

Campton and Chicksands Parish Plan

Forward Planning for the Community



Produced by the Residents of Campton and Chicksands

Campton & Chicksands Parish Plan 2010-2015

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Introduction and Next Steps

In 2000 the Government published a Rural White Paper entitled "A Fair Deal for Rural England" in which it set out a process by which villages could have a greater say in planning their communities. The Parish Plan is that process. Money was set aside to facilitate these plans and in 2004 The Countryside Agency provided assistance through its document "Parish Plans – Guidance for Parish and Town Councils".

Late in 2008 a steering committee was formed to prepare a Parish Plan for Campton and Chicksands. It has been assisted in its task by the many parishioners who attended events, responded to the questionnaire and were involved in the specialist sub-groups.

The steering committee is responsible for preparation of the Parish Plan, including the action plans.

The Plan provides a framework within which the Parish Council can work to improve the village and parish. It also establishes guidance for Central Bedfordshire Council on strategic issues involving traffic and development.

It is expected that the Parish Council will report progress to parishioners annually at the Parish Meeting and to Central Bedfordshire Council at required regular intervals.

What is a Parish Plan?

The Rural White Paper mentioned in the Introduction made a strong commitment to change the way local government and parish councils identify and respond to the needs of their constituent communities. This Rural White Paper launched the concept of Parish Plans the purpose of which is to:

“identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved”.

To facilitate the production of Parish Plans the Government made available £5m and appointed the Countryside Agency to administer the fund. From within this programme grants of up to £2,000 were made available to individual parish councils to cover development and production costs. We received £1,997 from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs’ Rural Social Community Programme Parish Action Plan and Town Plans Grant. A vital part of the preparation of these Parish Plans was to provide meaningful and varied consultation to ensure that all parishioners had the opportunity to have their views considered.

The Campton and Chicksands Parish Council agreed in 2007 that a Parish Plan should be progressed. After a faltering start work began in earnest in the latter part of 2008 under the chairmanship of Malcolm Newman. Throughout the process the Parish Plan Committee has received advice from Zoe Ashby, Community Development Officer from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

The responsibility for taking the Parish Plan forward post publication rests with the Campton and Chicksands Parish Council.

It is expected that the Parish Plan will be reviewed and updated every five years.

The Parish of Campton & Chicksands – A Brief History

Both Campton and Chicksands have a long history, however, the current parish was only formed in 1985 and it covers 3.7 square miles. The parish is about nine miles southeast of Bedford, and 13 miles from Junction 13 on the M1 and seven miles from Junction 10 on the A1. It is predominantly rural and unique in that at its centre is the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC) and the Headquarters of the Intelligence Corps. The main areas of habitation are situated in the south of the parish at Chicksands and the village of Campton. In the 2001 census there was a total population of 1,388. At the entrance to Chicksands is Priory House. Built for Mid Bedfordshire District Council it was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 22 November 2006. Since the change to a unitary authority the offices are now home to Central Bedfordshire Council. The parish forms part of Central Bedfordshire and is within the Mid Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency.

The village of Campton is built around the 13th century All Saints' Church and stands on a tributary of the river Ivel. It has a number of old and interesting buildings including the Manor, built in 1591, and an 18th century Rectory. The poet Robert Bloomfield (1766-1823), renowned for his poem 'The Farmer's Boy' is buried in All Saints' churchyard. The village consists of approximately 200 dwellings, a lower school, a village hall, a public house and a recreation ground. Chicksands adjoins the northern edge of the village consisting of 116 ex-ministry dwellings which are privately occupied.

A Post Office, shops, restaurants, Friday market and monthly Farmers' Market are located in the neighbouring town of Shefford. There are two regular bus services, the 79 to Luton and 200 to Biggleswade. The Whitbread Wanderbus Community Minibus provides six services on certain days each month to Bedford, Biggleswade, Baldock, Shefford, Hitchin and Milton Keynes. None of these services visit Chicksands. There are two rail lines within easy reach. At Arlesey, First Capital Connect provides Great Northern route services to Peterborough and London King's Cross. At Flitwick, First Capital Connect provides Thameslink services to Bedford and Brighton.

