

# Aldbourne Community Plan



2011

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*'... [my book] is an attempt to present the picture of a village, set in an isolated position among the Wiltshire downs, that has developed and maintained through a long period of time a sturdy independence and a strong life of its own; a village that has survived hard times and prospered again ... a village with a heart that still beats soundly.'*

From *The Heart of Village – an Intimate History of Aldbourne* by Ida Gandy, published in 1975.

### ***Acknowledgements***

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Thanks are also due to all those individuals who have helped us along the way including: Oliver Cripps and John Tabor at North Wessex Downs AONB; Frank Marshall from Kennet District Council; Marion Rayner at Community First; Geoff Arnold from Tidmarsh; Mike Collis from Baydon and, from within the parish: Brian Buckler, Andy Devey, Gwen Earl, Michael Edmonds, Jane Fanshawe, Peter Gibson, Jo Hutchings, Ray John, Pauline Mills, Ron Morley, Margot Muller, Diane Powell, Meike Prescher, George Rendell, Sue and Mark Rendell and Guy Wentworth.

Photo credits: Maureen Albright, Michael Edmonds, Jo and Sam Hutchings, Peter Keaney, Jenny Wales, Dyson Wilkes and Philip Lawrence Awards.

### ***Aldbourne Community Plan Steering Committee***

Zoe Aldred, Tim Bowden, Neil Howard, Peter Keaney, Kay Preston-Wilkes, Jennifer Rendell, Derek Tapp and Jenny Wales



## Foreword

It has taken us over 3 years and has been a mammoth task but here it is! This Plan provides a picture of the village and its needs which will hopefully inform future decisions within the village. It is also directed at those who have some influence over whether projects receive external funding and require evidence that funding proposals have broad-based support within the community. Our aim is for the Plan to be something more than just another glossy brochure. Its main contents are lists of desired actions and so its success should be judged by how well these actions are realised over the coming years.

Whilst conducting this project, there have been two common responses from residents. Firstly, there is 'survey fatigue' – the feeling that seeking opinions is futile when results are just ignored. Secondly, whilst we received many positive comments, some people expressed a fear of change.



Regarding the first response, it is in all our interests to ensure that local government knows what we want them to do for us. However, wherever possible, we have deliberately tried to assign responsibility of the many actions in this Plan to groups of interested volunteers to drive actions forward to fruition, rather than expecting our elected representatives to just do everything for us. We shall see over the coming years if this really happens.

Regarding the second response, the world around us is constantly changing and action is often required to limit and counteract the effects of some unwelcome changes. The aim of the Plan is to represent the opinions of the parishioners of Aldbourne as best we can – including those whose opinions are not normally heard.

The main input to the plan was the results of the survey delivered to each household in the parish in April 2010. The questions were based on the notes and comments collected from the Plan launch meetings held in October 2008. The results were then collated from 529 individuals (over 66,000 individual data items and 1715 comments were entered manually). In addition the Plan includes results from consultations with various groups and organisations within the village plus some aimed at 'hard to reach' groups of the community.

This short document cannot possibly capture all the information collected but we have striven to provide an overview of the issues of most concern. The overall impression from the questionnaire responses and the consultation meetings is that the community is keen to maintain the *spirit* of the village rather than just preserve the *appearance* of the village in aspic. The Plan is not just a static document. How actions are progressing will be tracked on the village website and the wealth of additional survey information will be available to serve the community for the foreseeable future, helping various village organisations realise their goals.

Neil Howard, Chair of Steering Committee

## Aldbourne: A Chalk and Sarsen Wiltshire Downland Village

Aldbourne (stream of Aelds's people) has long been a flourishing village. Based around a 9th-century Saxon settlement, there is also evidence of Roman occupation locally.

Aldbourne lies in a triangle between Marlborough, Swindon, and Hungerford, and is within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The parish includes the village of Aldbourne, the hamlets of Upper Upham and Woodsend and the deserted hamlet of Snap. The village itself lies in the junction of five dry valleys and the Bourne flows through the centre of the village and joins the River Kennet near the neighbouring village of Ramsbury.

Central to the Aldbourne way of life is the location of its shops, public houses, library, churches and halls. These are all situated within the heart of the village, spreading out from The Green and The Square.

Aldbourne is a growing village. Since a low point just after World War I, the population steadily rose to 1,782 in the 2001 census, making it a large village. The population of the village has aged. In the period from 1976 to 2001 the proportion of under 25-year-olds reduced from 39% to 25%, whilst the percentage of over-60s rose from 17% to over 24%.

Aldbourne has a high level of its population employed in higher-ranking positions. The 2001 census found that just over 20% of the villagers in employment and aged between 16 and 74 were managers and senior officials. Another 25% were professional or in associate professional or technical positions. Aldbourne is an attractive village in which to live for the families of such workers because it is near to mainline railway stations and the M4 motorway leading to Bath, Bristol, Reading and London.



