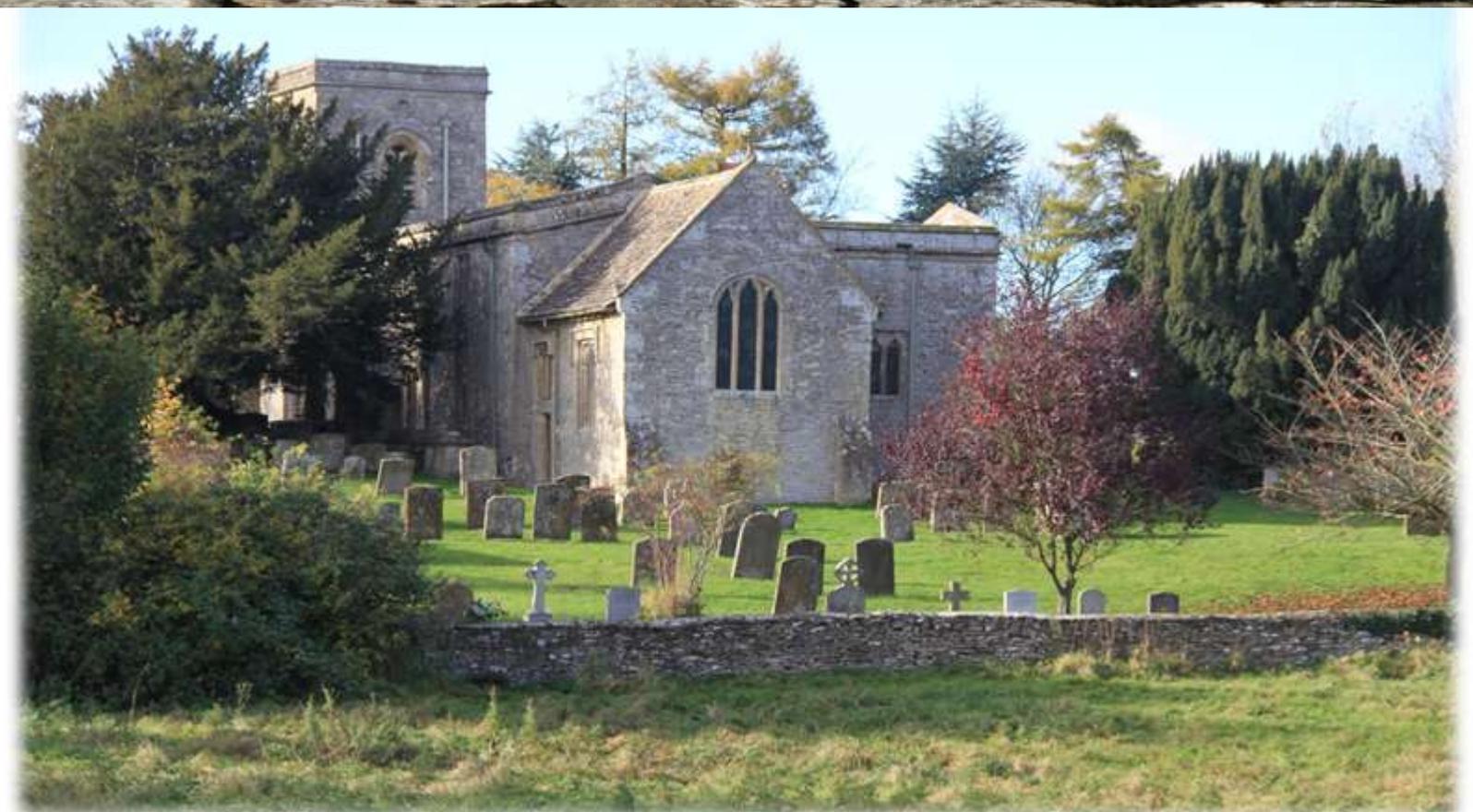


Fulbrook Village Plan 2012-13



Acknowledgements

This Community-Led Village Plan for Fulbrook has been produced by a small Steering Group (see below) but contains ideas and contributions from many people in the village.

The development and publication of this plan has been made possible by generous grants from a number of organisations.

Two local charities keen to promote community activities and interest in the area, the **Burford and District Society** and the **Falkland Hall Trust**, have made generous donations which have helped us to produce the plan in an appropriate format which we hope will help stand the test of time as a useful document for current and future residents.

Fulbrook Parish Council has also generously provided funds and continual support from Councillor Phil Lewis. Gilly Kay, Parish Council chairman, has provided considerable expertise, enthusiasm and encouragement to the Steering Group as well as guidance as to the limits of the Council's powers.

The **Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC)** gave us the initial stimulus to develop a plan for Fulbrook and examples of good practice from elsewhere. The ORCC also made a generous donation which helped us to develop the plan, the survey and the consultative activities we have undertaken.



We are also grateful to our small team of distributors who delivered and collected the questionnaire for our survey last spring, to David Wooley who helped us frame the questions, to Ann Tivey who helped with data analysis, and to Adrian and Bridgett Howard in the **Carpenters Arms** who laid on a splendid buffet when the plan survey results were presented to the village in September 2012.



The Steering Group

Laurence Balbes, Jacky Harrington, John Harrington, Jenny Jones, Diana Lethbridge, Phil Lewis, Jenny Lloyd, Lucy Staveley and Bob Tivey

The Steering Group was formed after a couple of village meetings and included anyone interested in helping to develop the plan. In fact we had a good spread across the village in terms of ages and the geography of Fulbrook which has helped ensure that issues of interest or concern were identified and that good feedback was given to the village as the plan was developed.

Introduction

Background

In the autumn of 2011, with the encouragement of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) and the backing of the Parish Council, a Steering Group of volunteers started developing a community-led plan for Fulbrook. The objectives of a Fulbrook Village Plan were:

- To build on the **good community spirit** we have in Fulbrook and **increase inclusiveness**
- To identify **village-wide issues of concern** and practical steps to address them
- To provide **an up-to-date village fact base** to help inform local planning decisions and support campaigns for improved infrastructure
- **To promote greater understanding of the role** (and limitations) of the Parish Council and the other local authorities
- **To identify new volunteers** who could help with implementing agreed plan activities

This work followed on from the Fulbrook Appraisal carried out in the late 1990s and is similar to community plans being developed by other local parishes in Oxfordshire.

Interest in the Plan has been high in the village with a tremendous response of over 75% of households replying to the survey conducted in April 2012 and a turnout of over 70 at the village meeting in September to discuss the findings of that survey and key issues for the Plan.

The Survey

There were 210 houses in Fulbrook in April 2012 when the Steering Group conducted its survey into facts and opinions about the village in April 2012. 13 houses were unoccupied, either vacant or second homes, and of the 197 survey questionnaires delivered 152 were returned. This return of 77% of occupied homes was a fantastic level of response which far exceeds any local, and most national, elections.

The responses from that survey gave the Steering Group a very valuable set of data about the village, opinions and priorities on which to base future action plans. These results are referred to throughout the plan to indicate the degree of support for actions or concern about issues. To avoid excessive length it was decided not to print all the analysis in this document but all of the data analysed by the team will be made available on the Village Website and a hard copy is available from the Parish Clerk if required.

Not everyone completed every question in the survey and the percentages given in the plan generally represent the number replying to particular questions unless otherwise stated.

The Plan

This document sets out the key findings from the survey we conducted in April 2012 and proposed actions structured along the lines of the survey topics. It also includes a section on Fulbrook's history and a map which we hope will help new, and existing, residents find the right house amongst all the interesting names which exist on Fulbrook's roads and lanes.

The intention is that this plan will become a living document for Fulbrook. Some of the actions, such as improved snow clearing and local gritting or resurrecting the Welcome Pack for new residents, can be achieved quite quickly. Others, like creating a village shop, a village green or reducing traffic problems through the village, will take a lot of effort by interested residents to succeed or will depend on mobilising external support and may take a number of years.

This plan is the first not the last step in a process of making improvements to our village.

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Introducing Fulbrook

Fulbrook Today

Fulbrook is a village of nearly 500 inhabitants stretching out for a mile or so over the gentle hills on the far side of the River Windrush from Burford in the district of West Oxfordshire. It has no village green or centre as such with its roads and lanes running like branches off the trunk of the A361 (Shipton Road). These branches such as Westhall Hill, Walnut Row, or Meadow Lane contain old and new housing and longstanding and new residents.

Fulbrook is a very open and welcoming village ("*Strangers **are** welcome here ...*") with just over a third of its residents arriving over the past decade, but also a place where people like to stay with another third here for twenty or more years. The variety of occupations represented in Fulbrook has undoubtedly increased significantly over the past half century with the improvement in transport and electronic infrastructure and the long-term trend away from agricultural employment. Nevertheless, Fulbrook is a village surrounded by fields and working farms and retains strong connections with those via the people who still work on the farms and the footpaths that cross them.

Fulbrook possesses one church, St James the Great, one pub, the Carpenters Arms, a children's play area in Meadow End, a stream, which the village is named after but which happily doesn't flood, an occasional bus service, a number of off-road footpaths and dry stone walls and a website.

Although it has no formal village centre Fulbrook is well served by an active Parish Council and associated Amenities Group and many other social groups and activities within the village ranging from the Fulbrook Fellowship, the Fitness Group, a monthly Lunch Club for older residents and bell-ringing. Fulbrook inhabitants are not slow to celebrate anything from Burns and Bonfire nights, Royal Jubilees to Christmas Carol singing around the village.

The absence of a village hall has been well mitigated by the imaginative use of space in St James the Great as a meeting place (the FMP) available to any in the village who need it and by the generosity of villagers who provide barns, gardens or paddocks to host events such as dances, plant and produce sales and cricket matches. In addition the Carpenters Arms also provides a venue for a variety of village events from barbecues to karaoke and a possible cinema club.

The proximity to Burford gives real benefit to Fulbrook residents, many of whose children attend schools there and use the shops, restaurants, library, post office and other local facilities. This proximity also renders some activities within Fulbrook such as the creation of separate mother and toddler groups or local sports teams unviable, but also unnecessary.

As the rest of the plan demonstrates there is no shortage of ideas to improve the community coming from Fulbrook residents. The success of many of those ideas will depend on individual initiative and going beyond the "usual suspects" to help deliver projects.

Local Government and the Role of the Parish Council in the Fulbrook Village Plan

Parish Councils were introduced in 1894 by an Act of Parliament which created the civil parish, separating it from the Church. The Parish Council (PC) should not be confused with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) which is the body that manages the church in the village.

Parish Councils are the first tier in the hierarchy of local authorities and as the level of government closest to the community they play a vital part in improving the local environment and the quality of life of those they serve. Other tiers are known as Principal Authorities (District and County Councils) and it is they that have the legal *duty* to deliver services such as education, housing, planning, highways and social services. Along with these higher authorities the Parish Council has the power to raise money through taxation (the precept) and a range of powers to spend that money. In 2012/2013 the Fulbrook Parish Council precept raised was £4,200 for the year which equates to £17.53 pa for every Band D property.

