



WHEATLEY PARISH PLAN - 2004 -



A Vision for the Future





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INTRODUCTION

At the outset of the new millennium, villages throughout England have been encouraged by Government via the Countryside Agency to produce "Parish Plans", defined as:

"A plan for the future of the Parish produced by the people of the Parish. It consists of three stages: research into the community's needs and wishes; a vision for how people want the community to be in 10 years time; and an Action Plan on how to achieve the vision."

The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council encourages and assists Oxfordshire Villages and Parishes to prepare Plans with the aims:

"To be living, thriving, and inclusive communities with a mix of ages, incomes and occupation. Everyone in rural areas should have access to health, education, shops, local government services, information and leisure facilities. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council aims to help improve the quality of life for all who live or work in villages, particularly those who are disadvantaged."

To prepare the Wheatley Parish Plan, a series of house to house questionnaires and village interviews were organised by a small Steering Group: the details of the methods are described in the section "Objectives and Approach" on page 6. The results from the various questionnaires and interviews enabled "Plans" to be identified which the Steering Group considered to have been supported by the Community and which could reasonably be expected to be implemented, over the next 10 years. How implementation will be achieved has not been the subject of this report but will be an important consideration if the Plan is to be of value to the community.

The report is in three parts:

1. The main report (this document) which contains full details of the Plan and presents a summary of the results of several surveys in the village of Wheatley and from the questionnaires. One hundred copies of the main report have been printed for circulation to stakeholders in the village of Wheatley and other statutory and relevant authorities. Copies are also available for inspection in the Parish Council Office, the Wheatley Library, The Archive Room (Merry Bells), Wheatley Primary School, Wheatley Park School, the four Wheatley Churches and through several of the village societies and social groups.
2. The second part of the report is an Annex to the main report and comprises the detailed comments collected from the house to house questionnaires and from interviews with businesses, organisations, societies and individuals in the village. This part of the report has not been distributed around the village but is available for inspection and study in the Parish Council Office and the other locations listed above where the main report is held.
3. The third part of the report comprises a summary of the main findings and 2,000 copies have been printed for distribution to all the households in Wheatley, Littleworth and those parts of Holton to the south of the A40.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wheatley Parish Plan is the outcome of nearly three years' work by a team of local residents, under the auspices of the Wheatley Society, on behalf of the parish council to establish the priorities amongst residents and others for actions to improve the social capital and social inclusion in the village over the next ten years.

It is based on the situation in 2003 and takes no account of any external changes which may come about due to the county council's structure plan proposals and recent government changes in planning legislation on the need for more housing.

Under social capital, improvements are included to physical features and assets owned by the community, these being:-

- **The need to provide adequate car parking facilities both short term for people who use our shops and services and long term for those who come in to work during the day.**
- **Increasing a feeling of security and well being by improving pavements including the provision of dropped kerbs and controlled crossings particularly for children, older people and the disabled.**
- **Improvements to the existing network of off-road public footpaths and the provision of some new ones in strategic places.**
- **Improvements to the recreation grounds to make them safer and with more innovative equipment.**

Under social inclusion are included:-

- **Places for teenagers to hang out.**
- **More information on benefits and services for older people, including day care facilities.**
- **Increased facilities for socialising for both young and old – coffee shop.**
- **Farmers' market.**
- **Seating and better security in the Old Burial Ground.**
- **Better facilities for disabled people of all ages for access to all forms of public and commercial buildings.**

Some of the aspects of the above are the direct responsibility of the parish council whilst others come under other local authorities where lobbying will be the main line of approach.

The next stage will be for the Parish Council to agree a realistic programme for future action by joining together in advisory groups both from the parish council, and others who have helped draw up this report. Handled properly, in liaison with District and County proposals for environmental improvements, the Plan should ensure that in a few years time Wheatley will be an even better place in which to live.



BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Wheatley, including Littleworth, has grown to become one of the larger villages in South Oxfordshire. It lies six miles east of Oxford, by the A40 to London and forms a pocket within, but not part of the Oxford Green Belt. The 2001 Census revealed a population of 3,905 which indicates that the village has grown considerably since 1951 (1,532), particularly during the 1960s and 1970s.

The 1990s saw a 10% overall growth, which included a 39% increase of over-65s (534 to 743 - 8% of these over 75), a mere 4.6% rise in under-16s (684), and an 18% decrease of those aged 16-29 (572 down from 700). This reflects both longer lives and the problems faced by the young in buying property here. The profile is repeated throughout South Oxfordshire and explains the increased call for more 'affordable housing'.

There is a half-hourly bus service to Oxford, Thame and Aylesbury (calling at Thame Parkway on the Chiltern Rail line to London), and feeder services from outlying villages. The village also benefits from a regular service operated by Brookes University between its three campuses in Holton, Oxford and Hinksey. Wheatley is a vital 'hub' for several surrounding villages with surgery and library, as well as a number of shops. In 2005 the Cooperative Society will open a convenience store.

Six pubs survive (there were nine in 1939, plus two hotels and a tearoom) in a roadside service tradition of inns and taverns going back centuries. A post office (originally for the 18th century mail coaches), bank, solicitors, village hall, primary school, youth centre and social club, plus four churches, also serve the community. One mile to the east of the village there is a supermarket, a travel lodge and a restaurant; beyond that, outside the parish, lies Junction 8 of the M40 with service station, permanent traveller camp and a golf course.

In Holton village, just north of the A40, lies Wheatley Park secondary school, its playing fields shared with Wheatley Parish Council, and a South Oxfordshire District Council Sports Centre. These in turn share a large campus with part of Oxford Brookes University. A small industrial estate in Holton recently sold by the District Council to a private entrepreneur is about to be re-developed (2004) for start-up businesses. There is a growing number of larger commercial units at the east end of the village next to the ASDA supermarket. Wheatley and Holton are in many ways interdependent.

As we have seen, the Census figures of 2001 clearly reveal an ageing population profile, with its particular needs. The high cost of housing means that fewer young people can afford to stay here once they leave school. The need for affordable housing is therefore urgent. We have the use of 2,378 cars and vans, with 725 households owning 2 or more vehicles and 220 having none. 68% of our people in employment travel from Wheatley to work elsewhere.

Wheatley and Holton have interesting, even unusual histories, and in recent years much of that story has been brought to light. However, Wheatley is no longer the tiny Tudor settlement of 200 people whose main traffic junction lay halfway along High Street where the Cuddesdon/Holton and Oxford roads intersected; nor is it the 19th century rural and agricultural community which grew round its GWR country station. It is now too big to be a rural village (1500), and is more rural town than urban village. It remains a roadside town, but whereas it once provided stopover services to travellers, the centre of that provision has slipped away to the superstore and the M40 services on the newest of its historic rail and road routes. Traffic simply flows through the village and the village has little connection with it. In turn, as we have seen, the village population largely commutes elsewhere to work, which

also distances villagers from their own community. An increasingly temporary student and renting population adds to the complexity of the community.

Wheatley can be proud of its history and now needs to consider ways to sustain and to be effective in responding to changes in

society and the local needs of all sectors of the community – the young people, adults and retired people, business and surrounding villages with a sense of community. It is to address the sustainability of village community life in changing circumstances that this report has been written.



Literature Sources

- Hassall, W.O., *Wheatley Records*, Oxfordshire Record Society, 1956
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OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH

The objectives of the exercise have been to:

- Reflect and represent the views of individuals and groups in the community.
- Evaluate the assets, deficiencies, problems and needs of the community in the context of its geographical location and resources.
- Encourage community involvement at all stages of the planning and execution of the project.
- Provide a basis for identifying priorities and a range of recommendations for the community over the next 10 years.
- Provide a catalyst to encourage shared aims and values, enabling individuals of all ages and backgrounds, agencies and local organisations, to feel valued and supported, thus promoting community spirit.
- Provide a basis for partnerships with community groups and businesses that could develop Wheatley as a model of best practice.

In deciding the scope and appropriate level of research the Steering Group took guidance from the Parish Council, the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and studied other village appraisals. The survey included all households in Wheatley and Littleworth, part of Holton to the south of the A40 and several households on the Shotover Estate. (See Appendix: Distribution of Postcodes)

Careful consideration was given to determining the purpose of the Plan – it was deemed appropriate to include detailed investigation into subject areas that are within the remit of the Parish Council or local organisations as well as the County and District Councils, but exclude those in process or that have been addressed by the Council, such as traffic calming. The subject areas covered a diverse range:

Included in the scope were:

- Education
- Environment and Amenities
- Health and Social Welfare
- Information and Communications
- Leisure and Sports Facilities
- Religious Life
- Local Government
- Retail Outlets and Services
- Reasons for Living in or Moving From Wheatley
- Issues associated with living in specific locations
- Young People and Children
- Transport

Excluded from the scope were:

- environmental improvements
- historical developments
- traffic calming
- the possible effects of the current County Council Structure Plan review and the new Government Planning System

The approach to developing the Parish Plan followed the guidelines recommended by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and consisted of the following stages:

Planning

In the spring of 2001 a small group of Wheatley villagers met representatives of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to discuss ways in which a survey might be done, leading to the writing of a Parish Plan. In early 2002 the Wheatley Parish Council agreed to register with the Countryside Agency their intention to produce a Parish Plan and to seek financial aid from the Agency for the Plan. Terms of reference were agreed with the Parish Council, especially with regard to finance and reporting back at key milestone stages of the project.



Fundraising and Expenses

In October 2002 a grant of just over £4,000 was obtained by the Parish Council from the Countryside Agency with the proviso that the Parish Council agreed to provide a further £319. The major application of these funds was printing questionnaires for the house-to-house village survey, computer software, publicity events and production of flyers and newsletters, production and distribution of the final reports and action plan. A significant amount of time and effort has been provided by the management committee, steering group and other volunteers who have provided their time “gratis” and without which this project would have not been viable.

Increasing Community Involvement

The Parish Council appointed the Wheatley Society to take responsibility for the Plan, subject to ongoing consultation with the Parish Council and a Steering Group of about 15 persons was appointed by the Wheatley Society. In total, over 150 people have been involved in undertaking various aspects of the plan including the Steering Committee, the sub groups, those delivering and collecting questionnaires, and those inputting data onto computer (see Appendix for list of names). This has proved to be a most effective strategy and the Parish Council and Parish Plan Management Committee¹ pay tribute to the commitment and sense of positive support provided by the Steering Group and all volunteers who have brought the project through its various stages.

¹ The management committee in August 2004 comprised Jim Watson (Co-ordinator), Roger Bell (Parish Council representative), David Harverson, Cyril Newton and Kevin Betts (Data processing and IT support).

Publicity and public meetings

The project was publicised on Parish notice boards, in the village newsletter and articles. Several public meetings and displays were held in the Wheatley Village Hall and at the

May Day event, to provide opportunity for participation and gather comments from the community. Public meetings included presentations at key stages to keep the community informed, gather opinions and encourage volunteer involvement.

Research

In developing the plan the organisers used a number of methods to gather information and opinions to ensure a broadly based representation from households, adults and young people aged 11-16. The methods included capturing data and opinions from questionnaires, surveys and interviews with local community schools, organisations, clubs and societies as well as businesses in the area.

The questionnaires were developed and then approved by the Parish Council at the end of April 2003. A pilot was successfully undertaken, prior to the distribution of questionnaires, involving about 80 people, to provide an end-to-end validation of the questionnaire and process of data input and analyses. The questionnaires were then distributed to the whole of Wheatley, Littleworth and parts of Holton south of the A40 by a team of 80 volunteers. About 3,330 personal, 1,744 household and 325 youth questionnaires were then distributed in May and June 2003 - resulting in approximately a **60% response** rate, overall.

