

Action Plan

Great Shefford Parish Plan

The following abbreviations have been used in the Action Plan:

DYN	Downland Youth Network	GS	Great Shefford	TV	Thames Valley
EA	Environment Agency	GSPC	Great Shefford Parish Council	VH	Village Hall
GCT	Greenham Common Trust	NWD-AONB	North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	WBC	West Berkshire Council

Aim	The Action	How	Priority	Partners	When	Resource	Comments
AMENITIES							
To improve communication within the Parish	A1 Develop the parish website www.greatshefford.org.uk	Recruit a webmaster asap Encourage parish organisations to submit topical information	High	GSPC, Parish organisations Webmaster GCT	By mid 2007	GSPC	Website is little used, according to Parish Survey GCT have offered help with website design and set up
	A2 Ensure the continuing success of Great Shefford Parish News.	Encourage advertisers and contributors Include business premises in December distribution	High	GSPC GSP News Editor & Treasurer	Ongoing	GSPC Local Advertisers	GSPC currently underwrites funding (if required) of Christmas edition for distribution to all households in Parish, and provides computer for editor.
	A3	Promote magazine sales	Medium	Above + GS Shop & Petrol Station	Ongoing	GSPC	
	A4 Improve communications from the GSPC	GSPC to make better use of website	High	GSPC	Ongoing	GSPC, Volunteers	
	A5	GSPC to consider production of quarterly newsletter	Medium	GSPC	Early 2007	GSPC Volunteers	
To improve the Recreation Ground	A6 To improve existing junior play area facilities	Gather information on other local play areas, consult parents, seek funding then replace and/or add to existing equipment and to install a fence.	High	GSPC WBC	6-12 months	Grant funding. Possibly Section 106 funds WBC Vibrant Villages Fund	Maybe funds can also be raised by village and local businesses. Advice available from WBC, Sport England & Oxford Playing Fields Association on all aspects of improving play and sport facilities
	A7 To provide better football areas	Provision of new nets and possible goal posts. Arrange marking out of football area	High	GSPC WBC DYN	3-6 months	GSPC Connexions grant (WBC)	Specifically requested by young people in the Parish. See also Social Issues Action Plan
	A8 To install a seat for supervising parents	Seek opinions from parents as to location and need	Medium	GSPC	2007	GSPC	
	A9 To replace the existing multiplay structure	Research options Consult children and parents Seek grant funding	Medium	GSPC WBC	2008	GSPC WBC Grant funding Local fund raising	Current structure was installed in 1988

