

Plan published on website:

<http://www.letcombe-regis.org.uk/parish-council/draft-community-led-plan>

LETCOMBE REGIS COMMUNITY LED PLAN 2015

A vision for the future

INTRODUCTION

Letcombe Regis is a beautiful downland village nestling at the foot of the Berkshire Downs in the valley of the Letcombe Brook. It was, for many years a Royal Manor of the Kings of Wessex but was formally made a Regis in the reign of Richard II. The village has seen gradual expansion and development over the years but its demography has changed radically since the last Parish Plan was published in 2006. A major increase in population and age factor has resulted from the occupation of the Richmond Retirement Village since this was first opened in 2010. The approximate population now stands at around 700. Furthermore, recent Government targets for the construction of new housing in Oxfordshire have resulted in the village being threatened by housing development schemes despite its location within a defined conservation area.

These factors led to Letcombe Regis Parish Council setting up a Parish Plan Steering Group (PPSG) to formulate a revised Parish Plan with a defined objective: "To develop guidelines for the social and economic development of the village over the next 20 years, which are acceptable to, and agreed by the village community, taking into account District and County Council requirements".

The Steering Group was set up in 2013 and a number of villagers were involved including Murray Charlton (Chairman), Jeanne Lapsley (Chairman of the Parish Council), Ken Peach, Sophie Beauchamp, Sue Hannon, Derek Maurice, Diane Ockwell and Clive Philips.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

In March 2014 the Steering Group invited each household to contribute to a new Community Plan which will help to shape the future of the village. A general questionnaire was distributed to every dwelling asking if the household was prepared to participate in the Survey; those who responded were asked to provide address details, number of persons living in the household and a breakdown into 2 age groups, under 18 years and 18 years and over. Detailed questionnaires were distributed and those households who did not initially respond were contacted and further questionnaires issued. An on-line facility was offered for the subsequent questionnaires. The Steering Group was particularly keen to have the views of persons under 18 years and as a result they received separate Youth questionnaires.

Great care was taken in the design of the questionnaires and the Steering Group wishes to acknowledge the advice received from the District and County Councils. Specific thanks also go to the District Council for the collation of the Survey data at no cost to the village. A draft version of the plan was presented to the Parish Council meeting on 16th March 2015 and all residents of Letcombe Regis invited to a presentation of the plan on 18th May 2015. In addition, the draft plan was sent to the District and County Councils and ORCC before final approval for publication.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

The detailed questionnaires produced 257 responses identified only by a random code number to ensure anonymity and data protection. Full details can be found on the village web site and are available in hard copy from the Parish Clerk.

The results showed that of the 257 responses:

32 were under the age of 18 years

6 were aged between 18 and 25 years of which 4 are male and 2 female

19 were aged between 26 and 45 years of which 9 are male and 10 female

71 were aged between 46 and 65 years of which 43 are male and 28 female

41 were aged between 65 and 74 years of which 21 are male and 20 female

88 were aged over 75 years of which 53 are male and 35 female.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Survey dealt with a range of key areas which are summarised below. The totals recorded will vary according to the number of responses.

Population and Employment

Recognising that the composition of Letcombe Regis population has changed radically since the last Parish Plan was published, residents were asked why they chose Letcombe Regis as a place to live as this gives an indication of the appeal of the village and the factors which should be considered in its future development. The main reasons given were:

Enjoyment of village life 40%

Retirement 25%

Family reasons 11%.

Significantly, for 98% of residents, Letcombe Regis is their main residence.

The Survey sought to identify how long residents had lived in Letcombe Regis. Of the 225 replies to the question, analysis showed that:

40 people had lived in the village for more than 20 years

62 people had lived in the village for between 5 years and 20 years

123 people had lived in the village for less than 5 years.

The high number of people moving into the village in the last 5 years is explained by the occupation of Richmond village.

Of those surveyed 33% were either employed or in full-time education and, of these, 23 people worked or studied from home and 53 people had to travel more than 5 miles to work.

