

BILLESDON

PARISH PLAN 2006

'Shaping the Future'



**Billesdon
Parish Plan
Steering Group**

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1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PARISH PLAN

1.1 Why have a Parish Plan?

Billesdon is a thriving and successful Parish community. However, complacency could endanger this favourable condition for the future, while improvements to the current situation are always possible. With these caveats in mind, the Steering Group has identified five main reasons for creating a *Parish Plan*:

- i. To enable all residents, businesses and organizations in the Parish to voice their views, wishes and needs on how the Parish could develop over the next decade;
- ii. To form a consensus of the views, wishes and needs of all the participating residents, businesses and organisations and summarise them in a coherent *Action Plan* for the Parish;
- iii. To provide a means of communicating to Harborough District Council, and other service providers, the views, wishes and needs of residents, businesses and organisations in the Parish;
- iv. To identify specific *Action Points* in the Action Plan for the Parish Council to pursue with service providers (e.g. applying for funds; pressing for improvements to services), with the confidence that community consultation has taken place;
- v. To stimulate the formation of partnerships between community groups, businesses, voluntary organisations and individual residents within the Parish to carry forward specific Action Points.

The Parish Plan develops two dimensions within these objectives: (i) what can be done to maintain the quality of life already achieved for those who are resident in the Parish?; and (ii) what can be done to expand and further develop the quality of life for those who are resident in the Parish? The Parish Plan also contains arguments and evidence in support of specific Action Points.

1.2 Producing the Parish Plan

The Parish Plan process began with two public meetings, held during September 2005 under a Parish Council initiative. A Steering Group for the Parish Plan was formed from the participants at the initial public meetings, with its activities, meetings and discussions carried forwards independently of the Parish Council. To begin with,

during the autumn of 2005, the Steering Group consulted with the following Parish organizations and businesses through a questionnaire and discussions at two joint meetings:

<i>Baptist Chapel</i>	<i>History Group</i>	<i>Surgery</i>
<i>Brownie Guides</i>	<i>Loose Ends</i>	<i>Village School</i>
<i>Businesses</i>	<i>Mums and Tots</i>	<i>Wildlife Group</i>
<i>Coplow Centre</i>	<i>Parish Church</i>	<i>Women's Institute</i>
<i>Cricket Club</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Youth Group</i>
<i>Drama Group</i>	<i>Rainbows</i>	

The results of the consultation shaped the Steering Group's identification of the subjects and issues relevant for the Parish Plan, together with a list of the types of actions that would be beneficial to the organisations and businesses. The Steering Group produced a Report on the consultations, which was circulated to the Parish Council and to those Parish groups that had participated in the consultation process.

The Steering Group then constructed two Parish Questionnaires: one for residents of the Parish who are over 16 years of age, and another for young people between 5 and 16 years of age. The Questionnaires were shaped by the Report on consultations with Parish organizations and businesses, by how other parishes have proceeded in their Parish Plans, and by the local knowledge of members of the Steering Group. The Questionnaires investigated the views of Parish residents on the following topics:

<i>Housing development</i>	<i>Traffic and transport</i>
<i>Business and services</i>	<i>The environment</i>
<i>Community life</i>	<i>Young people</i>

During January and February 2006, the Questionnaires were delivered to every household within the Parish by a group of volunteers and collected over the following weeks. Totals of 390 useable adult questionnaires, and 34 questionnaires from young people, were returned. Approximately 57% of adults in the Parish returned their questionnaires; but as the number of young people between 5 and 16 years of age in the Parish in 2006 is not known, the response rate for young people cannot be measured.

Members of the Steering Group entered the responses from the Questionnaires into a database managed by the Rural Community Council. Summary statistics were produced and interpreted by the Steering Group through a series of discussion meetings. A draft of the Parish Plan was discussed with the Parish Council and, at a third public meeting, with residents of the Parish. Following a meeting with Service

Providers, final amendments were made and the Parish Plan was published in September 2006.

1.3 Using the Parish Plan

A distinction must be drawn between the Billesdon Village Design Statement (VDS) and the Billesdon Parish Plan. The *Village Design Statement* has been in place since 2001 and helps to shape decisions on planning applications such as for new housing, commercial development and changes to the design of existing buildings (copies are available at the Billesdon Post Office). The Village Design Statement has statutory status (i.e. as Supplementary Planning Guidance) and has to be taken into account by those making decisions within the planning process. However, all Village Design Statements will need to be reviewed at a future date yet to be determined by central government, when it seems likely that their status will also be changed – possibly to Supplementary Planning Documents - under new Local Development Framework regulations. At the time of writing, the exact new role of Village Design Statements has not been finalised, but they will take their place within Harborough District Council’s ‘*Core Strategy*’, including Billesdon’s proposed designation as a ‘*Local Centre*’. More information on the wider context of Village Design Statements can be obtained through -

www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/ldf/ldfguide.

The *Parish Plan* is independent of the Village Design Statement, although the Parish Plan has a good deal to say about matters that fall within the purview of the planning process. The Parish Plan has no statutory status, but it is wider in scope than the Village Design Statement in covering economic, transport, health, social and environmental issues. The broad use of the Parish Plan is to identify ways forward (i.e. the Action Plan) for residents of the Parish in the evolution of community life. To this end, the Parish Plan acts in an advisory role to those who provide economic, social and environmental services to the community within the Parish (e.g. Harborough District Council; Water, Gas and Electricity suppliers; Police; housing agencies; the Parish Council). In particular the Parish Plan demonstrates that a consultation process has taken place within the community on a range of issues: it can be used by the Parish Council and service providers, for example, to validate community support for, or opposition to, a range of possible economic, social and environmental developments. Thus responsibility for carrying the Action Plan

forward lies with a range of agencies: the Parish Council; service providers; Project Groups instigated by the Parish Council; existing Parish Organizations; local businesses; and groups of residents or individual residents in the Parish. At the point of publishing the Parish Plan, the work of the Plan's Steering Group for Billesdon is complete.

2 A SOCIAL PROFILE OF THE PARISH

2.1 Historical Context

The Billesdon Local History Group have published an excellent account of the historical development of the Parish, from earliest times up to the 1950s (*'Billesdon: 2000 Years of a High Leicestershire Village'* by M. Vlaeminke, G. Bromley and P. Geary, 1999, Barker and Co.). The History Group has noted how the earliest Iron Age pottery and worked flints have been found around Life Hill, to the north of the present Village, near to two prehistoric trackways. Finds of Romano-British pottery within the Parish signify continuing occupation through to the Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions and settlements of the 5th to 9th centuries, while the Village is recorded in the Domesday Book (*'Billesdone'*) following the Norman Conquest of 1066. A church in Billesdon was given to Leicester Abbey by William de Syfrewast by 1162, and parts of the base of the tower of the present parish church of St. John the Baptist probably date from before 1250 (Vlaeminke et al., 1999, p.7).



MARKET SQUARE

Remains of the medieval village of Billesdon can be found north of the present axis of Long Lane, between the cricket field and High Acres (see Village map inside the back cover). In common with many other medieval villages, Billesdon had its three

open fields (Stonepit Field, Mill Field and Portbridge Field), from which times the distinctive 'ridge and furrow' field patterning still survives. But the later development of the Village occurred further south around a central core of thatched and slate-roofed cottages and farms, now enclosed by Church Street and Brook Lane. The Local History Group have shown how, even today, Church Street retains the characteristic narrow frontages of houses right onto the road, with long narrow plots of land behind.

The early prosperity of the Village was based on farming and a local market (from 1618), with coaching inns and local carriers being developed when the (old A47) through road became turnpiked in 1754. It was only in 1986 that the tight bends of the old A47 through the Village brought about a by-pass to serve the increasing traffic between Leicester and the East coast. Employment was diversified during the 19th century by the opening of a brickworks, a revival of the Billesdon Hunt in 1838, the expansion of framework knitting and glove stitching, and the building of a workhouse (1846). Indeed the population size of the Village had risen to 909 by 1861 - a figure not yet surpassed - and the Village operated as virtually a self-contained community with its own baker, doctor, shops and carriers. Gradually, however, the village lost its agricultural, market, service and industrial functions and by 1931 the population had fallen to 543. By the mid-20th century Billesdon had begun to take on its present principal roles as a residential centre for workers in nearby towns, a location for home-based businesses, and a place for retirement.

2.2 People of the Parish

The 2001 Population Census, allows us to draw a portrait of the people in the Parish at the end of the 20th century, although the Parish Questionnaire shows how housing developments within the last five years have brought about some changes. By 2001, the population size of the Parish had risen to 745 (up from 679 in 1991), while Leicestershire County Council are estimating a total population size of 780 for 2005. Residents lived within 353 households, at an average of 2.11 people in each household. 642 (86%) people were over 16 years of age and the average age of a Parish resident was 45.8 years (Tables 2.1 and 3.1). 48% of the population were male (46% from the Questionnaire) and 52% female (54% from the Questionnaire), with 32% living alone (Table 2.2). 61% of the population were married, with 16%

divorced, while 99% of the population were white. The Questionnaire found an even spread in the range of years people had lived in the Village, but 50 % had lived in the village for less than 10 years (Table 2.3).

Table 2.1 Total population by age group in 2001

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>0- 4</i>	26	4
<i>5-15</i>	77	10
<i>16-24</i>	54	7
<i>25-44</i>	182	24
<i>45-64</i>	228	31
<i>65-74</i>	109	15
<i>75+</i>	9	9
<i>Total</i>	745	100

Source: LCC Parish Profile (2001 census)

32% of households had one or more people with a limiting long terms illness (17% of the population), and 30% of the population (16-74 years old) was economically inactive (67% were economically active). Just over 15% of households had no car or van - mostly pensioner households - but 55% of households had 2 or more cars. 75% of dwellings were owner occupied (81% from the Questionnaire), 15% were rented from the Council or a Housing Association (13% from the Questionnaire), and just over 10% were privately rented (7% from the Questionnaire). In the housing stock, 45% were detached houses or bungalows.

Table 2.2 Household composition in 2001

<i>Household composition</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>One person pensioner</i>	61	17
<i>One person other</i>	53	15
<i>Pensioner couple</i>	50	14
<i>Couple no children</i>	77	22
<i>Couple with children</i>	52	15
<i>Lone parent with children</i>	12	3
<i>Households with non-dependent children</i>	34	10
<i>Other households</i>	14	4

Source: LCC Parish Profile (2001 census)

For those in employment in 2001, 72% worked in service industries and only 2.6% of people travelled to work by public transport - the average distance travelled by all those at work was 17km. 43% of residents were retired, while nearly 33% of the population had at least 2 A-levels.

