Parish Council Development Plan Maiden Bradley and Yarnfield 2019-2025



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Introduction

In January 2019, the Parish Council initiated work on a Parish Development Plan (PDP) for the purpose of identifying priorities for the parish over the next five years. A Steering Committee was established, including Councillor Alex Channer and community members and village hall representatives, Elaine Lavender and Ian Ferguson (the latter is now also a parish councillor).

The Committee and the Parish Council would like to sincerely thank all the community members who participated in the development of this plan.

The Parish Council agreed that the PDP would be based on a public consultation and that this process, as well as the preparation of the final report would be implemented over a 12-month period, as follows:

- o January to April 2019: Planning and preparation
- o May to September: Consultation
- o September to December: Analysis and finalisation
- o January 2020: Publication

The public consultation involved a series of activities designed to reach as wide an audience as possible in the parish of Maiden Bradley and Yarnfield. As a result of these activities, the Parish Council received a total of 1,534 comments and suggestions in consultation events and in the survey.

Community members were invited to attend or participate in the following:

Opening consultation, May 11th, 2019:

An opening consultation at the village hall involving

- a meeting, at which attendees could raise issues for inclusion by the steering committee;
- 'issue tables' and a large map, where people could write down their ideas and comments for consideration

Approximately 50 people attended throughout the afternoon – about 15% of the parish population. Their 143 comments and suggestions are incorporated in the Key Findings and also resulted in the inclusion of a question in the survey about climate change and the environment.

Survey, May 16th, 2019:

A survey was distributed to the parish of 330 households and out of 295 surveys delivered, a total of 168 were completed and returned - a response rate of 57%. The majority of respondents (71%) were aged between 41 and 80, and 11% were aged between 12 and 18; 44% said they have lived in the village for over 10 years. A total of 1,329 comments and suggestions were made by people answering the survey.

Under-18s consultation, September 7th, 2019:

An under-18s consultation with approximately 6 attendees was held at the village hall to better identify and understand issues of interest. Approximately 62 comments and suggestions were made which are incorporated in this report.

Closing consultation, October 5th, 2019:

A closing public consultation at the village hall involving:

- presentation of the key findings of the consultation; and
- the parish council's proposed actions for the PDP

Approximately 50 villagers attended the closing consultation. Although no changes were proposed to the actions proposed, there were questions and comments about traffic management in the village, as

well as efforts to highlight the importance of volunteers. The under-18s group presented their findings and priorities to the village.

The final plan

This report summarises the key findings of the above public consultation events and survey. It also puts forward proposed actions to be integrated into the Parish Council's activities for the next five years, the details of which are set out in a practical action plan. This action plan will be regularly updated and used as a mechanism to report back to the community on goals achieved.

Actions

The following are a set of actions that the Parish Council will undertake to lead, coordinate or support as part of its activities over the next five years. These actions are the Parish Council's response to the key findings of the public consultation. A detailed Action Plan sets out the specific steps we will take to achieve these proposed actions. The Action Plan is attached to the Parish Plan.

We would like to highlight a key take-away from the parish consultation. It is apparent, from the consultation, that events and activities that bring the village together are of great significance to everyone living here. There is huge appreciation expressed for the events organised by volunteers in the village hall, for the community spirit provided by the village shop and for the local pub. It would be fantastic, if one outcome of this consultation, is that as a community we managed to restart some annual events, such as the annual village fete each summer.

To achieve this, however, we need people to volunteer their precious time and energy. The Parish Council is ready to provide support, as an institution that can bring people together, create volunteer groups, and help local groups apply for funding. But we need community members to take ownership of the many important and creative ideas they have proposed and wish to see implemented. It is only through the sharing of tasks among dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, that we will achieve the ambitious targets in our plan and build community.

Issue	Actions proposed
Traffic	Continue existing efforts to reduce speeding on Church Street, Frome Road, Back Lane, Kingston Lane and The Rank - (SID, Speed watch, traffic calming)
	Explore options to reduce speeding and improve safety on High Street, working with residents and Wiltshire Council (e.g. a new SID, Speed watch, improvements advised by highways)
	Publish regular data from the SID and Speed watch (e.g. in Newsletter, Noticeboards, Facebook)
	Continue efforts to enforce weight limit (engagement with Wiltshire Council on A350/303, support of Weightwatchers)
	Investigate long-term options to improve pavements (width, maintenance) and to create pavements where there are none (High Street, Frome Road) and identify budget cost. Present findings to the community.
	Investigate options for bollards/railings to improve pavement safety and identify budget cost. Present findings to the community.
	Investigate options for pedestrian crossing near the school bus pick-up and identify budget cost. Present findings to the community.
	Consider alternatives ways to fund long-term traffic related improvements to the village

