

INTRODUCTION

Arising from its fresh look at the planning system and at communication with local communities, the Government has encouraged towns and villages to participate in public life and to consult about delivery of services through the preparation of Parish Plans. This Plan has been drawn up on the initiative of Goring Parish Council, in partnership with Goring & Streatley Amenity Association.

The Plan is based upon extensive consultation over a period of time both within the village and with the various local authorities and other bodies outside, on whom the Parish Council will depend for support, resources and action. It has also taken into account the deliberations from Streatley's Parish Plan which was produced in parallel. It ranges over the whole scope of facilities and services available to residents, and draws attention to a variety of needs and problems encountered. It seeks to identify the features which give Goring its unique local character, and to suggest how they may be preserved and enhanced. It has provided a voice for the opinions of the community on how Goring's economic, social and environmental well-being can be further improved. The Plan is a living document and as such will need to be regularly updated.

This Plan follows a series of related documents published during the past twenty-five years: a Village Plan (1981), a

Village Appraisal (1992) and a Village Design Statement (2001). Unlike the 1981 Plan, which dealt extensively with land use following the major post-war expansion of the 50's and 60's, the 2006 Plan accepts that housing and land use generally is in the hands of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC). While there is a desire to maintain the village 'footprint', two aspects only of this are addressed below: affordable housing and the future development of the village centre. Otherwise, the Plan is not concerned with Development Planning as such.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Plan include:

- to improve Goring and the life of the community by drawing up an Action Plan, listing the priority issues and proposing how and by whom they should be tackled;
- to furnish an agenda for Goring Parish Council, and to provide justification for the need when it applies for funding;
- to strengthen links with local authorities and outside agencies by providing information to influence forward planning and the use of resources;
- to contribute to the emerging Local Development Framework and Community Strategy;
- to create a lasting improvement to the environment of Goring.



Aerial view of Goring from Streatley Hill

HISTORY AND CHARACTER OF GORING

Goring occupies a unique position in the valley where the Thames flows between the Berkshire Downs and the Chiltern Hills, known as the Goring Gap. Situated on the Oxfordshire side of the Thames, it is joined to Streatley on the Berkshire side by a long and picturesque bridge over the river, which both divides and links the two villages. Its situation in beautiful countryside, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, helps to make Goring an attractive and peaceful place, one that is greatly appreciated not only by its inhabitants but also by ramblers, nature lovers and sightseers alike.

The riverside with its wide stretch of water plays a major part in residents' love of their village. The view from the bridge of the attractive lock-keeper's house, beside the lock with boats passing through, features in many tourist photographs and postcards of Goring. Add to this the open green area by the lock where people can congregate or sit and watch the river with its swans and wild life, the picturesque Mill, and the towpaths for walking; all these make Goring a major attraction. Furthermore, the ready access to the National Trust area of Streatley Hills, the long distance Thames and Ridgeway Paths and the river and lock also play an important part in the village economy, since rambling, boating, day trippers and river sporting activities such as the Boat Club's Regatta attract visitors who use many of the village facilities.

It is this heritage of the river, countryside and the characteristic old brick and flint walls and buildings that make Goring the desirable village it has now become. Some historic buildings such as the Parish Church add to the beauty of the village, and large Edwardian houses, set in spacious grounds, still remain throughout the village and contribute to Goring's unique atmosphere; an ambience which it needs to preserve and maintain. Pleasant green sites such as the Bourdillon Field, the Sheepcot Field and the Gardiner Recreation Ground provide sports facilities and play areas for all. The Rectory Garden, passed on the attractive walk up to the village High Street from the river, is darkened by trees. Although it has the potential to feature as an attractive open space, or village green, for the use of residents and visitors, it has an unwelcoming air at present.

Major changes occurred in the 20th century, which saw the expansion of Goring. Prior to this, the village was populated by local farming and business communities, the rich with their large country houses and retired people. But in the 1960s and 1970s significant new housing developments catered for the younger professional executives and their families, who were attracted by the idea of village life away from the hustle and bustle of the big cities and who could benefit from the excellent

commuting links to Reading, Oxford and London. Other village facilities grew alongside this expansion, such as the school, the pre-school, the medical services, a new fire station, library, shops, local businesses and restaurants. Furthermore, this influx of younger, active residents, together with the growing number of pensioners, led to an enormous expansion in local social activities. Over the subsequent years the village adapted to their new needs, and now reflects the changes this brought about.

However, the village character and way of life is still maintained and treasured and should be allowed to continue to flourish, although rejuvenation with younger residents has become an important issue, and the provision of affordable housing is once again on the agenda. Old petrol station sites have released land for further housing, but cannot solve the problem entirely. It is extremely important that the consequences of any developments considered necessary to adapt to changing times are carefully thought through before implementation.



*Top: View of the Parish Church from the River bridge
Above: The Rectory Garden looking towards the Church*

SURVEY

GORING IN 2005

The growth in population noted earlier has resulted in a village of about 3,100 inhabitants, occupying about 1,400 dwellings in Goring, Cleeve and Gatehampton, of which over 600 are occupied by pensioners. This means that perhaps up to 50% of the adult population (over the age of 21) are retired or semi-retired. This has an important impact on the character of the village and its economy, not least from their greater dependence on the village shops and services. Properties within the village are now very expensive.

From an economic viewpoint, Goring is by no means an isolated village as it also caters for the needs of Streatley and Moulsoford on the other side of the river, both having essentially no shops or services. Residents of South Stoke, Woodcote and Crays Pond also come to Goring for shops, banking services, estate agents, solicitors etc. The impact of these surrounding villages on Goring is therefore considerable, and needs to be taken into account when planning for the future. Demographic statistics for Goring & Streatley are given in Appendix D.

In spite of the fact that many inhabitants do the main bulk of their shopping in large supermarkets in neighbouring towns, and are beginning to order goods on the Internet or have them delivered by van from supermarkets, nevertheless they still value and use the village shops, whose convenience for small orders is undisputed. These shops also play an important social part in village life by providing a meeting place, particularly for the elderly and those who do not drive,

or for whom travelling is difficult. At the time of writing, the community is facing the closure of Michael Napper's much-loved grocery and the loss of choice and kindly service reminiscent of earlier days.

