

LIDDINGTON PARISH PLAN



March 2012



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THE PARISH PLAN- What it is and how it was achieved

Parish Plan has been defined as -

“A statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years. It:

- 1. reflects the views of all sections of the community;***
- 2. identifies which features and local characteristics people value;***
- 3. identifies local problems and opportunities;***
- 4. spells out how residents want the community to develop in the future;***
- 5. prepares an action plan to achieve this vision.”***

The first Parish Plans were produced in the early 2000s following the publication of the Rural White Paper at the beginning of the decade. During the last few years many communities, including several neighbouring villages, have produced their own Plans. With the Neighbourhood Bill now (Summer 2011) proceeding through Parliament, it is believed that communities - whether urban or rural - will be encouraged to prepare “neighbourhood plans” which appear to be very similar to the concept of Parish Plans. For this reason a plan for Liddington seems desirable, even essential.

In this Village the Parish Council discussed the idea of preparing a Plan in 2007/8, and when it appeared that the project was attracting support, in 2009 the Council gave the go-ahead and facilitated a Public Meeting in November of that year. The Meeting was extensively publicised and well attended. An adequate number of volunteers came forward to enable a Steering Committee to be formed, and a large number of initial ideas and comments were put forward.

Throughout 2010 and the first half of 2011 the Committee met regularly. The first phase was acquiring an understanding of what was involved, and how to go about the task. Next came the assembling of information and preparation of the Parish Survey, which was printed and distributed at the end of 2010. The data received from the Survey had to be carefully analysed, and the results made known to the public at a further Village Meeting in the early Summer of 2011. Thereafter the draft Plan was prepared, and adopted by the Parish Council before publication.

It is important to emphasise that the Plan was not the work of the Parish Council, but was prepared independently by the Committee after extensive public consultation and publicity. The Parish Council assisted both by encouragement and by financial support.

During the period when the draft Plan was in the course of preparation, members of the Committee interviewed the 11 children of primary school age who lived in Liddington and attended Wanborough Primary School. Their comments have been incorporated into the general results, and are featured in each section of this document as “What the Children say”.

It is hoped that this Parish Plan and its Action Plan will assist the community in working out and achieving its future priorities, preserving the best of the old, and adopting new ideas to enhance the life and wellbeing of the people of Liddington.

INTRODUCTION

Situation and topography

The Parish of Liddington is a compact rural parish, in the north east of the county of Wiltshire, but no longer forming part of that county for administrative purposes. Situated approximately 4 miles from the centre of the large town of Swindon, Liddington is now part of the Borough of Swindon which is a unitary authority.

The main village settlement is on downland rising towards the South, the principal feature being the prominent escarpment of Liddington Hill (900 ft 277 metres); in addition there are the hamlets of Liddington Warren and Medbourne, and some isolated properties; however, much of the southern part of the Parish is unpopulated. Liddington Wick, to the North, is now built on and a suburb of Swindon, it is no longer part of the Parish.

Liddington is one of a number of settlements generally considered to have grown up along the “spring line” underneath the downs. The ancient Ridgeway road passes through the Parish.

From the 1930s onwards a long line of substantial residential properties was constructed along Ham Road which links Liddington with its larger neighbouring village of Wanborough. Although technically these properties belong to Wanborough parish, their postal address is Liddington, and most of the residents have an allegiance with and an affinity to Liddington; for these reasons these properties were included within this Parish for the purpose of this Plan.

The higher parts of the Parish are on a chalk subsoil, with extensive cornfields, but the lower part is damp clay, and until recently supported dairy cattle.

Almost all the Parish lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and the central part of the Parish is a designated Conservation Area.

Population and Demography

The population of Liddington is approximately 330 and the number of residential properties is about 150. Unfortunately the results of the 2011 census are not yet available, but 10 years ago the population contained a statistically high proportion of older people. The low number of houses built recently, coupled with the high prices of property, means that there are few opportunities for young families to settle in the Village.

Employment and Business

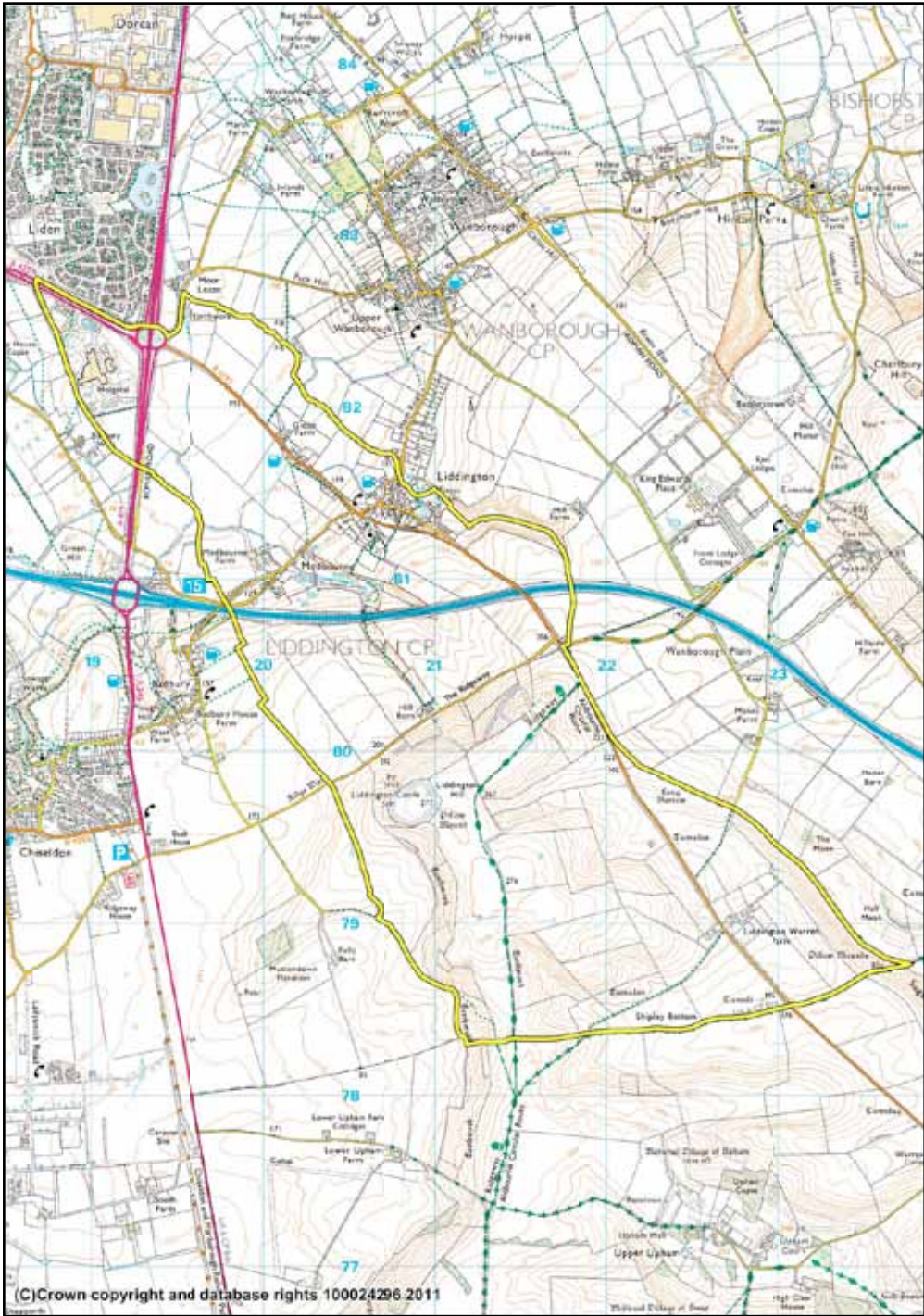
Traditionally the main local employment was in the farming industry and its associated businesses, but the numbers working in this industry have declined rapidly in recent years. There are now only 3 working farms in the Parish, and much of the land is now used for equine purposes or is rented or contracted out. However, the equine businesses provide employment for local people. A significant number of local people run businesses from their own homes. Others commute to Swindon or other large centres.