Table 2.3 Number of years lived in the Parish in 2006

<i>Number of years</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>0-1</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>2-4</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>5-10</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>11-19</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>20-39</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Over 40</i>	<i>14</i>

Source: Parish Questionnaire (2006)

The picture to emerge from these statistics is of a Parish with a varied composition by age, wealth, education and employment. Significantly, in 2001 nearly a quarter of the population were over 65 years of age (only 14% were younger than 16 years of age), a similar proportion were single, and nearly one third lived alone.

2.3 Community Action

The Parish of Billesdon has an extended record of bringing together its broad social mixture of people into a dynamic and caring community. The following list of awards bears testimony to the efforts of a large proportion of the Parish's residents, who have joined together in a wide variety of activities.

- Leicester Advertiser Best Kept Village 1983 – Winner*
- Leicester Mercury Best Kept Village (Small Villages) 1994 – Winner*
- Leicester Mercury Best Kept Village (Small Villages) 1995 – Winner*
- Leicester Mercury Best Kept Village 1997 – Winner*
- Leicestershire and Rutland Best Village Hall (Small Villages) 1997/8 – Winner*
- Leicestershire and Rutland Village Ventures (Arts and Young People) 1998/99 – Highly Commended*
- Leicestershire and Rutland Best Village Hall (Small Villages) 1999 – Winner*
- Leicestershire and Rutland Jubilee Year Best Village (Small Villages) 2002 – Winner*
- Leicestershire and Rutland Village Ventures (Woodland Pool) 2002/3 – 3rd place.*
- Calor Village of the Year Central Region (Environment) 2003 – Winner*
- Calor Village of the Year Central Region (Business) 2003 – Winner*
- Leicestershire and Rutland Best Village (Small Villages) 2004 – Winner*
- Leicestershire and Rutland Best Village (Business) 2004 – Winner.*

These activities have brought help and appropriate support to those in need, and have advanced the social, economic and environmental quality of life in the Parish. The Parish Plan elaborates upon these activities and sets out to build upon and further develop the past achievements of the Parish.

3 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

3.1 The context

One of the endearing features of the Parish is the secluded valley setting of the village of Billesdon. The cluster of cottages and houses around the church is almost invisible from the approach roads, including the A47 by-pass constructed in 1986. Indeed one effect of the by-pass has been to divert traffic away from the centre of the Village, which, combined with the valley setting, gives Billesdon its quiet rural charm.

As described earlier, the village of Billesdon has developed mainly around an historic core enclosed by Church Street and Brook Lane. Houses in the Village core are notable for their traditional but diverse building styles, as well as the variety of materials employed, including brick, stone and mud. Almost all the Village is designated as a Conservation Area, while the village envelope (line of build) is drawn tightly around the existing houses.

In the decades following the Second World War, housing developments of differing size occurred along most of the approach roads at the edges of the Village, with infill housing becoming more evident in the 1970s and 1980s. In both cases a range of housing styles emerged, but the new housing was absorbed successfully into the Village character in terms of scale and design. The gradual infilling of the Village continued during the 1990s and two housing developments were added in the early years of the present century. The first, at White Hart Close and White Hart Mews, created a range of house sizes on a compact site towards the centre of the Village; the second, larger housing development was built on the southern edge of the Village by David Wilson Homes (off Rolleston Road). The latter development, given planning permission before the Village Design Statement of 2001, has proved to be suburban in character and at variance in design and scale with housing elsewhere in the Village.

3.2 Housing need

It is clear from responses to the Parish Questionnaire that a preference exists for the Village to retain its character and charm and not to be spoilt by further large-scale housing developments. The David Wilson housing development, in particular, attracts adverse criticism for its scale and design and is cited as an example of the type of development to be avoided in future. Understandably, a majority of people expressing an opinion prefer no future development whatsoever: there is a fear that the Village could become too busy, that local amenities would not be able to cope with an increase in population size, and that the quiet rural charm of Billesdon as a coherent community would be lost. Given the choice, most people prefer the Village to remain as it is.



CHURCH STREET

Nor has a significant housing need within the Parish been expressed through the Parish Questionnaire. Only a small proportion (5%) of residents have had members of their family leave the Parish due to lack of affordable housing and just 12% of respondents expect to look for, or have a member of their family look for, a house in the Parish within the next 5 years. The three main reasons for seeking alternative accommodation are: (i) wanting to move to larger or smaller properties (30%), (ii) family members setting up a new home (25%), or (iii) a family member needing to move closer to other family members (24%). Of course the issue of housing need is important for these families, but the overall scale of expressed housing need is not as great as in many other rural communities.

Three features contribute to this relatively low level of expressed housing need: the provision of some Housing Association homes within the White Heart Close development; the existence of houses for public and private rental within the Parish (19% of the housing stock); and a significant turnover of households in the Parish. On the last feature, 50% of residents have lived in the Parish for 10 years or less (Table

2.3), so that the mobility of the Parish’s population disguises the scale of any housing need. Any case for new housing in the Parish, therefore, lies elsewhere and can be found in two places: the age distribution of the Parish’s population and the broader national demand for housing. In common with most rural areas, the Parish of Billesdon has a relatively elderly population: from the Questionnaire, 37% of the sampled population over 16 years of age are over 65, while only 13% are under 35 years of age (Table 3.1). So as to maintain the population dynamic of the Parish, for example in the demand for services such as the school, the shop, the post office, community social events and Village organizations, a younger age profile needs to be developed. With the high cost of housing providing a selective mechanism for excluding young people, the way forward is to provide more affordable (or low-cost/‘starter’) homes in the Parish. This argument is now widely appreciated within rural areas. However, affordable homes have to be placed within a mix of housing types for the commercial viability of a housing development. The issue thus becomes the proportion of affordable homes to be built (see section 3.3).

Table 3.1 Age distribution of the population over 16 years old (% in each age group)

<i>Years of age</i>	<i>17-24</i>	<i>25-34</i>	<i>35-44</i>	<i>45-54</i>	<i>55-64</i>	<i>65-74</i>	<i>75+</i>
<i>From the Questionnaire</i>	3	10	16	12	22	25	12
<i>From the 2001 Census</i>	8	28		36		17	11

On national housing demand, each county and locality will be expected to absorb its share of any new housing stock. Leicestershire, Harborough District and Billesdon Parish cannot be exempted from this requirement. Indeed, as already mentioned, Billesdon has been proposed as a ‘*Local Centre*’ within the new ‘*Core Strategy*’ of Harborough District Council. The Parish can expect to be allocated an as yet unknown, but probably modest, number of new house builds over the next decade.

3.3 Developing the housing stock

Residents of the Parish are entitled to develop their own view on the type, scale and location of any addition to the housing stock. The Parish Questionnaire identifies the following consensus of opinion on these matters.

Respondents to the Parish Questionnaire express broad satisfaction with the way in which planning applications have been handled in the Parish since 2001, when the Village Design Statement became operative (of the 352 residents who offered an opinion, 49% are ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied’, while 19% are ‘dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’ and 32% ‘do not know’). Those in the ‘do not know’ category tend to have lived in the Parish for only a short time and feel unable to offer an informed opinion. The main criticism applies to the granting of permissions for too much infill housing, while a more general concern is that adherence to the Village Design Statement be continued into the future.

Within an acceptance that any housing development will comprise a mix of house types, the most preferred emphasis is towards detached houses (32% of those giving an opinion); an emphasis on semi-detached houses is preferred by 23% of residents, compared with 22% for bungalows and 21% for terraced houses. Only flats are not deemed desirable (2%). In recognition of the need to bring younger people into the village, residents estimate that 37% of any new houses should be affordable homes, and that 24% of new builds should be by a Housing Association. Residents also consider that 24% of any new homes should be suitable as housing for elderly people, so that older residents can ‘down-size’ yet remain living within the Parish

Table 3.2 Acceptable number of new houses in the Parish during the next decade

<i>Number of houses</i>	<i>1-10</i>	<i>11-20</i>	<i>21-30</i>	<i>31-40</i>	<i>Over 40</i>
<i>Percentage of preferences</i>	26	28	24	14	8

The consensus on the scale of building is for a scattering of small developments in keeping with Village Design Statement guidelines (80% of replies), rather than a large housing estate (5%) - 15% of respondents have no preference. However, there is a wide range of opinion on how many houses should be built in the Parish over the next 10 years. For residents giving an opinion, 54% have a preference for fewer than 20 houses, but 22% are prepared to accept more than 30 (Table 3.2).

There is a similar spread of opinion on where new housing should be located. 42% of respondents with an opinion prefer new housing to be infill, whilst 32% want new housing to be located around the edge of the Village, and 26% have no preference.

There is no consistent variation in preferences according to length of residence in the Parish, but older people, and residents in the older part of the Village, prefer new housing to be infill rather than round the edge of the Village. If it is assumed that most housing development is to take place at the edge of the Village over the next 10 years, 65% of residents expressing an opinion show no preference on its location. A further 12% feel any new housing should be located between the by-pass and the old A47, 8% prefer an extension of the Village along the axis of the old A47, 6% cite the area between the Gaulby and Rolleston Roads, as an extension to the David Wilson Homes housing development, while the remainder offer a variety of locations.

In June 2006, Harborough District Council published details of two sites in Billesdon that Developers and Landowners have identified for new housing (www.marketharboroughonline.co.uk/consultation). Both sites are located next to the by-pass on the north side of the Village. The proposed sites illustrate the problems faced by the selection of locations for new housing in the Parish. For example: (i) the sites lie outside the 'line of build' of the Village Design Statement; (ii) access would have to be from points on the Leicester and Uppingham roads, as direct access onto the by-pass would be too hazardous; (iii) the village's prized setting would be considerably compromised, as Billesdon would become highly visible to passing traffic; (iv) people living in the new houses would be subject to continuous traffic noise; (v) there is evidence of medieval settlement at the end of Long Lane, which would be threatened; (vi) too great a limitation would be placed on the playing of cricket for the continued viability of Billesdon Cricket Club.

Given the contentious nature of future housing development in the Parish, and the need to review the Village Design Statement at a date yet to be determined, the Parish Council is in need of assistance in carrying out its responsibilities and representing the interests of the Parish. A case can be made, therefore, for reconvening the *Village Design Group* (VDG) to report to the Parish Council. The activities of the VDG could include: monitoring the effectiveness of the present Village Design Statement; monitoring the implications of changing planning regulations for Billesdon; and preparing the Village Design Statement for review at some time in the future (*N.B. there is no immediate need to amend the present Village Design Statement*).