Most of these shops in Goring are situated either side of the High Street, the B 4009, which leads to the bridge and the river. It is an attractive thoroughfare, lined by period buildings, but is narrow in parts with narrow pavements that cause difficulty for wheelchairs and people with small children in buggies. Pedestrian safety is also a cause for concern as there is often a considerable amount of through traffic, and on occasion delivery lorries and cars block the road and pavements. However, the narrow kink in the road acts as an effective pinch point to slow traffic, helped by the traffic priority signs, and on the whole traffic speed is maintained at an acceptable level. For the benefit of pedestrians and taking aesthetic considerations into account, road safety in the High Street could be improved if part of the main central region of the road was raised to kerb level and bricked over to form a safe pedestrian crossing, as in other village centres up and down the country.

Services

Valuable services are provided by the chemist, the food shops, the local hardware store, the Post Office and 'Inspiration', which also acts as a centre for facilitating the many activities of village life. Goring also has a good range of other shops and services which provide an important contribution to village life and its economy, including banks, estate agents, solicitors, accountants,



24 hour free mooring downstream from road bridge



High Street competition

hairdressers, newsagents, and a computer shop, etc. In general, the shops and facilities mentioned above, together with others, constitute a good and largely comprehensive range, and the village is fortunate that there seems to be sufficient business to support their continued existence. There are about 30 such businesses in Goring, employing over 80 people, and this is of major importance in preserving the current village way of life.

The village also has a whole range of non-retail businesses and services, including research and development activities, software businesses, financial services, building contractors and double-glazing suppliers. There are also many small businesses mostly operating from home, including plumbers, decorators, gardeners, carpenters, printers, electricians, cleaners, ironing services and consultants, etc. The total number employed in this way is difficult to estimate but if the dentist, the surgery and the schools are included the number employed is at least 150. The good rail links to London, Reading and Oxford, plus a local bus service and easy access to the M4, not only allow freedom of movement to inhabitants but facilitate business activities, which are important since they provide self-employment for village residents and a local service to the community. They also draw in employees from outside the village.

The village has a number of old and historic public houses offering restaurant and hotel facilities for locals or visitors. The Miller of Mansfield is near the river and occupies a prominent position, the John Barleycorn and the Catherine Wheel are also centrally placed, and the

Queens Arms near the station attracts its own clientele. Some houses offer bed and breakfast accommodation in the village, which also supports a few ethnic restaurants.

Car parking and traffic

Many of the people who work in Goring come in by car, and parking is a major problem that needs to be considered. Understandably, owners see no reason to pay to use the car park when they can park on nearby roads, such as Croft Road, Cleeve Road and Upper Red Cross Road for nothing. The same applies to rail commuters. Where there is no time limit on parking, pleasant residential roads become blocked and unsightly, and Council street cleaning becomes impossible during the daytime. Increased numbers of double yellow lines have been partially successful in deterring rail commuters from using the streets as free parking areas, but more spaces available for time-limited parking are now urgently needed. It is a sad fact that double yellow lines, like those opposite the Miller of Mansfield, seem to have no deterrent effect on drivers as little action is taken to enforce the 'no parking' rule. Between the Arcade and the Community Centre is an area which is not well-utilised. Although this space is currently land-locked, it offers potential for redevelopment for residential and commercial use, which might include the provision of additional car parking space for shoppers and for shop and office staff, and allow off-road provisioning of surrounding shops.

There are similar concerns regarding the Wallingford Road, which also carries a considerable amount of traffic



Goring High Street at dusk



Telephone Exchange area in village centre

Satellite photograph provided by Ron Bridle, courtesy Google Earth

and has the worst safety record in Goring. It is the place where most accidents occur, as shown by the statistics in Appendix D Table 2. This road is of particular importance because of Westholme Store and the Primary School. Particularly during the morning and afternoons, the safety of the children is of major concern although, in the absence of a crossing keeper, the traffic lights now ensure a safe crossing for children and parents with push chairs. The parking of cars along the road, combined with the bend in the road, reduces visibility for oncoming traffic. The very limited visibility available to cars emerging from Mill Lane at the Cleeve crossroads on to the Wallingford Road also represents a considerable hazard. The Parish Council has recently acted to control the speed of traffic approaching the crossroads by installing a flashing speed limit sign; a second is promised.

Community assets

Goring is a vibrant and active village and this is reflected in the comprehensive provision of centres for community activities and services, all of which are of outstanding quality. The Village Hall is situated close to the lock and river and not only is an architecturally distinctive building with a clock tower that is a village landmark, but it also occupies a central role in the community. Among other things, it is equipped with two halls, a stage, public address system with hearing loop, kitchen and toilet facilities. As a venue for social evenings and meetings of societies and clubs, it is an invaluable asset.

A similar asset is the Goring Community Centre, centrally located in what was originally the old village

school, which not only harbours the luncheon clubs for the elderly and the Youth Club but houses among other things a well-used Information Office staffed by volunteers. As well as catering for the needs of residents and visitors, the Centre provides secure office space for the village archive and for the *Goring Gap News*, a much-appreciated local newspaper produced by volunteers which has become a valuable community asset. The Social Club in the High Street is another well-established facility for all ages to meet and play snooker, darts or table tennis. Storton Lodge, a more recent addition to village life, is in Icknield Road near the junction with Springhill Road. It was built primarily as a Scout and Guide Hut and is used also for the Cubs and Brownies. It too, can be hired for village functions. The Free Church also offers its hall for use when available, as a service to the community.

The Library is an essential part of village life and with the dedicated support of staff and residents goes from strength to strength. Situated centrally, it has an active membership of 2,500 readers, each using the Library on average twice a month. 6,000 to 7,000 books and audio-visual items are issued every month. It provides computers for Internet access, and photocopying and scanning facilities are also available.

Goring is fortunate in having other valued assets. For those in need of medical attention, the village has a local doctors' practice, which serves not only Goring but also Streatley and South Stoke, and is teamed with that in Woodcote. It is highly regarded for its commitment to its patients, and can offer them access to other health care



Goring Village Hall



The Community Centre

professionals. Residents can be referred to one of several surrounding hospitals when necessary and there is a pool of volunteer drivers to take patients to the surgery or for hospital appointments. It is interesting to note that the practice has twice the national average of over 75 year olds, which reinforces the importance of making efforts to encourage more young people to settle in the village. Several retirement homes in Goring offer care for the elderly from the village or from outside, and there is sheltered accommodation available at Waltham Court and Icknield Place. Goring lacks a NHS dental practice, the nearest being in Henley and Wallingford.

Although some villages these days are losing their local churches, Goring is still in the position of having three active ones: the Parish Church, now united with the Parish Church of South Stoke, the Catholic Church and the Free Church. All occupy attractive buildings of historic interest, conduct regular services and minister to those in need in the community, thus playing an important role in village life.