Any member of the public may attend Parish Council meetings held in the Fulbrook Meeting Place at the back of the Church six times a year. Local electors are particularly encouraged to raise issues of concern. Meetings are advertised in the Fulbrook Newsletter and notices are posted on the village notice boards and on the website where agendas and past minutes are available. Every year there is a Parish Meeting when electors can hear reports from all tiers of local authorities and from local groups and societies. It also gives an opportunity to celebrate local activities and to debate current issues in the community. It was at the Parish Meeting in 2011 that we heard a presentation from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) which started the process coming to fruition in this Plan.

Fulbrook Parish Council has supported the Village Plan Steering Group in its sterling efforts. Councillor Phil Lewis has played an active part in the group as well as acting as the liaison member for the PC. Funds have been allocated by the Parish Council and an application made to ORCC who responded with a generous grant towards the costs of the process. With regard to implementing the actions identified in the Plan, where the PC has direct powers or clear capacity to act, then it can proceed. For example:

- updating the village website to include a register for email alerts of village news and events has already been undertaken
- work is ongoing regarding an e-swap shop, a free-cycle facility and a car share/lift share scheme

In other action areas the PC can alert and lobby the higher authorities who are responsible for such matters as highways and footpaths (OCC) and planning and play areas (WODC).

The Parish Council will be the principal authority with the responsibility for overseeing the Fulbrook Village Plan. Progress on putting the Plan into practice will be reviewed at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2013.

Fulbrook – a lot of history for some muddy water

The name Fulebroc (meaning “*foul brook*”) first appeared in The Domesday Book in 1086 when it was larger than Burford. Although the water is clear in the upper reaches, it can become muddy when running through the valley to join the Windrush.

The Domesday Book states that Fulebroc was held as four manors by Rogerii de Iverii, brother of Robert d’Oilly, the builder of Oxford Castle.

“There are 12 hides (each about 120 acres), land for 15 ploughs. Now in demesne (the lord’s land) are 5 ploughs and 12 slaves; and 22 villans with 7 bordars have 12 ploughs. (A villan was a member of the peasant class with most land, a bordar was a peasant even lower on the social ladder than a villan) There is a mill rendering 10s, and 63 acres of meadow, pasture 10 furlongs long and 3 furlongs broad and woodland 6 furlongs long and 2 furlongs broad. It was and is worth 16l.”

The manor with its own court and hall, but not necessarily a manor house, was the basic unit of the Domesday Book so there may not in fact have been four manor houses in Fulbrook. There was certainly the Manor House of Fulbrook at Westhall Hill and there may have been another nearer the church, perhaps sited where Fulbrook House is now. The mill possibly was where York Cottage is now at the junction of the Roarings and Upper End streams.

From the time of Edward the First in the late 13th century Fulbrook had no resident Lord of the Manor, so there was an opportunity for farmers to improve the quality of their crops by enclosing land near their homesteads. They paid their tithes but were free from the restrictions of a local overseer.

Gradually small areas of land were enclosed in the three main areas of the village – Upper End, Lower End (the area around the Church) and Westhall Hill – but the main fields and meadows were farmed in common, each villager having parcels of land in the two common fields, one of which was left fallow each year. Later the fields were divided into four sections in order to make more economic use of the land.

Fulbrook seems to have been quite a desirable village for medieval landlords. In January 1307, Edward the First granted it to Walter de Langton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, but after Edward's death in July of that year Langton's lands, said to be worth 5,000 marks a year, were seized by his son, Edward the Second, who also took the vast treasure hoarded up by Langton at the New Temple in London including 50,000 pounds of silver besides gold and jewels. Langton left land in eleven counties on his death.

Over the centuries Fulbrook and Westhall Hill were passed from person to person and by the 17th century familiar names start to emerge such as William Lenthall, Speaker of the Long Parliament.

There is a very impressive memorial on the Fulbrook chancel wall in memory of the Jordan family probably related to John Jordan who built the Mansion House in Burford High Street, now the Methodist Church. Richard Jordan lived in the property now called Pytts House and, from an inventory on his death in 1637, the total value of his property was £1,846 including 540 sheep which would have made him one of the richest wool merchants in the area.

Richard seems to have been a robust business man and there was a court case in 1687 at Oxford Trinity Sessions against *“Richard Jordan of Over Towne for inclosing to self a horse poole taken out of the King's Highway. It served most of the town before it was inclosed.”* The case was the result of a fight in which villagers tried to break down the wall which Jordan had built to prevent others using the pool. Richard lost and the pool was reinstated at the corner of the road opposite the junction with Beech Grove.

The remains of a sheep-wash in the grounds of Knights Spill also probably belonged to Jordan. The fact that animals had free access to the streams running through fields meant that the supply of clean water was a continual problem and may account for the original 'foul brook' name.

Before 1819 only land near the village centre had been enclosed, most of the parish retaining its open fields. However, the Enclosure Act Award of March 1819 enclosed all the open fields and led to the creation of public and private roads.

Tithes were abolished and replaced by a grant of land. The Bishop of Oxford, Eton College and the Vicar of Burford and Fulbrook received land in lieu of tithes but the land was managed by others. New proprietors were obliged to build walls around their properties and the expense sometimes forced smallholders to sell their land and become labourers.

The Enclosure Movement and the Industrial Revolution affected small towns and villages adversely. Without common rights the villagers and farm workers looked elsewhere for employment and many moved away to developing manufacturing towns. Lack of communications and the cost of travel meant that many villagers then had no further link with their former homes.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1925 showed that the general outline of the village had changed remarkably little since the enclosures, allotments and arable land having been used for building to a surprisingly small extent.

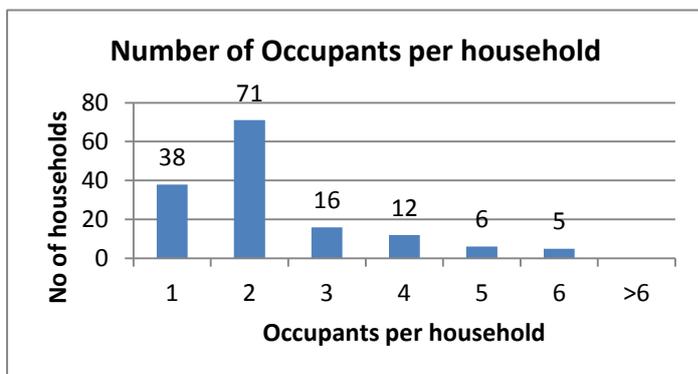
At the beginning of the 20th century there were ten farms in Fulbrook. Since then consolidation has taken place and while some, such as Manor Farm, still exist as discrete working farms, others have been subsumed into larger estates though their house names, such as Elm Farm and Beechgrove Farm, remain in the village.

1. Households in Fulbrook – What are we like?

The population of Fulbrook has grown by over 10% during the last decade. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2009 mid-year estimate suggested that there were 477 residents of Fulbrook, an increase of nearly 50 compared to the 2001 census figure of 430. There are 210 houses in the village, with 13 unoccupied at the time of the survey in April 2012, either vacant or second homes.

1.1 Numbers per Household

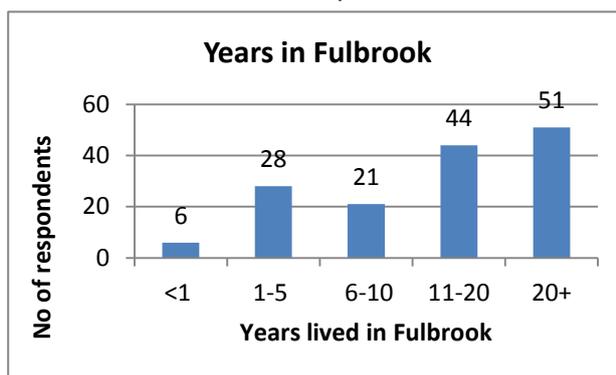
Numbers per household are relatively low with two being the most common number of occupants (48% of households), few large households and none with more than six regular occupants.



There is a mix of old and new buildings but all new houses have been built with Cotswold stone facades in keeping with the area and infilling has taken place in certain areas such as Meadow Lane.

1.2 Staying in Fulbrook

Nearly 64% of inhabitants of Fulbrook have been here for more than 10 years and 34% for more than 20 years with just over a third moving into the village over the past decade. This suggests that there is a good base of long-standing residents with sufficient new blood coming into Fulbrook to refresh and revitalise village life. This finding in fact was almost exactly replicated in the Plan Steering Group suggesting that this mix of older and newer residents provides a good basis for promoting activities in the community.



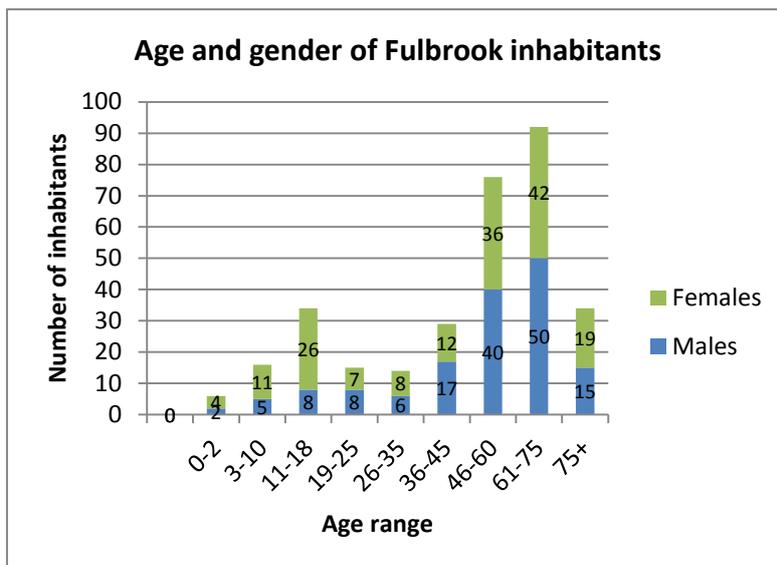
1.3 Fulbrook Welcome Pack

Until a few years ago the Parish Council issued a Welcome Pack with practical information about the village (including a copy of the Village Appraisal) to all new residents. Recently this has become somewhat erratic although much of the information is now available on the Village Website. Only a third of households who answered this question had received a Welcome Pack when they moved into the village and the reinstatement of this practice would clearly be 'welcome'.

Action 1.1 Reinststate Fulbrook Welcome Packs		
How	Who	When
Design and produce information for new packs	Parish Council and Newsletter Team	March 2013
Encourage neighbours to alert coordinator to newcomers	Volunteer coordinator – see Annex II Initiatives Directory, for current list of volunteers and organisers	

1.4 Broken Down by Age and Sex

Fulbrook is a maturing community with a slight majority of males (244 - 52%) over females (231 - 48%).



