

The Cholsey Plan

A Parish Plan for Cholsey in Oxfordshire

January 2007

About the Cholsey Plan

The Government wishes to give rural communities a bigger opportunity to run their own affairs, and to set out a vision to guide future development for their town or village. In 2005, following a well-attended public meeting, some local people got together to form the Cholsey 2020 Vision group to seize this opportunity for all to be heard, including those who don't usually speak up for themselves. Subsequently the group consulted widely throughout the community on what people like and want preserved, what they dislike and want changed, and what new things are needed.

The result is this document: 'The Cholsey Plan'. It is based on the views of a majority of Cholsey residents and contains many recommendations for immediate action as well as longer-term plans.

The Cholsey 2020 Vision project was driven by an independent Steering Group, supported by grants from the Parish Council and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC). This plan has now been endorsed in principle by the Parish Council and is supported by representatives from the District Council, County Council and ORCC.

The recent 'Local Government White Paper' spelt out the need to consult local communities and take notice of plans such as ours, and we in Cholsey now look forward to working with our local authorities to fully explore and implement the enclosed proposals.

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Introduction

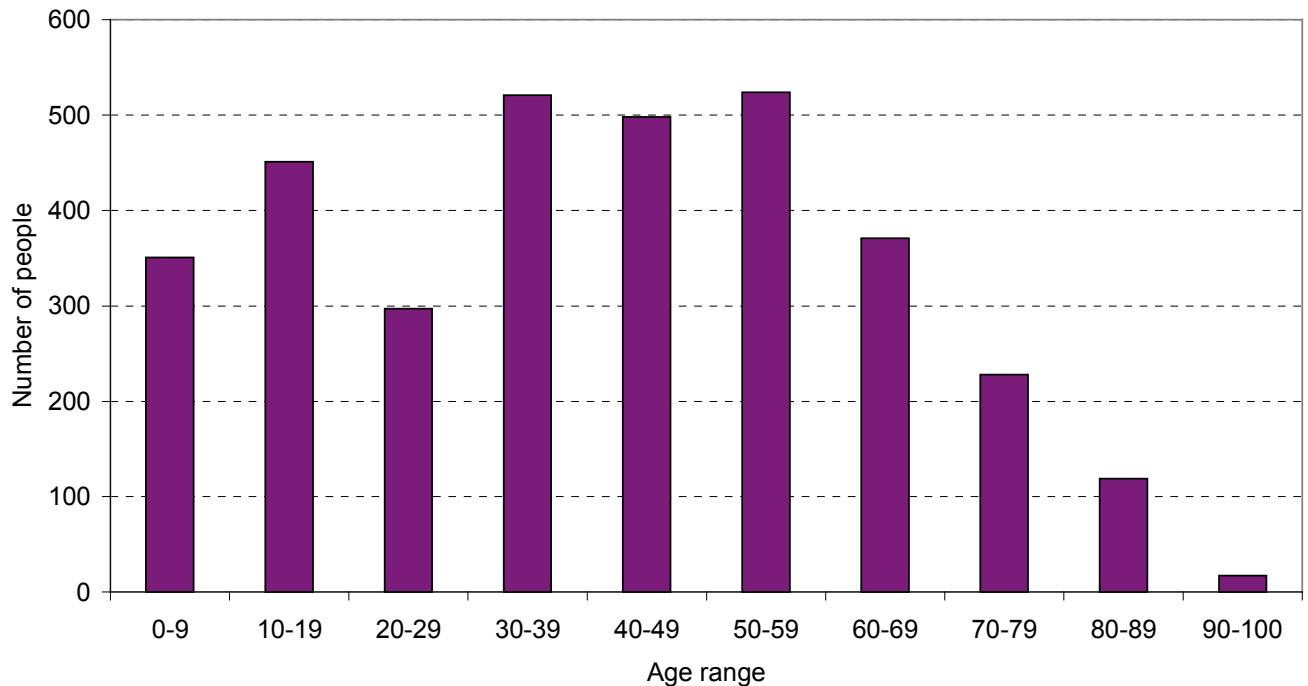
Cholsey is one of the largest parishes in Oxfordshire, stretching over 5 miles from the top of the Berkshire Downs in the south to the edge of Wallingford in the north. The Thames flows north to south along the eastern boundary of the parish, and the Great Western Railway almost exactly bisects the parish northwest to southeast. The land to the south of the railway is part of an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the 360 degree view from the top of Cholsey Hill is spectacular, with few habitations visible away from the main village.

The name for the parish is believed to derive from Ceol's Isle, a Saxon settlement established on Cholsey Hill when the surrounding area was marshland. A church, which still exists today, and a monastery were founded around 986. With the draining of the marshes, the centre of the village moved eastwards and Cholsey became a prosperous township thanks to the good agricultural land. The tithe barn was the largest in England, while the drove road from the Downs and the nearby Thames kept the village in touch with the outside world. The opening of the railway in 1840 brought fundamental change, and during the 1960s and 1970s the population of the village increased greatly, many using the station to commute to work.

Another significant influence on the development of the parish was the opening of the Berkshire Lunatic Asylum in 1870, which grew to accommodate over one thousand patients at its peak and became a major employer. In the latter part of the twentieth century, numbers declined and the Fair Mile Hospital, as it was by then known, closed in 2003. The site was acquired by English Partnerships, the government agency, and is now scheduled for housing development. The lead developer is Linden Homes and the affordable housing element will become the responsibility of the Guinness Trust.

Although there are many old and attractive houses, Cholsey is not a 'chocolate box' village. However, it does have a strong sense of community with over 35 different clubs and societies that cater for a wide range of interests. According to the 2001 census, 3,380 people live in the parish in a total of 1,359 dwellings. The socio-economic grouping is mixed and the population profile is fairly flat, except for a dip in the number of 20-30 year olds, which may be caused by the greater attraction of city life and the cost of local housing.

Cholsey Population in the 2001 Census



“Cholsey is a great place to live. It is not broken – don’t try too hard to fix it.”