By far the largest employer within the Parish is Great Western Hospital, and a small number of parishioners do work there. However, there is little formal contact or interface between the Hospital and the Village.

Communications

Unfortunately the main residential part of the village is separated from most of the amenities (Church, Village Hall, Playing Field) by the B4192 road. This road provides a convenient means of access to Swindon, and, in the other direction, to Aldbourne and Hungerford. The M4 motorway, running roughly West to East, bisects the Parish; and there is a convenient intersection (Junction 15) a short distance away.

The nearest railway stations are at Swindon to the north (4 miles) and Hungerford to the south (9 miles). There are no airports within 50 miles, but a number of private airstrips exist in the vicinity.



HISTORY of the Parish of Liddington

The earliest reference to the Parish of Liddington is contained in the Saxon Land Charter of 940 when King Eadmund granted the land to Adulf, his man. Many of the boundaries described in the charter may still be traced today and follow the current Parish boundaries. Archaeological evidence for people living on what was to become the Parish land is still clearly visible on Liddington Hill, the most prominent part of the Parish and the highest point in Wiltshire. Here the Iron Age hill fort to the west, the stand of trees known as Liddington Clump to the east and the Neolithic Long Barrow on Sugar Hill provide a 6000 year landscape back drop to the village itself.



Liddington Hill with the “Clump” to the left, the Iron Age hill fort to the right and the scars of mediaeval farming on the face.

By the Domesday Survey of 1086 the Parish lands were in the possession of Shaftesbury Abbey and consisted of the Manors of Liddington and Medbourne with remote farmsteads to the south and north of the Parish. On the dissolution of the Abbey in 1539 the land and Manors were granted to Sir William Sharington of Lacock whose descendents held most of the Parish until it was sold to the Duke of Marlborough in around 1700. The farms, the village of Liddington and the hamlet of Medbourne remained part of the Marlborough estates until they were sold in lots at auction in 1877. At this time the farms and cottages of the Parish were purchased mainly by the tenants and local inhabitants. Throughout this period and continuing into the 20th century, agriculture dominated the lives of Parishioners with around 90% of the approximate 350 inhabitants directly or indirectly depending upon farming in the Parish.



Seventeenth century cottages by the "Green"

The village was originally focused around the triangular "Green" to the east, now bordered by some of the earlier village cottages, and extended to the west to the Church of All Saints and Parsonage Farm. The Green was located at the junction of the ancient long distance east-west route known as the Icknield trackway and the north-south route from Swindon to Hungerford, "The Street". This latter road was turnpiked in 1813; the Toll house was built at its junction with the Icknield Way with toll gates across both roads. In 1939 the village, unfortunately, was split in two when the bypass for the Swindon-Hungerford road was built separating the settlement around the "Green" from that around the Church. The other ancient route of note is the Ridgeway, which crosses the Parish from east to west along the top of the chalk escarpment which forms Liddington Hill. In the past this was a long distance routeway along the downs, then a drove way for animals heading for London and latterly a long distance footpath.



The Toll house in 1900, at the junction of The Street and the Ickniel Way entering from the left, in front of the Village Inn (formerly The Bell)

The oldest building in the Parish is the Church of All Saints, and despite the restoration in the late 19th century much of the 13th century building is still visible in the chancel and north aisle. The square, three stage west tower dates from the 15th century and the whole church building sits comfortably in the church yard surrounded by thatched cottages, the Rectory, Parsonage Farm and Village Hall. This was rebuilt in the late 20th century from the materials of and in the style of, the original village school, built in 1851, which occupied the site.



The 13th century Church of All Saints with 15th century tower.

The Manor house at Liddington stands to the east of the village on the source of the “Liden” brook which gave its name to the Parish. In the grounds of this late 16th century house is a lake which formed the mill pond for the upper of two mills on the brook, both of which have now been demolished. The surviving chalk rubble and thatch cottages, around the “Green” and church, from the 17th and 18th centuries are supplemented by brick built Victorian cottages and houses, erected after the sale of the Duke of Marlborough’s holdings in 1877. The Manor of Medbourne did not have a Manor house but consisted of a large farm house and a small number of cottages. The remote farms to the south remain part of the Parish whilst those to the north were lost to the expanding town of Swindon. 20th century development of private and social houses on open plots in the village, most within the conservation area of Liddington, retain the compact nature of the settlement and reflect the migration of the village economy from agriculture to residential for inhabitants who work in the nearby towns.



Liddington Manor (picture taken in 1908)

The following pages are a summary of results and comments extracted from the survey which was performed by means of a questionnaire delivered to every household in the Parish.

The topics have been divided into sections in the same way as the questionnaire. Each section includes a breakdown of the responses, an overview of the comments, and a list of Actions to address the issues raised.

Finally the Actions are collated into a comprehensive Action Plan at the end of this document.

SECTION 1: Environment and Countryside

Summary

The vast majority of Liddington residents make use of the beautiful countryside around them. There is a good interest from residents to help maintain and enhance the local environment, and also interest in topics such as allotments, composting and smallholdings.

Where we are now

The village of Liddington lies immediately south of the Marlborough Downs escarpment and is within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, one of the most extensive and least spoilt downland tracts in southern England.

The majority of the built form of the village lies within a Conservation area, designated in 1990 and extended in 1995.

<http://www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-planning/Documents/CA-Appraisal-Liddington.pdf>

Near the centre of the village are a number of allotments, lacking in facilities, several are vacant.

There are numerous footpaths and bridleways within the Parish.

