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INTRODUCTION

Where has the Parish Plan come from?

The incoming Parish Council, elected in 2003, wanted to put together a strategic plan for the whole village. The PC applied for and was given financial support from the Countryside Agency - and the first tranche of our grant was received in April 2004. Following a plenary village meeting in May 2004, a steering committee of ten volunteers was formed, representing various interests and areas of the parish. This group has been working together to drive the process forward.

What is the Abbots Leigh Parish Plan?

The Parish Plan is a strategic document for the entire community. It outlines the issues and priorities that the residents of the Parish want addressed. It is a 5 year plan, which will be reviewed every year. It aims to cover all aspects of living in the parish with a view to improving the quality of life for everybody. To be of use, it needs to incorporate real changes which will yield tangible improvements.

But how do you know what I want for the Parish?

In April/May 2004, a number of residents were invited to 8 workshops. The aim was to identify the key areas of concern across the village. Using this information, a survey was developed and delivered to every household in June 2004.

This survey gave us the opportunity to tell the Parish Council about ourselves and our families, the issues that concern us and to suggest ways to improve life in the parish.

The steering group, with generous funding from the Countryside Agency, has now pulled together all of the key issues identified in the survey results and has created a series of Action Plans to move us towards our objectives.

Haven't we done this already?

Sensibly, a number of people have asked why we need a Parish Plan when we have a perfectly good Village Character Statement. The answer is that we need both: they serve different purposes but they work alongside each other. The VCS is concerned with maintaining and preserving the heritage and character of the village, with particular reference to its rural aspects and acceptable development. The Parish Plan is a collection of Action Plans to improve the quality of life for all residents, young and old, living in the parish.

Who is going to work on the Parish Plan?

The Parish Plan is a community document. It only has value if everybody chooses to opt in and make it work. However, somebody has to be at the helm and that is the role of the Parish Council, who will be responsible for keeping the Plan on target and ensuring that progress is being made and the improved quality of life achieved. But the Action Plans rely on the enthusiasm and input of residents so please volunteer to help. It need only be a small commitment of your time.

For a general offer of help, please contact Graham Heywood on 375424. If you would prefer to work on a specific Action Plan then the following people are helping to coordinate the initial work and would be delighted to hear from you:

| <u>Action Plan</u> | <u>Contact</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>Email Address</u> |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Community Spirit & Amenities | Pete Wills | 372308 | pwills@snapsurveys.com |
| Environment | Di Stewart | 372878 | dimurray@onetel.com |
| Development | Mike Crabtree | 373752 | m.c.crabtree@mcmail.com |
| The Younger Generation | Jane Gibbons | 372112 | Jane.a.gibbons@btinternet.com |
| Transport & Travel | Pip A'Ness | 375250 | simontp@westbarns.freeseve.co.uk |
| Village Services | Mike Hield | 374550 | |
| Communication | Graham Heywood | 375424 | |

Acronyms

No document would be complete without the frequent use of acronyms throughout. This document is no different so here is an explanation for most of those that we have used:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| PC | Parish Council |
| PCC | Parochial Church Council |
| PPG | Parish Plan Group (the group working on this document) |
| CS | The Abbots Leigh Civic Society |
| DEFRA | Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| NSC | North Somerset District Council |
| CSSL | Clifton College Services Ltd |
| VCS | Village Character Statement |
| UWE | University of West of England |
| CA | Community Action |
| TTFT | Ten to Fourteens |

PARISH PLAN OBJECTIVES

In 2009, compared with today, we aim to have achieved the following objectives...

Community Spirit and Amenities

- More people are more involved across a broader spectrum of events and activities
- There is greater awareness of what is going on and a greater willingness to attend and contribute to village projects.
- The planned improvements to the Village Hall have been completed.
- The development plan for the Skittle Alley has been agreed and phase one has been implemented.
- The farmers' market is now well established.
- The Old School Field is a popular venue for informal and organised social gatherings for all sections of the community and is recognised as a valuable asset for social interaction.
- Partnerships have been established with Clifton College Services, St. Katherine's School and The George Inn, and a growing number of people have taken advantage of these arrangements.

Environment

- Traffic is moving more slowly through the village both on the A369 and side roads
- There is measurably less road noise, light and air pollution.
- There are fewer heavy lorries on the A369
- We are enjoying well maintained verges and footways.
- The Management Plan for Abbots Pool has been implemented and future maintenance agreed.
- There is agreement in principle for at least one new linking footpath.
- A new Footpaths Map has been produced and footpaths are regularly inspected and cleared.
- There is less litter and dog fouling.
- The community is working to support the diverse and rare wildlife in and around the village.
- Heritage trees and hedgerows continue to enhance our natural landscape.

Development

- The key principles and recommendations of the VCS have been upheld in terms of preserving the green belt and the integrity of the village fence, protecting the views and in not permitting unacceptable development.
- A sheltered housing development has been explored and may involve a permitted breach of the village fence.
- The question of creating a conservation area has been debated and the pros and

cons have been put to the village in the form of a referendum.

The Younger Generation (Under 18's)

- The village shop / café is a popular place for both young people and parents with pre-school children to meet.
- Regular sporting activities, clubs and classes are arranged specifically for the younger generation.
- There are regular opportunities to get together at social events aimed at the younger generation.
- The enhanced Old School Field is a popular venue for informal social gatherings of both parents with pre-school children and independent older children.