A series of interviews was held with organisations in the village including societies, health, education, sports, transport, elderly groups, young persons, churches, housing associations, library and others.

A short questionnaire was distributed to 40 providers of goods and services in Wheatley of which 17 responded. Eight village reports written by pupils at the Wheatley Park School in 2002-03 were copied and a youth report from “Fusion Youth and Community UK” was obtained.



Analysis of data collected

The results were recorded using software designed for these types of surveys and presented in outline form at public meetings as well as to the Parish Council in June 2004. A detailed analysis is included in the Appendix.

Initial Evaluation

As part of evaluating the responses an initial assessment of priorities was made by the management committee based on these results. A number of sub-groups were then formed to consider what further data, if necessary, was required; the likely workload for further data collection, further stages and

the practicality of reaching the desired outcome in a reasonable timescale. The 7 subgroups included:

- Under 11s
- Youth Activities
- Elderly
- Village Services
- Environment
- Car Parks
- Pavements & Public Transport
- Footpaths and Cycleways
- Sports

The reports from these subgroups are included in the recommendations on page 15.



WHEATLEY GOODS AND SERVICES

During 2003, questionnaires were sent to all the adults in the Parish and their responses to the use of local businesses, goods and services is given in Figure 1, below.

Further, specific questionnaires were then sent to 40 providers of goods and services in Wheatley to seek the views of the business owners or managers, on conditions in the village which might adversely affect their trade. There were 17 responses from businesses, of which 10 gave their names and one offered further discussion, as follows:

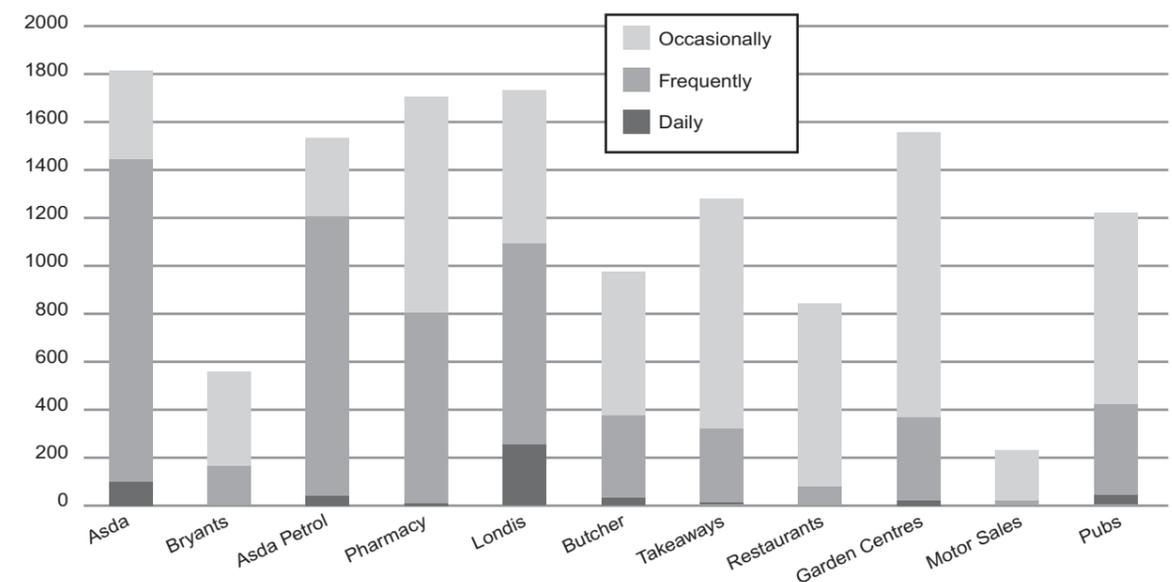
Adverse Effects on Trade in Wheatley, responses out of 17

- Lack of car parking 10
- Lack of passing trade 7
- Too much out-of-village shopping 5
- Restrictive planning regulations 5
- Shortage of local labour 2
- High bank interest rates 2
- High business rates 2
- Shortage of public transport 1

Traffic restrictions 1
Other comments from the businesses were: if the local businesses are not supported then the village will lose these businesses. The volume of trade which can be generated from Wheatley residents is insufficient for business viability and customers from surrounding areas are essential; therefore steps are needed to encourage these customers. Several factors combine to discourage customers, particularly those from out-of-village, the most important of which are the lack of parking spaces and the recent traffic calming schemes. Traffic calming also adversely affects deliveries to the traders.

Suggestions for other improvements to encourage the use of local business include the annual publication of a Goods and Services Directory and a more relaxed attitude to planning applications for commercial use.

Figure 1. Numbers of Respondents Using Local Businesses





MEDICAL SERVICES – MORLAND HOUSE SURGERY

A survey in 2003 showed that the surgery now has 10,000 patients compared to 8,000 in 1996. These patients live in the villages of Wheatley, Holton and Littleworth, in several neighbouring villages and in Headington, Oxford. The medical staff comprises:

- 9 Doctors (6.5 full-time-equivalent)
- 4 District Nurses
- 2 Health Visitors
- 2 Physiotherapists
- 3 CS Nurses (drugs etc)
- 4 Practice Nurses
- 5 Dispensary Staff
- 9 Clerical Staff
- 2 Secretaries

The practice was not at full capacity in 2003 and a further 300 patients could be registered but there is limited scope for further building. In addition the practice would like to expand into more preventative medicine as there is currently low response to health checks. Health walks could be envisaged if suitable leaders could be

identified. The general health of the population is good probably due to a relatively high socio economic grouping. There are few problems with drug abuse and relatively few night time call-outs.

Problems include a lack of locally available respite care for carers, in common with the findings of other organisations, as nursing homes close or respite beds are removed. The Holton Day Care Centre does provide respite and care for 25 to 30 people on two days per week but if an Auxiliary Nurse could be provided (at about £5,000 per year from Social Services) the Centre could be opened for a third day and possibly more acutely disabled people could be cared for.

The NHS Ambulance Service does not provide adequate non-emergency transport and much reliance is placed on the Wheatley Care Scheme using volunteer drivers to transport patients to and from Morland House and the hospitals. This is a vital scheme for the village but is constantly in need of more volunteer drivers.

ORGANISATIONS AND ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ELDERLY

There is generally good support for the elderly in Wheatley through several statutory and voluntary organisations:

Not-so-young Club: this meets on alternate Monday afternoons for tea and bingo in the Merry Bells Village Hall and is financially self-supporting but always needs more volunteer drivers to collect members. The club provides opportunities for personal contacts and is particularly welcomed by the housebound.

Senior Citizens Coffee Centre: this operates in the Merry Bells Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon, Tuesdays to Fridays, for tea, coffee, biscuits and lively conversation in a happy and informal atmosphere. The centre is financially self supporting but several of the

ageing volunteers would welcome help from younger people.

Wheatley Care Scheme: provides a prop to the NHS for taking non-emergency patients to and from the hospitals and surgery and is very much valued in the village. The scheme is self supporting but more volunteer drivers are constantly sought who have suitable vehicles and the time to help.

Sharecare Day Centre: operates in the Holton Village Hall from 0930 to 3 pm Monday and Wednesday for 25 to 30 older persons. This is a vital village service for housebound residents largely financed by the Oxfordshire County Council which pays for the organiser, her deputy and a cook. Volunteers also help during the sessions and



for transport and more are always needed. The Morland House Surgery would support an application for the Centre to open on a third day, if finance could be found.

Triangle Residential Home: this is a privately owned Nursing Home registered for 28 residents which opened in 1992. The village Churches provide some religious services and Holy Communion but most goods, services and staff come from outside the village. The only village requirement would be for newspaper deliveries.

Sheltered Housing: there are 4 sites providing 52 apartments and with the exception of the London Road site, they provide communal gardens, residents' parking, laundry, guest rooms and communal lounges. Occupancy is usually high to full. The housing is:

Windows Court,	
Roman Road	11 apartments
St Mary's House	18 apartments
London Road	10 apartments
Cullum House,	
Ambrose Rise	13 apartments

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRES

The questionnaires formed a most important part of the process leading up to the identification of the Action Plans, listed in the next chapter on Recommendations, and were used to establish priorities. There were three questionnaires: one for each household, one for each adult and one for all those aged between 11 and 16. The full numerical results of these are in the Appendix, including a breakdown of numbers by postcode. The results were also analysed using a specific computer programme, which further enhanced the validity of the raw data and enabled graphs, pie charts and pivot tables to be produced.

Personal questionnaires were completed by:

- 1898 individuals, 833 by men and 1065 by women,
- representing about 57% of the village population based on the 2001 census figures.

Household questionnaires were completed for:

- 1134 households
- representing a 65% response

Youth questionnaires were completed by

- 206 individuals, 112 boys and 94 girls
- approximately 63% response.

The data in the following comments are based on percentages of the above respondents.

Living in Wheatley

- Wheatley is a sociable community with 48% of respondents frequently in contact with others, 72% look out for each other and do each other favours and 64% would be willing to help with a good neighbours' scheme.
- About 45% of the respondents have lived in Wheatley for more than 16 years and of those who have lived in the village longer than 26 years, more than half were over 60 years of age.
- The attractions of living in Wheatley are its rural location 80%, the local facilities 63% and the friendly people 62%.
- Although 7% would like to move house, most would still want to live in Wheatley or the surrounding area. However, house prices are high and there is a lack of affordable housing for many who want to move – particularly for the under 25s. This probably meant that in 2003 about



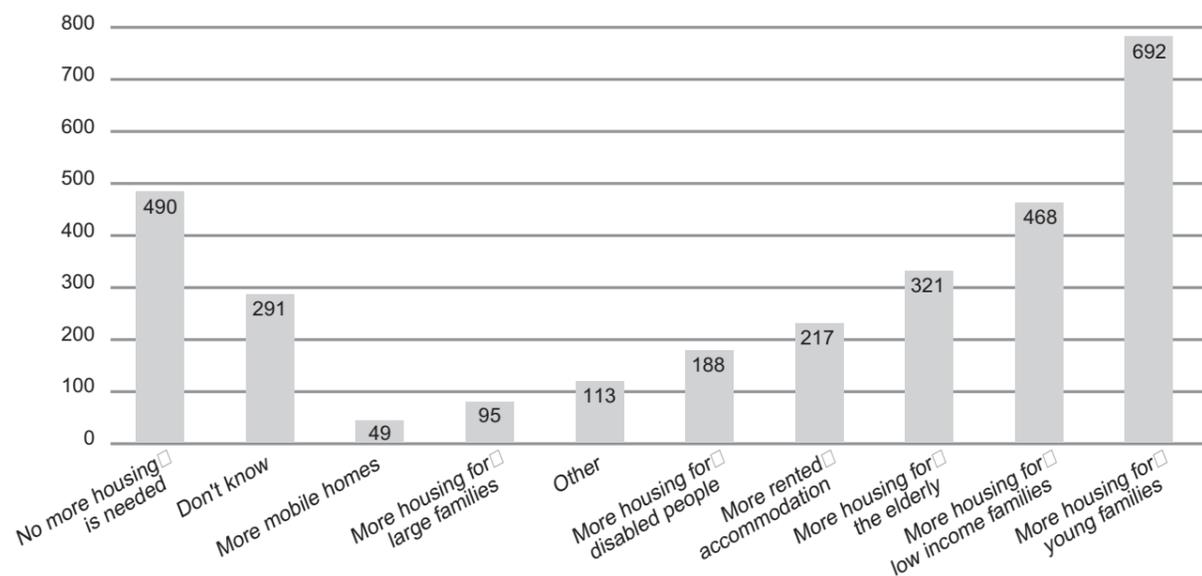
100 young people could not find somewhere affordable to live in Wheatley and probably in most of Oxfordshire. Consequently 33% of the respondents want to see more housing for young people and 25% want specific housing for low income families : see Figure 2.