Internet and mobile phone	Establish a volunteer group to investigate long-term options to have a mobile phone mast, considering practical options and health implications, and to explore options regarding improving internet to remote farms
	Explore collaboration with The Deverills and any other relevant village to collaborate to get a mobile phone mast
Communication	Continue to support the development and publication of the Parish Newsletter Consider ways to improve visual/physical communication in the village via a Noticeboard e.g. print a monthly poster listing the standard activities in the village (e.g. first page of newsletter) and put in the Noticeboard
	Encourage use of the Noticeboard for notices about various activities
Annual village events	The PC will publish a list of the events and activities people have suggested
	The PC will invite volunteers to organise the listed events, via a Volunteer Meeting in the hall (January), as well as putting a poster in the Newsletter and the Noticeboard, and approaching people who have expressed an interest
	The PC will establish a volunteer group, coordinated by a Councillor, but populated by volunteers
	The PC will prioritise investigating the feasibility of restarting two annual village events in 2019/2020 and maintaining them, if community support is available, over the next five years: - Bonfire Night (5 November); and - Annual Summer Village Fete
Village Shop	Share the comments and suggestions made in the consultation with the Village Hall Committee
	Ask the Village Hall Committee to assess the feasibility of opening hours on a Saturday morning, given their reliance on volunteers, and to provide a response (Newsletter, Noticeboard, Facebook)
	Support the Village Shop in its efforts to mobilise volunteers and to sustain the service it provides
Village Hall	Share the comments and suggestions made in the consultation with the Village Hall Committee
	Ask the Village Hall Committee to assess the feasibility of any of the proposed ideas, and availability of willing volunteers, and to provide a response (Newsletter, Noticeboard, Facebook)
	Support the Village Hall with efforts to mobilise volunteers
Footpaths and stiles	Work with the Wiltshire Rights of Way officer to assess and improve rights of way and permissive paths in MB
	Hold a wider meeting with the responsible landowners/farmers and interested parishioners to discuss how to improve footpaths including signage, maintenance, stiles/gates and permissive paths
	Support community efforts to establish a footpath maintenance group, with training from Wiltshire Rights of Way
	Continue to monitor and address maintenance and access to footpaths and respect for the Countryside Way

	Support community efforts to print and display a map of local walks in the Noticeboard Investigate potential funding to improve stiles and gate access to local footpaths
Recreation ground	Establish a volunteer group to consider how to improve use and facilities at the existing recreation ground e.g. investigate the cost of an outdoor gym, playpark maintenance, dog exercise area
Housing	Record and consider wishes expressed regarding the number, type and location of housing to be built in any future housing development
	Share this information with Wiltshire Council planning department
Carbon footprint	Support community efforts to invite a relevant expert to give a talk on climate change and the environment
	Seek advice from relevant expert authorities in local government on what other similar communities are doing to reduce their carbon footprint
	Investigate options regarding permissions for solar panels and wind turbines
The Church	Pass on suggestions about alternative use of the Church to the Church management and the Estate. Ask for their feedback on the feasibility of any of the ideas suggested
	Support the Church's efforts to mobilise volunteers for its maintenance
The pub	Ask the Estate to consider comments and suggestions by villagers about the pub as a social hub, in their commercial renovation plans
	Support efforts to publicise the opening of the newly refurbished pub in 2020
The bus service	Ensure information about The Link service is in the Newsletter, Noticeboard and Facebook
	Share the results of the survey with the bus company, highlighting request from under-18s in the village for a service to Frome at weekends, and ask about their plans for the service in the near future
Parish Council	Consider how to improve communication about the PC mandate – what it can and can't do
	Consider how to improve communication between councillors and parishioners
	Consider how to improve communication about the actions the PC undertakes each month
	Consider how to encourage parishioners to attend meetings
Conservation	Invite the Wiltshire Council Conservation Officer and/or AONB expert to give a talk on planning in a conservation area/AONB
	Support community efforts to provide public information (event, print, online) about the vernacular architectural style of the village and local historical features
	Investigate options to maintain and highlight local historical features
Police and crime	Pass on survey comments regarding rural crime and satisfaction with the police response to the relevant police authority
	Ask the Community Police officer to share examples of how communities can protect against rural crime
Rural tourism	Support efforts to include more visible/physical information in the village about monthly events and activities in the village, local footpaths, attractions, and local history (e.g. Noticeboard, Facebook, Newsletter online)

	Support efforts to recognise village's strategic position on National Cycle Route 25 e.g. signage, facilities for cyclists
Under-18s	Support efforts by young people in the village to liaise with the parish council and village hall regarding their ideas, activities and events for the village (e.g. via a volunteer youth council, an organised group or ad-hoc form of communication as they suggest) Ensure under-18s views are consulted as part of all the relevant initiatives conducted in the parish plan Investigate concerns raised about sixth form travel costs with Wiltshire Council and report
	Include in work on traffic, concerns raised by children about impact of HGVs and heavy traffic on safety when catching the school bus

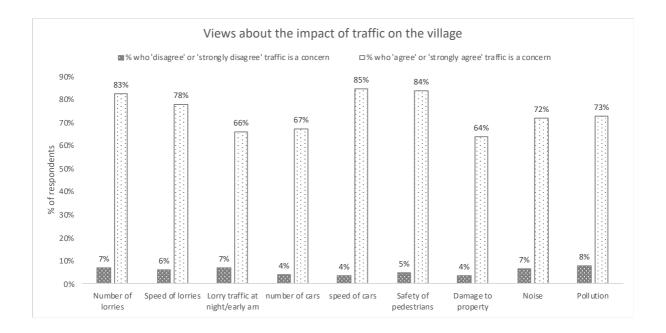
Key findings

Traffic

The survey reveals a wide degree of dissatisfaction with the impact of HGV and car traffic in the village.