Transport and Travel

- The cycle path is a safer and more attractive option for both cyclists and walkers.
- The cycle path has been extended to Pill, Ashton Court and onwards, encouraging cyclists to use it to reach their destinations for work and education.
- Affordable public and private (eg car sharing) options, designed to get people to their required destinations, have been made available to the village.

Village Services

- People express a greater level of satisfaction with the range and quality of the services available.
- Mains drainage has been installed in part of the parish.
- Mains gas continues to be reviewed as an option for the parish.
- The Recycling Scheme covers the entire parish, it has been expanded to include more materials for recycling and more people are using the service.

Communication

- Communication between the Parish Council and the parish continues to improve.
- More people communicate with the PC - both positively and negatively - and more people use and contribute to the web site.
- The Parish Council has used the web site to get feedback on specific issues.
- Information regarding the PC and other parish activities/events is available from a variety of sources and media.
- There is better availability of printed information in the outlying areas of the parish.

ACTION PLANS

1 COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND AMENITIES

1.1 A Sense of Community and Involvement

The Parish Plan Objectives for 2009

- More people are more involved across a broader spectrum of events and activities.
- There is greater awareness of what is going on and a greater willingness to attend and contribute to village projects.

Background and progress to date

There are a number of groups that promote projects for the benefit of the parish and social integration, including the Civic Society, the W.I., Time Out, and the Gardening Club. However, it would seem that, as a community, we all need to do more. There is no single Action Plan that will achieve community spirit. The parish needs more people to get involved and get together in lots of ways, either socially or by working on village projects. This involvement needs to be proactively encouraged and facilitated.

Working on the Action Plans within this document is a perfect opportunity for new people to join village projects, contribute to the community, meet new people and find out more about the parish. Please help us to do this by volunteering a little bit of your time. The Contact List is on page 3.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

A number of people feel that there is a lack of community spirit, a lack of village events, feel isolated, that people don't mix and have a sense of a divided village.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Project Workers | High | Community / CS / PC <i>Immediate</i> PPG | Minimal. <i>The Parish Plan Group will try to ensure that at least 30% of the people who work on the Action Plans are new to village project work. This will be done by personally inviting individuals and advertising within the Parish for volunteers.</i> |

1.2 The Village Hall

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The planned improvements to the Village Hall have been completed.

Background and progress to date

The hall was built in 1896 and given to the village in 1927. It is managed by the Parish Council and the caretakers have overseen a steady increase in bookings over the last 3 years. In the recent past the PC has given a high priority to village hall improvements.

The kitchen has been supplied with a commercial oven, a commercial dishwasher and a hot cupboard. A new audio and loop system was installed in September 2004 and a baby changing table in October 2004. The internal front doors have been draught proofed and a new external sign was installed in January 2005.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Better heating system; improved parking; large screen for presentations, cinema, etc; better seating; new fridge freezer or fridge. NOTE: *Routine maintenance items not included.*

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|--|--|
| The New Heating System | Medium | Community Action <i>Summer 2005</i> PC | Can sufficient funding can be found – possibly via CA? <i>PC will investigate and cost alternative solutions by the end of December 2005. There may not be a 'better' system available.</i> |
| Improved Parking | High | Community <i>Immediate</i> PC | Minimal. <i>PC will investigate alternative ways of managing the current situation but options are limited.</i> |
| Install large projection screen | High | - <i>During 2005</i> PC | Funds are available. <i>PC will assess and cost alternative options by the end of September 2005.</i> |
| Better Seating | Medium | Community <i>Autumn 2005</i> PC | Funding may be spread over several years. <i>PC to consult with main users on a variety of improved seating options by the end of December 2006.</i> |
| New Fridge Freezer | Medium | Community <i>During 2005</i> PC | Funds are available. <i>PC will consider cost options and justification for fridge freezer or new fridge by the end of December 2005.</i> |

1.3 The Skittle Alley

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The development plan for the Skittle Alley has been agreed and phase one has been implemented

Background and progress to date

The Skittle Alley was built shortly after the Village Hall in 1910 and in its early years featured a rifle range as well as skittles. Today it is leased to the AL Skittles Club, a lease that expires in August 2007. Whilst the roof has been regularly maintained the interior of the building is overdue for a facelift.

New fascias, gutters and down pipes were fitted in October 2004.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

We need to determine the optimum long-term uses for the Skittle Alley given that it is under utilised at present. Various ideas have been put forward including: skittles (retain); youth club; community coffee shop; bookshop/library; farmers market; nursery school; internet café; meeting place for the elderly; shop/Post Office.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--------------------------|----------|---|---|
| The Skittle Alley | Medium | Community Action <i>Summer 2005</i> Peter Wills | Depends upon the availability of external funding. <i>We will form a working party, including a representative from the Skittles Club, to investigate and cost a variety of long term multi-use options. The working party will make its first report to the PC by the end of December 2005.</i> |

1.4 The Farmers Market

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The farmers' market is now well established.