(male aged 60-74)

The centre of the village is ‘The Forty’, a delightful green, backed by older houses, where a butcher, convenience store (with Post Office) and pharmacy attract significant trade from both inside and outside the parish. Most residents live within walking distance of these amenities, but there are several outlying settlements of which the most important is Winterbrook. Winterbrook now lies on the Wallingford side of the bypass and there has been pressure in recent years to change the boundaries to make it a part of the town. However, research for the Cholsey Plan shows that 43% of residents are against such a change, with only 21% in favour. Amongst Winterbrook residents, the number opposed climbs to 55%, with 22% for the change.

People like living in Cholsey. Houses sell quickly in the village, with the railway, shops, primary school and pleasant surrounding countryside being major attractions. Not surprisingly therefore, the main concern of residents is to retain what they value; in particular to protect the countryside and preserve the village community in the face of prospective development.

Development of the Cholsey Plan

The aim of the Cholsey Plan, like all Parish Plans, is to set out a vision of what residents would like to see happen over the next five or ten years, and to propose a series of actions to achieve specific objectives. A key requirement is that the plan should be based on the opinion of the majority of local people, not just a small group, and most of the project effort has been expended in eliciting those views. Children and young people were very much included, with those aged eight and over asked for their opinions in the questionnaire.

The stages of the project were as follows:

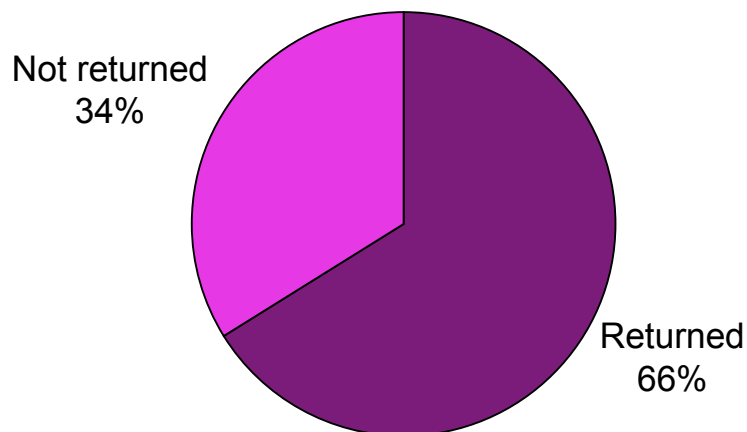
Sep05	Public meeting attended by over 100 residents and facilitated by ORCC which kicked off the project and brainstormed what people liked, disliked and wanted for Cholsey.
Oct05-Jan06	Formation of steering group and working groups for each of seven topics. Survey of current situation.
Feb06-Mar06	On-street consultations on likes, dislikes and wants with 142 residents; discussions at the Day Centre; and consultation with years 5 and 6 at Cholsey School.
Apr06	Two-day exhibition and consultation which gathered the views of 323 residents.
May-Aug06	Analysis of the consultation results and development of a household questionnaire with help from ORCC and the District Council.
Sep-Nov06	Delivery, collection, data entry and analysis of the questionnaires. A separate Housing Survey was also delivered to all households.
Nov06	'Thank-you event' where the results of the questionnaire research were released.
Nov06-Jan07	Production of the Cholsey Plan; review by officers at ORCC, District and County Council, and endorsement in principle by the Parish Council.

Throughout the project a promotion campaign kept the community informed and helped draw in more people to help with the work. The campaign included the development of a web site; posters at

strategic points on nine occasions; eight articles and a flyer in the Forty magazine (delivered to all households); letters to club office holders and other key individuals; four press releases with three articles in the Wallingford Herald and an interview on Fox FM.

Over 60 volunteers were involved in distributing and collecting the questionnaires, which yielded an admirable 66% response rate from 1,901 residents in 896 households. Only some of the results from the research are presented here, but in-depth information can be found on our web site (www.cholsey.org/parishplan). The Housing Survey, which also had a good response rate of 50%, was returned and analysed separately. Some of those results are given in the Housing and Development section.

Questionnaire distributed to all households in September 2006



The Cholsey Plan

Much of the work in identifying the current situation and discovering what people liked, disliked and wanted was carried out by working groups that looked at seven areas of activity, and the results are presented here under those headings. Each section finishes with a set of recommended actions designed to satisfy the wishes of the majority of residents. This action plan will require further detailed work by residents in collaboration with partner organisations to turn these desires into concrete results. We will need *your* support to make it happen.

Community & Leisure

Cholsey has a strong sense of community and is lucky to have an enthusiastic band of volunteers who help organise over 35 different organisations, societies and clubs. Over 35% of residents belong to at least one of these groups and the strength of the community was one reason why Cholsey was chosen as winner of the 2006 Calor Oxfordshire Village of the Year (Large Villages) competition. Cholsey 1000 Plus, the community association, publishes a magazine called 'The Forty' which is delivered to all households five times a year.

The oldest organisation by far is St. Mary's church, which has had a major influence on our heritage and sense of community for over a thousand years. 75% of residents still believe the church is important today in some way; with 53% valuing the help for those in need locally; 50% enjoying the celebration of baptisms, weddings and funerals; and 49% believing that the preservation of historic buildings and heritage is important. Over 500 people in the village regard the provision of opportunities for worship as important to them personally, and 360 value the Christian teaching provided.