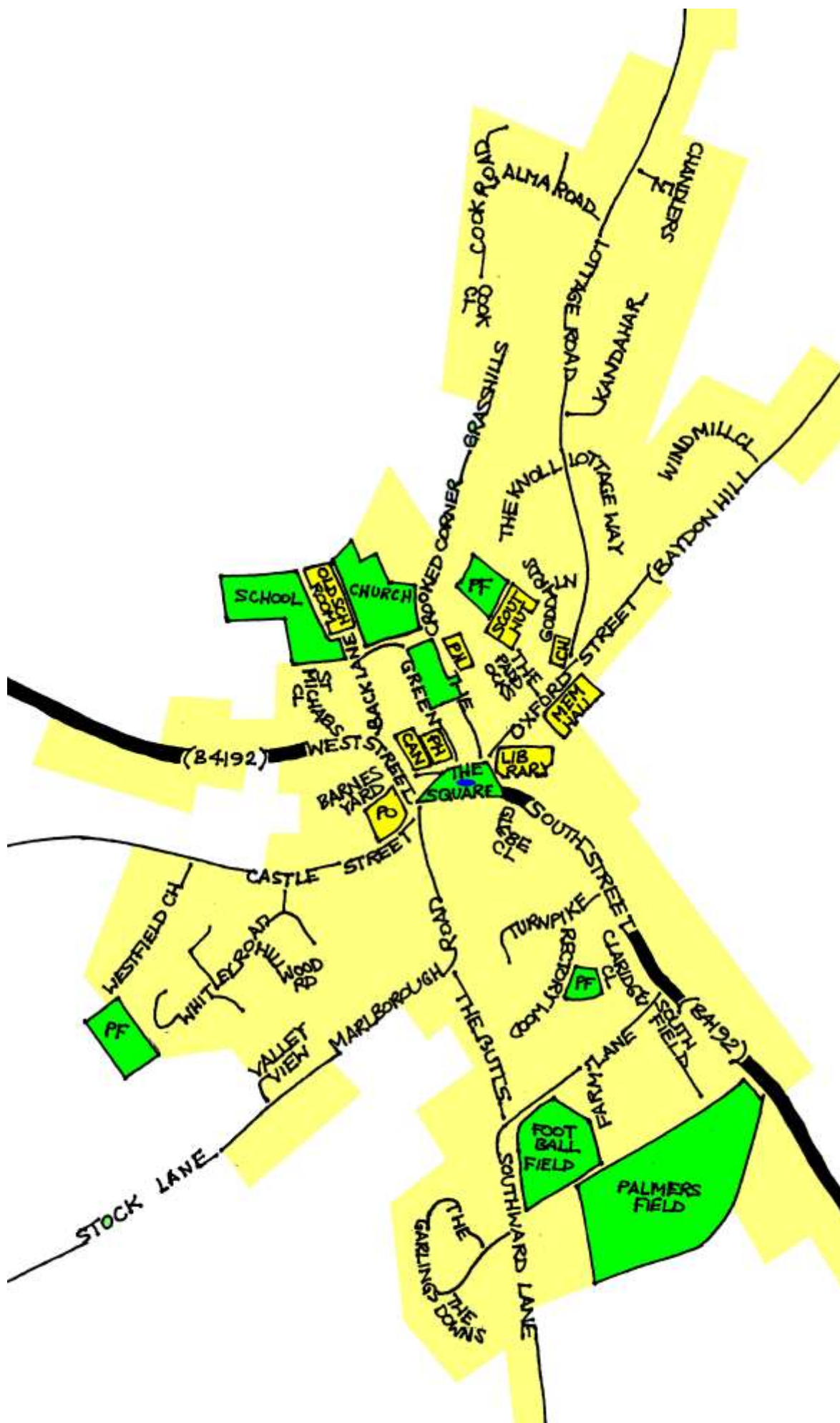


The village has long maintained many of its own traditions. Amongst these are the Carnival week in September and the Aldbourne Feast in July. Our award-winning village band was formed in 1835 and continues to delight the village with its regular pond concerts in the summer and its Christmas morning tradition of playing carols around the village, from 4am until 6.30am when they play carols from the roof of the church tower.

In 1910 George Bernard Shaw and Edgar Wallace came to the Old Malt House on South Street to watch a play written by Charles McEvoy, a playwright living in the village. Nowadays, the Aldbourne Light Entertainment Club (ALEC) continues this dramatic tradition. In 1971 the BBC filmed a series of Doctor Who in and around the village (becoming 'Devil's End').

The 506th regiment of the 101st Airborne division of the US Army, whose WWII exploits were dramatised in the TV series 'Band of Brothers', were based in Aldbourne in the weeks prior to D-Day. A stable block in the village in which some of the soldiers had been billeted was dismantled and reassembled in the military museum in the regiment's hometown in Georgia in 2005 and there have been numerous commemorative events in the village.