Background and progress to date

Parish Council have already started investigating the potential for a market. There are many questions around site, number of shoppers, variety and number of stalls etc that would need to be dealt with first. Local farmers have been approached and are interested in getting involved.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

A significant majority of the parish supported the idea of a farmers market.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|---|----------|--|---|
| Farmers Market – Produce a feasibility report. | Medium | Mike Amos / National Assoc. of Farmers' Markets / NSC / Brackenwood Garden Centre / Leigh Court Organic Farm <i>April 2005</i> PC (Pip A'Ness) | Depends on site. Otherwise should be self funding. <i>This report is to deal with location of market site, parking, number and variety of stalls etc. Report due by the end of October 2005.</i> |

1.5 The Old School Field

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The Old School Field is a popular venue for informal and organised social gatherings for all sections of the community and is recognised as a valuable asset for social interaction.

Background and progress to date

The Parish Council leases the Old School Field from North Somerset Council and is responsible for its maintenance and insurance. It is an amenity for all residents of the parish, both young and old. The Civic Society encourages its use through regular village events such as the Bonfire Night party.

The Old School Field Project will deliver a number of enhancements to the field by July 2005. The final scheme was designed in consultation with the parish. It addresses the needs and concerns that were highlighted: extra seating, sympathetic landscaping, rustic children's equipment, maintaining open views and open play spaces, boules pitch and consideration for the neighbouring properties.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

The adults highlighted the need for more seating for the elderly, activities for the older community, more play equipment for children, sympathetic improvements to the rural setting, concern about increased traffic and visitors to the field. The children wanted more to do, more social events, opportunities for getting local children together and more play equipment.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|-------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Regular Boules matches | Medium | Civic Society / Parish Council / The community <i>April 2005</i> Civic Society | Minimal. Civic Society has provided one set of Boules, which is kept in the equipment box in the field. <i>The Civic Society to consider whether this can be accommodated on its regular list of events. Report back by the end of June 2005.</i> |

1.6 Community Partnerships

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- Partnerships have been established with Clifton College Services, St. Katherine's School and The George Inn and a growing number of people have taken advantage of these arrangements.

Background and progress to date

The parish recognises that there are a number of important neighbours in the parish where a mutually beneficial partnership could be put in place.

Clifton College Services Ltd: a wholly owned subsidiary of Clifton College, offer their wide range of sporting and keep fit facilities to the general public. There are no membership fees - you pay as you play. Generally the fees appear to be competitive but few individuals or families from Abbots Leigh as yet use the facilities. The PC met with CCSL in November 2004 and discussed reduced fees for residents and the possible use of the CCSL minibus service across the Suspension Bridge.

St. Katherine's School: is within the parish boundary and Pill supplies many of its pupils. In the past there has been little contact between the parish and the school although there are clear opportunities for mutual support and collaboration. The PC met with St Katherine's in August 2004. It was a very positive meeting and Gerry Ennever (Business Manager) was immediately recruited to the Parish Plan Steering Group.

The George Inn: is considered to be an essential asset to the village residents. Its retention as a public house in the future is of fundamental importance.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Clifton College Services (CCSL) | Medium | CCSL June 2005 PPG | Minimal. <i>The PPG to meet with CCSL and establish the key elements of a lasting partnership with tangible benefits for both parties. Completion by the end of December 2005.</i> |
| St Katherine's School | Medium | St. Katherine's June 2005 PPG | Minimal. <i>The PPG to explore with St. Katherine's the basis on which a successful and mutually rewarding partnership can be built. Final details to be ready for publication by the end of December 2005.</i> |
| The George Inn | Medium | The George Inn June 2005 PPG | Minimal. <i>The PPG to explore with the management of The George Inn ways to integrate it further into the life of the village and hence increase its popularity and clientele. Report back by the end of December 2005.</i> |

2. ENVIRONMENT

2.1 Traffic through the village

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- Traffic is moving more slowly through the village both on the A369 and side roads.

Background and progress to date

John Blain and Mike Crabtree from the Parish Council together with Roger Harrison met up with N. Somerset Highways and put the arguments for having a 30 mph speed limit through the village and on the side roads. March 2005 the NSC Highways Department is going through the legal procedures required to achieve this change. Measures for traffic calming and installation of a new pedestrian crossing close to Denyview Road have stalled due to lack of public finance at North Somerset Highways.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Speed of traffic through village both on the A369 and side roads.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|----------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Speed limits | High | NSC Highways Dept. <i>Immediate</i> PC | NSC. None required from PC. <i>2005: 30 mph limit on A369 and side roads already organised. PC to press NSC for early completion.</i> |
| Traffic calming measures | Medium | NSC Highways Dept. <i>June 2005</i> PC/ Roger Harrison | NSC. None required from PC. <i>Investigate the possibilities of these measures on side roads (especially Manor Road/Weir Lane, Sandy Lane) and report back by the end of December 2005.</i> |
| Resurfacing of Manor Road | High | NSC Highways Dept <i>Immediate</i> PC | NSC. None required from PC. <i>NSC is applying for funding from Central Government for resurfacing work. Mike Hield to review regularly to ensure progress. Report back by the end of September 2005.</i> |

2.2 Pollution

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- There is measurably less road noise, light and air pollution.