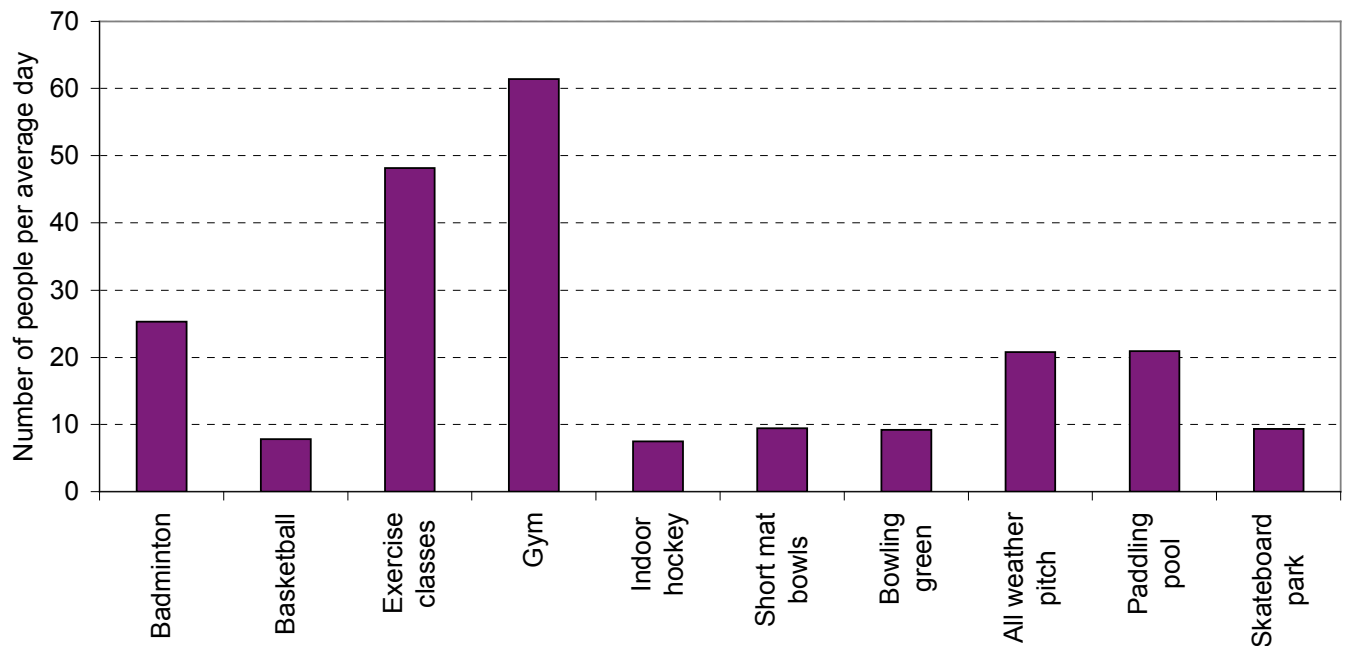
Despite the community spirit of the majority, there is a small minority that cause trouble. In the survey, 38% of residents found vandalism a problem, and 37% were worried by anti-social behaviour.

Although some of this may be a perceived rather than a real problem, residents do need to work with the police and community groups to reduce actual occurrence.

Cholsey also has its fair share of people who feel excluded: those who are lonely, infirm, disabled, or from different ethnic or language backgrounds. We need to continue to work to include these people through such activities as the Day Centre, the Community Car Service, and the work of the churches.

The many different groups in the village offer a wide range of leisure activities, but there is a shortage of indoor and some outdoor sports facilities. This was mentioned by around 10% of residents in answer to the survey question asking ‘what one thing would most improve your life in Cholsey’. Residents were also asked how often they would use a range of possible new facilities (see chart).

Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities
 Number of people who would use each facility on an average day based on those who said they would use each facility 'weekly' or 'monthly'



“Build a facility for indoor sports in a location which is easy to access.”
 (female aged 45-59)

Cholsey has several community buildings, including the school, the Laurence Hall, the Scout Hall, and the Fair Mile Sports and Social Club (FMSSC), but none of these are suitable or large enough to provide all of the desired indoor sports facilities. The Pavilion, another small community building which was home to the Parish Council, was destroyed by fire in 2005 and a replacement is currently being planned. The FMSSC, which would like to extend the facilities it offers, is discussing its future with the developers of the Fair Mile site, and this too could involve a new building. The FMSSC receives no money from the parish, but depends on a modest annual subscription. In the survey, 617 residents said they would consider applying for membership of an expanded and more attractive club, with 145 saying they were already members.

In 2004 discussion on a replacement for the Pavilion raised emotions, particularly after suggestions that it might be funded by the sale of allotment land. Many are concerned about the effect that

the running costs of a large facility could have on Council Tax: 40% do not want to see any increase (although 34% would accept a rise of 40% or more in the parish component of the tax). Plans need therefore to be laid carefully. As far as location goes, the preferred site is that of the Pavilion, which 69% find acceptable, as against 44% for the Fair Mile and 34% for Celsea Place.

Wherever the location of any new community buildings, there is strong support for accessible toilets on the Recreation Ground. When asked in the survey which of four additional facilities were needed, 43% of residents chose this option, as against 17% who opted for picnic areas and 11% who wanted a café.

Another strong desire is for permanent library facilities. In the survey, 58% of people said they would use a library and 296 people offered (anonymously) to spare a few hours to help run it.

Community Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Preserve and enhance the community spirit	Co1: Ensure that residents in new developments are encouraged to belong	Parish Council Cholsey 1000 Plus	High	On-going	Low
	Co2: Find more ways to help those who feel excluded	Parish Council Cholsey 1000 Plus The Day Centre The churches	High	2007	Low
Reduce vandalism & antisocial behaviour	Co3: Formulate a strategy to assist the authorities	Parish Council SOCSP*	High	Immediate	Low
Improve communication with Winterbrook residents	Co4: Erect and use a notice board in Winterbrook	Parish Council Clubs & Societies	Medium	2007	Low

* South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership

Leisure Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Provide new indoor sports facility	Le1: Design and build a new or modified facility or facilities that meet the needs of the majority	Parish Council District Council Linden Homes Clubs & Societies	High	2007-2010	High
Provide added outdoor sports facilities	Le2: Construct outdoor recreational facilities	Parish Council District Council Linden Homes Clubs & Societies	Med-ium	2007-2010	High
Provide permanent library facilities	Le3: Investigate, plan and implement	Parish Council County Council	Med-ium	2008-9	Med-ium
Provide toilets on Recreation Ground	Le4: Plan as part of new build	Parish Council District Council	Med-ium	2008-9	Med-ium

Economy

Originally, Cholsey's main livelihood came from farming, but the advent of the railway and the more recent housing growth of the 1960s and 1970s led to the development of a strong commuter-based element, and now farm employment is very low. However, other small local businesses have flourished and today 23% of economically active residents work from home. For the rest, with an average journey to work of 10 miles, there is support for further development of the local economy and 58% of residents are in favour of a new small business park (on the scale of converted farm buildings), as opposed to 22% against.