In addition, some consideration could be given to future housing supply and demand in the Parish. The Parish Council could develop a Parish Housing Strategy on preferred additional house types, numbers, designs and locations in the Parish, including the proportion of affordable homes and housing for the elderly, and the potential involvement of a Housing Association. At the time of writing, additional house builds to be allocated by local government to the village over the next decade are not known, but seem likely to be relatively small in number.

3.4 Action Points

- i. Reconvene the Village Design Group to report to the Parish Council. The activities of the VDG could include: monitoring the effectiveness of the present Village Design Statement; monitoring the implications of changing planning regulations for Billesdon; and preparing the Village Design Statement for review at some time in the future.
- ii. Provide information to Parish residents on monitoring the Village Design Statement, and the implications of (new) planning regulations for Billesdon.
- iii. Develop a Parish Housing Strategy on preferred additional house types, numbers, designs and locations in the Parish, including the proportion of affordable homes and housing for the elderly, and the involvement of a Housing Association.
- iv. Convene a Parish Meeting, at an appropriate time in the future, to discuss a review of the Village Design Statement.

4 BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

4.1 Businesses

For a village of its size, Billesdon currently contains a wide range of businesses that serve the local population. These include the shop, post office, garage, Coplow Centre, surgery, mobile shops, mobile library, hairdresser and two public houses. There are also a large number of individual businesses, such as a builder and a plumber, together with a number of businesses run wholly or partly from home. Comments from residents, both within the Parish Questionnaire and anecdotally, reveal a very high level of satisfaction with all the businesses, and a keen desire to keep all of them functioning as they do now, as well as guaranteeing their future existence.

Many residents are unaware of all the businesses available in the Parish, although many businesses do advertise in *Billesdon & District Parish News & Views*. There are also a number of additional businesses that residents would like to see within the village. To meet the requirements of residents, businesses may have to change over time, and residents have some suggestions that might improve on what is already available. By evolving over time, businesses can ensure that not only will they remain profitable, but they will also meet and exceed the expectations of their customers.

Residents particularly value the retail premises in the Village and there is a very high level of satisfaction with what is currently provided. However, in adjusting to local demands, 30% of residents would like to see a wider range of goods in the village shop, 27% would like to see some extended opening hours into the early evening for people working outside the Village, and 35% would like to see more local produce on sale - this could include organic food and a wider delicatessen range.



COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

The Post Office is owned by the community but will continue to thrive only if local residents use it. A Board of volunteer directors runs the business, with profits going to pay off the loans required to purchase the business. Nevertheless, 22% of people would like extended opening hours and 33% a wider range of goods and services, in particular a more robust photocopying service that could cope with large volumes. The residents who run businesses from home would particularly welcome this.

In the medium term, both the Post Office and the shop will need to be aware of competition from other business sectors, particularly the Internet and wireless technology that could become alternative sources of supply for rural villages, such as Billesdon.

In looking at the two pubs, a significant 52% of residents say they would use them more if they sold or extended the type of food and drink they currently retail. Local

publicans could be encouraged to diversify and take advantage of a grant scheme to support community projects in village pubs called “Living Locals.” There are numerous opportunities and business ideas, which could be run from the pubs, improving their profitability and guaranteeing their future. Support for this programme is through the Leicestershire Rural Partnership.

Residents appreciate the convenience of having a local garage, and there are a large number of comments expressing concern that it might close in the future. Customers from outside Billesdon, who currently use the garage for petrol, repairs and sales, also use the village pubs, Post Office and shop on their visits to the village. The closure of just one business is likely to have a knock-on effect elsewhere in the village economy. A number of mobile businesses also visit the Village and, whilst the visiting hours are convenient to 75% of residents, approximately a quarter of residents say they would patronise them more if they all offered a wider range of goods. The visiting times also need to be on display centrally, as they are not widely known – this observation includes the mobile library. Indeed, at the moment, there seems not to be a single publication that lists all the businesses available throughout the Village. Whilst a number of organisations have their own in-house promotional material (e.g. Coplow Centre), there is scope for a business directory and/or page on the Village web site.

There also appears to be some demand for additional businesses: for example, a butcher, a chemist (selling the full range of non-prescription products) and a tea room or village tea shop. Opportunities exist to run these enterprises either as freestanding businesses or as an extension to an existing business already trading in the Village.

4.2 Services

The main service providers in the Village are the Surgery and the Coplow Centre. The Coplow Centre, as a service provider, is highly valued by residents and 39% said they would use it more if a wider range of activities were available (see section 5.1). More favourable pricing of activities and an extended range of facilities would encourage greater use by over a third of Parish residents. For its part, managers of the Coplow Centre try to be responsive to changing demands for its facilities but at present are hampered by a shortage of kitchen facilities and storage space for equipment used by various clubs and societies. Plans are in hand to extend the premises of the Coplow

Centre; in this context, a more than yearly commitment of the annual grant from the Parish Council would be a great advantage in raising funds for the building project.

On the Surgery, there is enormous positive support for what is provided. Residents are particularly appreciative of new services, such as the use of the web to order repeat prescriptions and book appointments. The introduction of an in-house counsellor and a practice therapist are both seen as beneficial additions to the range of medical services, and anecdotal comments give high satisfaction ratings.

Whilst appreciating the quality of health care in the Parish, a significant number of residents would like to see health facilities developed further in the future. In the medium term, Table 4.1 suggests the potential for a relatively high level of support for new health care services, such as a weekly visiting dentist, chiropodist, physiotherapist, and optician.

Table 4.1 Use of additional health care services if provided in the village on a weekly basis (% supporting each type of service)

<i>Service</i>	<i>Definitely</i>	<i>Possibly</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Do not know</i>
<i>Dentist</i>	34	33	29	4
<i>Chiropodist*</i>	19	39	35	7
<i>Physiotherapist</i>	15	37	39	9
<i>Optician</i>	27	35	33	5
<i>Complementary Medicine</i>	13	30	46	11

[at present a monthly chiropody service is offered at the Hairdresser's]*

Looking to the future, of those offering an opinion, 37% of residents would support the building of a small number of business/office units in the Village to help future employment in the Parish, although a similar proportion (39%) are not in support (24% do not know). Support for this type of development is stronger amongst those who have lived in the Parish for a longer period of time. Such a development would require careful design and location, particularly in relation to the effect of additional traffic movements along Village roads. The development of office facilities at Park Farm (on the Market Harborough Road), however, indicates that such a development could be economically viable.

4.3 Action points

- i. Provide informal information to businesses in the Parish, for example: to alert both the shop and the Post Office on the demand for extended trading hours on some evenings and for a wider range of goods and services; to consider the future provision of garage services; to introduce the “Living Local” scheme to the two pubs., thereby encouraging the provision of a wider range of food and drinks and other diversified services; to provide additional retail uses, such as a chemist at the surgery, a tea room at the pubs, and a wider deli at the shop.
- ii. Provide a directory (published and web page versions) listing all Village businesses and services.
- iii. Investigate the possibility of developing a suite of small business/office units.
- iv. Investigate the feasibility of introducing a weekly visit from a dentist, chiropodist, physiotherapist and optician, on a trial basis initially.
- v. Extend the Coplow Centre to provide storage space for the equipment of user groups and a larger kitchen.
- vi. Gain the commitment of the Parish Council to pay their annual grant of £1000 to the Coplow Centre for the next 5 years.

5 COMMUNITY LIFE

5.1 Community activities

Billesdon is extremely well provided with a wide range of community activities. The Coplow Centre is the main focus for these activities, offering aerobics, Brownies, indoor bowls, bridge, tennis, Mums and Tots, karate, badminton, Footloose Stage School (singing and dancing), drama society, pantomime group, pilates, 5-a-side football, and Women’s Institute. In addition, there are other groups, such as Loose Ends, Gardening Society, Local History Group, Wildlife Group, art, bell ringing and reading groups. Sports clubs include the Gun Club, boules and Cricket Club. Enquiries in the Parish suggest that only two existing organizations might be at risk. The Gardening Society is finding difficulty in maintaining its level of membership, while any expansion of housing around the Cricket Club would threaten the viability of its playing conditions and need to expand its facilities.



THE COPLOW CENTRE

Responses to the Parish Questionnaire contain many positive comments regarding the good provision and current level of community activities already taking place; but it is noticeable that not all residents are fully aware of all the activities available in the Parish. There is a need for a directory of all current activity groups in the Parish, including information on how to join different groups. A directory could be included in a ‘welcome pack’ for new residents. There is also scope for appointing one of the Parish Councillors to be responsible for welcoming new residents to the Parish.

The Parish Questionnaire also revealed a large number of people who are interested in forming additional activity groups (Table 5.1). The most popular additional groups are keep fit (for different age groups), IT, walking/rambling and foreign languages. Some groups would need to meet in the evenings, so as to meet the needs of working residents. The high interest in a walking group provides the basis for publishing a booklet of walks around the Parish. In order to satisfy the interest in outdoor bowls, a bowling green could be built at the Coplow Centre. In addition, 107 people said that they are ‘definitely’ or ‘possibly’ interested in a day time club for those not at work.

Table 5.1 Number of people interested in forming a new group activity*

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Number of people interested</i>
<i>Keep fit</i>	117
<i>IT</i>	97
<i>Walking/rambling</i>	79
<i>Foreign Language</i>	76
<i>Art/craft</i>	71
<i>Outdoor Bowls</i>	63
<i>Ballroom dancing</i>	63
<i>Book group</i>	45
<i>Music group</i>	38
<i>Tennis</i>	43
<i>Singing</i>	40
<i>Flower arranging</i>	38
<i>DIY</i>	32

[Absolute rather than percentage numbers are used in this section, so as to draw attention to the actual size of support for various activities. These numbers are based just on the 390 Questionnaires returned from the survey]*

Some groups could form the basis of a Parish branch of the ‘University of The Third Age’ (U3A). U3A groups are for **any** person who has retired (or is semi-retired) from

full time employment and is looking to stretch their mind, extend their social life and follow a particular interest. Groups meet for activities of mutual interest at low cost – activities can be social, physical or educational in character. No formal tuition is given, as the groups function on a self-help basis and no formal qualifications for participation are required. Both Great Glen and Market Harborough have very successful U3A groups.

