

PROPOSALS & ACTIONS

The overriding function of this Parish Plan process is faithfully to translate the aspirations and priorities of the Parish community and its interest groups into tangible proposals for action. The Action Areas listed below are derived solely from responses by Interest Groups, written comments at the Exhibition and, in particular, from the household questionnaire. Supporting material has been provided in reports prepared by the Geographical and Topic Groups. A detailed analysis of the household questionnaires and responses by Interest Groups, as well as by those who attended the Exhibition, is given in the Studies papers, as are the Geographical and Topic Groups' reports.

Action Areas are grouped together under the following functional headings:

- Environmental Issues (ENV)
- Traffic Issues (TRA)
- Non Motorised Traffic Issues (NMT)
- Public Transport Issues (PTR)
- Housing Issues (HOU)
- Community Facilities Issues (COM)
- Administrative Issues (ADM)

Each Action Area represents an issue which has been identified by the community as requiring intervention. The perspective which the community holds for the Parish is very clearly to retain and enhance the character of the rural environment and its role as an important leisure facility and a source of employment. Achievement of this goal necessitates early attention to the majority of the Action Areas listed. Community involvement and participation must continue throughout the process of implementation, monitoring and plan review. The purpose for the form in which the Action Areas are set out is to facilitate a preliminary monitoring operation. It is first necessary to identify whether the Outputs have occurred and, if so, whether the Objective has been achieved and if the beneficiaries are satisfied with the result. Each Action Area needs to be turned into a simple Action Plan dealing with the who, what, when, where and how much of implementation. The Action Plan in turn offers further opportunities for monitoring effective implementation. In some cases preparation of Action Plans and their implementation will be the responsibility of a local government institution or statutory body. In this case the role at Parish level will be that of monitoring only. However, in all cases it is anticipated that each Action Area or group of Action Areas will be the responsibility of a Community Group which, in some cases, may be represented by one person for the purposes of overview. Community Groups are identified as one of the *Agencies Responsible* under each Action Area. The role of the Parish Council is pivotal and is to ensure that the planning process is continuous and effective from the identity of community priorities, through preparation of proposals and Action Plans, implementation, monitoring and plan review.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environments represent the major concern of parishioners over all other issues. 97% of respondents to the questionnaire were of the opinion that the protection of the rural environment of the Parish was essential to future development. Protection of the Wooded Plateau Zone in the north was recorded as important or very important by 95% of those responding to the questionnaire. The need for special protection for the role of the Parish as an amenity area was asserted by 80% of respondents, as was the importance of footpaths, cycle tracks and bridleways as an essential component in support of leisure activities. The role of the Thames and Jubilee Rivers area for leisure was considered important. Concern was expressed at the lack of creative planning to deal with inappropriate uses, dereliction and to protect the built environment in this riparian area of interesting Victorian, Edwardian and exotic properties. The consultation process revealed that parishioners were unequivocal in demanding effective protection and enhancement of the Green Belt as open land and also of woodlands and important stands of trees. The rural character of the environment is underpinned by three indivisible elements, open land, leisure and rural employment. Remove one of these strands and the whole unravels. If the use of land is changed to the detriment of the open, rural environment the attendant leisure activities and employment could be threatened. If equestrian activities ceased or land went out of agriculture then fields could become derelict and ripe for property speculation with no concern for appropriate use or appearance. Derelict fields or inappropriate use diminishes the attractiveness of the area for leisure pursuits. The main key to nurturing these three elements, open land, leisure and rural employment is the conservation and enhancement of the Green Belt which must be managed in a creative, proactive way and not held simply as a notation. The value of the rural character of the Parish as an amenity must be stressed. Any proposals for development must be judged against their adverse impact on the rurality of the environment.

In the forward to the current Local Plan Councillor Ken Dolan wrote,

“Protecting the Green Belt remains the paramount theme of the plan”.

In the *South Bucks Report* (Spring 2005) it states that over the next three years the Council aims to,

“plan for a thriving and sustainable District, which protects the Green Belt---”

These statements are most encouraging. In the event there would, however, appear to be a difficulty in ensuring that the reality achieves the level of protection of the Green Belt which the policies suggest.

The following Action Areas are in response to the community’s aspirations and priorities for the future of the Parish in environmental terms. Action Areas ENV 2, 3, 6 and 7 are primarily concerned with the maintenance and improvement of the open, rural nature of the Parish, including strengthening Green Belt policies. ENV 4 and 5 deal with the preservation of woodlands and protection of trees and tree stands, including those which are complementary to the built environment. ENV 8 is designed to enhance the village environment in a comprehensive way. ENV 9 and 10 are directed at the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the Rivers area. This

includes the acknowledgement of the creation of an island by formation of the Jubilee River.

ENV 11 addresses the degraded environment and the conflicts between motorised and non-motorised traffic on the Bath Road.

Parish Wide Action Areas

Action Area ENV 1: Conserving and enhancing the Parish as an amenity area.

Objective: Significantly to strengthen current processes and instruments, by which the area is protected and developed in relation to its role as an amenity and leisure facility.

