

Tetsworth

Community-Led Plan

2015-2025



A Vision for the Next Decade

Tetsworth Through the Ages

A Brief History of Our Village

The name Tetsworth has Anglo Saxon origins. It is believed to be made up of a person's name, 'Taetel', and the common Anglo Saxon place name ending 'worth' meaning enclosure. It certainly existed as a settled community at the time of the Domesday Book, although it was not mentioned in it.

Tetsworth's position at the crossroads of the main London-Oxford route and a north-south roadway from Thame to Wallingford was recognised in the earliest known printing of a map of England in 1382. Until the late 16th century, the land comprising Tetsworth was controlled by either the church or crown in turn.

Tetsworth's early association with important roads was emphasised by the act of Richard Quartermain in setting up the Guild of St Christopher at Thame in 1447 and by the existence of the Swan Inn in the village from

as early as 1482. Both royalist and parliamentary troops transited the village during the Civil War and the creation of the London-Oxford turnpike in 1718 cemented Tetsworth's position as a well-used coaching stage.

The village's growth and prosperity has always been heavily dependent on agricultural employment. As a result, there was a great deal of poverty in the early 19th century, but comparative wealth and population growth to more than 500 by 1851. In part due to the spread of railways

elsewhere and fewer agricultural or other local employment opportunities, the 1931 census recorded fewer than 300 Tetsworth residents and only about 100 households.

The benevolence and foresight of John W Peers, the vicar of Tetsworth from 1841 – 1876, saw the building of the current St Giles church, the establishment of a village school and laying of the network of cobble village footpaths. His legacy is still with us today.



Tetsworth Today

At the 2011 census, Tetsworth had a population of just under 700 people, nearly a quarter of whom were under 20 years old, with another quarter older than 60. Compared with the rest of the district, this age profile reveals a lower proportion of younger residents, but the older quartile is broadly in line with the wider community. The village supports 278 households, over three-quarters of which live in privately owned properties with or without a mortgage, while the remainder rely on the social or private rental sector.

Nearly half of the local housing stock is detached houses or bungalows, approximately a third is semi-detached dwellings with the remainder split between terraced homes and flats/apartments – although the latter

category has recently been reduced as a result of the demolition of the Sunnymede sheltered apartments. Approximately 6% of houses were unoccupied at the time of the census probably reflecting the level of turnover in the local property market. Once established in Tetsworth, families tend to stay here for a long time.

Above average car ownership, at 2 cars per household, is a reflection of the paucity of public transport services and local employment opportunities – together with ready access to a well-developed road network connecting with more active centres of business and employment. Local unemployment has remained low, but the proportion of self-employed residents amongst the economically active is much higher

than district and national levels.

Significant local business ventures include the Isis educational furniture plant, the Swan antiques centre and a number of neighbouring equestrian and agricultural enterprises. A proportion of residents also operate a range of home-based domestic and professional service businesses. However, most of those in employment commute out of the village to work.

Tetsworth no longer enjoys the services of a village post office or a broad range of retail outlets, but continues to support those pillars of a village community – its church, primary school, village hall, sports on the village green, and village pub and restaurant.

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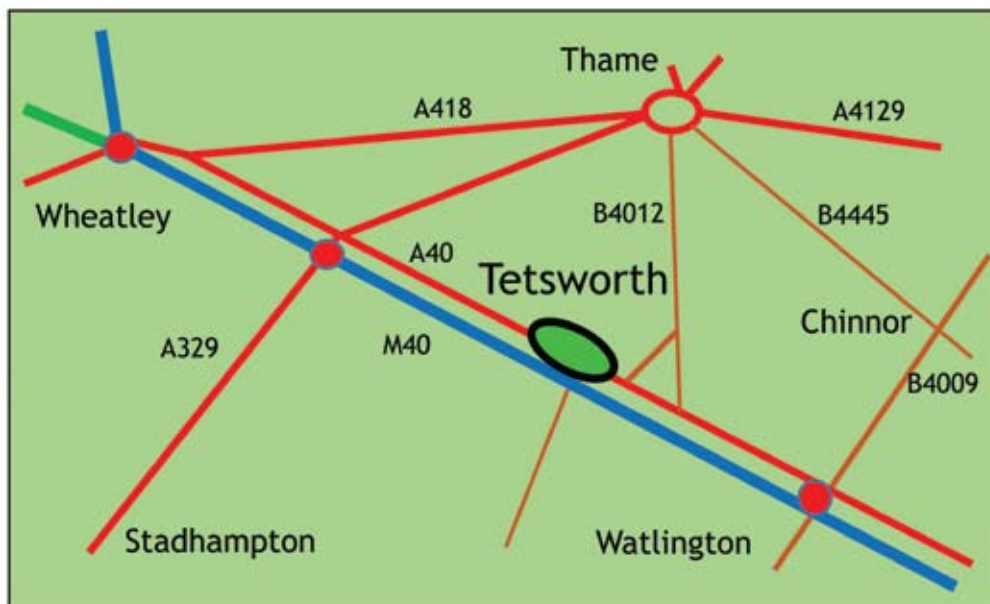
Acknowledgements

A big thank you to the volunteer Steering Group and all Tetworth residents who participated in answering the Residents' Questionnaire. Without your views, the publication of this plan would have been a hollow exercise.

Thanks also go to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) for providing advice and to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Tetworth Parish Council for their financial support and ongoing interest in this venture.

Introduction to the Plan

The village of Tetsworth lies about four miles south of Thame and ten miles east of Oxford adjacent to the M40 motorway. It owes much of its attractiveness to its pleasant countryside setting close to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and its residents enjoy many of the traditional characteristics of living in a settled rural community. Ready access to local and national road networks and scarcity of in-village employment opportunities mean that many of the economically-active commute out of Tetsworth on a daily basis.



How best can we, the residents of Tetsworth, preserve the best of the present while embracing change for the better? The answer is in the development of a village plan which reflects the consensus of community opinion. This document provides such a blueprint, and sets out ***A Vision for the Next Decade***.

We have to recognize that pragmatism will always trump idealism and that decisions on local issues do not always rest in the hands of local residents. Therefore, our plan has to be more than an unachievable wish-list of bright ideas without evidence that their implementation is achievable and have the support of the community. Even more importantly, many worthwhile initiatives will not get off the ground without the necessary funding and support from local authorities, and commitment of residents willing to drive improvement projects forward. The existing network of village organisations will play a leading or supporting role for appropriate actions, but delivery of many initiatives will depend on the enthusiasm of volunteers prepared to invest the necessary time and effort.

With a little contribution from many, we can together make Tetsworth an even more attractive community over the next ten years. Some actions will differ little from 'business as usual' or demand anything more than a wider commitment to community life. Others will need funding and considerable time and collective effort, but have the potential to really make a difference.

Together, with the help of the many, we can make the things that matter to us happen!