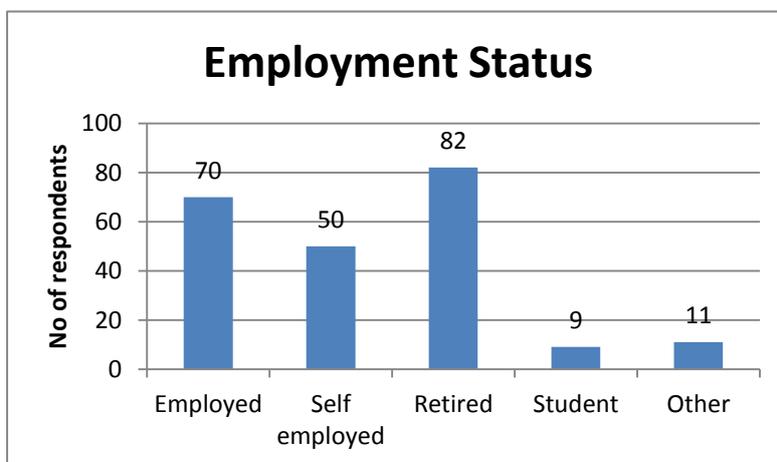
Nearly two-thirds of Fulbrook residents are over 45 years old with the lowest numbers being those between 19 and 35. 56 children under 18 years were reported in the survey. If that percentage (18% of total respondents) is representative of the whole village that implies a total of 85 children out of the 477 inhabitants estimated by the ONS.

Overall these figures show a pattern of children growing up in the village, moving away in their twenties and thirties for study and work and then new arrivals coming in their late thirties and forties and starting families in the village with other older residents also arriving in their fifties and sixties.

Overall these figures show a pattern of children growing up in the village, moving away in their twenties and thirties for study and work and then new arrivals coming in their late thirties and forties and starting families in the village with other older residents also arriving in their fifties and sixties.

1.5 Employment Status

Of the 222 responses to the question about employment status nearly 37% were retired and 54% employed or self-employed.



The relatively high proportion of retirees may indicate that they had the time and interest to complete the survey. Taken together with the age profile for 45 – 75 year olds this also indicates a large number of potentially active individuals able to use their experience and time to help launch and run activities within the village, something which does indeed occur.

Demographic Implication

This demographic and employment picture has implications for the type of activities that the village should contemplate.

Although young blood is always welcomed in support of village events it is not realistic to expect that too many individuals in the twenty to forty age range will have that much time to assist when they are, by and large, busy with careers and bringing up families.

Experience has shown that residents in that age range are happy to support village events, but may not be able to take on organising roles.

1.6 Businesses and Professional Skills in Fulbrook

26 responders (18%) said that they operated **businesses in Fulbrook** and a further 3 said that they were considering starting a business. 16 said that they would be interested in publicising their businesses at village events.

Action 1.2 Invite Local Businesses to promote themselves at appropriate village events		
How	Who	When
Invite sponsorship for village events	Event promoters	All On-going
Encourage advertising in Newsletter	Fulbrook Newsletter Team	
Free listing on website	Parish Clerk	

A wide range of **professional skills** is present in the village with 25 different skills claimed by respondents, including marketing (5 respondents), computer/IT (4) and legal/planning (4). Other skills included stonemasonry, child care, interior decor and journalism.

Action 1.3 Consider how to make better use of these skills within the village		
How	Who	When
Compile Skills Directory	Village Plan Team – <i>first draft</i>	March 2013
Use website listing	Parish Clerk	
Encourage volunteers for Friends in Fulbrook	Friends in Fulbrook Coordinator - see <i>action 2.4 below</i>	



Westhall Hill from Burford Church Tower

2. Community Facilities and Services

2.1 Use of Local Facilities

The **Local Medical Practices** are well used with just under 80% of residents attending Burford surgery, 16% going to Shipton-under-Wychwood and 5% elsewhere.

The majority of residents (53%) do their main **Household Shopping** in Witney with 17% using Carterton, 11 % Burford, 6% Stow-on-the-Wold and 7 % doing their main shop on-line.

90% of residents use the **Burford Post Office**.

The two **Local Pubs**, open when the survey was conducted, were reasonably well used with just under half the village going at least occasionally to one or other of them though the figure for regular users was just under 20%. Since the Masons Arms sadly closed in October 2012 after over 200 years as a village inn there is now only one pub left in the village, the Carpenters Arms.



The Masons Arms, October 2012

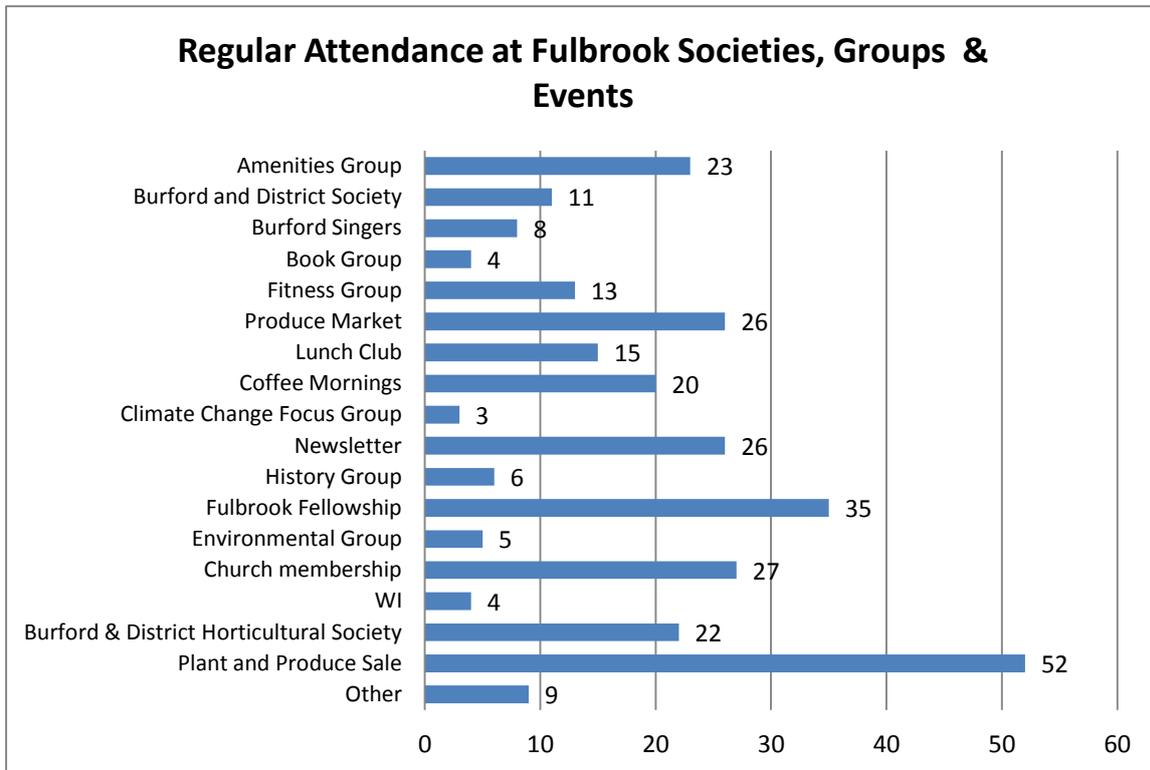
So, although we are well served by good pubs in Burford as well, there is obviously an important message of **'Use it or Lose it'** for local residents in relation to the Carpenters Arms.

And this may well apply to the other services used in Burford since Fulbrook residents number nearly half the total of those living in Burford itself.

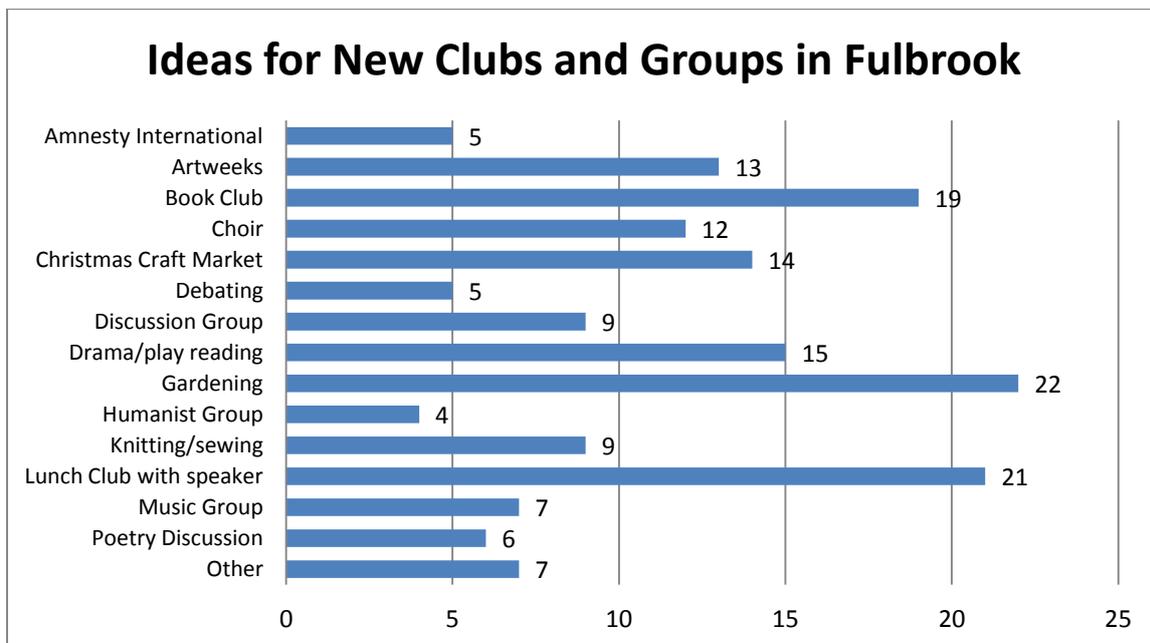
Action 2.1 Think of additional community uses for the Carpenters Arms		
How	Who	When
Host Village Events and Meetings Mothers and Toddlers Weekly Veg Van / Farmers' Market Cinema Club Possible use for Oxfordshire Artweeks exhibitions	Event promoters and Pub landlord	On-going Register each December for next May

2.2 Societies, Groups and Events

Fulbrook residents participate actively in a wide range of clubs and village events. There are nearly 20 regular gatherings of one sort or another, some better supported than others.



Even so, there were plenty of ideas for new groups. The most popular suggestions are a Gardening club (22 supporters), Lunch club with speaker (21), Book club (19), Drama/play reading (15) and Christmas Craft Market (14).



This chart shows the potential level of support in particular activities. By and large it will be up to interested parties to identify the others who may be keen on particular activities and initiate things. The Village Website, Newsletter and Notice Boards all provide a mechanism for doing this.

Action 2.2 Initiate New Interest Groups		
How	Who	When
Individuals 'broadcast' for support via Village Website, Newsletter and Notice Boards	Interested parties	March 2013
Use events like Plant & Produce Sale and annual Parish Meeting to promote new groups	Event promoters	

One of the popular suggestions, the Christmas Craft Market, has already found supporters who are prepared to organise it for 2013 potentially in the Carpenters Arms. This would build on the success of a previous Art and Craft Exhibition in 2011 held in the FMP.