Output 1: The Parish (and such adjoining areas as may be appropriate) is allocated special protection for appropriate leisure pursuits within the Local Development Document and covered by a specific notation.

Output 2: Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted, prescribing measures to be taken to conserve and enhance the role of the Parish (and such adjoining areas as may be appropriate) covered by the notation, as an important amenity area for local towns and the sub region.

Output 3: Measures to encourage the growth of existing leisure activities and the provision of additional appropriate facilities carried out. (see Schedule 1)

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area ENV 2: Strengthening Green Belt policy, its enforcement and enhancement.

Objective: To ensure the perpetuation of the Green Belt as a *de facto* device and to prevent the erosion and debasement of the Green Belt environment..

Output 1: Schedule of permitted ancillary uses in the Green Belt prepared and adopted (particularly excluding uses involving air, noise or light pollution).

Output 2: Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted, prohibiting further physical development within the Green Belt, other than listed *de facto* ancillary uses or, on redevelopment, building work equal to the existing superficial built area.

Output 3: Planting programmes prepared and implemented for the rehabilitation of significant tree stands and hedgerows within the Green Belt.

Output 4: Rehabilitation and enhancement of verges, including the Bath Road, within the Green Belt, achieved by substantial block planting.

Agencies Responsible : Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC

Action Area ENV 3: Maintaining the geographical integrity of Settlements by the strict definition of urban boundaries.

Objective: To prevent the coalescing of development along the axes formed by open land between Windsor, through Taplow Parish, and Beaconsfield and between Slough, through Taplow Parish, and Maidenhead.

Output 1: Boundary of significant Green Belt land delineated for special protection between Windsor and Beaconsfield and Slough and Maidenhead.

Output 2: Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted, declaring a total prohibition on physical development within the Green Belt between Windsor and Beaconsfield and between Slough and Maidenhead (particularly along the Bath Road).

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, SBDC, SBC, BTC, W&MDC.

Action Area ENV 4: Conserving and managing Woodlands and significant groups of Trees.

Objective: To maintain the character of the Parish which is significantly determined by extensive tree cover within both natural and built environments.

Output 1: Persuasive plan prepared for the rehabilitation and management of all extensive woodlands in the Parish by private land owners with the advice of the Forestry Commission.

Output 2: Groups of trees, important to the character of the area in which they are situated, identified for purposes of conservation.

Output 3: Individual and blanket TPOs enforced to safeguard and enhance tree cover.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, SBDC.

Action Area ENV 5: Conserving Trees which serve as important visual and protective elements in the natural and built environments.

Objective: To ensure the protection of important visual scenes created by the conjunction of buildings and natural features (e.g. Ellington Road, Hill Farm Road) and to provide screening from pollution)

Output 1: Schedule of trees prepared for special protection.

Output 2: TPOs confirmed on appropriate trees and stands of trees

Output 3: Planting scheme prepared and confirmed for protection against pollution

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, SBDC

Action Area ENV 6: Preserving Important Views.

Objective: To ensure that all significant views are protected in the course of development and development control.(e.g. Windsor Castle from Dropmore, Jubilee River from Mill Lane, rural views from the churchyard of St Nicolas Church, Windsor Castle from the Village, Taplow Court from the Bath Road, River Thames from River Road).

Output 1: Schedule of important views established for preservation.

Output 2: Schedule applied for purposes of development, management and control.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC

The North

Action Area ENV 7: Conservation and enhancement of the Wooded Plateau Zone

Objective: To ensure the perpetuation of the wild character of the Wooded Plateau Zone and its unfenced appearance, with trees and hedgerows spilling over onto the verges.

Output 1: Guidelines prepared and published as Supplementary Planning Guidance on the management and maintenance of roadside trees, hedgerows and verges in the Wooded Plateau Zone, in conformity with the BCC Landscape Plan.

Output 2: Institutional arrangements in place to provide for both landscape and environmental professionals to prepare detailed plans in relation to alterations required to facilitate new entrances, changes to junctions and any other engineering or traffic management works affecting verges or adjoining land within the Wooded Plateau Zone.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, SBDC, BCC

The Village

Action Area ENV 8: Conserving and Enhancing the Village Environment.

Objective: To ensure the perpetuation of the essential character of the natural and built environments of Taplow village.

Output 1: Village appraisal and detailed physical plan prepared, delineating built and natural features to be permanently retained and features to be enhanced, including tree and shrub planting and construction work.

Output 2: Taplow Village Conservation Document updated

Output 3: Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted, incorporating the planned proposals, and limiting development to the replacement of existing structures and uses, not exceeding the existing superficial area

Output 4: Physical plan progressively implemented through development management and control and through voluntary action.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, SBDC

The South

Action Area ENV 9: Rehabilitating, Enhancing and Conserving the Ellington Road and River Roads and adjoining areas.

Objective: To realize the significant environmental and aesthetic potential of the area within the perimeter described by the River Thames, the Jubilee River and the M4 and to develop further its potential for leisure and recreation.

Output 1: Whole area, defined by the Rivers Thames and Jubilee and the M4 (*Jubilee Island*), declared a Conservation Area, excluding Mill Lane redevelopment area

Output 2: Current Green Belt Settlement notation within GB 3 cancelled.