<http://www.liddington.org/archive/maps-of-footpaths>



Surrounding countryside, footpaths and bridleways

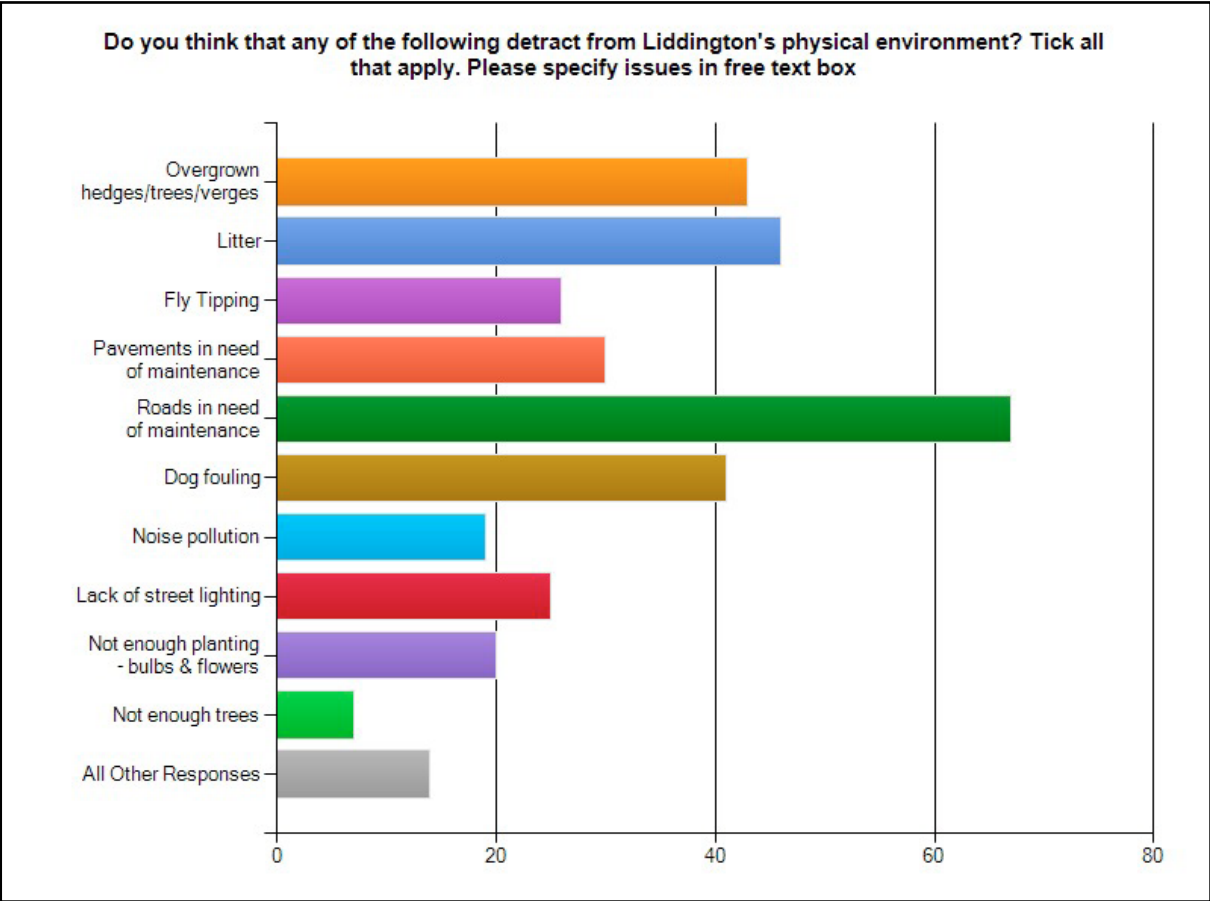
- 96% of respondents make use of the countryside around them and walk, jog, cycle or ride on a regular basis
- 52% use the public footpaths at least on a weekly basis
- 78% thought that the footpaths were well signed and 68% felt that they were well maintained

Comments

Regarding what would make people use the footpaths and bridleways around Liddington more, there were suggestions for leaflets outlining the routes of the paths or an easy to access map, the creation of circular walks and guided walks from the village.

Actions

- 1.1 Plans of footpaths/bridleways to be made available on village notice boards
- 1.2 An initial three circular walks to be published in leaflet form and included in an Information pack for new residents.
- 1.3 A guided walk covering village history to be organised.



Liddington's physical environment

The survey asked what *detracted* from Liddington's physical appearance and responses included:

- 63% thought that roads were in need of maintenance
- 43% considered that litter was a problem
- 40% thought that overgrown hedges, trees and verges detracted
- 38% listed dog fouling
- 23% listed a lack of street lighting
- 19% listed not enough planting (bulbs and flowers)
- 18% listed noise pollution

There was good news in that 21% of respondents would be willing to join a village clean-up group to help keep Liddington free from litter with 51% saying that they may 'possibly' be interested.

Actions

- 1.4 A village amenity group to be established with the objective of improving the physical environment through enhanced planting, trimming of roadside vegetation and regular litter picking

Allotments, composting and smallholding

- 68% of respondents didn't realise that Liddington has some vacant allotments
- 4 people were interested in taking one on with another 17 saying that they were 'possibly' interested
- 56% of respondents were interested or 'possibly' interested in a community composting scheme
- 34% of respondents (37 people) were interested or 'possibly' interested in a village smallholding with areas for growing vegetables, keeping chickens, pigs etc.

Actions

- 1.5 Details of allotments including cost and application process to be made available to residents
- 1.6 A working party to be established to assess the viability of community composting and smallholding

In Short

- 96% of Liddington residents make use of the countryside around them
- 63% thought that roads were in need of maintenance
- 21% of respondents would be willing to join a village clean-up group to help keep Liddington free from litter with 51% saying that they may 'possibly' be interested.
- 68% of respondents didn't realise that Liddington has some vacant allotments and 21 people were interested or possibly interested in taking one on.

SECTION 2: Housing, Buildings, Assets and Landmarks

Summary

Liddington has been a settlement area since earliest times and as a result has a number of important historic buildings and features. Many residents were not aware of Liddington's historic buildings and features.

A majority of residents thought that a visual design statement for Liddington would be a good idea and 38% thought that no additional housing was required. 44% thought that small or affordable starter homes were needed.

There is strong interest in the re-instatement of the Liddington church bells.

Where we are now

Liddington village has a total of 16 listed buildings and features including the Church (circa 1200 AD with many later additions) which is Grade 1 Listed and the Jacobean Manor House which is Listed Grade II.

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/wiltshire/liddington>

Also included in the listing are three milestones, a parish pump and a red phone box. There are several Victorian water pumps located in the village.

The Iron Age Hill Fort of Liddington Castle is also a major feature of the area and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

There is currently no significant new housing development within the village. The five bells in the tower of the Church are currently not safe to ring but are subject to a restoration appeal led by the Parochial Church Council. Further details and information regarding the Church are contained in Section 5.

Historic features

- 38% of respondents felt that the historic features in Liddington were properly recognised and maintained
- However, 33% of respondents didn't know whether these features were properly recognised and maintained

Comments

Not aware of any!

It isn't obvious what is listed

How would you know what they are?

How do we find out which are the listed buildings?

Actions

2.1 Plan of village showing the location of the historic buildings and features to be produced

Written design statement for Liddington

The survey asked whether Liddington should produce a written statement of intent to help protect and enhance the visual character of the village?