- Approximately 83% of respondents said they were concerned about the number of HGVs passing through the village and 78% by the speed of HGVs
- 85% were concerned about the speed of cars driving through the village and 67% by the volume
- 84% were concerned about pedestrian safety
- 72% expressed concerns about noise and 73% about pollution
- 64% were concerned about damage to property

In the May consultation meeting, complaints were also made about the impacts of HGV traffic and cars driving too fast through Church Street and High Street. Residents of High Street raised concerns about speeding, lighting and pedestrian safety on High Street (they also submitted a separate petition on this topic). Residents suggested creation of car parking off the main roads.



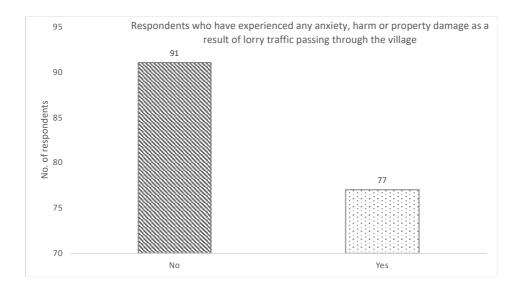
Given the anecdotes told about cars damaged by passing traffic, the survey asked whether people had experienced any anxiety, harm or property damage as a result of lorry traffic passing through the village. A total of 46% of respondents (77 out of 168 people) reported experiencing anxiety, harm or property damage and there were 88 comments giving examples of these impacts. These comments reported the following impacts:

What you said: anxiety, harm, property damage

23 people reported damage to property, mostly broken wing mirrors, but these cases also included between 5 and 7 parked cars which were reportedly written-off by passing lorry traffic.

10 comments described near misses involving pedestrians and cars; and

46 comments described feeling anxiety and sleeplessness caused by vibration in houses, noise including in the early morning and late at night, and risks to pedestrians and children walking on narrow pavements or crossing the road to catch the school bus.



The survey also asked parishioners what measures could be taken to improve pedestrian safety in the village. There were 136 comments and the following is a summary of the suggestions made:

What you said: traffic and pedestrian safety
20 mph limit
Need pedestrian crossing on Church street (re school bus)
Pavements - too narrow
More pavements where there are none (High street, Frome road)
Traffic calming (including at the Frome road end of the village)
Weight restriction enforced
Reduce number of HGVs
40mph before 30mph begins
Speed bumps
Reduce parking in High street
Maintain pavements
Speed cameras/gun
Bins block pavement access
No parking on pavements

Better street lighting

Stronger white lines

Improve pavement on Frome road (leads to about 10 houses)

Another SID in High Street

High Street signage (including speed limit, warning that pedestrians are in the road)

Rumble strips

Trim hedges along roads

More railings along pavements

Back Lane – is becoming a rat run, add a pathway or passing places

Traffic lights

Pay attention to traffic control and pedestrian access to Frome Road

Manage speeding on Kingston Lane

Publish SID data

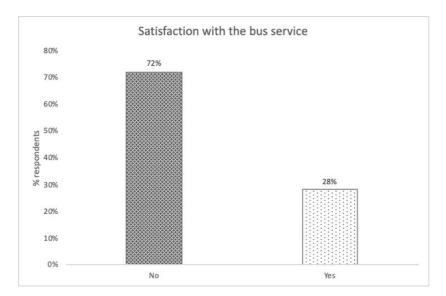
Improve safety on crossing from Bruton Road to High Street

Lobby to upgrade A303 junction with A350 so we can enforce weight limit

The bus Service

Approximately two-thirds of the village (72%) are not satisfied with the frequency of the bus service connecting Maiden Bradley to other towns and villages. Most of the 99 comments indicate that few people use the service – most use cars. The comments suggest it is mostly non-drivers (young people and elderly) who need the service and would use it.

Improving the bus service was suggested as one method of enabling us to limit our carbon footprint.



What you said: buses

Not enough buses in the day to rely upon it

Not enough buses at weekends to use it

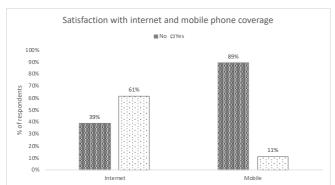
I go everywhere by car

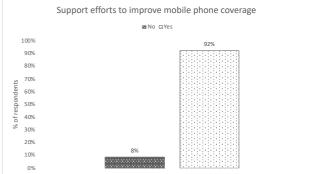
Can't use it to make hospital appointments

Young people can't rely on bus to go to college, a job, out to see friends

Mobile Phone and Internet

A majority of respondents (89%) are not satisfied with mobile phone coverage in the parish. Satisfaction with internet service is much better, with approximately 61% of respondents content. There is clear support for efforts to improve mobile phone coverage with 91% of respondents confirming their support for such an initiative.