Action 2.3 Fulbrook Art and Craft Exhibition and Christmas Craft Market		
How	Who	When
Art and Craft Exhibition in FMP	FMP Committee	September 2013
Organise in Carpenters Arms for Fulbrook 'craftsmen and women' to put their wares on display	Craftmarket Coordinators – <i>and any other volunteers</i>	December 2013

2.3 Friends in Fulbrook – volunteers to help neighbours with specific jobs



95% of respondents thought this was an idea worth pursuing, 67% would volunteer to help others through the scheme and 48% thought they would use the scheme.

Friends in Fulbrook

There was considerable enthusiasm for this idea of organising a list or rota of those able to help with small domestic jobs which some Fulbrook neighbours had difficulty with.

The scheme will need to be careful not to take on what would be legitimately paid work for local tradesmen and women and would also need to be set up in such a way that it does not become cumbersome or bureaucratic to run and use.

Action 2.4 Get Friends in Fulbrook (<i>FiF</i>) Up and Running		
How	Who	When
Identify Champion to coordinate scheme	"Advertise" in March 2013 Newsletter	March 2013
Obtain advice on set-up requirements	Contacts: ORCC, Witney CAB & Volunteer Link-up	} Spring 2013
Decide scope and scale	Champion and helpers	

2.4 Communications

2.4.1 The Fulbrook Newsletter

One of the ideas to come out of the previous village appraisal, the Fulbrook Newsletter, came out of the survey very well with 85% of the village reading it. There was little or no criticism of it and it is strongly recommended that the new editorial team carry on with the good work started by Bill Long and David Woolley. Additional articles are always needed and if any younger people, especially under 18s, have time to write pieces for the Newsletter they would be particularly welcomed.

2.4.2 The Bridge

This replaced the Parish Magazine some two years ago and is read by 63% of the village. There was, however, a little criticism at it appearing too flashy, expensive and glossy, though this may be misplaced given how technology has reduced printing costs. There were also some distribution problems in some parts of the village. Hopefully these have been addressed and things will improve. But The Bridge has undoubtedly become a valuable monthly communication and we should try to use it more so that it is not perceived as the Burford Newsletter.

2.4.3 The Village Website

This site is run by the Parish Council for the benefit of the residents of Fulbrook. Its purpose is to act as an electronic notice board for the village, on which the news and events of the village can be posted and viewed by all.

Although awareness of the site was reasonably high at just under 60% this meant that two fifths of the village was not aware of the site so even more publicity would be worthwhile and is being planned by the Parish Council.

84% of respondents regarded the content as what would be expected on such a site and there were a number of suggestions for additional information including:

- more photographs*
- a 'notice board' for announcements such as deaths and funerals
- bus timetables
- pub opening hours
- a village mailing list
- adverts for local services

*(*NB The Parish Council has already acted to improve the site, for instance, with the addition of photographs from the Diamond Jubilee celebrations)*

There was reasonably strong support (60%) for the suggestion of setting up an **E-mail notification of village events**. This can be done by inviting residents to subscribe to receive an automatic email notification when new events are publicised on the Village Website.

Action 2.5 Improve the Village Website		
How	Who	When
i) Publicise Village Website more in Newsletter, The Bridge and Noticeboards	Parish Clerk	December 2012 - DONE
ii) Put additional information on the site	Parish Clerk	On-going – review in April 2013
iii) Create a (self-registration) mailing list for village events	Parish Clerk	December 2012 - DONE

2.4.4 Social Media

There was some, but not overwhelming, interest (26%) in promoting Fulbrook-based social media such as a Fulbrook Facebook page or Twitter account. Talking to younger residents indicates that generally they already belong to other sites for communicating and broadcasting to each other and don't especially seek a Fulbrook specific one. If there was interest from residents (young or older) in promoting this type of social media within Fulbrook, the Parish Council would be happy to include links on the Village Website, but does not intend to organise or officially sponsor them itself.

2.4.5 E-Swap Shop

One suggestion made by survey respondents was to create a page on the Village Website for an E Swap Shop to encourage recycling within the village. One obvious target would be children's toys and equipment that are outgrown but not totally destroyed but there will probably be many other items that residents would be happy to pass on within the village.

Action 2.6 Village E-Swap Shop - 'Fulbrook Freecycle'		
How	Who	When
Establish a Village Website page where residents can post items for swapping	Parish Clerk	March 2013

2.5 Common Buildings and Spaces

2.5.1 The FMP



Another by-product of the appraisal was the birth of the **Fulbrook Meeting Place (aka the FMP)**. This is the flexible space generously provided at the back of Fulbrook Church for use by the community in lieu of a Village Hall. Started in 2006, it has become an important part of village life hosting both regular gatherings such as the weekly Fitness Group, monthly Fulbrook Fellowship and Lunch Club and special events like pig roasts, musical concerts, light entertainment events, wine tastings, special dinners, flower festivals and photographic and arts and crafts exhibitions.

The FMP has been well received with 82% regarding it important to the village. 72% have attended one or more of the special events in the last year and nearly 50% of respondents attend regular meetings there. Awareness of events is high at 78% but it has been suggested it could be improved still further by email contact, more use of flyers for special events and a dedicated notice board. The latter has been addressed and a new noticeboard has now been erected on the Shipton Road at the end of Church Lane.

Residents were asked if they were put off by the location of the FMP in church premises. 80% said no with only 10% saying they are.

It is proposed to continue to use the FMP as an important village common area with a wide selection of events targeted at all sectors of our community. The most popular suggestion for further activities at the FMP was more events for children both teenagers and toddlers with others interested in amateur dramatics, concerts, films, evening classes, bridge, or a book club or a market. *(Perhaps the most intriguing suggestion was 1 household wanting "annual jousting and sheep-shearing competitions"! Any volunteers???)*

The provision of viable activities for children has, perhaps, been the hardest nut to crack over recent years and perhaps now is the time to push these forward with interested younger people themselves taking the lead and possibly seeking to use different locations to the church. *(All the suggestions regarding young people have been pulled together in section 6 below.)*

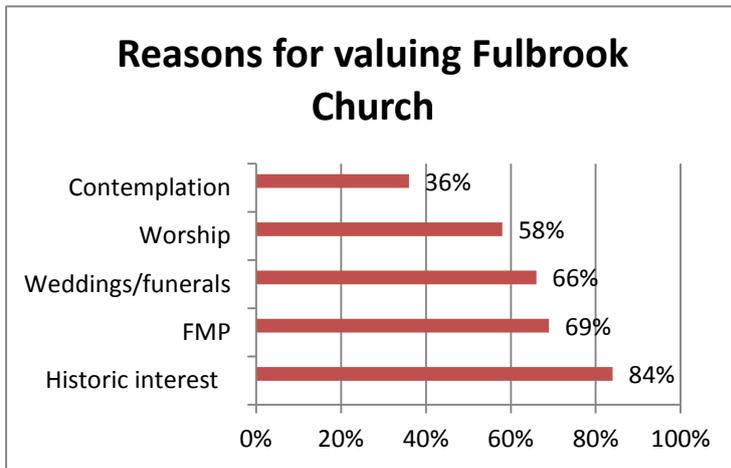
Action 2.7 Continued Widespread Use of the FMP		
How	Who	When
Dedicated Noticeboard Keep link on village website up-to-date Explore further uses of the space	FMP Committee	November 2012 – DONE
		On-going



2.5.2 Fulbrook Church, St James the Great

Fulbrook Church is highly valued for one or more reasons by 96% of the village.

This was seen when the chancel roof needed replacing as over 50% of the required £20,000 came from personal donations from Fulbrookians and fund-raising events at the Fulbrook Meeting Place.



The top 3 reasons for valuing the church are Historic Interest, the FMP and Weddings/Funerals. Worship was interestingly high with 58% of villagers saying it was important, and one commenting that, *“It is good that there are church services to suit everyone (and you never know who’s going to take them!)”*

The church is also widely visited and appreciated by visitors from outside the village and both church and non church-members play a part in its upkeep.

FULBROOK CHURCH



The church's role in our village is important as it supports the religious and spiritual wellbeing of villagers and visitors and is considered of historic importance by 84% of our community. There is a leaflet available in the church giving more historic detail but briefly the church dates from the 12th century of which parts of the nave and chancel are represented. The north aisle and arcade date from the late 12th and early 13th centuries and the church was remodelled in the late 13th century with interventions to the chancel and nave and the addition of the open south porch and north transept. The church was restored in 1892 and reordered in 2005 to provide toilet and kitchen facilities within the north aisle. Of great interest are the wall paintings on the north wall of the transept and the Green Man at the eastern end of the nave roof.

The church also houses the Fulbrook Meeting Place, our village hall, and as such is used by some 72% of villagers who enjoy the range of events held each year.

St James the Great is a wonderful venue for marriages and is the final resting place for many villagers.



2.5.3 A Village of Shopkeepers?

Notwithstanding Fulbrook's proximity to Burford the survey revealed significant interest in the idea of starting a village shop. 37 people (26% of those answering this question) thought that a village shop was desirable and a further 65 (46%) thought that maybe one was needed. 40 people (28%) thought not. Perhaps even more significantly 33 people said that they would be happy to give regular hours to work in such a shop.

There are clearly a number of obstacles to creating a viable village shop, but if the interest recorded in having and helping to run a shop is reflected in individuals willing to come together to plan, locate and develop such an enterprise then maybe it can be got off the ground.

Action 2.8 Village Shop Working Group		
How	Who	When
i) Identify Champion to setup working party to investigate	Interested volunteers to form working group	Launch at Parish Meeting April 2013
ii) Advice available from WODC and ORCC	ORCC Village shops advisor	
iii) Look at interim arrangements such as Village Veg Van	Working Group	



The **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme is a partnership where people come together to make their communities safer by agreeing to take responsibility for keeping an eye on each others' property. Members are not expected to intervene in criminal incidents but to be the eyes and ears of the police.

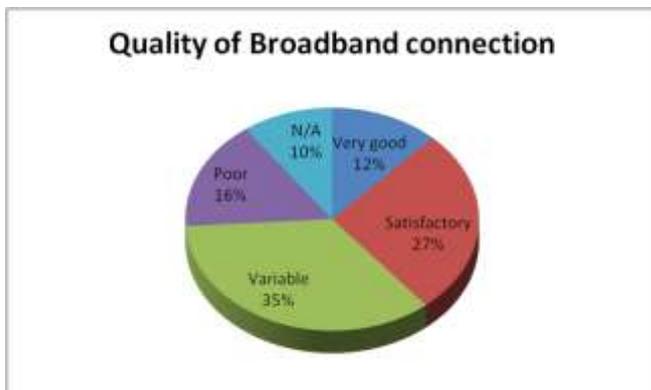
In Fulbrook all residents are invited to register with the scheme organiser, currently Jim MacAllan (JimLMacAllan@aol.com), to receive email updates of potential incidents and criminal activity affecting Fulbrook and Burford.



3. Broadband and Mobile Phone Coverage

3.1 Broadband

89% of survey respondents use broadband. Whilst 43% reported satisfactory or very good quality of connections, just over half found their connections were poor or unsatisfactory.