A number of residents work from home, their expertise covering a wide range of trades and services. There is also a large number of commuters, and an even larger number of retired people.

Business units are located at Top Farm, Priory Road, and Warren Court, Sand Lane. There are two businesses in the parish which are of significant size and provide local employment, these being John Hanlon & Co., construction equipment sales & hire, and Parripak, supplying freshly prepared vegetables. There are also four working farms in the parish.

The DISC is the UK Defence Agency responsible for training service personnel in intelligence, security and information support and has living quarters for 266 families. An RAF station during World War II, it was one of many Y Stations, where the German coded signals were intercepted before being passed to Bletchley Park (Station X) for decryption. After the war it was home to the United States Air Force Security Unit from 1950 to 1995.

It was the location for the first huge FLR-9 direction finding antenna, known locally as the 'Elephant Cage'. The Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands consists of the Intelligence Corps museum, the Medmenham Collection of air photography, the USAF at Chicksands and 'Y' service rooms.

Also within the base is a 12th century Gilbertine Priory, which was home to both nuns and monks for 400 years. After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538 the Priory eventually came into the ownership of the Osborn family. It remained in the family for a further 338 years before being sold to the War Office in 1938.

Further information and histories can be found at:

www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk

www.chicksandspriory.co.uk

www.robert-bloomfield.digi-hosting.co.uk

Publications:

Chicksands, A Millennium of History by William C. Grayson published by Shefford Press, 1992.

Campton, A Study of a Bedfordshire Village by D.J. Cadman, publisher and date unknown.

Consultation

Throughout the creation of the Campton and Chicksands Parish Plan, consultation with residents has been paramount. The formal consultation has been by way of:

Planning for Real events

Parish Walk

Questionnaire

Planning for Real events

Three events were held at different locations, days and times, to allow as many members of the community as possible the opportunity to contribute. The events were held on:

Saturday 7th February 10-4pm at Campton Village Hall, when over 70 people attended and nearly 500 issues were raised.

On Friday 13th February 6-9pm at Mid Beds Council Offices, only 15 attended, but they were enthusiastic to contribute and another 100 issues were highlighted.

Tuesday 24th February 3-6pm at Campton Lower School attracted over 100 people of all ages. On this occasion 300 issues were identified, including input from school pupils. Their contribution included a model of the village, written work, art and craftwork, together with an excellent audio-visual.

From the Planning for Real events the issues were identified in the following categories:

Traffic & Transport (35%)

Environment (18%)

Leisure (15%)

Community Facilities (10%)

Education, Work & Training (10%)

Crime & Safety (7%)

Health (3%)

Housing (2%)

At the Planning for Real events a number of people volunteered to join working parties to analyse the issues raised and develop a questionnaire for all residents to give their opinions on the future needs of the community.

Parish Walk

The walk was held on Sunday April 5th starting at the Village Hall at 2pm led by Steve Halton, Senior Project Officer, Countryside Access Service, Central Bedfordshire Council. This provided an opportunity for parishioners to consider issues whilst visiting various parish locations. The walk travelled down Greenway, through the underpass, into Campton Plantation, passed the entrance to Central Bedfordshire Council offices, through Chicksands to the edge of the Sandy Smith Nature Reserve and back to the Village Hall for discussion and refreshments via Priory and Rectory Roads

Summary of Questionnaire Key Results

Overall 55% of questionnaires were returned with 64% of Campton and 43% of Chicksands residencies responding.

Parishioner's key priorities, as stated in the questionnaire, overall were:-

1. Speeding
2. Housing
3. Traffic problems (e.g. Heavy Goods Vehicle's)
4. Pavements and cycle ways

We received 359 responses, 200 of which were from female residents; 75 respondents had lived here for more than 25 years.

In general the village hall was considered appropriate for use but in need of upgrading, the newsletter useful/very useful whilst the village website is not accessed by the majority. There was considerable support for a village care scheme. The vast majority of us feel safe in the parish by day and night which does not quite align with a strong call for a greater police presence. Most parishioners feel that retaining the Lower School is very or quite important. Very few of us do not use the local footpaths, woods or plantations and most would like to see paths improved and enhanced. Dog waste is seen as a significant problem with over a third of respondents feeling that the recreation ground should be closed to dogs. Almost as many requested more bins for dog waste.