Table 5.2 **Number of people interested in training courses**

<i>Course</i>	<i>Number of people interested</i>
<i>First Aid</i>	23
<i>IT</i>	15
<i>Book Keeping</i>	8
<i>Child Care</i>	6
<i>Food Hygiene</i>	4

76 people expressed an interest in attending a training course to enhance their employment prospects. The most popular courses cited (Table 5.2) are IT, first aid, book-keeping, childcare and food hygiene.

5.2 Communication within the Parish

The major means of communicating news and information within the Parish are Billesdon and District Parish News and Views (B&DPN&V), posters displayed in the village shop and the Post Office, and Notice Boards (Table 5.3). Word of mouth also serves as an important means of finding out information. B&DPN&V is a free magazine, delivered monthly to all households, and is a popular and major source of information. At present, few people use the village website –

www.leicestershirevillages.com/billesdon/

- to find out information, although 56% of those offering an opinion said that they would ‘definitely’ or ‘possibly’ use an enhanced interactive community website.

There is strong support for the Parish Council to produce a newsletter containing information on its meetings, decisions and general work, with 69% of people seeing this as an ‘important’ or ‘very important’ innovation (31% ‘do not know’ or did not reply). For those with access to the Internet, information about the Parish Council (contacts, minutes of meetings etc) is available on -

www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org.uk

- but a newsletter would give wider circulation to information on the activities of the Parish Council.

Table 5.3 Communication of information within the Parish (% people using each method and purpose)

<i>Method/ Purpose</i>	<i>Parish Council Business</i>	<i>Social events</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	<i>Coplow Centre Events</i>
<i>B&DPN&V</i>	72	65	57	64
<i>Village Website</i>	4	3	2	2
<i>Notice boards</i>	28	27	22	18
<i>Word of mouth</i>	26	41	21	27
<i>Notices in shop & Post Office</i>	32	48	30	37

5.3 Caring and the community

Personal Safety

“I have never seen a policeman in the Village” is a common complaint noted in responses to the Parish Questionnaire. Only 2% of those with an opinion rate police coverage as ‘good’, while a further 18% feel it is ‘acceptable’. Many comments are recorded regarding the lack of a police presence in the Parish and need for more active policing.

However, it is encouraging to note that almost all residents feel safe during the daytime. Only 6% feel unsafe when outdoors after dark, while just 3% feel unsafe indoors when it gets dark. For this small group, a more active police presence and better street lighting would help them feel safer.

Table 5.4 Experience of crime in the Parish in 2005/6

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Number of People</i>
<i>Noise nuisance</i>	44
<i>Burglary/theft</i>	28
<i>Car crime</i>	13
<i>Vandalism</i>	9
<i>Verbal abuse</i>	9
<i>Alcohol/drug problems</i>	9
<i>Physical assault</i>	0
<i>None of these</i>	246

A relatively low level of crime has been experienced in the Parish during the last year (Table 5.4). An intrusive level of noise nuisance is the main category reported, with sources varying from over-flying aircraft to motorcycle racing on nearby fields. Burglary, theft and car crimes are reported by a number of residents. Whilst recognising that limited police resources have to be directed at areas of greatest need, the view is widely expressed that our Community Police Officer could meet with residents in the Village (including the young people), at least once each year, to give advice about crime prevention and personal safety.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was revitalised just prior to the distribution of the Parish Questionnaire. A majority of respondents are happy with the current level of provision by the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, although there is a general lack of awareness on how the scheme is working, who the local contact people are, and how information is being communicated. There is a need for the local contact representatives to make themselves more widely known and inform residents on how to reach them for information or to report an incident. An annual meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch network would be an advantage.

Community Care

Billesdon is a caring community, with support and assistance coming from good neighbours and the Church communities. Many comments are written in answer to the Parish Questionnaire on the excellent community spirit and friendliness in the Parish. Nevertheless, given the ageing demographic profile of the Parish (see section 2.2), it is surprising that only 32 people amongst the 139 respondents over the age of 65 think that they might need some sort of assistance to enable them to continue living at home in the next decade (Table 5.5). Of those who do think they will need support, help with gardening is the most common concern.

Amongst the 390 residents who responded to the Questionnaire, 15 identify themselves as having a disability, while a further 9 are carers of someone with a disability (rather less than recorded in the 2001 Population Census). Suggestions for improving the quality of life for those who are disabled (and their carers) include better wheelchair/scooter access on roads and pavements throughout the Parish (cars parked on pavements are highlighted as an additional problem - see Section 7.1),

easier access into shops and pubs, evening support, visitors to offer company and play games, help to put out dustbins, and gardening.

Table 5.5 Type of support needed to remain living in the home

<i>Type of support</i>	<i>Number of people</i>
<i>Gardening help</i>	23
<i>Someone to check each day that you are well</i>	15
<i>Parish Good Neighbour Scheme</i>	15
<i>Help with shopping</i>	12
<i>Home visits – community health/ nurse</i>	9
<i>Community meals</i>	8
<i>Help to attend day centre</i>	6
<i>Warden assisted housing</i>	5

Suggestions for other services which would help, include transport to a supermarket and the Coplow Centre, help with cleaning, a contact booklet for local organised services (e.g. taxi, repairs), and help with filling in forms. The benefit of a formal Parish ‘Good Neighbour Scheme’, to help vulnerable individuals, especially the elderly, is expressed in response to the Questionnaire.

Table 5.6 Number of people interested in facilities for younger children

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Definitely</i>	<i>Possibly</i>
<i>Pre-school Play Group</i>	29	29
<i>Parent-toddler Group</i>	30	27
<i>Day nursery</i>	30	31
<i>School Holiday Activities</i>	53	40
<i>After-school Club</i>	38	38

Community care also extends to younger members of the community and sufficient interest is expressed in the Parish Questionnaire to support a range of facilities for different age groups (Table 5.6). The greatest expressed interest is for a School Holiday Activities Scheme: such a Scheme has been provided in the past and could be developed again. Existing and new groups for pre-school children and toddlers need to take into account potential demand and supply in surrounding villages as well as the Parish, while there are sufficient families interested in an After-school Club for this to be considered. Possible venues for all groups include the Coplow Centre, the Village School, and the Old School room.

5.4 Action Points

- i. Support the extension of pre-school provision through the formation of a working group.
- ii. Investigate the provision of holiday activity schemes.
- iii. Investigate the formation of additional societies/groups in the Village, including the formation of a U3A (University of the Third Age) branch.
- iv. Widen the range of activities at the Coplow Centre, including the construction of a bowling green.
- v. Publish a booklet of walks around the Parish.
- vi. Support extension to facilities at the Cricket Club.
- vii. Investigate the provision of work-related training courses.
- viii. Provide a directory of existing community activities and organised services.
- ix. Compile a 'welcome pack' for new residents, and appoint a Parish Councillor to have responsibility for welcoming new residents to the Parish.
- x. Arrange an annual village meeting for the attendance of the Community police officer and Neighbourhood Watch network.
- xi. Formulate a strategy for helping vulnerable individuals, especially the elderly, using Social Services and the Volunteer Bureau, including the setting up of a Parish 'Good Neighbour' Scheme.
- xii. Develop communication on news and information within the Parish by upgrading the parish website and publishing a newsletter from the Parish Council.

6 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

6.1 Traffic management

The two main concerns of traffic management within the Village are speeding and parking. The origin of these concerns can be traced back to earlier times, when Village roads were being developed and there were few motorised vehicles and little through traffic. The resulting roads are narrow, with many houses built right up to the footpath and with no garage. Also the Village roads are not straight: these include the Leicester and Uppingham Roads, which pass through the centre of the village and, until 1986, comprised the main A47 running from the East Coast to the Midlands.

Traffic management concerns were exacerbated in the 1930s by the construction of a Council housing estate, with no garages attached to the properties and the provision of only limited garage space away from the dwellings. In addition, the Victorian Primary School has always been located on the edge of the Village and, whereas in the past children walked to school, today nearly half of all children are driven there.

Parking

The Parish Questionnaire identifies four types of parking problem in the village. The first type is associated with specific events and includes: (i) the dropping off and picking up of children at the Village School; (ii) services at the church; (iii) events at the Coplow Centre; (iv) special consultations at the surgery; (v) people using the Market Place as a setting off point; (vi) special deliveries; and (vii) cricket matches. The resulting parking ‘hotspots’ are Church Street, Brook Lane, Gaulby Road and the Market Place.

The second type of parking problem occurs at specific road junctions and includes: (i) the exit from Long Lane onto Market Place; (ii) the Market Place exit onto Leicester Road; (iii) the Vicarage Close exit to Gaulby Road; and (iv) the White Hart Close exit onto Leicester Road. Specific parking ‘hotspots’ identified by local residents include Glebe Close and a blind bend in Brook Lane near the junction with Rolleston Road.



ARRIVA BUS SERVICE

The third type of parking problem is created by the narrowness of the Village roads. Car and van owners often park on pavements, so as to allow other vehicles to pass more easily - this situation also applies to delivery vehicles – and virtually no road is exempt. Apart from being illegal, parking on pavements causes a road hazard to those residents who are pushing prams or are in wheelchairs - they are often forced to use already dangerously narrow roads.

The fourth type of parking problem is specific to Vicarage Close: here the ‘blocked’ parking surface is in need of major repair.

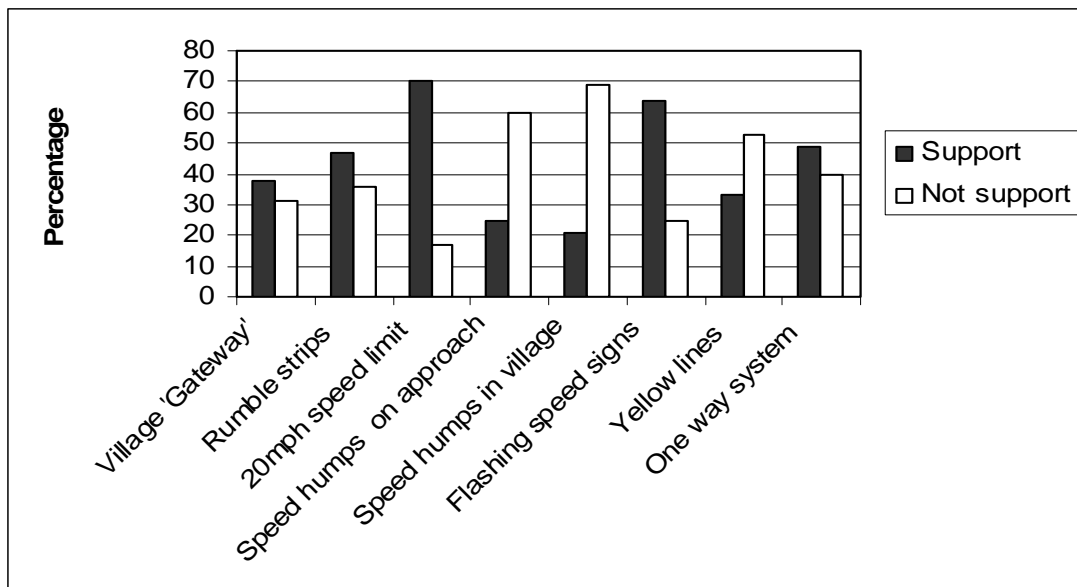
One solution to many of these problems would be to have yellow lines painted along all the relevant roads and at road junctions. However, over half of respondents to the Parish Questionnaire are against this option, as it would introduce an alien ‘urban’

feature into a rural village setting (Table 6.1: those who are ‘indifferent’ or ‘do not know’ are not shown). Rather, village residents could be encouraged to park their vehicles more responsibly, as regards pavements and road junctions, while temporary road cones could be used more effectively to manage parking for specific events. In the case of the journey to school, more children and parents could be encouraged to walk to and from school.

