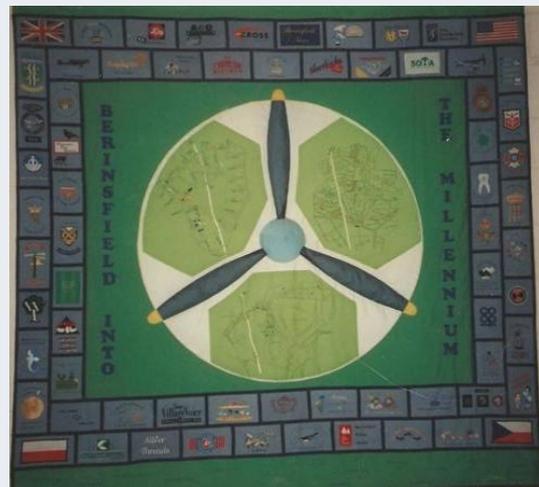
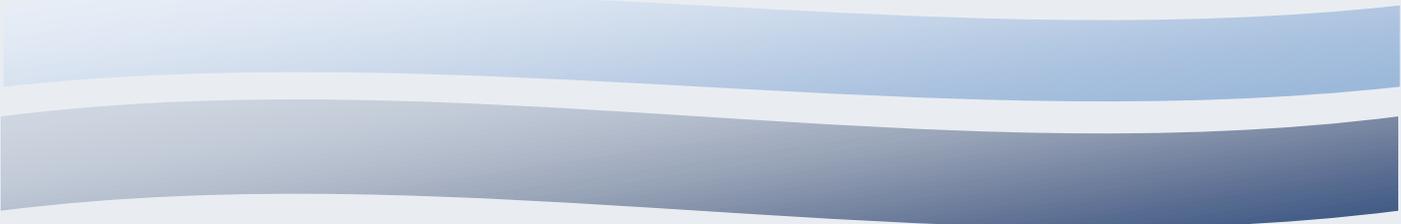