Over the last 20 years or so, the number of pubs has dropped from six to two, while the number of shops in the village has more than halved. However, those remaining are very much loved and there is a strong desire to protect these outlets, which include the butcher, pharmacy, convenience store (an Express outlet of a national chain which includes a post office), newsagent and general store, two restaurants and the two pubs. The availability of other services, whether from dedicated premises or private residences, has increased over the last few years and is also much valued, for example the hairdresser, chiropodist, chiropractor, accountants, vet, and many building, car repair, childcare and other businesses.

Apart from protecting these facilities, residents would like to see more shops and a wider range of services. Particularly mentioned was the provision of a free ATM machine.

Economy Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Increase local employment	Ec1: Encourage small scale business development	Parish Council District Council	Med-ium	On-going	Low
Preserve and encourage local shops and services	Ec2: Promote their usage	Parish Council The Forty magazine ORCC	High	Immed-iate	Low
Provide banking facilities	Ec3: Install a free ATM	Tesco	Med-ium	In hand	Low

Environment

There is general satisfaction with the natural environment. During the consultation process, many people expressed considerable affection for The Forty, which is in the central conservation area; and the Whitehead Meadows, the brook and the associated recreation grounds were identified as important green spaces. Management and maintenance of these parish assets is generally considered to be good and the prevailing mood is that little or no change should be made to them.

“I think there should be more dog bins around Cholsey”

(male aged 12-15)

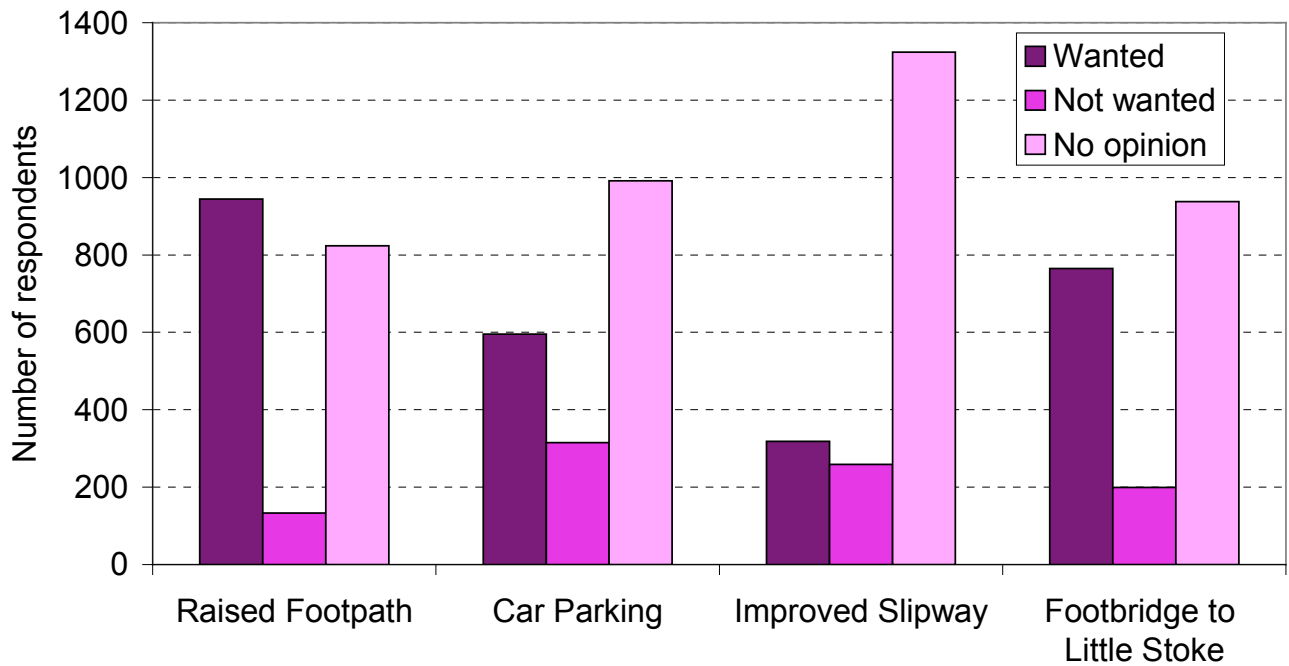
However, litter and dog fouling do detract from enjoyment, and 41% and 50% of residents, respectively, find these a problem. The Parish Council has been actively addressing these issues, but fresh ideas and support are needed to make further significant improvements.

Some people are concerned about the levels of street lighting. Around 42% of residents feel that more is needed, while 33% do not. In addition, 20% feel that light pollution is a problem, against 45% who do not feel it's an issue. There are particular spots in the parish where light levels are high, such as at the roundabouts and the station, and others with long stretches between streetlights. A more detailed investigation needs to be undertaken into whether upward and unwanted light can be reduced in some places, and additional lighting provided in others.

Although there is considerable usage, field paths do not raise much passion, although some would like to see better maintenance, waymarking, and a change from stiles to gates so as to improve access for the less nimble. There are no field paths in the parish that have been made accessible to the disabled.

The riverbank is a valuable asset, and there was considerable support for better pedestrian access along Ferry Lane, which frequently floods, and for a footbridge across the river to Little Stoke. The latter would provide access to an additional path network in the Chilterns and would allow those using the long distance Thames Path to reach Goring without being forced to use the road through Moulsoford.

