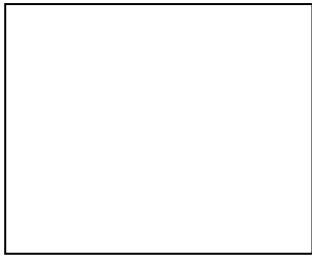
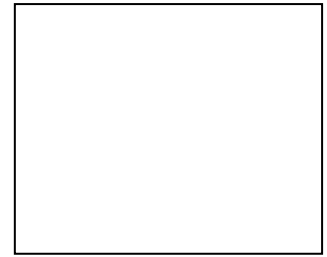


BENSON PARISH PLAN



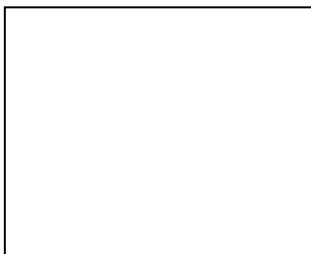
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Childrens' Play Area"



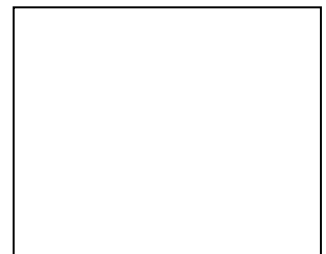
"Maintain, enhance and protect
amenity value of the Brook"



Whither Go We



"Improve road Maintenance"



"Maintain support for the
Village Post Office"

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FOREWORD

To be effective, a Parish Council needs clear knowledge of residents' wants and needs and to know how they see the future of their village. The excellent Parish Appraisal, published just over ten years ago, gave clear guidelines for the then council to follow. However, with many of the Appraisal's objectives achieved, your council identified a requirement for a brand new review of villagers' thoughts and opinions. So some 18 months ago, following a very constructive public meeting in the Parish Hall and with the help of funding from the Countryside Agency, the Parish Plan was launched

Benson Parish Council is extremely pleased to receive the Parish Plan, the fruit of so much hard work by so many people. We are grateful to David Hammond, of the Countryside Agency and to David Fisher, our contact with Oxfordshire Rural Community Association for their help, support and guidance. Our particular thanks go to Anne Millar, Chairman and George Verdon, Executive Officer, Treasurer and Secretary of the Parish Plan Steering Committee. Elsewhere in this document is a list of the working group chairpersons and members and we owe a debt of gratitude to every one of them for their enthusiasm and commitment. It is good to see how well the people of Benson, with so many diverse talents, have worked together in a common cause.

Everyone in Benson owns this plan, reflecting as it does the hopes and aspirations for our village. Your Parish Council now has the daunting but exciting task of implementing as much of the plan as is possible by working with villagers, the parish planning team, other councils and local organisations. We look forward to the challenge.

We hope that you enjoy reading this document and that in the coming months and years you will see your plan becoming reality.

For Benson Parish Council

Paul Booker
Chairman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Steering Committee for the Benson Parish Plan(SCBPP) wish to thank most sincerely the Benson Parish Council(BPC) and those organizations and individuals listed at Annex A who made such a large contribution to the development of the Benson Parish Plan(BPP). More importantly, they also wish to thank the parishioners of the Parish for their valuable time and contributions, without which the development of the Plan would not have been possible.

BACKGROUND

Parish Plans are a Government Initiative to enable parishes to develop a more effective relationship between the parish and the local planning authorities and their development plans. District councils have the responsibility for the development of Local Development Frameworks and exercising planning control. Parish councils have a right to be consulted during all planning applications. The existence of a formal Parish Plan developed with the co-operation and agreement of the parishioners will assist this process. The Parish Plan also allows the parishioners of the parish to express their views on a wide range of issues affecting their parish and develop plans for the enhancement of the services affecting the parish over the next ten years.

INTRODUCTION

The BPP was initiated by the BPC in March 2003 at a Parish Meeting. At a further meeting chaired by the Chairman of the BPC, a steering committee was elected and a Chairman appointed. At this point the BPC handed the project over to the SCBPP and the BPC withdrew from further participation. The SCBPP took guidance from the Countryside Agency(CA) and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council(ORCC) on the purpose of a Parish Plan and what its objectives should be. A 'Methodology' for the development of the BPP was devised. Reference documents used in the development of the BPP are at Annex B.

In developing the BPP, the SCBPP used a variety of methods, to ascertain how the parishioners of Benson Parish wished to see their Parish develop in the next ten years and what improvements in services they sought. In doing so. They canvassed widely the views of all the parishioners, including RAF Benson, regardless of age or background. As the Plan developed, the SCBPP and its Working Groups(WGs) conducted numerous meetings and workshops to ensure that the objectives selected for insertion into the BPP were correct and met with the broad approval of the community.

It is hoped that the BPP will be used by Local Government planners and staffs to guide their decision making when considering the future development of the Parish. Regrettably, there is no guarantee that this will happen as no formal documentation exists directing them to do so. Failure on their part to do so will disappoint the Parish and will negate the hard work which parishioners have undertaken to develop the plan.

The BPP will provide the BPC and parishioners with a number of challenges, as many of the objectives in the BPP will have to be undertaken by the BPC and parishioners working in concert if they are to be realised.

SCOPE

The BPP outlines the methodology used to develop the plan, details the statistical and other evidence used to define the objectives, and lists the objectives(actions) that the parishioners of Benson would like to see implemented in the Parish over the next ten years. It will provide the following detail for each objective:

- Identify the problem.
- Action required to resolve the problem(the objective)
- Supporting argument.
- Who is responsible for implementation.
- Timeframe for implementation.
- Outline costing.
- Summary.

The paper concludes with recommendations for the implementation of the Plan.

METHODOLOGY

The Methodology used to develop the BPP conforms to the guidance given by the CA and the ORCC. Details of the Methodology are at Annex C.

HISTORY

A short history of the development of Benson from early times to the present day is at Annex D

AIM

The aim of the BPP is provide a blueprint for the improvements and changes that the parishioners of Benson Parish wish to see achieved over the next ten years with a view to influencing the Local Government Planning staffs in the development of the Parish.

OBJECTIVES

HOUSING

Objective 1

Finding: How many new houses should be constructed in Benson over next 10 years?

Objective: *Between 20 and 100 new dwellings should be constructed over the next ten years.*

Supporting Argument.

In the General Questionnaire, Question 21 stated that the approximate number of dwellings in Benson Village was 1037, and asked how many new dwellings should be built there over the next ten years. Replies were as follows:

Number of new dwellings	0	1-10	11-20	21-50	51-100	101-200	201-500	500+
Number of replies	71	47	88	206	184	59	5	7

105 households did not indicate a preference. We were led to our conclusion by noting that the total for each of the two middle options was more than twice that of any other. It should also be noted that only 71 out of 667 replies favoured more than 100 new dwellings.

Our consultations with village businesses showed that they would like to see an increase in housing stock to improve their customer base.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC, SODC	Over 10 Years	Not calculated

Objective 2

Finding: Local people find it very hard to get a foot on the housing ladder due to the lack of start up homes and the high price of local properties.

Objective: *A high proportion (well over 50%) of new dwellings be affordable housing that is retained in perpetuity for local people.*

Supporting Argument.

The SODC defines affordable housing as housing that meets the needs of those households in South Oxfordshire that are living in unsuitable accommodation and cannot afford to rent or to buy housing of a suitable size. It should be affordable not only to the first occupiers but remains so in perpetuity to meet future needs.

The need for affordable housing has been an issue in South Oxfordshire for many years and led to the inclusion of a policy (H7) in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan (1997) requiring an element of affordable housing on certain housing developments. The Second Deposit Draft of the 2011 Local Plan contains a revised policy (H9). In 2003, BPC commissioned the ORCC to analyze the housing need questionnaires that had been returned by Benson households. These questionnaires gave an indication as to the need for affordable housing among Benson residents.

Policy H9 states that, on housing sites that are capable of accommodating two or more small dwellings in settlements of less than 3000 such as Benson, the SODC will seek a proportion of affordable housing of 50%. (For the purposes of the SODC's affordable housing policy, Benson is classified as having a population of less than 3000. At the time of the 2001 Census, the population of Benson, excluding Defence Housing Establishment residents, numbered about 2,900.)

In the General Questionnaire, Question 17 stated 'The SODC proposes that 50% of the dwellings in an in-fill development remain in perpetuity as affordable housing for local people,' The question asked whether this proportion of affordable housing is too high, acceptable or too low. The total number of replies was as follows:

Too High	Acceptable	Too Low
144	448	109

71 households did not indicate any opinion.

Question 18 stated 'The SODC opposes new housing development outside the built-up area of Benson. However, it may exceptionally permit on the periphery of the built-up area, a small development of affordable housing similar to The Meer (a new housing development at the chicane on Watlington Road) that would be retained in perpetuity for local people.' The question asked whether the provision of affordable housing on the periphery of the built-up area of Benson village was acceptable or not acceptable. The total number of replies were as follows:

Acceptable	Not Acceptable	No Opinion
431	268	73

Since the policies of 50% of dwellings within the built-up area and 100% of those outside it be retained in perpetuity for local people are acceptable, we concluded that the aim should be for at least 50% of new dwellings to be such.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
Oxford Citizens' Housing Association, Sovereign Housing Association, SOHA.	Over next 10 years.	Not calculated

Objective 3

Finding: Housing development outside the current boundaries of Benson village is unacceptable.

Objective: *There be no housing development outside the current footprint of Benson village.*

Supporting Argument.

In the Parish Appraisal, Question 19 asked whether any housing development outside the current footprint of Benson village would be acceptable or not. The total number of replies were as follows:

Acceptable	Not Acceptable	No Opinion
252	428	92

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC, SODC	Over next 10 years	Not applicable

Objective 4

Finding: Benson residents disagree with the Government policy that any new development should have less than 1.5 car parking spaces per dwelling.

Objective: *Such a simplistic limit be opposed and the number of car parking spaces be chosen according to the nature of the development, bearing in mind the need for transport for those living in rural areas.*

Supporting Argument.

In the General Questionnaire, Question 23 stated 'The Government recommends that all new housing developments should have fewer than 1.5 car parking spaces per dwelling', and asked whether householders agreed. The total number of replies was as follows:

Agree	Disagree	Did Not Answer
177	526	69

It is our belief that this view is based on the need for personal transport for those living in rural areas. While those living in a town can rely on walking to destinations or not having to wait long for public transport, this is not possible for those living in a village.

Sections of the relevant planning guidance are reproduced as Appendix 4. Paragraph 60 supports our objective that the **number of car parking spaces be chosen according to the nature of the development** and the simplified conclusion in section 62 seems to be inconsistent with this.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC, SODC	now	not applicable

Objective 5

Finding: There was a widespread view that the visual appearance of new housing is important.

Objective: *Establish design guidelines for the village that are accepted in Supplementary Planning Guidance.*

Supporting Argument.

90% of replies to the questionnaire agreed that the visual appearance of new housing was important. 54% specified particular design aspects that could have been improved in recent developments. 76% agreed that style guidelines would be of benefit to Benson. This animated level of interest suggests that there is overall support for style guidelines specific to Benson. It is therefore recommended that a Village Design Statement is prepared, as at Goring, to be endorsed by SODC as a material consideration in determining planning applications. The comments made in answer to the questionnaire provide a core of local opinion with which to start the process.

The majority view, in essence, is that there is a very clear preference for housing designed in local style or in keeping with the local surroundings. The use of local materials such as brick, flint and stone is strongly advocated, and there is criticism of harsh red brick and of standardised boxy design. Quality of workmanship, individuality and variety of design are sought after, though not at the expense of making new houses unaffordable to local people. Developments should not be higher than two storeys, and mixed so as to allow for different-sized households.

Landscaping is a major requirement, with provision for long-term maintenance, and comments are also made regarding layout, density, parking and eco-friendly design. It is also recognised that the architectural character of the village is already very mixed. To a few, this suggests that guidelines may be irrelevant or over-prescriptive. Others see an opportunity for more innovative architecture as long as it is compatible with the existing local variety and avoids extremes.

For a more detailed breakdown of replies, please see Annex G for responses to Question 25.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC, with option to delegate to Steering Group or new committee. Liaison required with SODC and Countryside Agency.	Analysis of initial local opinion as expressed in questionnaire is already provided in Appendix 6. Preparation of draft Village Design Statement (to include characterisation of village as existing as well as new guidelines) - 1 year. Public consultation on draft, analysis and amendments – 3 months. Submission to SODC for acceptance as Supplementary Planning Guidance – 3 months? Total 1½ years.	Use of voluntary labour at no cost. Costs of photography/illustration and reproduction of statement to be met by BPC or grant.

Summary Housing Objectives

Obj	Objective	Reason	Responsible Body for Implementation	Timeframe	Cost
1	20-100 New Dwellings over next 10 years	Contain size of Village	BPC, SODC	Over 10 years	Not applicable
2	Over 50% new dwellings to be affordable housing	To meet needs of young parishioners	Housing Associations	Over 10 years	Not applicable
3	Contain new development within current Village envelope	Contain size of village	BPC, SODC	Over 10 years	Not applicable
4	Car parking spaces to be based on need	Govt 1.5 per household not realistic in rural areas	BPC, SODC	Over 10 years	Not applicable
5	Develop design guidelines for inclusion in Supplementary Planning Guidance	Maintain visual appearance of Village	BPC, SODC	Within 2 years	Minimal

ENVIRONMENT

Objective 6

Finding: Although green waste can be recycled at Oakley Wood, the transporting of it to this site is seen as inconvenient, environmentally unfriendly and impractical for anyone without transport. The green sacks are a sort of solution but why should those least able to afford it have to pay?

Objective: *Investigate provision of community composting scheme in the village, which should include provision for the collection of green waste from those unable to deliver to the site. Some of the costs involved could be offset by the sale of the finished product.*

Supporting Argument.

Of 710 responses to the Question “Do you take garden rubbish to the free Oakley Wood tip?” 602 (85%) said either “Frequently” or “Occasionally”

The supplementary question asking whether respondents would be prepared to take green garden waste to a free Parish Composting Centre was answered in the affirmative by 81% (565 out of 698).

It is recognised that the BPC is actively investigating the provision of a community composting scheme and has received the offer of support from SODC.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC	2005	£500 start up then £10 per week

Objective 7

Finding: Roads in Benson are in a deplorable condition.

Objective: *Institute campaign through BPC and SODC to put pressure on OCC to bring roads in the Parish up to an acceptable standard*

Supporting Argument.

183 respondents said that **poor road surfaces** deterred them from using a bicycle. The state of road surfaces in the village was also mentioned in many of the written answers to other questions.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC or sub committee comprising elected and/or co-opted members.	Start in 2005	Councilors expenses

Objective 8

Finding: Lack of wheelchair access from pavements to roads and to shops and businesses and elsewhere in the village.

Objective: *Compile a list of where access points should be provided & where regulations have not been complied with. Submit to SODC/OCC. And where appropriate write to businesses/organisations concerned.*

Supporting Argument.

There is evidence from questionnaire, as an appropriate question was not asked, but 17 respondents at the Parish Hall presentation agreed with this objective with none opposed.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC or sub committee comprising elected and/or co-opted members, to include a wheelchair user.	Start in 2005	Councilors expenses

Objective 9

Finding: There is a need to improve the police presence in the Village.

Objective: *BPC to investigate with Thames Valley Police for regular visits by the Village policeperson and/or traffic warden, to deter antisocial behaviour such as vandalism and illegal parking. Consideration should also be given to the provision of a permanent Village community policeperson.*

Supporting Argument:

There is increasing concern about vandalism and antisocial behaviour within the Village. Vandalism alone costs the BPC £24,000 in 2004 and is continuing to rise. There is also the problem of illegal parking on yellow lines. It is thought the establishment of a visible and regular Community Police person for the Village would help to alleviate these problems.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC and Thames Valley Police	As soon as possible	not known

Objective 10

Finding: High Street is perceived to be dangerous for pedestrians due to illegal parking and the speed of through traffic.

Objective: *Seek further information and views on making the village centre (Supermarket/College Farm Area) more 'pedestrian friendly', including the possibility of introducing a 20mph limit.*

Supporting Argument:

There were 343 respondents to the question asking if a safety hazard was posed, for pedestrians, in the High Street shopping area. 290, or nearly 85%, considered that there was a safety hazard at that location.

In the period between 1 June 1999 and 31 May 2004 there were two accidents involving personal injury recorded at this location, both within the service road outside Unwins Off-Licence. Both involved "slight" injury to single individuals. Because of the location, a service road, it is likely that these two incidents were due to maneuvering vehicles.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC or sub committee comprising elected and/or co-opted members.	Start in 2005	Councilors' expenses

Objective 11

Finding: There is a widespread perception, not borne out by accident statistics, that there are many dangerous locations in the village due to traffic density, road layout and speeding.

Objective: *Compile a list of these locations and investigate, on site, with a road safety expert. The aim should be to alleviate fears and make safer where necessary with appropriate changes to traffic management, road and path marking, signage etc.*

Supporting Argument.