We Can All Play a Part

A Community-Led Plan (CLP)

A CLP provides a realistic and structured focus on those issues that matter to a community, and can be addressed by collective local action. The mechanics of the development of a CLP are set out at the end of this document. However, it is important to recognise up front that the 'voice of the people' must be heard by means of a comprehensive residents' questionnaire on all aspects village life.

The Tetsworth Residents' Questionnaire

Scope and Themes

The Tetsworth Residents' Questionnaire was designed to gather local opinions on a broad range of themes which affect village life, expose issues which should be addressed and document the strength of support for improvement initiatives which might be implemented over the next decade. The questionnaire was distributed to all households in the parish as well as being available on-line on the Parish Council website. The response window ran for approximately 3 weeks during June 2014. Evidence drawn from the questionnaire response has been central to the preparation of this CLP.

As well as collecting demographic data on those participating in this information gathering exercise, the questionnaire sought views on:

Housing Development

Local Business and Employment

Village Amenities

Community Life

Local Infrastructure and Services

Local Environmental Issues

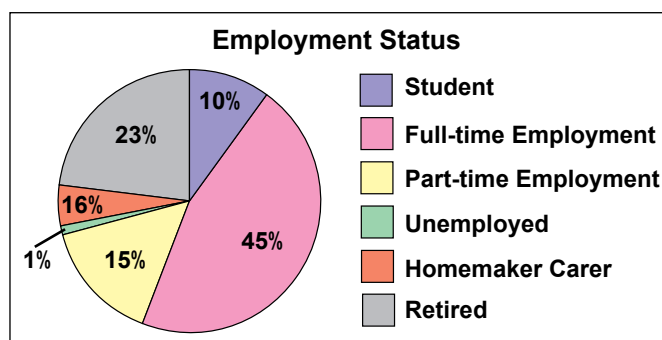
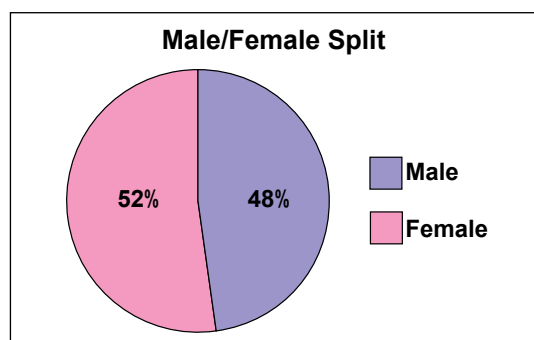
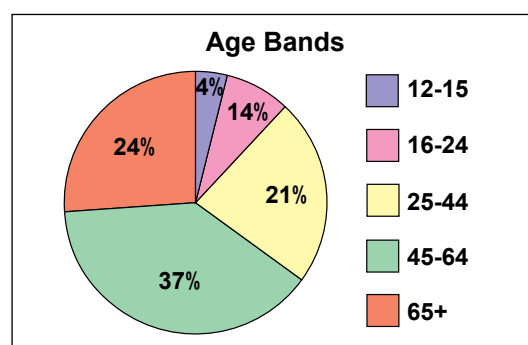
Alongside, but separate from the questionnaire, residents were also invited to volunteer their time and support for a range of potential village improvement projects.

Participation Statistics

263 Tetsworth residents aged 12 or over submitted completed questionnaires, either on-line or by hard copy. Replies came from 135 households. This rate of response fell only marginally short of 50% of both the adult population of the village and of households. The demographics of participants were broadly in line with the 2011 census data for Tetsworth.

Participating households had, on average, lived in Tetsworth for 23 years. This, together with the overall level of participation provided a degree of confidence that the CLP is based on a representative body of opinion. Charts and data included in the plan reflect either percentages or absolute numbers of respondent answers.

About 60 volunteers pledged their time and support to a range of potential village improvement projects.



Role of Tetsworth Parish Council (TPC)

Our Parish Council represents the interests of the local community and aims, within its resources and authority, to improve the local quality of life and the local environment. It is therefore the principal body best placed to oversee and review the progress of the Tetsworth CLP. However, it must not be considered to be solely or even mainly responsible for progressing most of the actions set out in the plan. This responsibility belongs largely to those village organisations, groups of residents and individuals promoting specific improvement projects or addressing certain local issues, although often with the guidance or support of the Council.

The Parish Council manages a budget of little more than £13,000 a year supported by a local precept gathered as

part of overall Council Tax charges. Therefore, projects requiring significant funding will need to generate their own resources through targeted grant applications and local fundraising activities.

Parish councils have only limited decision-making powers. This is no more apparent than in consideration of planning matters where decisions are taken at district council level with parish councils limited to just a right to comment. Nevertheless, in this and other areas subject to external policy and decision-making, TPC will reflect the body of local opinion on issues affecting the village.

Delivering the Plan

The means by which the good things proposed in the CLP can be delivered is through a series of Structured Actions embedded in the body of the document. Each takes the form of a table identifying the Status of the Action, Who

is responsible for taking it forward, How progress might best be achieved, and a possible timetable of When investigation and implementation might be achieved in the short- and longer-term.

Action

Status	
Who	
How	
When	

The Pace of Growth

The nature, extent and pace of development in Tetsworth are fundamental to our future and a priority issue relevant to the whole community. On one hand, expansion of the housing stock can do much to sustain the infrastructure of village life, provide homes for local families and contribute to a broader range of amenities and services. On the other hand, significant and rapid population growth could weaken community cohesion, encroach on our countryside setting and place undue pressure on our supporting infrastructure.

Similar factors are also to the fore in considering how best to encourage new business opportunities in the village without detriment to our local environment.

Housing Development

Planning and approval of new housing projects are seen by many as dominant issues in shaping the future character of a community. Planning decisions are informed by the National Planning Policy Framework which is implemented in our area by SODC officials and councillors. They, in turn, consult with strategic bodies such as the Highways Agency and the principal national infrastructure providers as well as neighbours who might be affected by development proposals. Notwithstanding the limits on local influence, it is important that our CLP should capture both the future housing needs of current Tetsworth residents and their families, and represent general community views on the preferred nature and extent of local housing development over the next decade.



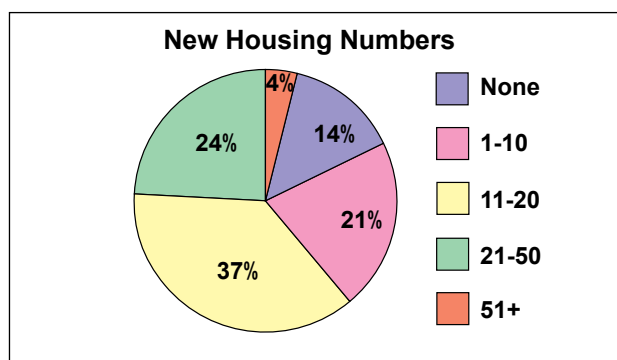
Post-war expansion of Tetsworth's housing stock has been achieved through a small number of major housing projects each generating between 25 and 50 new homes, together with a trickle of individual houses and smaller developments taking advantage of available infill sites within the current built-up perimeter of the village. The most recent major development was the building of the Swan Gardens estate in the 1990s although a possible housing development at Mount Hill Farm was subject to initial consideration during 2013. Such developments bring with them an obligation to fund what is known as a Section 106 agreement or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). They may therefore offer a funding route to achieve some of the qualifying community infrastructure initiatives featuring elsewhere in this plan.