Background and progress to date

Negotiations have been taking place between the Parish Council and North Somerset Highways Department for some time. NSC agreed to put a quiet surface on the A369 but this has not yet happened. The PC has been applying pressure to get traffic diverted from the A369 to the A4 or possibly by another Park and Ride between Pill and Portishead.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Problems with road noise, light and air pollution.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|---|---|
| Resurfacing of A369 with quiet material | Medium | NSC Highways / Brendan Stone <i>a.s.a.p.</i> PC | None required from PC. <i>Communicate with NSC and get confirmation that these works are in their plans, by the end of September 2005.</i> |
| Control of light pollution | Medium | NSC Planning / Clifton College Sports Ground / Cotham Rugby Club <i>Continuous</i> PC | NSC. None required from PC. <i>PC to monitor planning applications and liaise with CCSL and Cotham RFC – by the end of December 2005.</i> |

2.3 Heavy Lorries on the A369

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- There are fewer heavy lorries on the A369.

Background and progress to date

The Parish Council has been negotiating with NSC Highways and the Avon and Somerset Constabulary to encourage lorries to use the A4. The A369 is nominated as a local freight route, which means that only lorries making local deliveries and local lorries should use it e.g. quarry lorries, deliveries to The George Inn etc. It is currently being used as a through-traffic route by non-local freight.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

There are too many heavy lorries passing through the village.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|---|----------|---|--|
| Diversion of heavy lorries to A4 / elsewhere | High | NSC Highways / Avon and Somerset Police / Neighbouring Parish Councils. April 2005 PC | NSC. None required from PC. <i>Discuss with NSC Highways the designation of the A369 as a local freight route and with the Police the issue of enforcement. Report back by the end of September 2005.</i> |

2.4 Verges and Footways

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- We are enjoying well maintained verges and footways.

Background and progress to date

North Somerset Council Highways have recently cleared the verges along the A369 for the first time for very many years. The Parish Council organised a village litter pick in spring 2004.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

The need to maintain verges and footways.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|--|--|
| Regular planned clearing of verges by NSC, including gutters and drains after leaf fall | Medium | NSC Highways <i>Ongoing</i> PC | NSC. More work for village orderly? <i>Continue to communicate with NSC on a quarterly basis.</i> |
| Twice yearly Parish Litter-Pick | Medium | Civic Society / NSC <i>Spring and after verge cutting July/Aug 2005</i> PC and whole community | Gloves, Bags from NSC. <i>To be organised by Parish Council and involve whole community – first litter pick April 2005.</i> |

2.5 Abbots Pool

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The Management Plan for Abbots Pool has been implemented and future maintenance agreed.

Background and progress to date

A Management Plan was produced by North Somerset Council and approved by the village. In autumn 2003 a monthly working party started meeting in the Abbots Pool area and has been repairing and clearing steps, cutting down rhododendrons, clearing paths and installing tables and benches made by a local resident, Mike Hield. Other maintenance work has been organised by NSC Rangers. The Civic Society and Parish Council have already contributed £750 to match NSC's contribution, which should secure a Forestry Commission grant.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

The Survey identified the importance of maintaining this area as a wildlife haven and recreational amenity.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|--|---|
| Liaise with relevant agencies about Management Plan and about new nature reserve status | Medium | PC / NSC / CS / Env. Agency / Forestry Commission / Countryside Agency <i>Ongoing</i> CS | Not known at this stage. <i>Liaise with partners. Ensure that Plan is being achieved. CS to produce bi-annual statement of progress by the end of December 2005.</i> |
| Apply for Heritage Lottery Grant for restoration of heritage features in the dam area | Medium | Local Heritage Initiative <i>Immediate</i> CS | Not known at this stage. <i>Contact Countryside Agency / DEFRA and get help with putting in a grant application by the end of June 2005.</i> |

2.6 New Footpaths

The Parish Plan Objectives for 2009

- There is agreement in principle for at least one new linking footpath.
- A new Footpaths Map has been produced and footpaths are regularly inspected and cleared.

Background and progress to date

New footpaths have been under discussion since the Village Character Statement identified them as an improvement to village life, particularly linking Dennyview Road to Sandy Lane and between Church Road and Leigh Court.

A new footpaths map, in colour, is being produced by Colin Woodward.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Many people indicated that they would like new footpaths and an updated footpaths map.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|--|--|
| Negotiate routes for new footpaths | Medium | NSC (Footpath Improvement Plans) / Landowners / Ramblers Association <i>Immediate</i> PC | Minimal – NSC to fund? <i>Get advice from NSC to see if the new legislation will help in achieving at least one new path – Report by the end of September 2005.</i> |
| New footpaths map is being produced | High | Civic Society <i>Immediate</i> CS / Colin Woodward | Grant aid for publishing or a charge made. <i>In hand early 2005 – printing by June 2005.</i> |
| Inspection of Footpaths | High | Civic Society <i>Immediate</i> CS Team | Minimal. <i>At least every quarter starting June 2005.</i> |

2.7 Litter and Dog Fouling

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- There is less litter and dog fouling.

Background and progress to date

The new barriers at the Coronation Avenue entrance to Leigh Woods and at Abbots Pool car park have reduced car dumping and other nuisances within these beauty spots. There is also a greater police presence. NSC supported the parish litter pick in April 2004 and continues to respond immediately to reports of dumped cars and rubbish.