What you said: Mobile phones and internet

Improve mobile phone signal

Turn Church flagpole into a phone mast and use rent to fund the Church

Better internet for outlying farms

The Village Shop

When asked how often you go the village shop, approximately 42% of respondents (about 71 people) said that they go regularly to the shop (very often, often or sometimes); another 54% said that they go rarely or never. There were 100 comments explaining how and why people use the shop.

What you said: The Shop

I go to keep in touch and meet people

Good to buy milk and eggs

Don't go because not open outside working hours or after school

I just do a main shop at a supermarket

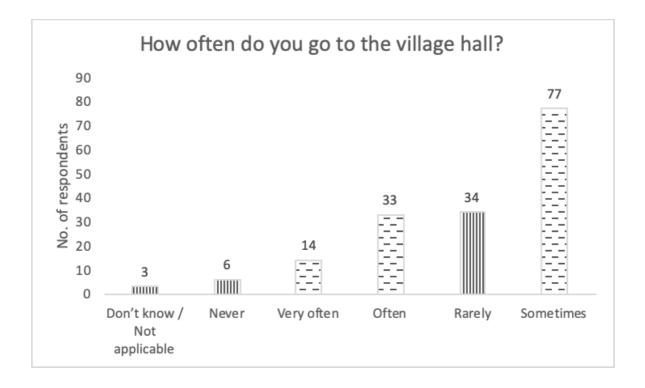
The village shop is an amazing community hub especially for older people. Long may it last!



The Village Hall – Memorial Hall

Overall, 74% of respondents (about 124 people), said that they go to the village hall on a regular basis (very often, often, sometimes), while 24% said that they don't usually go.

There were 82 comments explaining why people go to the hall, mostly listing the events that people like, such as film nights, the coffee morning, art and craft shows, quiz nights, the panto, Pilates and the doctor's surgery.



The survey also asked what people enjoyed or found useful at the hall and there were 107 comments, listing popular events. A number of comments emphasize the hall's role as a place that brings the community together and enables us to meet and chat.

What you said: The Hall
Community hub and place to meet people
Doctor's surgery is excellent
Can we do Mere surgery prescriptions at hall too?
Mobile and internet access
I love Friday coffee mornings
Advertise events better e.g. leaflet through door
Art and craft events
Film nights
Fish and chips nights
All exhibitions
Good catering
Produce show
Quiz night
Doctor
Chiropodist
Panto
Coffee morning
Post office
Pilates
Birthday parties
Christmas events

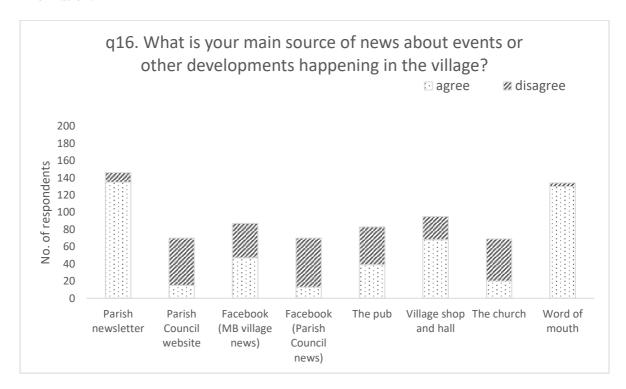
In addition, the survey asked what other new events or facilities people would like at the village hall and there were 69 suggestions, all of which, as ever, depend on volunteers organising them.

What you said: New events or facilities you'd like at the Hall
Art classes
Dance classes
Plant sale
Jigsaw exchange
Cake/home produce sale
Book exchange
Charity fundraiser
Supper evenings
Wine tasting
Halloween
Eurovision
Village fete
Nails/hair dressing
Yoga
Seminars and talks
Farmers market in summer
Annual BBQ
Fireworks
Barn dance

Keep fit class
Rounders
Bridge
Amateur dramatics
Open shop after school hours
Village fete
Table tennis club
Model railway cub
Village swap/share
Clubs e.g. photography, gardening, footpath
A park
A gym / outside gym

Communication in the Village

The survey revealed that the two key methods of communication in the village are via the monthly Parish Newsletter and by 'word of mouth'. A smaller number of respondents relied upon social media, or the three main institutions in the village – the pub, the church and the shop/hall – for their information.



Village Events

The survey asked what other events people would like to have in the village on a regular or annual basis. There were 64 comments giving a lot of suggestions which are all dependent on volunteer organising. There is strong interest in having an annual village fete once more at the recreation ground.