- 77% said 'Yes'
- 6% said 'No'
- 17% didn't know

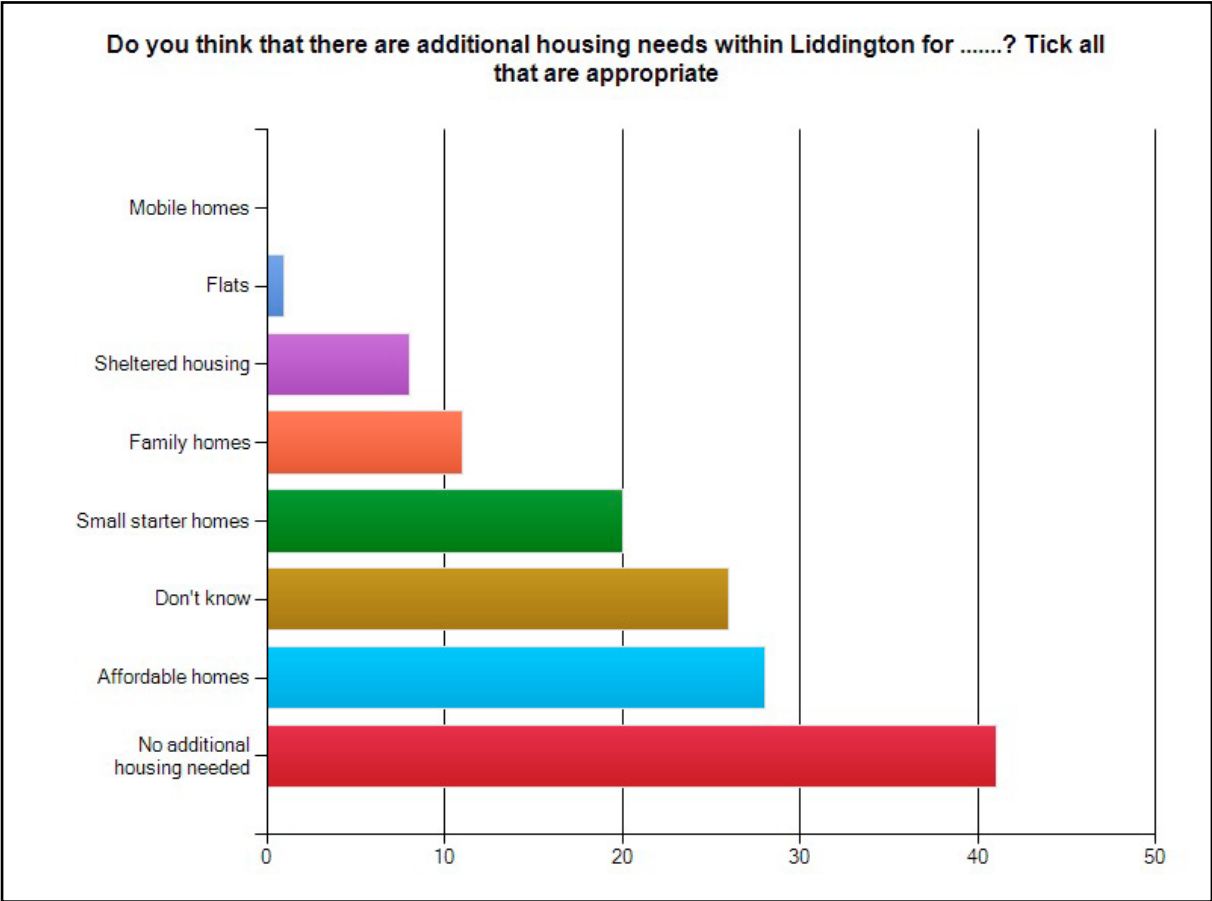
Comments

*Yes it if helps with future development
Is it not part of the planning process?
It would have no standing as it is not a Parish responsibility*

Actions

2.2 Parish Council to investigate further the need for a written design statement

Additional housing needs within Liddington



- 38% of respondents felt that no additional housing was needed
- 44% stated that small starter or affordable homes were required
- 95% of households stated that no member had found it necessary to leave the village due to a lack of affordable housing
- 6% stated that it had been necessary for a member to leave

Actions

- 2.3 Parish Council to investigate further whether additional housing is needed and indeed possible within Liddington

In Short

- 31% of respondents didn't know whether Liddington's historic features were properly recognised and maintained
- 77% thought that Liddington should produce a visual design statement
- 44% stated that small starter or affordable homes were required in the village
- 87% of respondents supported the re-instatement of the church bells

What the Children Say

10 out of 11 play in the countryside around Liddington, although 9 out of 11 of them use the footpaths less than once a month.

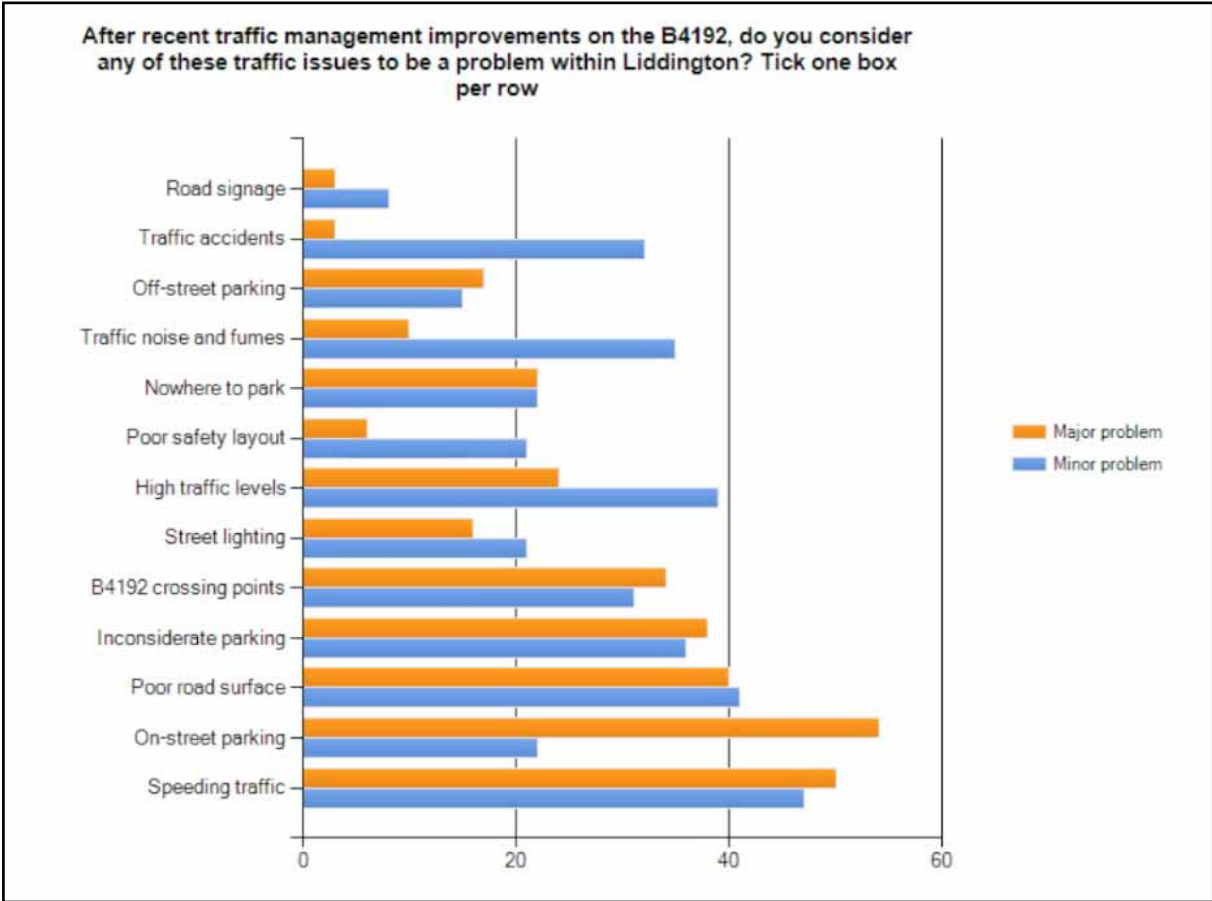
Things which they felt spoil the village were: teenagers smoking at the bus stop; litter in the phone box, graffiti and bird droppings on the benches. Eight of the eleven children would be happy to join a village clean-up group.