Dog fouling within the village, on footpaths and in the Old School Field, is a persistent problem. A minority of dog owners continue to decline to clear up after their animals.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

There are general problems with litter and dog fouling, in certain areas of the village.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|---|----------|---|---|
| Help control litter around Abbots Pool with new wildlife proof litter bins | High | PC / NSC / Whole Community <i>Immediate</i> PC / PPG | Minimal – NSC. <i>Discuss with NSC the provision of more bins and regular clearance of these bins. By the end of September 2005.</i> |
| Provision of 'dog bins' and penalty signs | High | PC / NSC / Dog Owners / Community <i>Immediate</i> PC / PPG | Minimal – NSC. <i>Discuss main areas of problem and investigate bins/signs: Church Road and Abbots Pool area. Report by the end of September 2005.</i> |

2.8 Support Wildlife

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The community is working to support the diverse and rare wildlife in and around the village.

Background and progress to date

The majority of residents state that what they like most about living in the Parish is the rural environment and the wildlife. These need to be actively protected.

In the autumn of 2003 a number of wildlife organisations put on displays in the village hall. We have built up a good relationship with the staff that run the National Nature Reserve in Leigh Woods. We have included wildlife in the management plan for Abbots Pool. A number of volunteers have been recording local wildlife for up to 10 years.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|---|--|
| Creation of a Wildlife Handbook especially for Abbots Leigh | Medium | Whole Community / National Trust / Bristol Naturalists / Avon Wildlife Trust / NSC / Forest of Avon / Civic Society <i>Ongoing</i> Tom Walmsley (Tree Warden) | Typesetting and graphic design. Print run of one copy for each household – to be sold at cost price. <i>Compile a list of local wild life records. Create a list of conservation objectives for the village by the end of March 2006.</i> |
| Continue to enhance the wildlife garden in churchyard. | Medium | PCC / Tree Wardens <i>Ongoing</i> Church Wardens | Minimal. <i>Create a plan to assist with the development of the garden. By the end of September 2005.</i> |

2.9 Heritage Trees and Hedgerows

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- Heritage trees and hedgerows continue to enhance our natural landscape.

Background and progress to date

The Village Character Statement and the recent survey both identified that the surrounding countryside was a very important factor in most people's enjoyment of the village. Many national conservation organisations are now offering considerable support to local communities working to identify and enhance native trees and hedgerows. 'Heritage' trees are exceptional trees, they may be very old, have record dimensions, be very rare species or associated with some aspect of our culture or history.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|---|--|
| Map of Heritage Trees and Hedgerows | Medium | NSC / BTCV / Forest of Avon / National Trust / Land owners / English Nature <i>Summer 2005</i> Tom Walmsley | Small print run and services of a graphic designer. To be sold at cost price. <i>Co-ordinate with footpaths map, if practical. Map the notable trees and hedgerows by the end of March 2006.</i> |
| Enhancement and planting of hedgerows and trees as wildlife corridors | Medium | BTCV / Forest of Avon / National Trust / land owners <i>Ongoing</i> PC via Tree Wardens | Co-ordination of volunteer programmes, obtaining saplings and buying materials to protect them. <i>Identify trees and hedgerows that need maintenance and apply for grants as appropriate – by the end of September 2005.</i> |

3. DEVELOPMENT

3.1 The VCS

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The key principles and recommendations of the VCS have been upheld in terms of preserving the green belt and the integrity of the village fence, protecting the views and in not permitting unacceptable development.

Background and progress to date

The Civic Society supported by the Parish Council surveyed the village in order to generate the Village Character statement (VCS). This was subsequently adopted by North Somerset Council as supplementary planning guidance in 2001. The VCS has been used by the Parish Council as the basis for commenting on planning applications.

The changes to the regional planning system with the introduction of the South West Regional Assembly and the effective scrapping of the North Somerset Council Structure Plan are likely to reduce the effectiveness of the VCS in due course.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

The response to the questionnaire identified the need for future developments to be in accordance with the VCS.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|---|----------|--|--|
| Maintain the key principles of the VCS | High | NSC planning dept. / PC Oct 2005 Civic Society | Minimal cost unless the VCS requires to be re-issued. <i>Investigate how the significance and integrity of the VCS is to be maintained under the new Regional Planning system – leading to a potential upgrade or re-issue of the VCS if necessary. Report by the end of December 2006.</i> |

3.2 Sheltered Housing

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- A sheltered housing development has been explored and may involve a permitted breach of the village fence.

Background and progress to date

In response to a number of enquiries the Parish Council has done a preliminary study into sheltered / affordable housing.

The Parish Council has followed up an approach with the Rural Housing Trust to understand the steps necessary to generate affordable housing within the Parish.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

The response to the questionnaire identified a statistically significant desire for sheltered housing in future.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|---|----------|--|---|
| Investigate the practicality of and requirement for a Sheltered Housing scheme | Low | NSC planning dept. / NSC Housing dept. / Rural Housing Trust <i>Spring 2006</i> PC | Minimal cost. <i>Carry out a housing assessment to establish the likely need/take up for a sheltered housing scheme by the end of December 2006.</i> |

3.3 Conservation Area

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The question of creating a conservation area has been debated and the pros and cons have been put to the village in the form of a referendum.

Background and progress to date

The survey of the Parish for the creation of the VCS showed a majority in favour of investigating the feasibility of designating part of the village as a conservation area. The Parish plan questionnaire returned a similar result.