Possible changes in Ferry Lane



There is a strong commitment to the principle of environmental 'sustainability' (including, for example, more recycling, better energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy sources, and lower car usage), with around 74% in favour. Further exploration of the options available is needed with the aim of developing a coherent strategy for the parish.

Environment Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Reduce litter and dog-fouling	En1: Formulate strategy for assisting the authorities	Parish Council District Council	High	Immed-iate	Low
Maintain & improve field paths	En2: Develop a coherent policy for Cholsey, including disabled access to some paths	Parish Council District Council County Council Cholsey walking group (SAS)	Med-ium	2007-8	Low
	En3: Overcome flood problem in Ferry Lane	Parish Council District Council County Council BBOWT* Linden Homes	Med-ium	2008	Med-ium
	En4: Seek to provide footbridge to Little Stoke	Parish Council District Council County Council Linden Homes Environment Agency	Low	2010-2015	High
Improve street lighting	En5: Investigate provision of better lighting in poorly-lit built-up areas and better designed lighting elsewhere	Parish Council County Council	Med-ium	2008	Med-ium
Improve sustain-ability	En6: Develop a specific strategy for Cholsey	Parish Council District Council County Council Linden Homes Guinness Trust	Med-ium	2007-8	Low

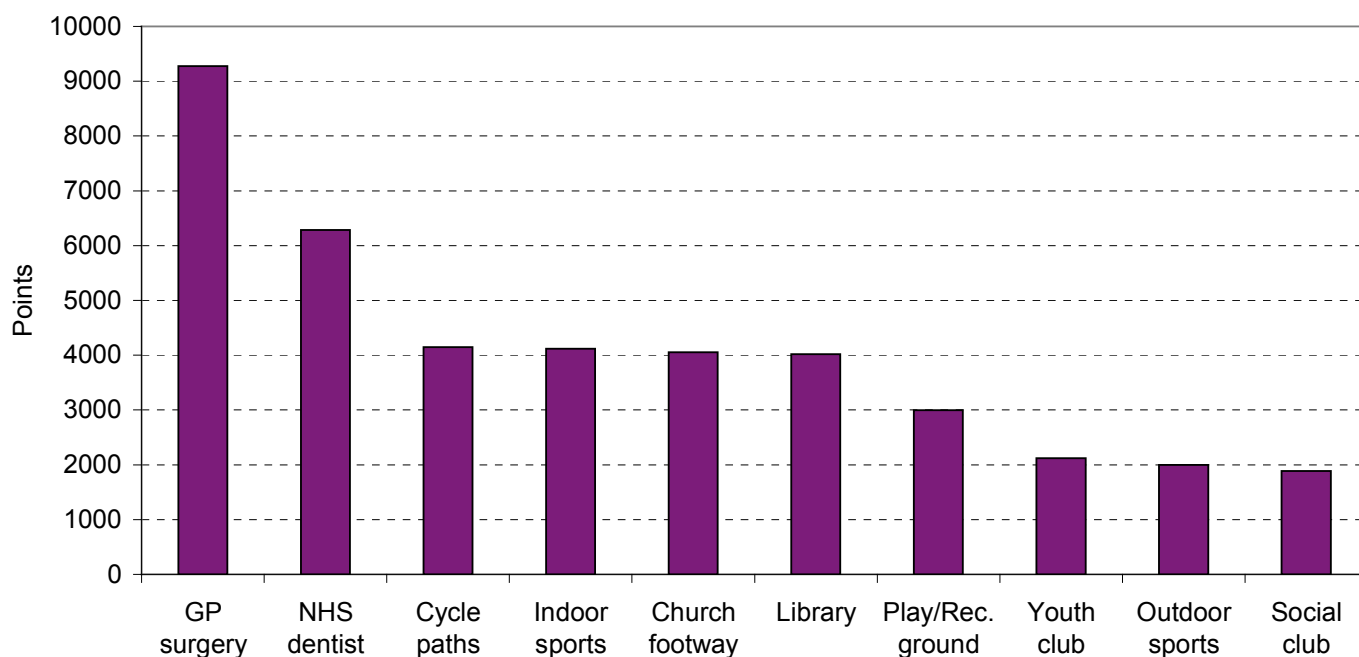
* BBOWT = Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

“A GP surgery would be very useful.”
(female aged 20-29)

Health

With the exception of the weekly baby clinic and the services at the pharmacy, NHS provision is non-existent in Cholsey. In our wide-ranging survey, the most desired additional facilities for the village were a GP surgery and an NHS dentist. 56% of residents rated the provision of a GP surgery as ‘very important’, and 29% as ‘fairly important’. 69% would register with an NHS dentist were one available.

Most wanted additional facilities



In Wallingford the NHS provision is extensive, with a medical centre and a community hospital, although the future of the latter is uncertain. 88% of residents feel that it is very important to retain the hospital facilities. An NHS dentist opened in summer 2006 in Wallingford and should be able to meet at least some of Cholsey residents’ needs.

Health Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Provide a doctor's surgery	He1: Provide a facility and services	Parish Council Primary Care Trust Wallingford Medical Practice	High	2008	High
Retain and improve facilities at Wallingford Hospital	He2: Lobby	Parish Council Primary Care Trust	High	Immed-iate	Med-ium
Provide an NHS dentist	He3: Assess Wallingford practice and investigate provision	Parish Council Primary Care Trust	Med-ium	2008	Med-ium
Retain the Pharmacy	He4: Encourage greater usage	Parish Council Forty magazine	Med-ium	On-going	Low

Housing and Development

Of the 1,359 dwellings in Cholsey, 80% are owner occupied, 10% are affordable social housing, and 6% are privately rented or shared ownership (part rent/part buy). House prices are well above the national average and a first-time buyer of a terraced property needing a 95% mortgage would have to have an income in excess of £98,000 (assuming a loan of three times salary).