Young people, law and order

For young people in the village up to secondary school age, education is provided by the Goring Primary School which is a Church of England school catering for all the children in the community. This is a well-run school with a good academic record, which is greatly appreciated by the parents as well as the children. It also houses an independently operated Pre-school within its grounds. Education for older children is undertaken outside the village, mainly at Woodcote and Henley for which

transport is provided.

While the elderly are happy with the facilities available to them, and the toddlers and young children have their own thriving groups, it is a recognised fact that the teenagers of Goring have very few activities to occupy or interest them at a time when they are at their most active and their need greatest, namely during the evenings, at weekends and in school holidays. Although organised activities and sporting facilities are available for teenagers, there is nowhere suitable in Goring for them to gather in groups. Many frequent the Rectory Garden, the open end of Ferry Lane by the river, or the unused area behind the Village Hall, but the resulting noise and litter causes concern to many members of the community, some of whom feel threatened by their activities.

Goring lies within the area covered by Thames Valley Police, but there is seldom an obvious police presence in the village and it does not rank high in police priorities because of the comparatively low reported crime rate. Responses to consultation highlighted the Village's general concern about this lack of police presence. The perceived threat of "yobbish" behaviour, vandalism and crime was clearly high on many residents' priorities. There is a need to lobby the Police to increase their visibility in the attempt to control such behaviour, and to achieve better enforcement of traffic and parking regulations.

Vandalism is all too common and costs the Parish Council, and therefore the Council Tax-payers of Goring, in the region of £3,000 per year. The fear of vandalism



Goring Medical Centre

within the village is probably greater than the actual fact. The problem is present not just in Goring, but in surrounding towns and villages; nevertheless it needs to be seriously addressed. It is not unknown for youngsters to board trains in Tilehurst, Pangbourne and Cholsey and come to Goring without having to pay the rail fare, as there are no longer any ticket inspectors on the trains. This can lead to confrontation between rival groups and more problem behaviour. It is boredom and lack of occupation that tend to lead to such unacceptable behaviour, and it causes bad feeling in the village, but changing times mean that youngsters have different attitudes and ideas on how to amuse themselves now, and what they need to engage their interest and discourage vandalism deserves to be carefully considered.

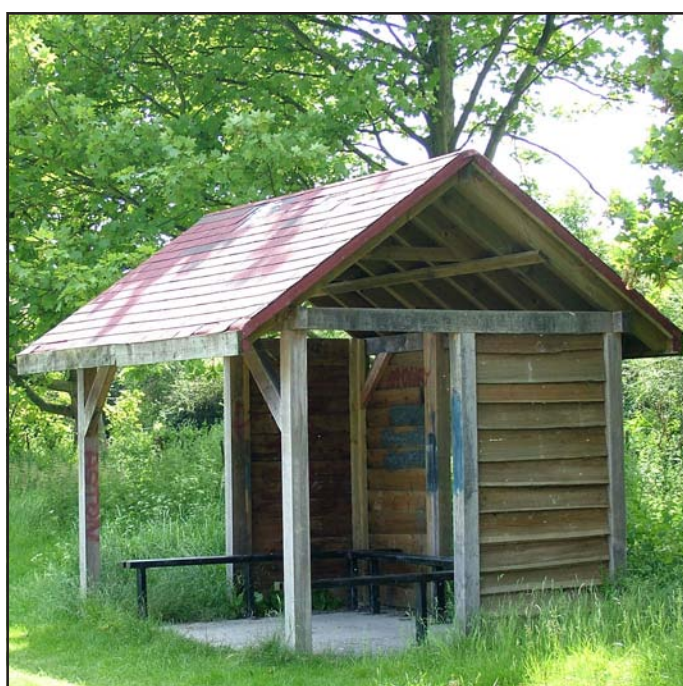
Positive activities to engage teenagers need to be supplied. The Youth Club, which has been in existence for approximately 40 years, meets in the Community Centre and caters for the needs of the 12 to 18 year olds. Attendance fluctuates dramatically from year to year ranging from 5 to 75. The Club provides both a drop-in facility and more structured activities and the membership criteria are being tightened up to exclude young people from Reading. A Youth Worker usually runs the club, but if one is not available the club's continued existence depends entirely on voluntary help. Unfortunately, the club is on a road in the middle of a residential area and there is a complete lack of outdoor facilities. The very few activities that are available to the youngsters of Goring and the fact that there is nowhere for them to gather

without causing concern to members of the community is a problem that needs to be resolved. Although funds are available for establishing capital projects, there is no money available for the on-going running costs.

Sport and leisure

Nevertheless, there is a wide diversity of sporting facilities which thrive in the village and sport is keenly pursued by many, from angling to yoga, line dancing to Pilates, golf and gymnastics to mention just a few. The Sheepcot Sports Pavilion is used by the football and tennis clubs, the latter also having its own club house beside the courts which have evening floodlighting. Plans are being discussed for major internal improvements to the Pavilion, and it is hoped that it may be able to be let for other activities as well on completion.

There is a thriving sailing club with its own clubhouse on the river and a boat club. Cricket and swimming clubs can be joined, although they are dependent on volunteers to run them and raise funds. The Goring Robins football club for children of primary school age continues to be a very successful activity. There are also privately run classes in judo, gymnastics, dance etc., which are sometimes restricted by the lack of available premises. Goring is also now consolidating well-attended annual sporting events, and drawing in visitors from outside the village with the 10K run and the Regatta. The Boat Club is currently without a home and is actively looking for a site for their Club House closer to the village. There is much sympathetic support for this aim.



'Hanging-out Shelter' at Aston Tirrold



Goring and Streatley Regatta

As well as a thriving economic and social life in Goring, there are many leisure activities available. Over the years a large number of clubs and activities have grown and developed to the point where hardly any interest is missing. Recently Goring was identified as a community that enjoys an incredible abundance and range of activities. There are clubs and societies for all interests, plus charity organisations, music and drama groups, fitness classes, education and evening classes, youth activities, activities for senior citizens, and local groups representing larger organisations. Indeed, the contribution made to village life by large numbers of volunteer workers cannot be over-estimated. One group deserving special mention is the dozen or so retained firefighters who staff the local station of the Fire and Rescue Service. As well as coping with fires and attending accidents, they hold traffic to ransom on the river bridge once a year to support Children in Need.