50% said that their signal strength varies significantly with evening being the worst time of the day.

As an increasing number of services become available via the internet (TV, smartphones and other wireless devices, as well as pcs) good quality broadband connections will become almost as essential as other utility services such as water and electricity and critical to running businesses from home or doing

homework. At present the best speed that can be delivered from the local Burford Exchange is about 4 Megabytes per second (Mbps) but many households in outlying villages can barely get 0.5Mbps.

3.1.1 Faster Fulbrook

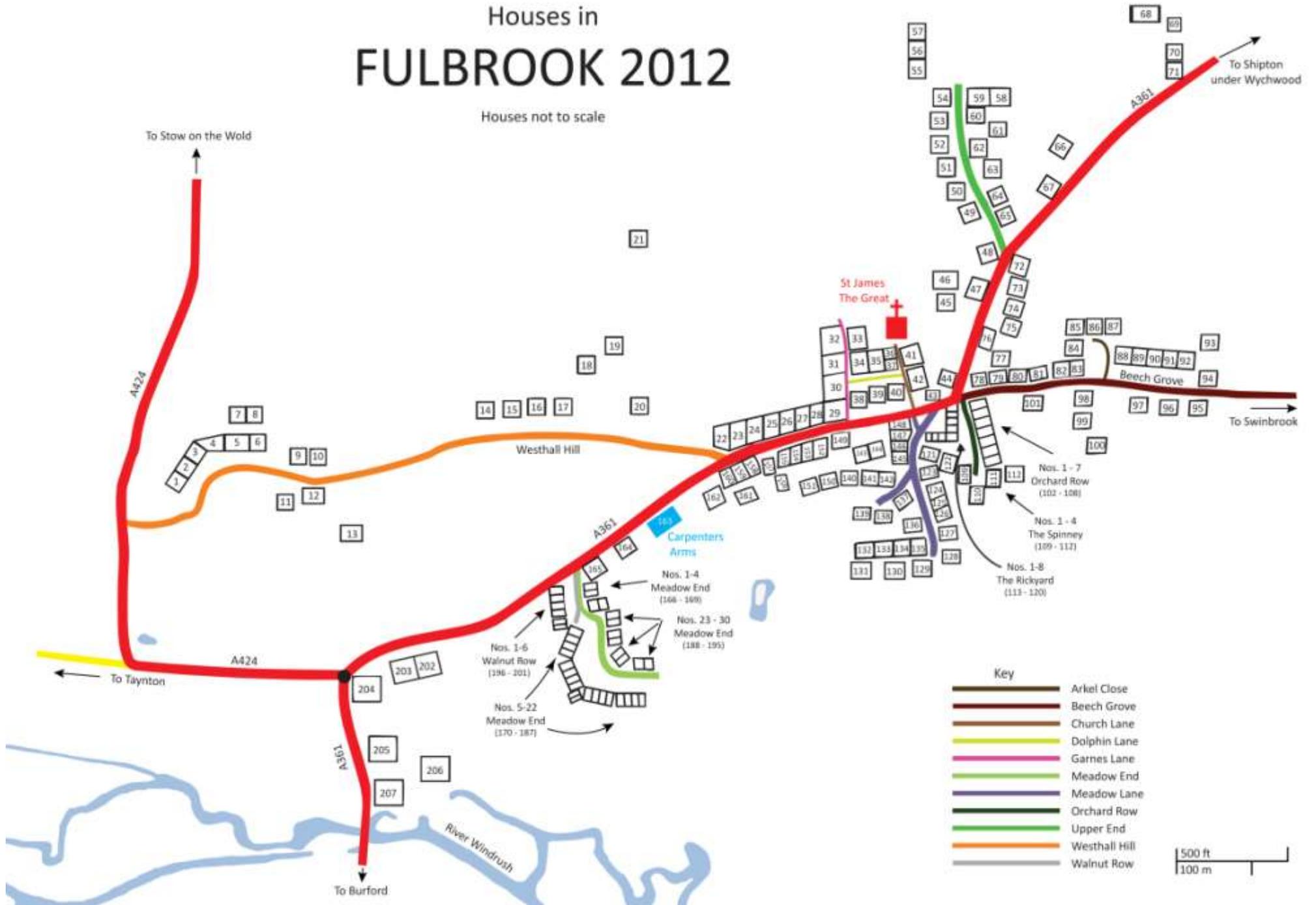
Perhaps not surprisingly 80% of respondents were interested in receiving **Faster Broadband** and 25% were willing to help coordinate action. Oxfordshire County Council has secured £14 million to offer 90% of households and businesses in Oxfordshire a superfast broadband connection (>24Mbps) by 2015 - for further details log on to www.oxonline.co.uk. We must ensure that Fulbrook is part of the 90% and not the 10% left with an inferior service.

To support this the Parish Council has nominated a Broadband Champion for Fulbrook, Oliver Sharpley, who has already engaged with OxOnline to represent Fulbrook's interests. The evidence from our survey is proving particularly timely and has already been used as an indication of both the current quality of service and keenness to see an improvement. *(The very high response rate achieved in the Fulbrook Survey was noted favourably by OxOnline who are considering using it as a model for other surveys elsewhere.)*

Action 3.1 Better Broadband for Fulbrook		
How	Who	When
i) Identify Broadband Champion to coordinate the Case for better faster broadband in Fulbrook	Oliver Sharpley appointed Broadband Champion by Parish Council	October 2012 – DONE
ii) Consider further survey of broadband speeds throughout Fulbrook using a consistent measure such as the BBC iPlayer speed test	Broadband Champion	March 2013

Houses in FULBROOK 2012

Houses not to scale



- Key**
- Arkel Close
 - Beech Grove
 - Church Lane
 - Dolphin Lane
 - Garnes Lane
 - Meadow End
 - Meadow Lane
 - Orchard Row
 - Upper End
 - Westhall Hill
 - Walnut Row

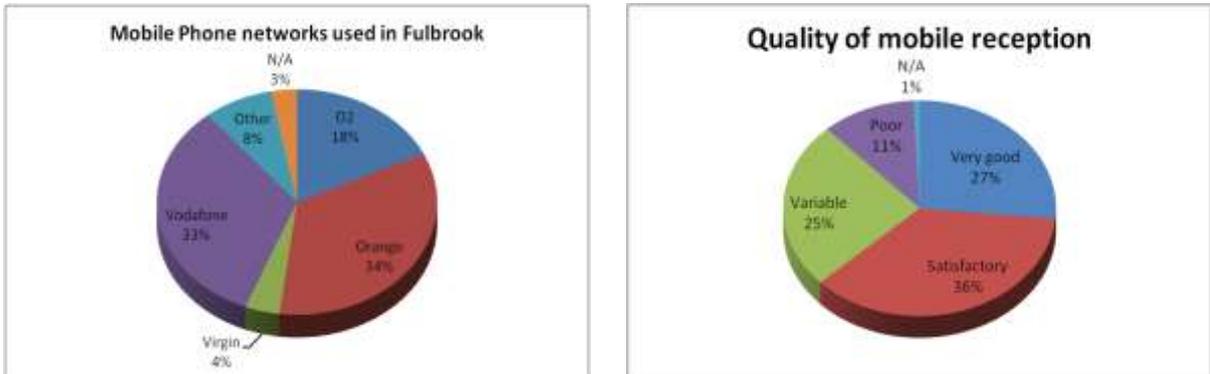
500 ft
100 m

Key to Map of Houses in Fulbrook 2012

1	Shepherds Cottage	45	Pen Cottage	89	Pipkin	133	Dix Cottage	177	12 Meadow End
2	Pool House	46	Willow Cottage	90	Cottswiew	134	Snowdrop Cottage	178	13 Meadow End
3	Westhall Cottage	47	Bibury Cottage	91	Ravensdean	135	Crocus Cottage	179	14 Meadow End
4	Corner Cottage	48	York Cottage	92	Hillside	136	East View	180	15 Meadow End
5	The Manor House	49	Fulbrook House	93	Larks Rise	137	Mead Close	181	16 Meadow End
6	Westhall Place	50	Honeysuckle Cottage	94	Laburnum Cottage	138	Sadlers	182	17 Meadow End
7	New build barn conversion	51	Rose Cottage	95	Greenacres	139	Mullions	183	18 Meadow End
8	New build barn conversion	52	The Cottage	96	Periton House	140	Chubbs Close	184	19 Meadow End
9	Old Stables	53	Swallows Turn	97	Springs	141	Rest Harrow	185	20 Meadow End
10	The Dower House	54	Fulbrook Manor	98	Ruslyn	142	Aysgarth	186	21 Meadow End
11	Broadmead	55	1 Manor Farm Barns	99	Plum Tree House	143	Orchard House	187	22 Meadow End
12	Westhall Barn	56	2 Manor Farm Barns	100	Duthies	144	Cotswold Gate	188	23 Meadow End
13	Dolphin House	57	3 Manor Farm Barns	101	The Rookery	145	Rose Cottage	189	24 Meadow End
14	High Meadow	58	4 Manor Farm Cottages	102	1 Orchard Row	146	Star Cottage	190	25 Meadow End
15	Wagtail Cottage	59	2 Manor Farm Cottages	103	2 Orchard Row	147	The Limes	191	26 Meadow End
16	Plovers	60	1 Manor Farm Cottages	104	3 Orchard Row	148	Corner Cottage	192	27 Meadow End
17	Cottesmore	61	Bluebell Cottage	105	4 Orchard Row	149	Wayside	193	28 Meadow End
18	High Pound	62	Lavender Cottage	106	5 Orchard Row	150	Windrush Farm	194	29 Meadow End
19	Lillebo	63	Ivy Cottage	107	6 Orchard Row	151	Grange House	195	30 Meadow End
20	The Old Manse	64	Wychwold	108	7 Orchard Row	152	Windrush End	196	1 Walnut Row
21	Field House	65	Applewood	109	1 The Spinney	153	Windrush Grange	197	2 Walnut Row
22	Pound Piece	66	Knights Spill	110	2 The Spinney	154	Garadice	198	3 Walnut Row
23	Mountfield	67	The Roarings	111	3 The Spinney	155	Cotters Bow House	199	4 Walnut Row
24	Lower Pound	68	Waterloo Farm	112	4 The Spinney	156	Clifden Cottage	200	5 Walnut Row
25	Syston	69	Rowan Cottage	113	1 The Rickyard	157	Well Cottage	201	6 Walnut Row
26	Longford	70	Bee Cottage	114	2 The Rickyard	158	Trentham	202	Cocklands
27	Hawthorns	71	Rock Cottage	115	3 The Rickyard	159	Newmans Cottage	203	Long Meadow Hall
28	Little Graces	72	Pudswell	116	4 The Rickyard	160	The Reading Room	204	Greystone Cottage
29	South View	73	West View	117	5 The Rickyard	161	Barn Cottage	205	Littleham
30	Cuscaden	74	The House on the Hill	118	6 The Rickyard	162	Woodgrove House	206	Ladyham
31	Appledore	75	Old School House	119	7 The Rickyard	163	Carpenters Arms	207	Mouseham
32	Little Piece	76	Masons Arms	120	8 The Rickyard	164	Yew Tree Cottage		
33	St James House	77	Whistler	121	Meadow Barn	165	Cotland House		
34	Pittfield Villa	78	Lady Lovell Cottage	122	Elm Farm Barn	166	1 Meadow End		OUTLYING PROPERTIES
35	Gable Cottage	79	Ladywell Cottage	123	Elm Farm House	167	2 Meadow End		(not on map)
36	Yew Tree Cottage	80	Sunny Bank	124	Footstool Cottage	168	3 Meadow End		
37	Dolphin Cottage	81	Ellen Cottage	125	2 Elm Farm Cottages	169	4 Meadow End	208	Beechgrove Farm
38	The Knoll	82	Wisteria Cottage	126	Meadow Way Cottage	170	5 Meadow End	209	Capps Lodge
39	Garden House	83	Minstrel Cottage	127	Meadow House	171	6 Meadow End	210	Capps Lodge House
40	Fulbrook Cottage	84	Meadow View	128	Triggers Cottage	172	7 Meadow End	211	Fulbrook Gap Cottage
41	Bell Cottage	85	Ty Carreg	129	Wayside	173	8 Meadow End	212	The Rough House
42	Pytts House	86	Arkel House	130	Meadow View	174	9 Meadow End	213	Shipton Downs Farm
43	Garage Flat	87	Beach House	131	Crofters	175	10 Meadow End	214	Four Winds
44	Middle House	88	Enbre	132	Lilybank	176	11 Meadow End	215	Blackheath Farm