Over the past 30 years the village has changed. We may no longer have a bank, bakery, butcher or petrol station but there is still a thriving Post Office, Co-op, hairdresser, 2 garages and a fish and chip van. Some 'affordable' housing has been built. The churches are still active and have made a success of 'Churches Together in Aldbourne' which has bought greater integration of St. Michael's C of E Church with the Methodist Church.



### *Note on maps of Aldbourne:*

Page 3 shows a tapestry of the village created by the WI.

The map shows the features in the village referred to in the text, including St. Michael's Church (and graveyard), St. Michael's primary school and neighbouring Old School Room, the Methodist Church and Hall (CH), the Memorial Hall, library, the 'CAN' (Community-Archive-Net), the Post Office (PO), public houses (PH) and the playing fields (PF) at Goddard's Lane, Whitley Road and Claridge Close. 'Barnes Yard' is the former Barnes Coaches site currently being developed by Hannick Homes.

### *Note on questionnaire data:*

We have used response data from the questionnaire in a way that seems to best reflect the views of respondents. In most cases this is in the form of a percentage of the total number of respondents but, where a question was not relevant to all respondents (e.g. questions relating to specific groups), we have calculated the percentage based on the number of people who answered that question.

### *Note on groups/organisations responsible for actions:*

Actions in the main part of the Plan are assigned to various groups/organisations. These include:

- Aldbourne Community Volunteers (ACV) – who pick up litter and tidy up specific areas
- ALEC (Aldbourne Light Entertainment Club) – local amateur dramatics club
- Aldbourne Youth Council (AYC) – see [www.aldbourneyouthcouncil.co.uk](http://www.aldbourneyouthcouncil.co.uk)
- The 'CAN' (Community-Archive-Net) – internet café operating from premises next to the toilets in The Square
- *The Dabchick* magazine – delivered to every household in parish every 2 months
- 'E&C Group' – proposed new group for handling environment and countryside issues
- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NWD AONB)
- Village Green – group interested in green issues within the village and organise local skills fairs
- Website group – runs [www.aldbourne.net](http://www.aldbourne.net) (formerly [www.aldbourne.org.uk](http://www.aldbourne.org.uk))

### *Note on previous surveys:*

References to the dates 1976 and 1999 are drawing on results from the village appraisals conducted in those years.

## Housing

In 1976, there were 534 dwellings in the village, 113 of which were owned by the Local Authority. At that time most people felt that the village was the ideal size and considered their housing provision to be satisfactory. There was, however, a demand for more accommodation to be made available for young couples. A need existed for small reasonably-priced homes to buy or to rent.

In 1999, there were 789 households. The ratio of owner-occupied to rented accommodation reflected the national average and an astonishingly high figure of 90% reported their accommodation met their needs.

Now, there are approximately 800 dwellings in the parish, of which 90% are within the main village. When asked about their expected housing needs over the next 10 years about one third of respondents had 'a need'. There is a significant demand for starter homes to buy and/or rent and for sheltered housing, or residential/nursing care. A demand for family homes to buy or rent featured much less. This perhaps reflects the fact that village families have children who may wish to leave home over the next ten years but would like to remain in the village. Likewise, older residents want to remain in Aldbourne but recognise that they will need different dwellings as they age.

When asked about new developments, respondents chose brownfield sites and small developments over infill or greenfield sites. There were many strong responses against any development, e.g. 'All new-build should stay in Swindon', 'none, no way, never' and 'village infrastructure can't cope with any more'.

<b>Actions: Housing</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Required Action</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>Meeting Housing Needs</b>				
Provision of suitable housing for the future.	The majority of people wanted any development to be on brownfield, rather than greenfield sites.	Ensure Parish Council, Marlborough Area, Wilts Rural Housing Needs Forum and Wiltshire Council Planning are aware of survey information.  (see also Local Government, page 21.)	January 2012	Parish Council
Ensuring suitability of future housing developments.	Need to have information on intended developments before they reach the design stage.	Produce a workable housing strategy that meets the needs of the community.	2012	Parish Council





A minority of people felt that the pavements, paths and by-ways were well maintained.

Only 1% of respondents state they have difficulty entering public premises within the village and the same proportion also want help with transport to get to clubs and medical services.

Many people think that the village needs a greater police presence and more consultation with the police.