The results from questions dealing with road safety hazards within the village were somewhat contradictory. Although a great number of locations were highlighted as posing hazards for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians Benson was considered a safe place to drive (86%), walk (78%) and cycle (60%). Only horse riding was considered dangerous with 74% considering it unsafe.

The question related to the favoured type of traffic control measures indicated that police speed checks, speed cameras and additional signs were supported but chicanes and speed humps were strongly opposed.

The map at Annex E illustrates the location of all accidents, involving personal injury, recorded between 1 June 1999 and 31 May 2004. A further list of locations perceived to be hazardous should be compiled and this together with the locations of actual accidents used to investigate the locations, on site, with a road safety expert.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC or sub committee comprising elected and/or co-opted members.	Start in 2005	Councilors expenses plus fees of road safety expert

Objective 12

Finding: Discarded litter, lack of maintenance & dog fouling, despoils footpaths and verges. Dog owners have requested an increase in the number of dog litter bins in the village.

Objective: *Investigate, with responsible council, methods of improving litter collection, footpath maintenance and provision of additional litter and dog litter bins. Need to liaise with regular dog walkers to ensure optimal locations selected.*

Supporting Argument.

A significant minority of the respondents to the question “Are there any parish footpaths that you would use if they were improved/safer?” responded positively – 138 out of 668 or 21%. A wide selection of footpaths was highlighted as being in need of improvement as were a number of pavements. Litter, dog fouling and “overgrown” were all mentioned as well as the width of some paths precluding their use by buggies and, presumably, wheelchairs. There was also mention of the state of footpaths in other questions.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC/SODC	Early 2005	Minimal expenses

Objective 13

Finding: Cyclists deterred from using bikes due to lack of bicycle lanes in the Village, the deplorable state of the roads and the perception of dangerous traffic conditions.

Objective: *Investigate the practicality of segregating cyclists from other traffic in the village and improving the condition of the roads (see 7 above).*

Supporting Argument.

Road conditions are dealt with in Objective 7. 212 respondents said that traffic density deterred them from using a bicycle and 161 indicated that the lack of cycle lanes was the reason. Hopefully Traffic density will be dealt with in Objective 9 leaving the provision of cycle lanes to be investigated.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC/SODC/OCC	Mid 2005 - 2006	Councilors expenses

Objective 14

Finding: Benson Brook seen as an important amenity to the Village.

Objective: *Maintain, enhance and protect the amenity value of the brook.*

Supporting Argument.

704 households responded to the question “What value do you place on the Ewelme/Benson Brook as an environmental amenity?” 64% of responses indicated a “high” value and in excess of 90% gave a “high” or “medium” value. It is evident from these figures together with other comments in the questionnaire and the anger generated by individuals claiming part of the Brook for themselves, that this issue deserves attention. It is tentatively suggested that the BPC continue to vigorously pursue the retention of the Brook as a village amenity. It is also suggested that encouragement be given to the local environmental group to prepare a pamphlet

describing the historical information together with the natural history of the stream. If enough interesting facts are forthcoming an information board could also be considered.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC	ongoing	Between £0 and £1000

Summary Environment Objectives

Obj	Objective	Reason	Responsible Body for Implementation	Timeframe	Cost
6	Community composting	Environmental	BPC	2005	£500 start up then £10 per week
7	Condition of roads	Aesthetic/safety	BPC	Beginning 2005	Minimal expenses
8	Wheelchair access	Legal/public concern	BPC	Beginning 2005	Minimal expenses
9	Improve Police Presence in Village	Increase in vandalism and other offences	BPC, Thames Valley Police	As soon as possible	Possibly salary of policeperson
10	Illegal parking/traffic speed	Public perception of danger	BPC	Beginning 2005	Minimal expenses
11	Road safety	Public perception of danger	BPC	Beginning 2005	Minimal expenses + fees of "expert"
12	Litter and footpath maintenance	Aesthetic/safety/environmental	BPC	Early 2005	Minimal expenses
13	Cycle lanes	Safety/environmental	BPC	Mid 2005 - 2006	Minimal expenses
14	Brook amenity	Environmental	BPC	Ongoing	£0-1000

BUSINESS

Objective 15

Finding: There is a lack of banking support for businesses. Parishioners also expressed concern if Post Office services were not available.

Objective: *To lobby the appropriate sources, for example Post Office Counters Ltd, to increase the support for banking facilities regardless of bank company.*

Supporting Argument.

A number of businesses within the parish have stated that the parish would benefit from improved banking facilities, whilst also maintaining the post office facilities currently supplied by the post office. Also, 87% of the parishioners indicated that they currently use the post office facilities, especially for stamps, car licensing and paying bills, hence the facilities are important to the parish.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
T&C working group representing the BPP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with local Post Master Contact POC Ltd Contact major banks Contact the economic development branch of SODC Contact ORCC re common problem 	Immediate start for a 12-month campaign to carry out the above.	<p>Cost of the lobbying action is minimal as this will be phone calls / e-mails / etc.</p> <p>Cost of the implementation can not be quantified, as it is part of the operational activity of the organisations involved, i.e. there will be no cost to the Parish</p>

Objective 16

Finding: There is a lack of affordable support for business recycling.

Objective: *To detail the recycling needs of the businesses within the Parish, and to investigate affordable collection.*

Supporting Argument.

Businesses within the parish currently have to make and pay for all arrangements for their recycling. As a key business within the parish, it is believed that Grundons may be willing to help their fellow businesses where possible. SODC has confirmed that they are unable at the current time to provide any financial aid for recycling, but are able to offer advice and support where necessary.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC (or possibly SODC).	To start soonest	It is not possible to identify a specific cost at this stage. There has been a project in an area of Oxford where local shops have lobbied for shared facilities to reduce the overall cost per business. It may be possible to implement a similar scheme in areas of the Parish.

Objective 17

Finding: Facilities and points of interest are poorly signed within the Parish.

Objective: *To investigate the provision of better signposting, especially in the river area and the centre of Benson village.*

Supporting Argument.

Many businesses within the parish believe that additional signing would benefit their business, however consideration needs to be given to any costs involved, as many of the businesses within the parish are small. Consideration also needs to be given to the type of signs necessary to maximise the opportunity of bringing people into the Parish. Various different signs should be considered:-

- **Small black signs** (as used currently) – may only bring a few extra people into the parish
- **Brown signs** – generally used for an attraction, pub, restaurant, museum, etc. where there is less chance of finding or arriving at the place without a sign. Consideration should be given to having a general sign rather than rely on each business to pay their own.
- **AA/RAC signs** – these signs are acceptable for attractions/sites that are not open all year.
- **Joint signs** required for the villages of Ewelme & Benson indicating the following:
 - Ewelme
 - Historic link of school & Sunday teas
 - Almshouses
 - Church
 - Watercress beds
 - Benson
 - Vintage Cycle museum
 - Benson lock & teas
 - Church
 - Shops
- **Information boards** positioned in the centre of the Parish (eg, outside the pharmacy) and beside the river (eg, near the Riverside Café)

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC	To be complete by 2005 summer tourist season.	'You are here' sign = £700 + VAT, excluding any art work required Brown sign = £300, excluding any cost associated with gaining planning permission

Objective 18

Finding: There is no concise list of businesses operating within the Parish.

Objective: *To create a directory listing which could encompass other information such as clubs, amenities and services.*

Supporting Argument.

The majority of businesses within the parish are interested in using a parish business directory and/or flyer to increase the awareness within the parish of the businesses available. A business directory available to parishioners would be of great benefit to the parish, possibly combined with local clubs and amenities, to maximise the knowledge of available facilities.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
Trade and Business WG, in conjunction with BPC, Benson Bulletin, & Benson Community Association.	Initiation immediately, with regular on-going updates.	Minimal costs to the Parish, & free to businesses within the Parish.

Summary Business and Trade Objectives

Obj	Objective	Reason	Responsible Body for Implementation	Timeframe	Cost
15	Lack of banking facilities and need to support and expand Post Office facilities	Banks in Village and Post Office only supported by limited number of banks	BPC and local Lobby Group	Continuous	Not known
16	Lack of re-cycling facilities for businesses	Recycling for householders adequate but same facilities do not exist for businesses	BPC, SODC	1-2 years	To be calculated
17	Poor signposting for facilities within parish	Clearer and better signposting within the Parish would assist in improving business	BPC	Complete by Summer 2005	Limited, possibly £5000
18	Need for a Benson Business Directory	Unlike Wallingford and Henley, Benson does not have a Business Directory . One needs to be created to improve business	BPC, Benson Bulletin, Benson Website	Soonest	Set up costs to be calculated. Directory to be free

SUPPORT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Objective 19

Finding: Need for greater publicity of Parish facilities/organisations/clubs, etc as survey revealed that many were unaware of what was available.

Objective: *Investigate provision of directory/website giving details of facilities/organisations/clubs, etc and contact points for every household. To be updated annually. Link to Objective 18.*

Supporting Argument.

While there was a good knowledge of where to find a doctor, dentist, chiropractor, taxis, etc, there was less knowledge of how to summon an ambulance, obtain help with gardening, being read to, etc. There was unanimous support for the establishment of a Parish Directory to be issued to each and every household. A similar requirement has been identified for the business community, clubs and amenities. There was also strong support for better and bigger notice Boards at key sites such as Village Centre, Parish Hall, Millstream Day Centre and Millstream Surgery. There was concern that the locations of current notice Boards are not well publicised and require to be kept up to date and out of date material removed.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC, Benson Bulletin, Benson Website	Soonest	Minimal

Objective 20

Finding: There are very few Neighbourhood Watch schemes in existence in the Parish though there is wide support for an increase in their number.

Objective: *Institute a campaign with BPC and Thames Police to widen use of Neighbourhood Watch schemes.*

Supporting Argument.

64% of respondents stated that they did not belong to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Of these 40% stated that they would be prepared to join such a scheme. There is, therefore, a need to expand the use of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and encourage more householders to join the scheme. Details of how to set up such a scheme and who to contact to provide guidance should be publicised in the Parish Directory proposed in Objective 18.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC, Thames Valley Police	Soonest	Minimal

Objective 21

Finding: There is wide support and willingness to keep front gardens, pavements and house fronts tidy and clean.

Objective: *Encourage trend by introduction of a bi-annual garden festival. Benson Garden Club to be approached for advice*

Supporting Argument.

In the past Benson Village has won a number of awards in the National Best Kept Village Awards. There was wide support for the concept of keeping front gardens and the public frontage to houses tidy and clean. It is felt that a biennial Garden Festival might be a way of encouraging individual householders to improve their gardens and keeping the Village tidy. It is felt that the BPC should be approached for sponsorship and Benson Garden Club for advice. A similar scheme in Wallingford has the support of the Town Council but is not run by them. Furthermore, the Benson allotment holders should also be involved.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC, Benson Garden Club, Householders	1-2 years	Minimal for initial investigation. Minimal running costs if the scheme is implemented

Summary Support and Social Services Objectives

Obj	Objective	Reason	Responsible Body for Implementation	Timeframe	Cost
19	Greater publicity on availability of Benson facilities	High proportion of parishioners are unaware of what is available	BPC, Benson Bulletin, Benson Website	Soonest	Minimal
20	Extend number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes	Very few householders are currently members of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme	BPC, Thames Valley Police,	Soonest	Minimal
21	Introduce biennial Garden Festival to help improve the Village appearance	BPC, Benson Garden Club, householders	BPC, Benson Garden Club	1-2 years	Initially minimal then small running costs.

EDUCATION

Objective 22

Finding: The majority of primary schoolchildren walk to school. However, there is a significant number who go by car, which increases on rainy days.

Objective: *Institute a Walking Bus(supervised walking scheme) and investigate use of traffic management to reduce road hazards, particularly in the area of the primary school.*

Supporting Argument.

Around half the children attending Benson School walk to school. The implementation of a Walking Bus would provide a convenient service to offer to parents and reduce car parking problems at the school.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC. Then Transport Group at School	Soonest	Wages for supervisor/coordinator

Objective 23

Finding: Parents expressed a need for a School sponsored After School Club and to a lesser extent a Breakfast Club.

Objective: *Investigate the establishment of a school based Breakfast Club and After School Club.*

Supporting Argument.

In talking to parents, they would like the facility of a Breakfast Club and an After-School Club. There has been no discussion as yet concerning charges and cost to the School and parents. This will be arrived at after the initial decision has been taken.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC. Then Head & Governors, School PTA and OCC.	Soonest	School to negotiate

Objective 24

Finding: There are currently no Further Education facilities in Benson. There was widespread support for the establishment of Further Education facilities in Benson, particularly during the evening.

Objective: *Investigate the establishment of Adult Education facilities in Benson as an extension of those in either Wallingford or Berinsfield.*

Supporting Argument.

Lack of any structured Adult Education in Benson. Many parishioners who are without cars cannot make use of evening facilities in Wallingford or Berinsfield due to a lack of evening bus services.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC to negotiate the extension of Wallingford or Berinsfield Further Education facilities to Benson	Soonest	Not calculated

Summary Education Objectives

Obj	Objective	Reason	Responsible Body for Implementation	Timeframe	Cost
22	Walking Bus	Reduce car use. Improve safety	BPC & Benson School	Soonest	Supervisor costs
23	Breakfast/After School Clubs	Facility required by parents	BPC & Benson School	Soonest	School to calculate
24	Adult Education	Benson has Further Education facilities	BPC	Soonest	To be calculated

YOUTH

Objective 25

Finding: There is a strong feeling among the youth of the Parish that their views are ignored and that their needs are not taken into account in the planning process.

Objective: *Discuss with the BPC the establishment of a Parish Youth Council to assist with the establishment and running of youth activities and the development of youth facilities in the Parish.*

Supporting Argument.

During the initial investigations of the amenities group, and through subsequent conversations with young people in the village, it became apparent that there is a feeling that decisions concerning the youth are made by older members of the community. Also, in many cases the needs of the parish youth are neither addressed nor considered to be important. It stands to reason that the people who know best what the youth of the parish want are the youth themselves and they are more likely to accept solutions that they have reached themselves rather than solutions which are foisted upon them by, perceived, older people.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC to investigate the possibility of establishing a youth council and approach members of the village youth with a view to recruiting them.	Soonest.	None at this stage unless the BPC choose to use the Benson Bulletin as a means of communicating with the village youth.

Objective 26

Finding: There was widespread support among the youth for a youth meeting place.

Objective: *Investigate with Thames Valley Police, BPC and SODC the feasibility of providing a youth meeting place in the village.*

Supporting Argument.

71% of the young people who responded to the questionnaire said they would like to see a meeting place for young people within the Village. This was further backed up by conversations with members of the Village youth. The current use of the Village bus shelter and the pavilion steps as meeting places is of concern to many parishioners. At present there is no real alternative for the youth to meet and a meeting place in the form of a shelter, in a mutually acceptable location, is considered essential.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC to talk to the relevant bodies and to the youth council when formed to establish the most acceptable format for this to take and the most acceptable location.	As soon as possible	Unknown as these will be dependent on the form this takes.

Objective 27

Finding: There is a widespread view among the youth of the Village that there is a lack of facilities and amenities for them within the Village. Where they do exist, the cost is often prohibitive for many.

Objective: *Investigate with the BPC, and the Youth Council, if formed (Objective 25), ways and means to improve the facilities and amenities available to youth within the Village at a reasonable cost.*

Supporting Argument.

Only 24% of the young people who completed the questionnaire rated the recreational facilities for young people within the parish as good. The fact that there is very little for young people to do, particularly in the evening, was listed as a reason why people would not like to continue living in the village on completion of their education. The youth of the parish have a number of suggestions of new activities and facilities they would like to see within the parish, but 60% stated that cost would affect their decision to join new or existing clubs.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC to liaise with the youth council (when formed) and with existing organisations within the parish to look at how existing clubs may be affordable. BPC to look into what funding is available in terms of grants etc to provide new facilities and activities based on the suggestions made by the youth in the questionnaire.	As soon as possible.	These will be entirely dependent on what funding is available and the finding of BPC and the youth council about what new facilities can realistically be introduced.

Summary Youth Objectives

Obj	Objective	Reason	Responsible Body for Implementation	Timeframe	Cost
25	Establishment of a youth council	To better establish and manage youth requirements	BPC	ASAP	None
26	Provision of a youth meeting place	To take the youth off the streets and out of the bus shelter	BPC	ASAP	Unknown

27	Improve facilities for the youth.	If our youth have things to do they are less likely to hang around in bus shelters or carry out mindless acts of vandalism.	BPC	ASAP	Unknown
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AMENITIES AND CLUBS

Objective 28

Finding: Apart from Tennis, Football, Badmington and Indoor Bowls there are no major sporting facilities within the Parish to cater for, e.g. Squash, Indoor Swimming, Bowling Green, Floodlit pitches for training, etc.

Objective: *Investigate provision and use of these facilities in neighbouring parishes and towns and RAF Benson and advertise their availability to local residents and clubs. Also need to review provision of transport both public and private.*

Supporting Argument.

Around 60% of groups and individuals questioned believe that Benson is too small to support additional major sporting facilities. Research and investigation highlights the fact that there are plenty of sports facilities in the local area that can meet nearly all of the desired requirements. There are, however, problems for:

- Groups and individuals obtaining up to date and relevant information on the local facilities that are available.
- The availability of 'round trip' transport to get to and from facilities that is available.
- Negotiating the use of the larger facilities such as floodlit sports pitches with the relevant authority that controls them.