Unsurprisingly many villagers want drainage improved. (Some work was carried out in Rectory Road during August 2009 and Greenway in February 2010).

On the housing front over one third felt there should be no further development with a very wide range of preferences for possible future developments, particularly homes for local people. Respondents were mainly concerned about the impact on the parish character and the environment.

There was strong support for football on the recreation ground although many felt the 'Rec' was under used and there was also significant support for other sporting and play facilities.

In terms of transport there seemed little interest in a car sharing scheme with many concerned about Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's) and "rat-runs". Other major concerns were overgrown bushes over pavements and potholes/road conditions. Very few feel safe turning right into Greenway from the A507 and most of us would like to see some form (or forms) of speed reduction measures implemented, particularly in Greenway.

Parking is obviously a perceived problem in many parts of the village – solutions are another matter!

Very few parishioners use public transport and most show very little interest in doing so.

There is a real body of opinion in Campton that it should remain a small village and that great care needs to be exercised to prevent urbanisation

Questionnaire

The working parties analysed the issues, devised suitable questions, and developed a questionnaire. The aim was to circulate the questionnaire to every household in the parish, and give sufficient space to allow the younger members of the household the opportunity to respond as well as all adults. A pilot questionnaire was completed by a few volunteers to ensure that questions were easy to respond to and understand.

The questionnaires were delivered to 116 homes in Chicksands, 219 homes in and around Campton, with copies supplied to the DISC for residents there to participate if they so desired. These are three distinctly different residential areas. Campton is an historic village surrounding the church and manor, Chicksands housing has been available since 2000, and DISC residents are living in Ministry of Defence owned properties.

From the questionnaires the working parties have produced Action Plans for the major issues identified, such as Traffic & Transport.

Other 'Stakeholders'

The Parish Plan committee has been in consultation throughout the project with various organisations including the Parish Council, All Saints Church, Campton Lower School, Village Hall Management Committee, Mid Beds District Council (now Central Beds Council), local businesses and the Bedfordshire Police.

As a result of the various methods of consultation, the Parish Plan for Campton and Chicksands represents the views of 55% of the community on these specific issues, and Campton and Chicksands Parish Council will be using the Action Plans produced as the basis for decisions affecting quality of life within the parish over the next few years.

Traffic & Transport

In the questionnaire, parishioners had the opportunity to state their main priorities. Five of the six top priorities were from Traffic and Transport!

Traffic

Speeding traffic was easily the biggest worry with 80% of respondents expressing anxiety. Only 23% felt safe turning right from the A507 into Greenway.

Parking

The vast majority of those who replied were troubled by parking issues – particularly around the village hall, the school and recreation ground – with the school causing most concern.

Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety

Overall this was seen as a problem by the great majority of those who returned the completed questionnaire. In particular the pavement from the A507 to the school along Priors and Rectory Roads is seen as dangerously inadequate. Many would also like to see a wide “cycling” pavement from Campton to the Tesco garage.

General

Other matters that attracted significant levels of disquiet were HGV's through the village, potholes and road drainage problems.

Public Transport

There is a very small demand for public transport. Very few parishioners use existing services and a very small minority were interested in future use.

Traffic & Transport

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|--|--|----------|------------|--|
| TT1. Road condition/potholes. | Parish Council to seek improvements and discuss with Highways Department. | High. | One year. | Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Department. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| TT2. Serious concerns about the safety of the A507 turn into Greenway. | Discuss options for improved safety. | High. | Two years. | Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Department, Police. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| TT3. Speeding through village. | Conduct a full traffic survey. Review options with police: residents favour village gates, flashing speed restriction signs, school 20mph zone. | High. | One year. | Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Department, Police. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| TT4. Bushes etc. from houses overgrowing pavements. | Parish Council to approach relevant owners. | Medium. | Ongoing. | Parish Council. |