Output 3: Detailed physical plan prepared, defining form and structure of future development of the area and delineating built and natural features to be permanently retained and features to be enhanced, including tree and shrub planting and construction work.

Output 4: Riverside Conservation Area Document updated.

Output 5: Physical plan progressively implemented through development management and control and through voluntary action

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, SBDC

Action Area ENV 10: Redeveloping the area defined by the River Thames, Mill Lane, Berry Hill, the Jubilee River and the Bath Road.

Objective: To improve the physical environment and access to leisure and amenity; to rationalise land uses, particularly along Mill Lane and the bank of the Thames, improve access to the Thames, and extend footpath access to the confluence of the Thames and Jubilee Rivers.

Output 1: Detailed physical plan prepared defining form and structure of future development of the area, including proposed changes in land use and land exchanges, to provide, *inter alia*, additional access to the river.

Output 2: Schedule of proposed land use changes and relevant land ownership; *modus operandi* to effect changes, including negotiation and use of CPO powers, if necessary, for joint public/private sector operation, prepared and implemented.

Output 3: Negotiations completed to achieve footpath access to the confluence of Thames and Jubilee Rivers.

Output 4: Physical plan progressively implemented through development management and control.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, SBDC

Action Area ENV 11: Revitalising the environment on the Bath Road within Taplow Parish

Objective: Significantly to upgrade the domain adjoining the Bath Road for residents, commercial and industrial properties and other users to reflect the Green Belt notation and to improve the visual environment and efficiency of movement by motorised and non motorised traffic.

Output 1: Area appraisal and detail physical plan prepared for the comprehensive rehabilitation of the Bath Road within the Parish including adjoining land and properties.

Output 2: Tree planting schedule prepared for substantial block planting on verges and open land .

Output 3: Schedule of traffic calming measures prepared including provision for environmentally friendly pedestrian and non motorised traffic movement.

Output 4: Road sign clutter audit and proposals for remedial action completed

Output 5: Schedule of other visual improvements to the area completed.

Output 6: Progressive improvements carried out through development control and

management and voluntary action.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC

MOTORISED TRAFFIC ISSUES

Eighty eight percent of questionnaire responses rated traffic and traffic management as important or very important. Significant increases in HGVs passing through the rural roads and lanes of the Parish, current traffic management techniques and rat runs by commuter traffic were seen as a major threat to the environment and the role of the Parish for a variety of leisure pursuits. Comments by Interest Groups, at the Exhibition and on the Household Questionnaires identified current traffic management techniques as being considered ineffective and wholly inappropriate to the rural environment. In response to the question “What do you most dislike about the Parish” the highest number of answers was “**Traffic**”. Speed by commuter traffic and lorries was seen as a major problem. During the consultation process a wide variety of problems arising from traffic were identified including safe access to schools, parking problems in the village, lack of speed restrictions on roads and lanes, the car boot sale on the Bath Road, the need to route lorries not destinating within the Parish away from Parish roads, the importance of improving access to the motorway/motorway link/principal road box and taking measures to encourage commuter through traffic not to pass through the Parish.

A continuation of HGV traffic passing through the area, increases in commuter through traffic using roads and lanes as rat runs, speed and current methods of traffic management will damage the rural environment further. This in turn will inhibit the use of the area by ramblers, cyclists, horse riders, joggers, vintage car rallies and various charity runs. Charity runs and vintage car rallies have reduced over the years. Equestrian activities have been curtailed owing to the increased weight and speed of traffic. Current trends will inevitably result in the incipient sub-urbanisation of a delightful and popular rural environment and loss of employment. Community response to traffic issues requires a significant reduction in through traffic movement, reduction of speeds and a sensitive, environmentally friendly approach to traffic calming methods and signage. There are a number of excellent examples of the latter abroad and nearby in Oxfordshire and in the Chilterns AONB, in which Buckinghamshire County Council are participating. What is required is signage sympathetic to the rural scene and natural features constraining traffic speed. The latter can include simple arrangements such as letting uncut hedgerows and trees spill over verges as in the north of the Parish. Other constraint features which have proved successful include road narrowing by planting supported by appropriate rural fencing or posts and planting of trees and shrubs in an informal median strip. Square junctions have improved traffic safety where they have been introduced. Removal of road marking reduces speed, clutter and cost. Reduced speed means less pollution and a lower consumption of fuel both of which are important environmentally.

Provision for environmentally sensitive traffic management and engineering works are covered in Action Area TRA 1. TRA 2, 3 and 4 are dedicated to comprehensive traffic calming, protection from rat runs and re-routing of HGVs. TRA 5 and 6 relate to rationalising motorised and non-motorised traffic movements and TRA 7 provides for a traffic management scheme for the whole of Taplow village with priority for pedestrians and exclusion of through traffic. What is needed as a matter of urgency is

proposals for effective speed reduction without signage clutter throughout the Parish and the exclusion of all HGVs not destinating in the Parish.

Parish Wide Action Areas

Action Area TRA 1: Establishing a Priority for environmentally sensitive conservation of the rural environment in road engineering works and traffic management.