Village Facilities

The results have shown that:

- Most people were satisfied with the medical services provided in the village but the elderly and young were anxious for more NHS dental facilities.
- 28 carers were over 70 and of these 18 did 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Figure 2. Opinions of the Type of Extra Housing Needed



The majority live in houses with energy saving facilities such as:

- double glazing 84%
- loft insulation 82%
- lagged walls 73%

About 84% recycle paper, cardboard and packaging and over 50% are satisfied with the street cleansing done by the District Council although 25% thought the Parish Council should take over the job.

- Over 44% had used the library in the past six months but only 7% of the under 25 age group.
- 57% use the Internet and 50% would use a website if available for news and information about Wheatley.
- 85% currently use the Wheatley Newsletter for news.
- Local education classes have been popular and 70% have attended Adult Classes at some time but the remaining 30% either have no time to attend classes or are too tired after work, to attend.



Only 15% of respondents regularly attend a place of worship in or outside Wheatley and of those who do attend, nearly half are over 70 years of age. Sports and leisure activities are popular and 67% of respondents would like a local swimming pool but relatively few have tried the new pool in Thame. Walking was claimed to be an important activity and there would be good support for community events such as a summer barbecue, if this could be arranged. More than 50% of the regular users of the Merry Bells Village Hall were over 60 years of age and there were many reasons given by younger persons for not using the Hall.

ASDA is the most popular retail outlet (see Figure 1.) but 58% also claimed to use Londis on a frequent or daily basis. The Post Office is the most used service in the village, with 58% using it regularly, and it is frequently used by those over 70 years of age.

A Farmers Market was the most requested additional service suggested by 50% of

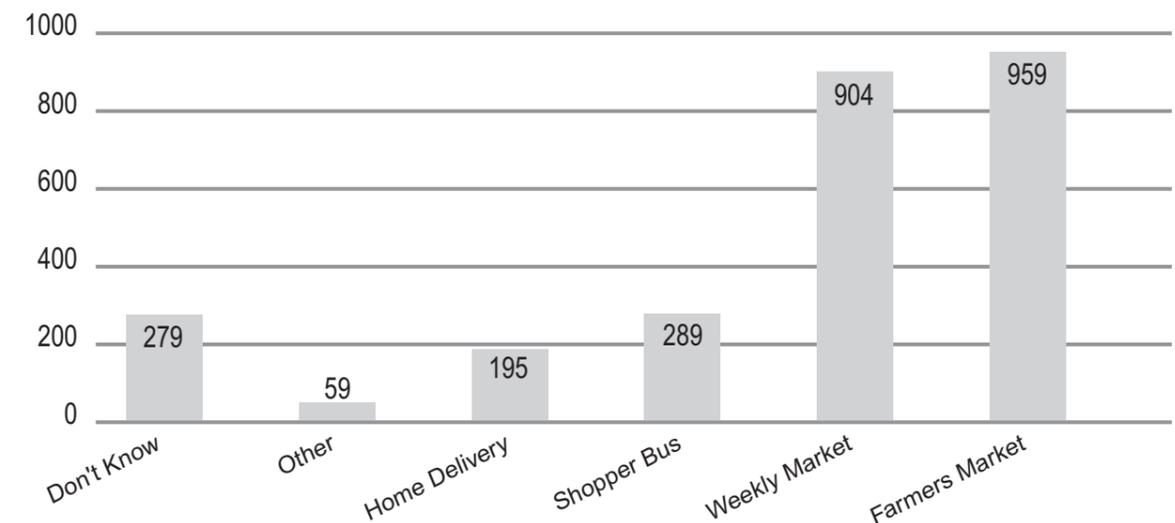
respondents (Figure 3.) and there was strong support for improvements to the Old Burial Ground.

Young People and Children

About 70% of the over 60s and nearly 55% of those aged under 60 have no direct involvement with children of school age either living or visiting Wheatley. Three quarters of those with children under 11 never use either Farm Close or Cullum Road recreation grounds, whereas the same number do visit the Church Road recreation ground either weekly or occasionally. More than 65% thought that the areas for children under 5 should be separated from the rest of the area.

Most of the young people want to do 'A' levels after they are 16 and 20% already have part time jobs. Cycling and walking are their main modes of travel with 70% cycling and 80% regularly walking around the village.

Figure 3. Additional Services Wanted – Numbers of Respondents





About 50% of young people have access to the internet and these would all use a village web site for news which at the moment mainly comes through their families or from schools. Other news services include 50% using Fox FM, 60% claimed to use the library – but only 24% regularly, newspapers are seldom read.

Activities which the village youth prefer are swimming 58%, cycling 62%, hanging out with friends 86%, computing 69% and going to cinemas 69%. The Wheatley Youth Centre was not used by many respondents but 61% would take part if the Centre was revamped to include a café and a youth council could manage the centre, independently. There was little support for a central Sunday School.

Travel and Transport

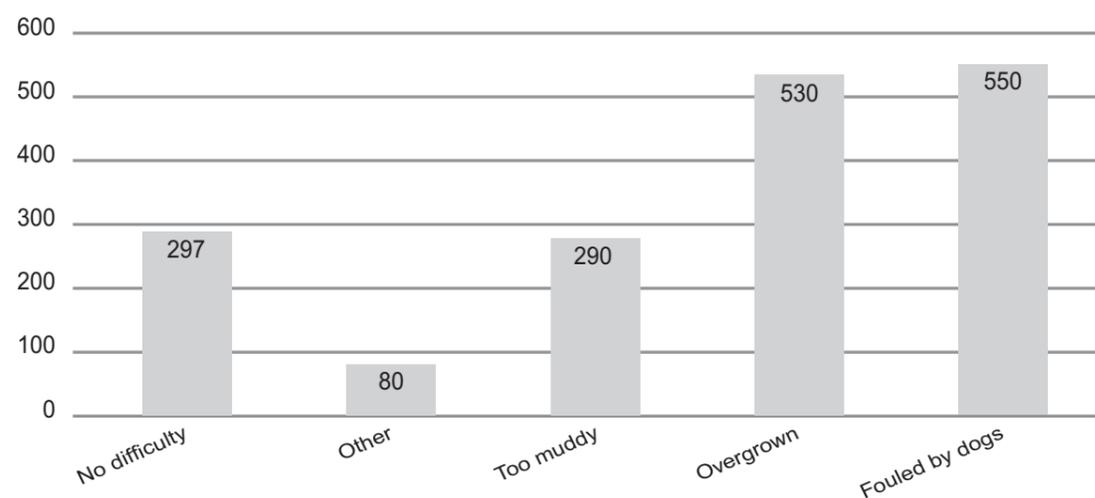
Only 11% of respondents do not have regular use of a car and 50% use a car to travel to work or college, which equates to 68% of those in employment. Over 40% of those with cars consider the existing village car parks are inadequate. Some 56% use the

bus services at some time in and out of Wheatley and many were concerned about publicity of times and frequency of operation. A large number (68%) would like the London buses to stop in Wheatley on the return journey to Oxford – but not on the journey to London as this would probably encourage more congestion in the car parks.

There is a strong demand for more footpaths and for dedicated cycle paths and cycle lanes to be created on public roads. More than 60% use the public footpaths (as opposed to street pavements) and although many complained about the poor condition that some of the footpaths are in (see Figure 4), there was a strong demand for more to be opened.

Although most people felt safe on the street pavements in the village there were many requests for several types of improvements. Nearly a quarter want traffic lights at crossing points and 35% want more dropped kerbs at all gaps in the pavements as with the increased use of mobility vehicles this will become a vital necessity.

Figure 4. Perceived Difficulties in Using Village Footpaths.
Numbers of respondents



WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRES

Many people made written comments and suggestions in the spaces provided for the purpose and also on the back of the questionnaires where extra space was available. These covered a wide range of topics. (Details in the Annex in the parish Council Office and Library). **Housing** was a major topic with the need for affordable housing mentioned many times, particularly for young single and first time buyers with Wheatley connections. **Medical Service Problems** were listed, and although the majority were generally happy, there were complaints about the service in the doctors' surgery and the pharmacy, and the shortage of NHS dentistry was stressed many times.

Most people were happy with the service provided by the County Council **Library** in the Merry Bells, although many wanted a larger selection of books and longer opening hours. For the **Merry Bells** itself, there were many comments about there being nothing of interest happening and also poor publicity as to what's on. The **Parish Council** produced one of the largest responses - some complimentary but others complaining about poor publicity on decisions and a number about the (old) age of many councillors. **Refuse Services** generated comments with the majority very favourable towards the current collection facilities, although many were critical of the way the green boxes are handled. There was

a sizeable request for wheelie bins and for kerbside collection of garden waste for composting.

On village **facilities** there were many requests for greengrocers, electricians, newsagents, markets and particularly for a coffee shop/deli. The playgrounds were criticised for poor quality equipment and litter and too many older children playing there after school. The **Sports Centre** at Holton was well supported. A roller blade park was wanted by many of the younger respondents and teenagers wanted a place of their own to "hang out".

For **transport** and getting around the village there were many comments on the perceived lateness of the 280 service and on the recent clash of timing with the Oxford Brookes service. **Cycle paths** and lanes generated many comments with paths to the schools and to ASDA predominating. New public **footpaths** were suggested from Howe Close to Littleworth and lights were requested for the Ambrose Rise to Crown Road footpath. **Pavements** generated many comments, the biggest written need being on Crown Road followed by the Church Road/Holloway junction, with London Road and Littleworth also mentioned. There were many complaints about the state of pavements, in general.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLANS

This section gives details of the ideas and recommendations which have been identified by the community from questionnaires, public meetings and consultations with village groups and societies. The plans are separated into 8 categories which were addressed by sub-groups of villagers working with the guidance of the Steering Group. Within each

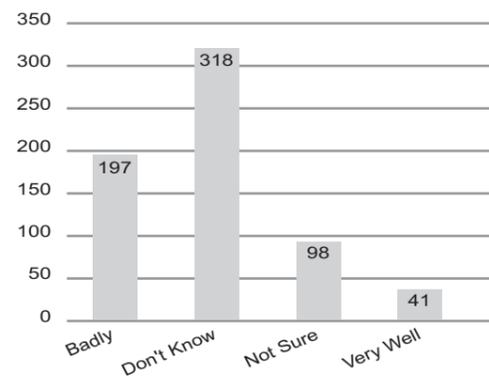
category the recommendations have been prioritised into "plans" and "action points" – the "plans" will require medium to long term attention whereas the "action points" could be addressed immediately and would not necessarily involve significant costs. The "action points" are listed at the end of this chapter.



PLAYGROUNDS FOR UNDER 11s

The main priority is for the Church Road recreation ground – but playground areas in Farm Close Road and Leyshon Road also need improvement. Of the people who used the recreation grounds more than 80% thought that neighbouring villages had better facilities – Figure 5.

Figure 5. How the Village Playgrounds Compare to Neighbouring Villages



PLAN 1

Improved equipment is needed including:

- slides
- climbing frames
- monkey bars
- fireman's pole
- climbing wall
- roundabouts
- seating
- picnic tables
- rubbish bins

Separate areas for toddlers should be fenced off, with suitable notice boards, to limit access by teenagers to toddlers' equipment.

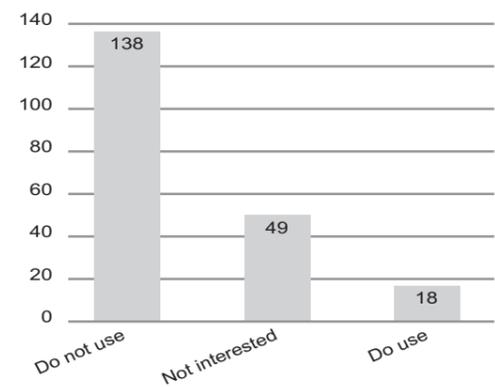
PLAN 2

Safer access is needed at the crossing point on Church Road opposite the gate to the recreation area or a pavement on the north side of Church Road should be installed (see also Plan 10).