Traffic & Transport

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| TT5. Road Drainage. | a) Rectory Road/Mill Lane-keep watch following drainage improvement works. b) Greenway run off from road into gardens. c) Greenway-Discuss sewer blockage situation with Anglian Water. d) Underpass-review maintenance situation. | a) Medium. b) High. c) High. d) High. | a) Ongoing. b) One year. c) One year. d) One year. | For all: Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Department, Anglian Water. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| TT6. Concerns over pedestrian and cyclist safety. | Review with relevant authorities the proposals supported strongly by residents in the questionnaire; a) Wide pavement from A507 to school (raised crossing also), b) Wide pavement from Campton to Tesco Garage, c) Generally wider “cycling” pavements, d) Dropped curbs at junctions and crossing points, e) Footpath to Gravenhurst with pavement to Campton Court. | High. | One year. | Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Department. |

Traffic & Transport

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|--|----------|--------------------|--|
| TT7. Heavy Goods Vehicles travelling through Campton are considered a problem. | Discuss with Police/Central Bedfordshire Highways Dept/Parish Council/Hanlons. | Medium. | Two years. | Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Department, Police. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| TT8. Parking at village hall, school, recreation ground, church and pavements and verges. | Discuss options with police and Campton Lower School. | Medium. | Two - three years. | Parish Council, Campton Lower School, St. Alban's Dioceses. Police. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| TT9. Public transport routes and timetables. | Advise bus operators of results. Publish timetables in newsletter and on website | Low. | One year. | Newsletter editor, Webmaster. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| TT10. Street Lighting. | Review questionnaire comments. Considered a problem by 73 residents. Further survey needed. | Low. | One year. | Parish Council. |

Environment

Accessing the Countryside

Not surprisingly in a rural setting there is staunch support for environmental matters. Our public rights of way and open spaces are visited regularly (82% of respondents to the questionnaire), with people keen to keep them well maintained (67% of respondents). Problems such as overgrown rural footpaths or poor signage will be dealt by the P3 group (People Partnerships, Projects) for the parish. Run by volunteers it is supported by the Countryside Access Service, Central Bedfordshire Council.

Allotments and Landscaping

More and more people are eager to grow their own produce, this being reflected by the 83 people who would like an allotment within the parish.

Even though we are surrounded by countryside, 25% of respondents wish to see more landscaping around Campton and Chicksands with additional trees and flowerbeds seen as a welcoming display for residents and visitors.

The Parish Council will be providing more seating, particularly in Campton and 25% of respondents want to see more done in this area. The Parish Council is asked to investigate additional sites where people can sit, relax and enjoy our parish and maybe even have a picnic. Central Bedfordshire Council is currently considering ways to promote the use of Campton Plantation.

Glebe Land

The Glebe land is owned by the St Albans Diocese and is currently let to a local farmer for pasture. If circumstances were to change, opinion is equally divided as to whether it should remain solely for pasture or that part of the Glebe land become available for community use such as a garden area or allotments.

Dog Owners

One area of concern (34% of respondents) is dog waste left by a minority of owners who spoil the surroundings for others. Providing more dog waste bins may help but this does not alleviate the problem of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs.

A particular anxiety is the problem of dog waste on the recreation ground with nearly 42% of respondents thinking it should become a 'No Dogs Allowed' area.

Reducing Carbon Emissions and Climate Change

There is strong support (43% of respondents) for projects to reduce carbon emissions in the parish and no doubt both the Parish Council and Central Bedfordshire Council will be mindful of this, especially where it is appropriate to new planning permissions.

Finally there is keen interest in taking action on climate change. Even though this is a global issue, people recognize that everyone can play their part by becoming more energy efficient with 50% of respondents supporting local schemes that would reduce CO2 emissions.

Environment

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| E1. High level of concern about the amount of dog mess in recreation ground. | Improved signage warning of the danger to health particularly for children, (approach Campton Lower School to see if this is a possible project to involve children in). | High. | Three months. | Parish Council, Campton Lower School. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| E2. High level of concern about the amount of dog mess in Campton and Chicksands. | Investigate appropriate sites for additional dog waste bins. | High. | One year. | Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Annington Housing. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| E3. Strong support for reducing carbon emissions. | a) Promote reduction of parish carbon footprint through initiatives to reduce councils' and people's energy consumption. b) Arrange a public meeting to discuss possible ways forward. | a) High. b) High. | a) Five years. b) One year. | For all: Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Annington Housing. |