Objective: To ensure that engineering works and traffic management measures are sympathetic and supportive to the intrinsic rural nature of the Parish.

Output 1: Traffic policies and management measures within the Chiltern AONB project and other relevant examples applied to Taplow Parish.

Output 2: Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, *inter alia*, significantly augmented in support of the protection and enhancement of the countryside character of the Parish.

Output 3: Landscape and environmental professionals and local communities involved in preparation of a traffic management and design manual to achieve protection and enhancement of the Parish countryside incorporated as an integral part of LTP 2006-2011 and as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Output 4: Clutter audit of signage completed by Highway Authority and local community and implemented.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area TRA 2: Providing for effective and comprehensive traffic calming and road safety.

Objective: To define the Parish (and such adjoining areas as may be appropriate) as a zone for the implementation of comprehensive traffic calming measures, the conservation of natural and built environments and the effective protection of the area as an important leisure and recreational facility.

Output 1: Taplow Parish determined as a CountryWays Zone (comprehensive traffic calming measures)

Output 2: Schedule of traffic management measures approved, promulgated and implemented. (including routing of HGVs and the routing of Crossrail traffic from the Bath Road direct to the station carpark).

Output 3: Measures related to the definition of the Parish as a CountryWays Zone and the management of motorised traffic incorporated in the Local Development Document.

Output 4: Strategy to divert as much Parish through traffic as possible on more appropriate roads, including the Motorway/motorway link box achieved in conformity with BCC LTP 2.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area TRA 3: Preventing HGVs passing through the Parish

Objective: To make road safety a priority, to protect the rural environment, prevent waste spillage, conserve the area as an important leisure facility, in which roads have a multiple use, and to implement government policy and policies within the Buckinghamshire Rural Strategy.

Output 1: Regulation prohibiting HGVs not destinating within the Parish from passing through the area promulgated.

Output 2: All paper mill and waste transfer site HGVs prohibited from the Parish roads except on Mill Lane from the paper mill to the Bath Road.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area TRA 4: Reducing Speed of motorised traffic and inhibiting rat-runs.

Objective: To make road safety a priority, to protect the rural environment, conserve the area as an important leisure facility, ensure safe use of roads and lanes by walkers, cyclists and horse riders and to implement government policy and policies within the Buckinghamshire Rural Strategy.

Output 1: Road speed hierarchy in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Parish Plan report approved and implemented.

Output 2: Radical reduction in conventional signage and replacement where essential by signs more sympathetic to the intrinsic nature of the rural area achieved.

Output 3: Painted lines on road and lane surfaces removed.

Output 4: Constraints using natural features sympathetic to the rural environment to constrain traffic speed and inhibit rat-runs set up.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC

Action Area TRA 5: Enhancing the intrinsic rural character of lanes with limited motorised traffic and improving access for non motorised traffic.

Objective: To establish equivalent rights of movement for walkers, horse riders and cyclists to that of motorised traffic, to drastically reduce speed and to facilitate meaningful linkages with the Parish footpath and bridleway systems.

Output 1: Lanes listed in Schedule to this section promulgated as Quiet Lanes.

Output 2: Appropriate measures to constrain the speed of motorised traffic introduced in designated Quiet Lanes.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC

Action Area TRA 6: Providing safe motorised and non motorised access to schools.

Objective: To improve road safety, provide for non motorised access to schools and implement government policy and BCC schools policy.

Output 1: Speed restriction of 20 MPH enforced on adjoining roads to schools.

Output 2: School sites connected to Parish footpath and cycle track systems.

Output 3: Staggered roadside parking organised, where off-street parking is not available, to reduce speed of motorised traffic.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC

THE VILLAGE

Action Area TRA 7: Rationalising the use of Taplow village roads by non-motorised and motorised traffic.

Objective: To reclaim the village for its inhabitants, inhibit rat runs and provide a safer and more attractive environment. (Area affected; Rectory Road, High Street and adjoining land).

Output 1: Area declared a Home Zone with priority for pedestrians and other non motorised traffic.

Output 2: Constraints using natural features on approaches to the village on Hill Farm Road / Boundary Road, Rectory Road, by Berry Hill provided or conserved.

Output 3: Alternative facilities for school parking achieved by park-and-ride and/or provision of a school bus.

Output 4: Traffic management measures to inhibit rat-runs through the village completed.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC,