# Berinsfield Community Led Plan



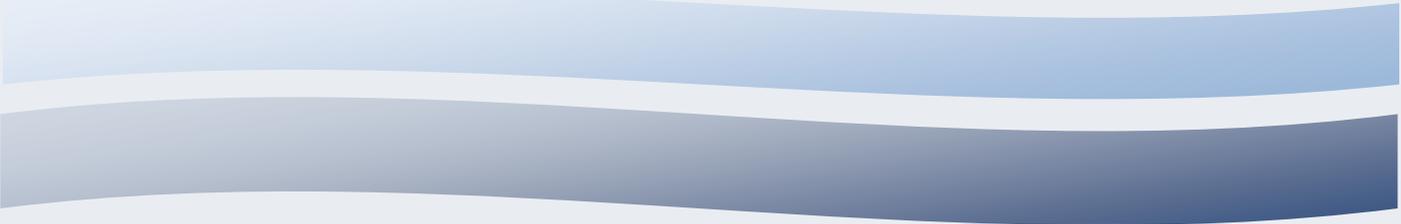
2013

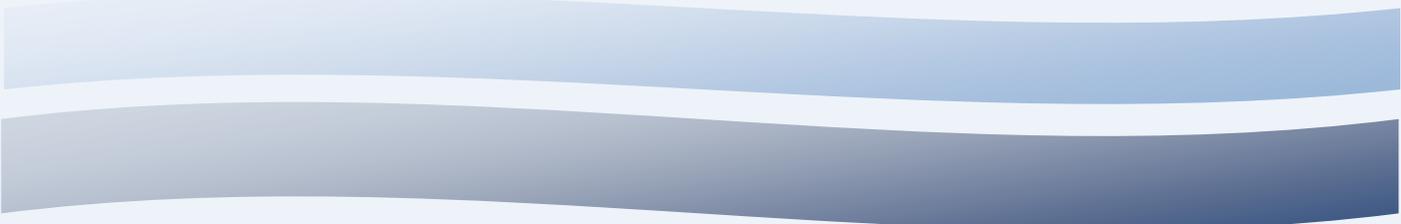


# **Berinsfield Community Led Plan**

## **Contents**

<b>1. A Community Led Plan for Berinsfield</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>2. History of Berinsfield</b>	<b>Page 4 &amp; 5</b>
<b>3. Consultation process</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>4. Photos of consultation and events</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>5. Berinsfield Action Plan</b>	<b>Page 8 &amp; 9</b>
<b>6. Action Plan Table</b>	<b>Page 10 &amp; 11</b>
<b>7. Conclusion</b>	<b>Page 12</b>





# A Community Led Plan for Berinsfield

In 2010 the **Berinsfield Advisory Group (BAG)** was formed, to develop a Community Led Plan. A Community Led Plan sets out a **VISION** of how your community wants to develop, and identifies the **ACTIONS** needed to achieve it.

Community Led Plans are produced by communities, for communities. They are based on detailed consultation which involve the whole community. Community Led Plans prompt local action and influence others such as local councils.

This publication explains how the Plan builds upon the history of Berinsfield (pages 4-5) and will improve the village even further to meet the needs of the existing residents and their families. It draws upon the recommendations from the 2009 Parish Plan.

A Community Led Plan gives everyone the chance to say what they think about the issues affecting their community and how they would like it to develop. It celebrates the good things, highlights local needs and contains a detailed Action Plan to help the community meet those needs. A survey with the community was originally undertaken in 2009. Results were fed into the Parish Plan and recommendations were made.

Berinsfield has been given support from the Community Places Project to build on existing work to facilitate Community Led Planning (CLP). The Community Places Project was funded by South Oxfordshire Partnership and Vale Partnership. The partnerships secured external funding from Progress through Partnership in 2010. This enabled them to employ a part time project worker managed by Soha Housing to support Berinsfield to develop their Community Led Plan. The Community Places Project worker has assisted with gathering the consultation together and mapping the actions needed. Included in this document is a list of the themes that emerged from the consultation that are now the basis of the Community Led plan.

**Berinsfield Advisory Group (BAG)** used the nationally recognised 'Parish and Community Planning Toolkit **'9 step process'**, supported by ORCC to create the **Community Led Plan (CLP)**. The steps suggest that communities should:

1. Get people interested
2. Set up a group to lead the process that represents your community (BAG)
3. Work out what you will do over the next 12-18 months
4. Use fun and exciting ways to involve people and collect their ideas
5. Form groups to develop actions
6. Share your first draft with the community and others
7. Celebrate publishing your plan
8. Use your plan to influence others and take action
9. Regularly review, update and feed back

# History of Berinsfield

People have lived on the site of Berinsfield since prehistoric times, but the modern village has its origins in RAF Mount Farm, the Second World War airfield used by the United state Air Force 7th Reconnaissance Group, between 1943 and 1945.



Arthur S Waldron with his ground crew at Mount Farm.

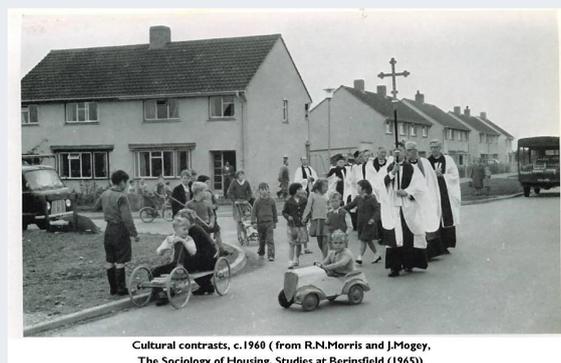


After the war, a squatter settlement took over the abandoned huts and families were also placed as a 'temporary' measure on what became known as the Field Farm Estate by local housing authorities. By the late 1940s, some 150-200 families were living there in small, damp and sub-standard huts. Field Farm became notorious for its appalling living conditions.