<b>Actions: Local Services &amp; Community Life</b>				
Objective	Justification	Required Action	Start Date	Assigned to
<b>Community Involvement</b>				
Increase use of our facilities.	Survey revealed lack of information concerning facilities.	Encourage more use of halls by individuals for social functions.	January 2012	Memorial Hall, Methodist Church, Scout/Guide Hut, School and Old School Room
Increase use of our facilities.	Survey revealed lack of information concerning facilities.	Publicise contact information on all facilities. Revamp village noticeboard.	January 2012	Parish Council
Increase use of our facilities.	Suggested by survey results.	Increase use of school hall for additional activities e.g. badminton in evening.	January 2012	St. Michael's School Governors
Promote sense of greater security.	45% want greater police presence; 47% want greater police consultation.	Invite police to create a better forum for consultation.	January 2012	Parish Council
Increase local knowledge of all clubs and societies in the community.	Survey revealed lack of awareness of some clubs & activities.	Create a list of clubs, societies and activities together with a point of contact for each. To be published in <i>The Dabchick</i> and on the website.	In progress	<i>The Dabchick</i> editorial committee  Website group

## Youth

The views of young people in Aldbourn were gathered both from the questionnaire and through meetings with youth organisations including the Guides and Cubs. A whole day was organised with the children of St. Michael's primary school who explored the village and came up with their views on the village now and in the future.

The village has the very active Aldbourn Youth Council which has twice won the prestigious national Philip Lawrence Award. It all started with the desire to have a BMX track. They raised funds and negotiated with the authorities in order to achieve

their objective. They set up the CAN – an internet club for the use of all members of the community. These activities developed into the Youth Council which now raises funds to maintain its own premises and support a youth worker. Members of the Aldbourn Youth Council organise holiday activities and events throughout the year as well as contributing to Parish Council meetings.

The questionnaire showed that the favourite activities of primary-age children in Aldbourn include playing in the parks, football, riding bikes, skateboarding, swimming, tennis, horse riding and rugby. It also showed that primary-age children would like to see the following additional facilities in the village: Football-related facilities (including a club and Astro turf 5-a-side pitches for young people), cycle paths and netball. There were also requests for a drama club, gymnastics, roundabouts and seesaws, safe horse-riding places and a skate park. The majority of children felt that there were enough outdoor play spaces, enough clubs and facilities and enough youth and church clubs. A smaller majority of children felt that there were sufficient supervised activities in the village.



Photo: courtesy of Philip Lawrence Awards

Secondary-age young people were less satisfied with the activities available in the village. A majority felt there are insufficient supervised activities. There was a greater degree of satisfaction with youth and church clubs. The many requests for further activities included a football club for young people, an after school café, an indoor sports hall for a range of sports including badminton, 5-a-side football, a cricket pitch, a group for young people over 14, a swimming pool, a 'green' club and young people's amateur dramatics. Many also commented on the poor bus services through the village. The last bus leaves for Swindon at 19:10 and there is no return service with no buses running at all on Sundays.

<b>Actions: Youth</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Required Action</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>Youth Involvement</b>				
Engage young people.	Result of local consultations.	Bring together young people to discuss priorities.	January 2012	Aldbourne Youth Council
Engage young people.	Result of local consultations.	Create youth Football Club.	January 2012	Aldbourne Youth Council
Engage young people.	Result of local consultations.	Create young Green Club.	January 2012	St. Michael's School Governors, Aldbourne Youth Council & Village Green
Engage young people.	Result of local consultations.	Create youth Drama Club.	January 2012	ALEC & Aldbourne Youth Council
Engage young people.	Results of local consultations.	Investigate the use of halls and community facilities for more sports activities for young people.	January 2012	Aldbourne Youth Council
Engage young people.	Aldbourne Youth Council's need for larger premises.	Refurbishment of 16/16A The Square for youth and community use.	Sept 2011	Aldbourne Youth Council

## Business, Employment and Commerce

Within the village there is the Post Office and its Stores, the Co-op, two pubs, two garages and a hairdresser plus numerous small businesses (such as clinics, pet care, taxi service, home decorators and small builders, child care, garden design), many of which are run from home. The butcher's shop closed down between the time the questionnaire was issued and this report being produced, with a takeaway scheduled to take its place. In addition, the last 10 years have seen other closures including a pub, a restaurant and a hairdresser.

The 1976 report's section on employment concentrated on the type of work undertaken by residents which was still mainly agricultural and construction. In 1999, 25% of adults were retired and most working people were in professional or managerial roles and craft or trade. 22% of workers were based at home.

Now, of the working population, 13% work within their home which could include homemakers as well as homeworkers. A further 7% work within the village, 24% outside of the village but within 10 miles (including Swindon, Marlborough or Hungerford). 11% work in locations 11–29 miles from the village and 11% work 30 miles away or more.

A significant majority want to see more jobs based in the village and are in favour of job creation measures.

Nearly 92% of respondents regularly use the Post Office, the Post Office Stores or the Co-op. 'Lack of choice' is the main reason given by those that don't use these facilities. Villagers like the shops and services they currently have but there are others they would like to see in the village; in descending order of popularity, a free cash machine, café, hardware shop, craft units, light industrial units, office units, haberdashers and finally, a takeaway.

It is clear from the numerous individual comments that those who do use the local shops and services think very highly of them. Comments such as 'fabulous', 'excellent staff', 'charming', 'a god-send' are common with only a few negative notes.