Environment

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|--|---|----------|---------------|--|
| E4. The Glebe land is currently let for pasture, if the situation was to change opinion on what its future should be was divided. | If the situation with the Glebe land changes consult residents regarding its future use. | High. | No timescale. | Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, St. Alban's Dioceses. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| E5. Parishioners would like to see information regarding routes (footpaths and bridleways) in the parish together with improved maintenance. | Survey rights of way network, initiate maintenance programme and produce pamphlet of walks in the parish. | Medium. | Two years. | Parish Council, Countryside Access Service, Central Bedfordshire Council, P3. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| E6. Strong support for more recycling facilities. | Seek additional recycling opportunities. | Medium. | One year. | Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council. |

Environment

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| E7. Significant number of respondents would like to see improved amenities within the open areas in the parish. | a) Request Parish Council to review present situation. b) Consultations by Countryside Sites officer to improve amenities in Campton Plantation. | a) Low. b) Low. | a) Three years. b) Two years. | a) Parish Council. b) Countryside Sites Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| E8. Parishioners would like to see more landscaping. | Encourage Parish Council and Annington Housing to consider further landscaping in Campton and Chicksands. | Low. | Three years. | Parish Council, Annington Housing. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| E9. Significant number of respondents would like the opportunity of having an allotment. | Request Parish Council to provide suitable land for allotment use. | Low. | Two years. | Parish Council. |

Leisure

Whilst there are currently relatively few community leisure facilities within the parish, there is considerable interest in the prospect of creating a more diverse set of community leisure resources and activities. Of all issues arising out of the Planning for Real events held in the parish 15% were in this category and almost 70% of all questionnaire respondents had a view about what future leisure facilities should look like in Campton and Chicksands.

Campton Memorial Recreation Ground

Most opinion centred on the use of the Campton Memorial Recreation Ground. There was only minority support (8% of respondents in this category), for moving the facility to elsewhere in the parish and in general the view was that the recreation ground was big enough for the community's needs.

However, there was a strong body of opinion that felt that the present facility was under used (40% of respondents) and whilst in general there was support for the continued use of the recreation ground by the local football team, (61% of respondents favoured use by the team on Saturdays) the response to potential alternative use or layouts of the recreation ground was significant.

A number of alternative uses and activities were suggested by the community with the most popular as set out below;

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Badminton | 5-a-side Football |
| Tennis | Bowls |
| Cricket | Netball |
| Basketball | Play area |

The diverse nature of suggested community uses prompted the idea that a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) could be developed at the recreation ground which would cater for a greater range of sport and leisure activities.

This idea was incorporated into the questionnaire and 70% of respondents in this category were in favour of creating some kind of multi use facility at the recreation ground.

Children's Play Facilities

The children's play area was also the subject of some discussion, 66% of respondents in this category were keen on a more updated and extensive play area being developed at the recreation ground and a slightly lower proportion favoured the development of a children's adventure area at the recreation ground.

There was also some support for creating a separate children's play facility in Chicksands with 40% of all questionnaire respondents keen on developing this idea.

Public Toilets

The question of creating a public toilet provision at the recreation ground was also raised through the Planning for Real process and 38% of respondents in this category were keen on seeing this idea explored as part of the Parish Plan.

Leisure

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|--|----------|----------------------|---|
| L1. Memorial recreation ground under used. | <p>Establish viable list of alternative uses and prioritise according to results of questionnaire.</p> <p>Carry out further consultation with the community on any future proposals.</p> | High. | Three - six months. | Parish Council, Campton Football Club. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| L2. Provision of Multi Use Games Area at the recreation ground. | <p>Collate all suggested sporting activities from questionnaire and investigate if a single MUGA can cater for the majority of needs.</p> <p>Feasibility study needed to establish impact on other use of memorial ground, acquiring more land, costs etc.</p> | High. | Three - six months. | Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Sports Council. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| L3. Provision of a children's play area at Chicksands. | <p>Establish potential locations and investigate land ownership issues.</p> <p>Encourage local community to participate in design (competition at school).</p> <p>Consult young people and residents regarding the design and choice of equipment.</p> | High. | Six – twelve months. | Parish Council, Campton Lower School. |