NON MOTORISED TRAFFIC

Footpaths, cycle tracks and bridleways were seen as an important element in the role of the Parish as a significant leisure facility. Eighty percent of respondents to the household questionnaire recognised the importance of establishing Parish wide networks. The currently fragmented nature of the footpath system has been largely created by enclosures, particularly at Dropmore, when a number of ancient routes were terminated. However Footpath 21, running through Abbot's Wood Mill, is the remainder of an ancient packhorse way. Government and County Council policies emphasise the importance of providing for alternatives to motorised traffic though provision of funding appears limited. Footpaths and cycle tracks are needed to serve two purposes; the pursuit of leisure and a means of transport as an alternative to the motor vehicle. Differing standards of surface are required. The latter needs a more permanent surface for obvious reasons. Parish wide networks of footpaths, cycle tracks and bridleways will probably necessitate dual or even multiple, though separated, use. Provision of these systems can probably be achieved by the use of common land, permitted access, wayleaves, the setting back of fence lines and the use of connections with Quiet Lanes. Comments by parishioners included in the questionnaires have expressed the view that footpaths in particular require rehabilitation. What is required at first is a comprehensive survey of all existing footpaths, cycle tracks and bridleways to ascertain their status and condition. This audit should be accompanied by a schedule of work to be carried out, where required, to bring these routes up to an appropriate standard, including estimates of cost. An audit of footpaths is already under way. The first priority is to provide a footpath

network between the main residential areas of the Parish and locations such as schools, the village hall, the railway station, bus stops, churches and public houses.

Action Area NMT 1 provides for a comprehensive survey of all footpaths, cycle tracks and bridleways and NMT 2 relates to the planning of a Parish wide network for non motorised traffic.

Parish Wide Action Areas

Action Area NMT 1: Assessing condition, quality, level of maintenance and accessibility of non motorised routes.

Objective: To complete the audit of all footpaths, cycle tracks and bridleways in the Parish.

Output 1: Comprehensive audit prepared with schedules of character, condition, maintenance and remedial work required.

Output 2: Remedial and maintenance work completed in consultation with voluntary groups such as Ramblers Association.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area NMT 2: Providing a Parish wide network for non motorised traffic.

Objective: To establish comprehensive networks of footpaths, cycle tracks and bridleways throughout the Parish.

Output 1: Physical plan completed, indicating existing and proposed public footpaths, cycle tracks and bridleways and routes with permitted access, to facilitate comprehensive network.

Output 2: Physical plan completed for priority links to provide safe accessibility by foot and bicycle to public facilities in and on the perimeter of the Parish, e.g. schools, village hall, church, PHs, railway station, bus stops.

Output 3: Implementation of physical plans for non motorised traffic progressively achieved by public and voluntary action

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Voluntary Groups, BCC, SBDC.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT ISSUES

Overall 74% of responses in the household survey recorded public transport as important or very important to the future of the Parish. This finding is consistent with the results of national surveys addressing the same issue.

Car park security and more frequent weekday services were identified by parishioners as the improvements most likely to lead to an increased use of rail services.

The maintenance of regular bus services was seen as very important or important by 73% of respondents. The demand for a regular service was strongest at Odds Farm in the northern extremity of the Parish as some residents stated in response to the household questionnaire that they felt isolated in its absence. At the Exhibition present bus service users from the village area described themselves as highly reliant on the existing regular service. These findings reflect the limited extent of north-south public transport links in the Parish, and their deterioration over recent years.

In contrast with actual local provision, central government (The Future of Transport, 2004), the South East Plan (SEERA, 2005) and the Local Transport Plan Part 2 (Bucks CC, 2005), have all made a commitment to improved public transport as the key to the issues of sustainability, access and the environmental damage from traffic. A general statement of transport needs by the Bucks and Milton Keynes rural Transport Partnership acknowledges the necessary use of the car but emphasizes the importance of promoting public transport. It also acknowledges the need to reduce the adverse impact of traffic on rural communities and vulnerable landscapes and environments. Amongst local services, Dial-a-Ride will be expanded from April 2005, but the operator has emphasized that this service will not be capable of replacing regular services.

Improving local bus services, especially on a north-south Parish route, would greatly strengthen Taplow's public transport provision, and could provide a valuable link between rail and bus at Taplow station, for both residents and visitors. A demand-led rather than regular service would not, in the view of users, adequately cater for existing needs.

Some headway has already been made during 2004/2005 to improve provision of rail services from Taplow. From the start of 2005, half hourly weekday services were introduced. Bucks CC has included the station and vicinity in plans for improved accessibility and parking management. A substantial improvement to station car parks is still some way off but should be a priority. Improvements are badly needed and likely to become more vital as improved services increase resident and area usage of Taplow Station. Taplow is likely to become an increasingly attractive alternative to both Maidenhead and Burnham for rail travel.

In the longer term, if Crossrail goes ahead as planned it will improve services from Taplow substantially. Up to 4 trains an hour on weekdays plus hourly Sunday services and Heathrow access via Hayes and Harlington, would provide much improved access into and across London, but would undoubtedly result in greater traffic movements in Taplow. Park and Ride use of Taplow station by motorists from Maidenhead and elsewhere, would be likely to increase. There would be

additional pressures for development, particularly housing, as our charming rural Parish became even more accessible. Environmental impacts would need to be identified and mitigated. The Crossrail project will need close monitoring for favourable and adverse impacts on the Parish, should it proceed.

Action Area PTR 1 deals with immediate ways and means of popularising rail travel pre Crossrail. PTR 2 looks to an improvement in non motorised access to the station and PTR 3 with improvements to bus services.

Parish Wide Action Areas

Action Area PTR 1: Popularising rail transport

Objective: To improve the quality of environment of and to ensure security and safety at Taplow Railway Station.

Output 1: Application to English Heritage proposing Grade 2 Listed Building status for the station delivered.