The main destinations were Abingdon, Oxford and London, followed by Harwell, Didcot and Swindon. The increase in the elderly population of the village has significantly altered the proportion of residents who are of working age or in full time education.

Housing & Development

Despite being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Conservation Area Letcombe Regis is threatened at various times by housing development schemes which could change its whole nature. The overall subject of more housing and development is a major concern for residents. The advent of Richmond Retirement Village on a single site development has had a major effect on population, traffic throughput, parking and residents' needs and mobility. Consequently, an important aspect of the questionnaire was to determine residents' views on what they consider acceptable development for the future.

The Survey asked residents to indicate what support they would give to the following types of additional housing and development. The response was as follows:

The conversion of barns etc. into living accommodation: 80% of people were in favour and only 8% against with 12% unsure.

The in-filling of spaces between existing houses: 38% of people were in favour but 41% were against with 21% unsure.

The conversion of barns etc. into business use: 66% were in favour, with 34% against.

Several questions in this section sought to obtain views on future small scale development either within the village boundary or outside. 57% were against 5 or more dwellings on one site unless it was a development for people with a strong local connection.

Village Amenities

Mobility and transport

There is much concern in the village about the increase in the volume of traffic, inconsiderate parking, the local public transport and the needs of elderly residents.

Mobility

The Survey sought to identify mobility problems and of the 225 replies: 45 expressed a difficulty. Of these, 38 were aged over 75 years. 191 said they were still able to drive, with 60 aged over 75.

Positive suggestions were made:

21 people wanted a more frequent bus service

14 people wanted better maintained and readily accessible pavements.

Parking

The Survey sought to identify car ownership and of the 177 replies:

81% indicated ownership of one vehicle

19% owned more than one vehicle.

Parking on the roadsides directly correlates to the lack of off-road parking in the vicinity.

The parking of cars and vans on the highway came in for much criticism with many roads

becoming single lane, generally clogging up the village and highlighting an overall inadequacy of parking.

Of the 66 comments made:

7 wanted restrictions placed on Richmond staff parking

6 wanted planning authorities to insist on adequate parking arrangements on new housing more parking areas are needed and 19 identified the Village Hall, Pavilion and Pub as potential areas that might be used.

Other interesting suggestions were:

residents with garages or parking spaces should use them
the shop/café area parking should be reserved for customers
provision of a bicycle rack outside the Café.

The suggestion that the Millennium Green might be used for parking is not practicable because it is designated as a 'village green' therefore this is legally not acceptable.

Bus service

The Survey sought to identify bus usage and of the 225 replies:

4% used the buses weekly

22% used the buses occasionally

74% never use the bus.

People indicated they might use the bus more if:

buses ran more frequently, 102 persons

buses ran at more convenient times, 96 persons

bus shelters were provided, 27 persons

buses had easier disabled access, 20 persons.

Other suggestions included better and more direct access to Didcot and Oxford. However, there were complaints that the bus timetable was not readily available and that the bus stops were not identified.

St Andrew's Church

St Andrew's Church dates back to 1195 in the reign of Richard I and is a valued feature of Letcombe Regis. Of the 222 replies:

15 people attended church services weekly

16 people attended church services monthly

88 people attended church services occasionally

103 people never attended church services.

Of the comments, a small number questioned the convenience of access, heating and timing of services but there were a significant number of suggestions for increasing attendance and widening usage of the church as a village asset including: use for concerts, music recitals, visiting choirs, talks, charity events, Christmas tree festivals etc.

promoting involvement of young people in the choir and bell-ringing

arranging special services for specific groups e.g. disabled, elderly, children, families,

working people, for blessing pets, a Christingle
engaging children to lead services
greater participation of the church in village events
services more suited to modern way of life
services with familiar hymns and hymn tunes.

People indicated how often they attend existing events:

33 people attend frequently

114 people attend occasionally

77 people never attend events.

Of the 174 people responding to the question asking if they would like to see more events in the church, 113 said yes and 61 said no.

Of those who commented on the widening the scope of church events, 68% wanted concerts, choirs and music recitals, 10% a Sunday school and 8% lectures, poetry readings.

