

CHINNOR PARISH PLAN

“Our Village - our Future”

August 2005

This Plan is the summary of the result of many hours of voluntary work based on the information drawn from the the Community of Chinnor, Chinnor Hill, Emmington and Henton. This was acquired through personal contact with the Residents and various Clubs and Societies, through the two day Open Forum and the resulting Questionnaire, and through the subsequent Draft presentations.

Copies of this Plan will be delivered to each household in the Village, to the Parish, District, and County Councils, the Thames Valley Police, our Member of Par-

liament, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and to other interested parties. It will also be available for download from

www.chinnorparishplan.org

The aim of this plan is to provide the Parish Council and the Community with a framework to help guide them for the

next ten to fifteen years, the content being based on the feelings and expectations of the inhabitants. There are of course many and varied opinions to be



had throughout the Villages, but we have tried to capture the main points raised by the people of Chinnor in a manageable and feasible way.

Where we have indicated which organisation should be involved, this should not be seen in any way as an exclusive statement. Any person or any organisation who can see a way of involving themselves in this plan, or who can suggest different contacts, are strongly encouraged to do so by contacting the Parish Council or the Parish Plan Steering Committee.



Potted History of Chinnor

Chinnor lies at the foot of the Chiltern escarpment along which runs the Ridgeway Path, in continuous use since the Stone Age. The Village name is derived from the Anglo Saxon name “Ceonna”

and has been an agricultural centre since pre-history.

As with all the communities along the escarpment, Chinnor has used the good chalky loam soil for arable farming with some grazing on the hillsides. Cattle rearing and milk production grew during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and by then several thriving home industries existed in the Village. There were

Contents

About the Plan
Potted History
page 1

Village Perception
Housing and Planning
page 2

Policing
Youth Activities
Village Hall
page 3

Sports Facilities
Refuse and Recycling
Phoenix Trail Link
page 4

Railway
Parking
Local Employment
page 5

four schools teaching lacemaking in the early nineteenth century and in 1851 Chinnor



boasted two hundred and sixty-eight home lace makers (including children) and held a fortnightly 'lace feast'.

The local beech woods provided material for chair leg turning and again in 1851, forty-three men engaged in turning had their wares taken to High Wycombe by horse and cart. There were also itinerant chair leg makers known as

'Bodgers' who camped during the summer in the woods on Chinnor Hill. Bodgers and Turners are among the many local family names to this day. Cherry and pear orchards, and growing good straw for the hatmakers of Luton, were other small industries which thrived at the time.

Timber works, and the Chinnor Cement and Lime Company were added to the list in the early 1900's, but they too are now defunct.

The Community moved slowly along until the early 1960's when a burst of, some say, disorganised development occurred bringing an upsurge of the population from around 1200 souls to the present total without a proper infrastructure to support the numbers. Conse-

quently from a figure of approximately 33% of the working population having work in the village in 1965, we now have 92% working outside the village. How Chinnor develops in the future is very much in the hands

Population	
Under 15	16%
Ages 16 to 20	6.3%
Ages 21 to 30	9.2%
Ages 31 to 40	13.4%
Ages 41 to 50	15.4%
Ages 51 to 65	23.1%
Ages 65 to 75	10.2%
76 or over	6.3%

of the planners, however we hope and trust that this Plan will help them in their task and make them aware of what is important in the lives of those who live in the Community.

THE VILLAGE PERCEPTION

The majority feeling is that the reason for living in Chinnor and

Population	
Households	2196
Residents	5857
Figure based on 2001 Census	

the requirement for the future is the friendly Village character with easy access to the Coun-

tryside and convenient major roads. Keeping this character with increased households and no extra infrastructure will be extremely difficult. Planning gain from the Cement Works site development will play an important part in this.

Action

The Parish and District Councils must extract the best gain

possible from any further development in the Parish.



HOUSING AND PLANNING

There is strong support within the Community for affordable housing, however any development should be confined within the present boundaries.

The Cement Works development should go ahead, however the intervening fields between the Works and the Village should not be developed. The Cement Works development should include Housing, Business Units, and Amenities for the whole Village. Taken from the Questionnaire results, these Amenities should include, by

order of importance, Leisure/Sports facilities, a Swimming Pool, shops, Medical Facilities, Educational Amenities and a Community Hall. In particular the possibility of a new Village Hall must be included.

Housing and Planning	
97%	wanted green areas maintained
72%	wanted future development kept within present boundary
67%	wanted more affordable housing
73%	want the cement works development to include leisure/sports facilities

Action

The Parish and District Councils must ensure that the details of the South Oxfordshire District Council planning recommendations for the Cement Works site, including comments on infrastructure and access, are carried through. The Parish Council and this Committee should be included in every facet of the development of this and any other site within the Parish.

Timescale

Ongoing.

POLICING

It is apparent from the results of the Questionnaire that the vast majority of the Residents are not happy with the standard of Policing within the Village. It was felt that there was not enough Police provision, that there should be a Police Station in the Village, action on Speeding was required, Police families should live in the Police Houses, and that the Village should have Community Wardens. These

points have been discussed with the previous and present Officer responsible for Chinnor.

Policing in the Village

92% wanted a regular Police presence in the Village

78% think we need a Police station

61% wanted more action on speeding

It is noted that the Chinnor Community Safety Group meets and reports on a bi-monthly basis and that a shared cost Police

Community Support Officer is to be instigated.