SODC's Core Strategy classifies Tetsworth as a Smaller Village (fewer than 3,000 residents) constraining new housing developments largely to infill opportunities. Tetsworth's infill boundary is generally interpreted as a perimeter line joining the outermost points of the current built-up village footprint.

The publication of a new Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment last year and planning relaxations in the National Planning Policy Framework could result in greater expansion of the village. One of the eight options under consideration by a SODC consultation was creation of a new settlement of up to almost 6,000 homes between Thame and Wallingford, close to the M40. Should such a proposal gain traction, it seems possible that it might take the form of the Stone Bassett proposal of the late 1980s with a new town being built on Tetsworth's doorstep. Plans for any local development on such a scale would be actively opposed by the village.

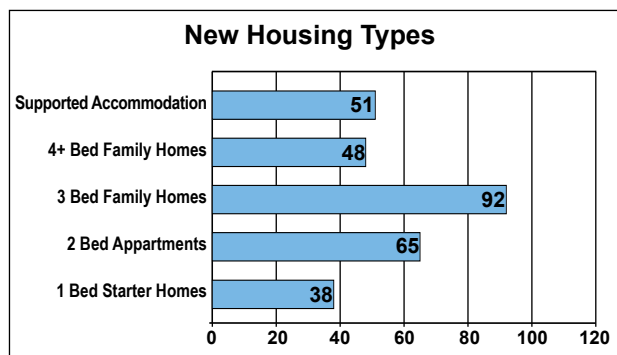
How Many?

Local opinion on new housing indicates that nearly three-quarters wish to see modest growth by no more than 20 additional houses, although nearly as many would be comfortable with between 11 and 50 being built in the next decade. Very few wish to see greater expansion while a larger minority would resist any development at all. Although 2014 was not necessarily a typical year, 12 new homes were added to Tetsworth's housing stock, with 7 of these developed as affordable social housing.



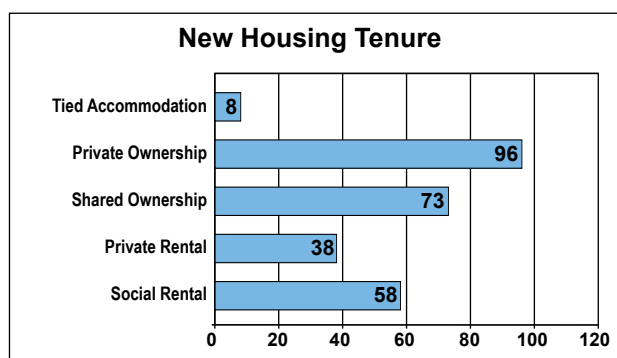
What Types?

While not corresponding directly with census housing categories, residents favoured a range of housing types, from single-bed starter apartments and sheltered retirement accommodation to 4-bedroom family homes. Additional 3-bedroom homes were the most popular type selected by questionnaire respondents.



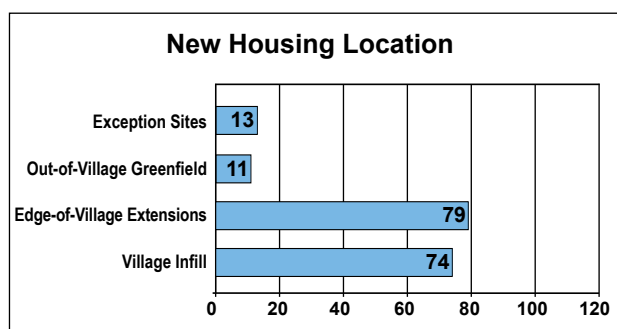
What Tenure?

About two-thirds of respondents were in favour of further private ownership, but there was also significant support for shared ownership tenure probably reflecting the affordability of properties across Oxfordshire and the rest of the South-East. Support for social and private rental broadly mirrored the current situation in these market



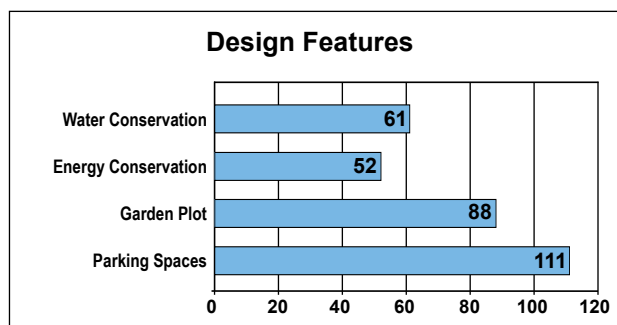
Where?

More than half of all respondents were in favour of both development within the existing village built-up footprint and building on edge-of-village extensions. Very few supported the prospect of out-of-village Greenfield developments, and few, perhaps not fully understanding the meaning, would welcome development on exception sites (for affordable housing only).



Design Features

There was broad if not overwhelming support for promoting design features aimed at energy and water conservation, while provision of adequate off-street car parking space and gardens would be welcomed by many. Perhaps reflecting the natural conservatism of a rural village community, some residents felt that new housing should be sympathetic to the style, scale and tradition of the existing community.



Action 1

Reflect local opinion on the preferred nature and extent of new housing in the village

Status	Ongoing
Who	TPC
How	Commenting on planning proposals for additional development
When	Ongoing

Action 2

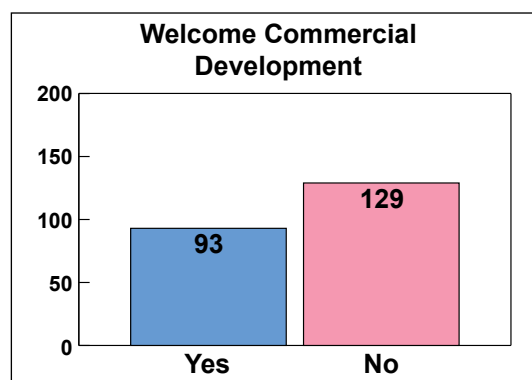
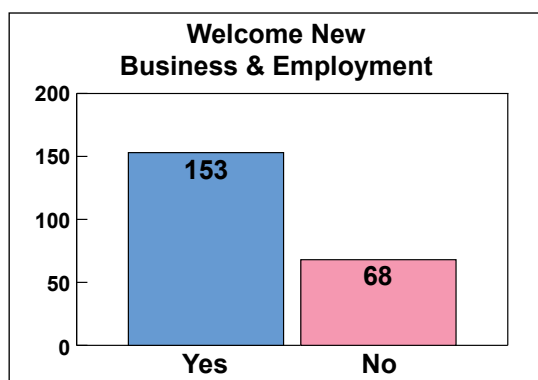
Encourage beneficial community use of Section 106 or CIL funding from any major housing proposals

Status	Ongoing
Who	TPC
How	Consultation on major housing proposals
When	Ongoing

Business and Employment

Today's local employment opportunities for Tetsworth residents are limited to just a few significant businesses in the parish and, for those with an entrepreneurial spirit, operating specialist home-based services often on a self-employed basis. The bulk of economically active villagers commute to work in Thame, Oxford, London or elsewhere relying on daily car journeys to such locations.