Speeding

The Parish Questionnaire identifies speeding as a problem throughout the village, with Gaulby Road, Church Street and Brook Lane being most affected. However, speeding is also a significant concern to residents on the Leicester and Uppingham Roads. Drivers using the village as a ‘rat-run’ exacerbate the problem: they travel through the village to/from Oadby and Wigston and the A47, especially during commuting times. This traffic coincides with the time of children going to school, while local agricultural vehicles and large lorries travelling to Gaulby add to the problem.

Table 6.1 Support for different types of traffic management



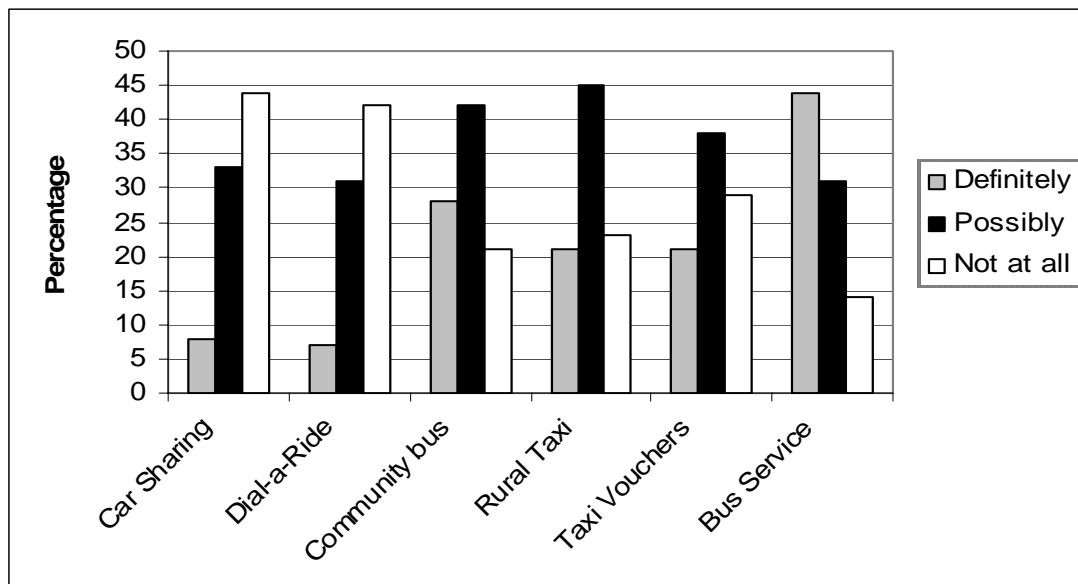
A number of traffic management options are available to combat the problem of speeding (Table 6.1 – those who are ‘indifferent’ or ‘do not know’ are not shown). The most popular option is to make the whole Village a 20mph speed zone, supplemented with a flashing speed sign on all entry roads (as in Tilton and Braunston-in-Rutland). A majority of residents do not support speed humps, rumble

strips or ‘village gateways’, but are divided on the benefits of a one-way road system along Brook Lane and Church Street (49% support - 40% do not support - 11% are indifferent or do not know). Those against a one-way system consider the necessary road signs to be too intrusive a feature for a rural village and that higher traffic speeds would be encouraged rather than discouraged. Those who do not support the proposal for a one-way system are more likely to have lived in the Parish for fewer than 20 years, to be younger in age, and to live along the two roads most directly affected by a one-way system. Nevertheless, the residents of these two roads are divided in their preference: 43% are in support, 50% are against, while 7% are indifferent or do not know.

6.2 Transport alternatives

One of the main differences between urban and rural life is the greater dependence of rural residents on the private car for their personal mobility. However, with fuel costs likely to rise in real terms in the future, this dependency on the private car could become more problematic and thus throw public transport, and alternative transport options, into greater prominence.

Table 6.2 Possible use of different types of transport



A number of rural transport options are available for the future (Table 6.2: those who are ‘indifferent’ or ‘do not know’ are not shown). Some villages run a taxi voucher system, sponsored by the Parish Council, a community bus, a rural taxi service or

dial-a-ride and car-sharing schemes, but at present, none of these options receive firm support in Billesdon.

Rather, the most preferred option would be an improved bus service. From those offering an opinion, the preferred improvements to these services are: (i) an increased frequency of buses to/from Leicester (46%), especially to assist the elderly; (ii) the introduction of a late evening bus, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays (46%); (iii) the introduction of a Sunday service (15%); and (iv) the provision of more buses to Market Harborough. Requests for services to other destinations, such as Oakham, Oadby, Fosse Park and Tesco Hamilton, are minimal.

6.3 Action Points

- i. Implement an information campaign on responsible Village parking, including placing 'No Parking' cones on roads where events are taking place.
- ii. Reduce the number of people taking children to the School by car by encouraging children to walk – organise a 'walking bus'.
- iii. Introduce a 20 m.p.h. speed limit throughout the whole of the Village, supported by flashing speed signs on all entry roads.
- iv. Replace grass verges on Vicarage Close with parking bays and repair the 'blocked' parking area in Vicarage Close.
- v. Form a Transport Group to negotiate with *Arriva Fox County* and *Rural Rider* for: more buses to/from the Village and Leicester, especially in relation to the needs of the elderly; late night and Sunday buses to/from Leicester; and the routing of some buses to Houghton through to Billesdon.

7 THE ENVIRONMENT

A useful distinction can be drawn between the built and 'natural' environments of the Parish, although it should be recognised that the 'natural' environment is heavily influenced by human activity.

7.1 The built environment

The built environment of the village - the buildings, boundaries and street furniture - is addressed in the Billesdon Village Design Statement (2001), which remains in force as Supplementary Planning Guidance for the time being (see section 1.3). Attention has already been drawn to the beneficial impacts of the Village Design Statement and the Conservation Area status of the Village, the issues surrounding housing

development, as well as the need to reconvene the Village Design Group to ensure the continuation of these benefits into the future (see section 3.3).

However, the Parish Plan is able to comment upon some of the other issues attached to the built environment. Table 7.1 shows the consensus of opinion on the present condition of various features in the Village. The condition of most features is at an acceptable standard for a majority of residents, but the most pressing problem is dog fouling: considerable anger is expressed on the problem by a significant number of respondents. While solutions such as more bins and firmer enforcement measures would help, the greater support of dog owners themselves in solving the problem needs to be sought. Poor mobile phone reception is a problem for 45% of residents, although many are prepared to accept the current problem when compared with the effects of erecting further intrusive masts. A hidden mast (perhaps in the Church steeple) may be a solution. TV reception is broadly acceptable, but a sizable minority (23%) request better access to East Midlands broadcasts.

Table 7.1 The condition of features of the built environment in the Village (% for each feature)

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Acceptable</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Unacceptable</i>
<i>Noise</i>	86	6	8
<i>Waste recycling</i>	81	7	12
<i>Litter</i>	74	10	16
<i>Drainage</i>	66	16	18
<i>Grass verges</i>	68	14	18
<i>Dog fouling</i>	25	13	62
<i>TV reception</i>	70	7	23
<i>Mobile phone reception</i>	39	16	45
<i>Public seating</i>	59	31	10
<i>Children's play area</i>	59	32	9

Several deficiencies in the Village's roads are identified from the Parish Questionnaire (Table 7.2). Just over a third of respondents report a problem with street lighting, while a quarter find difficulty with the pavements. On lighting, the main issues appear to be the obscuring of street lights by overhanging trees, and the existence of a few dark places where an additional street light would help. Problem locations include outside the Church, along parts of West Lane, Long Lane, and around Glebe Close/Vicarage Close. On pavements, the need for drop-kerbs to assist

the mobility of wheel chair users and residents with prams is identified. There are also sections of narrow, uneven or problematically sloping pavements, particularly along Brook Lane, Church Street and Long Lane. On Gaulby Road, the absence of a paved footpath between the School and the Play Area is identified as a hazard for families with young children using the Play Area. Maintenance of public footpaths within the Village (especially the path between Weare Close and Vicarage Close) is felt to be inadequate by 37% of respondents.

A particular problem of drainage after heavy rain in Church Street is mentioned by a significant number of residents, while the need for more public seating is requested in the Play Area, around Knights Close, and along the road from Market Square to houses on the Rolleston Road.

7.2 The natural environment

Billesdon is situated in a hollow, but views from within the Village towards the surrounding fields and the wooded Billesdon Coplow hill shape its environment. The wider Parish is intensively farmed, with the sheep pastures of old having largely given way to arable farming with wheat, barley and oilseed rape. There are now relatively few trees in the landscape and woodland is scarce.

Table 7.2 Improvements needed to features of the environment in the Village and the Parish (% for each feature)

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Village</i>			<i>Parish</i>		
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Do not know</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Do not know</i>
<i>Hedgerows</i>	17	63	20	18	56	26
<i>Trees</i>	25	58	17	17	57	26
<i>Footpaths</i>	37	45	18	26	49	25
<i>Wild flowers</i>	26	49	25	19	54	27
<i>Wildlife sites</i>	21	56	23	17	57	26
<i>Pavements</i>	25	34	41	na	na	na
<i>Street lighting</i>	36	26	38	na	na	na
<i>Access to open green spaces</i>	20	57	23	17	57	26
<i>Streams and ponds</i>	na	na	na	19	53	76

Most respondents to the Parish Questionnaire are satisfied with the quality of the natural environment, both within the Village and the Parish (Table 7.2). For the 20-

25% of respondents who can envisage improvements to the natural environment, many comment on the need to preserve or replace trees in the Village and to seek sites for planting woodland in the wider Parish. A survey of mature trees in the Village would help to draw attention to this important issue. There is concern that hedgerows are still being lost, especially within the Village: this is detrimental to both the appearance of the Village and wildlife. Many respondents noted the paucity of wild flowers within the Parish – here an opportunity exists for the planting of selected areas of roadside verges with native wildflower species.