9 of the 11 would like to have an allotment; 8 would like a community composting scheme and all of the primary children would like a village smallholding.

SECTION 3: Traffic and Transport

Summary

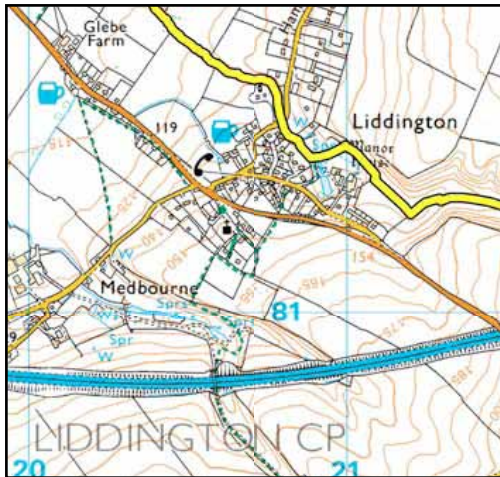
The results of the survey show that one of the main concerns in the village is that of traffic, particularly speeding, road safety, and parking, while the extent of the bus service is also an issue.



- More than 80% of respondents to the survey thought that there was a speeding problem in Liddington
- About 70% of respondents thought that there was insufficient parking space in Liddington
- 60% of respondents thought that there was a safety issue with pedestrians crossing the B4192
- 60% of respondents never use the bus service through the village

Where we are now

The village and parish of Liddington is bisected by the B4192 running in a north-west to south-east direction between Swindon and Aldbourne and on to Hungerford. This is by far the busiest road through the village. The village also has a minor road (Medbourne Lane) leading into it from Badbury, and another from neighbouring Wanborough (Ham Road/Bell Lane), which both meet almost opposite each other at the B4192.



Yellow line denotes part of the parish boundary

Liddington is served by buses passing through between Hungerford, Marlborough and Swindon, calling at other local villages such as Aldbourne, Ramsbury, and Wanborough. There are approximately 8 buses calling at Liddington in each direction every day except Sundays. The buses into Swindon all call at the Great Western Hospital (GWH), which strictly speaking is in the parish of Liddington. Bus connections at the GWH allow onward travel to a variety of destinations in and around Swindon.

Reduce Speed of Traffic

Reducing the speed of traffic was by far the most important issue under the heading of Transport and Traffic, with nearly every respondent to the survey agreeing that it is a problem.

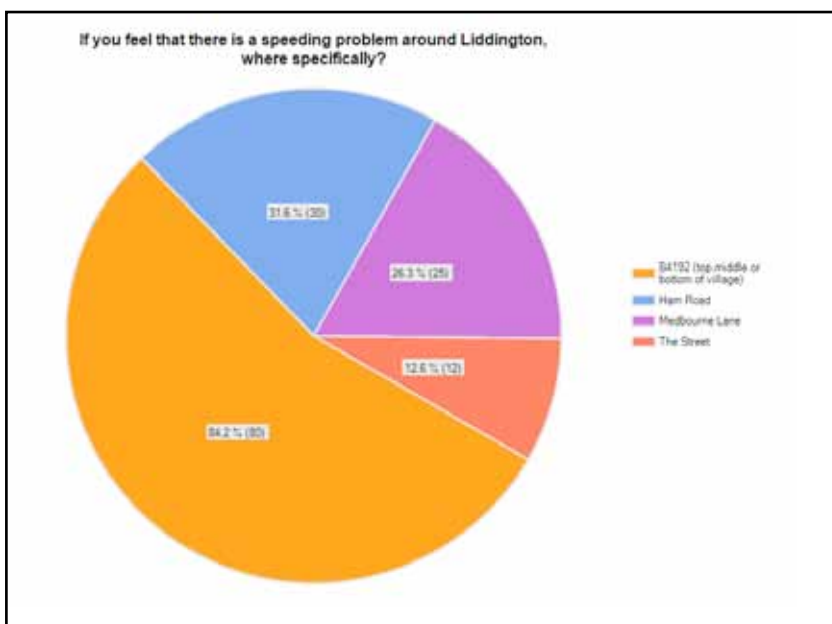
Despite recent additional measures to reduce traffic speed, the worst road was unsurprisingly the B4192 along its whole length through the village, but particularly around the crossing point, the footpath from Spinney Close, and the junctions with The Street and Medbourne Lane.



The other roads cited as problems for speeding were Medbourne Lane, particularly in relation to speeding traffic near horses on the road, and Ham Road. Medbourne Lane and Day House Lane are often used by drivers avoiding congestion on the A346 and A419 leading to the junction with the M4.

84% of respondents named the B4192 as a speeding hotspot, while Ham Road and

Medbourne Lane were named by 31% and 26% of respondents respectively (you could name more than one location).



Swindon Borough Council monitored traffic speeds before and after the additional measures were introduced in July 2010, and the data showed that there was an improvement in the percentage of vehicles travelling below 35mph in the 30mph zone.

“Up the hill” improved from just 4% to 34%, and “down the hill” from 33% to 49%. In the 40mph zone, vehicles below 46mph were 92% “up the hill” and 72% down the hill (there are no “before” figures because the 40mph zone was only implemented as one of the additional measures).

It was generally regarded that more actions should be taken to reduce the speed of traffic on the B4192, and new action should be taken to reduce traffic speeds on Medbourne Lane and Ham Road.

Actions

- 3.1 The Parish Plan Committee has written to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to communicate the survey results on speeding. The initial response from SBC was that there were no plans to implement further traffic calming measures on the B4192. The Parish Council has asked SBC to reconsider. Actions will depend on the response, but this will remain an ongoing issue to be considered by the Parish Council.
- 3.2 The Parish Council has written to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) about traffic speeds in Medbourne Lane. So far, SBC has indicated that it may conduct a traffic survey to determine the actual speeds of traffic and gain an understanding of the priority of the issue. This will remain an ongoing issue to be considered by the Parish Council

Dangerous Traffic Areas

The survey asked if you felt that there were dangerous traffic areas in the village, and the results showed that the B4192 was the main culprit. All of the dangerous areas of the B4192 were linked to the speed of the traffic on this road. As highlighted by the survey results on speeding, the particular areas of concern were the crossing point, the end of the footpath into Spinney Close, and the junctions with Medbourne Lane and The Street.

Respondents to the survey indicated that the B4192 crossing point should be improved, in terms of making it more obvious to road users (i.e. making it more “formal”) and reducing the speed of traffic particularly coming down the hill. Similarly, the speed of traffic coming down the hill is felt to make exiting The Street and Medbourne Lane onto the B4192 quite dangerous.

The other areas where traffic safety was a concern were Medbourne Lane, particularly around the Day House Lane junction, and Bell Lane.

For Medbourne Lane, the issue was mainly focused on the speed of the traffic, particularly in relation to the amount of horses that use the road. The road has a 60mph speed limit between Badbury and Medbourne, which was felt to be too high.





Bell Lane

In Bell Lane, the concern related to the narrow and twisty nature of the road with blind bends. Drivers are unsuspected when negotiating the bends and often encounter oncoming traffic encroaching on the wrong side of the road.

In the three years prior to the additional traffic calming measures being implemented, only three road traffic accidents in Liddington were reported to the police – one fatal, one serious, and one slight. All of these occurred on the B4192, and two were attributed to being dazzled by the sun on the M4 bridge, while the other one was a driver losing control of a vehicle (not speed related).



