other than what is offered at Jubilee Centre) would be a bonus. Rose Cafe was not well advertised and hard to visit with children before its closure
- Restrict further house building
- Rigorously enforced 20 mph speed limit on the High Street & throughout the village. Exit from the new development (adjacent to Star Lane) directly onto the A420
- A proper list of village areas owned by WPC be made public so residents can see what land is available to accommodate future projects e.g. Backlands<sup>16</sup>, church paddock footpath by church - cycle path!!
- Keep green verges & planting to improve. Resist paving it all over for parking
- No more building. Some roads need re surfacing
- Lowering the kerbs get cars off the road. Footpath in Barrington Rd is in very bad repair needs tarmacing
- More dog control - dogs on lead - clean up poo! Focus on wildlife - improve habitats, pond, trees, shrubs, etc. Don't embark on facilities that need a lot of maintenance - because after funding has been used, Council tax will increase to pay for it
- Better road surface in Watchfield village, in particular Oxford Square. High Street cafe (Incorporated in Post Office?)

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<sup>16</sup> A parish council asset register is available at <http://www.watchfield.org/parish-council/lists-and-registers/>

## Appendix - What are the parish council and others already doing?

Project	Current Position	Comment
Reinstate Post Office	Watchfield Parish Council has contacted Post Office who would be willing to consider installing a sub-post office if a suitable local business or premises were identified	Adequate security facilities would be required and ability for business to financially maintain the sub post office. Requires business modification and expense
Historical information boards	Already one suggestion for use of works of art contributions from developers	Volunteers required via this community plan
Picnic tables on recreation ground	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for additional benching – could include picnic tables	
Outdoor gym facilities for adults	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for older children/ adult fitness equipment	
MUGA	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for MUGA	Watchfield Primary School is also installing a MUGA as part of extension works. It has not yet been determined if this will be a community facility out of hours
Improved kitchen facilities in village hall/ cookery club	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for village hall improvements including improved kitchen	Volunteers required to run such clubs
Improved kitchen and clubroom facilities in sports pavilion	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for improvements to Watchfield Sports Pavilion	
Improve parking at recreation ground	Watchfield Parish Council is already seeking advice on increasing the capacity of parking in light of possible extension to the sports pavilion	
Rabbit control on recreation ground	Watchfield Parish Council has already authorised rabbit culls	Adjacent MOD land no longer conduct rabbit culls exacerbating problems on the recreation ground
Tennis court provision	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for tennis provision	Money may go to existing facilities within 10 miles rather than Watchfield
CCTV security of public spaces	Watchfield Parish Council is already investigating CCTV provision on the sports pavilion and recreation ground	
Fencing around the play area	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for improvement to the play area which could include fencing	

<b>Project</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Traffic speed monitoring	A community speed watch scheme organised by Watchfield Parish Council exists, trained by the police, for local monitoring	Volunteers required to participate in this scheme
Address noise from A420	Noise amelioration measures form part of the planning consent for Meadow View	
Enhancement of recreation ground	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for pitch improvements and additional seating and equipment	
More dual waste bins	Watchfield Parish Council has been in contact with Vale of White Horse District Council regarding provision. At the moment they are unwilling to provide more on public highways and verges. Defence Academy are reviewing provision on their land	Needs continual review
Set of permanent goals on recreation ground	Could be considered by Watchfield Parish Council as part of funding by developer contributions.	Needs to be vandal proof and sited sensitively
Flower beds, trees, planting	Developer contributions requested by Watchfield Parish Council for amenity and natural green space as well as parks and gardens	Volunteers needed for planning and maintenance
A420 roundabout planting	The A420 roundabout has been identified as an area for structural improvement in the Oxfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan. As yet there is no timetable for this	Timetable needs clarification before any work carried out. Volunteers would require safety clearance
Arts and crafts exhibitions	Watchfield Horticultural and Craft Show already exists; improved village hall facilities should provide better venue for exhibits	Requires volunteers or groups to organise

## Appendix - What are developer contributions?

New development creates extra demands on local facilities. The local planning authority, the Vale of White Horse District Council, asks developers to pay financial contributions or do work to reduce that impact. Usually developer contributions (through Section 106 agreements) are for highways; transport improvements and travel initiatives; community or recreation facilities; education; health; or affordable housing.

Planning officers negotiate with the developer so that the proposed development is acceptable in planning terms. Developers are asked to pay for, or contribute towards, the cost of additional infrastructure needed to service the new development.

The level of contribution will be related to the scale of the new development and its impact on the local environment.

The Vale of White Horse District Council has a register<sup>17</sup> that lists all Section 106 agreements since the year 2000, secured within the Vale by the District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. The list summarises the financial contributions secured from developments and if there are any non-financial obligations.

Whilst contributions can be agreed and paid by a developer, contributions cannot sometimes be spent until evidence is provided that the type of improvement proposed is definitely needed. Also funding from other sources may have to be found before the improvement work can start.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that has recently been introduced, that local authorities can choose to charge on new development in their area. The money raised can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure to support growth. When deciding the levy rates, an appropriate balance must be struck between additional investment to support development and the potential effect on the viability of developments.