An attempt to allocate a UWE student to this task in 2004 was unsuccessful but a further student could be made available in 2005.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

The response to the questionnaire identified a clear majority in favour of establishing the pros and cons of a conservation area for the Parish.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|---|----------|---|---|
| Investigate the feasibility of conservation area | Medium | Civic Society /UWE / Robert Narracott / NSC Summer 2005 Civic Society | Minimal cost – UWE student expenses. <i>UWE student to conduct survey/work with NSC conservation dept. to investigate the feasibility of parts of the Parish being designated as a Conservation area. Survey / work due for completion by the end of October 2005.</i> |

4. THE YOUNGER GENERATION (Under 18's)

4.1 Village Shop / Café

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The village shop / café is a popular place for both young people and parents with pre-school children to meet.

Background and progress to date

Many of the issues identified by the younger generation (wanted a Shop / Café, more to do, more social events, getting local children together, more play equipment) could potentially be met through a village shop / café. The village shop / café suggestion is being investigated as part of the Action Plan for the Skittle Alley.

4.2 Enhanced Old School Field

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The enhanced Old School Field is a popular venue for informal social gatherings of both parents with pre-school children and independent older children.

Background and progress to date

The children of the village identified a number of issues including wanting more to do, more social events, opportunities for getting local children together and more play equipment in the Old School Field. The Parish Council and Civic Society have jointly helped to progress The Old School Field Project, which was outlined and agreed after much village consultation. The project is delivering what the village asked for, which for some may be too conservative and yet for others too radical. The plan being implemented is a compromise to meet the needs of both young and old and will deliver the following enhancements: new seating, access improvements to gate and field, planting and landscaping, boules pitch, games box with sports equipment and various children's play equipment.

The village is very grateful to Living Spaces, YANSEC and North Somerset Council for generous grants, which have covered 86% of the costs.

Beyond the project, the maintenance, promotion and future enhancements for the Old School Field are covered under 'Community Spirit and Amenities'.

4.3 Social Programme for the younger generation

The Parish Plan Objectives for 2009

- Regular sporting activities, clubs and classes are arranged specifically for the younger generation.
- There are regular opportunities to get together at social events aimed at the younger generation.

Background and progress to date

According to the last census, there are some 150 children (17 and under) in the parish, which represents 19% of the parish population. Child centred activities currently offered in the parish are limited to the weekly Mums and Toddlers group which meets in the village hall and really only caters for the under 3 year olds and the TTFT group which meets regularly and is for the ten to fourteen year olds. The Civic Society has run a very successful Bonfire Night party for some years. In addition, the Children’s Christmas Party and the Festival in the Field look set to become regular events in the village social programme.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Both adults and children asked for more for children to do, more social events, opportunities for getting local children together, more play equipment, more clubs and classes such as tennis, football / hockey goal posts, cricket, 5-a-side-football, dance classes, keep fit, Brownies, School Holiday clubs and drama.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| Regular sporting activities | Medium | Whole Community / CS / CCSL / St Katherine’s <i>Immediate</i> PPG | Unknown at this point. <i>Sporting ‘champions’ need to be identified within the village who would be willing to create various sporting clubs and events. Report back by the end of December 2005.</i> |
| Regular clubs / classes | Medium | Whole Community / CS / CCSL / St Katherine’s <i>Immediate</i> PPG | Unknown at this point. <i>Volunteers from within the village need to be identified to encourage the formation, membership and attendance of various clubs and classes. Report back by the end of December 2005.</i> |

5. TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL

5.1 The Cycle Path

The Parish Plan Objectives for 2009

- The cycle path is a safer and more attractive option for both cyclists and walkers.
- The cycle path has been extended to Pill, Ashton Court and onwards, encouraging cyclists to use it to reach their destinations for work and education.

Background and progress to date

The cycle path is for shared use for both cycles and pedestrians. It starts at the junction of Manor Road /A369, crosses the road at the lights at Beggar Bush Lane and finishes at the entrance to North Road. NSC is responsible for the cycle path and footway, including its maintenance, upkeep and signage. NSC has recently undertaken significant verge clearance and tree work on the A369, reducing the tree canopy over the cycle path, improving safety and visibility for cyclists and walkers. NSC has also undertaken to address the concerns of cyclist and motorists at the exit from the Clifton College site by shifting the alignment of the cycle path away from the exit just at this point. 37% of residents use the cycle path, mainly for leisure and to get to Clifton.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Cyclists use the road instead of the cycle path, poor maintenance/lack of leaf clearance, poor access onto/off cycle path, safety issue around driveways and exits, improve and widen the cycle path beyond Beggar Bush Lane (i.e. upgrade the footway running alongside Ashton Court), extend the cycle path to Pill, poor signage, cars parked on the cycle path, traffic emerging from gateways.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|--|--|
| Maintain high standards of maintenance and upkeep | High | NSC <i>Immediate</i> Parish Council | Minimal. <i>Investigate/understand the current NSC maintenance programme for the cycle path, footway and verges. Gain commitment from NSC to ensure that the current high standards of clearance and maintenance are kept up throughout the year. By the end of September 2005.</i> |
| Extend the cycle path | Medium | NSC <i>Immediate</i> Parish Council | Minimal. <i>Understand what the NSC plans are for the cycle path in the medium and long term, and what would need to happen to get the cycle path extended. By the end of December 2005.</i> |
| Improve visibility and sight lines at exits on the cycle path | High | NSC / Clifton College Services Ltd <i>In Hand</i> Parish Council | Minimal. <i>Discuss improvements with Clifton College Services Ltd and NSC. Report back on initial discussion by the end of September 2005.</i> |

5.2 Transport Options

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- Affordable public and private (eg car sharing) options, designed to get people to their required destinations, have been made available to the village.