Threats to open spaces within the Village are also a concern for many people and can be addressed in two ways. One is to ensure that any new housing developments include landscaping with hedges, trees and open spaces in sympathy with the ambience of the Village. The second way is to establish further wildlife sites on the lines of the existing Woodland Pool on Gaulby Road. The additional aim would be to maintain or increase biodiversity in the Parish through wetlands (ponds, streams and marshes), woodlands and neutral grasslands.

The Village Cemetery (opened in 1870) poses a particular problem: it will reach its capacity within the next 25 years. While buying more land to extend the present cemetery is supported by 57% of respondents giving an opinion, 37% also support the creation of a natural burial site – in effect a dedicated area of woodland within the Parish. 14% of respondents support ceasing to have interments in the present cemetery.



THE WOODLAND POOL

7.3 A Sustainable Parish?

There is a growing awareness of the detrimental impact of human activity on the environment. For example, ENABLE (Environmental Action for a Better

Leicestershire) found that 80% of Leicestershire people were concerned about climate change and the impact it might have on our economy and society. The formation of a Sustainable Parish Group would enable attention to be focussed on the following important environmental issues at the Parish scale: the recycling of waste, the conservation of nature, energy conservation (including energy efficiency in the home, the energy costs of travel and transport, small-scale renewable energy generation), and water conservation. A part of this vision is for Billesdon to become an energy-neutral community and placed in the vanguard of the movement to reduce climate change from the village level. Examples of practical suggestions for the short-to-medium term are: to carry out an energy audit of the Parish; to obtain advice and resources for householders, businesses and service providers on energy-saving (cost-cutting) measures; to explore the involvement of householders, businesses, the School and the Coplow Centre in small-scale energy generation; and to set local 'sustainability' targets for new buildings in the Parish.

7.4 Action points

- i. Establish a Sustainable Parish Group to report to the Parish Council on: the recycling of waste, environmental conservation, energy conservation (including energy efficiency in the home, the energy costs of travel and transport, and small-scale renewable energy generation), and water conservation.
- ii. Maintain the quality of the built environment by: a campaign to eliminate dog fouling, including increased owner awareness and the provision of more bins throughout the Village; regular litter picks; liaising with service providers to improve mobile phone and TV reception; enforcing Tree Preservation Orders; and implementing a survey of mature Village trees.
- iii. Liaise with HDC on the provision of drop kerbs and the improved quality of pavements throughout the Village, including the provision of a footpath between the School and the Play Area; the surfacing of public footpaths within the Village, including signage and overgrown hedges; improving the drainage system in Church Street; and the provision of more public seating throughout the Village.
- iv. Develop a strategy for burials in the Parish (e.g. enlarge the existing cemetery; create a natural burial site; or eventually cease burials).
- v. Develop access to more green spaces, including further wildlife areas within the Parish, and 'green zones' within and around the Village (e.g. small wooded areas; rehabilitated field ponds; wildflower areas).

8 YOUNG PEOPLE

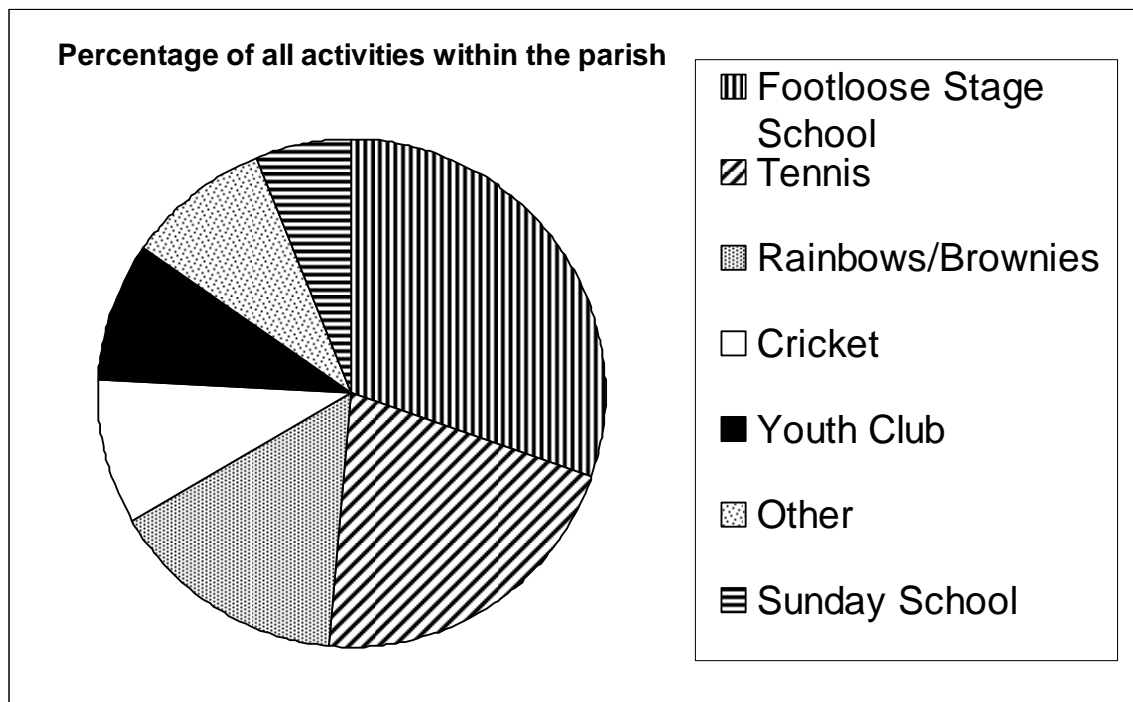
A reasonable balance has been achieved amongst the young people responding to their section of the Parish Questionnaire: there is an even split between those who are

younger and older than 12 years of age; 56% are female and 44% male; all parts of the village are represented. Just over three-quarters of our young people are in state education – a lower proportion than for the UK as a whole (82% for those at Primary and Junior schools and 71% for those at Secondary schools). The largest proportion (38%) attends Billesdon Parochial Primary School.

8.1 Activities

Two out-of-home activities within the Parish are dominant. One is the Footloose Stage School at the Coplow Centre, which is a relatively recent addition to the range of youth activities and is well supported – indeed there is a waiting list for those wanting to join. The second most popular activity is tennis. Other significant activities are Rainbows/Brownies, cricket, the Youth Club and the Sunday School. Nevertheless, at present the facilities provided in the Parish are failing to attract over a third of young people: 38% do not participate in any activity within the parish (63% of those in private education; 31% of those in state education). There is scope for achieving higher participation levels in Parish-based activities amongst our young people, through a formal strategy (e.g. a Youth Council) of consultation, advertising and review of existing activities.

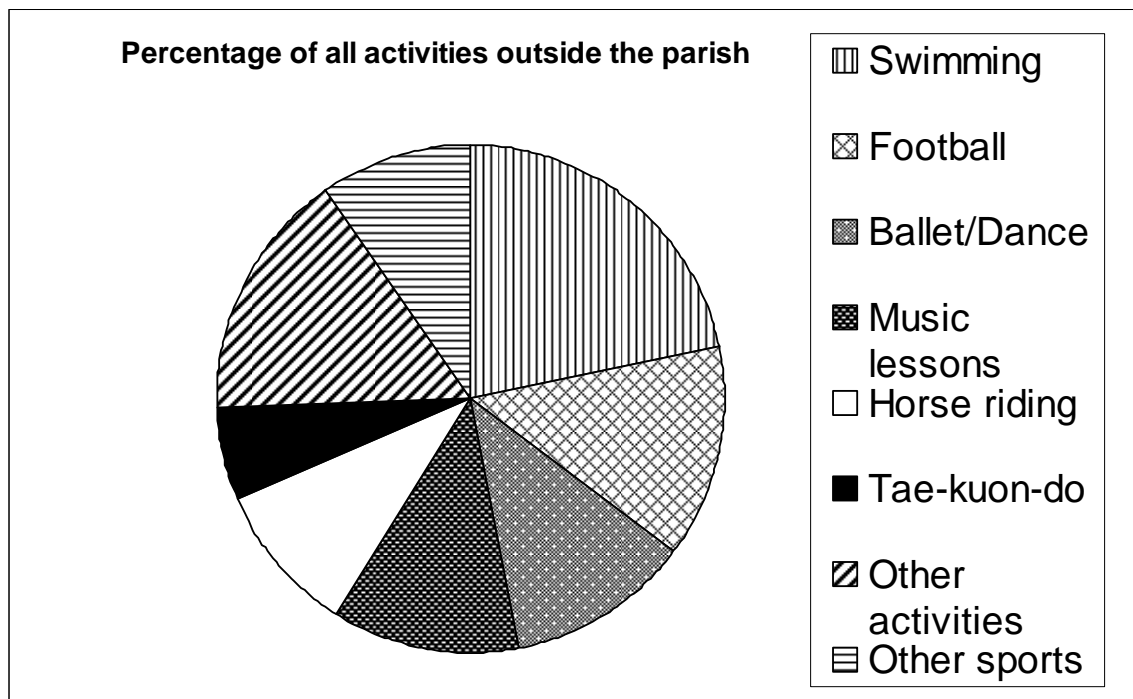
Table 8.1 Out-of -home activities within the Parish



Almost twice as many out-of-home activities, and with more variety, take place outside the Parish (Table 8.2). 82% of young people take part in at least one activity outside the Parish. The most popular activities are swimming, football, ballet/dance, music lessons and horse riding. Some of these activities require specialised facilities that cannot be provided realistically in the Parish, for example, swimming, music lessons and horse riding. Only 9% of young people do not take part in any out-of-home activity either inside or outside the Parish.

The main place to go to for access to the specialist facilities that are needed outside the Parish is Leicester (25% of all location visits). The other significant places are Market Harborough (18%), Evington (14%) and Houghton (9%). The family car is always used for travel to and from these activities. This means that young people in families with no car, or even one car used mainly for employment, are disadvantaged in terms of opportunities for activities outside the Parish. However, there is no dominant location or activity for which Parish-based transport could be usefully provided.