Actions

- 3.3 The Parish Plan Committee has communicated the survey results to Swindon Borough Council, whose initial response was that there are no plans for additional pedestrian crossing facilities, but our concerns will be included in their annual review.
- 3.4 A working group of parishioners could be set up to address the combined issues of speeding and road safety in Liddington, and take further actions to campaign for solutions in conjunction with the Parish Council. This group could also look into solutions for providing more parking in the village.

Parking

Insufficient space for parking appears to be a perennial problem for 60% of the respondents to the survey, with inconsiderate parking also being considered a problem for negotiating the narrower roads and pavements in the village.

Particular areas of concern were The Street and the bottom of Purley Road.

Various suggestions were put forward in responses to the survey, ranging from a village car park to drive sharing and creating new drives in front gardens.

Actions

- 3.5 The Parish Council should be asked to monitor any planning applications to ensure that adequate off-street parking is provided.

Poor Road Condition

Around 80 respondents to the survey indicated that poor road condition is an issue in Liddington. Since the survey was issued, re-surfacing has taken place in The Street and is also planned for Church Road.

Actions

- 3.6 Publicise the method for reporting potholes or other road problems via the StreetSmart service run by Swindon Borough Council

Bus Service

According to the survey results, 60% of respondents never use the bus services through the village, with the main reasons being inconvenient times, particularly for commuting into Swindon, and regularity of the service.

Actions

- 3.7 The Parish Plan Committee has written to Thamesdown Transport about the survey results and will follow up the first uninformative response.

In Short

- Reduce speed of traffic on the B4192 and Medbourne Lane
- Improve the safety of the B4192 pedestrian crossing points
- Improve the road safety in Bell Lane
- Investigate ways of providing more off-road parking
- Publicise Swindon StreetSmart for reporting problems with road maintenance
- Discuss bus timetables and routes with the bus company

What the Children Say

Regarding the roads in and around Liddington all the children felt the following were major problems: Speeding traffic; High traffic levels; the B4192 crossing point; on street parking and off-street parking. They also felt that the narrow pavements along Purley Road are dangerous.

Action

- 3.8 Review width of the pavement along Purley Road and the feasibility of widening it.

SECTION 4: Community Amenities and Activities; Engagement and Communications; Safety and Crime

Summary

The community amenities that are available are well maintained and supported but older children in particular would like other facilities and clubs to be provided. There is an active social calendar but some respondents felt events were mainly targeted at a clique of residents and not available/suitable for all.

Survey respondents felt able to engage with members of the Parish Council but felt that the group could be more effective and communicate better. Many respondents were subscribers to the local magazine, website/email communications and felt they knew what was going on in the village.

Survey respondents felt safe living in Liddington but still requested that more be done to tackle community safety issues such as speeding, lack of police patrols and a perceived decline in neighbourly acts. Access to the Emergency Services was considered satisfactory.



Liddington Village Hall

Where are we now?

The village of Liddington has a number of community, sport and recreational facilities: a modern village hall; a children's playing area; a recreational field with football goals (but no nets) and many footpaths in and around the village. The village hall is hired by several clubs and hosts social activities organised by the community for the community including an annual village fete in June.

There is an active Parish Council within Liddington. Council members have sought to tackle key issues on residents' behalf: eg. speed management measures along Purley Road and village clean up days. "Local Democracy" is currently cited as the way forward by politicians and community gurus, so to engage Liddington residents in the Parish Plan is an early step

in this process. The village has a local church magazine: The Lyden; four information notice boards; a website www.liddington.org and a mailing list for villagers on email to hear about future events, activities and news.

As a small village with an ageing demographic it is important that residents feel safe in their homes and have easy access to services. The crime rate is low and the village is within close proximity to Emergency Service stations. Police patrol services have declined over recent years but community policing is available if required.

Sense of Community and Social Activities

We asked whether residents felt that there was a strong sense of community within the village and two thirds of those who responded felt that there was; this was mirrored by the two thirds of respondents who stated that they attended village social functions either frequently or occasionally. Of those who did not attend social functions the main reasons given were lack of time; date clashes with other activities or people feeling no need to be involved; however there were a number of comments about people not being aware of the functions; activities not appealing to a wider audience and functions needing to be more accessible outside of a perceived “clique”.

Action

- 4.1 Ensure future village social events are relevant to the majority of villagers and communicated widely

Community Amenities and Recreational Facilities

Over 50% of those who responded to the survey use the facilities cited above; indeed, many respondents commented that the village hall in particular is well used and provides an excellent facility. When invited to suggest other facilities or activities that should be available in Liddington, respondents gave many ideas which can be grouped into the following categories: more clubs for youth-aged children; more senior daytime activities; more cultural functions and more fitness classes/sports sessions.

Action

- 4.2 Explore ways of organising more activities within the existing amenities and investigate options for new amenities

Community Engagement and Communications

Over two thirds of respondents thought that the Parish Council was accessible but less than half felt them to be effective. The Parish Council is aware of the results of the survey and will continue to strive to engage with as many parishioners as possible as it carries out its duties.

One question in the survey asked residents what they would specifically like to see happening in Liddington (to encourage a greater sense of community) and some answers include: reinstating village traditions such as Walking the Bounds; keeping Liddington as a village, not as a suburb to Swindon; providing a village shop and saving the second village pub. Many of these suggestions fall under specific plan topics already covered elsewhere

in the survey and will be added to comments gathered there. Where these suggestions are not covered elsewhere they will be passed to the Parish Council for further consideration.

Communication and information sharing was a topic covered in the survey in order to understand whether improvements could be made to keep Liddington residents better informed and engaged. Generally the results from those who responded were good: 85 residents felt they knew what was going on in Liddington; 91 residents subscribe to the local magazine and 89 residents were aware of the Liddington website. However there were many comments on how to improve matters: more notices around the village; greater use of email; better advertised programme of events; more online information that is kept up to date and has a comments section; more information on clubs/activities and the suggestion of a village information booklet.

Action

- 4.3 Explore and utilise all forms of communication to share Parish Council plans, news and targets with all Liddington residents

Residents were asked if they felt able to join in with community activities and 79 said “yes”. The future challenge will be to engage with the remaining 220 residents and provide activities/events for them should they so desire.

Crime, Community Safety and Emergency Services

98% of respondents felt safe living in Liddington and over two-thirds of respondents were satisfied with the Fire, Police and Ambulance services. Those who did not feel safe cited a dangerous road crossing and house break-ins / burglaries as issues and those who were less than satisfied with the Emergency Services commented on the lack of police visibility, within the village, and the inaccessibility to the police service should one need to report an incident. These comments will be passed to the specific service provider.

A further question in this section of the survey asked whether residents felt that there was a sense of neighbourliness in the village. 86% of respondents felt there was a sense of neighbourliness but comments suggested that more could be done to keep a check on elderly neighbours as day-to-day support was felt to be limited. The two recent cold and snowy winters seemed to have gone some way to prompting residents to behave in a more neighbourly way as conditions became difficult for some residents to get out and about.

Actions

- 4.4 Liaise with the police service to campaign for increased visibility of community police officers and improved crime reporting methods
- 4.5 Review suggestions made in survey responses relating to improving the sense of community in Liddington and investigate how these could be implemented

What the Children Say

Overwhelmingly, all of the children thought there was a need for after school clubs. Their suggestions were for: Games / Sports / TV / Young art club / Cookery / Gym

They all use the playing field and recreational area, but they would like to have nets in the goal posts. They also asked for a hard surface playing area.