Looking after Goring

A problem that offends the villagers is the presence of litter and rubbish scattered around the village, with certain areas such as those at the end of Ferry Lane, and behind the Community Centre, being a particular problem areas. The litter is considered to be generated mainly, but not exclusively, by groups of young people. Along with inadequate control of dogs, it is unacceptable to the residents as it has a detrimental effect on the overall appearance of the village. The removal of litter from public highways and the provision of litter bins on public highways outside the village centre is the responsibility of SODC, who also provide a road sweeping service every

six weeks. Clearance of litter from the village centre has been devolved to the Parish Council, who also remove litter from Parish property such as the Gardiner Recreation Ground, Rectory Garden, Ferry Lane open space and the Sheepcot and Bourdillon Fields. There appears to be a need to educate some people that dropping litter is anti-social, and to encourage more people to pick up and dispose of litter they encounter.

Removal of domestic rubbish is the responsibility of the SODC who provide a weekly collection. Goring is fortunate in that they also empty the recycling boxes provided for each household for the collection of paper, plastic and tins. All material collected from the boxes is recycled and none goes to landfill. Unfortunately, the village does not at present have a bottle bank, although it is hoped to remedy this soon if the problem of sound-proofing can be resolved.

Street lighting in the village is the responsibility of the Parish Council. Recently some dark spots have had additional street lighting installed, and lights on the major through roads have been upgraded to increase safety for pedestrians, whilst reducing as far as practicable the light pollution associated with older lamp units.

The Parish Council is involved in all aspects of village life and consists of 12 members of the community who are elected by residents for a four-year term of office. Many hours of work are given by Parish Councillors without financial recompense to deal with the matters that come before the Council. The work they do is often not



A BMX track



Goring 10K Run

Photo: John Douglas

obvious to many residents and there is a lack of understanding of the powers they have and the limits of these powers. Their stated aim is: "To serve the best interests of our community." The main responsibilities of the Council are:

- the maintenance and management of the burial ground, sports grounds and the public open spaces, and the trees, buildings and equipment thereon;
- litter and leaf clearance from Parish property;
- all matters to do with planning within Goring;
- representing issues to do with safety and security of the residents of Goring to the police and the OCC Highways Authority;
- street lighting and verge maintenance;
- other matters which affect the community and/or the environment of Goring.

To enable it to carry out its responsibilities, the Parish Council sets annually a sum of money ("the precept") which is collected through the Council Tax annually by SODC. A primary concern of the Council when setting the precept is the ability of residents to pay. The Council's outgoings in 2006 are expected to be around £100,000, and the Council is being prevailed upon to publish its budget in greater detail. This will help residents to gauge the size of the resources available to turn the Plan's Actions into reality.

Like many villages, Goring has its problems. Its cherished character is threatened by development within, and changes outside, the settlement boundary. House ownership is unaffordable for many young families who

are essential to its continuing vitality and economic viability, and the streets in the centre are becoming clogged by parked cars and by the volume of cars on roads never designed to deal with such numbers. However, in spite of this Goring remains an attractive and dynamic village which has successfully adapted to change in the past, and still has the will and ability to resolve the problems it now faces, as well as continuing to enjoy its unrivalled situation in the Thames Valley, and its great sense of community.