Parish Council Burial Ground

The Parish Council Burial Ground serves the village for internments and is situated beside the Recreation Ground entrance, on the Bassett road. As the village population is continuing to grow it is planned that this will be extended and the questionnaire asked residents what factors should be considered for its future development.

Of the 222 replies:

20% said they were likely to use it

45% were unlikely to use it

35% were uncertain

The significant majority, 92%, felt it already presented a good environment. However some further suggestions were to remove/prune the overgrown dark leylandii trees; plant more shrubs; improve landscaping and have fewer artificial flowers; provide easier access at the entrance; extend the burial ground; provide more seating and an improved water supply.

Shop and Café

The village shop and café was opened in 2011 as part of the development of the Richmond retirement complex. The Survey sought to identify the importance and use of the shop. Of the 225 replies, 96% considered the shop and café to be an important community facility.

57 people use the shop weekly

34 people use the shop monthly

124 people use the shop occasionally

10 people never use the shop.

Of the 110 who commented on using it more:

28% wanted the shop to stock a wider range of items.

17% felt it was too expensive

12% wanted better or longer opening hours

8% wanted the shop to sell newspapers

7% wanted it to sell fruit and vegetables.

Other suggestions were to use it for evening bookings for events and the introduction of a limited Post Office facility.

Most replies seemed happy with the Café facility with 7% wanting a greater variety of food.

The Greyhound

At the time of the Survey, the pub had been sold by the brewery to a group of private individuals who had plans to refurbish the premises and we discussed with them what information might assist them.

Of the 225 people who commented on the pub, 97% considered it to be an important community facility. When it was open:

35 people visited the pub weekly

46 people visited it monthly

108 people visited it occasionally

26 people never visited the pub.

In reply to specific questions about would encourage more frequent visits, there was considerable support for traditional pub food, more upmarket food, theme nights and bed and breakfast facilities; there was no support for team games or sporting events on TV.

However, there was a clear message from the 98 suggestions made that a cosy decor and a warm welcome from the staff was very important. There was little support for the serving of coffee and tea which was viewed as unnecessary competition with the Café.

Since the Survey, the ownership of the pub has changed hands again and the present owners have recently submitted revised plans to the local authorities for approval; there is an expectation that the pub will reopen as soon as refurbishment has been completed.

The Millennium Green

The Millennium Green is designated as a village green. The Survey sought views on its usage. Of the 183 responses, 25% considered it a well-used facility. 84% felt that they would use it if more village activities were held there and 80% indicated they would use it for picnics if suitable seating was available.

Of those who commented, further ideas included; Art displays or sculptures, comfortable seating, improved maintenance. Some views were expressed that it was hardly used so had no practical purpose or that it could be used as a car park but as its use is restricted, this is not possible.

Healthcare

Primary healthcare for most villagers is provided by two surgeries in the Mably Way Health Centre, Wantage which is located about 2 miles away. The Wantage Community Hospital offers maternity services and respite care. Currently, out-of hours services and minor injuries are provided at Abingdon Hospital which is 10 miles away. The nearest A&E is in Oxford 25 miles away.

The Survey asked if people were satisfied with the local healthcare and medical facilities and

of the 218 responses, 83% were satisfied with the healthcare service.

Of the suggestions made:

16 people wanted to see more and improved services

14 people wanted a closer A&E, minor injuries or x-ray unit

10 people said that transport was a problem.

Of those who commented many felt the Wantage Community Hospital could be developed and services expanded to meet local needs.

The Mobile Library

The mobile library comes to Letcombe Regis every two weeks and parks for 50 minutes in the Richmond reception car park. Of 225 responses on usage, only 19% used the mobile library the majority of whom are Richmond residents.

Rubbish Collection

Food waste is collected weekly and recycling, garden or land-fill waste collected on alternate weeks. The Survey asked if people were satisfied with the present arrangements for the collection of household and garden waste and of the 215 responses, 93% were satisfied. Of the comments made by those who were not satisfied, a weekly collection of garden waste (brown bin) was suggested as was the return of bins to the correct house.