Output 2: Proposals for effective security and maintenance of station, car park and station land in consultation with railway operator prepared and implemented.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, Railway Operator.

Action Area PTR 2 : Improving access to rail transport.

Objective: To provide safe access to Taplow railway station for pedestrians and cyclists.

Output 1: Key existing and potential pedestrian and cycle routes to Taplow station identified and classified.

Output 2: Provision of new routes and remedial action on existing routes implemented progressively.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area PTR 3: Improving provision of and demand for bus services.

Objective: To provide a regular, accessible, public bus service throughout the Parish.

Output 1: Publicity achieved to create awareness of existing and potential public bus services

Output 2: Magpie and Dial-a-Ride services extended as perceived demand increases.

Output 3: Visually attractive and pedestrian accessible bus stops provided.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, BCC, SBDC, Bus Operator.

HOUSING ISSUES

Fifty seven percent of responses to the household questionnaire recorded a negative attitude to further housing in the Parish; 33% favoured some housing development. The latter roughly divided into three main groups supporting starter homes, small family housing or residential/care homes. There is some conflict between support for housing and the overwhelming desire at 97% to conserve and enhance the open, rural character of the Parish. Any further development will impact on the local environment to some extent. Taplow Parish would appear to have contributed very much more than its fair share of housing provision. House building in the village in the 1960s and 1970s saw a considerable expansion of housing stock, the latter increasing threefold. Figures given in the report *Housing Provision in South Bucks* (April 2004) are very revealing. Taplow Parish is recorded as having only 2.9% of the total number of households in South Bucks District in 2001 but, also according to the report (ibid), is contributing about 30% of outstanding permissions for the period 2001-2006. Housing provision should bear a relationship to existing population size particularly within a sensitive, rural environment. The foregoing represents a compelling argument that housing sites in the Parish should be limited to locations where there is dereliction or non conforming uses on sites which have already been identified within the planning system.

Such a policy is strongly buttressed by both local and Government policies on development and housing. Recently confirmed Green Belt policies in South Bucks inhibit further non conforming uses within that notation. Government guidelines are clear and are centred on the principle of sustainability. Housing development should observe the need to conserve the landscape, reduce the need to travel, exploit accessibility to public transport, reduce car dependency and give priority to brownfield sites in urban areas.

A single Action Area has been identified for housing for purposes of establishing a housing policy for the Parish in response to community wishes.

Parish Wide Action Areas

Action Area HOU 1: Establishing a Housing Policy for the Parish

Objective: To ensure the conservation of the rural character of the natural and built environments as the leading factor in housing provision.

Output 1: Sites for redevelopment, non conforming uses or change of use to housing, already identified within the planning system, adopted as sole location for future housing in the Parish.

Output 2: Policy prohibiting further infilling adopted.

Output 3: Design criteria and on-site requirements, including planting and walling, prepared by a professionally qualified group and incorporated in a manual..

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ISSUES

Community facilities are of two varieties, those related to institutional provision, such as a Day Centre for the elderly, and those centred around a personal service, such as volunteers offering help to parishioners in their homes. In the household questionnaire respondents were asked to assess the quality of specific facilities available to the public in the Parish which they use or had used, to rate non specified services for children, youth, the elderly and the disabled and what additional services respondents would like offered. In the case of existing facilities respondents expressed satisfaction with the Village Hall, the School, the Church and walks. In the case of the Village Hall greater capacity and more events were seen as important. Parishioners wanted a friendlier, more family oriented village public house with better food. Facilities for youth were recorded as adequate and for the rest as poor. Additional services and facilities suggested were many and various. Security was seen as important but the greatest number of respondents opted for a village shop cum post office and newsagents. A medical centre on the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital site and provision of an IT cable were recorded but most suggestions were very much related to facilities which would provide opportunities for informal social contact.

The Parish Council is not, institutionally, a service provider. At the Parish level provision of community facilities and services are very much dependent on effective demand, reliant on self help. The purpose of the questionnaire on this issue was to open up the topic and to elicit interest and problems.

Action Areas for community facilities issues are largely concerned with exploring the topic with a view to identifying effective demand, priorities and available resources for provision of facilities and services of which voluntary help is an important component. Action Areas COM 3,4,5,6 and 8 are designed for this purpose. COM 1 addresses increasing the capacity of the Village Hall to provide for more events and COM 2 to improving security. COM 9 deals with improving IT as a community facility.

Parish Wide Action Areas

Action Area COM 1: Increasing the Capacity of Taplow Parish Hall

Objective: To create more efficient working conditions for Parish staff and provide additional space for meetings, supported by external funding extra to that currently being arranged by the Parish Council. To provide disabled access and toilets.

Output 1: Additional space provided by construction of first floor over part of the existing Village Centre as arranged by the Parish Council.

Output 2: Additional funding identified for building work and equipment, (e.g. from Landfill Tax).

Output 3: Plan prepared and implemented for further extension of Village Centre.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group.

Action Area COM 2: Improving Security.

Objective: To ensure a more visible police presence and to facilitate surveillance.