What you said: Annual village events you'd like
Café
Village fete
Visiting market stall for fresh produce
Walking group / village dog walk / footpath group
Annual picnic or BBQ
Annual event at the Estate
Antique and flea markets
Art classes
Tai chi
Auctions
Topic events
Bonfire night
Vintage vehicle rally
Bring and buys/car boot sale
Competitions
Cricket and football club
Evening classes
Lawn boules
Rounders
Mini festival
Britain in bloom / open gardens
MB Estate open day
Charity runs / cycling
Interested in new clubs e.g. gardening, footpath, history

In the general comments made in the survey, respondents emphasized the need for more volunteers. Volunteers are essential to organising our existing activities and events and for all the ideas proposed here.

What you said:
Need more emphasis on voluntary service - skills sharing, swapping
If we want to improve our village, we all need to volunteer
People in village need to get involved to organise annual events

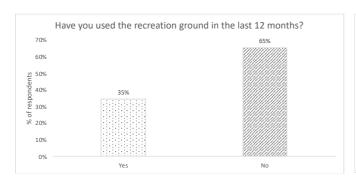
The Village Recreation Ground

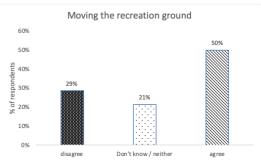
About 35% or 58 people said they had used the recreation ground in the last 12 months. There were 72 comments explaining why, and most said they had gone there with children or grandchildren; some went to play sports and take exercise.

What you said: Using the recreation ground
Play area needs improving
Children use sports field
Children/grandchildren use play area
Go there for a walk
Don't go as can't bring the dog – can we have dog exercise area as part of rec
Play football (need better goal nets)
Play rugby
Running
No reason to go - no kids, retired
Golf driving

Hang out with friends
Outdoor gym needed / trampoline
Improve existing rec ground and more would use it

The survey also asked people's views about moving the recreation ground from its current location to the field behind the pub. In total, about 50% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with this proposal; but, another 29% disagreed or strongly disagreed; and 21% said they did not know, or neither agreed nor disagreed.





There were 90 comments about this question both in favour and against. Some noted that moving the recreation ground might create a new village centre, and link in well with the pub. Other expressed concerns that the move would be costly and could result in the old recreation ground being developed. Others argued the focus should be on how to improve our existing recreation field.

What you said: Moving the recreation ground
Concern that existing recreation ground would be developed
Good to create new village green and centre
Easier access by pub
Concern it would ruin the view behind my house
Problem is sports clubs are not supported
Good to support the pub
Very costly
I don't use it
Improve the existing rec ground and more people would use it
Should be behind the village hall, not pub
Might improve facilities
Don't see why we need to move it

The Church

There were 58 comments made in response to a question asking for ideas about how or whether the Church should be used by the community, outside of religious observance. The following is a summary of the suggestions made:

What you said:
Should only be used for religious worship
Could include museum/history of MB
Not sensible as it would compete with village hall
Art gallery for local artists
Bell ringing
Choir
Concerts

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Overnight accommodation – church scheme

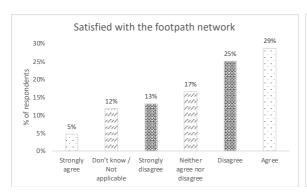
Turn flag post into mobile phone mast and church benefits from the rent

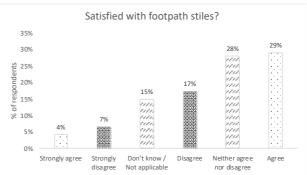
No facilities and fixed pews so difficult to use for events

Church costs £600 per month to maintain

Footpath Network

There were two questions about the footpaths in and around the village and about the maintenance of stiles. When asked about the footpath network, about 34% of those surveyed said they were satisfied while 38% said they were not. When asked about the stiles, about 24% said they were dissatisfied and 33% were satisfied.





There were 87 comments which shed light on what is driving dissatisfaction with the footpath network, as well as maintenance requests, and a desire to have more signage and maps available.

What you said: Footpaths

Millennium walk is closed/gate locked – can we reopen

Dog walkers are not welcome

There are so few footpaths from the village, you have to drive to go for a walk

Need better signage

Need a booklet / map of local walks

Need to meet with farmers to discuss permissive walks and countryside access

Good connection to other footpaths and beautiful areas would attract people to our pub

Lack of pavements on High street

Let's have an annually agreed network of permissible walking routes, payable by license to owners affected

Difficult to access Long Knoll (have to go via main road or property at other end)

Footpaths are good and well signposted

I don't know where they are

Most paths have disappeared

Can we have a circular path

Border between crops and fence often too narrow for walking / paths overgrown

Electric fences are put up over the footpath

Can we have paths from village to Brimsdown and to Long Knoll

Can we dig out old horse pond by footpath on Back Lane

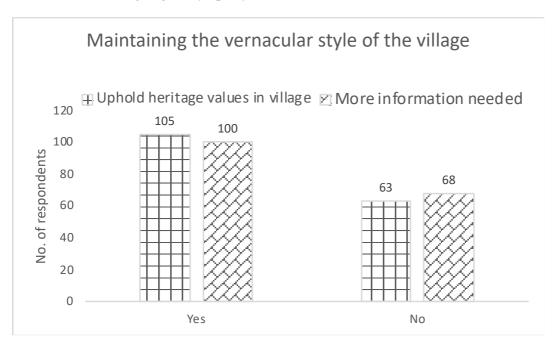
There were also 54 comments about the stiles in the village requesting better maintenance, perhaps with the establishment of a footpath group, and long-term transition to gates rather than stiles to improve access for the less mobile.

