



Holybrook Parish Plan

A vision for now and the next 15 years



Creating a vision for our future

The Plan and Vision for the future of the Parish has been developing steadily over the last two years.

The results of focused consultation with community groups and the questionnaire sent to every household in October 2005 have shaped the ideas and action plans outlined in this leaflet. The Plan includes a range of projects from low cost 'quick wins' to the more ambitious and long term. Many have already been started.

We are fortunate to have a very strong Parish Plan Steering Group of 16, four being Parish Councillors and administrative support from the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to the Council.

The responsibility for implementing them may vary but without doubt the key to success is the involvement of local people shaping the future of their community.

Full results of the survey can be seen at the Parish Office and various details and statistics have been posted on the web site www.holybrookparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parish Council is represented on the Eastern Area Vision Group which is directly responsible for the 'Kennet and Thames Vision'. Via this initiative we will be working

closely with our neighbouring Parishes of Theale and Tilehurst.

With grateful thanks to everyone who completed a questionnaire, those who have helped with consultation exercises analysing data and the Steering Committee who have given freely personal time and skills and who have made this plan possible.

Claire Tull – Chairman, Steering Group



700 completed questionnaires were received, represented by:

MALES									
0-4	5-11	12-17	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-64	65-74	75-84	85+
78	69	62	81	263	222	57	55	13	2
9%	8%	7%	9%	29%	25%	6%	6%	1%	-
6%	7%	13%	5%	31%	20%	5%	9%	3%	1%
FEMALES									
0-4	5-11	12-17	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-64	65-74	75-84	85+
66	46	75	65	254	230	56	43	14	6
8%	5%	9%	8%	29%	27%	6%	5%	2%	1%
6%	7%	13%	5%	31%	20%	4%	5%	5%	1%

Bold figures represent the West Berks percentages

Public Transport & Street Safety



REDUCE CAR USAGE

In an ideal world our vision would be to reduce reliance on our cars and utilise public transport to its optimum and rid our neighbourhood of congestion and pollution. This may be an unrealistic target but there is much that can be done.

The objective is to form a Holybrook Transport Group. It will focus actively on the following:

- To establish the need for a late afternoon bus service from Little Heath and Theale Green Schools to the Parish.
- To establish the need for a bus service to and from Holybrook to Tilehurst/ Waitrose, Oxford Road, and The Royal Berkshire Hospital.
- With the support of Theale and Tilehurst Parish Councils, West Berks and Great Western Railways, establish the feasibility of a rail shuttle service from Theale to Reading. This would enable a quick and efficient method of transport into the area from Winnersh, Hungerford, Thatcham and Newbury.
- To provide a bridge over the A4 Bath Road for the safe crossing to Calcot School and improve traffic flow.

The Survey said...

- 70% of those working had their place of work in Reading and the next largest group was those working from home (about 8%).
- 360 of the respondents (51%) identified major danger spots in their neighbourhood. Significantly 55% stated that they would support a reduction in the speed limit and 67% the enforcement of the speed limit.
- 350 respondents (50%) would like to see more warning signs. Conversely 45% would not support more traffic calming measures such as speed humps and chicanes.



DANGER SPOTS IDENTIFIED

One of the surprises of the survey was the identification of so many danger spots within the Parish.

Our vision is to ensure that roads and paths within the neighbourhood are safe and secure as far as is reasonably practicable.

To do this the following measures to be implemented:

- To provide a crossing on Charrington Road to The Linear Park.
- To encourage and enforce speed limits.
- To encourage responsible parking of vehicles and discourage inappropriate parking for example at Kennet Valley School/ Carters Rise.
- To incorporate a pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights at the entrance to Fords Farm.
- To assess the provision of street lighting throughout the Parish with a view of providing and improving street lighting where necessary.
- To provide CCTV surveillance to the bus access points.

Environment and Open Spaces



LINEAR PARK

We are extremely fortunate to have the beautiful Linear Park, the large playground adjacent to the Holybrook Centre, Underwood Road Playground and several other small play areas and green spaces throughout the parish.

With the pressure of 'infilling, extensions and possible neighbouring developments, it is vital that steps are taken to protect and improve our natural amenities and heritage.

Our vision is for the Linear Park to become a nature reserve. It has a wealth of wildlife and in particular a population of water voles and other species of Special Scientific Interest.

The recent installation of the hard path through the park has helped to improve access. Further improvements will include more seating, a sensory garden and a 'discovery centre'. A refreshment booth and public toilets.

The Friends of Linear Park will take a lead role in these projects.

The Survey said...