The solution to this objective falls into three parts:

- Ensuring the relevant information on facilities in our local area is available (advertising).
- Assisting groups and individuals to be able to get to and from the facilities they want to use.
- Providing officials and mediators who can negotiate the use of other facilities in the area.

The requirements for advertising are dealt with in Objective 35, which is entirely dedicated to the requirements for the dissemination of local information. The requirements for more public and specialised transport and the negotiation of use of facilities will need to be addressed under this objective.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
<p>There are 2 main requirements under this heading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The co-ordination of individuals and local groups who have identified the facilities available in the local area followed up with assistance in any negotiations. • Identifying the necessary transport to enable groups and individuals to make use of new and current facilities. <p>BPC is best placed to take on these tasks particularly in light of the negotiation and consultation required with the Oxford District council on transport requirements and other Parishes for the use of their facilities.</p>	3 – 6 Months	Not known

Objective 29

Finding: Lack of a Local Fitness Trail.

Objective: *Investigate the provision of a Fitness Trail around perimeter of Sunnyside or Warwick Spinney.*

Supporting Argument.

The majority of individuals and groups questioned and approached on this objective felt they could support it. This objective will provide fitness training for all levels of individuals across all age groups for minimal set up and maintenance costs.

Fitness trails (Trim Fits in Germany) are fairly simple in concept consisting of a trail with various exercise points along it. Exercises that require aids can be furnished by natural resources such as logs and ropes; the only other requirement is for suitable signing to indicate the way around the trail and to explain the exercises.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
The requirements for planning permission and the need to ensure that the correct location is selected for this objective require an official body to head it such as the BPC. It should not be difficult to find individuals and local organisations to join in the task of implementing this objective.	6 Months to a year	£4000 - £5000

Objective 30

Finding: Lack of indoor fitness facilities for the elderly.

Objective: *Investigate provision of appropriate fitness machines in Parish Hall or elsewhere.*

Supporting Argument.

Many of the more active elderly residents of Benson who were consulted on this expressed an interest in having the equipment installed.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
The role of heading up action on this objective would be best placed in the hands of the Millstream Centre Committee.	3 – 6 Months	Not calculated

Objective 31

Finding: Riverside facilities in Benson area are limited and do not provide leisure facilities such as safe parking, public slipway, full range of boating activities and canoeing for all ages.

Objective: *Need to improve access to existing facilities, eg slipway for launching boats, and investigate improvement to:*

- *Parking.*
- *Boating facilities.*
- *Formation of Canoe Club.*

Supporting Argument

All through the data collection stage of the BPP both individuals and groups have expressed disappointment in the lack of facilities on the River Thames around Benson and its lock. This culminated in the highest result at the BPP Presentation where 95% of those who expressed an interest in or were in favour of upgrading the facilities around the river. Investment in river facilities will provide local individuals, groups and organisations with updated and enhanced attractions especially for youth and visitor activities. Visitors will have improved car parking and will find it easier to use other facilities, such as the shops, pubs and cafes in and around Benson Village.

The River Thames is the route of a major national trail 'The Thames Path' and this is popular with both local and visiting walkers. Enhancement to the riverside facilities will draw walkers to start and end at the village, which will again draw people into using local facilities.

Currently there are plans for a redevelopment of the Boatyard and Caravan Park. However, these are commercial ventures and will not provide extra facilities for the casual visitor

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
Upgrading riverside facilities is a large requirement needing careful planning, consultation with local people, organisations responsible for national interests in the river, the Highways Department, Health and Safety executive. It is also likely that major and detailed planning permission will be required. To take this objective forward requires the agreement and the full co-operation of the BPC who are ideally placed to initiate, manage and protect all of the interests of national and local organisations for a project of this size and complexity.	2 – 5 years	To be calculated

Objective 32

Finding: Lack of a 'Natural' Children's Play Area for 7-12 year olds.

Objective: *Investigate possibility of providing a Natural Play Area in Benson.*

Supporting Argument

Just about 100% of parents questioned during the BPP Presentation days expressed the opinion that although there are already several play areas in the village, they would support the provision of a further play area specifically aimed at and designed for this older age group.

The addition of a natural play area in Benson Village will enhance the facilities for local and visiting children of the targeted age group.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
Although in the scale of objectives in the Parish Plan this is a fairly small and inexpensive requirement, to follow through with it will still require administration in the areas of Planning and Health and Safety. In order to ensure that the correct procedures are followed the BPC should lead with the help and assistance of village groups that support youth in the Benson Area.	1-2 years	Not calculated

Objective 33

Finding: Inadequate parking for Parish Hall and sports facilities on Sunnyside.

Objective: *Provide additional all weather parking and improve access from Parish Hall to playing fields by creating channels in the embankments for pedestrians.*

Supporting Argument

Around 66% of those questioned were in favour of improvements to parking around the Parish Hall and some 80% in favour for improvements to access through the embankments.

Many events held in the Benson Parish Hall are attended by numbers of people that exceed the available hard standing car park. This often leads to the use of the perimeter of the Sports Field for overflow parking. Although this causes few problems the field can get damaged during wet weather and on severe occasions spread mud around the pavements and roads. The aim of this objective is to provide extra parking facilities by strengthening the perimeter of the field with either concrete blocks that grass can grow through or with the more modern plastic equivalent.

In addition to parking it is the case that at many outdoor events individuals, particularly the elderly struggle to climb the small embankment between the hall and the field. Completely removing the bank or making cuttings in the relevant places through it could avoid climbing of the bank, which is dangerous for all users in wet conditions.

These two minor and inexpensive changes will enhance the Parish Hall and improve the facility for those wishing to use it.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC	6 Months – 1 Year	Not calculated

Objective 34

Finding: More variable sized meeting halls are required in the village. Local organisations find the size of halls available do not cater for some needs, eg, meetings of 50-100 people. Halls are often not available, especially at short notice. Cost of hiring, especially at weekends is not affordable by all organisations.

Objective: *The provision of more halls to meet needs of parishioners at an affordable price requires urgent review by BPC and all interested organisations. Review to include the possibility of a Village Hall on Sunnyside for the sole use of parishioners and Parish organisations.*

Supporting Argument

Some 98% of individuals and organisations want some sort of action to improve meeting facilities in the local village area. The key issues of pricing, size and availability need to be addressed in order for the village to meet the needs of everyone in the village and particularly medium sized organisations (hence the specific mention of 50 -100 people in the finding).

The true benefit of meeting this objective will be the improvements to facilities for all groups and organisations that wish to meet in Benson.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
However this objective is taken forward, it will, as indicated in the objective description, require the BPC to take the lead in its implementation.	2 –3 Years	To be calculated

Objective 35

Finding: There is a lack of guidance and information on many of the facilities and amenities that are locally available such as:

- Swimming pool at Berringsfield.
- Tracks for cross-country cycling, motor cycling on the Ridgeway.
- Local river facilities.
- Local playing fields and play parks

Objective: *Include in proposed Parish Directory under Objective 18 information on local sports and leisure facilities in surrounding villages and towns.*

Supporting Argument.

Throughout the data collection and investigation stage of preparation of the BPP it is has been apparent that many individuals and even quite large groups are not fully aware of exactly what is available. There was a question included in the General Questionnaire with regards to the requirements for local village notice boards. Results show that many individuals want changes to current boards and additional notice boards in several locations around the village.

The availability of all manner of information concerning the facilities, organisations etc in Benson Village is well served with a website and the Benson Bulletin, a monthly village publication delivered to every household. In addition discussion with groups and individuals has shown the need for a local village directory, the refurbishment of the current information boards around the village and the possibility of installing additional notice boards.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
This objective can be met with self-help from the concerned individuals and organisations with the BPC providing a controlling and supervisory role.	6 –12 Months	See Objective 17

Objective 36

Finding: General feeling in the Parish that there is a need for an annual Parish event which would cater for all tastes and bring all age groups together.

Objective: *Investigate the establishment of an annual/biennial Benson Festival to incorporate into a single weekend Festival as many as possible of the individual events, which currently occur throughout the summer.*

Supporting Argument.

The Village organised a highly successful weekend of festivities for all age groups for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Prior to that there used to be a Village Festival, which served to bring the Village together but ceased in 1985. Many villagers expressed the hope that the Benson Village Festival could be revived on an annual or biennial basis.

Implementation	Timeframe	Outline Costs
BPC will need to fully support the concept and seek a Festival Coordinator who will voluntarily take on the task. Initially, the task should be to define the structure of the Festival and seek the cooperation of the organisations and clubs within the Village who would be expected to participate.	Summer 2005	Based on the costs of the Jubilee Celebrations an indicative cost for a Benson Festival is £5000, which would have to be raised through grants and local organisations and clubs.

Summary Amenities and Clubs Objectives

Obj	Objective	Reason	Responsible Body for Implementation	Timeframe	Cost
28	Investigate provision and use of these facilities in neighbouring parishes and towns and RAF Benson and advertise their availability to local residents and clubs. Also need to review provision of transport both public and private.	Apart from Tennis and Football, there are major sporting facilities within the Parish to cater for, e.g. Squash, Indoor Swimming, Bowling Green, Floodlit pitches for training, etc.	BPC	3 – 6 Months	TBD
29	Investigate the provision of a Fitness Trail around perimeter of Sunnyside or Warwick Spinney.	Lack of a Local Fitness Trail (Trim Fit).	BPC	6 – 12 Months	£4000 - £5000
30	Investigate provision of appropriate fitness machines in Parish Hall/Mill Stream Centre.	Lack of indoor fitness facilities for the elderly.	Millstream Centre Committee	3 – 6 Months	TBD
31	Need to improve access to existing facilities, eg slipway for launching boats, and investigate improvement to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking.• Boating facilities.• Formation of Canoe Club.	Riverside facilities in Benson area are limited and do not provide leisure facilities such as safe parking, public slipway, full range of boating activities and canoeing for all ages.	BPC	2 – 5 Years	TBD
32	Investigate possibility of providing a Natural Play Area in Benson.	Lack of a 'Natural' Children's Play Area for 7-12 year olds.	BPC	TBD	TBD
33	Provide additional all weather parking and improve access from Parish Hall to playing fields by creating channels in the embankments for pedestrians.	Inadequate parking for Parish Hall and sports facilities on Sunnyside.	BPC	6 – 12 Months	TBD

34	The provision of more halls to meet needs of parishioners at an affordable price requires urgent review by BPC and all organisations including BPC. Review to include the possibility of a Village Hall on Sunnyside for the sole use of Parishioners and Parish organisations.	More and variable sized meeting halls are required in the village Local organisations find sizes of hall available do t cater for some needs.(eg, Meetings of 50->100 people)Halls often t available, especially at short tice. Cost of hiring, especially at weekends is t affordable by all organisations.	BPC	2 – 3 Years	TBD
35	Include in proposed Parish Directory under Objective 18 information on local sports and leisure facilities in surrounding villages and towns.	There is a lack of guidance and information on many of the facilities and amenities that are locally available such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming pool at Berringsfield. • Tracks for cross-country cycling, motor cycling on the Ridgeway. • Local river facilities. • Local playing fields and play parks. 	Local Groups under the guidance of BPC	6 – 12 Months	TBD
36	Establish a biennial Benson Festival	Need to provide a focus for the Village similar to the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations	BPC	2005	£5000

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions of the Study Team are that:

- The people of Benson Parish expressed a wish to develop a Parish Plan.
- The development of a Parish Plan was sponsored by the BPC.
- A steering committee and working groups were formed from volunteers to develop a Parish Plan.
- A Charter for the development of the Parish Plan was written and implemented.
- The Parish Plan was developed in accordance with the principles laid down by the Countryside Agency and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.
- The people of Benson Parish were fully consulted at all stages of the development of the Parish Plan.
- Thirty-six objectives were identified for implementation.
- The Objectives of the Parish Plan fully reflect the desires and wishes of the people of Benson Parish for the development of the Parish over the next ten years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- The BPP be approved by the BPC
- The BPC take steps with the appropriate Councils and local organisations to implement the Objectives of the BPP
- The BPP is reviewed annually to mark progress and to review the Objectives in the light of changing legislation and local requirements.
- A steering committee is formed to carry out the review, and report to the BPC and to the people of Benson Parish.

Annexes

Annex A	-	Acknowledgements
Annex B	-	Reference Documents
Annex C	-	Methodology
Annex D	-	History of Benson
Annex E	-	Accident Locations In Benson Village

Appendices to Annexes

Appendix 1 to Annex C	-	Composition of SCBPP and Working Groups
Appendix 2 to Annex C	-	Charter for the BPP
Appendix 3 to Annex C	-	Timetable for the Development of the BPP
Appendix 4 to Annex C	-	1990 Appraisal – List of Achievements and non-Achievements
Appendix 5 to Annex C	-	Guide to Interpreting the Answers to Questionnaires
Appendix 6 to Annex C	-	General Questionnaire - Results and Analysis
Appendix 7 to Annex C	-	Business Questionnaire - Results and Analysis
Appendix 8 to Annex C	-	Youth Questionnaire - Results and Analysis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman and members of the SCBPP would like to acknowledge the contribution, whether formally or informally, made to the development of the Benson Parish Plan by the individuals, businesses and organisations listed below. Without their contribution and hard work the Benson Parish Plan would have died in its infancy.

SCBPP and Working Groups

The members of the SCBPP and the Working Groups listed at Appendix 1 to Annex C deserve a special vote of thanks for their commitment, time and hard work over the past 18 months.

Individuals

The SCBPP are very grateful to the individuals below who voluntarily gave up their time to assist in the work of developing the Benson Parish Plan.

BPC

Paul Booker
Elisabeth Leppard
Sue Forsyth

Liaison SODC

Julia Leppard
Tracey Dow
Sue Cooper.

Graphics and Poster Production

Tom Stevenson
Ian Stevenson
Helen Stevenson

Presentation of BPP to Parishioners

Ronnie Humphries
Shirley Tchighianoff
Richard and Vic Fox

Delivery and Collection of Flyers/Questionnaires to Households

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Amanda Woodard
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June Hearmon
Isobel Taylor

Joyce Chinn
Susan Jack
Val Statham
Penny White

Richard Fox
Pat Lewendon
Joan Warren
Mrs A Young

Joan Warren
Pete Ryan
Jill Wyman

Businesses:

The Trade and Commerce Working Group would like to thank the representatives from several businesses who provided input and comment to the draft questionnaire and those who have acted as a sounding board while generating our section of the Parish Plan. We have also received input from South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Parish Council and Thames Valley Police for which we are also extremely grateful.

Organisations:

South Oxfordshire District Council Housing Services.
South Oxfordshire District Council Planning Policy.
Benson Parish Council
Countryside Agency
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Office of National Statistics' Census Customer Services.
Bensington Society
Benson Angling Club
Benson Badminton Club
Benson Boys Football Club
Benson Bulletin
Benson Community Association (BCA)
Benson Garden Club
Benson Mens Football Club
Benson Parish Council
Benson Short Mat Bowls
Benson Tennis Club
Benson Veteran Cycle Club
Millstream Day Centre
The Royal British Legion
Millstream Patients Panel
St Helens Church
Benson/Ewelme Heath Walks
BEST
Bird Spot
Evergreens
Benson Table Tennis Club
Benson Players
Benson Scouts & Beavers
Trefoil Guild
W.I.
Benson & Roke Brass Band
Benson Art Group
Benson Baby and Toddler Group
Benson Carers Group
Benson Circle Dance Club
Benson District Guides

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS – BENSON PARISH PLAN

Parish Plans – Guidance for Parish and Town Councils	-	Countryside Agency
Toolkit for the Development of Parish Plans	-	Countryside Agency
Community Action Planning in Oxfordshire	-	ORCC
1991 Census - Oxfordshire	-	OPCS
2001 Census – Oxfordshire	-	OPCS
Rural Strategy Action Plan	-	SODC
BEST Report	-	BEST Environment Survey Team
Benson Conservation Area	-	SODC
Benson Appraisal 1990	-	Benson Parish Council
Affordable Housing:		
Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance, May 2004.	-	SODC
South Oxfordshire Local Plan, 1997.	-	SODC
South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011, First Deposit Draft.	-	SODC
South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011, Second Deposit Draft.	-	SODC
Planning Policy Guidance Note No.3: Housing.	-	Office Deputy Prime Minister
South Oxfordshire Design Guide	-	SODC 2000
Benson Conservation Area: A Character Study.	-	SODC 1999
Goring-on-Thames Village Design Statement.	-	Goring and Streatley Amenity Association 2001

METHODOLOGY

Guidance: Guidance on the methods to be used to develop the BPP was provided by the CA and the ORCC. SODC and other Parishes, who had recently developed their own parish plans, also provided advice.

Initiation: The BPP was initiated at a Parish Meeting convened by the BPC in March 2003. The Parish Meeting explored through subject working groups the problems the Parish faced over the next few years. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that the development of a BPP would have advantages in that it would encompass into a single document the many views and ideas that had been expressed at the meeting. It would also provide a guide on the way forward for the future.