Leisure

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|--|----------|----------------------|--|
| L4. Provision of public toilets at recreation ground. | Feasibility of project to be investigated, followed by a more specific review to include details such as, location, capital costs, maintenance, planning, opening hours etc. | Medium. | Six – twelve months. | Parish Council, Campton Football Club. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| L5. Update Children's play area at recreation ground. | Feasibility of project to be investigated to include, funding, capital costs, maintenance, planning, opening hours etc. Encourage local community to participate in design (competition at school). Consult young people and residents regarding the design and choice of equipment. | Medium. | Six – twelve months. | Parish Council, Annington Housing, DISC. |

Community Facilities

The main community facilities available for residents of the parish of Campton and Chicksands are the:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Village Hall | Library Link |
| Church | Recreation Ground – see Leisure section |
| Newsletter | School – see Education, Work & Training section |
| Website | |

Village Hall

The village hall currently has a number of regular users, such as the Women's Institute, Carpet Bowls club and Baby & Toddler group. It is also used for community events, charity fund raising events and for resident's private events, such as children's parties. From the questionnaire, lack of parking would seem to be the major problem associated with use of the village hall, with the general upkeep and maintenance of the building another concern.

All Saints' Church

The beautiful 13th century Church is the most prominent building in the village. The church community is currently looking at ways in which the building can be used for the benefit of all residents, not just the regular churchgoers.

Parish Newsletter

The Campton and Chicksands parish newsletter is currently published by the Parish Council on a monthly basis, and is delivered free of charge to every home in the parish. The current editor, together with the Parish Council, is investigating the possibility of changing the format and introducing different features of interest to engage more with the residents of Campton and Chicksands.

Parish Website

The webmaster for the village website is a volunteer resident, who initially set up and updates the website on behalf of the parish. The information on the website is kept current from items in the parish newsletter or when individuals send information to the webmaster. A positive action point for the Parish Council is to provide regular information about council activities and meetings, and the progress of the Parish Plan.

Library Services

There is currently a fortnightly Library Link service to The Glebe, and on a three weekly basis the mobile library stops in Greenway. From the questionnaire, there would seem to be a need for a Library Link visit to Chicksands on a regular basis, to provide a service for the younger families and this is currently under consideration.

Parish Care Scheme

A large number of residents indicated via the questionnaire that they would be willing to volunteer to help with a Parish Care Scheme. With this response, it can become a positive action point for the Parish Council in conjunction with volunteers.

Community Facilities

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|---|----------|------------|--|
| <p>CF1. Village Hall: Refurbishment of village hall. Increased use of village hall for activities and events.</p> | <p>Supporting Village Hall Committee as appropriate. The Village Hall Management Committee have plans for extending and refurbishment. Demand was expressed through the questionnaire for a number of new activities, e.g. exercise classes, craft & produce market, seniors club, art group, drama group – investigate feasibility of organising these activities.</p> | High. | Two years. | Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee, Parochial Church Council. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| <p>CF2. Support Church to hold community events such as: Coffee mornings, Concerts, Flower Festival.</p> | <p>PCC considering investment in improvements to the Oakley Room in order to facilitate introduction of regular coffee morning early in 2010.</p> | High. | One year. | Parochial Church Council. |

Community Facilities

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|--|--|----------|-------------|---|
| CF3. Newsletter: Possible change of format being investigated. | Liaison between Parish Council and editor. | High. | Six months. | Parish Council, Parish Newsletter editor. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| CF4. Parish Care Scheme: A number of residents indicated need for assistance with various aspects of their lives such as reaching various medical facilities. | Introduction of Parish Care Scheme. Facilitate meeting of interested parties and volunteers. Request advice and support from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and support from Parish Council. [See also Health Action Plan, H1]. | High. | Six months. | Parish Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, Volunteers. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| CF5. Activities for Young People: Provision of wider range of clubs/activities for young people in the parish. | Conduct a youth survey to establish demand for different activities and clubs. [See also Education, Work & Training Action Plan, EWT4]. | Medium. | One year. | Parish Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, Central Bedfordshire Council. |