What you said: Stiles
Some are blocked or wobbly
Better upkeep necessary
Gates would be easier for less mobile to access (elderly, children)
Need provision for dogs to access
We need a footpath group to help maintain

Conservation

The surveyed identified a significant majority in support of efforts to maintain and conserve the traditional architecture and features of the village and interested in having more information publicly available to provide guidance.

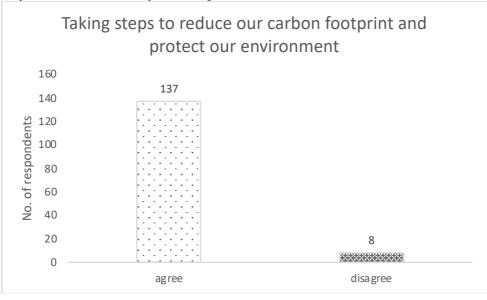
There were 74 comments, both supporting conservation (including mentions of the church, chapel and fountain), but also arguing for sympathy for modernisation too.



What you said: Conservation
More needs to be done
New housing must be sympathetic to local style
Must also allow modernisation
Need information boards about history of village
Church needs maintaining
Should display old photos of village
United Reformed Church needs upkeep / old village shop looks run down
Look at other villages like Mells and Nunney
Fountain needs repair / horse trough needs cleaning
Conservation area but not always enforced
Worry we are losing our rural identity

Environment and Carbon Footprint

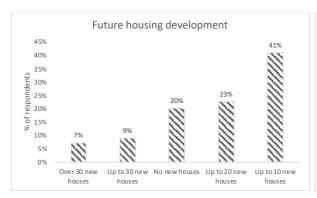
A total of 82% of respondents were in favour of taking action collectively to reduce our carbon footprint. There were 82 comments with suggests about how to do this, though many also noted that they were not sure exactly what steps to take.

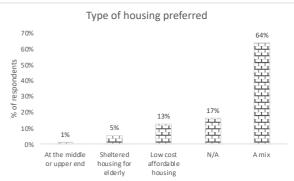


What you said: Reducing our carbon footprint and protecting the environment
20 mph speed limit
Allow solar panels
Recycling point
Plant more trees
Put TPOs on mature and specimen trees / replace trees cut down
Reduce HGV traffic
Better bus network
Car share/pool
Solar/wind power project for community – energy independence
Electric car charge and plug in points
Support the allotment to grow locally
Protect hedgerows
Community composting
Not sure how to do it collectively
No more development
Walk more around village
Use less nitrogen on fields
Set up a volunteer group working on environment etc
Let the Knapp area be a wild meadow with paths cut through grass

Housing Development

- There were two questions asking views about potential housing development. Approximately 41% were in favour of up to 10 new houses being added to the village
- 20% said there should be no development at all
- Approximately 23% were willing to see 20 houses built and the remaining 16% were in favour of above 20 houses
- Of those willing to see houses built in the village, the majority argued for a mix of housing, including low and middle cost housing and sheltered accommodation.





What you said:

Build more affordable housing

Any new housing development should have housing appropriate for different stages of life

Build more homes to attract more families and this in turn would support the pub, shop etc

No housing development except on the Sydenham's site

Create options for elderly to have sheltered housing in village

Need traffic measures (pedestrian crossing, mini roundabout) if we have housing development

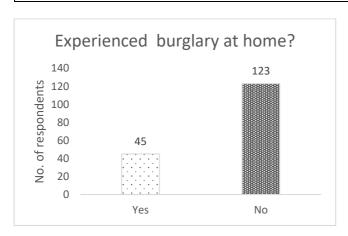
Have a general agreement on housing and infill opportunities in village

Location of any new housing should be either within the existing official planning "housing" boundary or on the now redundant Sydenham's site

The Police and Crime

A total of 45 respondents said that they had experienced a crime at their home, typically a burglary. In the 50 comments made, there was understanding that the police lack resources, but frustration with the lack of follow-up or action.

What you said: Police and rural crime	
Not enough resources	
Just provide advice	
No action taken	



Parish Council

The survey asked whether people felt the Parish Council was effective at representing them.

- 42% said they either agreed or strongly agreed
- 48% said they did not know or neither agreed nor disagreed
- 17% said they were not satisfied

The 46 comments indicated that many people do not know what the parish council has a mandate to do, who the councillors are or what activities have been undertaken in the last year.