3.2 Mobile phones

Nearly 100% of respondents used one or more mobile phones in their households. Orange, Vodafone and O2 are the most commonly used networks in Fulbrook.



63% found their mobile reception to be very good or satisfactory, 25% variable and only 11% poor. There did not appear to be any significant correlation between provider and service quality. Households in same area of the village on the same network gave different answers to quality of reception. (*Perhaps expectations of quality differ?*)

Given the comparatively satisfactory nature of the service experienced and lack of correlation between service and providers there is insufficient basis to suggest a strong need for action or supplier switch. Perhaps the survey should be repeated once the 4G networks have been rolled out to Fulbrook.

Action 3.2 Mobile phones and 4G in Fulbrook		
How	Who	When
i) Review survey data to see if any significant network variations and post on Website and Newsletter	Village Plan Team	March 2013
ii) Repeat Mobile phone quality survey in a couple of years once 4G rolled out	Parish Council to initiate	Review in April 2014



Upper End

4. The Environment

4.1 Footpaths and Bridleways

The off-road footpaths and bridleways around Fulbrook are very well used with 70% of residents walking or riding them more than once a month and 40% at least once a week. Given this level of interest it is not surprising that a number of suggestions for improvements were made, including:

- Improve maintenance: cut hedges, improve drainage, better vegetation management
- Better signage
- Improve accessibility: create more even surfaces, improve and replace stiles where necessary
- New footpaths e.g., to Burford or creating circular routes

However desirable new routes might be, creating new footpaths is extremely difficult without a landowner's consent. The Parish Council's powers are limited to presenting concerns or suggested changes to the County Council which has the responsibility for footpath maintenance and improvement. Some of the other suggestions should be easier to implement and deserve consideration by the Parish Council which may in turn need to approach landowners.



The Millennium Steps

Action 4.1 Footpaths in Fulbrook		
How	Who	When
i) Identify Footpath Warden to assess current state of footpaths and liaise with OCC Footpaths Officer	Parish Council to identify	Spring 2013
ii) Review suggested improvements and implement or approach landowners to maintain paths etc.	Parish Council and landowners responsible for footpaths to be made aware of suggested improvements	Review in April 2014

4.2 Pavements: - lights, dogs and grit

Fulbrook residents happily walk the pavements in the village and to Burford too and a number of environmental and safety issues were raised about the state of certain pavements, some of which may be easier to address than others.

4.2.1 Pavements - A Tight Squeeze in the Dark

Some sections of pavement were considered too narrow and potentially dangerous such as the crossing over Burford Bridge and the pavement on the A361 opposite Church Lane (although there is space on the other side of the road there). Safety issues were also raised regarding inadequate street lighting in quite a number of places, but above all on the A361 from the roundabout up Cocklands Hill towards Walnut Row which one resident described as, '*very dark and unsettling at night*'. There were, though, also some concerns about excessive lighting elsewhere in the village (see section 4.3 below) so clearly a balance needs to be struck.

Over three quarters of respondents thought that the pavements through Fulbrook were adequate but at the same time over 40% thought there were areas where they didn't feel safe.

Pavements adequate?		Safe?	
Yes	No	Yes	No
76%	24%	58%	42%

The principal areas of concern were all on the A361:

- Opposite Church Lane 36
- From Garnes Lane to Westhall Hill 11
- The path from the Masons Arms to the Millennium Steps 3

The first two were also areas where pedestrians felt there was inadequate lighting. In both places there are pavements or verges on both sides of the road, though crossing isn't always easy. Possibly improved lighting would go some way to addressing the safety concern and permit easier crossing of the road at night (*see action 4.4 below on street lighting*).

4.2.2 Dog Fouling

23% of respondents said that dog-fouling was a problem in Fulbrook and for those who did find it a concern it seemed to be a significant and quite widespread nuisance with Beech Grove, Garnes Lane, Westhall Hill, Cocklands Hill and the A361 (Shipton Road) verges out of the village all getting several mentions. All these sites and Meadow End as well already have bins so lack of usage by a small number of owners seems to be the problem.

A number of suggestions for improvement were made including (amongst the less draconian):

- additional dog litter bins – although there are already bins at most sites
- better signage – small signs and posters by Fulbrook school children warning of the health risks of leaving mess on pavements and footpaths
- adoption of the 'Stick it and Flick it' approach promoted for footpaths (not pavements!) by the National Trust and Forestry Commission
- writing or talking to offending owners reminding them of their responsibilities

Action 4.2 Pavements in Fulbrook – dog fouling		
How	Who	When
Dog fouling nuisance highlighted (<i>again!</i>) More publicity about sites of bins	Parish Council – Newsletter article	December 2013 - DONE

4.2.3 Snow Clearing and Gritting

There are a number of hills in Fulbrook which, whilst good for sledging by children (of all ages), are not good for walking in snow and icy weather.

Gritting of the roads is a County Council responsibility, but only major roads are routinely gritted which for Fulbrook means the A361 (Shipton Road) and the A424 (Stow Road). The location and number of grit bins is determined and paid for by the Parish Council. These are then filled (in theory) by Oxfordshire County Council once a year at the beginning of winter. (NB this is a new initiative from the County Council who in the past would return through the winter to top up bins as required following a request from the Parish Clerk). If more is required it now falls to the Parish Council to order and pay for additional supplies. This causes problems as the village currently has no site for storage and no equipment to move bulk supplies to where they might be needed.

Residents can use the grit on public paths, pavements and roads to improve access to their properties but not on private paths and drives. The Parish Council has tried to encourage residents to clear snow and ice outside their properties if able to do so. Possibly because of the impact of recent severe winters nearly three-quarters of Fulbrook residents understood that the grit bins provided are intended for use by individual householders.

There is no problem in gritting to assist neighbours

It is an urban (*rural?*) myth that this leaves you liable to being sued. There is no risk provided you clear the pavement with reasonable care and do not create a new or worse risk.

Suggested improvements included more gritting of the main roads by the County Council, especially the A361 at Cocklands Hill and Shipton Hill out of the village. Although outside the boundary of Fulbrook, problems at Burford Hill were frequently mentioned (both roads and pavements) and it is very understandable that Fulbrook residents have legitimate concerns about these conditions. Side roads such as Beech Grove and Westhall Hill were also mentioned but the County Council will not take pre-emptive action as they are not priority routes through the County.

There was support for the idea that those residents who were able should form volunteer teams to help clear paths and roads near those unable to do so themselves. In fact, this practical assistance happens already to a significant extent but it may be worth considering identifying in advance of bad weather those able to help and those likely to be in need of help. This could easily form part of the Friends in Fulbrook scheme (see action 2.4 above).



Action 4.3 Pavements in Fulbrook – gritting and snow clearing		
How	Who	When
i) Publicise use and location of grit bins in Newsletter and Noticeboard ii) Review number and siting of grit bins and storage options iii) Ask County Council to review efficacy of its road clearing and gritting through Fulbrook and Burford iv) Action - Establish volunteer snow clearing teams to help less able residents (as part of preparedness planning)	Parish Council Friends in Fulbrook	Publicity in December 2012 newsletter - DONE . Review January 2013 and annually thereafter As required

4.3 Lighting

Although 17% of respondents wanted more street lighting a substantial majority, 61%, did not. Interestingly, a similar majority (65% to 20%) did not actually consider light pollution to be an issue of concern, though there were some comments from parts of the village where residents wanted to be able to enjoy the night sky more. There were specific issues with particular driveway, household and property lighting which are kept on a great deal or all the time, possibly because of security lighting requirements. Beech Grove, Meadow End and Westhall Hill were identified as problematic in this regard.

As already mentioned, there were safety concerns about inadequate street lighting in certain parts of the village along the A361 at Cocklands Hill towards Meadow End and opposite the post box. There was some support (25%) for turning off selected street lights after midnight but a clear majority (58%) against the idea.

There is clearly no overwhelming mandate for a single course of action with lighting in the village. In fact, the message seems to be for more public lighting in some areas but less private lights in other places. It may be that the Parish Council can pass the concerns about street lighting onto the highways authority as a safety issue whilst also encouraging residents to install movement sensitive lights and appreciate the night sky within their own properties.

Action 4.4 Lighting in Fulbrook		
How	Who	When
i) Raise safety concerns and request OCC to consider additional lighting in certain places on A361 ii) Use Fulbrook Newsletter and encourage Fulbrook Fellowship to invite a speaker to raise awareness of light pollution, the beauty of the night sky and directional light reduction measures available	Parish Council Residents concerned about light pollution	April 2013 During 2013

4.4 Litter

Litter, like lighting, appears to be a localised problem within Fulbrook. Over three-quarters of respondents didn't think it was a problem. The 23% who did mainly identified the A361 (on Cocklands Hill and the verge leaving towards Shipton) and near the edge of the village on Beech Grove as the main problem areas. These locations tend to support the idea that this is a problem mainly caused by litter thrown from cars. There were suggestions that more, or more frequently emptied, bins should be provided but if the problem is littering from cars this wouldn't help.

There was warm support for the twice yearly **Village Clean Up Days** organised by the Amenities Group. That group would welcome more volunteers and is especially keen to see a return to whole families participating so that children and younger people get actively involved in village life.