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To explore possibilities for new sports facilities	A10 To look at possibility of creating a tennis court	Explore potential sites and funding.	Medium	Parish Council WBC	2-3 months	GSPC WBC Village fund raising	Strong support noted from villagers.
To encourage the integration of Shefford School within the community and to encourage best use of its facilities	A11 Enhance communications between the School and the community	Publicity Magazine / Website articles School Open Days GSP Councillor visits	High	Shefford School, School Community Task Force GSPC	Continuous		Community events to be organised once a term - first of series of events - June 2006 "Wonderland" afternoon, November 2006 - Community Firework Party.
	A12 Explore options for extending access to the existing Badminton Club, kilns and pottery equipment.	Liaise with School Community Involvement Group	High	Shefford School School Community Task Force Shefford School Head Teacher, WBC	ASAP	Education Authority Participants' contributions	The School already offer lunch for villagers on Wednesdays and access to the Badminton Club. More community involvement is planned by the School.
To make best use of Great Shefford Village Hall	A13 Promote the use of the Village Hall as a community asset	Review the current facilities and seek funding for desirable improvements if required	High	VH Committee	2006 / early 2007	VH Committee Grant Funding	Lack of storage space has been identified as a problem for one interested group
	A14 Promote the availability of the Hall	Publicity Actively seek use of VH by organisations, classes etc.	High	VH Committee GSP Magazine GS Website School Newsletter	Continuous	VH Committee	Continue promoting Hall to wider audience - eg October 2006 Watermill Theatre production.
To offer more amenities generally	A15 Explore options for new clubs/classes	Questionnaire in Dec. edition of Magazine	Medium	GSP Magazine GS Website GSPC	December annually	Participants' contributions. Newbury College?	Yoga classes were already offered at the Village Hall with a small take up. Salsa dance classes could be if enough people interested.
SOCIAL ISSUES							
To improve the resources & facilities for young people in the Parish	S1 Clarify the needs / wishes of the young people	Youth consultation sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14-17 yrs on 22/3/06 10-13 yrs on 27/3/06 Shefford School (6-11 yrs) on 22/5/06 	High	DYN Shefford School	Done Done	DYN funding School time + DYN involvement	Already underway as a result of needs identified in Parish Plan Survey
<i>Outcomes:</i>	S2 14-17 yr old group want new football goals + nets & pitch marking at Recreation Ground	Presentation to Parish Plan committee on 3 rd April. Scheme approved by GSPC, Funding secured	High	DYN GSPC	3-6 months	Connexions funding secured (£1000). Further bid for £2000 for coaching submitted. Maintenance by GSPC	Already underway as a result of needs identified in Parish Plan Survey
	S3 10-13 yr old group want a youth club, to include a drama group	Presentation to Parish Plan Steering Committee on 10 th May. Scheme approved by GSPC, now applying for funding. Youth Group Steering Committee formed	High	DYN GSPC	2006-7	Local Network funding	Already underway as a result of needs identified in Parish Plan Survey

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	S4 6-11 yr old group want improved football facilities, a dance/drama group & a skateboard ramp	Funding for football and drama facilities – as above. Further investigation into level of demand for ramp required	High Medium	DYN GSPC	2006-7	Local Network funding	Additional fundraising required if high level of demand for ramp proven
To promote community responsibility for reducing litter	S5 Continue to organise litter-picking days						<i>See Environment Actions for details</i>
To reduce the incidence of vandalism and graffiti	S6 Improve the resources & facilities for young people in the Parish	Improve playground facilities Encourage activities for young people					<i>See elsewhere in Social Issues and in Amenities Actions for details. See Environment Actions for vandalism / graffiti repairs</i>
To reduce the incidence of crime (esp. theft) in the parish	S7 Extend existing Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	1) Public meeting on 8/5 to raise awareness of scheme 2) Local coordinators to further publicise scheme and extend coverage within Parish	High	West Berks Neighbourhood Watch + TV Police	2006-7	Ringmaster + TV Community messaging (min. cost to Parish) Volunteers GSPC to monitor progress	More coordinators recruited – half of Parish still to be covered. Consult businesses about involvement
	S8 Investigate options for Community policing	Public meeting on 8/5 to raise awareness of scheme	Medium	TV Police WBC GSPC Local Parishes	2006-7	TV Police GSPC Local Parishes	Consult businesses about involvement
To improve access to health care clinics	S9 Establish the need for a baby clinic in the Parish	Canvassing of opinion at Mother & Toddler group (April 2006)	Low	Patient Participation Group	Review annually	Via Christmas edition of GS Parish News (to all res.)	Feedback suggests that mothers are happy with existing clinics at local surgeries, and transport is not an issue. Health Visitor visits M&T monthly.
To improve access to health care clinics	S10 Establish the need for clinic(s) for elderly parishioners	Canvassing of opinion of elderly residents + questionnaire to local members of Valley Over 60s.	High		Done		All residents canvassed said that the doctor used to hold regular surgeries in the Parish – that would be their ideal scenario. However a transport scheme may be a more attainable target
	S11	Set up a voluntary car group or establish links with the established Lambourn Valley group	High	GSPC. Volunteer drivers Lambourn Valley Volunteers Lambourn Surgery	2007	GSPC Initially, then appointed co-ordinator to liaise between patients and drivers	Transport to the surgery is the main problem as the bus service is 2-hourly. Questionnaire found 24 drivers would be willing to volunteer
	S12	Some interest in a foot care clinic offering chiropody & podiatry (3 respondents) – findings passed on to Patient Participation Group	Low	Patient Participation Group	Review annually	Review via Christmas edition of GSP News (goes to all residents)	