The Vale of White Horse District Council has decided that it will use CIL and has consulted on its proposed levy rates. The proposals are now subject to public examination by a Government planning inspector. The examination is scheduled to take place by the end of 2015. Following public representations the inspector may decide to approve, reject or approve with modifications the proposed levy rates.

The Vale won't use CIL as the sole source of funding for securing infrastructure. It will be used as the way of pooling contributions, because from April 2015 the Government is limiting the extent to which S106 agreements can be used to pool funds for major projects such as new roads. However, S106 planning obligations will still be used for site specific infrastructure and to provide affordable housing.

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<sup>17</sup> Section 106 register

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=Section106List&DEPT=ALL&PARISH=WTC&Submit=Search>

## Current contributions from Watchfield developments

Development	Amount	Purpose	Comment
Knapp's Meadow	£8400	Artificial pitch	In vicinity*
Knapp's Meadow	£58116	Play equipment for older children and adults on Watchfield recreation ground	
Knapp's Meadow	£22305	Improvements to Watchfield Sports Pavilion	
Knapp's Meadow	£3250	Sports pitch within the parish	
Knapp's Meadow	£24000	Tennis court	In vicinity*
Knapp's Meadow	£25500	Work of Art	In vicinity*
Knapp's Meadow	£75000	Improvements to Watchfield Village Hall	
Knapp's Meadow	£15000	Bus shelter contribution for Faringdon Road plus cycle racks	
Meadow View (main)	£5110	Artificial pitch	In vicinity*
Meadow View (main)	£212500	Public open space commuted sum for maintenance of 1.25Ha to be signed over to Watchfield Parish Council on Meadow View	
Meadow View (main)	£18600	Improvements to Watchfield Sports Pavilion	
Meadow View (main)	£52089	Improvements or provision of sports pitch	In vicinity*
Meadow View (main)	£20000	Work of Art on site	
Meadow View (extra)	£12938**	Grass pitch provision	
Meadow View (extra)	£8000**	MUGA	
Meadow View (extra)	£6960**	Youth facilities	
Meadow View (extra)	£742**	Tennis court	
Meadow View (extra)	£5400**	Amenity green space	
Meadow View (extra)	£5400**	Natural green space	
Meadow View (extra)	£5400**	Parks and gardens	
Meadow View (extra)	£2697.50**	Allotments	
Meadow View (extra)	£1916**	Artificial turf	
Meadow View (extra)	£21883**	Formal play equipment	
Meadow View (extra)	£6723**	Improvements to Watchfield Sports Pavilion	
Meadow View (extra)	£10466**	Improvements to Watchfield Village Hall	
Meadow View (extra)	£1120**	Provision for additional benches	
Meadow View (extra)	£1060**	Footpath improvements	
Meadow View (extra)	£570.82**	Equipment for elderly and play groups	
Major's Road	£938	Artificial pitch	In vicinity*
Major's Road	£7032	Sports pavilion clubhouse improvements	In vicinity*
Major's Road	£998	Cricket pitch	In vicinity*
Major's Road	£2721	Football pitch	In vicinity*
Major's Road	£3261	Health and fitness gym equipment	In vicinity*
Major's Road	£3487	MUGA	In vicinity*
Major's Road	£3470	Tennis	In vicinity*
Major's Road	£637	Rugby pitch	In vicinity*
Major's Road	£21522	Public open space	

\*vicinity is defined as within 10 miles of the development

\*\*Amount not yet confirmed in S106 agreement

**Appendix - Watchfield parish Census 2011 data extract - Summary headlines - including comparison with Vale of White Horse and England averages<sup>18</sup>**

Total resident population of 1,702 of which 526 were aged 0 to 19 and 186 were aged 60 and over. Above average % of young people (aged 0-19). Percent of people aged 60+ well below average.

641 households

No communal establishments in the parish

32% of households owned outright or with a mortgage, well below district average (71%); 38% privately rented "other", well above district average (3%)

124 (19%) households have no usual residents, well above district average (3.3%) and national average (4.4%)

1.5 cars per occupied household, the same as the district average

139 (11%) of people residents aged 16 and over had no qualifications, below the district average (17%) and the national average (22%); 671 (55%) of people residents aged 16 and over had a degree or higher, well above district average (37%) and national average (27%)

81 residents were self-employed = 9.5% of economically active, below the district and national averages

27 residents were unemployed = 3.2% of economically active, below the district and national average

12 households without central heating

15.7% of residents from ethnic minority backgrounds, above the district average (10%) and below the national average (20%)

20 single parent households = 3.1% households (below district and national averages)

48 households occupied by a single pensioner = 7.5% households (below district and national averages)

131 (7.7%) residents with activities limited by illness, well below the district average (14.2%) and national average (17.6%)

20 (1.7%) residents providing 20 or more hours per week of unpaid care, below district average (2.8%) and national average (3.7%)

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/District%20Data/Watchfield%20Census%202011%20data.xls>