They all come to the village fete, although that is the only village social event they attend.

They suggested that better use of the village hall could be to have a play time there, with a big games bag with a variety of play equipment.

Five of the children are aware of the Liddington website; they would like a children's section and all five of those children would be happy to contribute to it.

Actions

- 4.6 Discuss with the Parish Council: replacing nets in the goal posts and our options for creating a hard play area in a suitable spot within the village.
- 4.7 Contact the website compiler and request a children's section; put forward the names of the children who volunteered to contribute.

SECTION 5: Services, Local Business, Education and Church

Summary

Liddington is fortunate to have a pub, a church and a well equipped village hall with a number of thriving community groups that make good use of these facilities.

As Liddington is situated close to Swindon, with its excellent road and rail networks, many residents commute to work, although 14 residents run businesses in either Liddington or nearby Wanborough. Unfortunately, we no longer have a village shop, post office or public telephone in the village.

We have fortnightly visits from the mobile library. We are also privileged to have the Ridgeway Link service – a voluntary organisation run by local people who provide transport for local people in need.

Most of our children of primary school age attend the excellent school in the nearby village of Wanborough.

All Saints Church



www.liddington.org/all-saints

An active church community exists in order to continue the life of our local church and maintain both the ancient building and the surroundings in beautiful condition.

- 97 respondents supported re-instatement of the bells, as a result of which the Church Council has agreed to revive the church bell restoration project.
- 10 village residents volunteered to form the core of a bell ringing group, (we only have a ring of 5 bells) and others have come forward to support in other ways.

Comments

30 respondents to the survey suggested further uses for the church building, including musical events, flower festivals, art and literary events, after school club, cafe, and a shop.

Actions

- 5.1 Progress the church bell re-instatement in conjunction with our church architect, statutory advisory bodies, local bell ringing groups and the ongoing support of Liddington people.
- 5.2 Encourage the use of the church for other events.

The Village Inn



www.villageinn-liddington.co.uk

The Parish Plan survey revealed a lively range of views regarding The Village Inn and these have been discussed in detail with the landlords. This is a summary of our discussion.

- A high proportion of the food served there is home cooked on the premises and prepared using fresh produce. The menu provides excellent value for money.
- Many villagers were unaware that the pub provides a 'take away' service for all food on their menu.
- All children over 8 years old are welcomed. A range of special offers include 'Over 60's Specials' between 12.00 and 1.00pm each day.
- The Village Inn is happy to take orders for fresh vegetables, bread, dairy, eggs and meat from a local butcher. Order by 10pm for grocery collection next morning and meat collection after 7pm next evening. They will also trial the sale of postage stamps during pub opening hours.
- The Village Inn is owned by local brewers Arkells and a wide range of their own beers are available.
- Customers are welcome to use the tables in the bar for having a drink with friends.
- Apart from eating and drinking, other suggestions included quiz nights, club events, and better community use of the large room at the rear of the premises. One person has volunteered to start a pub social group.

Actions

- 5.3 Contact volunteers to start clubs in the pub
- 5.4 Utilise the large area at the back for village events, (Monday to Thursday, as these are the quieter evenings), by arrangement with the landlords.

The Postal Service

www.royalmail.com/portal/rm

8 of the 37 villagers who commented on the postal service specifically said they were very satisfied with the service. The most frequently raised criticism was the lateness of deliveries.

Comments

The suggestion that postage stamps should be available locally has been taken up. The landlords of the Village Inn are happy to sell stamps during opening hours.

Action

- 5.5 Discuss with our postman to find out what our options are regarding delivery times.

A Local Shopping Facility

- 41 respondents to the survey indicated that they would use a village shop at least once a week
- 23 said they would use it more than once a week.
- 40 said they would use it, but infrequently.

- 14 respondents said they would be willing to help run a local shopping facility.
- 10 people volunteered to assist the elderly and disabled with online shopping.

Action

- 5.6 Contact those who volunteered to help run a shop to ascertain whether they still wish to form an action group.
- 5.7 Contact those who volunteered to help with online shopping to make a plan of action, including providing information about the Ridgeway Link to the infirm/elderly.
- 5.8 A suggestion was made to convert the empty telephone kiosk in the village to use for a book loan scheme. Permission from the owner of the kiosk must be sought for this to proceed.

The Mobile Library

www.swindon.gov.uk/lc/lc-libraries/lc-libraries-lendingservices/Pages/lc-libraries-lendingservices-mobile.aspx

16 out of 114 respondents to the survey have used the mobile library in the last year.

Comments

Several people commented that they would like more information on when and to where the mobile library comes. Other suggestions to improve usage were: visits outside of school and office hours, longer stopping periods and a better range of books.

Already actioned

Central library has been contacted about the above suggestions. Books can be requested on-line from the vast catalogue of books held at central library. They can also supply the following to the mobile library, on request:

- Large print items, audio books
- A request and information service
- Clear plastic bags for plastic refuse recycling

For further information on mobile library services, telephone 01793 465555 and to view the timetable of visits see the above website, under 'Route C'

Action

- 5.9 Better publicity of the mobile library visiting times & dates in The Lyden Magazine, Liddington website and the proposed Information Leaflet.

Household Waste:

www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-wasterecycling/Pages/ep-wasterecycling.aspx

63 of the survey respondents are happy with fortnightly general household waste collection. 50 people would like a weekly service.

Action

5.10 Contact Swindon Borough Council to see if it could be persuaded to collect household rubbish weekly.

Comments

When contacted, Swindon Borough Council praised Liddington residents on the care they take with sorting recyclables and thanked us for the effort we make.

A village garden waste disposal or communal composting facility

- 49 respondents showed a definite interest in such a facility, and a further 31 people were possibly interested.
- Fuller information is available on www.energysavingcommunity.co.uk/community-composting-projects.html
- Land is needed to process compost and a local person or persons would need to take responsibility for the safe operation of such a scheme.

Local G.P. Surgery

www.ramsburyandwanboroughsurgery.com

- 104 out of 109 respondents were happy with the excellent service received. This has been conveyed in writing to the practice manager, and a reply has been received from the doctors expressing thanks from all the staff.

After school clubs

- 24 respondents said that there was a need for after school clubs, but 31 people disagreed with this.
- Only 3 people said they were definitely willing to volunteer to help with activities.

Action

5.11 Identify and contact the volunteers who could help with after school activities.

Bus Service for Ridgeway School

- 11 respondents were happy with the School Bus service, but 2 people were not.
- One respondent asked for a Request Stop half-way along Ham Road.
- Another person felt that the bus ran too late.

The Ridgeway Link Service

www.wanborough.info/ridgeway_link.html

Tel: 01793 791192

61 respondents were aware of the existence of this service, but 52 were not.

The Ridgeway Link provides transport:

- To and from hospital, surgery, dental and optician appointments
- To visit a relative or friend in hospital
- To collect prescriptions, pensions
- To the shops
- To take local people to and from day centres or clubs for people with disabilities
- The Ridgeway Link is always happy to hear from local people who are willing to use their time to become a LINK Good Neighbour volunteer.

This confidential service is a registered charity and does not charge fares, but endeavours to recoup half its costs from donations.