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To assist local people (who might otherwise not be able to do so) to live / continue to live in Great Shefford Parish	S13 To assess the perceived need for sheltered housing	Canvassing of opinion of elderly residents	Low	GSPC Sovereign Housing	Review annually	Review via Christmas edition of GSP News (goes to all residents)	21% of questionnaire respondents said it was needed. However, all elderly residents canvassed said that they were happy with the facilities offered by their existing accommodation (Incl. panic buttons & security notices) and the support given by their neighbours
	S14 To assess the perceived need for affordable local housing scheme	Conduct a survey into affordable housing needs Act on the findings	Medium	Community Council for Berkshire, Rural Housing Trust, Sovereign Housing, GSPC	2007	GSPC CCB Sovereign Housing	37% of questionnaire respondents said it was needed
PLANNING							
To ensure that development within the Parish is in keeping, appropriate and in the best interests of the whole community	P1 Prepare and publish Village Design Statement	Set up a Working Group Seek funding Seek advice from WBC, NWD-AONB and possibly consultants.	High	GSPC, Volunteers, WBC, N. Wessex Downs AONB. Consultants?	2007	GSPC WBC Grant Funding	It was decided not to consider planning issues in detail in the Parish Plan, but to do so in a Village Design Statement which would be prepared as a later separate exercise.
	P2 GSPC to strive to reflect local opinion when considering planning applications and to convey this to WBC	GSPC to review regularly planning procedures GSPC to ensure interested parties are aware of applications	High	GSPC, WBC Planning Dept.	From Autumn 2006	GSPC	
ENVIRONMENT							
To keep the Parish tidy and litter free	E1 Continue to organise litter-picking days	Seek volunteers by word-of-mouth, website, GS Parish News	High	GSPC Brownies Volunteers W. Berks Volunteer Centre.	Twice yearly	GSPC Community effort Volunteers Minimal cost	Insurance / safety issues W. Berks Volunteer Centre have offered assistance
	E2 Repair damage caused by vandalism & graffiti	Where appropriate organise volunteer repair parties	High	GSPC, Volunteers, WBC W. Berks Volunteer Centre. TV Police Get Rid of Graffiti campaign	As required	GSPC Volunteers W. Berks Volunteer Centre., WBC, TV Police	W. Berks Volunteer Centre have offered assistance Also raise awareness of WBC Streetcare service via Parish News & website NWD-AONB is concerned about fly-tipping (Policy SLM7)
	E3 Increase capacity of bins/ frequency of collection of bins at A338 lay-bys at J14	Liaison with WBC and contractors	High	WBC	2006/7	WBC responsibility	

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	E4 Enforcement of existing anti-littering legislation	Deployment of authorised officer	Medium	GSPC WBC	2007/8	Costs not yet identified, possible WBC contribution	May be a WBC responsibility, but may also be delegated to Parish level.
	E5 Anti-littering education	At school/playgroup	High	School Playgroup GSPC WBC	2007/8	Costs not yet identified, possible WBC contribution	May be volunteer effort
	E6 Signage and bins outside local businesses	Seek co-operation of businesses	Medium	GSPC GS Shop Petrol Station Swan, Pheasant	2007/8	To be provided by the businesses	
	E7 Increase awareness of availability of subsidised composters	Via website, GS Parish News	High	WBC GSPC	2006/7	Uses existing resources	
	E8 Report spillages from refuse / recycling vehicles	Community action	Medium	WBC Contractors	2006/7	GSPC Community effort	
	E9 Eliminate dog fouling problems in Shefford Woodlands	Provide a dog litter bin in Shefford Woodlands	Medium	GSPC WBC	2007	GSPC WBC	Requested in Questionnaire
Encourage recycling within the Parish	E10 Try to establish a recycling "bring site" in Great Shefford	Investigate the possibility of establishing a recycling "bring site" in Great Shefford and act on the results	Medium	GSPC WBC Sovereign Housing?	2007	GSPC to initiate WBC	
Reduce noise Pollution	E11 Encourage use of low-noise road surfacing on roads and motorway						See Traffic Action Points
Reduce light pollution	E12 Modification of street lights to reduce light overspill, glare and light pollution	GSPC to initiate programme for its own lights. GSPC to lobby WBC to modify their street lights	Medium	GSPC NYD-AONB	2007/8	GSPC	Cost not identified but will depend on design of light fitting and proposed modification Maintenance of dark night skies is a key objective of the NWD-AONB management plan (Policy DP8)
	E13 Pilot study to seek ways to provide adequate lighting, but minimise light pollution		Medium	GSPC NWD-AONB WBC	2007	GSPC NWD-AONB WBC	Suggested by NWD-AONB
Improve pedestrian safety	E14 Provide low level lighting at specific locations such as the path between the bridge and River Way	GSPC project & advice available from WBC & NYD-AONB	Medium	GSPC WBC NYD-AONB	2007/8	GSPC, WBC	Cost not identified but will depend on design of light fittings