- 26% did not know where Linear Park is and 90 % who use the park would like to see it made into a nature reserve. It is good to know that 77% feel safe in the park, but of the remainder who said that they did not feel safe, we would like to know why.
- 23% of respondents have been adversely affected by litter.
- 19% of respondents consider dog-fouling as anti-social behaviour and have been adversely affected by it.



LITTER

The first step of our action plan is to improve the cleanliness and tidiness of the Parish, within the park, other public spaces and walks. More dog bins and litter bins are to be provided. Larger bins at Linear Park to encourage recycling of cans and plastic bottles.

We hope that taking responsibility for your own litter is something that everyone will participate in.

DOG FOULING

Dog fouling of pavements, playgrounds and grassed areas is particularly unpleasant for other users and we hope to encourage dog owners to utilise the bins provided.

RECYCLING

The kerbside collections are an excellent method of recycling and reducing the waste that goes to landfill. We now have additional facilities at Sainsbury's for cardboard and plastic. Our vision is for 100% of households in the parish to use their kerbside collection. If you require collection baskets they can be supplied free of charge from West Berkshire Council 01635 42400 – Streetcare.

There are times of the year when garden waste becomes too bulky and a problem. We will be initiating a community composting scheme so that shrub cuttings can be shredded and the resulting material can be used for mulch/composting in the Linear Park. Dates and locations to be advised.



Anti-Social Behaviour and Personal Safety



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND PERSONAL SAFETY

This is something that affects us all and featured strongly in the survey. Speeding traffic, vandalism, graffiti, litter and noise.

These problems can be tackled and *our vision is for Holybrook to be safe, clean and pleasant for everyone who lives, works or visits here.*

ILLEGAL MOTORCYCLE USE

Use of motorcycles, scooters and quad bikes in The Linear Park is illegal. The Neighbourhood Wardens and Community Police Team will enforce restrictions.



GRAFFITI

Our aim is not just to remove unwanted 'tagging' but in a controlled environment, initiate a community art project that can be enjoyed by everyone where graffiti can be expressed as an art not a nuisance.

The Survey said...

- 23% of respondents have been affected by vandalism, 19% by theft, 3% by drug abuse, 2% by mugging.
- 24% of respondents felt that a greater police presence was needed.
- 18% felt that there ought to be more CCTV coverage.
- 18% want better consultation between police and local people.
- 12% want more community activities.
- 10% requested improved street lighting.
- 10% requested more drink/drug education/prevention.
- 8% wanted wider use of Neighbourhood Watch.

PERSONAL SAFETY

We hope that the measures taken to improve street lighting and road safety will ensure better safety for everyone. The Parish Council are actively establishing a Neighbourhood Action Group in conjunction with the Wardens and Community Police Team. The objective is to reduce the fear of crime, establish whether there is actually a problem or perceived crime and then take appropriate action to deal with it.

The overall aim is to radically reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour and build a safer community.

Amenities



COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Overall, we fare very well, having two, large, well maintained community centres providing excellent activities for all ages. These will soon be further supported by the extension to the Kennet Valley Free Church.

What we don't have is an annual event to identify and unify the community. Such events take a lot of hard work and dedication. A music and arts event is to be progressed via the youth groups operating the Garage and Buzz Projects.

A wider, all encompassing event could be held in **summer 2007** but first we need volunteers to help organise it!

If you or an organisation would like to get involved please contact the Parish Office.

Since the survey, the bowling alley at Pincent's Lane has re-opened.

There is no easily accessible swimming pool in the eastern area of the county. The Kennet and Thames vision also focuses on the lack of this particular amenity.



UNDERWOOD SHOPPING AREA

Whilst the precinct remains in private ownership, there is very little that local residents can do to improve the situation. The area desperately needs re-development. We must ensure that when work does eventually start, we are best-placed to be actively consulted and involved. An action group would be the best way forward. Please contact the Parish Office for further details.



MY NOTES – DIARY DATES

The Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Timescale	Resources
Key problem : ROAD SAFETY						
Crossing at Charrington Road/Linear Park	Thames Valley Police. West Berks (Highways)HP Council	Medium	West Berks Highways NAG (SID)	Reading Transport. Berks Fire Service	Spring Max 2007	Level of local budget control/authority. Training of volunteers (SID).
Enforce speed limits	Use of SID via NAG	High/Medium	NAG	HPC, TVP	ongoing	Establishment of NAG /volunteers /training
Kennet Valley School. Parked cars Carters Rise	Carters Rise Action NAG Consultation + school governors /parents	High/Medium	Kennet Valley School	K V School, NAG Highways	NAG to be established June 2006	Volunteers. Cost of road markings. Availability of parking elsewhere
Incorporate crossing at Fords Farm traffic lights	Consultation with West Berks	Very High	West Berks/Highways	K & T Vision WBC	Urgent	Cost of provision
A bridge over the A4 (replace crossing to Calcot School)	Consultation + West Berks Calcot School Pegasus Homes Tilehurst PC	High	West Berks	Tilehurst PC, WBC Pegasus, Calcot School K & T Vision	Summer 2009	Cost of provision - responsibility for capital funding
Street lights general	Wardens to Access needs	High	Holybrook PC	Wardens NAG WBC - comm. safety	ASAP	Budget/Precept
Bus sump	Camera					CCTV will pay for itself over time