Action 4.5 Litter in Fulbrook		
How	Who	When
i) Continue Village Clean Up Days	Amenities Group – think how to promote as a family activity	April 2013
ii) Consider different types of signs promoting use of existing bins and aimed at motorists too (<i>'Please tell us where you live so we can share our litter with you ...'</i>)	Amenities Group	On-going

4.5 Recycling Waste Collection – not a load of old rubbish

Since 2010, kerbside collections in West Oxfordshire have included weekly food waste and recycling collections and fortnightly non-food waste and gardening collections all of which require separation by householders. It was timely to take stock of how the new system was working.

The majority of residents (70%) have no problems with the new system and some declared it good or excellent and one of the best schemes in the country in terms of the amount of recycling achieved. 11% did have problems, especially with the fortnightly rather than weekly collection of non-recycling waste and 19% reported occasional problems such as recycling waste uncollected. Besides the absence of weekly collections there was no single issue concerning large numbers but it may be worth passing the survey results overall and individual comments to West Oxfordshire District Council to give them praise and also to see if information about the scheme and maybe some elements can be improved.

Action 4.6 Recycling in Fulbrook		
How	Who	When
i) Add specific link to WODC Waste Services to Fulbrook website	} Parish Council	March 2013
ii) Pass survey results and comments to WODC		

4.6 Village Action Groups and Improving Fulbrook’s Environment

Awareness of the activities of different Village Action Groups varied, partly reflecting their current activity levels:

Climate Change Group	Amenities	Fulbrook Web for Wildlife
27%	80%	48%

There was an encouraging, if not surprising, level of interest in improving the environment in Fulbrook with plenty of suggestions which these groups *or others* might act on:



There are many potentially very good ideas here but it is not realistic simply to expect the Parish Council, the Amenities Group or the Fulbrook Web for Wildlife to take on all the initiatives proposed.

4.6.1 An Environmental Review for Fulbrook? Any Volunteers???

The Plan Steering Group considered whether to recommend an overall review of the environmental entity of the village with a conservation plan as the output. As well as the above suggestions, such a review could explore ideas such as bird boxes, natural playground for children, hedgerows, ponds, working with local farmers and the timing of mowing verges.

On balance the Group felt that, although a comprehensive conservation plan would be a very useful tool, it was difficult to see who, beyond the present activists, would undertake such a review and the time commitment of those already involved probably precludes that. Therefore, whilst the Plan Steering Group would certainly not oppose an overall environmental review of Fulbrook it did not seem practical to recommend it as one of the key plan actions.

The following actions are suggested in addition to continuing to support the work of the Amenities Group and the Fulbrook Wildlife Web which promotes the regeneration of diverse habitats amongst the verges and hedgerows of Fulbrook.

Action 4.7 Improving Fulbrook's Environment		
How	Who	When
i) Request Parish Council to look at ways of stopping vehicles damaging verges, improve street signs and removing unnecessary ones	Parish Council	Article in Newsletter December 2012 – DONE and On-going
ii) More wildflower areas, planting trees and shrubs	Fulbrook Web for Wildlife	On-going
iii) Creating a community woodland - <i>would need land and considerate planning</i>	Identify Champion and set-up Steering Group	Parish Meeting April 2013
iv) Look at Jubilee projects for street furniture including seats in shady places	Parish Council	September 2012 - DONE
v) Pass all survey suggestions to Parish Council for information and consideration	Village Plan Group	January 2013 - DONE



The bottom of Beech Grove from Orchard Row

5. Transport, Traffic and Mobility

Fulbrook is largely built around the spine of the A361 (Shipton Road) which, though it connects us well to the rest of the world, does bring its share of traffic problems with speeding cars and heavy vehicles. More than 15 years ago there was a public consultation on the routes for a possible Burford By-pass (taking through traffic from the A40 to join the A361 and A424 south of Fulbrook) which would have alleviated much of the problem but, though a route to the west of the village was favoured, no funding was forthcoming.

Given that questions were asked in the House of Commons about the prospects for a Burford By-pass as long ago as 1970 it seems unlikely that such a scheme will proceed in anything like the near future. This plan therefore assumes that we will have to live with the effects of traffic and seek to ameliorate these as best we can.

5.1 Road Safety

Whilst **Speeding**, (80% of villagers were concerned), is regarded as more of a problem than heavy traffic, both contribute to just over 60% of the village thinking that road safety is a problem. That also means that nearly 40% don't see it as a major issue so we must be careful not to get the issue out of proportion.

Road safety a problem?		Speeding?		Heavy traffic?	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
61%	39%	81%	19%	62%	38%

5.2 Traffic Calming Measures

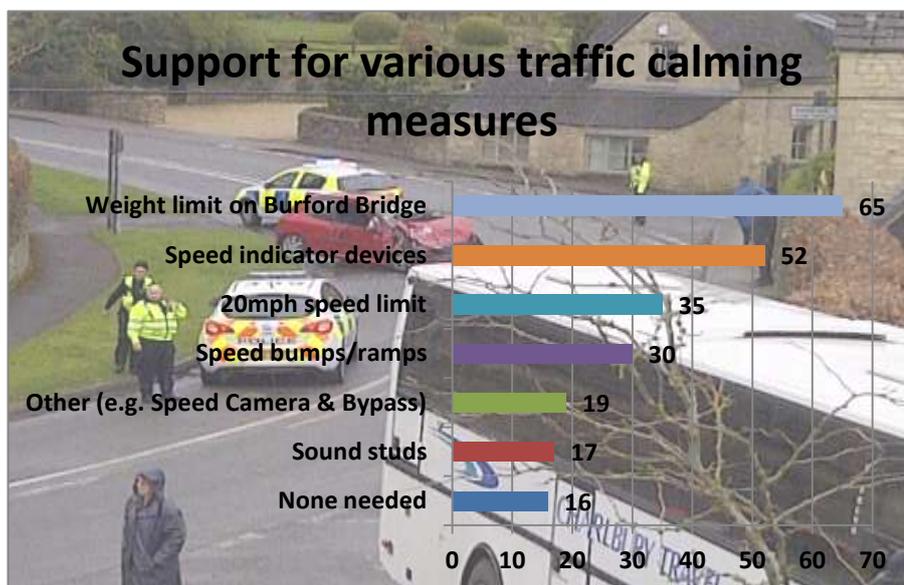
The survey sought views on possible traffic calming measures. Unfortunately, the most popular idea of a lower weight limit on Burford Bridge is unlikely to be feasible because of its status as part of an A road and likewise a 20mph limit may be hard to get approval for on this class of road.

Some of the other options may be possible and should be explored further.

About five years ago there was an active group, "Safer Fulbrook", within the village monitoring traffic speed and numbers of vehicles passing through the village and seeking ways to reduce speeding along the A361. This group had

some success and led to periodic police speed control monitoring and the speed indicator signs at the entry to the village from Shipton.

Although the Parish Council can pass the findings of the survey onto the County Council as the Highways Authority it seems likely that an action group lobbying and raising the profile of road safety in Fulbrook and what could be done about it with councillors (*and our local MP*) may be more likely to have an effect.



Action 5.1 Improving Road Safety in Fulbrook		
How	Who	When
Promote re-forming of <i>Safer Fulbrook</i> to consider and take forward following actions	Interested Volunteers to liaise with Parish Council and Police Community Support Officer and lobby the highways authority, the OCC	Spring 2013 following Plan launch
i) Continue regular Police speed camera patrols ii) Bring forward the Fulbrook Village sign 30mph closer to the roundabout thus removing the 40mph limit entirely through the village and install a flashing 30mph sign iii) Painted speed 30mph speed signs on road (as reminders) – even change road colour iv) Ask children of the village to design some “stop speeding” placards and post on lamp posts as an extra reminder to motorists v) Examine longer-term possibilities for a cycle path and a 20mph limit along the A361		

5.3 Cycle Path

Only a minority, 31%, were in favour of a cycle path with the A361 (Shipton Road) being the obvious route. Given the road width it is difficult to see how a cycle path could be installed without curtailing pavement width or narrowing the road below the required minimum for an A road. The number in favour suggests that it isn't a high priority in the village, though, if it were feasible, it could improve safety and promote greater cycle use among children.

5.4 On the Buses

Fulbrook residents are not great bus users but this may in part reflect the quality of service on offer. Of the three buses serving Fulbrook, the service overwhelmingly most used is the 233 which runs several times daily to Witney. The other services are not frequently or heavily used by respondents to the survey.

	233 (Daily to Witney)	113 (Thursday to Carterton)	V12 and V21 (Twice weekly to Stow and once to Chipping Norton)
Used during last year	48	4	5
Used more than once a week	14	1	0

5.4.1 Use by Younger People

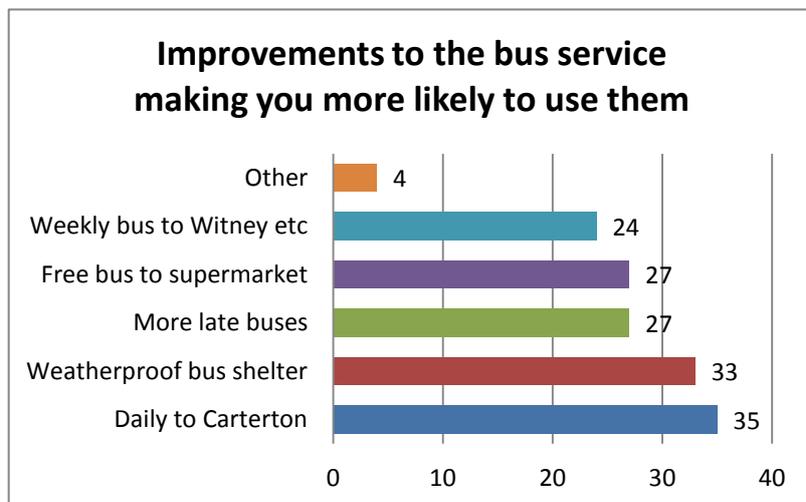
Younger residents were also asked how far the service met their needs and how much they used it. Not many replied but they did make a number of suggestions for improvements that would help meet their needs, including:

- More frequent and later buses, especially to Witney
- A bus service to station at Charlbury – *add Fulbrook to the Villager bus route?*
- Buses direct to Oxford

5.4.2 Potential Improvements

There were plenty of suggestions for improvements and not just from current users.

Our bus services emerged unscathed from the last county-wide review by OCC in 2011 but the



county council is reducing subsidies because of financial pressures and unsubsidised later buses are simply not economically viable. The best we can do is to prepare a strong case for improvements for the next triennial review which will begin later in 2013 and hope at least to maintain the services we currently enjoy. The survey results provide a good starting point for PC input to the consultation.

5.4.3 Car sharing to Charlbury?

Another suggestion is to investigate the possibilities of a car-share to Charlbury Station. Car share schemes generally tend to work well where groups of people are making very regular journeys to and from the same place which may well not be the case in Fulbrook. If there is interest though from train users, it could perhaps be developed as a service via the Village website, possibly on a weekly basis if passengers know their pattern for the forthcoming week well enough to offer lifts in advance to interested parties.