In 1956, Bullingdon Rural District Council decided to buy the land and rehouse the residents. In designing the new village for a mix of tenants and owners, the council sought advice from the notable town planner, Sir William Holford and building began in 1957.

The first residents moved into their smart new homes in 1958. GH Pannell, manager of the village store and District Councillor, had to agree with the criticism about the 'sameness' of the houses but promised to change the colour scheme; he had understood that the houses were going to be painted three different colours and the builders told him they had been—white, off white and pale grey! There were complaints too about the poor bus service and the lack of facilities, but the population grew to nearly 1,000 by 1966 and is now estimated at 3101 (2011 census)

The name Berinsfield recalls St Birinus who brought Christianity to the area in 7th Century. Amongst other names considered at the time were Vincent Cherril, Wimblestraw and Clanwell.



Cultural contrasts, c.1960 (from R.N.Morris and J.Mogey, The Sociology of Housing, Studies at Berinsfield (1965))

Over the years a collection of houses has gradually been transformed into a real community with a primary school, a Church, shops, and pub.

Berinsfield now has almost everything a community could want, including a library, day centre, health centre, community education centre, youth centre, sports centre (with an indoor swimming pool), children's centre plus clubs and societies.

In 2001/2 Soha Housing redeveloped an area of housing in Berinsfield. Prior to the work, Soha Housing visited residents' homes to ask what they would like to see in the future and answer any questions they may have. These views helped form proposals and resulted in the £3 million redevelopment of Evenlode Drive and Cherwell Road and environmental improvements elsewhere in the village.



In 2002 the **Berinsfield Community Business (BCB)** was set up. BCB provided intensive local housing, cleaning and grounds maintenance services to the village. It was set up with Housing Corporation Innovation and Good Practice funding. The Community Business aims to provide capacity-building, sustainable jobs, training and local business opportunities to complement the physical regeneration of the area. BCB directly manages Soha Housing's 320 homes in Berinsfield, but all village residents can get help and advice.





# Consultation Process

The recommendations from the Plan produced in 2009 were used to form the basis of the Community Led Plan.

In 2010/2011 a series of public meetings were held on the themes of housing, leisure and facilities and meeting spaces. The meetings were well attended by local PCSOs, Parish Councillors, local voluntary groups, residents and other stakeholders. The purpose of these events was to achieve a common understanding of the issues that mattered to the Berinsfield community and what might be done to improve the locality. The aim was to use these consultation events to create our first Community Led Plan.

The 3 formal meetings, held over a period of months were well attended and consultation took the form of a series of discussions and presentations followed by exercises to gauge community views. Attendees marked up maps, wrote comments on flip charts and voiced ideas and suggestions. The groups that met identified the areas on which they wanted to focus under the headings of environment, shops, repairs to paths and roads, traffic and parking, facilities, police, anti-social behaviour and housing. These issues were used to form the basis of a survey in May 2011. Berinsfield Advisory Group members surveyed residents over two days and the results were consolidated with previous consultation. Results were tested back with the community in the Jubilee celebration event on the Church green in the May 2012.

In August 2012 Berinsfield Advisory Group consulted with groups of older people at the Day Centre and younger people attending the youth club, to ensure that their views were included in the Action Plan.

**The Community Led Plan Action Plan (page 8 onwards) has been drafted using the feedback from all previous consultation sessions and surveys.**

BAG also recognises and thanks the other agencies which contributed to the development of the plan, they include:

- Berinsfield Parish Council
- Berinsfield Children's Centre
- Berinsfield Information Voluntary Centre (BIVC)
- Berinsfield Community Business (BCB)
- Berinsfield Community Association (BCA)
- South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC)
- Employment Action Group (EAG)
- Soha Housing
- Berinsfield Community Primary School

Right — May 12

Residents were asked about the location of key issues within the village. A map was available at the Jubilee Celebration Day, for people to use flags to mark the spot!