Against this background, almost 70% of residents would welcome new employment-generating businesses being established in the village. However, there is far less enthusiasm for building commercial or industrial premises to support such businesses, only about 40% being in favour.



The overall message of wishing to see Tetsworth prosper while conserving its character as a small rural community is reinforced by the types of businesses which would be welcomed and those which should be resisted. Evidence from an open question indicates that those which would be welcomed are dominated by their small scale, whether in the service, leisure, retail or agricultural sectors. On the other hand, any large-scale industrial development involving manufacturing, heavy haulage or any businesses generating significant pollution, noise or traffic increase would definitely not be welcomed by residents.

Action 3

Reflect local opinion on establishing new businesses in Tetsworth

Status	Ongoing
Who	TPC
How	Commenting on planning proposals for business development
When	Ongoing



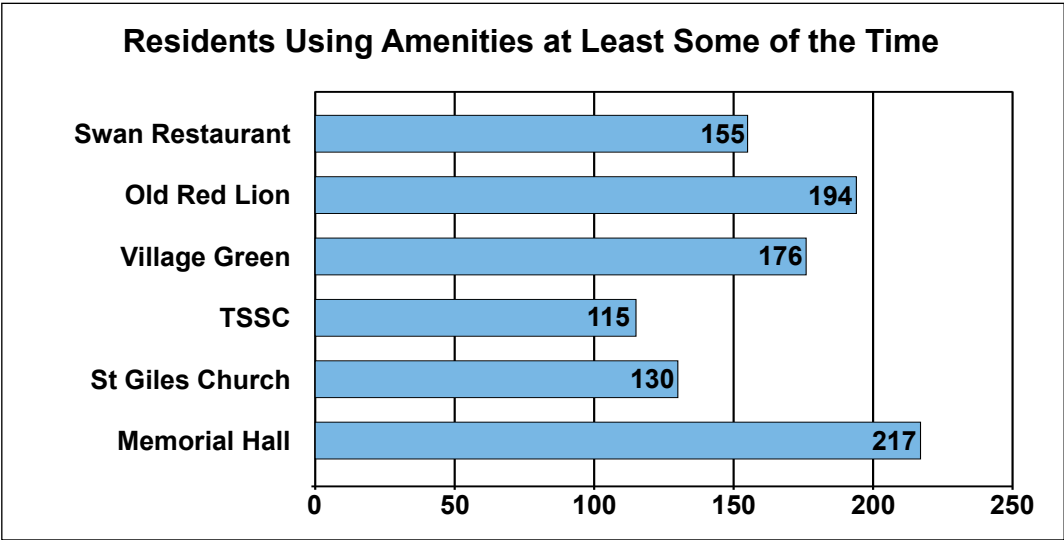
Village Amenities

Village facilities, and the services and activities that they support, are at the heart of social and community life in Tetsworth. While they satisfy many expectations, each has the potential to build on its current offering and enjoy even greater support and success in the future.

Tetsworth Memorial Hall, St Giles Church, Tetsworth Sports & Social Club, the Village Green and its PATCH play area represent the principal community assets that support village social life. Tetsworth Primary School caters for the education of younger children and Little Kites pre-school for those even younger.

While the number of residents using any of the leisure amenities frequently is generally low, nearly all have their loyal followings and are patronised by a majority of respondents using them at least some of the time. This underlines their importance in sustaining the social fabric of the community.

The Old Red Lion pub and Swan restaurant are both much valued commercial amenities attracting their own loyal clientele with only a minority of residents never patronising either. However, to sustain their business viability each would wish to attract greater numbers of regular Tetsworth users.



Tetsworth Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall has benefitted enormously from its recent radical expansion and refurbishment and has become a much more inviting venue for hosting meetings, an even wider range of organised leisure activities, more live entertainment under the subsidised Good Night Out live music and theatre programmes, and other public and private social events.

Overhaul of the kitchen facilities and fitting out much of the upper floor area have still to be undertaken, and their completion when funding allows, should result in even greater use of the hall. In response to an invitation to suggest additional organised leisure activities, a number of proposed new clubs or classes would probably be hosted in the Memorial Hall.

The hall also has an office suite available for rent by small local businesses.

Action 4

Implement kitchen and upper floor refurbishment projects

Status	Underway
Who	Memorial Hall committee
How	Complete refurbishment plans as funding permits
When	Within 5 years



St Giles Church

Our parish church, the steepled, stone Victorian building of St Giles is sited at the highest point in Tetsworth. It has a small but loyal following and makes positive efforts to support the community on such formal occasions as baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as holding regular church services and offering pastoral care throughout the parish.

St Giles incumbent lives in Tetsworth although he is also responsible for a group of churches in neighbouring parishes. St Giles has its own Parochial Church Council (PCC). Ongoing issues for the church are its churchyard approaching capacity for additional burials, and maintenance of the church fabric and churchyard. On the former issue, residents have given overwhelming support for reuse of unmarked graves over, say, 100 years old rather than closure of the churchyard and handing it over to council care. A number of additional volunteers have come forward to help with churchyard maintenance, while a small number of enthusiastic villagers would welcome the return of regular bell-ringing.



Action 5

Consider villager opinion on future churchyard burial policy

Status	Ongoing
Who	PCC
How	Decide on future burial policy
When	Within 1 year

Action 6

Consider reintroduction of regular bell-ringing

Status	For consideration
Who	Volunteers and Tower Captain
How	Form bell ringing team
When	Within 2 years

Tetsworth Sports & Social Club (TSSC)

As its name suggests, TSSC exists to support a range of organised sports teams using the village green facility, and hosts a range of social events and activities in its well-found clubhouse, itself benefitting from expansion and refurbishment in recent years. Around 200 local residents currently enjoy membership for a nominal annual subscription. However, it attracts more occasional rather than frequent users and a significant proportion of the community never uses it.

TSSC operates in partnership with Tetsworth Parish Council which owns the TSSC clubhouse and the village green. TSSC pays nominal rent for its facilities and is responsible for maintaining the Village Green as a valued community asset.

Suggestions for broadening the appeal of both the sporting and social activities of TSSC will be addressed under the Community Life section of the CLP.