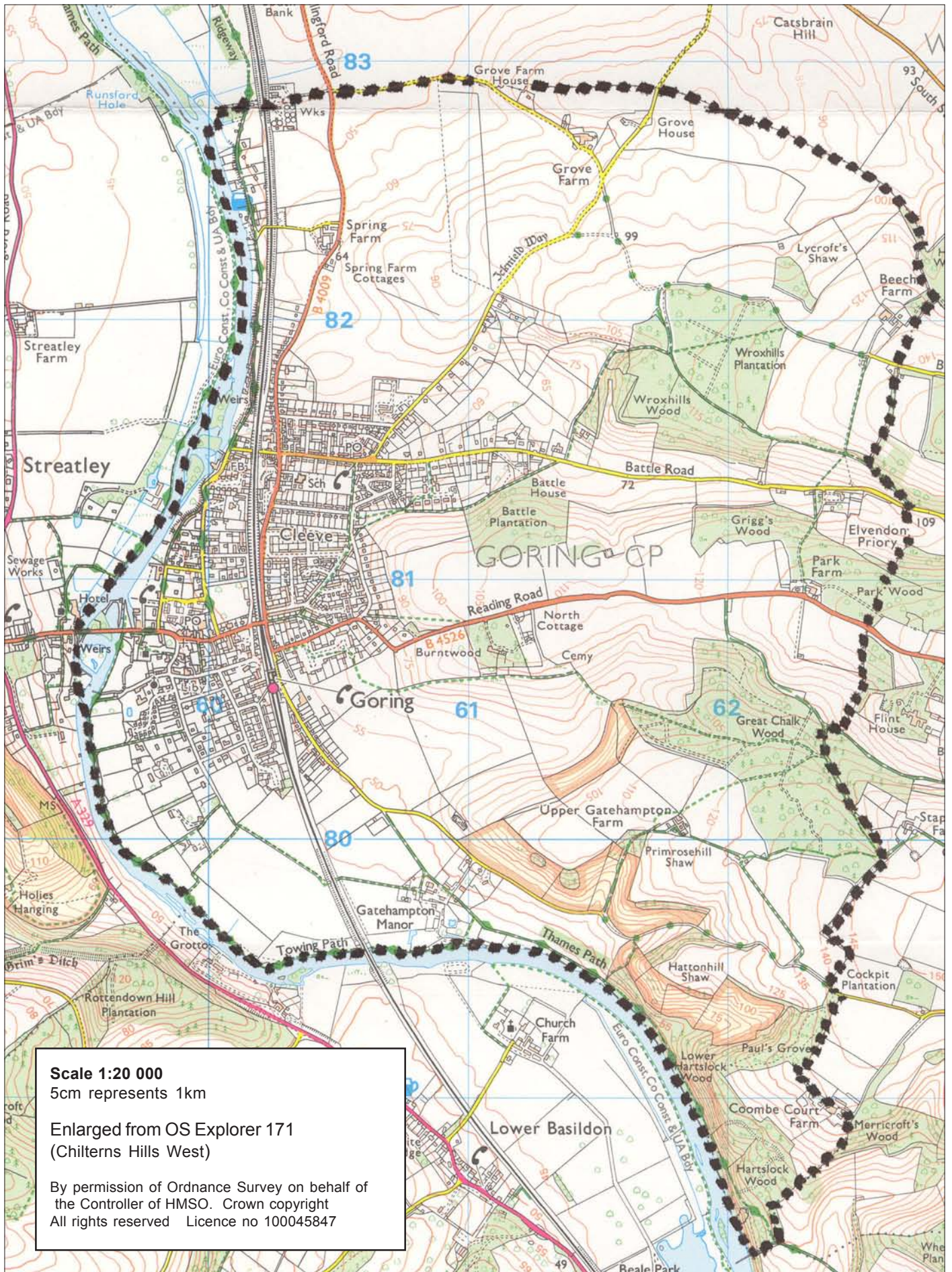


Walkers on the Ridgeway

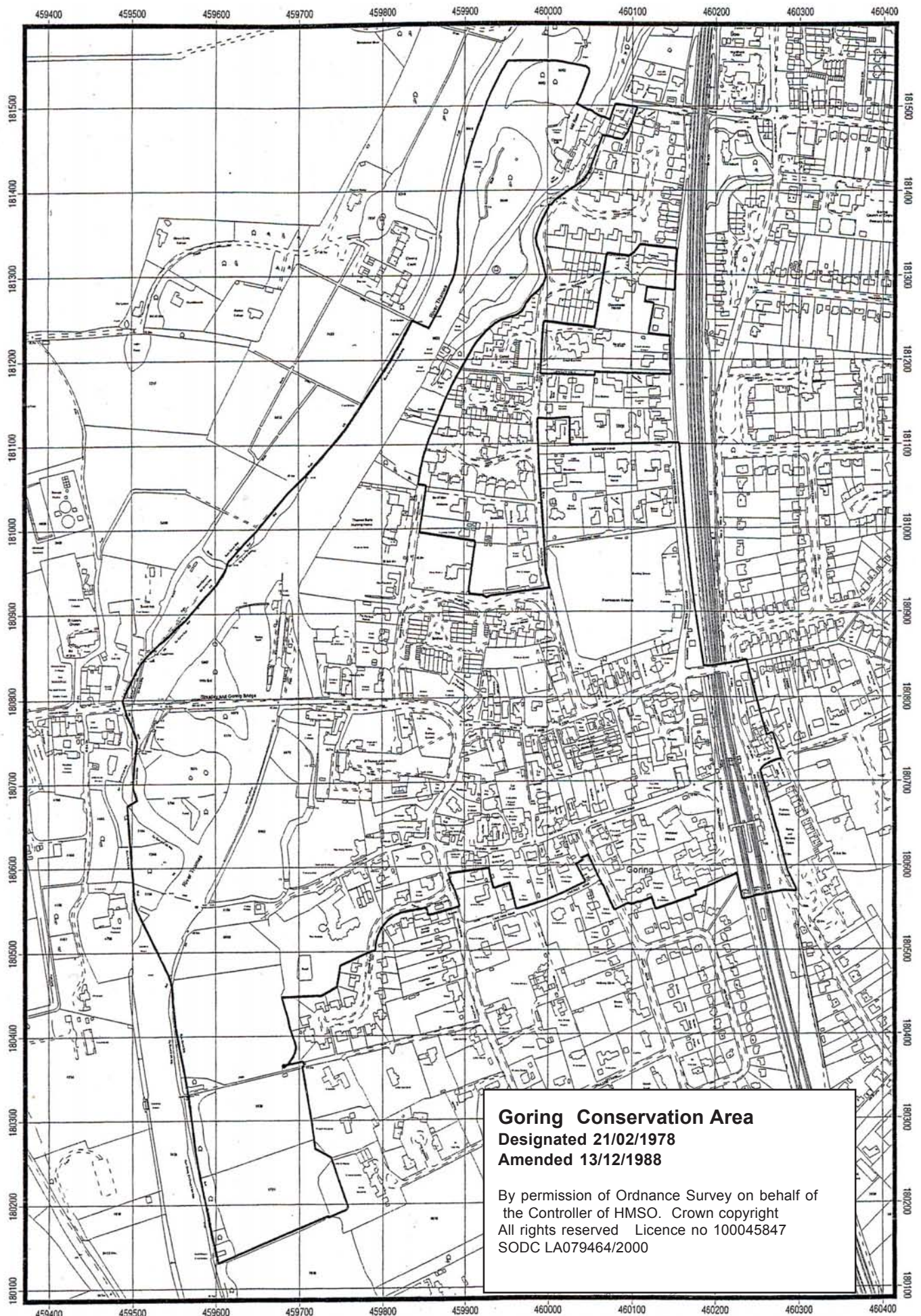


A cricket match on the Gardiner Recreation Ground

PARISH OF GORING



VILLAGE CENTRE—THE CONSERVATION AREA



THE ACTION PLAN

Arising from its review of:

- the ideas and opinions derived from the Drop-In Day and other consultation (set out in Appendix C) and
 - the conclusions drawn from the survey in the preceding pages,
- the Steering Committee drew up a list of some fifty tasks to be accomplished. Many of these aim to address problems and needs identified during these consultations; others to satisfy the aspirations of sections of the community. These items form the Action Plan, which is the core of this Village plan. It creates an agenda for the Parish Council for years to come.

Two-thirds of the items listed are for initiation by the Parish Council, either alone or by involving other authorities or organisations. At the time of publication, half of the total were already in hand or are ongoing.

The Plan is presented in tabular form, summarising the Aim of each item, the Action proposed, the body which is the Key Contact for taking the action, and the proposed Time Scale. Where practicable, an indication of the order of Cost has been shown.

The Actions listed are intended to be reasonable and achievable. Ideas considered to be too ambitious or too expensive to operate – notably the oft-repeated request for

a swimming pool – have been omitted. Some items are expected to require third-party funding to meet high initial outlays.

The concluding sections which follow the Action Plan contain (in Next Steps) some proposals for assistance for the Parish Council in implementing the Plan. The Plan will be reviewed annually to update the status of work in hand and also take account of changing priorities and circumstances.