Background and progress to date

The majority of the parish use their cars to get about, and particularly to get to work and school each day. Clifton is the main destination (49% of school children and 28% of employed adults) and yet we don't have a bus service to Clifton at the moment. There is a small group that uses the bus service regularly and find it adequate for their journeys but there is a requirement for significant improvements in the service and a reduction in fares. Given the small possibility of a significant improvement in the bus service, the community may need to consider alternative transport options for itself.

Most children would consider sharing a lift or taking a bus to school, with some of the older children interested in cycling there. There is an interest in alternatives to public transport for regular and scheduled trips to school, Cribbs Causeway etc., such as a minibus. However, there is little support for that service being owned and run by the parish itself.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Buses: Reduce the fares, increase frequency, better timekeeping, access to timetables, route to Clifton, more routes to the Bristol area. Alternative travel options: support for car sharing, minibus to Clifton and dial-a-ride Community Car service.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--------------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| Bus Issues | High | NSC / First Bus <i>Immediate</i> PC | Minimal. <i>Di Stewart, with the Parish Council, to relay our complaints and discuss future plans and routes for Clifton with First Bus. Report by the end of September 2005.</i> |
| Alternative transport options | Medium | NSC <i>Immediate</i> PC | Unknown at this point. <i>Consult with residents to understand requirements, consider options available and gain commitment to a new service. Report back to PC with initial consultation plan by the end of December 2005.</i> |

6. VILLAGE SERVICES

6.1 Satisfactory services

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- People express a greater level of satisfaction with the range and quality of the services available.

It is intended that there will be another Parish Survey in 2009. That survey will include questions to gauge whether people feel that the above High Level Aspiration has been achieved.

6.2 Mains Drainage

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- Mains drainage has been installed in part of the parish.

Background and progress to date

In February 2002, Dave Barrett of NSC, conducted a survey of all houses in the village. There was a 50% response to this, which was equally divided between those in favour of mains drainage and those against. The areas most interested were Pill Road and Blackmoor Road. Wessex Water then followed with their own survey and concluded that money should be set aside for Pill Road and Blackmoor Road within the 2005/2010 timeframe. The system to be installed would be an extension from Pill.

Wessex Water has confirmed (January 21st 2005) that they have been authorised by OFWAT to implement the scheme in 2008. Roy Smith from Wessex Water is keen to address a meeting in the village hall soon.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

50% of respondents supported mains drainage in the village.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|--|
| Mains Drainage | Medium | NSC / Wessex Water 2008 PC | Not a charge on the parish. Will depend upon householders' perception of value for money. <i>Mike Hield to monitor the current position with NSC and Wessex Water on a quarterly basis from the end of June 2005. Meeting of local residents with Roy Smith to be arranged by the end of June 2005.</i> |

6.3 Mains Gas

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- Mains gas continues to be reviewed as an option for the parish.

Background and progress to date

In January 2003 Mike Hield wrote to all the interested parties who had responded positively to questions in the Link the previous autumn. Based on supplying Church Road, Manor Road and Manor Lane Transco provided estimates, which assumed £100 per metre of main and a fixed charge of £280 for each connection. This gave a cost per connection of £15,400. Only 19 out of 111 potential customers were interested in a gas supply, at a reasonable price. Transco do not regard the supply of gas to Abbots Leigh as a commercial proposition.

We have established with Transco (January 21st 2005) that the current costs would be £130/metre and £402 per connection. This takes the average cost per household to over £20,000! This is prohibitive for residents currently however, as there is some support for mains gas, we need to continue to review the situation with Transco.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

There is some support for mains gas.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Mains Gas | Very Low | Transco <i>Not Known</i> PC | Not a charge on the Parish. <i>Mike Hield to monitor the position with Transco on an annual basis, starting December 31st 2005.</i> |

6.4 The Recycling Scheme

The Parish Plan Objective for 2009

- The Recycling Scheme covers the entire parish, it has been expanded to include more materials for recycling and more people are using the service.