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Very few of the village young people use the Youth Centre – see Figure 6.

Figure 6. Numbers of Young People using the Youth Centre



PLAN 3

A "Youth Café" is the top priority, to be relatively unstructured, where the village youth could hang out in a place of their own. This would be a new image youth centre, managed by a Youth Council or Youth Forum with extra funding for

running costs and more facilities. It could be staffed primarily by volunteers from the community, with opening hours not restricted to one night per week as at present. New facilities which would be desirable include:

- snooker table
- table tennis
- sound system
- internet cafe
- food bar
- tables and chairs in a lounge area
- dvd system

PLAN 4

The Sports Pavilion near the Wheatley Primary School could be upgraded to a community centre as another possible place for the village youth to hang out and incorporating a multi purpose convention room, changing rooms a bar.



NEEDS FOR THE ELDERLY

There are already some good facilities for the elderly in Wheatley and Holton, although some rely on volunteers to keep them going, including:

- Holton Day Centre
- Not so young club
- Coffee room at the Merry Bells
- Wheatley Care
- Sheltered accommodation at Cullum House, Windows Court and St Mary's Close
- Triangle Nursing Home

Improved access to existing advice centres is also needed to enable the elderly to make personal visits, for example to:

- Age Concern (although there is now a representative in Wheatley)
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Shelter

Seminars and discussion groups for the elderly should be arranged in the village on such specialised matters as legal aid and wills, annuities and money management.

PLAN 5

Further needs are for a centralised information service/catalogue with details telling people where to go to for advice on such things as:

- social services
- benefits and minimum income guarantee information
- nursing home lists and availability
- emergency services
- specialised charities such as
 - Age Concern
 - Alzheimer's Society
 - Help the Aged
 - Housing Associations



VILLAGE SERVICES

PLAN 6

New Village Markets are considered to be a priority (also see Figure 3) which could involve:

- A weekly, general market, possibly in Crown Square.
- A Farmers Market once per month possibly located in Crown Square.

A weekly farm stall (Friday morning) on the same format as the Thursday market at Sandy Lane Farm, Tiddington, possibly located in front of the Merry Bells Village Hall or alongside the fish stall near the Plough Public House on London Road.



THE ENVIRONMENT

PLAN 7

To encourage a feeling of well being in the village and to discourage littering:

Wheatley should take part in the Best Kept Village competition and in that context villagers should be asked to take responsibility for their house frontages, including litter.

“Welcome Boards” should be installed on the entrances to the village, with more than mere speed advice, on London Road near the

bridge at the east of the village, Ladder Hill, Littleworth Road and on the bridge over the A40 to the west of the village.

Install an interpretative display of village history and features in a central part of the village, possibly in the Old Burial Ground or in front of the Merry Bells Village Hall.

PLAN 8

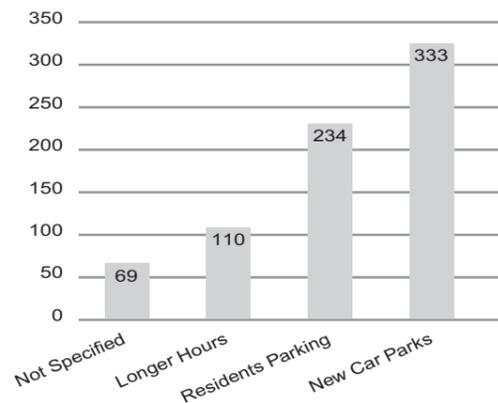
The Old Burial Ground should be improved by installing bench seating, installing effective fencing and keeping the ground locked at night.

TRANSPORT, CAR PARKS, PAVEMENTS

PLAN 9

Car Parking is considered to be the most urgent component in this category with many respondents requesting more car parks or changes to the existing car parking provision – see Figure 7.

Figure 7. Suggested Changes to Car Parking Facilities. Numbers of Respondents



New car parks should be considered in the following locations:

Parallel to the north side of London Road from the Kings Arms, westwards to the bridge over the A40 with a path/cycle track to form a barrier between the car park and the London Road.

Behind the shops in the High Street (Wren Close area).

On land forming part of the Wheatley Business Centre (actually in Holton).

On land surrounding the telephone exchange.

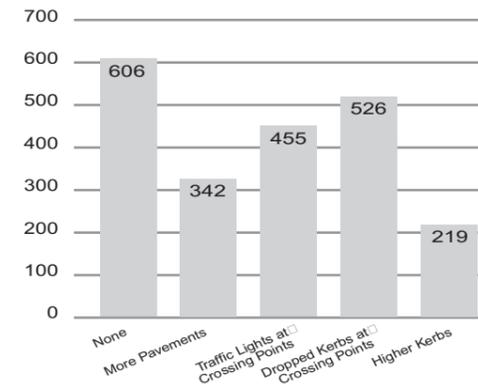


PLAN 10

There were many suggestions for changes to pavements and road crossings see Figure 8.

The following changes are needed (see also Plan 2):

Figure 8. Number of Respondents Suggesting Changes to Pavements



Install higher kerbs on many pavements and dropped kerbs at all crossing points.
Install crossing lights at key points particularly on school routes.
Install pavements at Church Road/Holloway Road junction and in Crown Road.

FOOTPATHS AND CYCLE WAYS

PLAN 11

Open a new footpath from Ladder Hill via Howe Close to the Littleworth Caravan Site and thence to the Primary School.

Open a new footpath/cycle path from Roman Road, along Muddy Lane onto the old Railway Track, to the ASDA site.

SPORTS

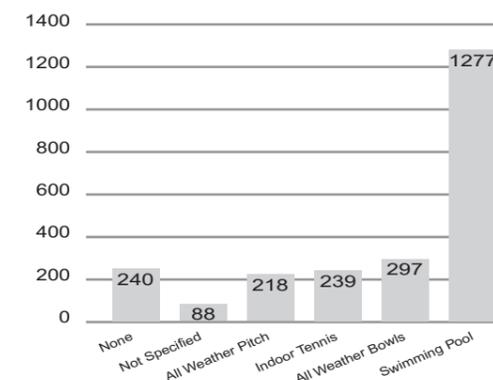
PLAN 12

There were many suggestions for improved sports facilities – Figure 9.

New Facilities Proposed:

All weather bowling green.
All weather (Astroturf) outdoor pitch.
Roller blade park.

Figure 9. Extra Sports Facilities Suggested in Wheatley/Holton. Numbers of Respondents.



New facilities desirable but unlikely to be practical in the medium to long term:

Indoor tennis court.
Swimming pool.
Ten pin bowling alley.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION POINTS

The following Action Points could be addressed immediately, for example by writing letters, and would not necessarily involve significant costs.

VILLAGE SERVICES

ACTION POINT 1

Letters to relevant agencies could be written to solicit action for the following:

Increased capacity for NHS dental services – particularly for the young and the elderly.

More respite for carers – increase the 2 days per week at Holton Day Centre.

More preventive medicine.

Library: more choices for books, videos, daily papers and evening opening hours.

Further Education Classes – better publicity for what is available and where.

Village Hall: improved facilities for projectors, screen, village web site and increased use for village activities.

ACTION POINT 2

Shops and Retail outlets have identified several improvements which are needed, the first 4 of which are also relevant to the plans for Transport (page 18 & 19).

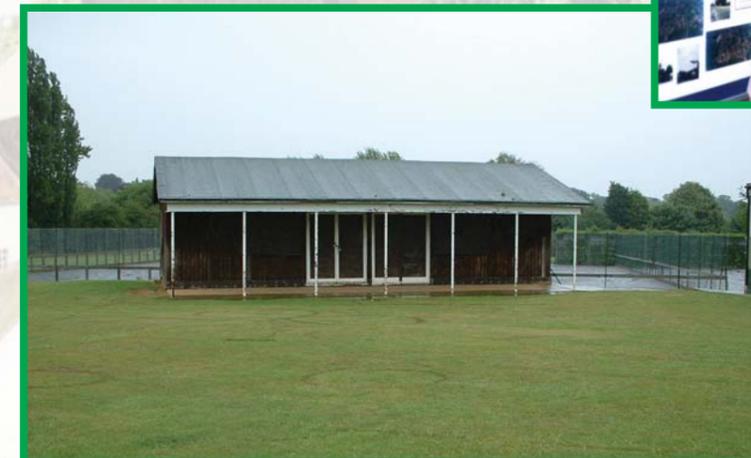
Improve car parking near the shops in the village.

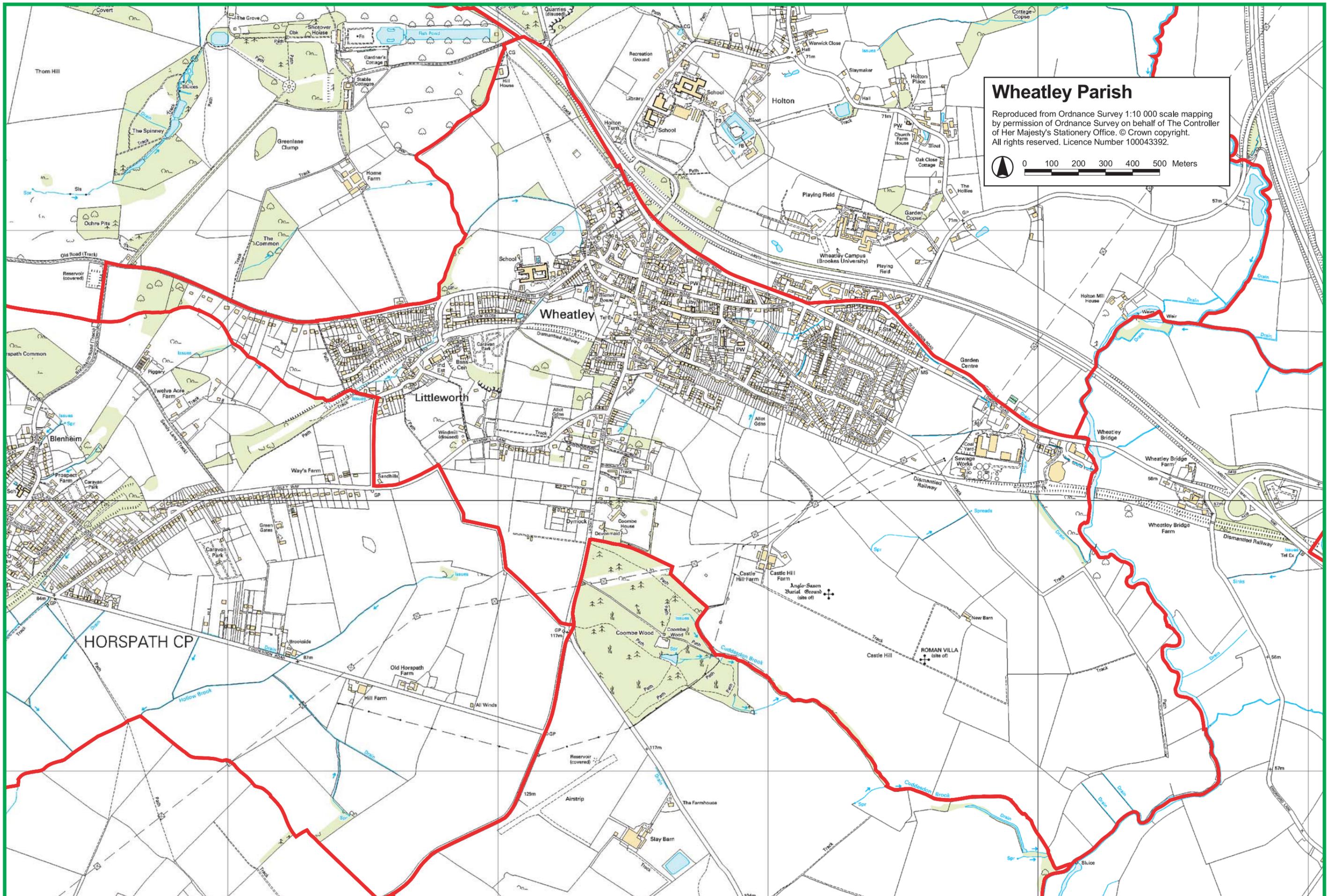
Reduce planning restrictions.