Key problem : CRIME, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, PERSONAL SAFETY

Motor vehicles, cycles in the park and public land	'Notices' 'Police Enforcement' Wardens 'Lobby Group' & local MP	High	Friends of Linear Park	Wardens, NAG, TVP	Immediate	Timing of patrols
Litter	Provide more bins and dog foul bins. Increase 'frequency of emptying'. Consult with 'McDonalds' to improve packaging disposal	High	Parish Council	RBC, WB 'McDonalds'/Youth Team	6 months	Collection of rubbish and cost of bins
	Sub Action Plan. Youth - litter pick-up	Medium	Youth Team	HPC	ASAP	
Graffiti Reduction	Community event or art project	Medium	The Garage Project/Buzz Project	Youth Services. HPC	3 months	Finding a venue /permanent/mobile/ temporary. People to organise the event. Cost of marketing and materials
Disperse groups of youths. Street safety. Personal safety	Educate residents. Community police, wardens (CPO). 'Community Street Watch'	High/medium	The Community	NAG Youth Groups Wardens K & T Vision WBC	ongoing	Provide activities and 'Youth Shelters'. Provide equipment e.g. basketball hoops. Provide dedicated youth facility. Maintain and improve existing y.f. and budget talks. Long term planning for the cost of provision and sustaining initiatives. Need more volunteers
New initiatives on street 'watch'	Launch project for Holybrook	High	Parish Council	Parish Council	6 months	Time! Volunteers Marketing

The Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Timescale	Resources
Key problem : ENVIRONMENT						
Access for cyclists and pedestrians to cross railway. If bridge not possible. Improve steps/railway	Public right of way. Improve access on either side. Provide a bridge	High/Public safety	Great Western West Berkshire Council	Railway, WB Reading and District Angling HPC	1 year	Cost of provision and maintenance. Management and supervision to ensure public/train safety.
Linear Park to become a nature reserve/SSI	Establish green flag status Establish criteria for nature reserve	High	FOLP	Berks, Bucks, Oxon Wildlife Trust, FOLP, Pang Valley Trust, RSPB	1 year	Criteria - cost of mapping geog /species. Cost of employing a park ranger 20k/year. Public facilities - provision/maintenance 'Discovery Centre' Education/Culture Centre
'Green' House-keeping, Litter, Graffiti, Dog fouling, Litter Picking	More Bins Wardens	High	PC Wardens		6 months	Cost of provision
Recycling	Community composting - shrub shredder. Community skip day? Bins in park for recycling of plastic and cans	High	HPC	WBC	6 months - 1 year	Education Cost of collection advertising
Sensory garden	FOLP to assess possible site, planting, access and costs	Medium	Friends of Linear Park	FOLP, HPC Horticultural Society Wardens – restorative justice scheme	ASAP	Grant funding Volunteers needed
Mill Lane to become a conservation area	HPC to assess need criteria	Medium	HPC and residents	Residents	Ongoing	Protection of trees and hedges, wildlife. Preserve buffer zone between the two estates.
Underwood Road redevelopment	Develop in keeping with the Holybrook Centre and church to provide residents with a range of basic amenities - e.g. post office, doctor, shop	High	WBC HPC	WBC Develop residents action group and involve in consultation	Several years	Unknown Establish a residents' action group/volunteers. Ability to engage in meaningful consultation.
Improve entrance to Fords Farm	Tidy and improve landscape. Clear undergrowth	High/Medium	Kennet & Thames Vision, WBC, HPC	Residents and local businesses	18 months	Sponsorship, grant funding

Key problem : YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Assess needs over and above Buzz and Garage projects	Y.T. to carry out consultation via B & G and sec school	High	WBY & C Team	HPC Parish Plan Group	April - May 06	Volunteers Building space available Cost of provision
Lack of volunteers to run activities	Advertising. Need a strategy. Joint venture and other groups? Editorial in Parish magazine/newsletter	High	As above	PP Steering Group	ongoing	Cost of printing posters and leaflets
Playground design and equipment	Buzz Project to be involved in design of refurbishment Holybrook playground 'virtual budget'	High	Buzz Project leaders	HPC PP Steering Committee Community groups	April - May 06	Refurbishment budget allocation. Apply for grant funding if necessary
Lack of space/facility for youth activities that are not shared with other c/gs and implications of use/décor and design	Feasibility study to use upper floor Beansheaf Centre over changing rooms. Prepare a design brief. YPs to be involved in design. Public launch of project?	High	HPC/WBC	Youth Team FOLP K & T Vision	Feasibility study by end Sept 06. Design brief by end July 06	Use of project in accreditation of work GCSEs/A level etc tech/business studies/etc. Prize for design. Grant needed for FS. Feasibility study.

The Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Timescale	Resources
Key problem : TRANSPORT						
Develop a Transport Group	Volunteers/via Steering Group	High	Steering Group	Theale PC Tilehurst PC Holybrook PC Reading Buses/Public	ASAP	Ability to initiate changes. Future costs of provision/fares - how these will be funded
Later buses for schools	Consultation with Little Heath/Theale schools	High/med.	Transport Group	Theale School Little Heath Reading WBC		Cost of study to assess level of need. Volunteers for Transport Group
Lack of buses to Theale, Waitrose /Tilehurst, Royal Berks Hospital, Access to Arlington Park, Med Centre, Library, Adult Education, Shops, Schools		High/Medium High Priority High/medium	Transport group	Reading Buses	Long term	
Rail - shuttle service Theale/Reading to provide good access from Winnersh, Hungerford, Thatcham, and Newbury	Consultation with businesses/Arlington Park	Medium	Transport Group	Theale PC Holybrook PC West Berkshire Council Great Western	2 years	Provide public transport access as above.
Road congestion	Encourage more people to use public transport, walk/cycle to school.	Medium	Individual choice /responsibility	West Berkshire Council, Reading Buses, Holybrook PC, Transport Group.	Ongoing	Make roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Provide more/better crossings/street lighting at strategic places.

Key problem : AMENITIES

Further consultation with teenagers, art/graffiti encourage community spirit among the young	Consultation & series of events, music	High/Med	Youth Team - Garage & Buzz Projects	HPC WBC K & T Vision	Start immediate	Venue/site - temporary/ permanent facility. Cost of lead artist materials. Cost of marketing. Staff/volunteers
To make the end of Beansheaf Centre into a youth /culture activity centre	Via K & Thames vision reps. Consult Youth Service West Berks, HPC, Friends of Linear Park	Very, very high	Steering Group West Berks East Vision group (K & Thames Vision)	Eastern Vision group. Friends of Linear Park, Youth Team, HPC K & T Vision	Start summer 2006 projected end date summer 2009	Long term funding, will big business assist? Staffing/funds for feasibility study. Design brief. Building work
Support Theale swimming pool. To develop & retain the pool	Reps on working groups for the project. K & Thames Vision reps, Theale PC, HPC, W Berks	High	West Berks K & Thames Vision	Theale School HPC TPC	ASAP	Funding Sustainability
Market Publicise our amenities e.g. Linear Park & Communicate our amenities, park and social clubs	Leaflet about our open spaces. Board of animals/birds etc to be found in park. Schools to be involved in designing the leaflets		Linear Park	West Berks, HPC, schools, Linear Park		Business to fund Free publicity on Berks Bird Website
Annual Community event. Major one to launch it.	To celebrate the plan initiation & update community each year/2 year. The local community	High	HPC/FOLP	K & Avon Trust. Local football, local rugby. Combine with groups	Summer 2007	Establish an event group seek funding
Provision of café/tea bar in the Linear Park/Beansheaf Centre	Consider site/garage/ Beansheaf?			WBC	Summer 2007	Community development grant



Aerial view of parish.

This Parish Plan has been developed with the help and support of:

Community Action West Berkshire (CAWB) and the guidance of Sarah Ward – *Community Development Officer*.

West Berkshire Council

Holybrook Parish Council

Kennet Valley Free Church

Kennet Valley Community Association

Friends of Linear Park

The Neighbourhood Wardens

West Berkshire Council Youth and Community Team

Kennet Valley Mother and Toddler Group

Kennet Valley Pre School

The Holybrook Community Cafe

Kennet Valley School

Pegasus Housing

Barton Wilmore Architects

David Baldock – *Clerk to the Parish Council*

Rachel Buckingham – *Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council*
(to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for analysing questionnaires and data!)

The Steering Committee

Claire Tull, Mary Bedwell, Phil and Linda Browne, Roy Brimpton, Janet Carey, Bernard Gilbert, Steve Green (our grateful thanks for his skill in producing this document), Alison Hanwood, Sue Hough, Lynne Macmillan, Ian Paine, Sophie Pashley, June Scott, Carol Terry and Tony Ward.