Table 8.2 Out-of-home activities outside the Parish



There is a significant interest in participating in a wider range of activities, if they can be provided within the Parish. Every young person expresses an interest in at least one

activity. The ‘top three’ are football, art and tennis: they could form the basis for separate clubs within the parish. For other possible activities, ‘definite’ or ‘possible’ participation rates are: After School Club (53%), School Holiday Activities (65%), Organised Trips (76%) and an Enhanced Play Area (76%). Other expressions of interest are found in making contributions to a junior section in Billesdon & District News & Views (59% ‘definitely’ or ‘possibly’) and a junior section within an interactive Parish website (53%). There is always a gap between proposed and actual behaviour, but these figures suggest sufficient support for each proposed activity.

For those who enjoy out-of-home activities now, consideration must also be given to the future. For example, at present Rainbows and Brownies depend on trained leaders who have dedicated many years to their organisations: to ensure the continuity of these groups, potential new leaders and supporters need to come forward for training. Also, an expanded Youth Club could serve to bring our young people together and integrate them more closely into Village life. Indeed of those young people who suggest items to be considered in the Parish Plan, 44% independently specify an expanded Youth Club, to include those over (say) 8 years of age. Suggested activities, like table tennis, computing, personal fitness, running and netball, could form the basis for a programme within an expanded Youth Club. A larger venue is needed for an expanded Youth Club, as well as increased support for the youth leader of the existing Youth Club.

The Gaulby Road Play Area is a facility at present provided mainly for younger children. Whilst more slides and swings have support amongst our young people, the main interest is in bigger climbing frames, as found in a wide range of other parks in and around Leicester. Even the younger children perceive the need for more challenging equipment than provided at present. In addition, the Parish no longer has a playing field, although the School playing field lies as a relatively underused amenity.

8.2 Living in Billesdon

Our young people have broadly positive views on living in Billesdon, with only 9% declining to offer an opinion. The following are offered as the main ‘likes’ by those answering the Questionnaire: friendliness of adults (22% of all ‘likes’), quietness of

the environment (19%), the services in the Village - the shop, Post Office and Surgery (15%), being in the countryside (13%), friends in the Village (13%), feeling safe (7%), and all others (11%). The low level of reference to friends in the Village reinforces the part played by schooling and out-of-home activities outside the village. However, adults in the Parish should note their importance in helping to create a welcoming and safe environment within which our young people are able to develop.

Only half as many 'dislikes' are reported as 'likes' and they mirror the responses of adults to their own Questionnaire. The main 'dislikes' are: dog fouling (15% of all 'dislikes'), car parking/speed (15%), the bus service (12%), a boring place (12%), and all others each less than 8%.

Most young people (i.e. over 90%) feel 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' in the village and at home during the day and at home after dark. The proportion feeling 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' outside after dark falls to 56% (especially those under 11 years of age) and, of those suggesting how they might be made to feel safer, 64% mention better lighting in the village.

Through questions to those over 12 years of age, the following concerns are identified as not being sufficiently addressed elsewhere (e.g. at school). There is scope for providing our young people with more help within the Parish on problems concerning bullying (29% of those answering), drug taking (29%), drinking alcohol (24%) and smoking (18%). The following interactive website offers some help to young people on these matters and could be publicized more widely - www.thejitty.com.

The Parish of Billesdon has a significant proportion of elderly residents, but there has been a recent influx of families with children into the new housing developments. Integrating these children with other young people will benefit their individual growth, their enjoyment of life, and their sense of belonging to a community. These features will be important in the future of the Parish of Billesdon for maintaining the existing strong sense of community. At present, however, there is no formal strategy (e.g. a Youth Council) for actively encouraging young people to participate in community life and events, or for consulting with them on possible developments within the Parish.

8.3 Action Points

- i. Establish a Youth Council for consulting with young people, including on how to raise their participation levels in out-of-home activities and events.
- ii. Investigate the setting up of junior Parish clubs for football, art and tennis.
- iii. Find a larger venue and additional funding for the Youth Club and expand its programme of activities, including table tennis, computing, personal fitness, running and netball.
- iv. Investigate establishing an After School Club and Organised Trips.
- v. Place more challenging and adventurous equipment into the Gaulby Road Play Area, and investigate the use of the School playing field as a Parish amenity.
- vi. Introduce junior sections into B&DN&V and the Parish web site.
- vii. Find a means for offering a range of advice and support to young people on the issues of bullying, drinking and drug taking.

9 CONCLUSION

The Action Plan from the Parish Plan (see section 11) requires an organised response, if it is to be successfully implemented. With some 40 Action Points to be addressed, the scope of the response is probably too great for just the Parish Council to carry through. Indeed experience from other Parish Plans is that an Action Plan Group is necessary to stimulate and co-ordinate the response to the Parish Plan. A relatively small Action Plan Group would report to the Parish Council, and would co-ordinate the response of a larger number of working groups, each working group addressing a particular range of Action Points. In this way, the results of the Parish Plan would be carried into effective implementation and the Plan would continue to evolve into the future.

9.1 Action Points

- i. Establish an Action Plan Group, reporting to the Parish Council, to stimulate the implementation of the Parish Plan.

10 SUMMARY

The Parish Plan process began with two public meetings, held during September 2005 under a Parish Council initiative. A Steering Group for the Parish Plan was formed from the participants at the initial public meetings, with its activities, meetings and discussions carried forward independently of the Parish Council. The Steering Group consulted widely with Parish organizations and businesses, carried out a questionnaire survey of Parish residents, and attended seminars and workshops concerning contemporary rural development and planning issues. A draft of the Parish Plan was discussed with the Parish Council, residents of the Parish, and Service Providers, before amendment and final publication at the end of September 2006.

The broad objective of the Parish Plan process has been to identify a range of *Action Points* for the future under two headings: (i) what can to be done to maintain the quality of life already achieved for those who are resident in the Parish; and (ii) what can be done to expand and further develop the quality of life for those who are resident in the Parish. So as to focus attention on specific Action Points, the Parish Plan has been divided into a number of sections: housing and development, business and services, community life, traffic and transport, the environment, and young people. The Action Points identified and elaborated upon in the Parish Plan are as follows.

Housing development

- i. Reconvene the Village Design Group to report to the Parish Council. The activities of the VDG could include: monitoring the effectiveness of the present Village Design Statement; monitoring the implications of changing planning regulations for Billesdon; and preparing the Village Design Statement for review at some time in the future.
- ii. Provide information to Parish residents on monitoring the Village Design Statement, and the implications of (new) planning regulations for Billedon.
- iii. Develop a Parish Housing Strategy on preferred additional house types, numbers, designs and locations in the Parish, including the proportion of affordable homes and housing for the elderly, and the involvement of a Housing Association.
- iv. Convene a Parish Meeting, at an appropriate time in the future, to discuss a review of the Village Design Statement.

Business and services

- i. Provide informal business information to businesses in the Parish.
- ii. Provide a directory (published and web page versions) listing all Village businesses and services.
- iii. Investigate the possibility of developing a suite of small business/office units.
- iv. Explore the feasibility of introducing a weekly visit from a dentist, chiropodist, physiotherapist and optician.
- v. Extend the Coplow Centre to provide storage space for the equipment of user groups and a larger kitchen.

- vi. Gain the commitment of the Parish Council to pay their annual grant of £1000 to the Coplow Centre for the next 5 years.

Community life

- i. Support the extension of pre-school provision by establishing a working group.
- ii. Investigate the provision of school holiday activity schemes.
- iii. Investigate the formation of additional societies/groups in the Village, including the formation of a U3A (University of the Third Age) branch.
- iv. Widen the range of activities at the Coplow Centre, including the construction of a bowling green.
- v. Publish a booklet of walks around the Parish.
- vi. Support extension to facilities at the Cricket Club.
- vii. Investigate the provision of work-related training courses.
- viii. Provide a directory of existing community activities and organised local services.
- viii. Compile a 'welcome pack' for new residents in the Parish, and appoint a Parish Councillor to have responsibility for welcoming new residents to the Parish.
- ix. Arrange an annual Village meeting for the attendance of the Community police officer and Neighbourhood Watch network.
- x. Formulate a strategy for helping vulnerable individuals, especially the elderly, using Social Services and the Volunteer Bureau, including the setting up of a Parish 'Good Neighbour' Scheme.
- xi. Develop communication on news and information within the Parish by upgrading the Parish website and publishing a newsletter from the Parish Council.

Traffic and transport

- i. Implement an information campaign on responsible Village parking, including placing 'No Parking' cones on roads where events are taking place.
- ii. Reduce the number of people taking children to the School by car by encouraging children to walk – organise a 'walking bus'.
- iii. Introduce a 20 m.p.h. speed limit throughout the whole of the Village, supported by flashing speed signs on all entry roads.
- iv. Replace grass verges on Vicarage Close with parking spaces and repair the 'blocked' parking area in Vicarage Close.
- v. Form a Transport Group to negotiate with *Arriva Fox County* for: more buses to/from the Village and Leicester; late night and Sunday buses to/from Leicester; the routing of some buses to Houghton through to Billesdon.

The environment

- i. Establish a Sustainable Parish Group to report to the Parish Council on: the recycling of waste, environmental conservation, energy conservation (including energy efficiency in the home, the energy costs of travel and transport, and small-scale renewable energy generation), and water conservation.
- ii. Maintain the quality of the built environment by: a campaign to eliminate dog fouling, including increased owner awareness and the provision of more bins throughout the Village; regular litter picks; liaising with service providers to

- improve mobile phone and TV reception; enforcing Tree Preservation Orders; and implementing a survey of mature Village trees.
- iii. Liaise with HDC on the provision of drop kerbs and the improved quality of pavements throughout the Village, including the provision of a footpath between the School and the Gaulby Road Play Area; the surfacing of public footpaths within the Village, including signage and overgrown hedges; improving the drainage system in Church Street; and the provision of more public seating throughout the Village.
 - iv. Develop a strategy for burials in the Parish (e.g. enlarge the existing cemetery; create a natural burial site; cease burials).
 - v. Develop access to more green spaces, including further wildlife areas within the Parish, and ‘green zones’ within and around the Village (e.g. small wooded areas; rehabilitated field ponds; wildflower areas).