Crime

The Survey sought to identify if residents felt the village a safe and secure place to live. Of the 217 responses, only three people felt it unsafe.

Social and Recreational Facilities

Local organisations

People were asked to indicate which local organisations they attend or use and the membership and age profile is shown below.

Age Profile of Club Members

	Number attending	18-25	26-45	46-65	66-74	75 and over
Book Buffs	13	-	-	6	2	5
Gardening Club	24	-	1	13	5	5
Knitwits	5	-	1	1	-	3
Letcombe Singers	17	-	-	1	7	9

Letcombe Women's Institute	19	-	1	6	1	11
Cricket Club	16	2	1	3	4	6
Football Club	5	1	-	-	2	2
Riding Club	11	-	3	4	3	1
Table Tennis Club	3	-	-	1	-	2
Tennis Club	30	-	4	16	5	5
Childrey Parent & Toddler Group	3	-	1	-	1	1
Childrey Pre-School	5	-	4	-	-	1
Ridgeway C of E Primary School	8	-	3	-	4	1
Toddlers Music Group	3	-	2	-	1	-
Bell-ringing at St Andrew's Church	11	1	1	6	2	1
Ridgeway Handbell Ringers	4	-	-	-	2	2
200 Club	65	-	6	22	20	17
Allotments	20	-	2	10	5	3
Over 60s Lunch Club	36	-	-	-	9	27

Village Hall

The Village Hall is one of the most well used assets in the community. In 2010, money from the developers of Richmond was provided for various projects within the village, giving the opportunity to consider refurbishment or a new build. If the village is awarded a Big Lottery grant for development, it is likely a new hall will be built in the winter/spring 2015/16. If this is unsuccessful, then a refurbishment plan will commence in 2016. The Survey sought to assess the actual usage of the present hall to find out whether improved paths and pavements would encourage target groups such as children and the elderly to make more use of it.

Of the 205 responses, 14% used it monthly and 36% occasionally for a group activity.

Of the 202 responses, 63% used it occasionally for a village event e.g. a race night.

Of the 185 responses, 34% used it occasionally for a private function e.g. a family party

21% said they would make more use of the hall if there were improved facilities for the disabled and 26% if there was improved pavement access for the disabled.

Recreation Ground

The Survey sought to identify what usage was made of the Recreation Ground.

Of the 186 responses, 3% used the pavilion monthly and 38% occasionally

Of the 169 responses, 7% used the cricket pitch occasionally

Of the 186 responses, 7% used the children's playground either weekly or monthly and 32% occasionally

Of the 186 responses, 8% used the football pitch occasionally

Of the 169 responses, 4% used the horse riding area weekly

Of the 174 responses, 9% used the tennis courts weekly, and 7% occasionally

Of the 186 responses, 13% used the area for other recreational activities weekly, and 24% occasionally.

In answer to the question of what would encourage more usage of the facilities:

77 people said if there were additional classes for hobbies and interests

46 people said if there were greater encouragement and opportunities for young people, the less skilled or beginners to join classes or teams

43 people said if there were improved play areas for children and more frequent updating of the playground equipment

32 people said if there were better practice facilities for games and sports.

Village Profile

In describing the Unique Nature of the village, the top responses in order of popularity were:

Friendly

Quiet

Peaceful

Also listed were: Attractive, Pretty, Beautiful, Rural, Convenient or accessible for Wantage/M4/trains, Small, and Picturesque.

In describing the Most Attractive Features of the village, the top responses in order of popularity were:

Church

Diversity of architecture

Recreation Ground and its facilities

Also listed were: Nature Reserve, Letcombe Brook, Lovely Setting, Attractive Views, Shop and Café, Proximity to countryside, and Tranquillity.

In describing the Least Attractive Features of the village, the top responses in order of popularity were:

Traffic issues,

Flats near the church,

Poor state of pavements and footpaths

Also listed were: Village Hall, Lack of pub, Inappropriate developments, Old Bakery Cottages, Richmond, and the Garages in Chapel Street.