Action

Parish Council to treat this as an ongoing priority. Thames Valley Police are requested to advise on future plans and to show an updated success rate on reported crimes.

Timescale

Ongoing.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

There is a distinct lack of opportunities for activities for our youth. Much is done for the

organiser with a structured programme, together with a Youth Club. There is also a requirement for the provision of a Skate Park.

Action

Parish Council to actively pursue the appointment of a Youth Activities Organiser with assistance from the County Council, and to ac-

tively support and encourage youth activities throughout the Parish. The Community should help and support the Parish Council in this role, and the Ox-

Youth Activities

63% would like a youth activity programme

54% would like a youth employment committee to be set up

54% would like to see a youth activity organiser employed by the Village

fordshire Association of Young People should be invited to assist.

The previous planning for a Skate Park to be brought up to date and planning started for the proposed site. The Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association, who has already been of great assistance, should be consulted.

Timescale

Within two months.



young and very young, and for the mature citizens, but our youth, unless they play organised sports, are left out. There is a need for a Youth Activities Or-

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall was built in 1939 for a population in a Parish of some 1200 souls. The present

Village Hall

75% thought that the Village hall is about the right size

55% thought that the Village hall should be refurbished

When looking at a larger hall being built 77% would like to see a new sports/leisure facility

structure is too small, inflexible, needs more maintenance than a modern construction, and has

insufficient parking space. Although user charges have been increased over the years to an apparent maximum, there is insufficient income to cover annual expenditure. The Hall has no income other than user charges and a modest annual grant from the Parish Council.

Action

It is recommended that the Parish Council assist the Village Hall Management Committee in a detailed feasibility study as to how to attract more users, and how to upgrade the present



Hall in terms of work and expenditure.

Timescale

Discussion to commence within two months. Feasibility study to be done within six months.

SPORTS FACILITIES

There is no major indoor Sports Facility within the Community, neither do the present open-air sports fields satisfy the six-acre standard recommended by the National Playing Fields Association (a minimum of 6 acres per thousand head of population).

Green Spaces	
Recommended	36 acres
Actual	21 acres

Action

It is recommended that the Parish Council take this up with the South Oxfordshire District Council in their recommended Plan-

ning Brief for the CEMEX (ex - Rugby Cement) Cement Works site. They should also re-examine other alternative sites for both indoor and outdoor facilities since it has to be recognised that further development of the White's Field complex would further reduce the badly needed playing area.



Timescale

Parish Council to discuss this with SODC at the earliest opportunity.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING

There is a majority support for "Wheelie Bins" although some

Refuse and Recycling	
56% are in favour of wheelie bins (21% against)	
47% are in favour of more frequent bin emptying (11% against)	
64% are in favour of improved recycling facilities (8% against)	

concern was expressed regarding the storage of the bins and the difficulties in many houses of making them available for kerbside collection. There was also

majority support for better recycling facilities. The South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) Cabinet is presently considering a report on how it can achieve its set targets on refuse and recycling.

Action

Parish Council to continue dialogue with SODC re proposed changes in refuse/recyclable collection. In the meantime, Chinnor and Thame Friends of the Earth are very keen to investigate the setting up of a Community Action Group to improve

our own local recycling systems.



(www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk)

Timescale

Awaiting SODC Cabinet decisions on recycling.

PHOENIX TRAIL LINK

There is a need to link Chinnor with the Princes Risborough and



Thame section of the Phoenix Cycle Trail. This would entail persuading local landowners to al-

low a cycle path to be laid as necessary.

Action

The Parish Council should consider forming and sponsoring a Group together with the Chinnor Cycling and Walking Group, the Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum of the County Council, the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum, and local landowners to push ahead with a viable scheme. Any proposal must avoid 'urbanising' the Countryside, and must include

positive ways of preventing misuse by motor vehicles.

Timescale

Committee to be set up within two months and a link to be made as soon as possible

Phoenix Trail	
71% felt there should be a link from Chinnor (3% against)	

RAILWAY LINK

Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway Association (C&PRRA) have reached agreement with Network Rail allowing completion of the rail link to Princes Risborough Station. Provided there is sufficient support, a weekday rail link could then be offered.

This link could alleviate some of the through traffic problems for the Village, although it would increase the parking problem. C&PRRA have agreement for an extension at the Station car park to accommodate 80 vehicles.



Timescale

C&PRRA estimate two years for the link to be viable. Market research would be undertaken nearer that time.

Railway Link
72% agreed that there should be a link from Chinnor

Action

Parish Council to monitor the proceedings and assist C&PRRA in their efforts.

PARKING

There is insufficient parking space in the Village. All the lo-

cal through roads are based on the old horse and cart roads of the 18th and 19th centuries and are not wide enough for two way traffic and roadside parking simultaneously. This is exacerbated by the fact that many of the older houses, particularly on the main roads, do not have off road parking.

Parking
71% felt that there should be more off road parking within the Village

Action

All Councils to continue to investigate all ways of alleviating the problem.

Timescale

Ongoing.



LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

A large majority of the Residents polled saw a need for more local employment.

wherever possible. Special attention must be given to any new developments that can boost our local economy.



Action

All Councils and Residents should encourage local businesses to employ local people

Timescale

Ongoing.

This completes the Plan which could not have been accomplished without the financial and/or moral support of the following organisations:-



The Chinnor Parish Council

All statistics were obtained from the Community wide questionnaire. The original unprocessed data is available for viewing in the Chinnor Library.

PRE-INCLOSURE MAP OF CHINNOR