For services not present in the village, the ones stated as being the most difficult to access are banks and building societies, chemists and dentists.

People often said they wanted more shops and services but many businesses in the village have closed because they were not used regularly enough to be viable. The old adage of 'use it or lose it' was never more apt than now. This phrase appeared in both the 1976 and the 1999 reports and with each survey, sadly more businesses have been lost.



## Actions: Commerce

Objective	Justification	Required Action	Start Date	Assigned to
<b>Sustainable Community</b>				
Support local facilities.	Many people were unaware of some services already available within the village.	Publicise products and services that are available.	January 2012	All local shops & businesses
Support local facilities.	Absence of local banks. 55% want free cash withdrawals.	Publicise free cash withdrawals for certain bank customers at the Post Office.	January 2012	Post Office
Support local facilities.	Absence of local banks. Some people were not aware of cashback facilities.	Publicise free cashback at the tills at the Co-op.	January 2012	Co-op
Support local facilities.	9% have difficulty with collection of prescriptions.	Publicise prescription collection service and eligibility.	January 2012	Post Office
Increase employment opportunities within the village.	70% want more jobs based within the village.	Job creation must be made a priority in planning decisions.	January 2012	Parish Council
Stimulate awareness of local events.	Survey suggested that not everyone is aware of many events in the village.	Investigate possibility of a digital screen, cycling through forthcoming events.	January 2012	Parish Council

## Transport

A large majority of people use cars or vans for regular journeys to work, training or study. Very few use other methods of transport such as buses, bikes, car-sharing or walking.

Less than one in five respondents regularly use bus services. Respondents were evenly split over the question of whether the bus service between Aldbourne and Swindon is satisfactory but fewer people are satisfied with the



services between the village and both Marlborough and Hungerford. A particular concern is the poor fit between the bus timetable and the times of trains to and from Hungerford station. Many are concerned about the mismatch between bus times and work schedules. This might contribute to the fact that, although over a quarter of people reported that they work/study within 10 miles of the village, very few travel by bus.

Most respondents said that they did not require voluntary transport or use the Ramsbury Flyer but a minority do use both these services and the Aldbourne/Baydon Link.

<b>Actions: Transport</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Required Action</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>Greener Community</b>				
Increase bus usage.	37% don't use bus service because it doesn't fit with other travel connections and 32% because it doesn't fit with work times.	Work with Wiltshire Council to persuade bus companies to provide more work-friendly timetables.	January 2012	Parish Council
Promote village car-share scheme.	Only 16% currently car-share to work.	Re-launch and maintain register for people to use on <a href="http://www.aldbourne.net">http://www.aldbourne.net</a> .	January 2012	Village Green



Of all the areas around the village, the junction of Oxford Street and Lottage Road provoked the greatest response by quite some margin. In addition to the problem of parked cars mentioned above, respondents were concerned by the speed of traffic travelling down Oxford Street towards the junction.

Crossing the road, especially with the increased volume of through traffic, is a recognised hazard and villagers are keen to ensure the safety of children and other residents with a significant majority wanting supervised crossing points for children walking to and from school.

Traffic in the area close to the Post Office was also considered a safety hazard, which may potentially become worse with the building of new homes in the Barnes Yard. As an aid to improving pedestrian safety, a significant majority agreed that a zebra crossing should be placed near to the Post Office, enabling safer crossing of the B4192 between the two sides of the village. However, perhaps once again in keeping with the desire for a village feel, there was little appetite for further road furniture in the form of a roundabout at the Post Office junction or a zebra crossing being placed elsewhere in the village.

### *Other Issues:*

Two consecutive winters of extended cold weather have played havoc with the state of the roads, which were made worse by only limited 'patching up' between the two winters. A large majority of villagers expressed the view that road surfaces were 'poor' or 'very poor'. Apart from damage to vehicles, they also present a risk to cyclists and pedestrians.



The B4192 which dissects the village used to be the main Swindon to Hungerford road long before the M4 motorway was built. Closures to the M4 between junctions 14 and 15 can result in traffic being redirected through the village by the Police and Highways Agency. This includes many large trucks, which the B4192 and historic buildings in the heart of the village were not designed to withstand. Satellite navigation systems unfortunately also highlight this optional non-motorway route.

The majority did not want more road warning signs in general or more information signs specifically for through traffic.

We are lucky to live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with many paths and by-ways to enjoy. However this enjoyment can be spoilt by inconsiderate, unauthorised use of motor vehicles. Most thought that 4x4s were a problem on by-ways and many thought that motorbikes were also a problem. In contrast, the healthy pursuit of cycling was not considered a problem.