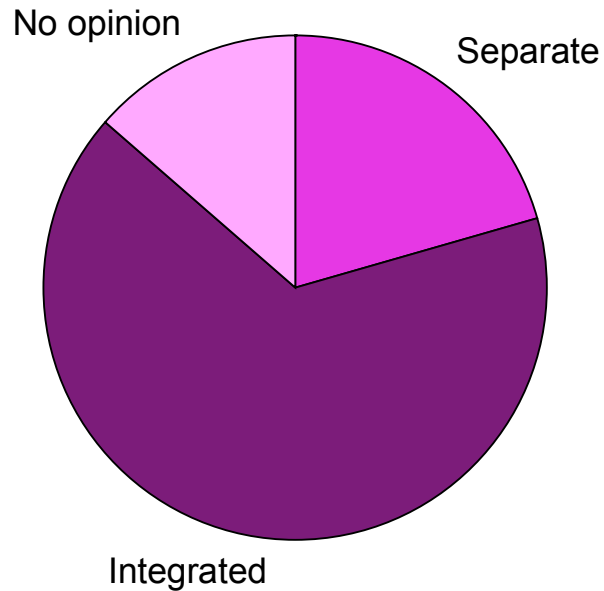
Many residents are looking for more affordable housing, but there are already 1,000 households on the District Council's Housing Register who would be happy to live in Cholsey, whilst on average only ten homes become available each year to meet the need. The Housing Survey indicates that at least 50 one bedroom, 20 two bedroom, 5 three bedroom and 1 four bedroom affordable properties (rented and shared ownership) are needed for Cholsey people. The Housing Survey will be used by the District Council to influence housing development and allocation decisions in the future.

"We must ensure that Cholsey remains a country village with its own community."
(male aged 60-74)

The impact on the village of the planned development at Fair Mile has caused much concern in terms of housing density, traffic increase and the effect on the rural character of the parish. Figures quoted for the number of additional dwellings have ranged from 150 to 370 and the development could increase Cholsey's population by up to 30%. However, it does provide an opportunity to satisfy the affordable housing need and 77% of residents feel that local people should have priority in its allocation. Some people also feel that there should be a wider definition of 'key workers' to include low-paid care workers, administrative and support staff, as they are all vital to the local economy.

Cholsey has a strong sense of community and there was concern that the Fair Mile site should not become a separate and isolated entity. 62% of residents feel that the development needs to be integrated with the village (as opposed to 20% against) with shared community facilities. People were also worried about the extra traffic, particularly as it might affect Papist Way, Ferry Lane and the junction with Reading Road; the planned design and its effect on the natural environment; and the issue of sustainability. Allotment provision also needs to be increased in line with the population growth.

Should Fair Mile development be integrated or separate?



There was great concern that Cholsey should remain a village, and strong opinions that any further development must be very limited in its extent. 66% felt that new housing on garden land should not be permitted. Where there is further development, 44% felt that the village needs some additional larger homes as well as smaller units.

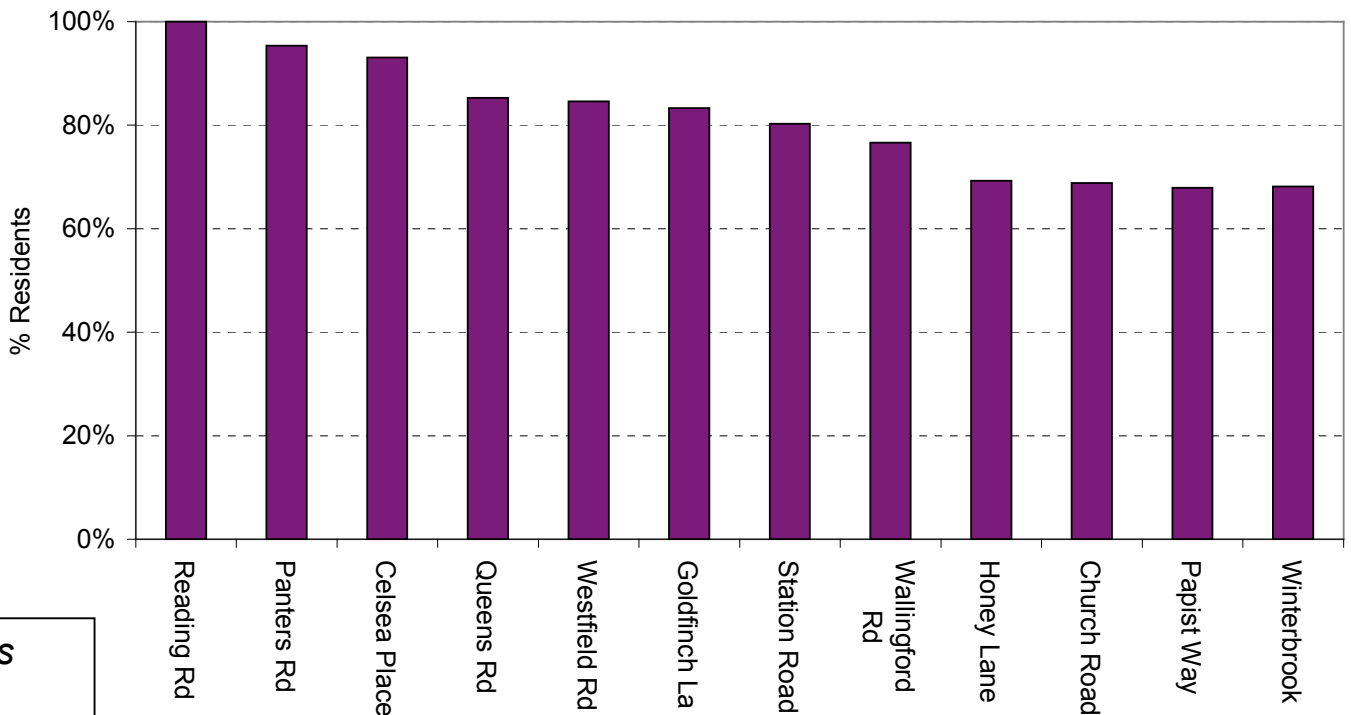
Housing Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Ensure Fair Mile development meets residents' needs	Ho1: Ensure the recommendations of the Housing Survey are acted upon	Parish Council District Council ORCC Linden Homes Guinness Trust	High	2007	Low
	Ho2: Ensure priority for affordable housing is given to Cholsey people	Parish Council District Council ORCC Linden Homes Guinness Trust	High	2007-8	Nil
	Ho3: Use a more flexible definition of 'key worker' to include low paid care workers, admin & support staff	Parish Council District Council Guinness Trust	Med-ium	2007	Nil
	Ho4: Ensure the new community is integrated with the village with good access and shared facilities	Parish Council District Council Linden Homes Guinness Trust Cholsey 1000 Plus	High	2007-8	High
Ensure other future developments meet residents' needs	Ho5: Protect green space and campaign to restrict development on garden land	Parish Council District Council	Med-ium	2007	Nil
	Ho6: Ensure a mix of housing types in new developments, including some larger homes	Parish Council District Council	Med-ium	On-going	Nil