Output 1: Parish wide motorised patrols introduced.

Output 2: Police foot patrols introduced in the Parish.

Output 3: Neighbourhood Watch strengthened,

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, Thames Valley Police Authority.

Action Area COM 3: Increasing facilities for children. (up to 13 years)

Objective: To investigate opportunities and demand for recreation and leisure facilities for children under the age of 13 years.

Output 1; Report prepared indicating demand for specific leisure and recreational facilities in support of young children with schedule of opportunities for provision

Output 2: Estimate of costs and potential sources of finance prepared.

Output 3: Venues identified for proposed activities, (including schools & church facilities)

Output 4: Work programme prepared.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC .

Action Area COM 4: Increasing facilities for Youth. (13 to 18 years)

Objective: To investigate opportunities and demand for additional recreation and leisure facilities in support of youth.

Output 1: Report prepared indicating demand for specific leisure and recreational facilities in support of youth, with schedule of opportunities for provision.

Output 2: Estimate of costs and potential sources of finance prepared.

Output 3: Venues identified for proposed activities (including schools & church facilities)

Output 4: Work programme prepared.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area COM 5: Supporting the Elderly.

Objective: To investigate opportunities and demand for services in support of the elderly..

Output 1: Report prepared indicating need and demand for services in support of the elderly, with schedule of opportunities for provision.

Output 2: Estimate of costs and potential sources of finance prepared.

Output 3: Services to be provided in the home and those to be provided outside identified.

Output 4 : Work programme prepared.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC,

Action Area COM 6: Supporting the Disabled.

Objective: To investigate opportunities and demand for services in support of the disabled.

Output 1: Report provided, indicating need and demand for services in support of the disabled, with schedule of opportunities for provision.

Output 2: Estimate of costs and potential sources of finance prepared.

Output 3: Services to be provided in the home and those provided outside identified.

Output 4: Work programme prepared.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area COM 7: Providing for Social Contact and Interaction.

Objective: To investigate ways and means of providing for informal contacts.

Output 1: Report prepared indicating level of demand and innovative ways in meeting the demand.

Output 2: Estimate of costs and potential sources of finance prepared.

Output 3: Work programme prepared.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group.

Action Area COM 8: Identifying demand for community facilities not currently available and not included in Action Areas

Objective: To fully investigate latent demand evidenced by responses by Interest Groups, the Exhibition and the Questionnaires.

Output 1: Report prepared, indicating additional community facilities for which there is a sustainable demand.

Output 2: Means of provision, cost and potential sources of finance identified.

Output 3: Work programme prepared.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group

Action Area COM 9: Improving IT as a community facility.

Objective: To investigate demand for and provision of cable and other technical facilities to improve information reception and media coverage.

Output 1: Report prepared indicating demand for IT facilities and strategies for meeting demand.

Output 2: Estimate of costs and potential sources of finance prepared.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group.

ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

Most of the Action Areas in this section derive indirectly from the consultation process. They represent the administrative activities and devices which are necessary to achieve the community's aspirations and priorities recorded in the preceding issues.

Consultation revealed that the public felt uninformed about the activities of the Parish Council and events taking place in the Parish. Many appeared uninformed about the extent of the Parish and important features within it. Postal addresses are seen as dysfunctional and wholly misleading. There is no reason why Taplow, or Taplow Parish and Buckinghamshire cannot appear in an address with the omission of Slough, Maidenhead, High Wycombe or Berkshire. The latter are covered by the code SL etc. which are unique. Current postal addresses are an affront to geography and lead to the misdirection of goods and parcels. A good deal of the Action Areas will require additional funding. It is not generally known that funding may be available from a number of unconventional sources including the European Union. These opportunities must be investigated rigorously if proposals in conformity with the community's wishes are to be implemented. In most cases it is unlikely that local government will be able to provide funding expeditiously or at all.

Planning is a continuous process. A plan simply records a situation at a point in time. Policies and plans must be kept constantly under review to chart progress and to adjust proposals as circumstances and priorities change. Arrangements are required at Parish level to set up a mechanism to enable a Community Group to monitor progress in implementing the plan, identifying the need to review policies and checking compliance with national and regional guidance. The boundaries of the Parish make it necessary to ensure concurrence in policies between adjoining authorities. A particular example is on the Heathfield Road where built and natural environments of identical character fall within the territory of three Parishes and two local planning authorities. *Prima facie* it would appear that differing policies obtain.

The main objective of government's revision of the planning system is to achieve greater and sustainable community involvement. Government has already published *Community Involvement in Planning: The Government's Objectives*. A further paper, – *Creating Sustainable Communities*, has also been published explaining the importance of greater community involvement, the principles underpinning the approach and how community involvement will be strengthened. South Bucks District Council has professed a strong policy in favour of community involvement. However, on their website they state –

“There is a mixed pattern of community involvement across the District and a decreasing number of volunteers and participants”.