The Village Green

Tetsworth's village green is considered by many to be one of the most attractive features of the village landscape. Its use and maintenance by TSSC has already been acknowledged. However, oversight of the PATCH play area and skateboarding ramp is retained by TPC and use of the green for the annual Village Fete is organised by a separate committee that runs the event. The use of the green for casual recreation is an amenity enjoyed by many.

The PATCH play area is beginning to show signs of ageing and refurbishment with additional, more modern equipment would be welcomed by many. Residents suggested a whole range of more exciting new equipment, but only the introduction of a zip-wire attracted significant support.

The introduction of a 'Trim Trail' of rustic but robust adult exercise equipment sited round the perimeter of the Green would be a welcome addition and a number of volunteers have already offered to help with such a project.



Action 7

Investigate viability of building a 'Trim Trail' round the edges of the Village Green

Status	New initiative
Who	Future 'Trail' users, TSSC & TPC
How	Consider funding and location
When	Plan within 1 year

Action 8

Launch a project to refurbish the PATCH play area

Status	New initiative
Who	Parents, volunteers & TPC
How	Seek funding and develop plan
When	Plan within 1 year

The Old Red Lion

The Old Red Lion has recently broadened its appeal by offering breakfasts, longer opening hours, holding quiz nights and other events, running a village shop for basic provisions and acting as a drop-off/pick-up agent for a commercial parcels carrier service. However, suggestions from residents to boost its popularity are dominated by their wish to see the Old Red Lion develop an enviable reputation for good food and drink and become a destination of choice through its welcoming ambiance.

The Old Red Lion has recently been registered as a community asset. This action will allow local interests a 6 month window to prepare a bid should it face closure as a public house.



The Swan Restaurant

Since its opening at the same time as the Swan Antiques Centre, the Swan restaurant has built up a reputation for fine dining in attractive period surroundings. However, much restricted opening hours were brought in in response to the recession and tightness of disposable incomes over the past few years.

There has recently been some return to its broader offering, but residents feel that a significant boost could be given to its local popularity if it was to offer a local/loyalty discount scheme or introduce a less expensive menu alongside its traditional fine dining options.



Tetsworth Primary School

The Primary School operates successfully under a formal partnership with the John Hampden School in Thame. The Tetsworth school currently has about 50 pupils on its rolls and is near capacity, attracting a number of children from neighbouring communities. While this reflects well on the reputation of the school it also gives rise to irritating parking issues at drop-off/pick-up times. School staff are supported by a Board of Governors and both enjoy the active involvement and fundraising of a Parents' Association. The school has achieved a sound OFSTED record with particular praise for its community ethos. An innovation which almost all parents would welcome is extension of the school day beyond core hours to offer a wider range of extra-curricular wrap-around activities.



Action 9

Consider extended school hours with more extra-curricular wrap-around activities

Status	New initiative
Who	Govenors and staff
How	Assess viability and develop plan
When	Consider within 1 year

Little Kites Pre-School

The Little Kites pre-school or nursery has established itself on a sound business footing with charitable status. It has purpose-built indoor and outdoor facilities alongside Tetsworth Primary School. However, it could make itself even more attractive to working parents by extending its hours of opening.

A number of child-minding businesses also operate in the village.



Community Life

Tetsworth residents already foster an atmosphere of neighbourliness and value its collective community spirit. This cohesion is well-demonstrated through a few societies and clubs run by volunteers and its annual cycle of community events. However, there is always room to address those things that we don't do so well, and plan new activities for the future. Some proposals may qualify for Section 106/CIL support or grants administered by local authorities or charities.

Organised Sports

TSSC is the natural focus for organised team sports in the village. The Tetsworth football and cricket teams are largely sustained through their own momentum. However, there is an appetite to foster greater local representation in existing sports teams, expand youth and children's sport and broaden even more the range of sports supported by the club. Some, such as tennis, would require significant investment in courts while others might benefit from the introduction of artificial playing surfaces and more substantial floodlighting.

Action 11

Consider expanding the range of sports supported

Status	New initiative
Who	New sport proposers and TSSC
How	Assess viability, plan, fund and implement
When	Assess within 1 year

Action 10

Encourage more local and youth participation in organised sports teams

Status	Ongoing
Who	TSSC
How	Rolling advertising campaign
When	Ongoing

Action 12

Consider viability of enhancing sports facilities and infrastructure

Status	New initiative
Who	Potential users, TSSC
How	Assess viability, plan, fund and implement
When	Assess within 1 year, implement in 5

Societies, Clubs & Special Interest Groups

Tetsworth Memorial Hall hosts meetings of a number of clubs or less formally defined special interest groups. These include dog training and Zumba fitness classes, and the regular Tuesday Coffee Shop and Tuck Shop sessions enjoyed by young and old alike.

However, it has the capacity to act as the venue for a much broader range of group activities. Residents have shown some interest in starting a Cinema club, running various forms of fitness/exercise sessions, and establishing village branches of organisations such as the Women's Institute, a Youth Club and cub, scout, brownie and guide troops. These will only flourish if driven and sustained by enthusiastic participants.

Action 13

Plan, launch and sustain new group activities and clubs

Status	New initiative
Who	Activity proposers
How	Assess viability, plan, fund and implement
When	Ongoing

The Calendar of Village Events

The passing of the seasons can be marked by Tetsworth's schedule of community events. Summer sees the Village Fete on the Village Green, Autumn the Flower, Produce and Crafts Show in the Memorial Hall and just before Christmas, the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. Other local organisations such as the school and church run their own events which are more likely to appeal to those already associated with such groups, although open to all.

The social function of TSSC relies on generating income through its licensed sales, but it also runs an attractive programme of live musical entertainment and supports traditional pastimes such as darts. Much the same could be said of the Old Red Lion and Memorial Hall which both host programmes of live entertainment and social events.

What is noticeable in this programme is the piecemeal promotion of individual events and lack of coordination between organisations to develop a more attractive and visible schedule spread over the annual cycle. The role and effectiveness of village information sources will be crucial to the promotion of a consolidated events schedule, and this is addressed later in the CLP.

Village Charities

The Tetsworth School Fund, Little Kites Pre-School, and Memorial Hall operate under charitable status. Additionally, villagers are Trustees of two local charities which support a range of Tetsworth community events, projects and individuals in need.

The Cozens Bequest

This fund was established by the generous legacy of a former Tetsworth resident. Its assets are administered by a committee including representatives from TPC and St Giles PCC. Grants are made to individuals generally to help address identified hardships.

The Tetsworth Trust

The Trust was established about 35 years ago. It derives most of its income from regular Bingo Nights held in a neighbouring village hall. The Trustees use its assets to support the provision of a Christmas hamper to all Tetsworth residents of pensionable age. Its profile within Tetsworth might be boosted if it was able to focus more of its fundraising activities in the village

Good Neighbour Scheme

Although not yet an established charity, a number of villagers are willing to support a Good Neighbour scheme. The aims of such an initiative would be looking out in an informal way for those less mobile or able in our community.