Encourage passing trade by removing some traffic calming features.

Allow easier deliveries for example remove some traffic calming features.

Print a directory of services for the whole village.





Wheatley Parish
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THE ENVIRONMENT

ACTION POINT 3

Litter: the Parish Council should be encouraged to take over some responsibility for street cleaning from the District Council. ASDA should be approached to adopt London Road as its community contribution to keep the road litter free – this is a tradition in the USA and ASDA is now an American Company.

ACTION POINT 4

Recycling and waste collection recommendations:
Introduce a composting service in the village.

Encourage the District Council to:
Publicise the actual financial success of recycling.
Introduce household wheelie bins.
Install on-street recycling bins à la Europe.

ACTION POINT 5

Housing And Green Belt:
Planning committees in the Parish Council and the District Council should inform inhabitants clearly about current planning & development strategies, criteria of approval, and of any changes in either.

The current way of notifying development proposals by small notices on the Parish Council notice board should be supplemented by wider advertising and use of a Wheatley website.

There should be no development expansion into Green Belt.

Small in-fills of under 10 houses are the rule for further housing development.

Affordable housing is urgently required.

ACTION POINT 6

Security
Improve lighting and steepness of the steps in the Merry Bells Car Park.
Publicise any planned changes to the Police presence.
Re-establish and increase the Traffic Warden service to resolve issues of traffic and parking.
Contact the Police to promote and communicate the Neighbourhood Watch initiatives.



TRANSPORT, CAR PARKS, PAVEMENTS

ACTION POINT 7

Car parking: Support should be given by the Parish Council to increase the 1 hour parking restrictions in the High Street to 2 hours from 9 am to 4 pm (presently 8 am to 6 pm).

ACTION POINT 8

Public Transport actions are needed for:

Buses from London and the airports to stop by request in the village eg at the Ambrose Rise bus stop. But buses to London stopping in the village might aggravate the traffic problems and increase "park and ride" in the village.

Further publicise the train service at Haddenham and Thame Parkway.

Extend the rail network from Princes Risborough via Thame to the M40 (Oxford) service area.

FOOTPATHS AND CYCLE WAYS

ACTION POINT 9

Re-open the footpath from the High Street to Church Road, through the Wok 1 compound.

Install lighting on the footpaths:

Ambrose Rise to Roman Road.
High Street to Farm Close Road.
Beech Road to Kelham Hall Drive.

Improve footpath access by grass trimming.

Remove litter and dogs mess from footpaths.

SPORTS

ACTION POINT 10

Informal access is recommended to the playing fields for young persons – 84 % response on questionnaires.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Wheatley Parish Plan Steering Group wishes to thank all those who have helped in various ways to bring this report to fruition:-

- Those who responded with suggestions and ideas at the open sessions held in the Merry Bells.
- Those who helped design the questionnaires.
- All those almost one hundred who distributed and then collected questionnaires to and from every household, making several visits to try and ensure as complete a coverage as possible.
- The people who entered up all the data on to the computer system and who then helped to analyse the results.
- Those who carried out a series of interviews particularly with the businesses and voluntary organisations and the representatives of those bodies for their co-operation.
- The following organisations – South Oxfordshire District Council for a contribution towards funding – Oxfordshire Rural Community Council for their guidance, particularly in the early stages – the Countryside Agency for the major part of the funding and the Wheatley Society.
- Census 2001. Source National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.
- Finally to all those individuals who completed the various questionnaires and gave their comments, with apologies to those who were either away or unavailable on the several occasions they were visited.

The Steering Group comprised over a three year period the following persons:

Roger Bell	District & Parish Councillor
Kevin Betts	IT Specialist
Jane Cotton	Wheatley Area Churches, Local Business
David Harverson	Businessman, Treasurer Wheatley Society
Kevin Jackson	Wheatley Youth Centre
Veronica Lancashire	Women's Institute, Local Resident
Bob Lowrie	District Chairman For Scouts
Cyril Newton	Project Management, Church Interests
John Reay	Engineer, Ex NHS
Bernice Rye	Guides, Brownies & Rainbows
Rachel Slade	Children's Little Playgroup
Carol Sprent	Villager, Local Churches, Surveys
Chris Stocker	Solicitor, Sports Interests
Andrew Walkey	Head Teacher, Woodstock Primary School
Jim Watson	Wheatley Society Secretary
Ann Wild	Retired Practice Nurse



APPENDIX

Summaries of the Statistical Data collected from:

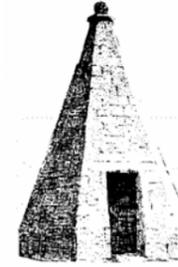
Personal Questionnaires

Young Persons Questionnaires

Household Questionnaire

and

Distribution of Postcodes & Numbers of Responses



Wheatley Village includes Littleworth

THE WHEATLEY VILLAGE PLAN

Personal Questionnaire

June 2003

This questionnaire was designed for every member of the household aged 17 and over. See separate questionnaires responses for Young Persons (aged between 11-16) and for the Household.

Number of personal questionnaires issued	About 3,330	100%
Number of completed responses	1,898	About 57%

PERSONAL

A1. What is your gender?

Male Female

A2. To which age group do you belong?

17 - 24	156
25 - 39	389
40 - 59	703
60 - 69	342
70 - 79	213
80 or over	94

A3. Do you live in Wheatley 4 nights or more per week?

Yes No

A4. Have you always lived in Wheatley?

Yes No

If NO, how long have you lived in Wheatley? (Tick one box)

Less than 1 year	98
1 - 5 years	354
6 - 15 years	472
16 - 25 years	319
26+ years	431

B1. Are you planning to move house separately from other members of the household?

(If the whole household is planning to move, use the Household Questionnaire for this section)

Yes No

B2. If you are unable to move to the accommodation you want, what are the main reasons? (Tick all that apply)

Price	65
Lack of suitable properties to buy	20
Lack of Housing Association Properties	19
Lack of private rented accommodation	7

Not applicable
Other

B3. What extra housing do you think Wheatley needs? (Tick all that apply)

None	492
For young families	692
For large families	95
For the elderly	321
For low income families	468
For disabled people	188
Rented accommodation	217
Mobile homes	49
Don't know	291
Other	113

B4. What type of housing development do you think would be most suitable for Wheatley? (Tick all that apply)

None	541
Single new houses only	232
Small groups of less than 10 houses	729
Large groups of 10 or more	79
Conversion of buildings	436
Infilling in the village, eg between existing properties, or derelict sites	655
Other	44

EDUCATION

C1. Do you attend or have attended Adult Education Classes?

Yes No

C2. If you DO NOT currently attend adult education classes, what are the primary reasons? (Tick all that apply)

Nothing of interest	276
No time to attend classes	548
Too tired in evenings	257
Too expensive	101
Length of course unsuitable	19

Lack of transport	48
Suitable subjects not available	101
Unaware of what is available when and where	153
Other	176

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES

D1. Litter – the District Council is responsible for cleansing the High Street 3 times a week and some other streets quarterly. This costs the average Band D household 8 pence per week

Are you satisfied with this service?

Yes 981 No 646 Don't know 317

If NO, do you think the Parish Council should do this work and cover the whole village regularly at a possible cost of 30 pence per week for the average household?

Do you think this is a good thing?

Yes 479 No 120 Don't know 34

D2. Boundaries – Wheatley is surrounded by a Green Belt that prevents any expansion beyond the present boundaries

Do you think this is a good thing?

Yes 1608 No 161 Don't know 88

D3. Use of the Old Burial Ground (High Street) Would you support and make use of improved facilities such as seating?

Yes 992 No 541 Don't know 308

If YES, do you think it should be railed in and shut to prevent misuse in the evenings?

Yes 684 No 221 Don't know 75

D4. Do you have an allotment?

Yes 92 No 1769

If NO would you like one?

Yes 115 No 1616

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

E1. Have you visited the following in the past 2 years? (Tick all that apply)

Morland House Surgery	1649
Doctors surgery – elsewhere	183
Dentist – in Wheatley	303
Dentist – elsewhere	1077
Chiropodist – in Wheatley	134
Chiropodist – elsewhere	109
Wheatley pharmacy – for advice	1131
Alternative medicine - practitioner	205
If none, then	43

E2. Have you had difficulty with any of the following Wheatley services?

Yes 150 No 1627

If YES, please specify:

Doctor's surgery:
Dentist:
Chiropodist:
Pharmacy:
Alternative Practitioner:

E3. Do you use any of the following social activities and services for older people?

Holton Day Centre

Yes 14 No 823 Not applicable 971

Not So Young Club

Yes 19 No 812 Not applicable 973

Senior Citizens Coffee Room

Yes 71 No 796 Not applicable 948

Wheatley Care Scheme

Yes 29 No 810 Not applicable 969

If you would like more services, please specify: Yes 23, No 1023

E4. Do you think there is sufficient sheltered accommodation/nursing homes in Wheatley?

Yes 477 No 381 Don't know 1007

E5. Do you believe that more information and advice should be available for the elderly and disabled?

Yes 824 No 118 Don't know 907

If YES, for what? (Tick all that apply)

Social activities and services	534
Benefits and grants to which you/they might be entitled	696
Other	27

E6. Are you a Carer for elderly, infirm or disabled persons?

Yes 120 No 1747

If YES, please indicate the extent of care that you provide (Tick one box)

24 hours per day, 7 days per week	46
24 hours per day, 5 days per week	8
Shared 24 hours per day, 7 days per week	28
Shared 24 hours per day, 5 days per week	8
Other	35

Do you receive respite from your caring?

Yes 33 No 71

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

F1. Would you use a website for news and information about Wheatley? (Tick one box)

I use the Internet, and yes I would use such a site 950

I use the Internet, but I would not use such a site 139

I do not have access to the Internet 417
Not interested 339

F2. Would you like access to BT Broadband for the Internet?

Yes 816 No 497 No interest 479

F3. Have you visited the Wheatley Library in the last 6 months?

Yes 834 No 1036

If YES, how often?

Weekly 120

Regularly – at least monthly 307

Occasionally – once or twice in 6 months 403

If YES, what for? (Tick all that apply)

Borrow: Books, CDs, DVDs, Videos, and Audio Books 686

Make use of: Reference materials, local community information, and tourist information 321

To use facilities: Email, internet, word processing, photocopying 203

To accompany children 190

If YES, do you have any suggestions for improvements?

Yes 134 No 517

F4. If you do not use the Wheatley Library, why not? (Tick all that apply)

Not interested 328

Use other sources 499

Difficult access (eg car park) 19

Other 185

F5. There are many activities going on in Wheatley – how do you hear/read about them? (Tick all that apply)

Membership bulletins 195

Notice boards 875

Wheatley newsletter 1580

Word of mouth 922

Wheatley Information Booklet 293

I don't hear about them 96

Other ways 44

F6. How often do you read the local newspapers, listen to the local radio or watch local TV? (Enter one number per box)

1. Regularly
2. Occasionally
3. Never

	1	2	3
Oxford Mail (daily)	431	531	705
Oxford Times (weekly)	380	595	681
Radio Oxford	272	480	882
Fox FM	430	510	710

Channel 6 TV 110 665 846

LEISURE AND SPORTS

G1. How often do you attend functions in the Merry Bells?