Volunteering

The distribution of the Survey was seen as an opportunity to advertise the need in the village for more volunteers. Residents were asked if they could help and to indicate their interests. 26 people responded and these individuals have been contacted by existing village organisers. Many of those who replied were merely indicating the nature of their interest or that they were already a volunteer. However a number of new recruits were added to such activities as helping at children's parties and in the Nature Reserve. The advancement of an Arts & Crafts movement is proving a success.

Changes to the village

In seeking to identify what might be done to change or improve some aspect of the village, four specific actions were identified and residents were asked their views on whether they should be considered or encouraged.

109 out of 189 responses (58%) would support a public car park.

105 out of 180 responses (58%) would support an arts and crafts centre

63 out of 167 responses (38%) would support facilities for tourists

49 out of 170 responses (29%) would support more light industry.

The most popular suggestions for location of car parks were the Village Hall or Recreation Ground. There was no consensus where a craft centre or light industry could be located and this will require further consultation.

Other suggestions included an attractive pub and more bed and breakfast facilities, improvements to the roads, pavements, footpaths and bridleways.

Communications

In the Survey residents were asked if they regularly read or had access to local sources of information. Of the 221 replies:

95% read the Letcombe Register

73% read the notice board near the Greyhound

63% read The Ridgeway Benefice Contact

25% accessed the Parish Council web site

13% used the Thames Valley Police web site.

50 comments were made on what would encourage more use of the information sources.

30% were satisfied with the information available while 20% thought the information on the web site should be updated more frequently and subscribers should be notified of an update.

The broadband connection was also mentioned.

Community support

The Survey sought views on community and voluntary support schemes in the village. Of the

150 responses, 38 people said they would like assistance with a variety of tasks such as shopping, transport and using computers.

Richmond Retirement Village

Richmond Retirement Village, was completed in 2010 and consists of 80 independent living units, and a main building catering for 66 assisted living units plus a care floor for people requiring nursing or dementia care. The development has provided a shop and café facility and is generally seen to be of benefit to Letcombe Regis as more of Richmond residents become involved with local activities. The biggest downside appears to be the increased traffic and parking problems.

The survey sought to identify the extent to which the Richmond development had integrated into the community. The questions were directed, firstly, to non-Richmond residents and then to Richmond residents.

143 non-Richmond residents commented on whether the development has been of benefit to Letcombe Regis and of these:

88% answered "Yes"

11% stated that it had caused a significant increase of car and lorry traffic

5%.said it had caused parking problems

5% said that Richmond staff and visitors speed or ignore road markings.

140 non-Richmond residents replied to the question on whether they attended any events in the Retirement Village and of these:

36% answered "Yes".

The remainder of the responses commented that the events had no appeal for them, were at the wrong times, were age related and they were not in that age group or the events were not publicised enough.

Richmond residents were asked if they attended events outside the Retirement Village.

72 responded and, of those, 65% did.

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Roads, Pavements and Traffic

The Survey sought to identify if particular roads or pavements within the village were of concern.

Of the 186 responses, 72% did not support a change in priorities at the junction of Main Street, South Street and Bassett Road.

The comments reflected a variety of concerns, but not all were in agreement:

30 people were concerned with the number of obstructions on roads; poor parking, overgrown hedges

26 people were concerned with the general traffic management through the village; priorities at junctions, better road marking and signage, double yellow lines, pedestrian crossings and drop kerbs for wheelchair access

14 people were concerned with the state of the road surface, particularly potholes

13 people were concerned about speeding.

Of the 202 responses, 65% did not see any problem with dog fouling.

Public footpaths

The Survey sought to identify the usage of footpaths in and around the village. There were 220 responses to this question. The public footpath to Wantage was used by 141 people at least occasionally with just under half of those using it weekly. The main reason for not using it was mobility, although there were also comments about the need for better lighting and maintenance, and some concerns for personal security.

Of the other footpaths in the village:

103 people used them weekly

23 used them monthly

67 used them occasionally

27 never used them.

Of those who used them, three quarters found their condition and signage satisfactory.

Bridleways

The Survey sought to identify the usage of bridleways. Of the 218 responses:

86 people used them weekly

21 used them monthly

60 used them occasionally

51 never used them.