Action 14

Achieving better coordination and advertising of village events

Status	New initiative
Who	Event sponsors and organisers
How	Development of a comprehensive village events diary
When	Within 1 year, then update regularly



Action 15

Identifying individuals or groups in need of help from the Cozens Bequest

Status	Ongoing
Who	All residents
How	Advising Trustees of need
When	Review regularly

Action 16

Plan and implement a Tetsworth Good Neighbour scheme

Status	New initiative
Who	Scheme sponsors and supporters
How	Plan and implement scheme with volunteers
When	Plan within 1 year, implement in 2

Spreading the Word

Like all communities, we like to know what's going on, what today's issues are, and where and when we can get this, that and the other. Availability of local information is the key. Tetsworth already scores quite well. The monthly Tetsworth Newsletter is distributed to all households, there are several websites including one managed by the Parish Council and others supported by particular interests within the village, and Tetsworth also has its own Facebook page. However, word-of-mouth or the village grapevine is still regarded as one of the most effective communication channel by many residents. Obviously, more could and should be done on the information front.

Some of the new information sharing initiatives might be supported by advertising income or similar local sponsorship.

Tetsworth Newsletter

Almost all villagers read the monthly Tetsworth Newsletter which is produced and distributed entirely by volunteer effort. Some villagers have been critical of the timeliness of its delivery and the breadth of its editorial content. While the former is a matter for the volunteer distribution team, the latter can only be addressed by local individuals and organisations producing interesting articles for the editorial staff on a regular or occasional basis.

Village Websites and Social Media

The internet is a powerful tool which hosts and gives access to a vast wealth of information. A number of Tetsworth organisations already exploit its capability with their own websites. However, there is currently no 'one-stop-shop' website that acts as a comprehensive information source for all villagers. Such a resource could perhaps be based on the TPC website with the cooperation of existing website managers and the drive and enthusiasm of a resident willing to take on the role of overall Tetsworth webmaster.

Tetsworth Business Directory

A directory of local businesses was created alongside the Tetsworth Village Plan of 2004. This document now needs substantial revision if it is to fulfil its aim to promote both locally-based businesses and those that have established a substantial customer base in Tetsworth. The directory could be issued as hard copy or made available through a website and social media.

New Residents' Welcome Pack

About 20 new families join our community every year and have an urgent need to get to grips with the details of everyday life in the village.

A New Residents' Welcome Pack could make this challenge so much easier. A booklet or web-pages could, for example, set out in brief local arrangements for schooling, bus services, refuse collection, the services offered by village amenities, those available in Thame, and much more.



Action 17

Submit a broader range of articles for publication in the Tetsworth Newsletter

Status	New initiative
Who	Organisation and volunteer authors
How	Submit regular or occasional articles
When	Ongoing

Action 18

Create a 'one-stop-shop' Tetsworth website linking existing information sources

Status	New initiative
Who	Volunteer webmaster and feeder website managers
How	Design, launch and sustain an overall village website
When	Plan and implement within 1 year

Action 19

Create a new Tetsworth Business Directory

Status	Revision of previous edition
Who	Volunteers with TPC guidance
How	Identify businesses, prepare and publish
When	Within 1 year, then update regularly

Action 20

Create New Residents' Welcome pack

Status	New initiative
Who	Volunteers with TPC guidance
How	Plan content, prepare and publish
When	Within 1 year, then update regularly

A Clubs & Societies Fair

Individual special interest groups use a variety of means to promote themselves and recruit new members. However, Tetsworth does not yet have an event at which all local groups could advertise their offerings to the village as a whole.

A Clubs and Societies Fair could be such an event, possibly held in conjunction with one of the established annual events such as the Autumn Flower, Produce and Crafts Show.

Visitors' Information Point

A summary of the sort of information which would be included in a New Residents' Information Pack would also be helpful to visitors to Tetsworth. The core of a centrally-located noticeboard display would probably be a map of the village highlighting key facilities and local footpaths. This information could also be made available through a website and social media.

Researching Names on the War Memorial

There is a degree of local enthusiasm for researching the history of all those commemorated on the Tetsworth War Memorial.

Some progress has already been made on such a project, but the additional impetus of the centenary of the start of the Great War last year and consolidated volunteer effort could see it through to successful completion



Collating Tetsworth Parish Archives

A mass of documents relevant to our village heritage are held in the Tetsworth parish archives. However, this potentially rich source of historically important information needs review and organisation into a structured framework to become a much more useful resource to researchers.

Action 21

Hold an annual Clubs and Societies fair

Status	New initiative
Who	Participating organisations
How	Organise alongside existing village event
When	Annually

Action 22

Create a Visitors' Information Point

Status	New initiative
Who	Volunteer proposers
How	Prepare content, site noticeboard and display
When	Implement in 1 year

Action 23

Research the history of those commemorated on Tetsworth War Memorial

Status	Ongoing
Who	Volunteers
How	Research source material and publish findings
When	Complete within 2 years

Action 24

Collate Tetsworth Parish archives

Status	New initiative
Who	Volunteers with TPC guidance
How	Collate source material into structured framework
When	Within 2 years, then maintain

Reducing the Irritants

Some of the things that annoy Tetsworth residents, such as motorway noise, addressed later in the CLP, can only be overcome by strategic action and major funding. However, the impact of others can be reduced, or ideally eliminated, with just a little bit more consideration on the part of the perpetrators

Dog Fouling on Public Spaces

Despite a vigorous publicity campaign and provision of disposal bins by TPC, dog fouling on the Village Green and other public spaces continues to be a problem. This can only be addressed if all dog owners and walkers act more responsibly with their pets.

Action 25

Dispose of dog fouling responsibly

Status	Ongoing
Who	Dog owners and walkers
How	Use disposal bins
When	Ongoing



Irresponsible On-Street Parking

Tetsworth's high car ownership puts pressure on both on- and off-street parking spaces. The introduction of formal on-street parking restrictions on village roads would be acceptable to very few residents. However, on-street parking in some locations does give rise to safety concerns.

Many of the village streets are narrow and parked cars have blocked access for emergency service vehicles. Parking on pavements creates a hazard for the disabled or children in pushchairs, and congestion around the Swan Gardens/High Street junction at school drop-off and pick-up times is deemed unacceptable by many.

Regular publicity campaigns, possibly supported by local police input, for more considerate parking and maximum use of off-street parking facilities by residents could do much to address this irritant.

Action 26

Regular campaign to encourage responsible on-street vehicle parking

Status	Ongoing
Who	Police, TPC and vehicle users
How	Publicity campaign
When	Regular reminders



Infrastructure and Services

The range of utilities and the network of roads, pavements and footpaths available to us in Tetsworth can be considered as our local infrastructure. The provision of public transport, and resident or visiting healthcare, library, post office, banking or other retail outlets can collectively be considered as the services we have or could potentially have in Tetsworth.