Monthly 136

Occasionally 754

Never 982

If NEVER, do you have any particular reasons?

Yes 259 No 1018

G2. Would you attend community events (Summer BBQ, Nov 5th, New Years Party etc) if more were organised?

Yes 523 No 455 Maybe 885

G3. In your opinion are the playing fields near the schools being managed in a satisfactory manner?

Yes 615 No 194 Don't know 1036

G4. Do you think the Park Sports Centre in Holton provides a sufficient number of indoor sports activities?

Yes 654 No 241 Don't know 956

G5. Do you think the Park Sports Centre in Holton is a good social centre for indoor sports activities?

Yes 864 No 110 Don't know 873

G6. Have you tried the new swimming pool at Thame?

Yes 286 No 1582

If YES, does this adequately cater for Wheatley?

Yes 104 No 159 Don't know 22

G7. Do you use Oxford Brookes campus sports facilities?

Yes 153 No 1705

G8. Do you think outdoor sports facilities in Wheatley/Holton are adequate?

Cricknet

Yes 259 No 97 Don't know 1457

Football

Yes 364 No 92 Don't know 1356

Hockey

Yes 146 No 104 Don't know 1554

Rugby

Yes 365 No 61 Don't know 1380

Tennis

Yes 321 No 158 Don't know 1330

G9. What extra sports facilities would you like in Wheatley/Holton? (Tick all that apply)

All-weather bowls 297

Indoor tennis 239

All weather pitch 218

Swimming pool	1279
None	240
Other	89

G10. Do you take part in or plan to take part in any of the following organised activities in Wheatley? (Tick all that apply)

Local history	150
Bell ringing	18
Music	103
Allotments	92
Drama	125
Walking	242
None	1219
Other	89

RELIGIOUS LIFE

H1. Do you attend any place of worship, religious club or group inside or outside Wheatley or Holton?

Yes No

(Enter one number in each box)

1. Regularly
2. Occasionally
3. Never

Granary Evangelical Church	14	52
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church	24	60
St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Holton	7	61
St Mary's Anglican Church	106	262
United Reformed Church	40	97
Place of worship, religious club or group in Wheatley or Holton	23	20
Place of worship, religious club or group outside Wheatley or Holton	59	62
Other	17	12

H2. If you attend a place of worship, religious club or group ELSEWHERE, is it for any of the following reasons? (Tick all that apply)

Faith or denomination not represented in Wheatley/Holton	24
Style of worship	65
Community/friendship	56
Personal links	93
Particular religious leader	13
Not applicable	130
Other reasons	19

H3. There are several groups which meet to explore their faith in their own homes during the week rather than attending church. Would you be interested in joining such a group?

Yes No

H4. Are the places of worship in Wheatley/Holton important to you? (Please tick all that apply)

For worship	503
For baptisms, weddings and funerals	853
As historic buildings	826
As part of our cultural tradition	859
As a focus for community life	648
Not important at all	401

H5. Do any children under 11 in your household attend church, clubs or Sunday Schools?

Yes No Not Applicable

If YES, please specify

Within Wheatley/Holton	51
Outside Wheatley/Holton	27

H6. Do you think the religious communities in Wheatley/Holton are involved in community life? (Tick one box)

Too much	15
Too little	138
About right	606
Don't know	1046

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I1. Do you know how to contact the Parish Council or Councillors?

Yes No

I2. How well does the Parish Council publicise its meetings and decisions?

Very well	221
Reasonably well	923
Badly	215
Don't know	481

I3. Do you know what the Parish Council's responsibilities are?

Yes No

I4. Do you have any comments about the activities of the parish council?

Yes No

RETAIL OUTLETS AND SERVICES

J1. How often do you use the following retail outlets in Wheatley?

Indicate the frequency you use them:

1. Daily
2. Frequently
3. Occasionally
4. Never

(Enter one number in each box)

	1	2	3	4
ASDA	103	1334	372	41
Petrol, Bryants	7	137	420	1099

Petrol, ASDA	27	1175	327	253
Pharmacy	16	778	921	104
Londis	272	838	640	65
Butcher (Crick)	24	348	598	770
Take-aways	7	321	956	446
Restaurants	1	88	757	854
Pubs	31	381	798	521
Garden Centres	12	357	357	241
Motor sales	1	13	247	1435

J2. How often do you use the following service outlets in Wheatley? (Enter one number in each box for)

1. Daily
2. Frequently
3. Occasionally
4. Never

	1	2	3	4
Hairdressers	3	385	446	916
Laundromat	1	26	331	1359
Beauty parlours		29	164	1516
Bank	25	744	621	417
Post office	28	1103	667	58
Veterinary	1	138	465	1134
Motor repairs and servicing	3	200	666	873
Solicitors	5	13	470	1248
Estate Agent	2	51	447	1230
Taxis	7	127	771	854

J3. Which services do you use at the Wheatley Post Office? (Tick all that apply)

Post counter for letters and parcels	1665
Pensions and other allowances	450
TV licence	766
Vehicle tax	1357
General payment of bills	418
Giro bank	100
Savings bank	164
None	58
Other	145

J4. What is your opinion of the range and number of retail outlets there are in Wheatley? (Tick one box)

About right	704
A few more needed	1008
Many more needed	100
Don't know	43

Any other comments, please specify:

If you think more retail outlets are needed, what types are required? (Tick ALL that apply)

General household	682
Newsagent/stationer/confectionery	623
Clothing/haberdashery/wool	458
Other	275

J5. How satisfied are you with the retail outlets and services, listed above in J1 and J2? (Enter a number in each box)

1. Satisfied
2. Fairly satisfied
3. Not satisfied
4. Don't know

	1	2	3	4
Services provided	1109	636	32	21
Opening hours	1144	539	70	24
Location	1250	436	30	29

If NOT satisfied, please comment:

Yes No

J6. Would you be interested in the following additional services in Wheatley? (Tick all that apply)

Weekly market	904
Farmers market	957
Shoppers' bus	289
More home delivery	195
Don't know	279
Other comments/suggestions	59

YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

K1. Are you a parent or grandparent of young or school age children in Wheatley, or with children or grandchildren who visit the village?

Yes No

K2. Are you willing to travel/transport children to activities in nearby villages?

Yes No Don't know

K3. Would community transport be useful to you for travel to nearby villages?

Yes No Don't know

If YES, would you be willing to pay for transport, eg a minibus?

Yes No

K4. Is the Youth Centre suitable for its purpose?

Yes No Not applicable

If NO, and the youth centre were more attractive would your children use it?

Yes No Don't know

K5. Should the junior and senior youth clubs meet more often than once per week in the Youth Centre?

Yes No Don't know

K6. Do you or your children join in activities through the schools?

Yes No Not applicable

K7. Is there enough support for new parents and young parents?

Yes No Don't know

If NO, what other facilities would you suggest? Please specify:

K8. Are the Playgroups well suited for small children/infants?

Yes No Don't know

If NO, how could playgroups be improved or made more attractive? (Tick all that apply)

Better facilities
 Less costly
 Better premises
 Other

K9. Are you concerned about funding and support for Playgroups?

Yes No Don't know

K10. For families with children under 11 years of age: how often do the children go to the recreation grounds on their own, or with parents or grandparents? (Enter a number in each box)

1. Weekly
2. Occasionally
3. Never

	1	2	3
Church Road	64	259	119
Farm Close Road	16	87	321
Cullum Road	22	53	346

If NEVER, please indicate reasons why not? (Tick all that apply)

Type of equipment
 Access
 Security
 Other

K11. How do the playgrounds compare to neighbouring villages (eg Garsington, Tiddington)? (Tick one box)

Very well
 Badly
 Not sure
 Don't know

K12. Do you think that play areas for children under 5 should be separated from the rest of the area?

Yes No Don't know

TRANSPORT

L1. Do you have regular use of a car or other vehicle?

Yes No

L2. What are the main purposes for which you use a car or van? (Enter one number in each box to indicate frequency)

1. Daily
2. Several times per week
3. Several times per month
4. Occasionally
5. Never

	1	2	3	4
Taking children to/from Wheatley School	74	42	22	156
Taking children to/from other schools	54	22	12	74
Taking children to/from social activities	54	151	104	159
Shopping in Wheatley	156	628	317	279
Shopping outside Wheatley	83	526	580	315
Travel to/from work or college	778	162	49	92
Travel to/from social events in Wheatley	25	112	143	527
Travel to/from social events outside Wheatley	59	302	452	546
Providing lifts to family, friends and others	63	217	277	629
Other	13	35	31	28

L3. If you are unable to park your vehicle(s) at home on your own property, do you have a problem finding parking elsewhere?

Yes
 No
 Sometimes
 Not applicable

L4. Do you use the District Council car park off Church Road?

Yes No

If YES, please enter a number in each box to show frequency

1. Every day
2. Once or twice per week
3. Very seldom
4. Never

	1	2	3	4
Less than 2 hours	16	152	467	24
More than 2 hours	2	12	132	398
All day	4	8	30	490
Overnight	1	5	23	503

L5. Do you use the Merry Bells car park?

Yes No

If YES, please enter a number in each box to show frequency

1. Every day
2. Once or twice per week
3. Very seldom
4. Never

	1	2	3	4
Less than 2 hours	15	259	592	11
More than 2 hours	5	17	130	563
All day	1	6	21	673
Evenings	-	-	-	-
Overnight	2	13	66	631

L6. Do you consider the existing car parks adequate?

Yes No Don't know

If NO, which of the following suggestions would you like to see? (Tick all that apply)

Additional car parks created
 Residential car parking provision
 Longer hours where there are parking restrictions
 Other

L7. Do any of the following apply to you? (Tick all that apply)

No daytime access to a vehicle
 No current driving licence
 Rely on other people for transport
 Have a disabled badge
 Cannot afford a vehicle
 Prefer to use other forms of transport
 None of the above
 Other

L8. What means of transport do you normally use going to and from Wheatley? (Tick one box)

Car or van
 Motorbike
 Bicycle
 Bus

Taxi
 Walk

L9. Do you use bus services to and from Wheatley?

Yes No

If YES, do you experience problems with any of the following aspects of bus travel? (Tick all that apply)

Times of buses
 Publicity as to timetable
 Cost of bus travel
 Destinations available
 Other

L10. Which of the following changes in public transport would be helpful to you? (Tick all that apply)

London/Oxford buses stopping in Wheatley
 A railway link connecting Wheatley to the Chiltern railway network
 Improved local bus network
 Lifts to local hospitals
 None
 Other

L11. Do you cycle in the village?

Yes No

L12. Would you like to see dedicated cycle paths created?

Yes No Don't know

If YES, please specify to and from which points: Yes No

L13. Would you like to see road cycle lanes created?

Yes No Don't know

If YES, please specify to and from which points: Yes No

L14. If you do not cycle now, would you cycle if cycle paths or lanes were created?

Yes No

L15. Do you use any of the designated Public Footpaths in the village? (Not street pavements - see L17)

Yes No

If YES, do you experience any of the following difficulties whilst using them? (Tick all that apply)

Too muddy
 Fouled by dogs
 Overgrown
 No difficulty
 Other



L16. Would you like to see more Public Footpaths? (see L17 for street pavements)

Yes No Don't know

If YES, please specify from and to where locations:

Yes No

L17. Do you feel safe on the street pavements in Wheatley?