Presumably it is this situation that government hopes to correct. However, the significance of community involvement is seriously weakened when, for example, recommendations by a Parish Council supported by 95% of the 60% of parishioners

responding, local and regional interest groups and other community associations, based on sound planning principles, are set aside and ignored by the Local Planning Authority and the government. The County Council has expressed similar support for community involvement. In the discussion document in support of the Chiltern and South Bucks Transport Symposium it states-

“--- for a Local Transport Plan to be effective in delivering local needs, it should be integrated into broader community aspirations and priorities”.

No doubt local authorities are sincere regarding this issue. However, there are problems in achieving effective public participation when the process is limited to the dissemination of information rather than a creative partnership dedicated to problem solving and policy making. Existing mechanisms for community involvement and public participation need re-examination in the light of government policy. The policy making process must be palpable and community representation must be accountable. Public involvement must be seen as an integral part of the planning process and not a separate function.

Action Areas ADM 1 and 2 are on the dissemination of information and the definition of Parish territory respectively. ADM 3 investigates external sources of finance, ADM 4 provides for the establishment of a monitoring system at Parish level, ADM 5 is on the rationalisation of development policy and development management between adjoining Parishes and ADM 6 relates to community involvement.

Parish Wide Action Areas

Action Area ADM 1: Dissemination of Parish Information.

Objective: To achieve Parish awareness and provide information on Parish activities as widely as possible, including external matters affecting the Parish. .

Output 1: Notice Boards located at major strategic points within the Parish, (e.g. Feathers PH, Royal Standard PH.)

Output 2: Parish Website established

Output 3: Information pack distributed to all households; Welcome pack distributed to all newcomers.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group

Action Area ADM 2: Definition of Parish Territory

Objective: To stimulate and improve awareness of the Parish as a geographical entity

Output 1: Appropriately designed sign boards at each Parish entry point installed.

Output 2: Sign boards installed identifying important features within the Parish (e.g. Conservation Areas, important woodlands & features such as Nobleman's Corner).

Output 3: Rationalisation of postal addresses to represent administrative boundaries achieved.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, SBDC, GPO

Action Area ADM 3: Investigating external sources of finance

Objective: To identify non-conventional sources of finance available for civic purposes, including community facilities within and without the UK, from the BCC funding department.(in the first instance).

Output 1: Report on available sources of funding and regulations applying to procurement and utility prepared.

Output 2: Appropriate action taken by Parish Council.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

Action Area ADM 4: Monitoring of change and development.

Objective: To oversee the implementation of planned action in fulfilment of the Parish Plan; to observe any social, economic and physical change and its implication for development; to evaluate success in achieving objectives; to ensure compliance with Planning Policy Guidance/ Planning Policy Statement (PPG/PPS) and Regional Policy Guidance(RPG).

Output 1: Institutional structure established to carry out monitoring and evaluation.

Output 2: Regular reporting by Monitoring & Evaluation Community Group (M&E) instituted and action taken.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group

Action Area ADM 5: Rationalising Development Policy Formulation and Management between adjoining Local Planning Authorities and Parishes

Objective: To provide for regular meetings at District and Parish level to ensure consensus on development issues, including development control, related to adjoining Planning Authorities (e.g. on Heathfield Road).

Output: Standing Working Parties established comprising of appropriate representation for District and Parish areas adjoining High Wycombe and Windsor & Maidenhead District Councils.

Agencies Responsible: SBDC, WDC, RBWM, Community Group and associated Parish Councils.

Action Area ADM 6: Implementing Government, Regional and Local policies on community involvement.

Objective: To ensure a meaningful and transparent dialogue on development policy and development management at Parish, District and County level and the appropriate interpretation of community priorities and aspirations.

Output: Institutional arrangements to facilitate dialogue between SBDC, BCC and the Taplow Parish Council on development policy and development management matters established, agreed and promulgated.

Agencies Responsible: Taplow Parish Council, Community Group, BCC, SBDC.

SCHEDULE 1 accompanying *Proposals and Actions*

Permitted Leisure Pursuits (without restraint)

- Walking
- Bird spotting
- Nature or farm visits
- Horse riding
- Bicycle riding along defined paths
- Fishing
- Agricultural competitions excluding events with trade stands or similar infrastructure
- Game shooting

Leisure Pursuits permitted for three days in a year

- Country fairs and shows
- Farm auctions and sales
- Equestrian eventing
- Festivals

- Scout or guide camps or similar
- TV and film locations
- Static motoring events

SCHEDULE 2 accompanying *Proposals and Actions*

Speed Hierarchy

- Bath Road / Cliveden Road / Heathfield Road / Sheepcote Lane / Wooburn Common Road / Bourne End Road, all 40 MPH.
- Berry Hill from the Bath Road to 400 metres past Taplow Court, 30 MPH
- Roads adjoining Dropmore First School and the Montessori School, 20 MPH
- Bath Road on either side of Silchester Manor School, 20 MPH
- Hill Farm Road / Boundary Road from Hitcham Road to Cliveden Road, 30 MPH
- Approach Road / Station Road, 30 MPH
- Rectory Road, 20 MPH

Designation of *Quiet Lanes*

- Hitcham Lane / Huntswood Lane / Hedsor Lane

Lanes adjoining the Parish recommended as *Quiet Lanes*

- Rose Hill / Nashdom Lane / Parliament Lane