Community Facilities

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|--|---|-------------|--------------------|--|
| <p>CF6. Website: Improve and upgrade website to increase readership. Investigate possibility of widening scope of website.</p> | <p>Liaise with Webmaster with ideas for improvement. Ensure links are in place to enable regular update to take place. Parish Council to ensure minutes of their meetings are available for website.</p> | <p>Low.</p> | <p>One year.</p> | <p>Parish Council, Parish Webmaster, Parish Newsletter editor.</p> |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| <p>CF7. Library: Introduction of Mobile Library visits to Chicksands.</p> | <p>Liaise with Library Service for trial visits.</p> | <p>Low.</p> | <p>Six months.</p> | <p>Library Service, Central Bedfordshire Council.</p> |

Education, Work & Training

School

Of the 329 responses to the question relating to the importance of retaining a lower school in the parish 84% of respondents considered it 'very important' and 11% 'quite important'. However, many parishioners commented that the school should be relocated from its present site to a new site within the parish, in part to resolve the school-related traffic problems in Rectory Road. If a new school were to be developed on a new site a number of respondents suggested that the existing school buildings might be converted into a community centre.

The Chair of the Governing Body of Campton Lower School writes as follows:

"Campton Lower School was identified by Bedfordshire County Council as 'top priority' for modernisation' in December 2006 based on criteria relating to the number of temporary classrooms, and the adequacy of the school hall and playground facilities. The alternatives of modernisation on the existing site versus a new school on a new site are receiving active consideration by Central Bedfordshire Council".

Recreational Activities

A total of 239 questionnaire respondents indicated that they would welcome a wider range of clubs/activities for young people across the age range of 4 to 18. More than 50% of respondents focused on the 9 to 15 age range where there would appear to be the greatest demand for provision. The questionnaire specified a number of possible clubs and activities; the most popular of the suggestions listed were a youth club, school holiday activities and after school clubs.

Adult Education

Only 28% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the availability and range of adult education opportunities within the locality but this does not necessarily mean that there is significant dissatisfaction. It is an area where further investigation is required.

Local Employment and Training Opportunities

Most residents within Campton and Chicksands travel out of the parish to work, with only a small percentage working from home or within the parish.

A sizeable minority of respondents indicated that they would welcome information being more readily available on local employment and training opportunities.

Education, Work & Training

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|--|--|----------|-----------|---|
| EWT1. Retention of a lower school within the parish. | Work with stakeholders to ensure that lower school education continues to be offered within the parish. | High. | Ongoing. | Parish Council, Campton Lower School Governing Body, Central Bedfordshire Council. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| EWT2. Modernisation of teaching accommodation at Campton Lower School. | Upgrade the mobile classrooms and improve the hall and playground facilities. | High. | Ongoing. | Parish Council, Campton Lower School Governing Body, Central Bedfordshire Council. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| EWT3. Location of Campton Lower School. | Keep under review the development of a new school on a new site to include nursery and extended school provision and off road parking. | High. | Ongoing. | Parish Council, Campton Lower School Governing Body, Central Bedfordshire Council. |

Education, Work & Training

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|--|----------|------------|--|
| EWT4. Recreational activities for young people. | Investigate the practicality of introducing new, demand-led youth activities. [See also Community Facilities Action Plan, CF7]. | High. | Two years. | Campton Lower School, Village Hall Management Committee, DISC, All Saints, Church. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| EWT5. Adult education opportunities. | Explore further adult education needs and determine which of these might be met locally. | Medium. | Two years. | Barnfield College, Retirement Education Centre, Central Bedfordshire Council: Spark – Adult Education Courses, |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| EWT6. Dissemination of jobs, training and volunteering information locally. | Identify means of enhancing the dissemination of jobs, training and volunteering opportunities. | Medium. | One year. | Parish Webmaster, Parish Newsletter editor, Local employers. |

Crime & Safety

Crime in the Parish

By far the greatest area of crime reported in the questionnaire was that of theft from property, with 34 in the last two years. Second to that was graffiti with car crime coming third. From the comments provided the greatest concern expressed was that of safety using the underpass to Shefford. Most people felt safe walking in the Parish during the day with well over half respondents also feeling safe after dark.