Yes No

L18. Would you like to see any of the following changes? (Tick all that apply)

Higher kerbs	<input type="text" value="219"/>
Dropped kerbs at crossing points	<input type="text" value="526"/>
Traffic lights at crossing points	<input type="text" value="455"/>
More pavements – please identify locations	<input type="text" value="342"/>
None	<input type="text" value="608"/>

L19. Do you agree with the attempts being made to reduce traffic driving through Wheatley?

Yes No Don't know

GENERAL

M1. What do you like about Wheatley? (Tick all that apply)

Facilities	<input type="text" value="1227"/>
People	<input type="text" value="1181"/>
Rural location	<input type="text" value="1526"/>
Near the M40	<input type="text" value="1088"/>
Local employment	<input type="text" value="313"/>
Don't know	<input type="text" value="39"/>
Other	<input type="text" value="100"/>

M2. Are you prepared to help a good neighbour scheme (dog walking, baby sitting, lifts, prescription collection and gardening etc to those in need)? (If YES, how often. Tick all that apply)

Weekly	<input type="text" value="82"/>
Monthly	<input type="text" value="162"/>
A few times a year	<input type="text" value="181"/>
I would like to see such a scheme, but I am unable to offer any time at the moment	<input type="text" value="789"/>
I do not think such a scheme is necessary	<input type="text" value="93"/>
Don't know	<input type="text" value="281"/>

M3. Which of the following describes your contact with other villagers? (Tick one box)

Frequent	<input type="text" value="917"/>
Occasional	<input type="text" value="639"/>
Little contact	<input type="text" value="282"/>

M4. Which of the following describes your contact with your near neighbours? (Tick one box)

We look out for each other and do each other favours

I would like us to look after each other, but they do not

I prefer not to be too involved with neighbours



THE WHEATLEY VILLAGE PLAN



Young Persons Questionnaire June 2003

Wheatley Village includes Littleworth

The objective of the Young Persons questionnaire was that it should be completed for every member of the household aged between 11-16.

Number of Young Persons questionnaires issued	About 325	100%
Number of completed responses	206	About 63%

PERSONAL

1. What is your gender?

Male Female

2. What is your age?

3. Do you live permanently in Wheatley?

Yes No

EDUCATION

4. What do you want to do after you are 16? (Tick one box)

A Levels	<input type="text" value="134"/>
Work while living at home	<input type="text" value="12"/>
Work away from home	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Take up an apprenticeship	<input type="text" value="20"/>
Join company training scheme	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Other	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Don't know	<input type="text" value="31"/>

5. Do you know about the Community Education Centre at Wheatley Park – for extra help with learning?

Yes No

6. Do you have a part-time job?

Yes No

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES

7. Do you use local footpaths or bridleways for any of the following? (Tick all that apply)

Walking	<input type="text" value="163"/>
Walking with a dog	<input type="text" value="61"/>
Jogging	<input type="text" value="25"/>
Cycling	<input type="text" value="106"/>
Horse riding	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Motor biking	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Skateboarding	<input type="text" value="23"/>
None of these	<input type="text" value="12"/>

8. Do you cycle in the village? (Tick one box)

Yes No No bicycle

9. Would you like to see cycle paths created? (Tick all that apply)

Within Wheatley/Littleworth	<input type="text" value="87"/>
From Wheatley to other locations	<input type="text" value="143"/>
None	<input type="text" value="28"/>

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

10. Have you visited the Wheatley Library in the last 6 months? (Tick one box)

Yes No

Weekly	<input type="text" value="14"/>
Monthly	<input type="text" value="35"/>
Rarely	<input type="text" value="67"/>
Never	<input type="text" value="-"/>

11. Why did you visit the Library? (Tick all that apply)

Borrow: Books, CDs, DVDs, Videos, and Audio Books	<input type="text" value="89"/>
Look up Information	<input type="text" value="50"/>
Use the Email, internet, word processing, or photocopying	<input type="text" value="23"/>
Other	<input type="text" value="8"/>

12. Is there anything else you would like from the Library? (See Comments section for responses)

13. Would you use a website for news and information about Wheatley? (Tick one box)

I use the Internet, and yes I would use such a site	<input type="text" value="82"/>
I use the Internet, but I would not use such a site	<input type="text" value="102"/>
I do not have access to the Internet	<input type="text" value="17"/>

14. There are many activities going on in Wheatley – how do you hear/read about them? (Tick all that apply)

Membership bulletins	<input type="text" value="9"/>
Notice boards	<input type="text" value="57"/>
Wheatley newsletter	<input type="text" value="63"/>
From family or friends	<input type="text" value="130"/>
Through school	<input type="text" value="117"/>
Other ways	<input type="text" value="8"/>

15. How often do you read the local newspapers, listen to the local radio or watch local TV? (Enter one number in each box)

1. Regularly
2. Occasionally
3. Never

	1	2	3
Oxford Mail (daily)	31	58	92
Oxford Times (weekly)	10	41	121
Radio Oxford	6	30	136
Fox FM	107	61	30
Channel 6	14	64	98

16. Do you know where to get information on safe sex and the safe use of alcohol?

Yes No

17. Do you think there is enough information available in the village on preventing drug abuse?

Yes No

SPORTS AND LEISURE

18. Do you use the Recreation Grounds: Church Rd, Farm Close Road, Cullum Road?

Yes No

19. Do you use Oxford Brookes campus sports facilities?

Yes No

20. Do you use the Playing Fields at the Primary School (not for school sports)?

Yes No

21. Do you use the Playing Fields at Wheatley Park (not for school sports)?

Yes No

22. Do you think you should be allowed to use the Playing Fields informally?

Yes No

23. Please tick all the **INDOOR** sports you play in your own time (not through school) (Tick all that apply)

Badminton	29
Darts	31
Gymnastics	14
Fitness training	22
Judo	4
Squash	29
Snooker/Pool	99
Table Tennis	27
Basketball	30
Hockey	30
Roller Blading	41
Swimming	119
None	24
Other	33

24. Please tick all the **OUTDOOR** sports you play in your own time (not through school) (Tick all that apply)

Cricket	63
Cycling	128

Football	100
Hockey	41
Rugby	30
Running	67
Tennis	109
Golf	43
Fishing	31
Walking/rambling	72
Skateboarding	31
None	12
Other	24

25. Please tick all the **OTHER** activities you do at home or elsewhere (not through school) (Tick all that apply)

Computing	141
Music	119
Drama	27
Cinema	142
Under 18s Clubs	22
Going to pubs	42
Ballet and dance	29
Hanging out with friends	176
None	2
Other	14

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

26. Do you think there should be more places for young people to hang out together?

Yes No

27. Do you use the Wheatley Youth Centre?

Yes No Not interested

28. Do you know the Youth Centre has projects for film making, massage and lifestyle?

Yes No

29. Do you know the Youth Centre shows new films?

Yes No

30. Would you like the Youth Centre to open more often?

Yes No

31. Would you use the Youth Centre if it opened as a café for young people once per week?

Yes No

32. Are you a member of the Scouts or Guides?

Yes No

33. Are you a member of the Cadet Corps?

Yes No

34. Do you use any other After School Clubs?

Yes No

RELIGIOUS LIFE

35. Do you think there should be a central Sunday School which everybody could go to?

Yes No Not interested

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

36. Do you know how to contact the Parish Council or Councillors at the Merry Bells?

Yes No Not interested

37. Do you think the Parish Council could do things for young people?

Yes No

RETAIL SERVICES

38. Do you use the Wheatley Post Office?

Yes No

39. Do you use a Bank?

Yes No

40. Do you shop regularly in Wheatley? (Tick one box)

Daily	41
Weekly	73
Occasionally	83
Never	7

TRANSPORT

41. Are you often taken in a car or other vehicle? (Tick one box)

Daily	91
Weekly	62
Occasionally	46
Never	5

42. What sort of transport do you normally use on your own? (Tick all that apply)

Motorbike	7
Bicycle	108
Bus	113
Taxi	13
Train	4
Walking	176
None	3

43. What do you use transport for? (Tick all that apply)

After school activities	62
Visiting school friends at home outside Wheatley	145
Shopping in Wheatley	72
Shopping outside Wheatley	110
Social activities in Wheatley	55
Social activities outside Wheatley	97
To get to work	17
To get to school	110
Just walking	64
Other	5

44. Do you have any general comments about your transport?

Yes No

45. What changes in public transport would help you? (Tick all that apply)

Improved local buses	138
Other	32

46. Have you had any problems with buses? (Tick all that apply)

Times of buses in the morning	48
Times of buses in the afternoon	42
No late night buses to/from Oxford	62
Shortage of buses on Sundays	74
Publicity of timetable	57
Cost of travel	61
Too few destinations	29
None	51
Other	23



THE WHEATLEY VILLAGE PLAN

Household Questionnaire June 2003

Wheatley Village
includes
Littleworth

The objective of the household questionnaire was that it should be completed on behalf of all the persons living in the household.

Number of household questionnaires issued	1,744	100%
Number of completed responses	1,134	65%

1. Does your home have any of the following energy saving features?
(Please tick all that apply)

Lagged hot water tank	837
Loft insulation	927
Double glazing	947
Secondary glazing	93
Cavity wall insulation	413
Solar energy panels	7
Low energy light bulbs	461
Draught proofed doors and windows	486
None of these	16

2. Household Waste – Do you re-cycle via one or more of the following?
(Please tick all that apply)

Kerbside:

Paper, cardboard and packaging	957
Plastics	681
Tins	585
None of these	164

Re-cycle Banks :

Glass	775
Shoes	436
Clothing	589
Books	234
None of these	189

3. Compost – do you make compost?
(Please tick all that apply)

Using garden waste	503
Using kitchen waste	350
No	619

4. Do you use the community waste vehicle when it is in Wheatley?
(Please tick all that apply)

For compostable rubbish	196
-------------------------	-----

For other items	428
No	652

5. Do you use the community waste facility at Redbridge?
(Please tick all that apply)

For compostable rubbish	312
For other items	696
No	397

6. Compost – would you be interested in a community composting scheme in Wheatley to re-cycle organic rubbish?

Yes	529
No	278
No opinion	289

7. Refuse Service – do you have any views about the refuse service?

Yes	339	No	751
-----	-----	----	-----

8. Do you experience any problems due to the LOCATION of your home?
(Please tick all that apply)

Parking	226
Noise	225
Traffic	310
Disturbance	99
Eyesores	84
Smell	62
No problems	486
Other, please specify	134

9. Would you be interested in a local nappy laundering service?

Yes	24
No	375
Not applicable	711

10. What do you usually do for the following household maintenance services?

1. Employ someone from Wheatley
2. Employ someone from elsewhere
3. Done by household member
4. Never arisen

	1	2	3	4
Plumbing	501	249	220	71
Electrical	402	275	240	105
Joinery	258	151	286	248
Building	311	238	163	255
Painting and decorating	204	130	614	70
Chimney sweeping	42	179	74	547
Housework	82	48	734	109
Gardening	95	57	729	119

11. Do you have the following delivered to your house?

(Please tick all that apply)

Milk and dairy products	169
Newspapers (not free papers)	118
Groceries ordered by phone	22
Groceries ordered on the Web	92
Nothing	773

12. Where do you do most of your household shopping?

(Please tick one box)

Wheatley centre shops	85
ASDA Wheatley	803
Elsewhere	281

13. Please indicate why you do your main shopping there?

(Please tick all that apply)

Goods are better quality	311
Goods are cheaper	627
Better variety	568
Transport problems	51
For a day out/social contact	27
To support local shops	145
Convenience	769
Good parking	632
Other. Please specify	83

14. Why does your family live in Wheatley?

(Please tick all that apply)