Young people

- i. Establish a Youth Council for consulting with young people over a number of years, including on how to raise their participation levels in out-of-home activities and events within the Parish.
- ii. Investigate the setting up of Parish clubs for junior football, art and tennis.
- iii. Find a larger venue and additional funding for the Youth Club and expand its programme of activities, such as table tennis, computing, personal fitness, running and netball.
- iv. Investigate establishing an After School Club and Organised Trips.
- v. Place more challenging and adventurous equipment into the Gaulby Road Play Area, and investigate the use of the School playing field as a Parish amenity.
- vi. Introduce junior sections into B&DN&V and the Parish web site.
- vii. Find a means for offering a range of advice and support to young people on the issues of bullying, drinking and drug taking.

Conclusion

- i. Establish an Action Plan Group to carry forward the Parish Plan.

A version of this Summary has been posted to every household within the Parish, while a limited supply of copies of the full Billesdon Parish Plan has been made available through the Billesdon Post Office. The Parish Plan can also be accessed through the internet at www.leicestershirevillages.com/billesdon/ . The expectation of the Steering Group is that the range of Action Points identified in the Parish Plan (i.e. the *Action Plan*) will be carried forward by a number of agencies, namely the Parish Council, service providers such as Harborough District Council, Project Groups initiated by the Parish Council, existing Parish organizations, local businesses, and individual residents, or informal groups of residents, in the Parish. At this point, the work of the Steering Group for the Billesdon Parish Plan is complete. Further information on the Parish Plan is available from: ian.bowler@virgin.net.

11 THE ACTION PLAN *[Individual items are elaborated upon in the Action Points section at the end of each part of the Parish Plan]*

VDG: Village Design Group; APG: Action Plan Group; VDS: Village Design Statement; HDC: Harborough District Council; TPO: Tree Preservation Order; SPG: Sustainable Parish Group; RCC: Rural Community Council; CVS: Council for Voluntary Services

	Title	Action	Method	Timescale	Partners	Lead	Resources	Priority
	<i>HOUSING DEVELOPMENT</i>							
1	Village Design Group (VDG)	Reconvene the Village Design Group (VDG)	Parish Council to reconvene VDG	Ongoing	Parish Council, VDG	Parish Council	Volunteer time	High
2	Village Design Information	Publish information on monitoring the Village Design Statement (VDS)	Research and publication by VDG; Parish Council Newsletter	1 year	Harborough District Council (HDC), Parish Council, VDG	VDG	Volunteer time; costs of publication from Parish Council	Medium
3	Parish Housing Strategy	Develop a Parish Housing Strategy	Research by Parish Council and VDG	2 years	Parish Council, VDG, HDC, Rural Housing Enabler	Parish Council	Volunteer time	High
4	Parish Village Design Meeting	Discuss a review of the VDS with residents of Parish	Hold a Parish Meeting	5 years	Parish Council, VDG, RCC, HDC	Parish Council	Hire of hall	Medium
	<i>BUSINESSES AND SERVICES</i>							
5	Business Information	Provide information to businesses in the Parish	Research and by Action Plan Group (APG)	5 years	Parish Council, APG	APG	Volunteer time	Medium
6	Parish Business & Services Directory	Provide information on businesses and services in the Parish	Research and publication by APG	1 year	Parish Council, APG, Parish businesses/services	APG	Volunteer time; commercial sponsorship	High
7	Small Business Units	Enable the construction of small business units	Research by APG	5 years	HDC, Parish Council, APG, VDG	Parish Council	Volunteer time; investment by developers	Medium
8	Health Services	Widen range of weekly health services	Research by APG	5 years	Parish Council, APG, Surgery	Parish Council	Investment by Surgery	Medium
9	Coplow Centre I	Widen range of facilities at Coplow Centre	Research by Managers of Coplow Centre	3 years	Parish Council, APG, Committee of Coplow Centre	Committee of Coplow Centre	Volunteer time by Committee of Coplow Centre	High
10	Coplow Centre II	Commitment of Parish Council annual grant	Action by Parish Council	1 year	Parish Council, Committee of Coplow Centre	Parish Council	Annual grant	High

	Title	Action	Method	Timescale	Partners	Lead	Resources	Priority
	COMMUNITY LIFE							
11	Pre-school provision	Support pre-school provision in the Parish	Establish a working group	2 years	APG, existing providers, Chapel, Church, parents	APG	Investment by providers	Medium
12	Holiday activity scheme	Introduce holiday activity scheme	Action by Parish Council	2 years	Parish Council, Chapel, HDC	Parish Council	Running costs from providers	High
13	Societies and Clubs	Widen range of societies and clubs	Advertise for leaders; investigate U3A	2 years	Parish Council, APG, existing groups, CVS	APG	Volunteer time, HDC funding	High
14	Coplow Centre III	Widen range of activities at Coplow Centre, including a bowling green	Research and investment by managers of Coplow Centre	5 years	Parish Council, APG, Managers of Coplow Centre	Committee of Coplow Centre	Volunteer time; investment by Coplow Centre	High
15	Parish Walks	Publish a booklet of Parish Walks	Research and publication by Wildlife Group	1 year	Wildlife Group, APG, LCC, HDC, Walking Group	APG	Publication costs from charitable trust and LCC	Medium
16	Development of Cricket Club	Support development of facilities at the Cricket Club	Research and investment by Cricket Club	5 years	Parish Council, Cricket Club, VDG	Cricket Club	Investment costs from Club	Medium
17	Training courses	Provide work related training courses	Liase with course-providing agencies	2 years	Parish Council, Learning Partnrshp	Parish Council	Costs from users and providers	Medium
18	Directory of community activities and organised local services	Publish a directory of community activities and services	Research by APG	1 year	Parish Council, APG	APG	Publication costs from charitable trust	High
19	Welcome Pack	Compile a welcome pack; appoint a supervising Parish Councillor	Research by APG, Chapel and Church	1 year	APG , Chapel, Church, Parish Council	Chapel and Church	Publication costs from sponsors	High
20	Parish Security	Arrange annual visit of Community Police Officer to a Neighbourhood Watch meeting	Liase with Police and Neighbourhood Watch organisers	1 year	Parish Council, Police, Neighbourhood Watch organiser	Parish Council	Nil	High
21	Good Neighbour Scheme	Set up a Parish 'Good Neighbour Scheme'	Convene a meeting of Social Services, Volunteer Bureau and Parish groups	2 years	Parish Council, social care agencies, Church, Chapel	Parish Council	Volunteer time	Medium
22	Parish Communication	Develop the Parish web site and a Parish Council newsletter	Appoint a Parish web site editor; publish a P. Council newsletter	1 year	Parish Council, residents, editor of B&DPN&V	Parish Council	Volunteer time; publication costs from Parish Council	Medium

	Title	Action	Method	Timescale	Partners	Lead	Resources	Priority
	<i>TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT</i>							
23	Village Parking	Information campaign to improve parking in village, including the use of 'No Parking' cones	Implement an information campaign; manage the placing of 'No Parking' cones.	1 year	Parish Council, residents	Parish Council	Volunteer time	High
24	School Traffic	Information campaign to reduce use of car for transport to/from the School	Implement an information campaign; introduce a 'walking bus'	1 year	Parish Council, Primary School Governors, LCC	Primary School Governors	Volunteer time from School staff	Medium
25	Speed Limit	Limit speed of vehicles passing through the village	Introduce a 20 m.p.h speed limit within the village, with flashing speed warning signs on all approach roads	1 year	HDC, Parish Council, Local Police	Parish Council	Investment costs from Local Authority and Parish Council	High
26	Vicarage Close	Improve car parking conditions at Vicarage Close	Replace grass verges with parking bays, and repair 'blocked' parking area.	1 year	HDC, Parish Council	Parish Council	Investment costs from HDC	High
27	Transport Services	Form a Transport group	Liaise with Arriva Fox County to improve bus service	1 year	Local bus providers, LCC, Parish Council	Parish Council	Operating costs from service provider	Medium
	<i>ENVIRONMENT</i>							
28	Sustainable Parish Group (SPG)	Form a Sustainable Parish Group (SPG)	Parish Council to advertise for members	Ongoing	Parish Council, Wildlife Group, ENABLE	Parish Council	Volunteer time	High
29	Built Environment	Maintain the quality of the built environment	Address issues such as dog fouling, mobile phone and TV reception, TPOs	2 years	Parish Council, APG, service providers	Parish Council	Volunteer time	High
30	Roads and Footpaths	Improve the quality of the roads and footpaths	Address issues of pavements, footpaths, street lighting and public seating	2 years	LCC, HDC, Parish Council, APG	Parish Council	Investment costs from HDC	High
31	Village Cemetery	Develop a strategy for burials in the Parish	Publication of a strategy; purchase of additional land	10 years	Burial Board, Church	Burial Board	Investment costs from Parish Council	Medium

	Title	Action	Method	Timescale	Partners	Lead	Resources	Priority
32	Green Spaces	Develop access to more green spaces	Develop additional wildlife and 'green zone' areas	5 years	Parish Council, Wildlife Group, LCC, SPG	Wildlife Group	Volunteer time, environmental grants	Medium
	<i>YOUNG PEOPLE</i>							
33	Consultation	Establish a Youth Council for consultation	Liaise with Youth Group to set up a Youth Council	1 year	Parish Council, HDC, Youth Club, youth organisations	Parish Council	Volunteer time, HDC liaison	High
34	Junior Clubs	Investigate the setting up of new Parish Clubs	Liaise with Youth Group to investigate new Clubs	2 years	Parish Council, Youth Club	Parish Council	Volunteer time, Sports Council	Medium
35	Youth Club	Develop the Youth Club	Find additional funding; expand programme of activities; investigate an alternative venue	3 years	Parish Council, Youth Club, HDC, Chapel	Parish Council	Public and charitable grants, national agencies	High
36	After School Club	Investigate the setting up of an After School Club	Find funding and leaders for an After School Club	2 years	Parish Council, residents	Parish Council	Public grants, user charges	Medium
37	Play Area	Provide additional equipment in the Play Area; find a playing field	Place additional equipment in the Play Area; identify an area for a playing field	2 years	HDC, Parish Council, Primary School Governors	Parish Council	Investment from HDC	Medium
38	Communication	Introduce junior sections into B&DPN&V and the Parish website	Advertise for contributors to a junior section in B&DPN&V and the Parish website	2 years	Parish Council, HDC, Editor of B&DN&V	Parish Council	Volunteer time	Medium
39	Advice	Arrange access to advice on pressing social issues	Provide access to advice on bullying, drinking and drug taking	2 years	Parish Council, HDC, Youth Club, Surgery	HDC	Investment costs	High
	<i>CONCLUSION</i>							
40	Action Plan Group	Form an Action Plan Group	Parish Council to advertise for members	1 year	Parish Council	Parish Council	Volunteer time	High