The following abbreviations are used in the tables on pages 13 to 17:

CCTV	Closed circuit television
Env Agency	Environment Agency
GGNews	Goring Gap News
GPC	Goring Parish Council
GSAA	Goring & Streatley Amenity Association
NHS	National Health Service
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
PCC	Parochial Church Council
RTP	Railway Transport Police
SEB	Southern Electricity Board
SODC	South Oxfordshire District Council
TVE	Thames Valley Energy
TVP	Thames Valley Police



Goring Mill

A: PRIORITY ITEMS

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT	TIME SCALE	COST RATING
A.1	To re-assure residents of safety within village	Provide a VISIBLE police presence.	GPC/TV Police	2007	
A.2	Widen Neighbourhood Watch	Stage recruitment drive	TV Police and volunteers	2007	Minimal
A.3	A safer High Street	Install 'Plateau'-type crossing	GPC/OCC Highways Agency	2007	E: £5000
A.4	To have access to an NHS dentist near the village	Lobby NHS	NHS and GPC/SODC	2007	
A.5	Encourage volunteering	Appeals in GGNews	Club Chairmen	Ongoing	Nil
A.6	Make up for loss of key village grocery shop	Explore ideas and alternative solutions	Interested parties and GGNews	2006	Nil
A.7	Encourage business to come to Goring	Advertise and provide information	GPC/SODC	2007	Modest
A.8	Review & improve litter collection	i) Size and number of bins ii) Mobilize youth aid	GPC/SODC *	2007	
A.9	Appoint full-time youth worker	Lobby for budget and conditions	GPC/OCC	Ongoing	Around £30k p.a
A.10	Provide 'hanging-out' shelter	i) Review possible sites ii) Decide and order	GPC GPC	2007 2008	Nil E: £4000
A.11	Improve Holmlea Rd footpath safety	Provide path light from Station	GPC	2007	Modest
A.12	Improve footpaths:keep them clear and in good repair	i)Report obstructing hedges ii) Report bad surfaces	Residents/GPC Residents/GPC	Ongoing Ongoing	

E: Estimated cost. Figures shown exclude VAT

* PROPOSAL re A8 Parish Council to continue to take responsibility for **all** litter bins in the Parish with collection and emptying being contracted out to SODC, (or) to an independent firm if more cost effective.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

B1 : CRIME PREVENTION

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT	TIME SCALE	COST RATING
1.1	Reduce crime and vandalism in the village.	Increase police presence, particularly during weekends and evenings.	T.V. Police / Rail Transport Police	2007	Moderate
1.2	Publish police news	Supply reports & statistics	TV Police & GGNews	Ongoing	Minimal
1.3	Improve access to police services	Establish Police Contact Point in village	TV Police	2007	Moderate
1.4	Reduce anti-social behaviour	i) Police evening trains ii) Better RTP reaction to monitoring of station CCTV iii) Install CCTV in village centre iv) TVP to visit youth groups	i) TV & RT Police ii) RT Police iii) & iv) TV Police	i) & ii) 2007 iii) & iv) 2007	

B2 : ROAD SAFETY

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT	TIME SCALE	COST RATING
2.1	Wallingford Road: i) Improve safety ii) reduce traffic speed	i) Cut summer vegetation inside bend ii) Install second flashing 30 mph sign	i) GPC ii) OCC Highways Agency	Ongoing	E: £4500
2.2	Enforce traffic reg'ns	Initiate irregular visits	T.V. Police	Ongoing	
2.3	Increase disabled parking space	Provide space opposite Gallery in High Street	OCC Highways Agency	2008	
2.4	Control commuter parking	Extend 'no waiting' restrictions	OCC Highways Agency	2006	
2.5	Increase commuter parking space	Extend Station car park to south	ii) Network Rail and GPC	2007-8	
2.6	Improve provision for cyclists	Install racks in village centre (e.g. as Henley's)	GPC	2007	
2.7	High Street rail bridge	Renew & improve junction with Wallingford Road	Network Rail and GPC	2007	
2.8	High Street: widen pavements and improve surfaces	Introduce one-way working	GPC/OCC Highways Agency	2010	£25000
2.9	Cleeve crossroads improve safety	Road engineering	OCC Highways Agency	2008	Moderate
2.10	Footway provision	Station Road by Wolseley House	OCC Highways Agency	2008	Modest

B3 : YOUTH SERVICES

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT	TIME SCALE	COST RATING
3.1	Ensure sufficient places in the school for Goring children	Review admissions policy	School Governors	2007	Nil
3.2	Sponsor interaction: young and old	Explain and consider means of achievement	Youth Groups, Silver Threads	2007	Nil

B4: HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT	TIME SCALE	COST RATING
4.1	Help first-time home buyers	Purchase site for affordable housing	SODC & Housing Association	2006-8	Major
4.2	Encourage the local economy	Set up a Goring Business Forum	(to be advised)	2008	Modest
4.3	Retain the village 'footprint'	Discourage building outside built-up area	GPC/SODC	Ongoing	Nil
4.4	Support the economy	Buy in the village !	Residents	Every day!	Nil

B5 : COMMUNITY SERVICES

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT	TIME SCALE	COST RATING
5.1	Improve recycling opportunities	i) Bottle and glass bank to be installed in village. ii) Improve green waste collection/recycling	SODC SODC	End 2006 2006	Nil
5.2	Make wider use of Parish Church	Replace front pews by chairs	St. Thomas' P.C.C.	2008	
5.3	Expand the use of the Community Centre	Continue to advertise its availability in the GGNews	David Rattue	Ongoing	Minimal
5.4	Regular visits to housebound	i) Find organiser ii) Train visitors	Church Leaders.	2007	Minimal
5.5	Provide for wheel chairs and the disadvantaged	i) Better access to shops ii) Review dropped kerbs iii) Provide more seats in village centre	i) Retailers ii) & iii) GPC	2008	
5.6	i) Raise awareness of GPC's activities ii) Set up a GPC web site	i) Publish budget details and regular news-letters ii) Develop the website to include GPC information	i) GPC and GGNews ii) GPC	Every 4-6 months 2006-7	Modest Minimal
5.7	Village Plan progress	Review and update annually, and report	G&SAA	Ongoing	Nil
5.8	Village Design Statement	Review and update	GPC/G&SAA	2008	Minimal

B6 : VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT	TIME SCALE	COST RATING
6.1	Wheel Orchard footpath fence	Replace by post and rail	BT	2007	
6.2	Renew tree planting	i) Sheepcot Field E end and N side ii) Replacements on Gardiner Recreation ground	GPC	2009	
6.3	Improve Rectory Garden	i) Thin crowns of trees in Garden avenue ii) Provide paved surface	i) GPC ii) GPC	2007 2008	
6.4	Improve street lighting & reduce light pollution	i) Provide additional lamps where need established ii) Replace older lamps iii) Notify GPC of obstructions to lamps	i) GPC/S.E.B. ii) GPC/S.E.B. iii) Residents	2007 Ongoing Ongoing	
6.5	Improve footpaths	i) Notify GPC where surfaces faulty or where obstructed by hedges ii) Clean & and keep tidy	i) Action by Residents ii) GPC	Ongoing Ongoing	
6.6	Encourage use of 'Green' energy	Investigate power from R. Thames	GPC/Streatley TV Energy	2007	