Background and progress to date

In March 2004 North Somerset Council introduced a kerbside recycling scheme. Initially the scheme could only serve those houses in the parish that could be reached by the large recycling lorry. A smaller recycling lorry became operational at the beginning of 2005 ensuring that all remaining properties could now be reached. The Parish Council has developed strong links with NSC's Waste Minimisation Officer, Catherine McCoy, and continues to promote the scheme and recycling issues every month in The Link. NSC plans to extend the kerbside scheme to include plastics from September 2005. The Parish Council has also investigated opportunities for green waste recycling within the parish – the siting of such a facility and reliance on volunteers are the main obstacles.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

There was overwhelming support for the scheme, with 58% of respondents making use of the service. The scheme was only available to 86% of respondents when the survey was carried out. Many were keen to see the service extended to take a wider range of materials, particularly plastics. Cardboard and green waste recycling were also requested. In addition, many were keen to see the scheme increased in frequency to weekly, and for recycling collections to be made at the same time as refuse collections. A surprising number of people were unaware of the scheme.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Continue to support NSC's plans to extend the kerbside scheme through local publicity | High | NSC April 2005 PC (Pip A'Ness) | None. <i>Ensure website information is up to date and improvements to the service are highlighted in future editions of The Link.</i> |

7. COMMUNICATION

7.1 The Parish Council

The Parish Plan Objectives for 2009

- Communication between the Parish Council and the parish continues to improve.
- More people communicate with the PC - both positively and negatively - and more people use and contribute to the web site.
- The Parish Council has used the web site to get feedback on specific issues.

Background and progress to date

The Parish Council has made a number of recent changes to try and improve communication with the Parish. The Council wishes to develop a number of communication paths to achieve greater coverage and to encourage feedback from residents.

The Parish Council information in the 'Link' has been increased to provide a regular report on Council activities. The village web site has been reconfigured; planning information and Council minutes are regularly updated. PC minutes are displayed on the Hall notice board in addition to the church porch.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Use of the web site; use of notice boards, contact with Parish Councillors and availability of more comprehensive information.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|---|--|
| Parish Council annual report | Medium | - <i>Spring 2005</i> PC | Cost of printing, method of delivery. <i>The PC will issue an annual report on its activities for the past year and its plans for the coming year to all households.</i> |
| Parish Council Surgeries | Medium | Community/Friends of the Village Hall <i>Summer 2005</i> PC | Minimal. <i>Parish Councillors will make themselves available at the start of the Village coffee mornings.</i> |
| Input to the 'Link' | High | PCC/Adelaide Ferguson <i>Immediate</i> PC | No funding implications. <i>The Parish Council will maintain its current style of input to the Link to achieve good coverage and immediacy of information</i> |
| Use of e-mail to supply information | Medium | Community <i>During 2005</i> PPG | No funding implications. <i>The PPG will investigate whether there is a requirement for information to be distributed directly by e-mail. Report back by the end of December 2005.</i> |
| Use of e-mail to solicit feedback | Medium | Community / Webmaster <i>Autumn 2005</i> PC | No funding implications. <i>The Parish Plan group will initiate a pilot scheme to allow residents to give feedback on proposals by e-mail. Report back by the end of December 2005.</i> |
| Suggestion box | Medium | Community <i>During 2005</i> PC | Minimal. <i>The Parish Council will install a suggestion box in the Village Hall lobby by Autumn 2005.</i> |

7.2 Throughout the Parish

The Parish Plan Objectives for 2009

- Information regarding the PC and other parish activities/events is available from a variety of sources and media.
- There is better availability of printed information in the outlying areas of the parish.

Background and progress to date

Information within the Parish is largely dependent on the Link as the primary source. Other printed information is posted only on the Village Hall notice board. The survey showed that some households do not receive the Link and those outlying residents would like more available information.

The Parish Council information in the 'Link' has been increased to provide a regular report on Council activities. The village web site has been reconfigured; planning information and Council minutes are regularly updated. PC minutes are displayed on the Hall notice board in addition to the church porch.

Issues Identified in 2004 Parish Survey

Provision of more notice boards, annual circulation of a key phone nos. list, leaflet rack in the Village Hall lobby, use of the local paper, possible use of The George Inn as an information point.

| Issues | Priority | Partners / Start Date / Lead | Resources & Action Plan |
|--|----------|--|---|
| Additional notice boards | Medium | Marie Ware Summer 2005 PC | Cost of 2 additional notice boards \approx £1500. <i>Provision of 2 additional notice boards – 1 for Manor Road and 1 for the Pill Road bus stop by summer 2006.</i> |
| Leaflet rack in Village Hall lobby | Medium | Community / Friends of the Village Hall Summer 2005 PC | Cost of leaflet rack \approx £500. <i>Installation of a leaflet rack in the village hall lobby to give access to leaflets, council documents welcome packs etc by the end of October 2005.</i> |
| Key Contact list | High | - Immediate PPG | Production cost \approx £200. Delivery method? <i>The annual provision of a laminated key contact list for councillors, church, district council, village facilities, club/society secretaries etc. – first issue Xmas 2005.</i> |
| Supply of information to local papers | Low | Clevedon Mercury During 2005 PC | Minimal. <i>PC will ensure that suitable information is provided to local papers as appropriate.</i> |
| Use of 'the George' as an information point | Medium | George Inn Autumn 2005 PPG | Provision of an information board \approx £500. <i>PPG to consult with The George Inn on the opportunity to create an information point within the Pub by the end of December 2005.</i> |
| Development of the web site | Medium | Community During 2005 PPG | Minimal. <i>Web site to include additional information e.g. Bus timetable, footpath map, 'welcome pack' info – this will be progressive during 2005/2006.</i> |
| Link circulation | High | PCC Spring 2005 PPG | None. <i>In conjunction with the PCC confirm delivery arrangements of the Link to ensure delivery to all households by the end of July 2005.</i> |

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St. Katherine's School

Marcus Palmen –the Abbots Leigh Website Manager

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