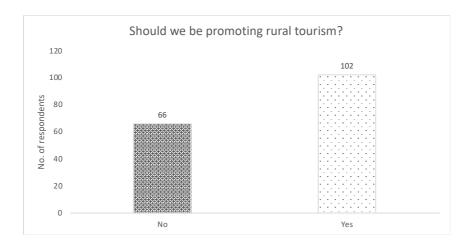
What you said: Parish Council
Does not represent a cross-section of villagers
They work hard on our behalf
Not elected
Need to focus more on traffic and footpaths
Don't know who they are
Precept is too expensive / I am willing to pay more
Don't know what their role is
People aren't comfortable to attend meetings
They don't understand villagers needs
Need better communication with villagers
They do their best
A case of we've tried that before
No action on traffic and speed
Parish clerk works tirelessly for the village
Not always thanked
Would be useful to provide local groups with template governance documents to enable them to
qualify for funding



Rural Tourism

About 61% were in favour of promoting Maiden Bradley as a centre for rural tourism.

A few suggestions were made in the 65 comments (village shop/cafe, pub, footpaths, look at example of Mells). A few people also raised concerns that it might increase volume of people and traffic in the village, or that there was little to offer at present by way of attraction to the village.



What you said: Rural tourism

Could be a great centre for walking

Our village is on a major national cycle route (NCR 25) so let's support signage and any efforts by the Village Hall or other organisations to provide facilities for cyclists

Full time village shop / café needed

Would attract too many people

Create jobs in village

Caravan park and camping

Too many other attractions nearby

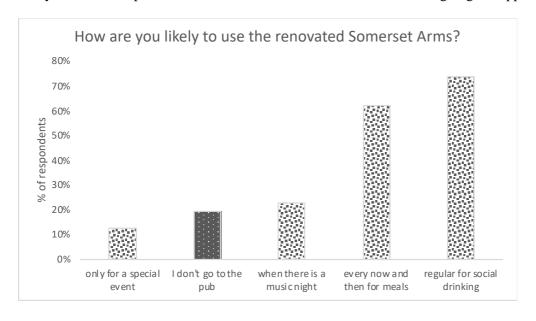
Use proximity to other attractions like Stourhead and Longleat

Look at example of Mells

The Pub

Over 60% of people expressed the desire to go to the pub to drink with friends and family or have a meal. There were 95 comments which revealed strong feelings about the pub.

Some respondents were hopeful that the renovation will restore the pub's fortunes and create a revitalised community centre for the village. There were also, however, fears expressed that the pub may become too expensive for locals, and some people stated that they do not want it to change. Many comments expressed a desire for more information about what is going to happen to the pub.



What you said: The pub
Pub needs refurbishment, better atmosphere, good food
Don't make too expensive for locals
Have café/coffee/shop in pub as well
Don't like the renovation plan, it will destroy our old pub
Very hopeful about the renovation of the pub and its role as a new
community hub
Is it going to be a shooting lodge
I find the current atmosphere unfriendly
Good food essential
Would like to know more about plans
Pub essential heart of community
Can the Estate publish plans and consider community requests

General Comments in the Survey

A total of 54 people took advantage of the opportunity to write additional comments at the back of the survey. The key issues raised are included in the summaries of 'What you said' in the Key Findings section of this report. This table summarises all the issues raised:

What you said: general comments	Issue
Don't let any changes to village harm its unique character	conservation
I worry we are losing our rural identity	conservation
The area around the old village shop looks very run down	conservation
I like the village just as it is	conservation
Can we have an off-lead dog-walking exercise area with bins	dog walking
Develop Knapp area as a wild meadow cutting paths through the grass	environment
Need volunteer groups on carbon footprint, footpaths,	environment
community garden is an excellent resource and needs to be maintained	environment
Need to improve footpaths	footpaths
Need better engagement between farming community and residents on footpaths	footpaths
Create circular footpath route to Long Knoll from village pub, avoiding walking on main road	footpaths
Create footpath/trail map	footpaths
The footpath behind Back Lane/High Street is very popular and has a great community feel; could we dig out the old Horse pond, add benches etc	footpaths
Can we have a circular walk around the village	footpaths
Can we reopen Millennium walk	footpaths
End game shooting	game shooting
Build more affordable housing	housing
Any new housing development should have housing appropriate for different stages of life	housing
Build more homes to attract more families and this in turn would support the pub, shop etc	housing
No housing development except on the Sydenham's site	housing
Create options for elderly to have sheltered housing in village	housing