Police

Despite the majority feeling safe in the Parish there was a significant desire for an increased police presence in Campton and Chicksands. There have been preliminary discussions with the police on this subject.

Neighbourhood Watch

There is no scheme in Chicksands. Campton has co-ordinators for Mill Lane, Greenway and Rectory Road. Just under half of those responding were aware of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Nine people from the parish have volunteered to help with future organisation of the scheme.

Crime & Safety

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|--|--|----------|-----------|--|
| CS1. Crime Prevention and address perception of crime. | Discuss with police those concerns highlighted by residents including concerns around the underpass. Improve police presence. | High | One year. | Parish Council, Police. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| CS2. Extend the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the parish. | Set up meeting. Publicise scheme. Extend coverage. | High. | One year. | Parish Council, Police, Local Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, New volunteers. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| CS3. Accessibility of information regarding crimes that are happening locally. | Publicise Ringmaster scheme. Liaise with police, Parish Webmaster, Parish Newsletter editor. | Medium. | One year. | Parish Council, Police, Parish Webmaster, Parish Newsletter editor. |

Health

The questionnaire asked where people found difficulty in accessing various health services.

We had 56 responses of which the greatest number had difficulties in getting to the doctor, hospital and pharmacy.

Other reported difficulties were in getting to a dentist or chiropodist and making blood donations.

We have therefore instigated discussions with the Parish Council to start up a Parish Care Scheme. Twenty people have volunteered to help run such a scheme.

Health

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|---|--|----------|-------------|---|
| H1. Access to National Health Service facilities. | Liaise with Parish Council to support a Parish Care Scheme. [See also Community Facilities Action Plan, CF6]. | High. | Six months. | Parish Council, Clifton Parish Council, Volunteers. |

Housing & Development

The questionnaire replies indicated that the majority of respondents are happy with the current amount of housing in the parish.

Over the years the increase in the number of houses in the parish has mainly been by way of infilling. In addition, a number of former Ministry of Defence houses were refurbished by Annington Homes and sold to private individuals, including serving and ex-service personnel (the area referred to throughout this Parish Plan as Chicksands). Annington Homes have previously made an application for an increase in the number of houses within this residential area, but the application was withdrawn.

The objective of the actions proposed in the plan is to reflect the future needs of, in particular, the older and younger generations.

There was considerable diversity of opinion expressed in responses regarding the type and quantity of housing which may be required in the future – but none of the responses received were in favour of large residential development.”

Housing & Development

| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
|--|---|----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| HD1. Create a parish design statement. | Engage with parishioners in the creation of a parish design statement, which will be used to highlight residents' desires to preserve and enhance village design and character. | High. | One - five years. | Parish Council. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| HD2. To consider the feasibility of producing a housing needs survey to look in more detail at whether there is a need for affordable housing, sheltered housing and retirement housing for local people and others. | Feasibility study on producing a housing needs survey | High. | One - five years. | Parish Council. |
| Issue | Proposed Action | Priority | Timescale | Partners |
| HD3. Concern over scale and location of future developments. | Parish Council to take into account residents' views when commenting on planning applications. | High. | Annual review | Parish Council. |

Campton & Chicksands Parish Plan

Committee

Chair: Malcolm Newman,
Steve Curtis, Angela Hayes, Libby Newman, Bill Radley, Carol Sawyers and
Malcolm Willis,

Sub Groups

Traffic & Transport

Chair: Malcolm Newman
Ian Andrews
Scott Fuller
Mike Turner

Environment

Chair: Malcolm Willis
Felicity Brown
Liz Tyler

Leisure

Chair: Steve Curtis
Dawn Anley
Joy Curtis
Mike Tyler

Community Facilities

Chair: Carol Sawyers
Gill MacLaren
Mac MacLaren
Jackie Willis

Education, Work & Training

Chair: Bill Radley
Anna Maudlin
Lynda Miah
Jennifer Naylor

Crime & Safety and Health

Chair: Libby Newman
Paul Bardell
Audrey Brand
Chris Hartnack

Housing & Development

Chair: Angela Hayes
Gloria Bardell
Catherine Fuller
Roger Partington