The suggestions for bridleways were the restriction of their use by motor vehicles (particularly 4x4s) and improved surfaces in wet weather.

Further comments were the need for better signage, notices about points of interest along the way and for more information or maps.

Bridleways within the village were considered to be better maintained than those outside the curtilage of the village.

Nature Reserve

The Nature Reserve is managed by The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) on a 50 year lease from Richmond.

Of the 225 responses on the Nature Reserve:

96% considered it an important asset to the village

45% visited it weekly

7% never visited the reserve.

Of the 186 replies, 70% wanted the Parish to continue contributing to its upkeep.

Of the 206 responses on what people valued most about the Reserve:

77% appreciated the wildlife

77% appreciated the walking trails

29% felt it should be child and dog friendly.

Other features were the peace and quiet, fresh air, flora and star gazing.

180 people would like to see more use of the reserve for education purposes.

The comments were contradictory. In general, it seems that the reserve is highly appreciated by villagers. While some would like to see it enhanced and made more accessible and to be used more, others would like to see it remain secluded and quiet.

Letcombe Brook

The Letcombe Brook is one of the world's rare chalk streams, 85% of which are in the UK. It is an important habitat for many different plants and animals.

The brook was considered to be an important natural feature of the village.

The suggestions of how to find out more about the brook were:

73 would like to see more talks about the Reserve

59 would like to see guided walks

41 would like to see river dipping events

128 would like to see self-guided walk leaflets

122 would like to see information boards.

Of the 199 who replied, 80% wanted the Parish to continue contributing to its upkeep.

Youth

A number of attempts have been made over recent years to start up a Youth Club based in Letcombe Regis; they have not succeeded either because not enough youths were interested or because no adults were prepared to assist in the running of a Club.

In preparing the current Survey, it was recognised that the information required from the under 18s group was totally different from that required from adults; a different questionnaire comprising 17 questions was designed which would enable the Parish Council to judge the thoughts of, and what activities would engage, the under 18s.

There were 32 questionnaires returned.

Positives

29 youths answered the question "What do you like most about Letcombe Regis?" There were 22 expressions of pleasure for the countryside and the nature reserve and 9 for the recently created tennis courts.

21 youths used the footpath to Wantage, all bar one of the others did not need to.

Areas of concern and suggestions for improvement

In reply to the question "Would you like to be involved in setting up more activities, e.g. a youth club?" only 1 person said "Yes"

In reply to the question "Is enough importance given to providing things for children and teenagers to do?" Half the respondents said "Yes", the other half said "No" whose suggestions included better play equipment, badminton, free tennis, skate park, mini golf and a youth club.

When asked about their use of the following facilities, the results for attendance (either often or sometimes) were:

Village Hall 50%

Recreation Ground 85%

Children's playground 22%

Millennium Green 19%

St Andrew's Church 11%

In reply to the question "What would encourage you to use them more?" the more popular responses were more events and not just for the 13+ age group, better equipment in the playground and cheaper tennis.

In answer to the question "What do you not like about Letcombe Regis?"

7 youths said there was nothing they disliked, and

22 youths whose comments covered many topics, for example: not much to do, not a good bus service, isolated, dilapidated village hall, not many young children, no pub!, church bells in the morning, Richmond traffic and no ice cream van in South Street.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED FOLLOWING THE 2006 PARISH PLAN

The 2006 Plan listed three major actions for which s106 monies from the Richmond development were available and six other areas for improvement. In summary they concerned:

The Village Hall where the present position is that there will be a new build if sufficient grants are forthcoming, otherwise a major refurbishment will be undertaken.

The Sports Pavilion to which excellent alterations and improvements have been made.

New tennis courts which have also recently been built and are well used.

Setting up a village web site, this is up and running.

Better bus service information.

More dog bins installed.

Traffic calming measures. A new 30mph speed limit has since been installed.

Improvement to footpaths. These have yet to be addressed.

Additional recreational facilities for under 18s. Much effort has gone in to this subject but, to date no youth or parent has been prepared to assist in this venture.