Steering Committee: A further meeting of those wishing to participate in the development of the BPP was held to elect a Steering committee and a Chairman. The composition of the Committee is at Appendix 1. Following the election, volunteers were recruited to head, and be members of, the working groups(WGs) below. The composition of the working groups is also shown at Appendix 1.

Amenities, Clubs and Sport
Education and Youth
Environment and Transport
Housing
Support and Social Services
Business and Trade

Charter: A Charter – Appendix 2 - to guide the SCBPP, WGs and others involved in the development of the BPP was written and approved by the BPC and the SCBPP.

Questionnaires: A timetable for the development of the BPP was approved at the first meeting of the SCBPP - Appendix 3. Also at that meeting it was agreed that:

- The initial task for each WG should be to develop a set of questions for inclusion in a questionnaire to be distributed to every household in the Parish.
- The questions should be based on the findings of the Parish Meeting and consultation with parishioners.

In developing the question banks, WGs took note of the 1990 Benson Parish Appraisal. A list of the Objectives from the 1990 Appraisal together with an indication of those which have been achieved, is at Appendix 4. The questionnaires, which were prepared using Keypoint software by Cambridge Software Publishing, are:

- General Questionnaire - issued to every household
- RAF General Questionnaire - issued to all households at RAF Benson
- Business Questionnaire - issued to all Benson based businesses
- Youth Questionnaire - issued to all schoolchildren between 8 and 16 years old

The General and Business questionnaires were distributed and collected by volunteers. Young people completed the Youth Questionnaire while at school to avoid 'peer' pressure from parents. The replies received were:

- General - **772** which represents **58%** of the population of the Parish and **64%** of it's households.
- (2001 Census)
- RAF General - **29**
- Business - **37**
- Youth - **164**

Analysis: The questionnaires consisted of a mixture of data and text questions. The results of the questionnaires were analysed by the WGs and an initial set of Objectives determined. Further objectives were added based on events, which had developed since the questionnaires were sent out. A Guide to interpreting

the results and analysis is at Appendix 5. The General, Business and Youth Questionnaires together with the results and analysis are at Appendices 6-8 respectively.

Parish Meeting: Parishioners were invited to attend either a weekday evening or a Saturday morning workshop in the Parish Hall to view the initial objectives developed by the WGs. Each WG was represented by a stand at the workshop, which displayed the objectives and asked parishioners to state whether they approved them or not. Parishioners were also asked to add additional objectives and comment on those on display.

Workshops: Following the presentation in the Parish Hall, the objectives were further scrutinised and refined prior to entering them into the BPP. WGs conducted further discussion of the final list of objectives with selected parishioners, BPC, SODC, OCC, ORCC, and other interested parties, to assess priorities for implementation and to identify possible funding sources for those objectives which could be developed within the Parish.

Publication: Two documents were produced at the conclusion of the project:

- **The BPP.** This is a formal document, which details the development of the BPP and includes the objectives and the supporting evidence.
- **Objectives of the BPP.** This is a shorter and less formal version of the BPP, which covers the objectives and supporting detail for distribution to all householders in the Parish and RAF Benson

HISTORY - BENSON PAST AND PRESENT

Benson is an ancient settlement lying 10 miles southeast of Oxford on the east bank of the Thames having a population of nearly 4000. Most houses are on a gravel bank, near the river, but above the present flood plain. The water supply and the drainage is good. The area surrounding the village is prime farmland. The parish is 1100 hectares of which RAF Benson (built in the 1930's) occupies a quarter. In the past the river added to the village sustainability with fishing, transport and power for mills and, more recently, provides leisure. The village has good road system and bus connections to major towns and cities in the area. The climate is typical of central England and boasts the renowned Benson "gap" in the clouds, which governed the location of the airfield.

The village is well served with a church, chapel, parish and youth halls, infant and junior schools, about 12 shops, 2 each of garages, pubs, cafes and fast food outlets and a boating marina.

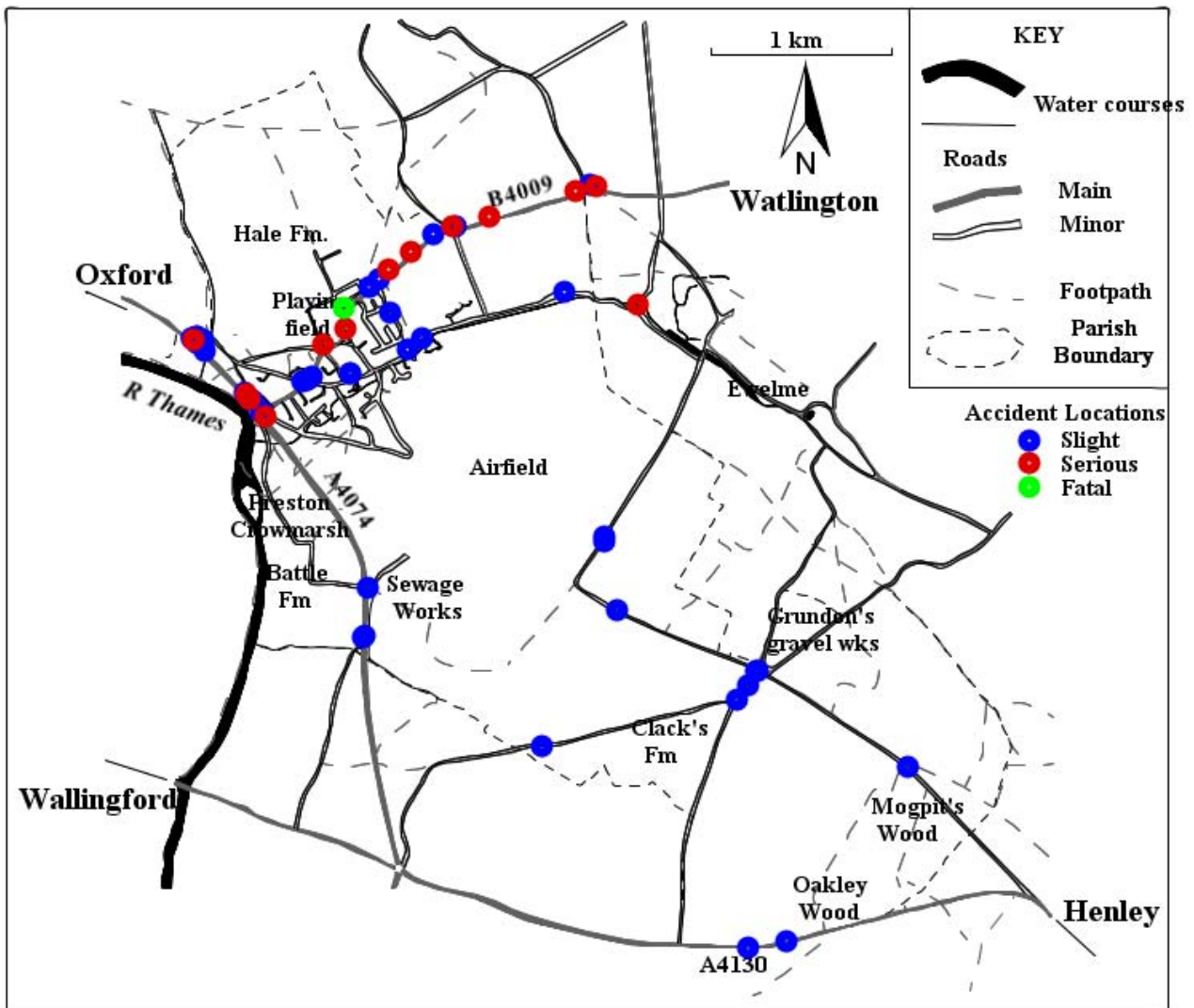
Pre-Roman pottery and coins have been unearthed and sites of Anglo Saxon buildings found near the church. The Anglo-Saxon chronicle records Saxon king Cuelin conquering 4 "tuns" including Bensington, naming it as a frontier town between Wessex and Mercia. It remained a royal township until the Norman Conquest when it became a royal manor. Charles I sold the Lordship of the manor to some city financiers in 1650. This lapsed in the 1930's but Benson remained a farming area.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries Benson became a staging post for coach travel. This provided employment for many people of wide ranging skills. There were four large Inns and ten smaller alehouses to satisfy the thirsts of the expanding population. In 1831 the population was 1300 but this dropped to 960 by 1901, partly due to the decline in coaching but more due to enclosure and the agricultural depression. There were 199 farm labourers in 1851 and 143 in 1901. Around this time there was an increase in non-conformist church attendees and both an Anglican and a British school were set up in the village. Fortunately commonsense prevailed and the schools were combined in 1900.

The 20th century saw more mechanisation and employment opportunities, at greatly increased wages, at the Morris car works and Pressed Steel in Oxford. Fewer men were needed for farming with the advent of sophisticated farm machinery. World War II brought the need for greater home food production and the employment of women outside the home and in the forces. There was a great increase in voluntary work in many areas.

Post war local planners designated Benson as one of the few villages for expansion in the green belt as it had good shops and the potential for good transport infrastructure. House building started in the 1950's after mains drainage was added to a water and electricity supply. College Farm yard became houses, shops and flats and the village centre was created. The population rose to nearly 4000 and, as families grew, so did the number of bedrooms in each house. This meant smaller gardens as the available land became scarce. The quality of new houses varied as did the estates. Generally the planners were more sensitive to local needs by the 1990's. With all this development the Brook became more urbanised with concrete edges and less wildlife.

ACCIDENT LOCATIONS IN BENSON VILLAGE



COMPOSITION OF SCBPP AND WORKING GROUPS

SCBPP – Full Members

Chairman	-	Anne Millar
Executive Officer	-	George Verdon
Treasurer	-	George Verdon
Secretary	-	Gerry Ryan(Resigned)
	-	George Verdon
Leader Working Group - Amenities	-	Pete Eldridge
Leader Working Group – Education and Youth	-	Penny Evers
Leader Working Group – Environment	-	Keith Tibbs
Leader Working Group - Housing	-	John Reid
Leader Working Group - Business	-	Alan Marsden
Leader Working Group - Support and Social Services	-	Katherine Keogh(Resigned)
		Jill Spence (Resigned)
		Pru Collins

Steering Group – Coopted Members

Youth	-	Fiona Gardner
Publicity	-	Tom Stevenson

Amenities/Sports/Clubs Working Group

Leader	-	Pete Eldridge
Members:		Jane Boucher
		Jackie Bryan
		Norman Gough
		Bill Nimmo
		Pete Ryan

Education and Youth Working Group

Leader Education	-	Penny Evers
Leader Youth	-	Fiona Gardner
Members	-	Martin Peters
	-	Amanda Strickland-Taylor
	-	Rosemary Willox
	-	Jenny Woods

Environment/Transport Working Group

Leader	-	Keith Tibbs
Members	-	Tom Stevenson
	-	Chris Read
	-	Kay Nimmo
	-	Caroline Nathan
	-	Ray Lawrence
	-	Adrian Tilbury
	-	Chris Ward

Housing Working Group

Leader	-	John Reid
Members	-	Catherine Murray
	-	Darren Olley
	-	Jocelyn Dalton
	-	Dick Stanton

Support and Social Services Working Group

Leader	-	Pru Collins
Members	-	Jill Spence
	-	Dorothy Rose

Business Working Group

Leader	-	Alan Marsden
Members	-	Karen Clifford-Smith
	-	Julia Leppard

CHARTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BENSON PARISH PLAN

Definition of a Parish Plan

1. Parish Plans are a new Government initiative. Though still lacking formal status, County and District Authorities are encouraged to take note of Parish Plans when forming their own strategies. They will certainly influence a wide range of organisations that provide services to rural communities. They should complement and help deliver policies set out in Local Development Plans.
2. A Parish Plan should be comprehensive. It should set out a vision of the community in the future, and identify the action needed to tackle issues of concern. It can include anything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community, from employment needs to playgrounds. It can include any social, environmental or economic issues. It is up to the community to decide what is important; from which one can better set the agenda or determine priorities for action on behalf of the community.
3. A Parish Plan sets how the community sees itself developing over the next few years. It should:
 - a. Identify local problems and opportunities
 - b. Set out an achievable and long term goals for the future
 - c. Prepare a plan of action to achieve this.
4. There is standard format for a Parish Plan and prescriptive list of the subjects it should address. It is up to parishioners to decide which issues it would like to tackle; to agree priorities for action and to present the information in a way that is credible, interesting, attractive and accessible to everyone.

Aims and Objectives

5. The aims and objectives of the Benson Parish Plan(BPP) are to:
 - a. Represent the views of individuals and groups in the community about their Parish.
 - b. Evaluate the assets and resources of the Parish and its geographical setting so that these may be maintained and enhanced for the future..
 - c. Encourage community involvement during and after the exercise.
 - d. Identify specific areas of need, concern and hopes.
 - e. Identify how the community wishes to interact with its neighbours and its visitors.
 - f. Provide a basis for priorities and actions.
 - g. Provide a vehicle for partnerships with, for example, community groups, the Police, the County and District Councils.

Working Practices

6. The structure for the development of the BPP and the working practices to be adopted are:
 - a. The BPP is to be developed through a SCBPP(SC) and the use of Working Groups(WGs).
 - b. WGs will receive advice and guidance where necessary from the SC.
 - c. Specialist advice, where necessary, is to be sought from councils, institutions, and individual organisations and groups involved in the Parish.
 - d. WGs are to canvas opinion throughout the Parish in developing their plans.
 - e. The community is to be kept fully informed throughout of progress.

Scope

7. The development of the BPP is to use the Benson Parish Appraisal completed in 1990(BPA 1990) as a start for their investigations.
8. The SC and the WGs are to address the subjects at Annex A as part of their studies. Subjects may be added to or deleted from the list with the approval of the SC.

Action Plan

9. The SC on completion of their investigations are to produce an Action Plan.
10. The Action Plan should identify issues affecting the community, be they positive or negative, and how the community wishes the Parish to develop in the future.
11. The Action Plan, once approved by the BPC, will be used to influence the decisions of the BPC, SODC and Oxford County Council(OCC) and other decision making organisations affecting the Parish, such as Police, Primary Care Trust, etc..
12. The Plan will also form the basis for action in improving the facilities and environment of the Parish.

Benson Parish Council(BPC)

13. The BPC will sponsor the development of a BPP. The BPC responsibilities are to:
 - a. Appoint a Chairman of a Steering Committee(SC)
 - b. Provide the necessary support to the SC by:
 - (1) Providing advice as required.
 - (1) Liaising with the Countryside Agency when appropriate.
 - (1) Secure the funding for the plan.
 - c. Monitor the development of the Plan.
 - d. Approve the final Plan.
 - e. Implement those actions which are within their remit.
 - f. Strongly lobby senior authorities to approve actions in the plan, which are outside their remit.

Steering Committee(SC)

14. The tasks of the SC are:
 - a. Investigate, identify and create support for the development of the BPP.
 - b. Provide advice to and coordinate the activities of the Working Groups(WGs)
 - c. Define in consultation with the WGs the procedures and processes to be used during the formulation of the BPP.
 - d. Identify, in conjunction with the BPC, sources of funding in addition to the Countryside Agency grant
 - e. Liaise with relevant authorities and organisations.
 - f. Represent all parishioners, groups & organisations in the parish.
 - g. Advise on methods of involving the whole community
 - h. Determine the types of survey to be used, eg questionnaires.
 - i. Be responsible for the analysis of the survey and the production and distribution of the final Plan
 - j. Identify priorities and timescales for local action in the Action Plan including sources of project funding, eg Parish, District or County Councils or other agencies..

15. The SC is to consist of:

- a. Chairman - appointed by the BPC
- b. Secretary - appointed by the Chairman
- c. Treasurer - appointed by the Chairman
- d. Executive Officer - appointed by the Chairman
- e. Leaders of each Working Group
- f. Up to 6 permanent experienced members with either specialist expertise or who are representative of a wide body of the Parish - *To be appointed by the Chairman after consultation with the leaders of the WGs.*
- g. In attendance when required, a member of the Parish, District and County Councils to advise on funding and other issues of concern to their council.
- h. Co-opted members as deemed necessary by the SC.

Note: *Permanent members of the SC may also be leaders or members of WGs.*

16. All members of the SC have full voting rights with exception of those *In Attendance* or *Co-opted*. Decisions will be agreed through a simple majority vote with the Chairman having a casting vote in the event of a tie.

17. A person shall cease to be a member of the SC having notified the Chair or Secretary in writing of their desire to resign.

18. The Executive Officer is to chair the SC in the absence of the Chairman

Roles

19. The Chairman is to:

- a. Represent the BPC.
- b. Chair the SC.
- c. Advise and give direction as necessary.
- d. Sign the Minutes.
- e. Be a signatory on cheques.

20. The Executive Officer is to:

- a. Coordinate the development, distribution and analysis of Questionnaires.
- b. Produce the draft and final Parish Plans.
- c. Produce the monthly minutes for the Benson Bulletin.
- d. Assist the WGs where and when requested.