B7: LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT	TIME SCALE	COST RATING
7.1	Assist visitors to discover the River	Sign pedestrian route from Wheel Orchard car park	GPC	2007	Modest
7.2	Improve information for visitors	Position Village Centre maps at the railway station, Lock Approach and in the Wheel car park	GPC	2008	Estimate: £650 each
7.3	Improve access to recreation field	Widen pedestrian entrances to Gardiner Rec. to accommodate wheel chairs.	GPC	2007	Modest
7.4	Improve boating leisure opportunities	i) Provide a slipway for launching kayaks ii) assist in identifying site for Boat club house	Environment Agency GPC and Streatley PC	2009 2007	Moderate Minimal
7.5	Provide additional leisure facilities	Create either on the i) Ultimate Frisby Court ii) BMX track iii) Skateboard track iv) Basketball pitch	GPC and/or Streatley P.C.	i) 2008 ii) 2009 iii) 2010 iv) 2011	Minimal Modest Moderate Estimate: £32000
7.6	Improve facilities at Goring Lock	i) Eliminate puddles from 'grasscrete' ii) Build toilet facilities	Environment Agency	2007 2009	Minimal Moderate

CONCLUSION

VISION FOR THE FUTURE – 2012 and beyond

Serial	AIM	ACTION	KEY CONTACT
C.1	Improve walking opportunities	Field path to connect Wallingford Road to Leathern Bottel Lane	Chiltern Society to approach Mr. Hildred
C.2	Improve footway safety on B 4526	Widen path between rail bridge and Station	Network Rail/ OCC Highways
C3	Upgrade Ridgeway Path between Goring and South Stoke	Provide all-weather surface south of Leathern Bottel and north of the Bridleway to encourage cycling	GPC/National Trails
C.4	Provide a multi-sporting venue	Build an all-purpose sports barn, for multi-indoor sport use - badminton, cricket etc.	GPC/SODC
C.5	Improve central area of village	i) Phase One: Plan future concept ii) Increase parking space iii) Make the centre a more 'social' space	G&SA Association SODC GPC



Goring Robins on Sheepcot Field. Our Plan — Their future

THE NEXT STEPS

By the time this Plan appears in print, it will have been adopted by Goring Parish Council, who accept that the first initiative for action lies with them in most cases. Indeed, they have in hand already an impressive programme of work and ongoing responsibilities, as shown in the first section of the Action Plan above.

Implementing the Plan would seem to call for two principal functions to be performed:

1. a task force to investigate the costs and resources and other means of instituting action on selected projects, including sources of external funding where appropriate;
2. an independent monitoring function to review and report on progress both in general terms and on specific projects.

It would clearly be wrong in principle for a single body to be made responsible for both of these. It is suggested that Goring & Streatley Amenity Association, a principal partner in the preparation of the Plan, should be capable and willing to perform the monitoring function; it would seem to be in residents' and their own best interests that they should do so.

It would be unreasonable to expect that the appreciable work load involved in implementing the proposals for the next five years could be carried without additional resources in some form. Assuming that most of the assistance would be voluntary, it is thought that this could take one of two forms:

- a) the co-option of one or more willing volunteers onto the Council or its Committee(s) to which responsibility for execution is delegated;

- b) setting up a sub-committee of the Council with Councillor representation and its own Terms of Reference, with a mandate to bring designated projects listed in the Action Plan to the stage of readiness for approval by the Council.

The second of these would appear to have the advantage of being able to operate with a wider-ranging approach and fewer constraints than the first, while still firmly under Council control as regards budgets and commitments. Either way, this would enable the Council to tap the pool of talent within the village. Some relevant expertise, in external funding, for example, has already been acquired by members of the Steering Committee who have helped to prepare the Plan, and should not be lost to the Council.

Despite the work already invested by the Steering Committee and the Study Groups, there is still much to be established on the likely cost of many items, particularly those for which outside agencies would have to plan and find resources. One of the objectives of preparing the Plan is to improve the upward communication of Goring's priorities and aspirations to these outside agencies, explanation and progressing of which represent an additional load on the time of Councillors and their volunteer helpers.

Lastly, the role and responsibilities of residents should not be overlooked. Parish councils cannot and do not employ teams of inspectors to check on the condition of footpaths, trees and street lights. Residents have the best



A 'plateau crossing' in Goring High Street might look like this



The Catherine Wheel pub

eyes and ears in the village, and should use them to report to the Council office or to OCC Highways instances where remedial or other maintenance attention would seem to be required. Such reports should not be made in terms of complaint, but rather as a helpful partner in a joint enterprise for the improvement of Goring.

Residents could also do much to help themselves on the matter of discarded paper and wrappings. By the time some additional and larger bins have been installed, it is suggested that every resident should try to pick up and dispose of at least one piece of litter every time they venture out on foot. Householders have particular responsibilities for the state of gullies close to their frontage and for keeping footways clear of overhanging trees and hedges – easily overlooked if one leaves the house more often by car than on foot !

CONCLUSION

One thing above all will help to ensure that the aspirations of the Plan can be realised. That is the commitment of everyone in Goring to support the work of the Parish Council and their agents in their efforts to achieve the aims and objectives set down in the Plan. These aims and objectives represent the expressed wishes of all for a better future for the village.

In adopting the Plan, Goring Parish Council will use their best endeavours to implement the Plan within the limits of available resources, and to report on their progress to the Annual Parish Meeting. They also undertake to review and update the Plan in the light of experience, progress and developing needs, so that it becomes an ongoing and public agenda for the future of the village.



Members of the Camera Club collect litter

Photo: Mary Clucas



Goring Lock

APPENDICES

Appendix A — Acknowledgements

Goring Parish Council and Goring & Streatley Amenity Association, the principal partners in the preparation of the Plan, wish to thank the many residents of Goring who volunteered to contribute their time and opinions to ensure that the Plan is representative and full of ideas.