## Actions: Traffic

Objective	Justification	Required Action	Start Date	Assigned to
<b>Safer Community</b>				
Reduce traffic speed through village.	Survey results: 59% want 20mph limit in village. 56% want 40mph limit on approaches to village.	a) Advise Wilts Council of Community Plan results and proposed action of introducing 40mph speed limit on outskirts of village and 20mph limit in selected village confines. b) Agree areas in village for 20mph limit to apply. c) Obtain commitment from Wilts Council.	January 2012	Parish Council
Reduce traffic speed through village by improved speed awareness measures.	Survey results: 72% villagers want speed-activated warning signs.	Agree proposed placement position of Vehicle-Activated Signs in village and obtain commitment from Wilts Council.	January 2012	Parish Council
Reduce level of dangerous parking within village.	55% agreed that street parking presented safety risk.	a) Local residents to set up meetings to agree informal protocol for parking. b) Encourage local police to take harder line or prosecute persistent offenders.	January 2012	Local residents  Parish Council/ Community Police
Improve pedestrian safety in village.	62% agreed that supervised crossing point for children was required.  72% agreed that a zebra crossing was required near to Post Office.	a) Survey parents of school children for preferred crossing point location. b) Organise a supervised crossing scheme. c) Liaise with Wilts Council to provide suitable road safety measures around entrance to Barnes Yard development.	January 2012	St. Michael's School Governors  St. Michael's School Governors  Parish Council

## The Environment and Countryside

The countryside surrounding Aldbourne is important to almost all respondents. This implies that many live in this community because of the rural environment.

A large majority of people want more circular paths around the area. This might be achieved through liaison with local farmers who may be able to enhance or increase the number of footpaths. A small majority of respondents thought that it is not easy to find information about footpaths, although many thought the paths were adequately signed and accessible once found. A majority also wanted guided walks to be arranged around the area.

As the area hosts many walkers, especially at weekends and bank holidays, improved maps and signage could bring income to the village shops and pubs.

A large majority of respondents thought The Green and its setting, together with the pond, the Bourne and other green spaces were important to them and to the tranquillity of the village. The majority of people thought that the community would benefit from woodlands being well maintained, more trees being planted and single trees being preserved. However, there was no clear agreement among respondents on maintenance of hedges, i.e. whether they should be kept short and tidy or allowed to grow naturally.

Litter is a problem in Aldbourne according to the majority of respondents. The village does not have enough litter bins and those which are in place should be emptied more frequently. The provision of additional bins outside the shops might reduce the problem. Some respondents



reported that dog bins were not emptied frequently enough. The Aldbourne Community Volunteers group help by clearing the pond, picking litter and organising tidy-ups.

One issue, reported in comments, was the frequency with which posters advertising events were left on lamp-posts long after the event was over. Posters are seen as a good way to advertise events but we do need to find ways to encourage individuals and organisations to take responsibility for their removal.

<b>Actions: Environment &amp; Countryside</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Required Action</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>Better Environment</b>				
Maintain environment and countryside.	Majority of respondents say countryside is important to them.	Form group to manage all aspects of countryside and environment.  Keep watch on state of paths, hedges, verges and play areas.	January 2012	E&C Group
Improve walks and bring business to the village.	64% want more circular walks.	Design circular walks and create and publish a walks brochure.	January 2012	Walkers group to be confirmed, with financial help of NWD AONB
<b>Tidier Community</b>				
Better litter collection.	70% think bins need emptying more frequently.	Liaise with providers and emptiers.	January 2012	Parish Council and ACV
Encourage timely removal of out-of-date posters.	Majority of people think posters are useful source of information. Out-of-date posters and boards detract from the relevant ones and become litter.	Publicise removal of out-of-date posters in <i>The Dabchick</i> and Website.	January 2012	<i>The Dabchick</i> and Website group

## Green Issues

There is a keen interest in 'Green' issues and enthusiasm for the Skills and Produce Fairs. The Village Green group organises these events which are appreciated and well attended.



There is also a strong interest in local Farmers Markets being held in the village.

A large majority wanted kerb-side collection of plastic and cardboard. Wiltshire Council has already announced the start of kerb-side collections but this excludes plastics that are not bottles.

A majority wanted local waste to be recycled/reused locally, within the parish, possibly to be sold to raise money for the community.

There was a great response to the issue of making homes more energy efficient. With the cost of electricity and gas increasing, this should be treated as a priority.

Respondents favoured having less rather than more street lighting, including the use of 'dark sky lighting', rather than having more lights for security reasons.