ACTION PLAN

The Survey has highlighted a number of areas where action is required either to improve existing village facilities or to ensure that we can preserve the character of Letcombe Regis for future generations.

The Parish Council intends to follow up progress on the Action Plan on a regular basis and will use The Register and the Council web site to advise residents of such progress. It will also make a full report on achievements at the Annual Parish Meetings.

In many instances the Parish Council does not have the authority for direct action and can only influence the other responsible organisations by bringing any shortcomings to their attention.

Housing & Development

Report to the District Council that villagers are in favour of modest development such as barn conversions but the majority are against further small-scale housing unless it is for persons with a strong local connection. Action PC

Mobility & Transport

1. A survey of pavements is required to identify improvements needed and for access to Village Hall.
2. Villagers to be encouraged to use their garages rather than park at the roadside.
3. Police co-operation to be requested to prevent illegal parking at road junctions.
4. Richmond to be asked to provide a cycle rack at the Shop & Café. Action PC

Bus Service

1. Bus companies to be asked to produce localised timetables for Letcombe Regis.
2. Notify Bus companies that better disabled access is needed.
3. Investigate possible sites for bus shelters. Action PC

St Andrew's Church

Communicate Survey findings to the Parochial Church Council to encourage increased attendance at services and wider use of the church for secular functions. Action PC

Burial Ground

1. Remove overgrown trees.
2. Investigate possible extension of the burial ground, landscaping and improved parking facility. Action PC

Shop & Café

Findings to be notified to Richmond management with a request to enable the sale of postage stamps in the shop. Action PC

Greyhound Pub

Survey findings to be notified to new owners with the request to incorporate villagers' views in the redesign and facilities planned for the pub. Action PC

Millennium Green

1. Investigate potential for improved and more comfortable seating.
2. Investigate potential for art displays on the green. Action PC

Healthcare

Communicate Survey findings to appropriate health authorities. In particular the views that the Wantage Community Hospital should be developed and services expanded to meet growing local needs. Action PC

Mobile Library

Discuss with library authority the possibility of a second location for the mobile library facility more central to the rest of the village. Action PC

Rubbish Collection No action required.

Crime No action required.

Village Hall

1. Report findings to Trustees to progress plans for a new or re-furbished hall.
2. Investigate possibilities for improved pavement access to hall.
3. Appoint a Manager to promote wider usage and series of interests.. Action PC & Trustees

Recreation Ground

Report findings to Trustees, in particular the requests for

1. Upgrading of children's play area.
2. Creating better sporting opportunities for youths, beginners or less skilled players.
3. All weather surface area for adolescents.
4. Promoting a wider series of interests. Action PC & Trustees

Changes to the village

1. Organise further consultation on possible locations for developing an arts & crafts movement.
2. Investigate opportunities for further car parking at the Village Hall and at the Recreation Ground. Action PC & Trustees

Communications

1. Alter website design to incorporate a panel which identifies and links to recent updates on village activity and news.
2. Pursue better broadband facility. Action PC

Community Support

Explore the feasibility of re-introducing a community support group. Action PC

Volunteering

Continue advertising in the Letcombe Register for more volunteers for local activities. Action PC

Retirement Village

Communicate findings to both Richmond and non-Richmond activities groups to encourage greater integration and more participation in social events. Action PC

Roads, Pavements and Traffic

1. Request PCSO support in management of traffic issues.
2. Request Highways action on road maintenance and overgrown vegetation.
3. Remind villagers to cut back hedges which obstruct pavement access. Action PC

Public Footpaths

Ensure that regular maintenance is carried out by the County Council. Action PC

Bridleways

1. Apply to County Council to make bridleways prohibited for vehicular access.
2. Contact Vale & Downland Museum regarding the production of a Site Plan and Village Guide to points of interest in Letcombe Regis. Action PC

Nature Reserve

Communicate Survey findings to Conservation Group and BBOWT. Action PC

Letcombe Brook

Communicate Survey findings to Letcombe Brook Project. Action PC

Youth

1. Upgrade the Children's play area.