Action

- 5.12 Improve advertising for the Ridgeway Link service, (e.g. information in our pub and website) to raise awareness of the service and encourage further volunteer drivers

Local economy and business

- 14 respondents run a business in Liddington or Wanborough
- 71 respondents would find a local business directory helpful
- 72 people, (78.3%), said that they would benefit from a higher broadband speed.

Action

- 5.13 Produce a business directory.
- 5.14 Address problems of low broadband speed in Liddington

What the Children Say

Only three of the children have used the mobile library in the last year; mostly because it visits Liddington during school hours.

None of the children want a village garden waste disposal facility.

When asked what they thought would encourage their families to use the pub more often, the children asked for more child friendly meals.

As far as a village shopping facility is concerned, (if it sold sweets/magazines/drinks/food/basics), eight children thought they would use it once a week.

Already actioned

- Discussed with the landlords of the Village Inn: Children's portions are always available on request. Children over eight are welcome.

ACTION PLAN

No.	Action Description	Action required	By whom	By when	Desirability H/M/L	Priority 1/2/3
Section 1: Environment & Countryside						
1.1	Footpath/Bridleway map	To compile and publish a map of existing footpaths & bridleways of Liddington	David Babington	End of 2012	M	2
1.2	Circular walks	To establish and publish 3 circular walks from Liddington	Maurice Spillane	May 2012	M	2
1.3	Guided Walk of Village History	To organise a village history guided walk for villagers	David Hughes	June 2012	M	2
1.4	Village amenity group	To establish a village amenity group which will improve physical environment eg litter picking, verge/border planting, hedge trimming, graffiti removal.	Parish Council	March 2012	H	3
1.5	Allotments	To provide details of allotment allocation, availability and costs to Liddington residents	Sid Bishop	July 2011	M	2
1.6	Community composting & smallholding	To establish a working party to assess viability of community composting scheme and village smallholding	David Babington & Viv Coppen	End of 2012	M	1

Section 2: Housing, Buildings, Assets & Landmarks						
2.1	Historic buildings and features plan	To compile and publish a plan showing location of historic buildings and features	David Hughes	June 2012	M	2
2.2	Written design statement	To investigate need for a written design statement for Liddington	Parish Council	End of 2012	L	1
2.3	Additional housing	To investigate possibility and need for additional housing within Liddington	Parish Council	September 2012	M	2

No.	Action Description	Action required	By whom	By when	Desirability H/M/L	Priority 1/2/3
Section 3: Traffic & Transport						
3.1	Traffic calming measures B4192	To continue dialogue with Swindon Borough Council to tackle ongoing speeding issue	Parish Council	Already started	H	1
3.2	Traffic speed monitoring Medbourne Lane	To continue dialogue with Swindon Borough Council to secure traffic survey	Parish Council	Already started	H	1
3.3	Additional pedestrian crossing facilities B4192	To continue dialogue with Swindon Borough Council to ensure survey results are included in annual review	Parish Council	Already started	H	1
3.4	Speeding, road safety and parking provision campaign group	To establish a working group of parishioners to address issue of speeding/road safety/parking provision and to campaign for further action	Volunteers	By June 2012	H	1
3.5	Parking implications of new planning applications	To challenge planning applications that have insufficient off-street parking and that will add to current issue of street parking within the village	Parish Council	With immediate effect	H	2
3.6	Road damage reporting	To clarify and communicate road damage reporting mechanism to Liddington residents	Village website	April 2012	M	3
3.7	Bus service provision	To continue dialogue with Thamesdown Transport to campaign for improved frequency of bus services through the village	Parish Council + volunteers	March 2012	M	3
3.8	Pavement width on Purley Road	To investigate options for pavement widening along Purley Road.	Parish Council	March 2012	M	2

No.	Action Description	Action required	By whom	By when	Desirability H/M/L	Priority 1/2/3
Section 4: Community Amenities & Activities; Engagement & Communication; Safety & Crime						
4.1	Social events	To ensure that future village social events are relevant to the majority of villagers and communicated widely.	Diamond Jubilee organising committee	With immediate effect	H	2
4.2	Additional facilities/ activities	To establish a working group(s) to organise more clubs/activities within existing amenities and to investigate options for new amenities	Parish Council and others	May 2012	H	2
4.3	Parish Council engagement	To explore and utilise all communication channels to share plans, news and targets with all Liddington residents.	Parish Council	April 2012	H	1
4.4	Crime prevention and reporting	To liaise with police service to campaign for increased visibility of community police officers "on the ground" and for improved crime reporting systems	Parish Council representative	March 2012	H	1
4.5	Sense of community	To review survey suggestions and investigate implementation options in parallel with 4.1 and 4.2 above	Diamond Jubilee organising committee Parish Council and others	December 2012	M	2
4.6	Children's play areas	Investigate options for increasing the recreation amenities for children, such as new football goal nets and a hard play area	Parent group	June 2012	M	2
4.7	Children's section on website	Investigate feasibility of section on village website specifically for children	Maurice Spillane	April 2012	M	2

No.	Action Description	Action required	By whom	By when	Desirability H/M/L	Priority 1/2/3
Section 5: Services, Local Business, Education & Church						
5.1	Church Bells Reinstatement	To conclude the church bells reinstatement project	Parochial Church Council	December 2015	M	1
5.2	Church utilisation	To discuss respondents comments on additional uses for the church with the Parochial Church Council.	Parochial Church Council Parish Council	June 2012	L	3
5.3	Pub clubs & functions	To establish working group to investigate promoting village clubs & functions within the pub (in conjunction with 4.1 and 4.2 above)	To be arranged	April 2012	M	2
5.4	Postal delivery times	To liaise with Royal Mail to determine whether the postal delivery service can be brought forward to earlier in the day	Adrian Moore	April 2012	M	2
5.5	Community Shop	To form a working group and investigate feasibility of setting one up in Liddington	Volunteers	June 2012	M	2
5.6	Online shopping support to elderly or infirm villagers	To contact volunteers and establish workable procedure for those in need of service	Parish Council	June 2012	H	1
5.7	Telephone box library	To investigate whether the empty telephone box can be used for book loan scheme – owners permission required as first step.	Volunteers	September 2012	L	3
5.8	Mobile library service timetable	To publicise mobile library visiting dates / times as widely as possible: Lyden, website, noticeboards etc	Parish & Borough Councils	May 2012	M	2
5.9	Refuse collection	To liaise with Swindon Borough Council to investigate feasibility of weekly collection service	Parish Council	May 2012	M	2
5.10	After School Clubs	Identify volunteers who may be willing to set up or help with after school activities	Parent group	September 2012	M	2
5.11	Ridgeway Link service	To increase awareness of service and to encourage further volunteer drivers to assist with the service.	Parish Council	April 2012	H	1
5.12	Business Directory / Services Information Directory	To produce a business directory for villagers working from home and to produce a services information directory for households	Nea Joffe	Already started	M	2
5.13	Broadband service	To campaign for improved broadband service within Liddington	Maurice Spillane	June 2012	H	2

Liddington Parish Plan Committee

Adrian Moore (Chairman)

David Babington

David Hughes

David Lomax

Diane Elder

Glenn Hickman

Guy Allen

Mark Gillingham

Nea Joffe

Tessa Lanstein



Numerous other Liddington residents assisted with the collection and distribution of the survey questionnaire. The Committee wishes to thank them, and especially Gordon Wilson, Chairman of Liddington Parish Council, for their invaluable help.

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