Always lived here	238
To be near relatives	190
Job location	428
Availability of suitable housing	336
Village community	336
Schools	258
Retirement	152
Other	114

15. Is your WHOLE household looking for alternative accommodation?

Yes	137
No (If No, omit questions 16 and 17)	975

If Yes, where? (Please tick one box)

Within Wheatley	45
Within 10 miles of Wheatley	31
Oxford City	7
Elsewhere in Oxfordshire	22
Closer to London	4
Elsewhere in UK	19
Abroad	9
Location not important	6

16. What is the MAIN reason for wanting to move?

Changing jobs	11
To improve journey to work	7
Children's education	7
To live near family	15
To live in a town or city	4
To live in another rural community	12
To live in a newer house	6
To live in an older house	4
To live in a smaller house	14
To live in a larger house	44
Other reasons	43

17. What problems are you experiencing with your move?

(Please tick all that apply)

Price	51
Lack of suitable properties to buy	48
Lack of Housing Assoc. properties	22
Lack of private rented property	2
Cannot sell current house	6
Lack of sheltered housing	2
None	41
Other. Please specify	9

**DISTRIBUTION OF POSTCODES &
NUMBERS OF RESPONSES**

Postcode	No	H =Holton, FH = Forest Hill
OX331DP	10	Morland Close
OX331FN	1	Cromwell Place H
OX331HU	10	Gardiner Close
OX331HY	43	Ladder Hill 66-84 evens
OX331JQ	2	Castle Hill Farm
OX331LT	2	Friday Lane
OX331LU	19	Church Road
OX331LZ	38	Church Road
OX331NA	1	Church Road
OX331NB	13	Church Road
OX331ND	3	Park Hill 1 45
OX331NE	16	Park Hill 7-33
OX331NG	14	Westfield Road
OX331NH	2	Holloway Road
OX331NJ	6	Blenheim Lane
OX331NL	31	Barlow Close
OX331NQ	8	Kiln Lane
OX331NS	39	Keydale Road
OX331NT	35	Kellys Road
OX331NU	27	Old Road 1-45
OX331NW	65	Littleworth Road
OX331NX	17	Old Road 47-121
OX331NZ	44	Acremead Road
OX331PA	62	Templars Close
OX331PB	4	Bethrapa
OX331QE	34	Fairfax Gate H
OX331QN	2	Shotover Park FH
OX331QP	2	Shotover Park FH
OX331QT	2	Shotover Park FH
OX331QU	1	Shotover Park FH
OX331QW	2	Shotover Park
OX331SF	18	Kimber Close
OX331SH	11	Beeching Way
OX331SL	27	Kelham Hall Drive odds
OX331SR	4	Hathaways
OX331SS	33	Howe Close
OX331ST	4	Station Road
OX331SU	15	Simon Close
OX331SX	35	Ladder Hill 21-53,14-40
OX331SY	1	Ladder Hill 42-46 evens
OX331SZ	1	Windmill Lane
OX331TA	36	Windmill Lane
OX331TB	2	Windmill Lane
OX331TP	9	Littleworth
OX331UG	12	Farm Close Lane
OX331TR	60	Littleworth
OX331TS	29	Littleworth Park
OX331TT	28	Littleworth Park
OX331TU	11	Littleworth Park

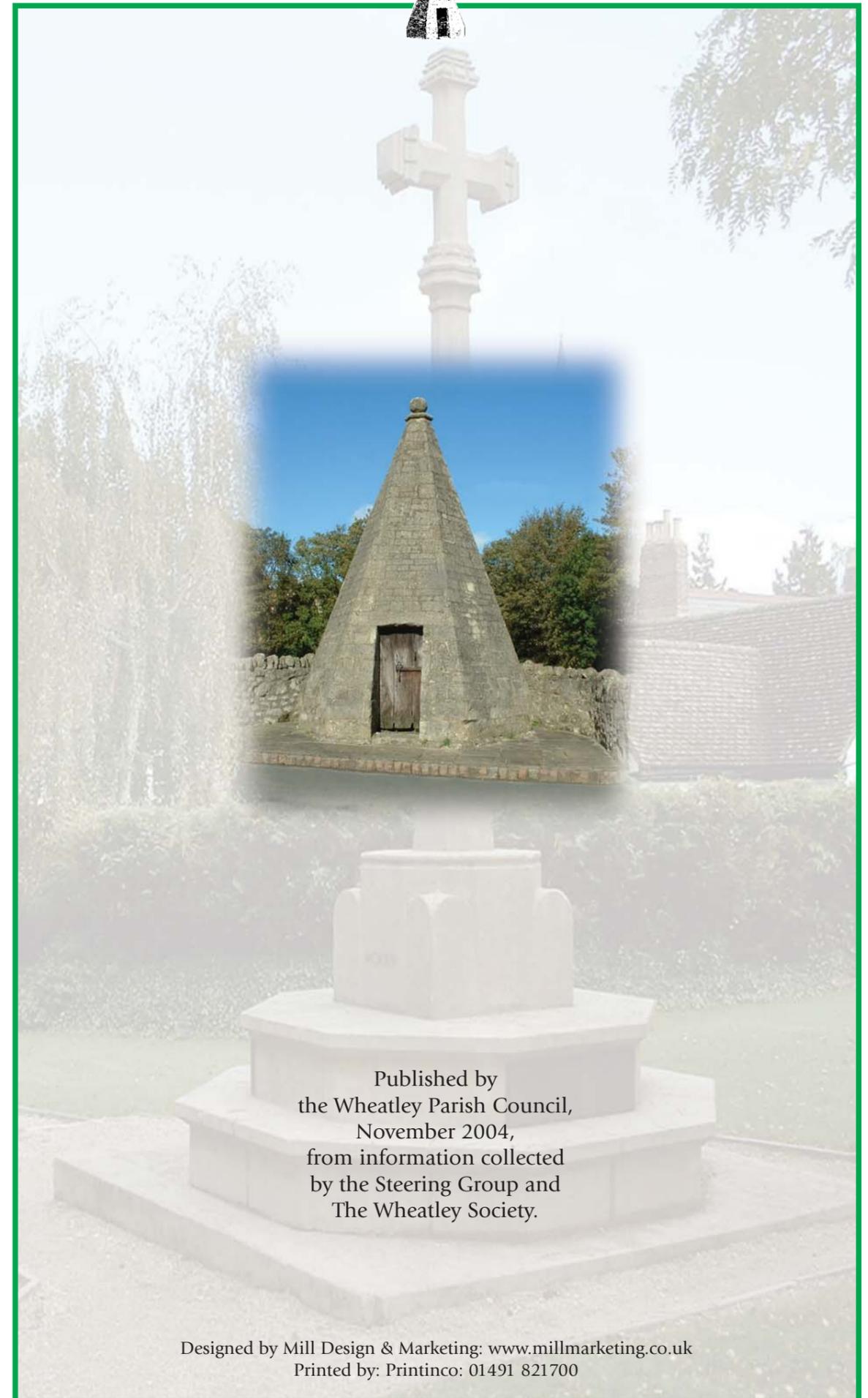
Postcode	No	H = Holton, FH = Forest Hill
OX331UA	35	Coopers Close
OX331UB	6	Wren Close
OX331UD	2	Beech Road -part
OX331UE	4	High Street
OX331UF	8	Crown Square
OX331UG	12	Farm Close Lane
OX331UH	13	Crown Road
OX331UJ	16	Crown Road
OX331UL	33	Crown Road
OX331UN	19	Jackie's Lane
OX331UP	30	Beech Road 1-27
OX331UQ	60	Beech Road
OX331UR	42	Beech Road
OX331US	11	Orchard Close
OX331UT	17	Mulberry Drive
OX331UU	15	Roman Road
OX331UW	14	Elm Close
OX331UX	27	Roman Road
OX331UY	23	Hillary Way
OX331UZ	63	Elton Crescent
OX331XA	13	Roman Road
OX331XB	13	Miller Road
OX331XD	9	Cullum Road
OX331XE	12	Cullum House
OX331XF	10	Leyshon Road
OX331XH	11	Windows Court
OX331XJ	35	Farm Close Road
OX331XP	26	High Street
OX331XT	12	High Street
OX331XX	56	High Street
OX331XY	19	Bell Lane
OX331YA	16	London Road 18-66
OX331YB	37	Kelham Hall Drive evens
OX331YD	13	Anson Close
OX331YE	13	Ambrose Rise
OX331YF	20	Ambrose Rise
OX331YG	27	Ambrose Rise
OX331YH	6	London Road 102-120
OX331YJ	31	London Road 1-57 odds
OX331YL	10	The Avenue
OX331YN	5	The Glebe
OX331YP	28	St Mary's Close
OX331YQ	9	London Road 68-100
OX331YS	6	Sunnyside
OX331YT	11	The Triangle
OX331YW	33	Old London Road
OX331YX	1	Biscoe Court H
OX331YY	6	Tyndale Place H
(BLANK)	81	No postcodes given
TOTAL	1898	



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Wendy	Bailey	Liz	Fever	Paul	Norley	Jeremy	Tremaine
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Sybil	Beaton	Graeme	Freeman	Bev	Paton	Mark	Walker
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Gwendolen	Birks	Maureen	Grant	Sarah	Pigneguy	Tony	Wiggley
Mary	Blake	Clive	Hallett	Ann	Pigott	Ann	Wild
Percy	Blake	John	Hamer	John	Pigott	Dan	Wilkinson
Jane	Brandon	Brenda	Hand	Susan	Prest	Tony	Willis
Chantal	Brierley	Ann	Hardiman	Bev	Price	Jackie	Wilson
Stephanie	Brooklyn	Pat	Hartridge	Linda	Price	John	Wilson
Ian	Brown	David	Harverson	Penny	Ray	Jenny	Woods
Richard	Brown	Pam	Harverson	Roland	Read	Gill	Woodward
Ann	Buckingham	Trude	Hickey	John	Reay	Geoff	Woolf
Pat	Bunnis	Pam	Hills	Pam	Reay	Betty	Yates
Ray	Bushnell	Catherine	Hughes	Janet	Redfern	Nicholas	Young
A	Caldicott	Bill	Jackson	Jean	Ring		
Mark	Carlton	Kevin	Jackson	Margaret	Rosenthal		
Janet	Carr	R	Jackson	Bernice	Rye		
Judy	Charlton	Jerry	Jakeman	Chris	Sewell		
Mick	Charlton	Barbara	Joiner	Kate	Sewell		
Jane	Charman	Kathy	Keene	Pam	Simmonds		
Emma	Cherry	David	Kempson	S	Simmons		
Mike	Collyer	Val	Kendall	Julia	Slade		
Sally	Cook	Veronica	Lancashire	Rachel	Slade		
Jane	Cotton	Sally	Lessiter	Myrtle	Slatter		
Des	Coveley	Bob	Lowrie	Sue	Smith		
Linda	Currie	P	Luckett	John	Snell		
Danni	Czackes	David	Mancey	Sheila	Snell		
Caroline	Dalton	Geoff	Marshall	Carol	Sprent		
James	Dalton	Paul	McCloughlin	Mervyn	Stanley		
Marian	Darkin	Betty	Morris	Maureen	Stayte		
Roy	Davies	Pat	Mulcahy-Morgan	Chris	Stocker		
Olive	Drake			Clive	Stone		
Freda	Duckmanton	Roger	Mumby-Croft	Peter	Targett		
Paul	Edson	Kathy	Neary	Kucy	Thomas		
Iris	Ellis	Ann	Newman	Lesley	Thomas		
Dan	Evenhuis	Cyril	Newton	Martin	Tims		
Danni	Evenhuis	Jennifer	Newton	Ros	Tims		
Jill	Ewbank	Mary	Nixey	Phyllis	Tolley		

With apologies to any individuals missed from this list.



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