21. The Treasurer is to:

- a. Maintain a 'real' account, which may be in electronic format.
- b. Maintain a 'nominal' account to account for time given by volunteers and the use of personal equipment, and services.
- c. Present an update of expenditure at each meeting of the SC.
- d. Open an account at LloydsTSB Bank in Wallingford.
- e. Approve contracts for consultancy and countersign orders for supplies.
- f. Approve bids by Leaders of WGs for funds to support their work (Bids of over £50 should be referred to the SC for approval).
- g. Arrange the audit of the account at the end of the project.
- h. Present the audit to the BPC for approval.

Note: *The recording of volunteers time and their use of equipment and services for which they do not submit a claim is essential as they will form part of the 'Matching Grant' which the BPC has to make in order to qualify for a grant from the Countryside Agency.*

22. The Secretary is to:

- a. Maintain full Minutes for all meetings. Copies of the Minutes are to be presented to committee members, the BPC and to all Organisations and Groups in the Village.
- b. Prepare and distribute the Agenda for each meeting giving members seven days notice.
- c. Perform any other duties as directed by the Chairman.

Working Groups(WGs)

23. The following WGs are to be formed:

- a. Amenities, Clubs and Communities
- b. Environment and Transportation
- c. Education and Youth
- d. Housing Development Education
- e. Support Facilities
- f. Trade and Commerce

24. Each WG is to select a leader from its members. Where there are insufficient volunteers to complete the task of the WG, the Leader should actively recruit members from within the community with the necessary expertise, eg the Education WG should seek to have a parent from each of the school age groups.

25. Additional WGs may be formed, or existing ones combined, by the SC should the need arise.

26. The WGs are to consult the community widely throughout the life of the project using appropriate means. The aim of the consultation should be to determine the views of the community as to how they wish Benson Parish to develop over the next 10 years, to identify shortfalls in the provision of services, and identify areas for action.

27. The Leader is to determine the areas that should be addressed by the WG for the approval of the SC.

28. Having determined areas that are to be addressed, the Leader is to draw up with his WG the types of questionnaire required and a series of questions to be included in each questionnaire to be sent to either every household of the Parish or specific groups, eg the Youth Group Aged 5-11 years. In determining the questions that need to be posed, WGs should take note of the Questionnaires used for the BPA 1990 and add, delete or amend as necessary for 2003. In carrying out this work leaders of WGs are to consult closely amongst themselves to ensure that there is no overlap of questions.

29. Following analysis of the Questionnaires, WGs are to develop a draft plan of action in conjunction with the SC that addresses the issues relevant to the particular working group. The issues will be those identified by the 1990 Benson Parish Appraisal(BPA 1990), amended and /or updated by associated, new and current issues recognised as being important to all age groups within the community. The analysis provided by questionnaires is to be used by each group to initiate the topic planning process.

30. Before submitting projects for inclusion by the SC in the draft plan, the working groups should:

- a. Demonstrate that projects have the support of the local community/relevant groups
- b. Show that they have, where relevant discussed projects with associated agencies
- c. Provide a provisional action plan together with estimated costs, where feasible, for inclusion in the BPP. In determining estimated costs, WG leaders should seek the assistance of councils at all levels.

31. The Leader of each WG, or his nominated deputy is to attend the regular SC meetings.

32. Each working group is responsible for organising its own meetings and is to provide a summary of progress report to the SC at each monthly meeting.

33. Financial expenditure must be approved by the SC. Receipted expenses for reimbursement should be passed to the Treasurer on a monthly basis with reasons for the expenditure clearly given.

34. WGs should seek the advice of subject experts to assist them in their work, eg when discussing road management it would be advisable to consult with the Village policeman and the County Roads Dept. This process will assist them in identifying problem areas and to test their reactions to ideas presented to them by the community.

Information Management

35. Bulletin Boards for informing the community on progress and meetings, etc are to be set up in the Village Hall, Library and St Helen's Church.

36. A monthly update is to be included in the Benson Bulletin.

37. The Library is to be requested to establish a small section in the Library where documents central to the work of the SC and WGs can be maintained. Examples are Minutes of the SC and WGs, Maps, Census Returns, Electoral Roll, BPA 1990, etc.

TIMETABLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BENSON PARISH PLAN

Phase 1	Organize Executive Cttee and Working Groups	1 month
Phase 2	Develop Questionnaires	3 month
Phase 3	Issue Questionnaires and Assess Results	4 months
Phase 4	Develop draft WG plans	2 months
Phase 5	Exec Cttee Assess WG Plans	1 month
Phase 6	Develop draft outline Village Plan	2 months
Phase 7	Issue 1 st Draft Village Plan for comment	1 month
Phase 8	Assess comments and revise 1 st Draft	1 month
Phase 9	Executive Cttee assess and agree Final Draft	1 month
Phase 10	Issue Final Draft for Comment	1 month
Phase 11	Assess Final Draft Comments and Amend Plan	1 month
Phase 12	Submit Village Plan to BPC for approval and issue	<u>1 month</u> <u>19 months</u>

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND NON-ACHIEVEMENTS – 1990 BENSON VILLAGE APPRAISAL

Achievements

Conservation area for old part of village approved
Opening of Chemists Shop
Building of Public Toilets
Building of Road Crossing over A4074
7.5 ton Limitation on access to village from A4074 via Church and Oxford Roads
Building of Chicane on A4009 to slow traffic
Introduction of kerbside collection of papers, plastic and tins.
Improved street lighting
Building of a Sports Pavilion on Sunnyside
Opening of 2 tea shops
Eye sores removed - Passey's Yard and Rivers Nightclub
Improvements to Church Hall(Kitchen and Canon's Room)
Introduction of dog litter bins
Publication of Benson Bulletin to replace Parish News
Improvements to children's play areas
Introduction of passenger friendly buses.

Non-Achievements

Building of a swimming pool.
Reduction in car numbers
Creation of more parking areas to reduce on-street parking.
Reduction in Parish Hall charges
Failure to reduce accumulation of scrap machinery/vehicles in Braze Lane

GUIDE TO INTERPRETING QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

1. The results of the three questionnaires issued to householders, businesses and children are given in the following appendices:

- a. Appendix 6 - General Questionnaire - Results
- b. Appendix 7 - Business Questionnaire - Results
- c. Appendix 8 - Youth Questionnaire - Results

2. The total responses to each questionnaire were:

- a. General Questionnaire - 772
- b. RAF General Questionnaire - 29
- c. Business Questionnaire - 37
- d. Youth Questionnaire - 164

3. In assessing the data the following interpretations should be borne in mind:

Yes/No or Either/Or Questions:

Frequency = Number who answered

Percentage = Percentage of total replies received, eg In **G14**, 346(**frequency**) or 45%(**percentage**) answered the question out of 772(**total number of replies**) answers.

G10	Frequency	Percentage
No	71	9%
Yes	674	87%

G14	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	346	45%
Disagree	370	48%

For Multi-Choice Questions:

For example:

Q8. *Please enter the number of vehicles you normally park in the locations below:*

In the reply - see box:

Q 8	Count	Min	Max	Sum
Garages	275	0	3	323
Driveway	448	0	5	695
Kerbside	117	0	3	139

275 people(**count**) parked between 0(**min**) and 3(**max**) cars in a Garage. The total number of vehicles parked in a garage is 323(**sum**)

For Numerical Questions

In question G22-1 respondents were asked how many houses they thought should be built in Oakley Wood over the next 10 years.

In the replies 80%(**total of percentage**) of respondents(**frequency**) answered the question, of which, for example, 128 thought that the number should be between 6 and 10 - see box.

G22 1	Frequency	Percentage
0	177	23%
1-5	182	24%
6-10	128	17%
11-15	34	4%
16-20	43	6%
21-25	12	2%
26-30	6	1%
30+	26	3%

APPENDIX 6 TO
ANNEX C TO
TO BENSON PARISH PLAN
DATED

Summary of Answers to General Questionnaire

(Note: The RAF General Questionnaire answers have been incorporated into the data below)

There were **772** responses to the General Questionnaire

HOUSING

Q1 - How long has your family lived in Benson?

G1	Frequency	Percentage
Under 2 Years	63	8%
2-5 Years	108	14%
6-10 Years	116	15%
11-20 Years	147	19%
21-30 Years	118	15%
Over 30 Years	214	28%

Q2 - In which area do you live?

G2	Frequency	Percentage
Benson	718	93%
Preston Crowmarsh	31	4%
Beggarbush Hill	7	1%
Oakley Wood	9	1%

Q3 - Is your accommodation one of the following?

G3	Frequency	Percentage
House	537	70%
Self Contained Flat	28	4%
Room(s)	1	0%
Bungalow	184	24%
Other	7	1%

Q4 - Age groups in your household. Please enter the total number in each age group in your household:

Q 4	Count	Sum	Range
0-5	77	105	2
6-11	80	106	2
12-17	83	118	2
18-24	68	89	1
25-44	231	347	1
45-64	333	491	1
65-75	184	238	1
76+	158	189	8

Q5 - Which type of accommodation do you live in?

G5	Frequency	Percentage
Owned	684	89%
Rented	54	7%
Tied	3	0%
Shared Ownership	5	1%

Q6 - Please enter how many of each of the following types of room you have in your property:

Q 6	Count	Min	Max	Sum
Bedroom(s)	755	1	7	2,275
Workroom(s)	90	0	3	103
Lounge(s)	736	0	4	792
Dining Room(s)	545	0	4	562
Study(s)	190	0	4	203
Bathroom(s)	743	0	5	1,068
Garage(s)	543	0	4	610

Q7 - How many vehicles have you got in your household?

Number of Households	Cars per Household
2	0
279	1
292	2
74	3
14	4
2	5
1	7

Q8 - Please enter the number of vehicles you normally park in the locations below:

Q 8	Count	Min	Max	Sum
Garages	275	0	3	323
Driveway	448	0	5	695
Kerbside	117	0	3	139

Q9 - If you do not park your vehicle(s) in your garage(s), which of the following do you use it for?

G9	Frequency	Percentage
Storage	93	12%
Workshop	10	1%
Combined Workshop/Storage	123	16%
Other	15	2%

Q10 - Does your current accommodation meet your needs?

G10	Frequency	Percentage
No	71	9%
Yes	674	87%

Q11 - If your answer to Q10 is 'NO' please list what changes you would like to make to your property in order to meet your need:

55 households listed changes they would like to make to their home in order to meet their needs:

11 families with children wished to extend in general terms, or add three new rooms;

2 elderly households wished to down-size.

More individual requirements included (with number of households in brackets):

- an extra bedroom (12) or a larger bedroom (2);
- an additional living room (2) or a larger living room (3);
- a dining room (6) or a larger dining room (1);
- a study (5) or the conversion of a garage or outbuilding to a study (3);
- a larger kitchen (3);
- a utility room (3);
- a conservatory (3);
- more storage (3);
- a bathroom or cloakroom (11), 3 specifying upstairs or downstairs;
- additional or larger garages (8);
- larger gardens (3).

Q12 - If you intend to move in the next 3 years, would you wish to stay in the Parish?

G12	Frequency	Percentage
No	110	14%
Yes	368	48%

Q13 - On moving, please indicate what aspects you would seek to change, eg bigger/smaller garden, bigger/smaller house, owned or rented, flat/house/bungalow:

Smaller Property	48	22.54
Smaller / Garden	41	19.25
Change to bungalow	26	12.21
Change to house	6	2.82
Garage / bigger garage	11	5.16
Off street parking / parking space	5	2.35
Older property	2	0.94
Detached	10	4.69

Change due to job etc	6	2.82
Flat	1	0.47
Secluded / more privacy	1	0.47
Retirement	1	0.47
Leaving area / Country	2	0.94
Build own	1	0.47
Sheltered	2	0.94
More affordable	3	1.41
Less traffic	2	0.94
Other	8	3.76

Q14 - Please indicate your reaction to the following statement: 'An increase in housing is essential to offset population changes and to maintain the existing level of services, eg shops, library, transport, schools, health services,

G14	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	346	45%
Disagree	370	48%

Q15 - The SODC would permit in-fill development within the existing boundaries of Benson village on sites up to the size of Chiltern Close(off Crown Lane). Do you think that further in fill development in Benson should be allowed if suitable sites can be made available?

G15	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	443	57%
Disagree	271	35%

Q16 - In the event of any in-fill development, the SODC would seek a housing density about the same as that in Observatory Close. Do you think that such an housing density is:

G16	Frequency	Percentage
Too High	265	34%
Acceptable	421	55%
Too Low	2	0%

Q17 - The SODC proposes that 50% of the dwellings in an in fill development remain in perpetuity as affordable housing for local people. Do you think that this proportion of affordable housing is:

G17	Frequency	Percentage
Too High	144	19%
Acceptable	448	58%
Too Low	109	14%

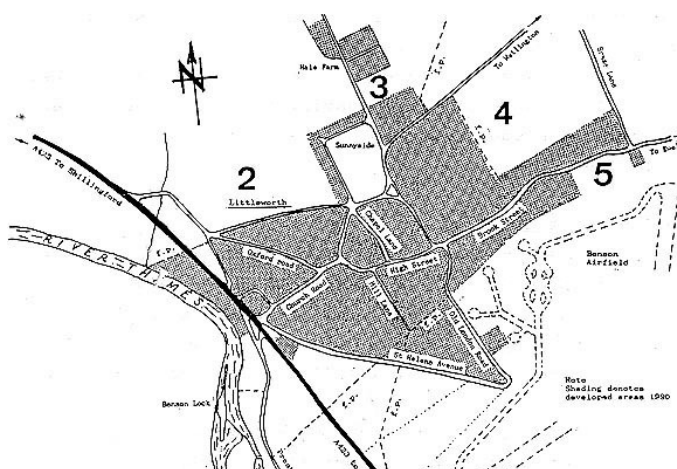
Q18 - The SODC opposes new housing development outside the built-up area of Benson. However, it may exceptionally permit on the periphery of the built-up area, a small development of affordable housing similar to The Meer(*new housing development at chicane on Watlington Road*) that would be retained in perpetuity for local people. Do you think that the provision of affordable housing on the periphery of the built-up area of Benson village is:

G18	Frequency	Percentage
Acceptable	431	56%
Unacceptable	268	35%

Q19 - Do you think that any housing development outside the current boundaries of Benson village would be:

G19	Frequency	Percentage
Acceptable	252	33%
Unacceptable	428	55%

Q20 - Should housing development adjacent to the built-up area of Benson Village be approved, which areas on the following map would you consider to be the most appropriate?



G20_1	Frequency	Percentage
Acceptable	140	18%
Possibly	142	18%

G20_2	Frequency	Percentage
Acceptable	160	21%
Possibly	170	22%

G20_3	Frequency	Percentage
Acceptable	198	26%
Possibly	205	27%

G20_4	Frequency	Percentage
Acceptable	127	16%
Possibly	167	22%

G20_5	Frequency	Percentage
Acceptable	132	17%
Possibly	195	25%

Q21 - The following table shows the approximate number of dwellings in Benson Village (in brackets). Please indicate how many new dwellings you think should be built there over the next ten years.

G21	Frequency	Percentage
0	71	9%
1-10	47	6%
11-20	88	11%
21-50	206	27%
51-100	184	24%
101-200	59	8%
201-500	5	1%
500+	7	1%

Q22 - The following table shows the approximate number of dwellings in the settlements of the Parish (in brackets). Please indicate for each settlement how many new dwellings you think should be built there over the next ten years. te: SODC opposes new housing developments in all the smaller settlements.

Preston Crowmarsh	G22 1	Frequency	Percentage
	0	177	23%
	1-5	182	24%
	6-10	128	17%
	11-15	34	4%
	16-20	43	6%
	21-25	12	2%
	26-30	6	1%
	30+	26	3%
Oakley Wood	G22 2	Frequency	Percentage
	0	161	21%
	1-5	188	24%
	6-10	104	13%
	11-15	42	5%
	16-20	37	5%
	21-25	13	2%
	26-30	11	1%
	30+	33	4%
Benson	G22 3	Frequency	Percentage
	0	192	25%
	1-5	205	27%
	6-10	73	9%
	11-15	36	5%
	16-20	35	5%
	21-25	18	2%
	26-30	6	1%
	30+	24	3%

Q23 - The Government recommends that all new housing developments should have fewer than 1.5 car parking places per dwelling. Do you agree or not?

G23	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	526	68%
Agree	177	23%

Q24 - Do you think the visual appearance of new housing is important?

G24	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	14	2%
Agree	697	90%

Q25 - If your answer to Q 24 is 'NO', please describe what elements of design and building you feel need improving, eg Scale and Height, Architectural Innovation, Use of a Local Style, Landscaping, and Quality of Workmanship and Materials in relation to Forge Close, Passey Crescent and Saxon Close:

Q26 - Some villages, eg Goring, have assessed their own buildings and have developed style guidelines for inclusion as Supplementary Planning Guidance. Do you think that a similar approach would be of benefit to Benson?

G26	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	89	12%
Agree	585	76%

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Q27 - Do you think there are sufficient?

Litter Bins

G27_1	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	337	44%
No	363	47%

Rubbish Skips at the Parish Hall

G27_2	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	503	65%
No	201	26%

Recycling Banks

G27_3	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	330	43%
No	372	48%

Road and Amenity Area Cleaning

G27_4	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	312	40%
No	372	48%

Q28 - Are you a dog own

G28	Frequency	Percentage
No	581	75%
Yes	164	21%

Q29 - Are there sufficient roadside Dog Litter Bins?