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Protection of River Lambourn	E15 Report any incidents of pollution or other abuse to EA	Community action	High	GSPC, Community EA	Ongoing		
	E16 To enhance water flow and quality in the River Lambourn	Lobby EA to reduce permits for groundwater abstractions in the Lambourn Valley	Medium	GSPC Lambourn Valley Parishes, EA, NWD-AONB Action for River Kennet, Newbury MP	2006/7	Minimal costs	
Minimise risk of flooding	E17 Ensure Wantage Road stream is unobstructed	Continue to monitor stream and remove any obstructions	High	GSPC Wantage Rd. residents	Continuous	GSPC, Community Effort	
	E18 Ensure flood protection measures are adequate	Consult NWD-AONB for flood risk information	Medium	GSPC	2007	GSPC NWD-AONB	Action A25 in NWD-AONB Management Plan
Improvement of footpath/bridleway network	E19 Initiate discussions to provide a coherent rights-of-way network	Liaison with WBC, landowners, Ramblers' Association, British Horse Society, N. Wessex Downs AONB	Medium	GSPC, WBC, landowners, Ramblers' Association, British Horse Society, NWD-AONB	2007/8	GSPC, WBC. Costs will depend on negotiations	

TRAFFIC, HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Please refer to the responses to Household Survey questions 31-34,48-49, Business Survey questions 16-18 & the Traffic Survey for the basis for these Action Points

To address village concerns regarding speeding	T1 Continue to assess the exact scope and location of the problem	Measurement of traffic speeds on all roads & research into existing data to quantify the issue.	Top	WBC	a.s.a.p.	WBC	Both the Household Survey and the Traffic Survey identified speeding in Wantage Road as a matter of particular concern
	T2 Conduct speed surveys to update existing data	WBC to undertake relevant traffic surveys	High	WBC	a.s.a.p.	WBC GSPC Volunteers	Parish Councillors can be trained to operate SID equipment
	T3 Improve 30 m.p.h. signs	Larger village/speed signs similar to Stockcross	High	WBC GSPC	2007	WBC	Negotiate the best and most effective signs that can be put in place. Space may limit the nature of the installation on Hungerford Hill
	T4 Improve 30 m.p.h. signs	White village gates at Wantage Road 30 limit similar to Stockcross	High	WBC GSPC	2007	WBC	Space is almost certainly not available for this installation on Hungerford Hill 30 signs on Wantage road particularly poor.
	T5 Improve road surface signs	Install & maintain road surface speed and warning signs (in keeping with other villages).	High	WBC	2007	WBC	Road surface signs for the Wantage Road 30 limit are particularly poor.