Particular thanks are due to:

Kerry Harding	Councillor
Norman Radley	Councillor
Paul Bradstock OBE	Chairman, Steering Committee
David Boyd	Plan Co-ordinator
Mike Collinson	Treasurer, Steering Committee
David Boyd	Group Leader — Traffic and Transport
Mary Martyn-Johns	Group Leader — Community Services
Irene Matthews	Group Leader — Public Services
Stuart Nelson	Group Leader — Development of the Economy
Ken Tollet	Group Leader — Environment and Leisure
Anton Nath	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Jennifer Bending	Text Editor
Stephen Hill	Graphic Design
Chris Rickards	Photographs
Fiona Sutcliffe	Typesetting

and to Streatley Parish Council for sharing advice and opinions during the preparation of their Parish Plan.

Appendix B — Useful contacts

Telephone numbers

Goring Parish Council Clerk	(01491) 874444
South Oxfordshire District Council (Switchboard)	(01491) 823000
Police (Non-emergency)	(08458) 505505
Medical Centre	(01491) 872372
Community Centre including Transport Scheme	(01491) 873565
Information Office and Medical Loan	
To report obviously overweight lorries	(01865) 810839
To report malfunctioning street lamps	(01491) 874444
To report potholes in highways	(08458) 101111
and dangerous footpaths	

Other services, organisations & clubs:
refer to the Local Directory

Appendix C — Consultation methods

The methods used to ascertain the Community's ideas and opinions generally followed those recommended in the guidance notes issued by the Countryside Agency and by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

1. The first step was to publish an article in the local voluntary newspaper (the "Goring Gap News") which outlined the objectives of the Plan, and invited those interested to pick up and return a leaflet from one of the High Street shops, thereby registering their prospective support.
2. Two initial meetings of these supporters were held to introduce the Plan. Questions were raised and answered, comments made and recorded, and volunteers came forward.
3. A preliminary list of topics was published in the Plan Brief, and supplemented by comments from volunteers. This list in turn gave rise to a series of ideas which were progressively refined or discarded by five Study Groups.
4. Following advance publicity in the Goring Gap News, a 'Drop-In Day' was held in May 2005 to introduce the Plan to a wider public. The majority of the visitors completed an extensive questionnaire. Additionally, the display stands mounted by the Study Groups each invited callers to write their concerns and opinions on yellow stickers, which were placed on a 'wall' to be read by later visitors and thereby to stimulate further ideas and comments. This was hugely successful, and many hundreds of replies were received.

The responses showed that residents had six principal concerns about life in Goring which the Plan had to address:

- fear of crime, and lack of police presence;
- road traffic – excessive speed and other aspects;
- vandalism and litter;
- lack of provision for young people 11-18 years old;
- shortage of affordable housing for first-time buyers;
- a strong desire to retain Goring's distinctive and much-cherished local character.

Between the questionnaire and the stickers, the ideas thrown up supplied the basis for subsequent discussion, and are the foundation on which the plan is based.

5. From observation of the visitors at the Drop-In Day, it was concluded that four sections of the Community had been poorly represented there: young people generally; mothers of young children; local business people and tradesmen; and the elderly, disadvantaged and housebound. Separate questionnaires were therefore prepared for each of these four and distributed to residential homes and to the other groups. The responses from the first (87) and last (48) sections were commendable; disappointingly the business people and the mothers of young children failed to reply in any number.

6. A most valuable source of ideas and comments were those received over the life of the Plan from members of the Study Groups and their friends, and from Goring & Streatley Amenity Association. Parish Councillors made extensive comments after receiving early drafts of the Plan.

7. Certain topics were aired in the columns of the Goring Gap News, and misunderstandings were cleared up. The articles and correspondence provided useful publicity for the Plan.

8. In January 2006 a final questionnaire was prepared and delivered to every house in Goring, in order to gauge residents' views on the relative importance of some specific issues or choices identified previously. It was left to the recipients to return these; 30% did so, and these showed clear patterns, and especially so on the wish for a stronger police presence in the village. This and the other positively-supported issues have been written into the Survey section text and given appropriate priority in the Action Plan.

From the above, the Steering Committee has concluded that the consultations carried out have been thorough, and have thrown up for consideration all the concerns and issues which could be expected to come within the scope of this Village Plan.

Appendix D — Demographic and accident statistics

Table 1 Demographic statistics

Table PP1 Parish Profile: People		
Area	Goring	Streatley
All people	3104	974
Males	1470	479
Females	1634	495
People living in households	3038	939
People living in communal establishments	66	35
People aged 0 - 4	147	57
People aged 5 - 15	302	138
People aged 16-24	199	48
People aged 25 - 44	646	246
People aged 45 - 64	943	294
People aged 65 - 74	394	93
People aged 75 and over	473	98
Mean age of population in the area (4; 5)	47.56	42.81
Median age** of population in the area (4; 5)	51	44
All people aged 16 and over in households	2589	747
All people aged 16 and over in households: Living in a couple (1)	1788	548
All people aged 16 and over : Single (2)	510	134
All people aged 16 and over : Married (2)	1663	533
All people aged 16 and over : Divorced or widowed (2)	482	112
All people with a limiting long-term illness	522	135
All people whose health was good (3)	2251	768
All people providing unpaid care	310	90

Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. Footnotes:

1. Information in this column relates to people's living arrangements rather than their marital status.
2. Information in this column relates to people's marital status.
3. Not including people whose health was fairly good
4. 'Age' is age at last birthday. 5. 'Mean age' and 'Median age' are calculated using the underlying single year counts

Table PP3 Parish Profile: Households

Area	Goring	Streatley
All households	1378	386
One Person Household - Pensioner	273	43
One Person Household - Other	120	45
One Family and no others: All pensioner households	241	57
One family and no others: Couple households with no children	290	92
One family and no others: Couple households with dependent children	256	89
One family and no others: Lone parent households with dependent children	26	14
One family and no others: All children non-dependent	103	28
Other households	69	18

Table 2 Accident statistics**Goring Road Traffic Accidents for eleven years 1995 – 2005**

Casualties (totalling 36) follow a similar pattern.

Table 2a – Accidents by month

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
January	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
February	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
March	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
April	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
May	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	4
June	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
July	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
August	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
November	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
December	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	2	2	4	7	3	3	3	5	2	1	2	34

Table 2b – All Accidents by Severity

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Fatal	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Serious	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
Slight	2	2	4	7	3	3	3	5	2	1	2	27
TOTAL	2	2	4	7	3	3	3	5	2	1	2	34

Analysis of accidents by geography

Wallingford Road	12	35%
Reading Road	6	18%
Elvendon & Icknield Roads	5	15%
High Street	3	9%
Others	8	23%
	<hr/> 34	<hr/> 100%