G29	Frequency	Percentage
No	358	46%
Yes	194	25%

Q30 - Do you take rubbish to the free Oakley Wood tip?

House Hold

G30_1	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	164	21%
Occasionally	424	55%
Never	123	16%

Garden

G30_2	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	291	38%
Occasionally	311	40%
Never	108	14%

Chemical/Oil

G30_3	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	12	2%
Occasionally	180	23%
Never	383	50%

Batteries

G30_4	Frequency	Percentage
Frequently	11	1%
Occasionally	176	23%
Never	383	50%

Q31 - If your answer to Q30 is 'NEVER', please give your reasons:

- 60 people, in all, responded to this question.
- 31 people said that they didn't have any – referring to chemicals, oil and batteries.
- 18 commented that roadside collections were adequate for their needs.
- 7 said that they had transport.
- 7 composted garden waste at home, one of which also composted neighbours waste.

- 1 was not aware of the Oakley Wood Tip
- 1 used the Redbridge facility
- 1 was new to the area but would use in the future
- One of the respondents, without transport, also asked “what do we pay rates for?”
- 1 commented that more encouragement to use the tip should be given in an attempt to reduce fly tipping near Oakley Wood

Q32 - Do you regularly use a free green recycling box for paper, tins & plastic containers?

G32	Frequency	Percentage
No	79	10%
Yes	664	86%

Q33 - If your answer to Q32 is 'NO' please give your reasons:

- 14 people answered this question
- 6 said they did not have a box.
- 2 said they were too lazy.
- 1 takes rubbish to tip
- 1 said they didn't have time to separate rubbish.
- 1 said “why should I pay for an extra bag?”
- 1 said they didn't have the need
- 1 said they included it in the rubbish
- 1 didn't think to use one

Q34 - How do you dispose of garden waste?

G34	Frequency	Percentage
Green Bag for collection	63	8%
Compost at home	344	45%
Oakley Wood Tip	473	61%
Bonfire	99	13%

Q35 - Would you be prepared to take your green garden waste to a free Parish Composting Centre ?

G35	Frequency	Percentage
No	133	17%
Yes	565	73%

Q36 - Do you find any of the following pose a problem?

G36_1		Frequency	Percentage
Traffic	Yes	156	20%
	No	526	68%
G36_2		Frequency	Percentage
Helicopters	Yes	164	21%
	No	515	67%
G36_3		Frequency	Percentage
Aircraft	Yes	286	37%
	No	424	55%
G36_4		Frequency	Percentage
Other	Yes	93	12%
	No	408	53%

Q37 - If the answer to Q 36 is `OTHER', please specify the type of noise:

- There were 23 answers to this question.
- 7 mentioned fireworks.
- 2 said garden machinery.
- 2 found noisy neighbours a problem mentioning children with football, radios & dogs.
- 7 were annoyed by motorcycles, two speeding motorcycles on A3074, one speeding motorcycle on A4009 (presumably B4009) and two others "motorcycle tracks"
- Specific mention of the Crown Pub was made.
- Early w/e am roadworks & Youths at closing time were also raised twice.
- Teenagers had a special mention three times (noise, shouting, " thing better to do" and litter was also mentioned
- 1 mentioned the noise made by traffic going over repairs in the Watlington road with special mention of the "repair" between Aldridge Triangle and Parish Hall turn off.
- There was one mention of loud exhausts of heavy plant on the B4009

Q38- Are you affected by very bright lighting from a public place?

G38	Frequency	Percentage
No	682	88%
Yes	44	6%

Q39 - If your answer to Q38 is `NO', please state where:

- There were only 11 responses to this question.
- There were votes for:
Observatory Close
Brook St.
Street light opposite (3)
St Helens Way
Watlington Road
Houses opposite
Houses
BP Station/MacDonalds (2)
Benson Village
the Floodlight back of Millstream sheltered accommodation.

As the Questionnaires are anonymous "street light opposite" and "houses opposite" can't be located.

Q40 - Do you consider the street lighting in Benson is adequate?

G40	Frequency	Percentage
No	154	20%
Yes	578	75%

Q41 - If your answer to Q40 is ` NO', please state in which areas you consider improved lighting is required:

- 36 people responded to this question
- 3 vote for Old London Road.
- 1 vote for Coach Way
- 1 vote for Sands Way
- 1 vote for Mill Lane.
- 1 vote for High St.
- 1 vote for Chapel Lane
- 1 vote for Westfield Road
- 1 vote for Blacklands Road
- 1 vote for Sunnyside
- 1 vote for Rumbolds Close
- 1 vote for corner of Paddock Close & Old London Rd.

- 1 vote for footpaths around schools
- 1 said Sunnyside sports field footpath to OAP bungalows
- 1 said Sunnyside at junction with Sands Way/Hale Rd.
- 1 vote for the road & footpath by the triangle & new crossing
- 2 vote for the alleyway from Aldridge Close to Westfield Close
- 1 vote for the footpath from St Helens way to Castle close.
- 1 vote for the Cottage area, Watlington Rd
- 2 votes for Crown Lane
- St. Helens Ave attracted some attention with 4 votes for the Avenue, 2 for parts of the Avenue, 1 for lanes off St Helens and one for the junction between St Helens Ave and Way.
- 6 did not specify areas but said "all over"
- 1 said general through outskirts of village
- 1 said that the lighting around the recreation ground was dim and patchy and required improvement
- 1 for and two against lighting in Preston Crowmarsh
- 1 vote for end of Green Close where Westfield and Blacklands meet
- 1 thought that Brook St. should be illuminated from the village centre out as far as Braze Lane.
- 1 respondent thought that lighting was required along both footpaths between St. Helens Ave and the A4074.
- 2 votes for the footpath by the infants school (1 commented that complaints about faulty light had not been answered).
- There were also two comments that lighting was being obscured by trees.

Q42 - Are there any parish footpaths that you would use more if they were improved/safer?

G42	Frequency	Percentage
No	530	69%
Yes	138	18%

Q43 - If the answer to Q 42 is "YES" please specify which path(s):

- There was a good response to this question with 31 boxes completed
- A number of people specified roads rather than footpaths presumably a comment on pavements or lack of them. Roads mentioned included Mill Lane (twice), Brook St. to High St. around Crown Square (3), Littleworth, Old London Road, Green Close (2) and St Helens Way.
- The footpaths between Old London Road and St. Helens Avenue were well represented with 9 mentions.
- The various paths between St. Helens Avenue and Preston Crowmarsh received 9 mentions in all.
- Various other paths received single mentions, namely:-
- Path to Thames between roundabout and Marina
- Path by black & white railings by brook and Warborough
- Oakley Wood path
- Thames towpath
- Footpath near infants school (2)
- Behind Blacklands (3)
- Re-instate footpath from sands Way to Port Hill RHS going up.
- The Meer to Roke
- Bridle path from A4009 Home Sweet Home turning to the brook at Fifield Manor
- Video shop to Paddock Close
- Benson to Crowmarsh (2)
- Under the road Preston C to Benson
- Churchfield Lane to A4074
- Path beside brook from Gurney's roundabout
- Newton Way
- Back of Moorlands
- Sunnyside
- Green close to Crown Lane

There were also various comments relating to the state of footpaths and pavements such as:

- Too narrow for double buggy
- Uneven with loose bricks
- Cyclists on paths

- Dog muck
- Overhanging branches and weeds

Q44 - Are there any areas of the village which you feel are neglected or environmentally undervalued?

G44	Frequency	Percentage
No	433	56%
Yes	182	24%

Q45 - If your answer to Q44 is "NO " please specify which areas and indicate what is wrong:

26 responses to this question were received but covering such a wide range of locations and subjects that it is easier to simply list them with a number in brackets representing the number of times mentioned.

- Foopath Westfield Road to Parish Hall
- Various paths overgrown and dogs mess (2)
- Riverside area near paddling pool (4)
- Top end of Moorlands & Jubilee Villa (6)
- Mill Lane – road surface
- Field next to Braze Lane
- Bertie West field (2)
- Hedge and verge on roadside through Oakley Wood
- Parish Signs – old, discoloured and not easy to see
- Sunnyside – suggestion for trees, landscaping and features
- High St. end of Brook St. – pedestrian safety and road surface
- Road surfaces (3)
- Pavements
- Parish Hall – frequently badly vandalised
- McDonalds – rubbish on main roads and nearby (3)
- High St. - shop style needs improving
- South side of St Helens Ave. – verge very untidy
- Hale Farm area
- Brook between Cedars & Braze Lane and between Benson & Ewelme
- Bus Shelter – litter (2)
- Village centre (2) – suggestion for more trees
- Aldridge Triangle – parking
- Coach Way – tree & hedge clippings left to rot
- Mill Lane – drainage needs improvement to prevent flooding
- House opposite Tennis Courts (2)
- Garage area between Moorlands & stream
- Hedge along St Helens Ave.(2) – suggestion to cut it down
- Area near BP garage and field opposite – litter problem
- F/path alleyway is dark and overgrown (prob. Refers to one near BP)
- Footpath & hedges to playing field next to 89 SHA
- Paths in Green Close/Westfield Rd
- Footpath off Newton Way
- War memorial
- Port Hill Road
- Caravan Park by river
- Car park facilities near Rivermead
- Car park facilities by lock & river access
- Thames Path
- Verges and lay-bys adjacent to A4074
- Triangle at junction of St Helens Ave/Church Rd/A4074
- Council ground at north end of Preston C
- Watlington Rd. paths
- Crown Lane - litter
- Alleyway Aldridge Close /Westfield Close – litter
- Footpaths Moorlands/Old London Rd
- End of Paddock Close – road uneven, holes

- Access to the church field via the back of the junior school
 - The brook/Cedars area
 - The brook/allotments
- There were also more general comments including “generally untidy”, “many areas” and “all areas”.

Q46 - Approximately how many miles do members of your household drive each week in total?

G46	Frequency	Percentage
0 - 250	366	47%
250 - 500	144	19%
500 - 750	73	9%
750 - 1,000	14	2%
1,000 - 1,250	14	2%
1,250 - 1,500	0	0%
1,500 - 1,750	0	0%
1,750 - 2,000	1	0%
2,000 - 2,250	1	0%

Q47 - How many people in your household regularly use a bicycle?

G47	Frequency	Percentage
0 - 3	274	35%
3 - 6	17	2%
6 - 9	1	0%
10 - 13	2	0%

Q48 - Approximately how far do they cycle in total in each month?

G48_1	Frequency	Percentage
0 - 200	189	24%
200 - 400	7	1%
400 - 600	2	0%
600 - 800	1	0%
800 - 1,000	0	0%
1,000 - 1,200	0	0%
1,200 - 1,400	1	0%

Q49 - What, if anything, deters you from using a bicycle?

G49	Frequency	Percentage
Traffic Density	212	27%
Lack of Cycle Lanes	161	21%
Poor Road Surfaces	183	24%
Other	189	24%

Q50 - If your answer to Q49 is 'OTHER' please specify your reasons:

- 35 contributors answered this question
- 27 reasons related to poor health and/or age
- 6 said that “weather” deterred them
- 7 said that it was too far to cycle, presumably referring to the distance to their place of work
- 4 said lack of secure place to leave bike whilst shopping was important
- 5 said “ Bike”
- various other reasons were given by individuals viz.
 - fear of falling
 - need (2)
 - time (2)
 - Crowmarsh Hill too steep
 - traffic speed (3)
 - desire (2)
 - inconvenient
 - motorists attitude (2)
 - lack of cycle lane (2)
 - need as all amenities were within walking distance
 - lack of maintenance of tracks and cycle paths
 - poor road surfaces
 - not appropriate
 - prefer to walk within village (2)
 - not practical with small children

Q51 - If employed/self employed, do you work only at home?

G51	Frequency	Percentage
No	383	50%
Yes	41	5%

Q52 - If you do not work at RAF Benson how do you travel to work?

G52	Frequency	Percentage
Car	400	52%
Train	25	3%
Bicvcl	60	8%
Motorcvcl	16	2%
Passenger in Car	8	1%
Do not work	108	14%
Walk	45	6%
Other	11	1%
Bus	11	1%

Q53 - If your answer to Q52 is 'OTHER', please state how you travel to work:

- 2 responses to this question said "retired" so probably should have been in the "do t work" box.
- 1 used a "works" vehicle and one a "van"
- 1 worked from home

Q54 - Would you be interested in a suitable car sharing?

G54	Frequency	Percentage
No	503	65%
Yes	55	7%

Q55 - Do you use the local public bus services ?

G55	Frequency	Percentage
No	409	53%
Yes	289	37%

Q56 - If your answer to Q 55 is "NO", how often do you use the bus service?

G56	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	22	3%
Weekly	79	10%
Monthly	40	5%
Occasionally	167	22%

Q57 - If your answer to Q 55 is "NO", which bus services do you use

G57	Frequency	Percentage
105 Oxford - Wallingford via Benson	175	23%
Taxibus Wallingford - Watlington	21	3%
132 Benson - Wallingford via Goring Station	158	20%
139 Wallingford - Abingdon via Benson	29	4%
X39 Wallingford - Oxford	137	18%
Other	36	5%

Q58 - If your answer to Q 57 is 'OTHER', please specify which bus service you use:

- These can be listed as:
Thames Travel – Reading
Oxford City Park & Ride 5)
X39 to Henley.
Oxford Tube at Lewk r.

Q59 - Are you satisfied with the existing bus services you use?

G59	Frequency	Percentage
No	174	23%
Yes	217	28%

Q60 - If your answer to Q 59 is 'NO', please indicate why you are dissatisfied.

G60	Frequency	Percentage
Poor Timetable	92	12%
Cost	33	4%
Unsatisfactory Routes	88	11%
Punctuality	30	4%
Unsatisfactory Stopping Places	17	2%
Other	27	3%

Q61 - If your answer to Q60 is 'OTHER', please give your reasons:

6 responses – again listing seem appropriate:

- Not enough buses from Benson
- I don't understand the route or timetable.
- No service to Heathrow via Wallingford.
- Bus route 150 should go through Benson at all times as used to.
- Not flexible enough.
- No Benson to Lewknor bus route. Comment – improved bus stop facilities and safe parking at Lewknor would encourage use of this bus service.
- Bus service to Reading
- Service could be improved so that 132 & X39 does not leave/pass village at more or less the same time.
- Nothing local to London.
- Timetables never give return times

Q62 - Do you consider that any of the following places in the village pose a road safety hazard for:

Junction Chapel Lane - Watlington Rd	G62_1	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	172	22%
	Cyclists	183	24%
	Pedestrians	300	39%
Junction Church Rd - A4074	G62_2	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	177	23%
	Cyclists	155	20%
	Pedestrians	172	22%
High Street Shopping Area	G62_3	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	141	18%
	Cyclists	169	22%
	Pedestrians	290	38%
Watlington Rd throughout	G62_4	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	136	18%
	Cyclists	179	23%
	Pedestrians	240	31%
Castle Sq Triangle	G62_5	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	175	23%
	Cyclists	163	21%
	Pedestrians	267	35%
Pedestrian Crossing over A4074 at end of Church Rd	G62_6	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	41	5%
	Cyclists	70	9%
	Pedestrians	195	25%
Junction Crown Lane-High St - Brook St	G62_7	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	141	18%
	Cyclists	113	15%
	Pedestrians	197	26%

Junction Crown Lane Watlington Rd	G62_8	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	182	24%
	Cyclists	155	20%
	Pedestrians	189	24%
Castle Sq to War Memorial	G62_9	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	93	12%
	Cyclists	116	15%
	Pedestrians	205	27%
Brook St throughout	G62_10	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	132	17%
	Cyclists	149	19%
	Pedestrians	154	20%
Oxford Rd	G62_11	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	92	12%
	Cyclists	104	13%
	Pedestrians	117	15%
Other	G62_12	Frequency	Percentage
	Motorists	98	13%
	Cyclists	64	8%
	Pedestrians	61	8%

Q63 - If your answer to Q62 is 'OTHER', please state where the hazard exists:

- 19 questionnaires highlighted locations of concern
- 8 questionnaires mentioned street parking with the areas highlighted including:
 - newsagents
 - take-away
 - old pine shop (2)
 - lower end of High St. and round bend by old pine shop
 - Castle Square (3)
 - Between Castle Square and Chapel Lane
 - Church Road
 - Benson Garage (6)
 - Castle Close corner
 - Brook St. (obscuring vision of vehicles leaving The Cedars)
 - Brook St. (2) (outside Passey Crescent)
 - Benson Garage to Mill Lane
 - Bus stop
 - Oxford Road – school (2)
 - Between PO and takeaway
- Various junctions were highlighted as danger spots including:
 - Castle Square/Old London rd outside video shop (3)
 - Junction Church Rd/A423 (3)
 - Junction Chiltern Close/Crown Lane
 - Old London rd. exit of Moorlands (2)
 - X roads Oakley Wood tip/Old Icknield way - approach speed along A4130 too fast
 - Traffic entering & leaving the Crown CP
 - Hale Farmm road onto Watlington rd.
 - Preston Crowmarsh(south)/A4074 junction (5)
 - Preston Crowmarsh(rth)/A4074 junction – both (2)

- Blacklands onto Watlington Road
- Littleworth /Oxford rd junction for pedestrians
- Preston Crowmarsh speed limit should be 20 mph.
- People crossing road to park outside Newsagents/Somerfield facing on-coming traffic.
- People crossing Church road opposite Church.
- People crossing Oxford road to school.
- All unpaved streets.
- Traffic speed along Oxford Road
- Crossing A4074 at Preston Crowmarsh (south) (2) – 30 mph speed limit needed
- Road surface – Brook Street
- Some pavements are very narrow
- Old London Road
- Pedestrian crossing required High St shopping area
- Priority road for A4009 at Castle Sq should NOT be up High Street.
- Old London Rd/St Helens Ave – needs speed restrictions

Q64 - In general do you consider Benson a safe place to:

	G64_1	Frequency	Percentage
Drive	Yes	552	72%
	No	89	12%
	G64_2	Frequency	Percentage
Walk	Yes	538	70%
	No	154	20%
	G64_3	Frequency	Percentage
Cycle	Yes	333	43%
	No	220	28%
	G64_4	Frequency	Percentage
Ride(horses)	Yes	92	12%
	No	260	34%

Q65 - Do you use the footpath, which has recently been provided between Benson and Ewelme?