Left — May 12

Ken Hall, Chair of Berinsfield Parish Council, enjoying the sunshine after giving out Jubilee Medals at the Celebration Day.

Right — June 12

The 'Winning' litter pick team!

At the Jubilee Celebration consultation, litter was identified as an issue. Young people, children & their parents turned out on a windy June day, to help keep their community tidy.



Left—Berinsfield S.T.A.R.S. Team with PCSOs Beks and Sarah and Wendy Jennings of Oxfordshire Road Safety Team.



## **Berinsfield – *Issues into action!***

**This Community Led Plan is the result of a great many ideas, suggestions and conversations in Berinsfield village. The Action Plan on pages 10 and 11 will be monitored by the Parish Council and progress shared with village residents through the Village Voice and the Parish Council website. The result should be that residents see improvement in village life and that residents are more involved in the services they receive.**

**1. Communication** — Good communication is key to the life of a village.

The Community Places Project Worker and Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre developed a communication plan for agencies working in the village to help share information.

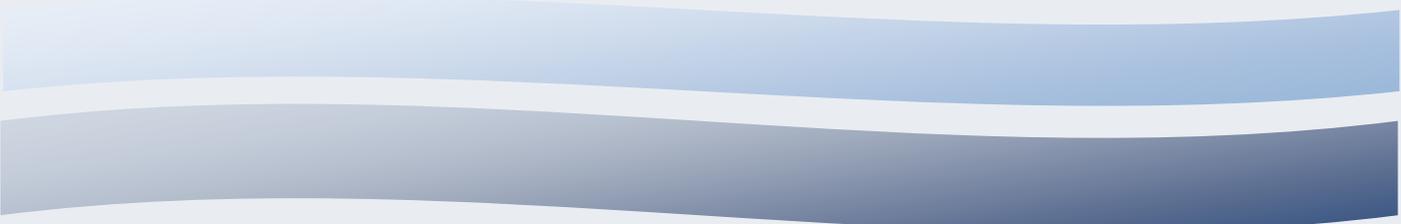
The Parish Council and other agencies are working together to ensure that residents are aware of what is happening where they live. In turn this will enable residents to become more involved and participate in activities in the village. This was identified as a recommendation in the 2009 plan and has been carried forward by the Berinsfield Advisory Group. Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre have agreed to coordinate.

**2. Housing Options** —The consultation process originally included questions related to housing in Berinsfield. Although it is expected that further homes will be built in the locality, the detail is not yet known. Any decisions made with regard to housing would need to be in line with the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy is a key document within the local Development Framework. It is the District Council's plan for the future. The Core Strategy will influence planning decisions and will shape the development of the area and beyond. Berinsfield Advisory Group decided that it would not undertake any further consultation until there was more information available to give residents. Berinsfield Parish Council will give updates through their website and the Village Voice Newsletter.

**3. Transport Working Group** — Since being identified in the earlier consultation, the Parish Council has been liaising with Oxfordshire County Council to find solutions to address transport issues raised by residents during consultation. The main concern is crossing the A4074 to get to bus stops. Already in place are the cycle sheds for the school; Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have visited the school and cycle proficiency tests were given.

Berinsfield C.P School has developed a School Travel and Road Safety scheme. (S.T.A.R.S.), a project that set up to educate drivers not to park their vehicles on the zigzag lines and the “keep clear” markings outside the school. The young people received help from the County Council Road Safety Team and the PCSOs. The S.T.A.R.S. team made banners and posters and held a demonstration outside the school to let people know about the scheme. They also emailed Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department to ask if they would re-paint the zigzag lines and “keep clear” markings as they are starting to fade.



**Investigate a Credit Union** — A Credit Union is a financial co-operative which offers convenient savings and low interest loans to its members. The three main aims of a Credit Union are to encourage its members to save regularly, to provide loans to members at very low rates and to provide members with help and support to manage their financial affairs (if required).