<b>Actions: Green Issues</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Required Action</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>Greener Community</b>				
Use of local waste.	55% of respondents want waste sold to raise money.	Look into possibility of local waste recycling.	January 2012	Village Green
Encourage local trade and reduce food miles.	58% want a Farmers Market.	Maintain Local Skills Fairs and Farmers Markets.	Ongoing	Village Green
Increase energy efficiency of local housing stock.	75% of respondents wanted more efficient homes.	Publicise the availability of individual efficiency surveys and advice.	January 2012	Village Green
Make street lighting more effective.	66% do not want more lighting; 72% in favour of dark sky lighting.	Research dark sky lighting.	January 2012	Village Green & Parish Council
Decrease energy consumption and reduce carbon emissions.	Recent and future increases in energy prices.	Investigate working towards a carbon neutral community.	2012	A group yet to be formed

## Local Government

Those who understand the role of the Parish Council outnumber those who do not by 2 to 1. People want more information about the Parish Council's work in *The Dabchick* magazine. There is also a demand for better publicity for the planning meetings. An overwhelming majority want the Parish Council to have more influence on planning decisions but opinion was divided about the degree of influence that Wiltshire Council should have.

<b>Actions: Local Government</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Required Action</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>Community Involvement</b>				
Improve awareness of local government.	Comments in survey.	More detailed information on Parish Council work to be put into <i>The Dabchick</i> .	January 2012	Parish Council
Informed debate on intended developments.	Comments in survey.	Better publicity on Planning Applications.	January 2012	Parish Council
Informed debate on intended developments.	Comments in survey.	Create website link to local planning applications.		Website group
Planning decisions seen to be fair and consistent.	58% want more open planning procedures and better publicity.	Better publicising of planning meetings. Lobby Wilts Council for longer notice period.	2013	Parish Council
More localised control of planning; where there are housing developments, for it to be appropriate to the needs of the parish.	60% want Parish Council to have more say on planning issues.	When effects of Localism Bill and Wilts Council planning changes have settled down, define planning guidelines based on survey results and get adopted formally.	2013	Parish Council
Better response to emergencies e.g. severe weather, power failure.	A large response from the survey and current initiative of Wilts Council.	Create a 'Community Emergency Plan' and review/update at least every 24 months. This will include a list of emergency volunteers.	2012	Parish Council

## Consultation with Village Organisations

The Plan has incorporated feedback from the many consultations with village organisations. Below is a list of specific wants from organisations, not reflected elsewhere in the Plan.

Aldbourne Band	Storage space (room)
Aldbourne Band	Youth program/youth band to get new members from within the village and instruments for them
CAN	Better use of CAN by older residents
Community Bus	Greater awareness that the bus is available to everyone
Cricket Club	Net at Palmers Field
Cricket Club	Cricket pitch
St. Michael's School	Planning authorities to bear in mind the need for modestly priced housing in the village, affordable to families with school-aged children.
St. Michael's School	Better maintenance of footpaths and creation of new ones to keep pedestrians off major roads
Tennis Club	'Hitting wall' (for individuals to practise tennis) – particularly for the young
Tennis Club	Better pedestrian safety (in Castle Street)
Cubs	Larger hall with better access
Memorial Hall	Double glazing for the Memorial Hall
Village Green	Reduction in herbicide use: encouraging the council to be more transparent about the chemicals in use around the village
Village Green	Cycle paths

## Volunteers

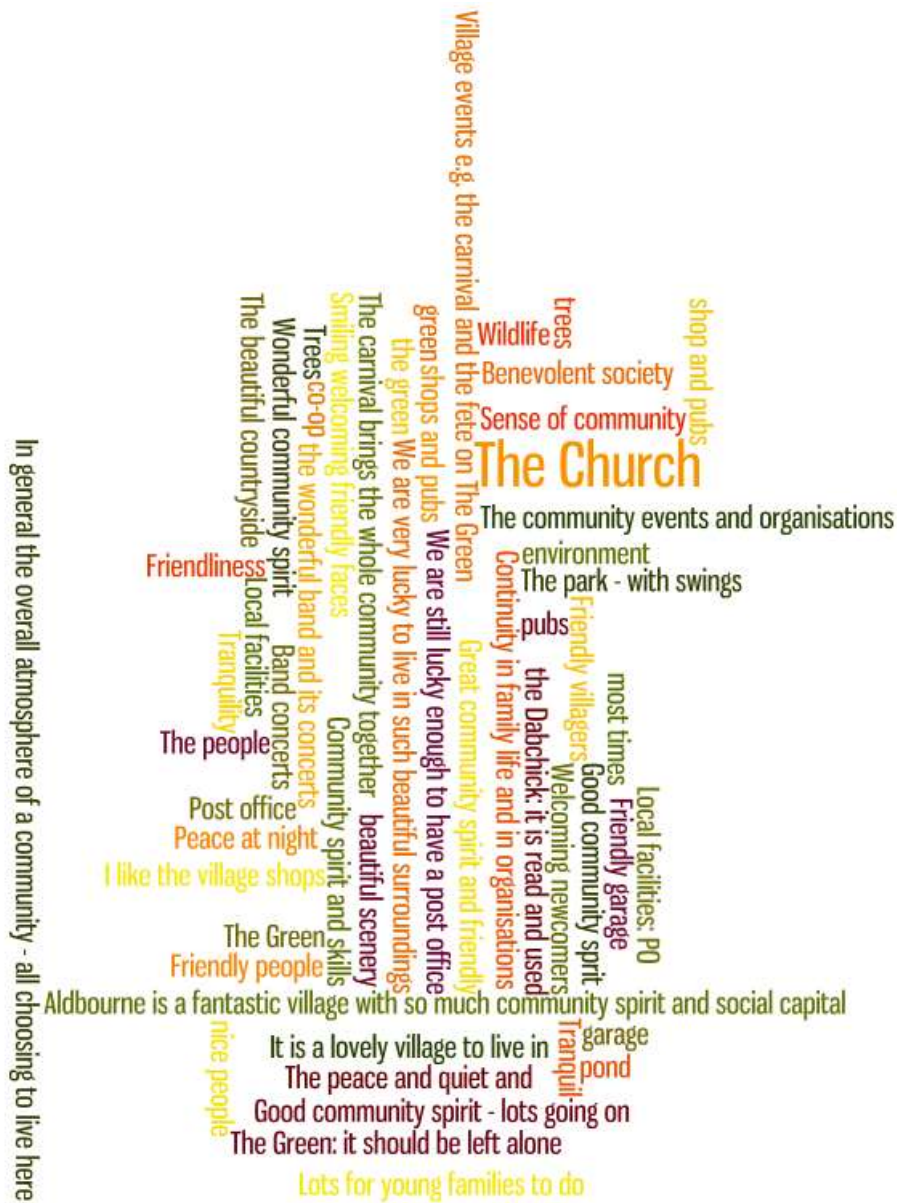
Aldbourne is blessed with a large number of willing volunteers who go about their work steadily and quietly. The numerous village groups, as diverse as Meals on Wheels and the Carnival Committee, testify to this. We are a multi-talented, resourceful and community-minded village.