G65	Frequency	Percentage
Monthly	203	26%
Weekly	54	7%
Daily	11	1%
Never	390	51%

Q66 - Would the provision of additional safe foot/cycle paths reduce your use of your car?

G66	Frequency	Percentage
No	485	63%
Yes	142	18%

Q67 - If you answered 'YES' to Q66, please specify the areas 'from-to' that you would like to see additional paths

- The following routes were suggested
 - Benson~Shillingford (2)
 - Benson~Wallingford (3)
 - Cedars~Village centre
 - Preston Crowmarsh~Wallingford
 - Benson~Ewelme Brook
 - St. Helens~A4074 (needs clearing)
 - From Castle Sq triangle to junction at old Sun Pub
 - From the Meer area to Wallingford
 - Ewelme to Watlington
 - Pavement from Preston C to Benson boatyard

- Paths need to be safer through village
- Paddock Close to video shop
- Littleworth Rd
- Old London Rd – footpath/cycle path
- Watlington Rd to river

Q68 - Which of the following traffic control measures would you prefer to see used to control speeding in the Village?

Q69 - In which location(s) would you like to see additional calming measures?

- The main road through the village centre received most comments with 21 saying Brook Street and 29 suggesting High Street, with the following comments:
 - Specifically between its junction with Old London Rd and Somerfields.
 - Specifically shopping area with suggestion of speed bump and 20 mph limit
- Crown Lane Junction
- A4074 through road
- Oxford Road (9)
- Church Road (2)
- Westfield Rd (2) – one suggesting speed bumps and 20mph limit throughout the estate
- Approaches to bends and turnouts on A4130
- Sunnyside
- Traffic speed along A4130, Oakley Wood, too fast.
- Watlington Road near Parish Hall/T Courts
- Watlington Road (21) with associated comments:
 - Replace chicane with speed camera
 - Install camera to reduce speed entering village
 - 20mph speed limit
 - Install speed camera at Westfield Rd. junction
 - Install flashing slow sign – Westfield & Hale Fm. Rd. turns
- specific locations mentioned were: by Parish Hall, Chicane, entering the village before Sunnyside, entering village and leaving village past Westfield, Sands Way & Blacklands exits, joining B4009 at Castle Sq., stretch between Westfield and Parish Hall St. Helens Ave (7)
- Preston Crowmarsh (2) - speed limit should be 20 mph.
- Crown junction.
- Chapel Lane.
- Close to schools
- 20 mph speed limit from Youth Hall through village to Crown Lane junction plus Chapel Lane and Crown Lane
- Roundabout at Church Rd./A4074 junction
- Littleworth Road
- Blacklands Road
- Old London Road (2)
- More pedestrian and children crossing signs required
- Three respondents were opposed to calming measures with comments “ne - they are lethal to cars”, “Calming !” and Speed bumps increase use and cause congestion.
- There were also 2 general comments viz. “throughout the village” and “main roads (speed cameras); speed restrictions through village.

Q70 - Do you consider that traffic congestion is a problem in the village?

G70	Frequency	Percentage
No	305	40%
Yes	406	53%

Q71 - If the answer to Q70 is 'NO', please indicate what measures you consider should be taken?

G71	Frequency	Percentage
Enforcement of parking restrictions	230	30%
Further parking restrictions	110	14%
Additional 'off street' parking	228	30%

Q72 - Please specify any other Traffic Control/Parking measures that you consider would be effective.

- The following lists this eclectic mix of answers
 - More enforcement of Parking areas, ie, double yellow lines
 - Encourage walking/cycling & provide cycle racks
 - 20 mph speed limit down High St. (3)
 - Additional parking spaces
 - Stop parking at bus stop (2)
 - Pelican crossing in High St.
 - Enforce 'No Parking' on double yellow lines, eg. outside paper and video shops (4)
 - Double yellow lines along Brook St. outside Passey Crescent
 - Speed limits on A4130 through Oakley Wood.
 - Castle Sq. (opposite Castle Close) - High St. corner is lethal caused by parked cars
 - Double yellow lines from A423, through village to Braze Lane.
 - Restrict parking outside old Pine Shop (bottom end High St.) (2)
 - 20 mph speed restriction from Cedars to war memorial.
 - 20 mph limit in High St.
 - Stop parking outside take-away & Gateway.
 - Preston Crowmarsh speed limit should be 20 mph.
 - Lower speed limit to 20mph from Castle Square/Watlington/Brook St. area. Stop the two garages at each end of High St. parking vehicles for long periods on the road (2).
 - A policeman on duty (3) with a comment that prosecutions should be taken out including for parking on pavements.
 - Traffic warden (3)
 - Confine on-street parking to one side of road.
 - Yellow lines in Mill Lane & on Brook St. outside Passey Close, No parking on pavements or green spaces.
 - Limited waiting outside main shops
 - Car parks
 - Preston C/Benson junction – main road needs 30 mph limit past junction
 - Roundabout far end of Preston C
 - Illegal parking too close to junctions should be seriously penalised (eg Chapel Lane; One End Lane junction).
- Restrictions are not the way forward – better planning is.
- More one way driving areas; restrictions on lorries driving through village.

Q73 - What value do you place on the Ewelme/Benson Brook as an environmental amenity?

G73	Frequency	Percentage
High	454	59%
Medium	180	23%
Low	36	5%
Not interested	34	4%

SUPPORT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Q74 - Do you consider that the Millstream Surgery provides an adequate weekday service?

G74	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	641	83%
No	18	2%
Don't Know	82	11%

Q75 - If you disagree, please state why:

This question did not receive much response getting only 27 answers, the main answers were not registered at Millstream and more appointments opening hours needed. Summary of results:

Not Registered	7
Greater Range of Appointments, opening time needed	6
Don't Use Part Time Doctors	1
Not always a doctor available for emergencies	2
Need drop in baby clinic	1
Difficult to get choice of doctor	2
Generally Dissatisfied	1
Don't Use	4

Q76 - Do you think the arrangements for out of hours medical service is adequate?

G76	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	452	59%
No	32	4%
Don't Know	239	31%

Q77 - If your answer to Q73 is 'NO', please state why:

Once again not a popular question with only 32 answers of which the top answer was generally 'dissatisfied'. Summary of results:

• Provide Drop in Surgeries	1
• Don't Know	1
• Provide Weekend/evening Cover	2
• Not Used	7
• Generally Dissatisfied	9
• Can't Get an Appointment	4
• No Local Emergency Service	4
• Clinics need to have more availability	1
• More evening appointments	2

Q78 - Have you, or a member of your household, used the Out of Hours prescription service?

G78	Frequency	Percentage
No	630	82%
Yes	79	10%

Q79 - If your answer is 'NO' to Q75, do you consider it meets your needs?

G79	Frequency	Percentage
No	12	2%
Yes	102	13%

Q80 - If your answer to Q75 is 'NO', please give your reasons:

Received the most answers in this section with 320 answers mostly confirming that the replier has not needed to use the service. Summary of results:

• Don't require the service	33
• Not Needed to use Service	254
• Not aware of the Service	29

Q81 - If you wish to make a complaint/suggestion, Do you know how to do it?

G81	Frequency	Percentage
No	237	31%
Yes	409	53%

Q82 - Do you see the availability of Post Office services as essential to the future of Benson Village?

G82	Frequency	Percentage
No	48	6%
Yes	670	87%

Q83 - If your answer to Q82 is 'NO', please indicate which Post Office services you presently use:

G83	Frequency	Percentage
Paying Bills(Giro)	227	29%
Stamps	628	81%
Pensions	180	23%
Banking	111	14%
Car Licensing	536	69%
Foreign Currency	84	11%
Child Benefit	48	6%
Other	176	23%

Q84 - Would you be prepared to join a small band of volunteers in keeping the Village tidy?

G84	Frequency	Percentage
No	484	63%
Yes	157	20%

Q85 - Are you prepared to keep the pavement outside your property clean and tidy as happens in many European countries?

G85	Frequency	Percentage
No	53	7%
Yes	641	83%

Q86 - Do you know where to find out information about the following services?

Chiropractor

G86_1	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	575	74%
No	134	17%

Osteopath

G86_2	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	583	76%
No	119	15%

Dentist

G86_3	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	645	84%
No	71	9%

Vet

G86_4	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	651	84%
No	53	7%

Taxis

G86_5	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	596	77%
No	118	15%

Q87 - If your answer to any of the services in Q 86 is 'NO', do you see a need for a Parish Information Booklet for every household?

G87	Frequency	Percentage
No	126	16%
Yes	200	26%

Q88 - Do you know how to apply for the following services in Benson?

Transport to Hospital

G88_1	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	333	43%
No	329	43%

Collection of Prescriptions

G88_2	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	362	47%
No	288	37%

Gardening

G88_3	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	222	29%
No	393	51%

Being Read To

G88_4	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	178	23%
No	411	53%

Minor Repairs

G88_5	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	231	30%
No	385	50%

Shopping

G88_6	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	247	32%
No	371	48%

Q89 - Would you be prepared to volunteer to assist with volunteer services in Benson?

G89	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	124	16%
No	502	65%

Q90 - Do you think the provision of Parish Notice Board information is acceptable?

G90	Frequency	Percentage
No	85	11%
Yes	590	76%

Q91 - If your answer to Q90 is 'NO', please state where you would like to see additional Notice Boards sited.

Some 54 answers received, with a consensus for better Notice boards in the village centre and at the Parish Hall. It would also appear that knowledge of current locations is not particularly good. Summary of results:

- On the Ewelme Benson Border 1
- At Schools 5
- Clean up and provide up to date information on Existing Boards 6
- Post Office 2
- Restrict Information to Benson only 1
- Light Notice Boards at Night 1
- At Parish Hall 6
- Millstream Surgery/Car park 4
- Riverside Tearooms 1
- Library 3
- Church 3
- Don't K w Where Current Notice Boards are 8
- At Newsagents 2
- Preston Crowmarsh 3
- Village Centre 14
- On the Internet 2
- More Info in Benson Bulletin 3

Q92 - The Police presence in the Village is adequate?

G92	Frequency	Percentage
No	586	76%
Yes	107	14%

Q93 - Should the Police patrol the Village every night?

G93	Frequency	Percentage
No	114	15%
Yes	573	74%

Q94 - Are you a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

G94	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	203	26%
No	497	64%

Q95 - If your answer to Q91 is 'NO', would you be prepared to join/form such a scheme in your area?

G95	Frequency	Percentage
No	170	22%
Yes	303	39%

Q96 - Are you a member of, or do you regularly attend any of the Clubs, Amenities or Sports organisations in Benson Parish?

G96	Frequency Percentage	
Yes	293	38%
No	409	53%

Q97 - What facilities, which are NOT currently available, would you wish to have in Benson Parish:

This question received 96 answers. Predominantly requesting swimming facilities and a local village cashpoint Summary of results:

• Cash Point in Village	8
• Music Club n Pop	3
• Squash Court	1
• Ante & Post Natal Groups	1
• Baby Sitting Circle	1
• Outdoor Bowling Green	1
• More facilities for Youth	9
• Film Society	1
• Bank	4
• Indoor Swimming Pool	17
• NHS Chiropody at Millstream	1
• Fitness Facilities for Older People	5
• Evening Classes	5
• Broadband Internet	2
• Fish & Chip Shop	3
• Bridge Club	1
• A DIY Store	1
• Dancing Classes	2
• Cricket	1
• Bakery	2
• Chess	1
• Public Slipway	1
• Skateboard Park	3
• Benson Choral Society	1
• Social Club	4
• Quicker Ambulance Response	1
• Reliable Taxi Service	2
• Music Shop	1
• Traffic Wardens	1
• Village Composting Area	1
• Floodlit Football Training	3
• Yoga Classes	1
• Concerts in Village Church	1
• Night Club	1
• Curbside Collection of Glass	1
• Art Classes	2
• Netball Club	1
• Citizens Advice	1
• More Police Presence	1
• Children's Sport	3
• After on WI Meetings	1
• Boy Scouts	1
• Discos For Different Age Groups	1
• Sports Centre/Gym	7
• More Off Lead Dog Walking Areas	1
• Bookmakers	1
• Quality Supermarket	1

Q98 - Are improvements needed to pavements, public buildings and shops to give better access to all?

G98	Frequency	Percentage
No	360	47%
Yes	245	32%

Q99 - If your answer to Q98 is 'YES', please state what improvements you would like to see and where:

Received 205 answers with a clear majority very concerned about wheelchair, pushchair and pram access along with the state of the local pavements and roads. Summary of results:

- Hedges etc Overgrown 3
- Second Floor in Parish Hall 1
- Better Signing to M40 1
- Traffic Congestion 1
- Cycle Racks at Village Amenities 1
- Hanging Baskets at Crown 1
- Dog Mess 2
- Wheel/Pushchair Ramps 77
- Hard River Access 1
- Parking In High Street 4
- Better Access to River 1
- Kept Free of Weeds, Litter etc 2
- Preston Crowmarsh Drainage & Lighting 1
- Pharmacy Door Stiff & Awkward 2
- More Disabled Parking 2
- Metal Post Near Library Dangerous 1
- Pavement/Road Repair 132
- Ditches Maintained 1
- Village Centre Zebra Crossing 2

Q100 - Do you believe that the Parish Hall requires a lift to the 1st floor to allow everyone to attend functions upstairs?

G100	Frequency	Percentage
No	322	42%
Yes	309	40%

Q101 - Do you believe that that access on local buses could be improved?

G101	Frequency	Percentage
No	231	30%
Yes	263	34%

EDUCATION

Q102 - How many members of your household regularly attend educational establishments or courses in the following age groups

Q 102	Count	Min	Max	Sum
2-4	37	1	2	38
5-11	72	1	3	93
11-16	64	1	3	83
16-18	26	1	2	28
18+	11	1	2	13
Adult	123	1	2	152

Q103 - Has lack of transport facilities limited your past choice of an educational establishment?

G103	Frequency	Percentage
No	462	60%
Yes	46	6%

Q104 - Will a lack of transport facilities limit your future choice of educational establishment?

G104	Frequency	Percentage
No	414	54%
Yes	56	7%

Q105 - What is your key consideration in choosing Early Years education?

G105	Frequency	Percentage
Time	6	1%
Cost	25	3%
Convenience	27	3%
Quality of Education	115	15%
Other	10	1%

Q106 - If the answer to Q105 is 'Other' please state what factors influenced your choice:

Social aspects; qualifications of staff

Q107 - Please list the name(s) of Early Years Establishments your children attend - whether in Benson or elsewhere:

- Benson Playgroup and Pre-School 19,
- Cranford House Nursery,
- Crowmarsh Primary,
- Didcot Playgroup,
- Early Days,
- Ewelme Playgroup 3,
- Kids Unlimited Oxford,
- Lighthouse,
- Mongewell Park,
- Next Steps,
- Paddocks,
- Scamps,
- The Railway Children,
- Two Trees.

Q108 - If the answer to Q107 is 'Elsewhere' please give your reasons for your choice:

- Christian establishment,
- Montessori,
- Convenient for work,
- Quality of education,
- Not happy at Ewelme,
- Small group at Ewelme better than Benson

Q109 - Do you require?

G109	Frequency	Percentage
Sessional Care	24	3%
Full Day Care	12	2%
Other	1	0%

Q110 - If the answer to Q109 is 'Other' please state what additional type of care you require:

Emergency care

Q111 - How do your Early Years children travel to school?

G111	Frequency	Percentage
Walk	44	6%
Car	51	7%
Public Transport	3	0%

Q112 - Would you like the Benson Pre-School to accept younger children?

G112	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	28	4%
No	43	6%

Q113 - What is your key consideration in choosing Primary/Preparatory School education?