Transport and Highways

Cholsey has its own railway station which provides a good half-hourly weekday service to Didcot, Oxford, Reading and London. There is also an hourly bus service to Wallingford, the nearest town, but no service on Sundays or in the evenings. The latter is a problem, particularly for young people, and 32% of residents said that they would benefit from such a service.

Percentage of residents complaining about speeding by street



“Cars are speeding in the village – it’s unsafe for children to cross the road”

(female aged 30-44)

Although the A329 passes through the parish, the village centre is not on any major through routes. Nevertheless, traffic is an issue affecting most of the larger roads in the parish, with 59% of residents saying that speeding was a problem where they lived. Parking is an issue by the shops at The Forty, and 69% felt that more parking should be provided, with 18% against. More space for parking could possibly be provided without adverse effect on the visual amenity by expanding the existing lay-bys.

Although Cholsey has no cycleways, cycling is very popular, both to get around the large village and to go to Wallingford. The most desired route for a cycle path is along the Wallingford Road, a route

“Cycle paths would be a huge asset to enable people to use their cars less and feel safe”

(female aged 45-59)

which 42% of residents said they would use regularly. There has been one cycling death and one serious injury along this road in the last year alone. Such a cycleway was planned, but the project was dropped through a lack of funding. Given the level of interest, this matter needs to be reopened.

Most footways are in reasonable condition, although there are some stretches with uneven or inclined surfaces which older people, the disabled and those pushing prams or buggies find difficult to negotiate. The main need is for a footway between the school and the church. Parking at the school at drop-off and pick-up times is very fraught; one child died at the spot some years ago, and another accident could happen at any time. Stopping could be prohibited and the church car park used instead, provided there was a safe route to walk from there to the school. Such a path, which would also benefit churchgoers and others, was supported by 72% of residents (with 6% against) and came high up on their list of priorities for spending.

“The walk from the church to the school over the bridge is very scary.”

(male aged 60-74)

Transport Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Improve public transport to Wallingford in the evening	Tr1: Press for the reinstatement of evening bus services	Parish Council Thames Travel District Council	Med-ium	2007	Low
Reduce speeding	Tr2: Investigate and initiate traffic calming measures	Parish Council County Council	High	2008-2011	Med-ium
	Tr3: Press for greater enforcement of speed limits	Parish Council Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Action Group	High	Immed-iate	Low
Reduce parking problems by shops	Tr4: Create more parking spaces in a visually sensitive manner	Parish Council District Council County Council Shop owners	Med-ium	2007-8	Med-ium
Provide cycle paths	Tr5: Press for the Wallingford Road cycle path to be built	Parish Council County Council	High	2007-2010	Med-ium to High
	Tr6: Provide Reading Road cycleway for Fair Mile residents	Parish Council District Council Linden Homes	Med-ium	2008-2010	Med-ium to High
Reduce danger in Church Road	Tr7: Provide footway from Church to School	Parish Council County Council	High	2008	Med-ium to High

Youth & Education

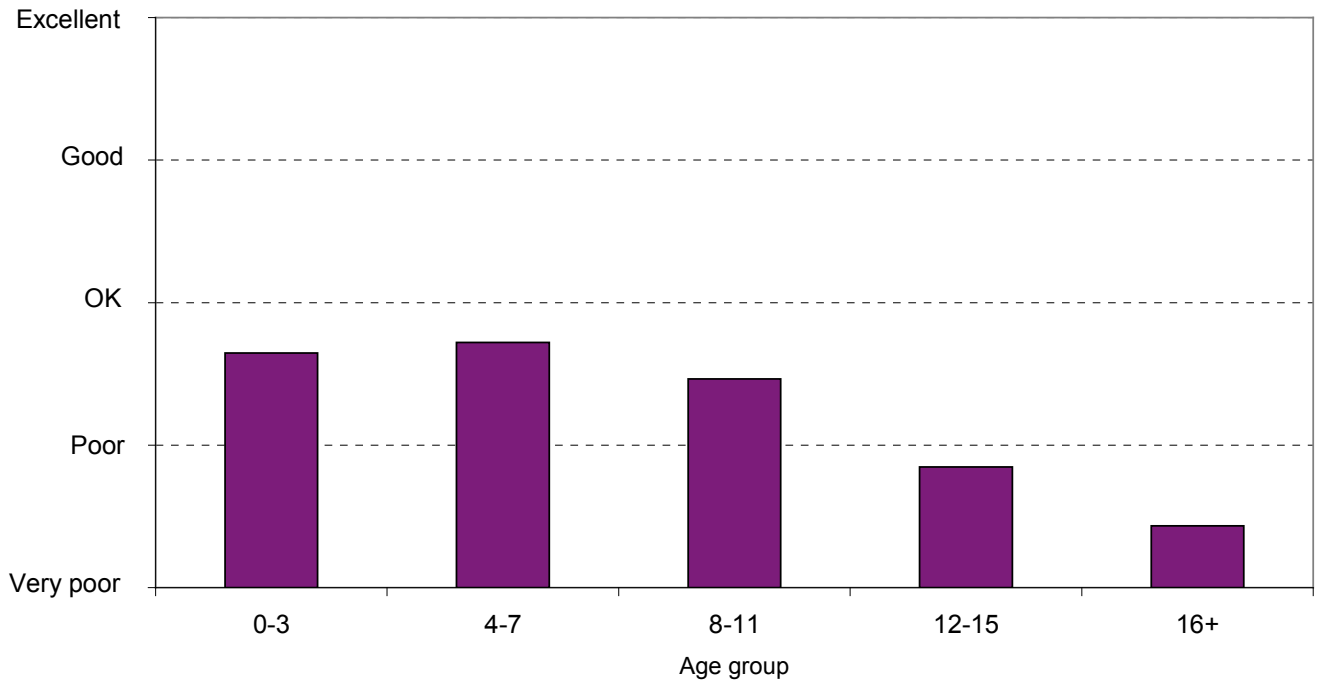
Cholsey has two private nurseries, a pre-school for ages 2 to 5, various groups for toddlers, and a very well regarded Primary School. Given the prospective increase in population, it is very important that plans are laid in advance and that the school is expanded in line with the need. The survey showed that there was also considerable support for further childcare facilities in the form of a breakfast or after school club and an extended holiday play scheme.