When this action was originally a recommendation from consultation in 2009, the Credit Union was explored by the Parish Council. More recently the Oxford Credit Union has extended their common bond and are planning to run a pilot collection point at Soha's offices in Didcot, accessible to Berinsfield residents.

**Businesses/commercial development** — Previous consultation had confirmed that businesses on the whole do not require any assistance, but would not be excluded from any further initiatives or consultation. The Employment Action Group (EAG) has established a pilot project within one particular Berinsfield business (recruitment and training needs) with a view to extending this. The aim is to work with young people from Berinsfield to improve employability and raise aspirations.

**Unattractive areas** — During the Berinsfield Advisory Group (BAG) consultations several areas were identified as needing improvement. Residents felt there was a problem with litter. The Parish Council is liaising with relevant agencies and the Berinsfield Advisory Group organised a litter pick with local children. The Parish Council have responded to residents' concerns regarding dog mess and are monitoring the improvement. This is noted in the minutes of the Parish Council meetings published on the Parish Council website and in the Village Voice.

**Recycling and domestic waste** — Agencies will explore how to develop one new recycling initiative. This may involve improving an existing initiative such as the furniture recycling project or developing a new environmentally friendly initiative.

**Sharing resources** — In 2011 the Church Hall was used for a public meeting which was attended by local residents groups and agencies. The meeting was used to identify resources within Berinsfield, such as buildings, training, photocopiers and computers. The Parish Council are working with Oxfordshire County Council to make a decision on buildings in Berinsfield before this action can be fully implemented.

**Including young people in decision-making** — The Campus Youth Club consulted with young people on a variety of subjects, including what they would like to see available to them at the Club. The young people are identifying a minimum of two representatives to go to relevant Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council has welcomed this and look forward to meeting the young people.



# Berinsfield Action Plan

Priority key:

H — High    M — Medium    L— Low

Recommendation	Action required	Outcome expected	Owner	Priority	Complete
<b>Communication plan is established to advertise amenities, services and activities and encourage participation (2009 consultation)</b>	Work with other organisations to agree key issues and communication vehicles i.e. newsletters and websites to let people know what is available in the village.	Develop a communication action plan so that more people are aware of the services and initiatives being developed in the village and can become involved and participate fully in village life.	BIVC/ CPPW	<b>H</b>	April 13
<b>Housing options to be explored taking into account infrastructure, environmental and transport issues. (2009 consultation)</b>	Identify key elements of local plan that matter most to Berinsfield community.  A further phase 2 consultation with residents explores issues in more depth.	Community agrees key priorities and gives steer to elected members.  The Parish Council have not yet come to a decision with regard to engaging in Neighbourhood Planning.	PC	<b>H</b>	Ongoing
<b>Transport working group is established to address road safety and a travel plan to and from the school. (2009 consultation)</b>	Tackle issues related to the danger of crossing the A4074 to get to the bus stops.  Berinsfield C.P. School have set up a School Travel and Road Safety Scheme (S.T.A.R.S).	Improved road safety for the village.  Educate drivers not to park their vehicles on the 'zig zag' lines and keep clear markings outside Berinsfield C.P. School.	PC  BS	<b>M</b>	April 2014
<b>Investigate Credit Union (2009 consultation)</b>	Soha and the Oxford Credit Union are planning to run a pilot collection point from Soha offices in Didcot. This will also be open to Berinsfield Residents.	Berinsfield residents are able to have access to Credit Union.	Soha	<b>M</b>	
<b>Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (2009 consultation)</b>	Liaise with Police and NW on concerns raised in plan and identify clear actions. Police already supporting NW.	Phase 2 consultation achieves promotion of NW.	NW TVP	<b>M</b>	