Utilities

Tetsworth is served by mature electricity supply, mains water and foul and surface water drainage systems. It has its own telephone exchange and landline network and mobile phone signals are available for all networks. However, there is no mains gas supply to the village.

Gas Supply

More than two-thirds of households would use a gas supply if one was made available to the village. Such action by Southern Gas networks, the infrastructure provider in this area, would be an expensive investment even though the national transmission network reaches close to Tetsworth.

It seems likely that installing a local distribution network could only be afforded if CIL funding became available as a by-product of significant building projects in the village.

Superfast Broadband

Many residents are not satisfied with current broadband connectivity and speeds and nearly three-quarters of households would subscribe to a superfast service if available. Salvation is nearly to hand! Tetsworth is included in the rolling Better Broadband for Oxfordshire project which will make superfast broadband available to 95% of households in the district. Our service is planned to go live during 2015.

Utility Shortcomings

Households were invited to report shortcomings in the provision of utility services. All services attracted some criticism with the frequency of power cuts being unacceptable to about three-quarters of households.

Mobile reception problems were reported across all networks, but only in relatively small numbers.

Localised sewage smells in Swan Gardens and Cygnet Close are believed to come from shared holding tanks serving a few properties rather than the main foul water drainage infrastructure.

Action 27

Consider a local gas supply network as a candidate project which might qualify for CIL funding

Status	New initiative
Who	TPC and residents
How	Consideration of major house-building planning applications
When	Ongoing

Action 28

Monitor progress of Better Broadband for Oxfordshire roll-out

Status	New initiative
Who	TPC
How	Review of project website
When	Completion within 1 year

Action 29

Report utility problems to service providers

Status	Ongoing
Who	Residents suffering utility problems
How	Reporting for compensation
When	Ongoing

Action 30

Resolve Swan Gardens/Cygnet Close sewage smells

Status	Current issue
Who	Affected residents
How	Identify problem and agree solution
When	Plan within 1 year

Highways and Byways

The A40 passing through Tetsworth is still administered as a national trunk route and is the designated diversion whenever there are local M40 closures. The remainder of village roads are mainly narrow streets only serving local needs. Most roads are lined by pedestrian pavements, and the village is blessed with an attractive network of Victorian cobble paths and signposted footpaths out into the surrounding countryside.

This infrastructure gives rise to some road safety and maintenance concerns and how best to address them.

Road Safety

Nearly half of residents feel that current road safety measures, particularly on the High Street, are inadequate. Most of the concern is over speeding within the 30mph zone through the village leading to calls for additional enforcement measures. Chicanes and humps cannot be built due to the status of the A40. Other measures such as permanent speed cameras or illuminated speed signs are possible but require significant investment. However, speeding surveys conducted by the police from time to time have always concluded that Tetsworth does not have a significant speeding problem and is therefore unlikely to receive funding for substantial infrastructure modifications. It is for Tetsworth residents to demonstrate that the police surveys are not representative of everyday evidence.

There is some support for the installation of a pedestrian crossing in the centre of the village, but the weight of opinion is unlikely to attract the necessary funding. Only a few residents are adamantly pro or anti installation of street lighting in the village.



Road and Pathway Maintenance

Criticism of local roads and footpaths is dominated by the chronic issue of potholes and overgrown paths both within and outside the village. While there is no guarantee of speedy resolution, the appearance of potholes can easily be reported through the 'Fix My Street' application available on the TPC website. The annual blitz on Tetsworth's pavements and roadsides by an OCC working party is very effective, but is currently scheduled during the mid-Winter months. As a result, weeds and other overgrowth spread without check throughout the growing season. Rescheduling to a Summer campaign and spraying using permissible herbicides might produce a better result.

Action 31

Conduct village-run random speed checks

Status	Current issue
Who	Volunteers with TPC support
How	Negotiate with Thames Valley Police
When	Within 1 year, then regularly

Action 32

Report location of potholes promptly

Status	Ongoing
Who	Residents
How	Report on 'Fix My Street' website
When	Ongoing

Action 33

Seek more helpful scheduling of OCC footpath clearance programme

Status	Current issue
Who	TPC
How	Negotiate with OCC
When	Annually

Maintenance of the cobble footpaths which form such a visible part of our community heritage falls to the village itself, and to the willingness of local residents to volunteer for intensive working parties.



Proper mapping and maintenance of all rural footpaths in the Tetsworth neighbourhood could also do much to encourage their recreational use and be helpful to visitors.



Cycle Path to Thame

There is a considerable body of local support to upgrade Judds Lane as a designated cycle path to Thame via Moreton. The route is part of the ancient north-south roadway through Tetsworth from Thame to Wallingford. However, the section from Tetsworth part-way to Moreton is now just a muddy farm track fit only for agricultural vehicle access and intrepid off-road cyclists,

Upgrade of this section, perhaps under the sponsorship of the Sustrans cycleway programme, would be a most welcome initiative and would link directly with the existing Sustrans Route 57 Phoenix Trail from Thame to Princes Risborough.

While securing funding for such a project might be the major barrier, protection from damage by agricultural vehicles and denying the route to motorcyclists are issues which would also need to be addressed.

Action 34

Plan self-help cobble footpath maintenance

Status	Ongoing
Who	Volunteers and TPC
How	Regular volunteer working parties
When	Ongoing as necessary

Action 35

Prepare map of local footpaths for recreational use. Report access difficulties

Status	New initiative
Who	Volunteers
How	Prepare leaflet, report issues
When	Within 1 year, then ongoing



Action 36

Investigate Sustrans or other funding support for Judds Lane upgrade as a cycle path

Status	New initiative
Who	Proposal supporters
How	Seek funding & assess viability of scheme
When	Assess within 1 year, implement in 5

Village Services

Public Transport

The lack of public transport services is often cited by residents as a significant down-side of living in Tetsworth. The village enjoys only the limited schedule operated by Route 275 Oxford – High Wycombe buses and the even more limited Route 124 Watlington – Thame service.

With such limited services, it is not surprising that the overwhelming majority of residents never use the buses and rely on their cars. What was less expected was residents' feedback that almost as few would take advantage of more frequent or extended bus services or a community-run shuttle to the M40 Junction 6/Lewknor coach stops for London and its airports. With this body of evidence, there is little prospect of gaining support from external authorities for improved services. However, there remains a case for retention of existing services for those few residents who use them on a regular basis and consider them to be essential.



Action 37 Resist any reduction in existing bus services

Status	Ongoing
Who	Service users and TPC
How	Lobby councils and service providers
When	Ongoing

Resident and Visiting Services

Other than the village store inside the Old Red Lion, Tetsworth no longer has any dedicated retail outlets. However, the community does support a wide range of small, often home-based professional and domestic services. The availability of an up-to-date Tetsworth Business Directory would help to advertise all that is available without leaving the village.