5.4.4 Dial-a-Ride

Dial-a-Ride is a door-to-door minibus service operated by Oxfordshire County Council for people such as the elderly or disabled who find it difficult to use public transport. Registration and bookings for the service can be made by calling **0845 3101111** and more information about eligibility is available at: <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-dial-ride>

Nearly half of respondents (48%) were aware of the service but it had only been used by four individuals. There may be scope for promoting awareness of the scheme to the target groups and increasing usage through publicity within the village on the website, notice boards and possibly the Friends in Fulbrook scheme.

Action 5.2 Improving Bus Transport for Fulbrook		
How	Who	When
i) Prepare input to next Triennial Review in 2013-14	Parish Council to respond to OCC	2013-14
ii) Investigate bus shelter locations	Parish Council with OCC	Spring 2013
iii) Better publicity for Dial-A-Ride	Parish Council - Newsletter and Noticeboards	March 2013

6. Young People in Fulbrook

Nearly a fifth of Fulbrook residents are 18 or under. 56 young people (18% of the total) were reported in the survey and if that percentage is representative of the non-responses that implies we have over 80 children in the village.

The Steering Group was therefore particularly keen to see if more activities should be developed for younger people as part of this plan. There was interest from young people and their parents in a number of activities but there was also recognition of the reality of Fulbrook's close proximity to Burford, where the majority of school-age children attend the primary and secondary schools. There is also relatively good access to larger centres such as Carterton, Witney and Oxford which offer a wide range of sports and other activities to children particularly as they get older.

These factors suggest that it probably makes sense to concentrate any plans for regular activities for younger children, whilst making sure that older children are catered for and directly involved in the planning of village-wide events such as the recent Diamond Jubilee celebrations, hog roasts, plant sales, sporting events and village clean-ups.

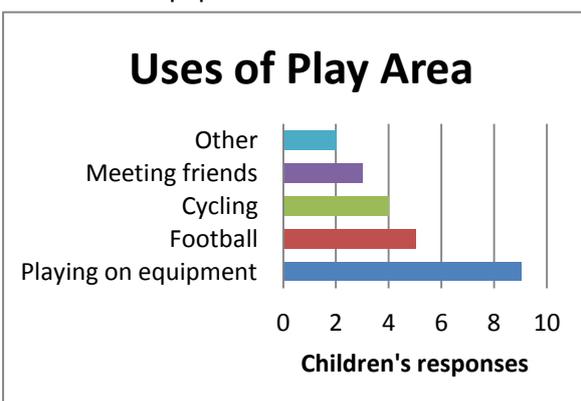
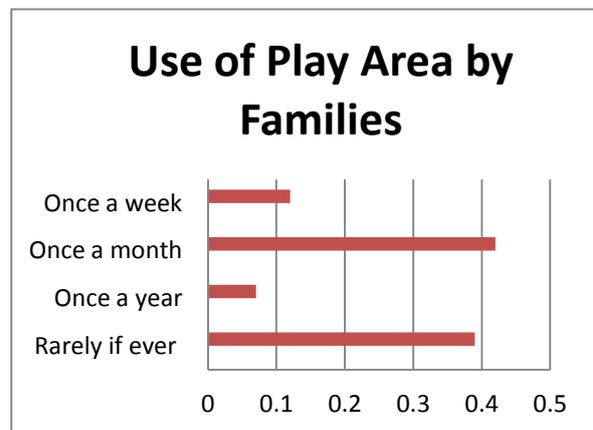
47 under 18s, mainly older children, answered the survey questions specifically aimed at them with a reasonable spread of views across this age group.



6.1 The Children's Play Area in Meadow End

This play area, developed following the Village Appraisal of 15 years ago, is used regularly by over 50% of households with children and is regarded as important by 68% of residents. The area is regarded as safe and fun by 90% of those who answered.

The equipment is clearly popular and a number of those who did not regularly use the playground commented that they were now too old for the equipment that was there. There were a number of suggestions that the play area's attractiveness could be improved by the addition of equipment for older children in addition to the basketball net.



Some ideas have previously been examined but, as well as funding, there are practical difficulties at the present site (leased from Cottsway Housing). Since a table and bench (donated in memory of Gary Mardon) were added in 2012 there is no room for additional equipment and no obvious space for secure storage space for any portable equipment. It seems unlikely that much more can be done unless a larger piece of land can become available.



The area is also used by adults as a location to sit and relax. This begs the question “*Could a larger area at a nearby location be turned into a Village Green for all to enjoy?*”

6.2 Village Events and Activities

A smallish number of children reported attending the events specifically aimed at them, such as the Craft Morning and Easter Egg Hunt. Anecdotally, it seems that some of these events are as likely to be attended by visiting grandchildren as local children which is not necessarily a bad thing.

Those that went seemed to have enjoyed them, “*Liked meeting other young people of Fulbrook*”, “*Enjoyed cakes and games*”, “*We made Christmas trees and mum still has them*”, “*Great fun and nothing could be improved*”, “*Really enjoyed Easter bonnet making*”.

Suggestions for additional activities included:

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Music/talent shows and Christmas bazaar with a visit from Santa ➤ Family fun-day or sports day events with activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treasure hunt and orienteering ○ Beat the goalie, rugby hoops passing and throwing ○ Another village cricket match ○ Bouncy castle ○ Fulbrook running or cycle race 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tug of war and obstacle race ○ Go-karting and quad-biking ○ Other outdoor arcade games ○ Archery and rock climbing (<i>on the infamous Westhall Hill massif maybe??</i>)
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The range of ideas shows that there is significant scope for imaginative planning of future village events aimed at including younger people and there are probably plenty of *children of all ages* who would enjoy many of the events.



Encouragingly, eight of the young respondents said that they would be interested in helping to plan such activities. Of course with school and extra-curricular activities it may not always be possible but those planning village events in future, whether wholly or at least partially aimed at younger people, should aim to include some young people in the planning of those activities.

6.3 Groups

A number of suggestions were made from young people about groups in which they would be interested in participating including:

- Monthly science club
- Environment, energy conservation and climate change group
- Music groups and practice space
- Zumba or other dance group
- Table games, e.g., bridge, chess, backgammon, poker (?!)
- Space to play pool, billiards, table football etc.

There are some plausible ideas here but most will require children and probably some adults to come forward and initiate them. It is possible that the Fulbrook Meeting Place may be a suitable venue for some activities but it lacks storage space for equipment and it is not immediately obvious how that can be remedied.

6.4 Social Networks

There was a fair amount of interest (20% of respondents) in using a Message Board or Facebook Group specifically targeted at younger Fulbrook residents for a variety of possible purposes. Suggestions included:

- publicising village events
- pass on new ideas and make plans for future events
- put up games, quizzes, questionnaires
- coordinate meeting up and sharing lifts

Many younger residents of course already use various social networks to keep in touch with friends locally and further afield. One thing certain is that any site maintained by the Parish Council or other adult group is unlikely to be effective or attractive to young people. The ideal would be for one or more sufficiently technically-minded teenagers to set up and run their own Facebook Group, web page, twitter hashtag or whatever the latest medium is. The Village website could provide a page or links for this purpose if that would help but the initiative is going to have to come from potential users.

6.5 Other Services for Young People and their Parents

Six households expressed an interest in a mother and toddler or baby group and we obviously need to encourage the interested parties to get together and organise these activities. There was also a suggestion of encouraging babysitting support circles and support for families with new babies.

Both of these sorts of activities often develop informally but not everyone will be aware of them at any given time and especially if new parents are also new residents the informal support networks may not be obvious. Indeed it can be quite a daunting time and ways of improving awareness and supporting such groups should be sought.



Fulbrook Events ... *for children of all ages* ...

Action 6 Improving Fulbrook for Young People		
How	Who	When
i) Establish whether there is interest in an email network / facebook site for families in the village to share info on babysitting, baby groups, coffee morning etc.. Also info for older children on local things going on	Parish Clerk with help from a couple of local mums	Spring 2013
ii) Promote inclusion of young people in planning village events	All relevant village groups, including for one-off events of interest to younger people, e.g. an occasional book group or invited speaker	Ongoing
iii) Explore activities for parents with babies and toddler age children, such as occasional coffee mornings / lunch meetings	Lucy Staveley with other village parents	Spring 2013
iv) Explore whether feasible improvements can be made to the playground , e.g. roller skate route	Parish Council in coordination with young people Seek sports shop sponsorships	Spring 2013

A Village Green for a Muddy Brook?

One substantial development which could go a long way to addressing some of the problems of not having enough space to provide interesting recreational space for older children would be to secure land for a proper village green. Unless a landowner is prepared to lease or sell additional suitable land it seems likely that the best prospect of further development of the playground is to get provision included as planning gain as part of consent for any further housing development in the Meadow End area.



7. What Next?

“Now that we have a plan we can start to change it ...”

(Lord Silsoe, QC, Planning Barrister)

The ideas here are all suggestions from local residents or other ideas generated by the Steering Group in discussion following the survey and village meeting. What is now done with the ideas is up to the residents of Fulbrook.

Some of the actions fall clearly in the remit of the Parish Council or other formal bodies to pick up but the majority are for interested volunteers to take forward. The Annual Village Meeting in April 2013 may be an occasion to take stock and check on progress but also to identify volunteers. It would be great if the plan encourages more than the ‘usual suspects’ (who are already heavily committed) to come forward. There’s plenty of scope for everyone to contribute.

Priorities will undoubtedly change, activities thought easy will prove tricky and the impossible (a village shop? speeding reductions on the A361?) will sometimes occur if there is sufficient commitment and persistence.

The Steering Group is standing down now that this plan is published. We anticipate that the Parish Council will regularly review progress and assess village priorities which will change over time and we recommend that the Village Website be used to keep this information up-to-date.

Above all, this is the Village’s Plan. How far it is successful will depend very much on Fulbrook residents. If the spirit and enthusiasm which characterised the splendid response to the Village Survey in April and attendance at the Village Meeting in September last year is maintained then the plan should achieve many of its ambitious goals and help improve the community that is Fulbrook.

Bob Tivey, Plan Coordinator, January 2013



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II Fulbrook Activities and Initiatives Directory

Activity	Contact	Position	Phone	E-mail
Activities for parents with babies and toddlers	Lucy Staveley		01993 822098	lucy.staveley@gmail.com
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Broadband Champion	Oliver Sharpley	Champion	01993 822484	osharpley@gmail.com
Burford & District Society	Elisabeth Mortimore	Secretary	01993 822606	
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Burford Bowls Club	Laura Neame		01993 822422	
Burford Friday Club	Christine Brown		01993 822589	christineibrown@tiscali.co.uk
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Fulbrook Fitness Group	Mavis Percival	Organiser	01993 823146	
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Fulbrook Web for Wildlife	Joan Lilly		01993 822742	jmlilly@btinternet.com
History Group	Laurence Balbes	Secretary	01993 823990	lsbalbes@tiscali.co.uk
Lunch Club	John & Jacky Harrington	Organiser	01993 822451	jh@rrington.net
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The Bridge	Jenny Smith	Editor		editor@thebridgeburford.co.uk
Village Clean-Up	Martin Weller	Organiser	01993 822012	wellersativy@hotmail.co.uk
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