G113	Frequency	Percentage
Cost	9	1%
Convenience	20	3%
Quality of Education	102	13%
Other	8	1%

Q114 - If the answer to Q113 is 'OTHER' please state what factors influenced your choice:

Extra-curricular activities

Q115 - If your children attend school outside Benson, please give the name of the school(s) and the reasons for your choice:

- Cranford House – quality of education calm environment and good facilities,
- European School – quality and language provision,
- Hagbourne Primary – lived in the area,
- Moulsoford Prep – quality, facilities and opportunities,
- Nettlebed – size of school and school bus,
- St Birinus – used to live there,
- St Johns Wallingford.

Q116 - How do your Primary Years children travel to school?

G116	Frequency	Percentage
Walk	51	7%
Car	47	6%
Public Transport	2	0%
School Bus	6	1%

Q117 - Would you like to see either or both of these services provided at the Benson Primary School?

G117	Frequency	Percentage
Breakfast Club	18	2%
After School Club	37	5%

Q118 - Do your Secondary School children attend your first choice of school?

G118	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	81	10%
No	6	1%

Q119 - If the answer to Question 118 is 'NO', please explain why you did not get the school of your choice:

- Transport difficulties;
- Could not get required A level course

Q120 - Please give the name of the school(s) your Secondary age children attend and the reasons for your choice:

- Cranford House – better education,
- European School – language and cultural diversity,
- Henley College – excellent teaching,
- Icknield Community College – friends and convenience of transport,
- Langtree – very good school and maintains village atmosphere,

- Magdalen College School & Oxford High School – quality of education,
- Oratory – religious choice,
- Reading Girls School – already there at time of mother's death,
- Wallingford – lots of reasons.

Q121 - How do your Secondary School children travel to school?

G121	Frequency	Percentage
Walk	0	0%
Cycle	2	0%
Car	26	3%
School Bus	65	8%
Public Transport	4	1%

Q122 - Has any member of your household attended Adult Education in the last five years?

G122	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	224	29%
No	283	37%

Q123 - If the answer to Q122 is 'No', please say which establishment and where it is located:

- Abingdon College,
- Berinsfield,
- Bourne End,
- Chalgrove,
- Didcot,
- Dorchester Museum,
- Henley College,
- Icknield,
- Loughborough,
- Nettlebed school,
- OU Oxford,
- Oxford F.E.,
- Oxford University,
- Pershore,
- RAF Benson,
- Reading College,
- St Birinus Didcot,
- Thames Valley Uni
- Slough,
- Wallingford School,
- WEA centres, Witney, Woodcote.

Q124 - If the answer to Q122 is 'NO', was it due to?

G124	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of Choice of Classes	23	3%
Cost	15	2%
Lack of Time	170	22%

Q125 - Would you like to have more Adult Education in Benson?

G125	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	344	45%
No	122	16%

Q126 - If your answer to Q125 is 'NO', indicate what additional you courses would like to see in Benson:

G126	Frequency	Percentage
Crafts	146	19%
Computer Skills	202	26%
Internet & Email	108	14%
Music	70	9%
Arts	102	13%
Languages	123	16%
Sports	66	9%

Q127 - If the answer to Q126 is 'OTHER', please list your preferred subjects.

- Bridge,
- Business & Sociology,

- Business courses,
- Classics,
- Dance (Ballroom and Belly Dancing),
- DIY,
- Drawing and Painting,
- First Aid,
- Gardening,
- Yoga,
- Literature,
- Local history,
- Plumbing and Electrical,
- Wine tasting,
- Maths/English/History/Classics

Q128 - When would you prefer to attend Adult Education classes:

G128	Frequency	Percentage
Morning	76	10%
Afternoon	72	9%
Evening	184	24%
All	84	11%

Q129 - Where would you prefer to attend Adult Education classes:

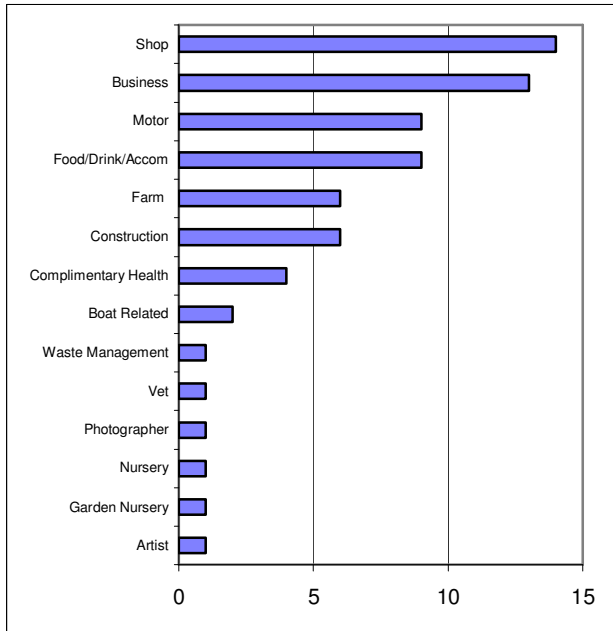
G129	Frequency	Percentage
Parish Hall	183	24%
Schools	87	11%
Youth Hall	38	5%
Library	59	8%
All	140	18%
Other	4	1%

Q130 - If your answer to Q 129 is 'OTHER', where would you like to attend classes?

Canon's Room in the Church

Summary of Answers to Business Questionnaire

There were **34** responses to the Business Questionnaire



Parish Business Breakdown. The chart shows the categories and number of businesses to which the Trade and Commerce Questionnaire was sent.

Q1. How do you categorise your business?

B1	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture/Horticulture	2	6%
Tourism/Recreational	2	6%
Retail	11	32%
Licensed/Catering/B&B	2	6%
Office Based Business	0	0%
Construction Industry	4	12%
Motor and Related Trades	2	6%
Other	6	18%
Health & Beauty	5	15%

Q2. If the answer to Q 1 is 'OTHER', please state what business you are in:

See chart at head of Appendix for breakdown

Q3. Do most employees live within three miles of their place of work?

B3	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	23	68%
No	8	24%

Q4. How many employees do you have?

No replies

Q5. Is your business influenced by transportation links?

B5	Frequency	Percentage
No	22	65%
Yes	12	35%

Q6. Is your business influenced by other businesses?

B6	Frequency	Percentage
No	19	56%
Yes	15	44%

Q7. If the answer to Q6 is 'YES', please describe how you are affected:

Two themes emerged. Most business feed from each other. As there are many businesses in the Parish, customers are attracted as the journey is worthwhile. There were also concerns about the overlap of products offered.

Note: The Parish Plan is not intended to influence competition between businesses.

Q8. Please give your views on the following in relation to your business:

Parking is Convenient

B8_1	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	26	76%
No View	2	6%
Disagree	5	15%

There is Sufficient Staff Parking

B8_2	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	18	53%
No View	9	26%
Disagree	7	21%

There is Sufficient Customer Parking

B8_3	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	22	65%
No View	5	15%
Disagree	7	21%

There is a Need for Additional Parking Controls

B8_4	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	10	29%
No View	11	32%
Disagree	12	35%

There is a Need for Additional Pedestrian Crossings

B8_5	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	14	41%
No View	9	26%
Disagree	11	32%

Q9. Do you think that Benson Parish offers the right environment for your business?

B9	Frequency	Percentage
No	3	9%
Yes	30	88%

Q10. If the answer to Q 9 is 'NO', please indicate what improvements you would wish to see:

Only two comments received. Bus service could be improved and broadband Internet connections not available everywhere.

Q11. Does the presence of things such as graffiti and vandalism affect the success of your business

B11	Frequency	Percentage
No	19	56%
Yes	14	41%

Q12. If the answer to Q 11 is 'YES', please indicate what improvements you would wish to see:

The overall feeling was that Benson is pretty good although litter can be an issue in the High Street.

Q13. Would your business benefit from?

SODC Community Safety Officer

B13_	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	4	12%
No	21	62%

CCTV

B13_	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	12	35%
No	16	47%

Country Watch

B13_	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	9	26%
No	15	44%

Patrols by the Local Policeman

B13_	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	23	68%
No	8	24%

Shop Watch

B13_	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	9	26%
No	15	44%

Q14. How do you see your business developing over the next 5 years?

B14	Frequency	Percentage
Expanding	23	68%
No Change	9	26%

Q15. If your answer to Q14 is 'Expanding' or 'Decreasing', please indicate the factors that are most affecting that change.

Many answers but all were specific to each business. There was no theme on which the Parish Plan could pick up.

Q16. Do you get sufficient support in the running and development of your business from?

Parish Council

B16	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	20	59%
No	7	21%

District Council

B16	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	18	53%
No	10	29%

County Council

B16	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	15	44%
No	11	32%

Q17. If your answer to Q 16 is 'NO' please state how you consider it can be improved.

Financial aspects (eg Business Rates and grants) could be better.

Q18. Upon what type of customer is your business dependent?

Local

B18_1	Frequency	Percentage
0 - 20	4	12%
20 - 40	3	9%
40 - 60	2	6%
60 - 80	2	6%
80 - 100	11	32%
100 - 120	11	32%

National/International

B18_2	Frequency	Percentage
0 - 10	22	65%
10 - 20	1	3%
20 - 30	4	12%
30 - 40	0	0%
40 - 50	0	0%
50 - 60	0	0%

Tourists

B18_3	Frequency	Percentage
0 - 10	28	82%
10 - 20	1	3%
20 - 30	2	6%
30 - 40	0	0%
40 - 50	0	0%
50 - 60	2	6%

Q19. Do you think that additional signing such as Brown Tourist Signs, Finger Posts, Village Maps, etc would assist your business?

B19	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	20	59%
No	14	41%

Q20. Do you advertise your business?

B20	Frequency	Percentage
No	9	26%
Yes	25	74%

Q21. Would you be interested in using any of the following Parish organised media?

Web Sites

B21	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	16	47%
No	15	44%

Parish Business Directory/Flyer

B21	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	21	62%
No	11	32%

Signs

B21	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	9	26%
No	21	62%

Other Media

B21	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	18%
No	22	65%

Q22. If the answer to 'Other Media' is 'YES', please give examples.

Not many comments but the idea for "local directory" was suggested. See Objective 18.

Q23. What shops, products or services does the Parish lack?

Good overall although banking facilities could be better. See Objective 32.

Q24. Would there be any benefit to you if any of the following were introduced.

B24	Frequency	Percentage
Late Night Shopping	6	18%
Farmers' Market	9	26%
Seasonal Attractions	11	32%
Annual Village Event	9	26%

Q25. Are you satisfied with the quality of Internet Access?

B25	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	12	35%
No	7	21%
Does not affect my business	14	41%

Q26. Would you like to comment on the level of support for re-cycling given to businesses?

Strong feeling that there is support by the authorities for recycling. The financial burden is prohibitive from a commercial standpoint although many businesses would like to recycle. See Objective 33.

Q27. Any other comments

Comments were made about:

- A greater police presence would be welcome;
- Signs and local directory;
- More broadband and recycling support;
- An increase in housing would be beneficial.

Summary of Answers to Youth Questionnaire - 164 Responses

Q1. Please state whether you are:

Y1	Frequency	Percentage
Male	77	47%
Female	87	53%

Q2. Please state your age:

Y2	Frequency	Percentage
9 - 12	85	52%
12 - 15	51	31%
15 - 18	24	15%
18 - 21	4	2%

Q3. In which area of the Parish do you live?

Y3	Frequency	Percentage
Benson Village	143	87%
Beggarbush Hill	0	0%
Preston Crowmarsh	2	1%
Oakley Wood	4	2%

Q4. Do you live with your parents or family?

Y4	Frequency	Percentage
No	0	0%
Yes	163	99%

Q5. Are you in?

Y5	Frequency	Percentage
Full Time Education	158	96%
Part Time Education	2	1%
Full Time Employment	2	1%
Part Time Employment	0	0%

Q6. Are you receiving education?

Y6	Frequency	Percentage
Inside the Parish	63	38%
Outside the Parish	97	59%

Q7. If you have answered 'Outside the Parish' to Q 6, please state where.

50% of respondents from Wallingford School and the others from private schools and colleges around the area

Q8. Do you work(Full or Part Time)?

Y8	Frequency	Percentage
Inside the Parish	17	10%
Outside the Parish	12	7%

Q9. If you have answered 'Outside the Parish' to Q 8, please state where.

Wallingford, Heyford Hill and Dorchester

Q10. How do you usually travel to your place of education or work?

Y10	Frequency	Percentage
Own Car	3	2%
Parents' Car	51	31%
Shared Car	7	4%
Motor Bike	0	0%
Bicycle	4	2%
School Bus	68	41%
Bus	25	15%
Train	2	1%
Walk	51	31%

Q11. Do Transport difficulties influence your choice of place of work or education?

Y11	Frequency	Percentage
Very Much	8	5%
A Little	30	18%
Not Very Much	38	23%
Not At All	81	49%

Q12. Do Transport difficulties limit your social/recreational activities?

Y12	Frequency	Percentage
Very Much	18	11%
A Little	39	24%
Not Very Much	45	27%
Not At All	61	37%

Q13. How would you rate public transport in the Parish?

Y13	Frequency	Percentage
Good	36	22%
Adequate	92	56%
Poor	27	16%

Q14. Would you like to see an improvement in public transport in the Parish?

Y14	Frequency	Percentage
No	52	32%
Yes	103	63%

Q15. How do you feel public transport might be improved?

Suggestions included more frequent buses, more varied bus routes to destinations other than Wallingford, later and earlier buses and more punctual buses.

Q16. Do you attend any clubs/leisure activities in the Parish?

Y16	Frequency	Percentage
No	82	50%
Yes	78	48%

Q17. If your answer to Q16 is ` ' please list which clubs/activities you attend?

The majority of respondents who answered attend either the tennis club, Benson boys football club, the church youth clubs and scouts, guides and brownies.

Q18. Do you attend any clubs/leisure activities outside the Parish?

Y18	Frequency	Percentage
No	80	49%
Yes	77	47%

Q19. If your answer to Q18 is `YES' please list which and where?

Answers included a number of sporting activities including swimming, dancing classes, music lessons and drama classes.

Q20. Please say how you rate the quality of the recreational facilities within the Parish?

Y20	Frequency	Percentage
Good	39	24%
Acceptable	80	49%
Poor	38	23%

Q21. Which of the following activities would you support if they were provided within the Parish?

Y21	Frequency	Percentage
Independent Youth Club	42	26%
Skateboard Park	83	51%
Internet Cafe	86	52%
Mountain Bike Track	77	47%
Cricket Club	23	14%
Netball Club	35	21%
Educational Evening Classes	9	5%

Q22. What other clubs and activities would you like to see in the Parish?

- More sporting activities including:
- Hockey,
- Rugby,
- Netball,
- Basketball and gymnastics,
- Art classes/art club,
- Drama club
- Disco/party night for 14 to 18 year olds.

Q23. Where should these additional clubs and activities be held?

- Parish Hall,
- Youth Hall,
- Basketball court outside the Youth Hall
- Sunnyside recreation round

Q24. Would cost affect your decision to join new or existing clubs?

Y24	Frequency	Percentage
No	65	40%
Yes	98	60%

Q25. Would you prefer an annual membership or a per session charge?

Y25	Frequency	Percentage
Annual Charge	79	48%
Per Session Charge	81	49%

Q26. If an annual membership fee were charged, how much would you be prepared to pay?

Y26	Frequency	Percentage
£10	78	48%
£20	36	22%
£30	27	16%
£40	7	4%
£50	10	6%

Q27. What other facilities, other than clubs and activities, would you like to see in the Parish?

The most frequent response to this was a swimming pool followed by a café or somewhere warm for young people to go. Other suggestions included more public toilets (Sunnyside), improvements to existing parks to accommodate older children, a rugby goal on Sunnyside, more litter bins and more cycle paths.

Q28. Would you like to see a meeting place for young people in the Village?

Y28	Frequency	Percentage
No	43	26%
Yes	116	71%

Q29. When you leave home would you like to continue living in the Parish?

Y29	Frequency	Percentage
No	69	42%
Yes	87	53%

Q30. If your answer is 'NO' to Q29, please give your reasons why?

Answers included lack of employment opportunities, lack of social activities for young people and expensive housing.

Q31. On completing your education, would you like to be able to work in the Parish?

Y31	Frequency	Percentage
No	96	59%
Yes	61	37%

Q32. Do you think there is sufficient housing for young adults in the Parish?

Y32	Frequency	Percentage
No	88	54%
Yes	70	43%

Q33. Do you think there should be additional housing development in the Parish?

Y33	Frequency	Percentage
No	70	43%
Yes	88	54%

Q34. Do you think there should be additional industrial units developed in the Parish?

Y34	Frequency	Percentage
No	108	66%
Yes	46	28%

Q35. Please comment on any other matters in the Parish that are of concern to you and where you would like to see improvement.

Traffic and parking proved to be a popular concern with a number of respondents suggesting a by-pass, speed cameras, safer crossings and a clamp down on cars parked on yellow lines. The general state of the roads within the parish was also a concern as was dog mess and litter and vandalism. There was also concern about the lack of housing for young adults within the parish and the fact that the Parish Hall is not accessible or available to young people. A number of respondents were also concerned about the gravel issue.