Secondary education is provided at the comprehensive school in Wallingford or at other schools further afield. A small amount of further education is available from time to time in the village, including classes in art, computers, yoga and pilates.

Around 800 people, or nearly a quarter of Cholsey's population, are under 19, and the facilities available to them are a cause for serious concern. In the survey, residents were asked to rate the current provision in the Playground and Recreation Ground for different age ranges and all were classed as less than 'OK'. Those for 12 years plus were rated 'poor' to 'very poor', including, unfortunately, the relatively new multi-use games area and youth shelter. However, it is clear that many of the indoor and outdoor sports activities discussed in the Community & Leisure section would hold considerable appeal for children and young people, especially (in order of importance) an all-weather pitch, gym, skateboard park, paddling pool, basketball and badminton courts.

*"I'd like more sports and youth facilities because I'm not allowed to hang around at night."
(unknown gender aged 12-15)*

Rating of playground/recreation facilities by age group



Cholsey has several clubs catering for young people, including several Scout and Guide Association groups; football, cricket and tennis clubs; a junior band and a church youth club. However, it is clear that these do not appeal to all and there is a need for more informal groups and facilities. In the survey, 100 people aged 8 to 18 said they would join a youth club designed for their age group. The 'Phoenix' club, which caters for 14-18 year olds, was recently set up with the help of a part-time youth worker, and this effort should be continued and expanded. Considerable voluntary assistance exists in the parish: 134 people declared in the survey (anonymously) that they were willing to help, a phenomenal expression of support.

Education Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Ensure adequate schooling provision for Cholsey children	Ed1: Expand school capacity to cope with population increase	Parish Council District Council County Council School Governors English Partnerships	High	2008-9	Medium to High
Reduce car usage to/from school	Ed2: Promote 'better ways to school' policy	School Governors PTA	High	2008	Low
	Ed3: Build cycle way / walkway around Recreation Ground	Parish Council School Governors District Council County Council Linden Homes	Medium	2008-9	Medium to High
Provide pre and post school childcare facilities	Ed4: Investigate further and implement if feasible	School Governors PTA County Council	Medium	2008	Low
Provide extended holiday play scheme	Ed5: Investigate further and implement if feasible	School Governors PTA CHIPS	Medium	2009	Low

Youth Action Plan

<i>Aim</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Prior-ity</i>	<i>Time-scale</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Improve facilities for children and young people	Yo1: Revamp and enhance the playground	Parish Council District Council	Med-ium	2008	Med-ium
	Yo2: Ensure indoor & outdoor sports facilities are suitable for youth	Parish Council District Council	Med-ium	2008	Med-ium
Encourage Youth membership of existing clubs	Yo3: Promote membership (e.g. through a Cholsey Youth website and Youth notice board)	Parish Council Youth Worker Phoenix Committee Cholsey 1000 Plus Clubs and Societies	High	2007	Low
Ensure continued success of Youth Worker and Youth Clubs	Yo4: Budget for continuance of Youth Worker	Parish Council County Council	High	On-going	Med-ium
	Yo5: Find and enrol additional adult volunteers	Parish Council Phoenix Volunteer Group	High	2007	Low

What happens next?

The next stage is to start to turn the above desires into reality. The Parish Council will become a facilitator for the actions in The Cholsey Plan, but we need the support of the wider community to help drive the proposals through. Another public meeting will set up one or more new bodies to work with the designated partners to make things happen. It is likely that different groups and individuals will be involved in different actions, reflecting their involvement and interest in different activities within Cholsey. Please think now about how you could help.

The precise details of each action will probably change as each area is explored in depth in discussion with partner and other bodies. Some actions are linked; for example we do not need a plethora of new buildings to provide all the facilities proposed. Not all aims are likely to be fully met, at least not in the immediate future. However, whatever happens, the firm intention is that the Action Plan will be monitored and a progress report made back to Cholsey residents on at least an annual basis.

Further information

The Cholsey Plan website (www.cholsey.org/parishplan) provides much more detailed information, including:

- The full analysis report of the Questionnaire Research and the Housing Survey
- Display information and feedback from the Consultation Event for each working group
- Minutes of steering group meetings
- Many other articles, progress reports, papers and reports

For those without access to the internet, the Parish Clerk has a copy of the Questionnaire Research Report, and other information can be obtained from the Chair of the Cholsey 2020 Vision Group, Geraldine Kelly, on 01491 652910, or from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

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Finally, we would like to thank in advance all those people and organisations whose work in the future will turn the above desires of the residents of Cholsey into reality.