Questionnaire returns showed:

- 183 respondents currently volunteer either in the village or outside it.
- 60 more wanted to get involved in volunteering or increase what they do.
- 20 wanted to join specific village groups such as the CAN or the Link scheme.
- 41 respondents expressed interest in the 'nature and environment' options and may form the nucleus of the suggested Environment and Countryside Group.
- 9 wanted to know more about setting up a neighbourhood watch scheme.
- 31 are prepared to help in the case of an emergency. These people will be invaluable to the Parish Council when they come to draw up their emergency plan.

## Your Vision

We asked what residents value about living in Aldbourne. The 'word cloud' below gives an impression of the many comments collected.



## Creating the Plan

November 2007	Embryonic 'Pre-steering group' formed
13 February 2008	Stall at Village Green event recruited extra members for group
4 March 2008	First meeting with Marion Rayner from Community First
28 April 2008	'Ideas Forum' trial consultation event with input from Parish Councillors
May 2008	Kennet District Council awarded Minor Awards Grant
9 October 2008	Launch meeting, including presentations by Marion Rayner (Community First) and Neil Howard (Parish Councillor & Chair of Steering Committee), poster displays from John Tabor (North Wessex Downs AONB), assisted by Geoff Arnold (Tidmarsh Parish Plan). Comments Boards completed and volunteers 'signed up'
11 October 2008	Additional launch meeting including completion of comments boards, and volunteers 'signed up', supplemented by village historical video show by Ron Morley
November 2008	Steering Committee formed with guidance from Community First
February 2009	Community First award Parish Plan grant
12 March 2009	'Business Breakfast' consultation event for the self-employed and small businesses within the village
April 2009	Various halls and clubs around village consulted (responses from Cricket and Tennis clubs, Memorial Hall, Aldbourne Band, Village Green, CAN, St. Michael's Church Parochial Church Council and Friends)
13 May 2009	Cubs consultation
22 May 2009	St. Michael's School Citizenship day consultation
26 May 2009	Employers' and farmers' consultation
11 & 18 June 2009	Little Dabchicks toddler group consultations
25 June 2009	Guides consultation
October 2009	Aldbourn Youth Council 'Dreams and Wishes' input to plan
Winter 2009	Analysis of consultations
Spring 2010	Development of questionnaire
April 2010	Village-wide questionnaire delivered to every household
June – October 2010	Data entry from completed questionnaires
Winter 2010	Analysis of data
Spring 2011	Identification of actions
Summer 2011	Plan document written
Autumn 2011	Plan printed and distributed



## What Happens Next?

The publication of this Plan provides the foundation for implementing the expressed needs and wants of the community over the coming years. The status of all the actions in the tables is available at:

<http://www.aldbourne.net/community/plan>

and will be updated as progress is made. The Plan document is also available on this site.

There was so much information collected by the survey that it was impossible to use all of it in the formation of the Plan. If you would like specific information, relevant to your organisation, please email us at:

[community\\_plan@aldbourne.net](mailto:community_plan@aldbourne.net).

This information could help you get funding to help your organisation.