Recommendation	Action required	Outcome expected	Owner	Priority	Complete
<b>Survey for businesses/ commercial development (2009 consultation)</b>	Business consultation (phase 2). EAG Pilot Project. Working alongside one particular Berinsfield business EAG will identify their recruitment and training needs as pilot project. Work with young people from Berinsfield to raise employment skills and aspirations.	Wider awareness and business consultation results.  Feedback is given to Parish Council on the views of businesses in the area.	EAG BIVC	<b>L</b>	Complete
<b>Unattractive areas (BAG Consultation)</b>	Work with Parish Council, BCB and Soha to identify areas and resolutions.  Litter pick complete. Parish Council promoting responsible dog ownership.	The local environment is improved .	PC OCC SODC Soha BCB	<b>H</b>	Ongoing
<b>Recycling and domestic waste (BAG consultation)</b>	Agencies will explore how to develop one new recycling initiative. This may involve improving an existing initiative such as the furniture recycling project or developing a new environmentally friendly initiative.	Local environment is improved.	SODC OCC	<b>L</b>	Not yet started
<b>Sharing resources (BAG consultation)</b>	Work with agencies to establish information on resources once information is received from OCC on proposed plan.	Organisations jointly train, share buildings, admin posts, computers, photocopiers etc. to save resources.	PC	<b>H</b>	Ongoing
<b>Including young people in decision making in their community (Youth consultation)</b>	Addressing the needs of young people in Berinsfield.	Minimum of two youth representatives to attend Parish Council meeting to feedback views of young people.	EIS Youth Club	<b>M</b>	Complete

**Key:**

NW — Neighbourhood Watch

TVP — Thames Valley Police

SODC — South Oxfordshire District Council

OCC — Oxfordshire District Council

CPPW — Community Places Project Worker

EAG — Employment Action Group

EIS — Early Intervention Service

BCB — Berinsfield Community Business

BIVC — Berinsfield Information Volunteer Centre

PC — Parish Council

Soha — Soha Housing

BS — Berinsfield Primary School

**Berinsfield Action Plan April 2012**

Recommendation	Action Required	Priority
1 Communication Plan is established to advertise amenities, services and activities and encourage participation (Parish Plan)	Work with other organisations to agree key issues and communication vehicles i.e. newsletters and websites to let people know what is available in the village	
2 Housing options to be explored taking into account infrastructure, environmental and transport issues (Parish Plan)	Identify key elements of local plan that matter most to Berinsfield community. Further phase 2 consultation with residents explores issues in more depth	
3 Transport working group is established to address road safety and a travel plan to and from the school. (Parish Plan)	Issues with regard to the danger of crossing the A4074 to get to the bus stops. There is a reduced service and buses no longer go around the village.	
4 Investigate Credit Union (Parish Plan)	The Community Places Support Worker and Soha visit Oxford Credit Union. Meeting held with Oxford Credit Union to address new regulations and the steps involved in establishing a CU.	
5 Survey for Businesses/ Commercial Development (Parish Plan)	Business consultation (phase 2)	
6 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (Parish Plan)	Liaise with Police and NW on concerns raised in plan and identify clear actions. Police already supporting NW	
7 Unattractive areas (BAG survey)	Work with Parish Council, BCB and Soha to identify areas and resolutions.	
8 Recycling and domestic waste (BAG)	Explore opportunity for a new recycling initiative with SODC and OCC & BCB	
9 Sharing Resources (BAG)	Work with agencies to establish information on resources once information is received from OCC on proposed plan	

Results of previous consultation were consolidated and tested back with the community in the Jubilee Celebration event on the Church green in the May 2012.

## Conclusion

This Plan is a starting point for ideas and approaches that make the best use of available resources and build upon the knowledge, enthusiasm and history of local people.

If anyone would like to get involved in any of the ideas or initiatives mentioned in the Community Led Plan, please contact Berinsfield Parish Council:

01869 354135 / Email : [Berinsfieldpc@aol.com](mailto:Berinsfieldpc@aol.com) / [www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk](http://www.berinsfield-pc.gov.uk)

You are also invited to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings. Please check the Parish Council website for date or contact them via the above phone number or email addresses.

### With special thanks to:

Reverend Ros Latham, Councillor Charlie Denslow and Andy Dunsmore