In canvassing residents' views on potential patronage of new in-village or visiting services, there was wholesale support for re-establishment of a local Post Office and some form of banking service or at least a cash-point. An expanded, and possibly stand-alone, village shop drew almost as much support. However, the idea of visiting GP surgery sessions returning to Tetsworth only just gained majority support. If introduced, such sessions might possibly be held in the Memorial Hall.

It has to be recognised that businesses will only base themselves in Tetsworth if there is a reasonable prospect of commercial success.

Two publicly-funded visiting services that already come to Tetsworth are the Mobile Library and Mobile Play Bus. Disappointingly low usage of these amenities was reported by the residents' survey, although the few regular users would no doubt champion them as essential to their needs.

Action 38 Investigate viability of attracting additional commercial and public services to the village

Status	New initiative
Who	Proposal supporters with TPC guidance
How	Approach potential suppliers of services
When	Initial investigations within 1 year

Action 39 Resist withdrawal of visiting library and play-bus services

Status	Ongoing
Who	Service users
How	Lobby councils and service providers
When	Ongoing

Environmental Issues

Tetsworth enjoys an attractive rural setting and this has to be weighed against the unwelcome impact of M40 noise. This section examines what can be done to enhance the former while mitigating the latter. National policies for exploitation of alternative and greener forms of energy could also have a significant impact on our local landscape should commercial wind or solar farms be proposed or fracking exploration be undertaken.

M40 Motorway Noise

Tetsworth's ready access to the M40 motorway is judged by many to be a positive benefit of living in the village. However, to even more, the continual noise pollution it generates is the least attractive aspect of our village.

Virtually all residents are affected by the noise driven over Tetsworth by the prevailing winds, and approximately two-thirds report that they are disturbed by it. The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency are aware of the need for noise mitigation measures. A programme of partial resurfacing of the carriageway with lower-noise asphalt is pencilled in for 2015 but may only be applied to the slow lane and to the middle lane in patches. The fast lane which generates the bulk of road/tyre noise might not receive the same treatment for some years.

A more radical solution being championed by the M40 Chilterns Environmental Group (M40CEG) could involve installation of acoustic barriers incorporating income-generating photo-voltaic arrays. These have been under detailed study by the authorities for some time. Implementation would be along the northern margin of the M40 between Junctions 4 and 8 including the stretch adjacent to Tetsworth. It is important that Tetsworth should continue to support the wider lobbying impact of the M40CEG as well as pursuing our local interests independently.

Virtually all Tetsworth residents are in favour of lower-noise resurfacing and most would press for early attention to the whole carriageway. Almost as many would be willing to support a not-for-profit enterprise to install solar/acoustic noise mitigation barriers at Tetsworth should the Highways Agency fail to go ahead with such a project. It is possible that this type of venture might qualify for some external financial support.



Action 40

Lobby authorities for full resurfacing of M40 with lower-noise asphalt at earliest opportunity

Status	New initiative
Who	All concerned residents
How	Write to MP and councillors
When	Until full resurfacing implemented

Action 41

Consider development of a not-for-profit enterprise to install solar/acoustic barriers alongside the M40

Status	New initiative
Who	Tetsworth M40CEG representative
How	Canvass local support
When	Initiate within 1 year

Alternative Energy Sources

Residents were invited to register their support or otherwise for neighbourhood proposals for commercial wind farms, solar farms or gas fracking exploration and exploitation. When granted, licences for such enterprises are generally valid for 20 to 25 years.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents would resist proposals to site commercial wind turbines close to the village. However, a narrow majority of respondents would be comfortable with proposals for similar siting of commercial solar energy arrays.

There was overwhelming opposition for any proposals which would result in fracking exploration in the vicinity of the village.

Action 42

Reflect local opinion on alternative energy source planning applications

Status	New initiative
Who	TPC
How	Reflect local opinion
When	On receipt of planning proposals



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Village Environmental Improvement Projects

Residents' views were canvassed on potential implementation of a number of environment-improving projects around the village.

Planting a Community Orchard

There was wholesale support for such a venture should a suitable site for it be identified. It is important to note that, once planted, an orchard would require ongoing maintenance.

Action 43

Plan and implement a village orchard

Status	New initiative
Who	Proposers with TPC guidance
How	Investigate sites and funding
When	Investigate in 1 year

Provision of Additional Allotments

With the same proviso of identifying a suitable site, such a project gained even greater support.

Action 44

Plan and implement additional allotments

Status	New initiative
Who	Would-be allotment holders with TPC cooperation
How	Identify potential sites
When	Investigate in 1 year



Bulb Planting in Village Verges

Although not identified as a specific project, many villagers are willing to volunteer their time to plant bulbs on a working party basis.

Action 45

Plant additional bulbs in village verges

Status	Continuing initiative
Who	Volunteers with TPC guidance
How	Volunteer working parties
When	Annually

Reviewing the Plan

Borrowing a well-used military maxim, even the best of plans will only survive the first engagement! In the same way, it is crucial that the CLP is exposed to routine review of progress against actions. It is also true that many worthwhile improvement initiatives will fall by the wayside without the sustained enthusiasm and commitment of an army of local volunteers.

Many of the actions detailed in this plan fall to the management teams of existing village organisations even if only to provide guidance or oversight, or just to take note of local opinion. It will need joint action to ensure potential projects are investigated properly, launched and seen through to completion – or abandoned if not viable. However, the discipline of a formal review as part of the Annual Parish Meeting would enable the whole community to appreciate the pace of progress, or the need for change across the board. The review of actions could be prompted as part of TPC's publicity ahead of the annual meeting

Action 46

Report progress on actions to the Annual Parish Meeting

Status	New initiative
Who	Action holders with TPC prompting
How	Report to Annual Parish Meeting
When	Annually



The Mechanics of a Community-Led Plan

What is a Community-Led Plan (CLP)?

CLPs are locally-developed documents which represent the collective views of residents and organisations on measures aimed at making villages or neighbourhoods even better, thriving communities. They highlight local issues and aspirations, and set out the actions needed to take associated initiatives and projects through to fruition.

Although they have no statutory status, they also provide solid evidence to influence both internal and external decision makers. The scope of CLPs cover plans for the next decade, although progress should be reviewed regularly throughout that period.

How is a CLP Developed?

Community, consultation and participation are at the heart of the CLP development process. Although preparation of a CLP must be led by a team of willing local volunteers, the views of all residents and organisations are central to the credibility of proposals and the strength of feeling on specific local issues. The principal tool for gathering such information is usually a residents' questionnaire inviting opinions on a broad range of local themes impacting on

the community. The results of this exercise are instrumental in developing appropriate actions and preparing the CLP document. The draft plan must be exposed to review by local residents and county and district councils prior to adoption by a community's own parish council and its final publication. Copies of the plan are distributed to all local households.