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	T6 Improve driver behaviour (speed)	Install Speed Activated Signs at strategic points	Very High	WBC	2007	WBC	On A338 at northern and southern entrances to Great Shefford as a priority
	T7 Improve driver behaviour (overtaking)	Double white lines through village 30 m.p.h. limit where appropriate	Medium	WBC	2007	WBC	National rules apply. Guidance required from WBC
	T8 Address anomaly in 30 m.p.h. speed signage on Wantage Road	Move 30 limit to coincide with the School warning signs	Medium	WBC	2007	WBC	Wantage Road 30 limit does not coincide with the School warning signs but starts at the School entrance road. However this change has been rejected several times by WBC Speed Limit Task Group
	T9 Enforce the existing speed limits	Press for more frequent police speed checks More SID surveys	High	TV Police WBC	2007		
	T10 Encourage slower speeds on B4000	Install "Shefford Woodlands" signs with "drive slowly" message at each end of settlement on B4000	Medium	GSPC	WBC	WBC GSPC	Shefford Woodlands is the only settlement on Ermin Street not to have these signs. Important not to increase confusion
To address village concerns over safety	T11 Improve the corner at the bottom of Hungerford Hill	To be discussed with GSPC and WBC.	High	WBC		WBC GSPC	Currently the bend is completely blind and too narrow to allow lorries to turn safely. Any approaching car may meet a lorry approaching at speed, on their side of the road and within a few metres of them.
	T12 Improve visibility from side roads	Explore possibility of mirrors or mini-roundabouts. Junctions are: The Mead, Blakeney Fields, Hungerford Hill	Medium	WBC GSPC	2007	WBC GSPC	This will improve both safety, and the noise from people accelerating fast to get out. Mirrors require Dept. for Transport approval which is rarely granted
	T13 Pavement Improvements	Pavement on Newbury Road (field side).	Low	WBC, GSPC Landowner	Long Term	WBC	Strongly supported, but practical problems are acknowledged.
	T14 Pavement Improvements	Pavement on the North side of Church Street.	Low	WBC	Long Term	WBC	There is a gap in the path coverage from the new houses on the junction, through to the Mallards. People going to church from the village centre have to either cross the road twice or walk out in the middle of the traffic.
To improve parking facilities and hence road safety in the Mead	T15 Remove grass verges where appropriate and replace with hard surface. Install drop kerbs where needed	Establish an agreement between Sovereign Housing and WBC jointly to fund and undertake this improvement	Medium	WBC Sovereign Housing	When funds available	WBC Sovereign Housing GSPC to lobby	Sovereign Housing have expressed willingness to do this in conjunction with WBC when funds are available

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To address Parish issues with traffic noise	T15 Replace existing road surfaces within village speed limits plus possibly Hungerford Hill with low noise material	Request WBC to use low noise materials when resurfacing roads within the Parish	Medium	GSPC WBC NWD-AONB	Long Term	WBC	These materials are being used elsewhere in west Berkshire
	T16 Lobby for low noise road surface on M4	Press for low noise materials to be used when the M4 is next re-surfaced and for strategic tree planting and maintenance.	High	Individuals, GS GSPC, WBC, NWD-AONB Other PCs along M4, Newbury MP	Long Term	Highways Agency	The noise from the M4 is a particular issue for Shefford Woodlands and others who live along the B4000 Ties in with Policy T7 & Actions A85 & A13 of NWD-AONB Management Plan
To improve local bus and transport services	T17 Review real bus service requirement and agree appropriate solutions to meet demand	Press for the introduction of appropriate and flexible "on demand" services	Medium	Bus Companies, WBC's Improving Transportation Group, GSPC	Long Term	Bus Companies WBC	High levels of car ownership mean that demand for bus services is low, but the services are very important for those who do not have a car.
	T18 Investigate the need for a voluntary car scheme and act on the results	Investigate need further, and if required appoint a liaison volunteer. Consider cooperation with Lambourn Valley Scheme	Medium	Over 60s Lambourn Valley Car Scheme GSPC	2007	Individuals, GSPC,	See Social action points. This could help with transport to medical appointments. Survey indicated potential volunteers. W. Berks Volunteer Centre have offered assistance