Move recreation field to Home Farm field, put in zebra crossing by pub/shop, develop Sydenham's site, put in mini roundabout on Bruton Road/Church street crossroads	housing
Improve mobile phone signal	mobile phone
Turn church flag post into mobile phone mast	mobile phone
Parish Council to be more accessible	parish council
The survey feels too much like an Estate development plan	parish council
Not convinced parish council is fully representative	parish council
Thank you for trying with this development plan	parish council
Need to sort out the sewers	parish council
I would be willing to pay more on the precept to fund improvements	parish council
Why does MB have larger precept compared to other villages	parish council
Estate to consult on pub redevelopment to ensure community interests are also catered for	pub
very hopeful about the renovation of the pub and its role as a new community hub	pub
Main lack in the village is a high-quality pub	pub
Can renovated Somerset Arms include coffee area, daytime access, maybe move shop there	pub
Make existing recreation ground more functional then more people would use	rec ground
Have a trampoline and outdoor gym in the recreation ground	rec ground
Better playground for children	rec ground
Concerned about any development on the Recreation Ground	rec ground
Pay attention to traffic control and pedestrian access to Frome Road	traffic
Manage speed of traffic on Kingston Lane	traffic
Publish SID speed data	traffic
Traffic coming at speed through village is a blight	traffic
Enforce weight restriction	traffic
20 mph speed limit	traffic
Improve pedestrian safety on Frome Road	traffic
Don't forget Frome Road - we are part of the village	traffic
Address speeding on Frome Road from 30mph sign to Church Street	traffic
Slow down the traffic	traffic
Would support any efforts to address traffic problem in village	traffic
Lorries vibration, block light as pass, early morning noise	traffic
Traffic is slowly strangling our village	traffic
Need to organise more activities for under-18s/school children	under-18s
Interested in new clubs e.g. gardening, footpath, history	village activities
Advertise events at the village hall better e.g. leaflet through door	village activities
There seems to be a core of people who run the village and no room for anyone else	village activities
Need more emphasis on voluntary service - skills sharing, swapping	village activities
If we want to improve our village, we all need to volunteer	village activities
People in village need to get involved to organise annual events	village activities
Doctor's surgery in village is excellent	village hall
Move playpark to behind village hall so it is the 'go to' place	village hall

First Consultation Comments

The table below summarises the 143 comments made in the public meeting and transcribes comments made in writing at the issue tables. The key issues raised are included in the summaries of 'What you said' in the Key Findings section of this report.

Need bus service to Frome at weekend	bus
Support the Church	church
Horse trough cleaning	conservation
Create cycle routes between villages	environment
Community garden is a blessing	environment
Can we have solar panels, community approach to renewable energy	environment
Resource sharing locally	environment
Better recycling	environment
Car share, delivery share	environment
Less nitrates on fields	environment
Reopen Millennium Walk	footpath
Create footpath map /booklet	footpath
Open up Home Farm field with footpaths	footpath
Change footpath stiles to gates when possible	footpath
Check footpath access more regularly	footpath
Can we have footpath access from village to Brimsdown and Long Knoll	footpath
A good footpath network will attract visitors to village	footpath
Maintain stiles	footpath
Limit development to existing planning boundary	housing
New housing must fit in with local architecture vernacular style	housing
Housing to be affordable	housing
Need sheltered accommodation for elderly	housing
Better internet for outlying farms	internet
Need better mobile phone signal	mobile phone
Mobile phone mast on church tower?	mobile phone
Parish Council to listen to us more	parish council
Look out for farmers - rural theft	police
More police presence please	police
Pub refurbishment essential and will be great asset to village	pub
Can Estate explain plans for the pub	pub
Move recreation ground and playground behind pub	recreation ground
Move recreation ground behind village hall	recreation ground
Could there be a dog exercise area in part of the Rec ground?	recreation ground
Can we have a multi-use games area on the rec	recreation ground
New football goal nets	recreation ground
	traffic

Pavement on Church street too narrow	traffic
Tractors drive too fast	traffic
Improve crossroads	traffic
Noise and vibration from trucks is disruptive day and night	traffic
Crossroads very dangerous	traffic
Back Lane a rat run	traffic
Action to upgrade A303 junction with A350 so we can enforce weight limit	traffic
Pedestrian crossing	traffic
More traffic calming	traffic
Pavement in Frome road	traffic
20 mph speed limit	traffic
Pavement in high street needed	traffic
Have an MB Estate open day	village activities
Memorial Hall is fantastic	village hall
I love Friday coffee mornings	village hall
Advertise village hall activities better	village hall
Can we do Mere surgery prescriptions at hall too?	village hall
Surgery on a Monday a wonderful service	village hall
Can shop be open on Saturday?	village shop
Village shop is wonderful	village shop
The village shop is an amazing community hub especially for older people. Long may it last!	village shop

Under-18s Consultation Meeting

About six young people attended aged between 10-16 participated in a consultation session at the Village Hall on Saturday 7th September. They followed up this meeting by presenting their priorities at the closing consultation in the village, on 5th October, as follows:

- The annual cost of school bus travel for 6th form students which is about £800 is a key point of concern. There are 14 sixth form students in the village who attend school in Gillingham and for whose families this is a substantial cost. They requested that the PC raise these concerns about the charge with the relevant authorities.
- Young people would benefit from a bus service to Frome
- Traffic is dangerous: They would like to see the weight restriction enforced, widening of pavements, a zebra crossing, mirrors on the blind turn
- Village shop opening hours to be more accessible by including a slot after school
- To establish an under-18s parish council volunteer group, working alongside the parish council and village hall, to raise issues of concern to young people
- An evening yoga class at the village hall for all ages
- Village events such as bonfire night, live music and apple pressing
- A part of the recreation ground to be dog-friendly so children can walk there with their dogs and poo bins to be available there and in Back Lane
- Keen to support any eco-friendly efforts by the whole village
- Other issues of interest: mobile phone signal, village charity events, outdoor gym at the rec

There were a total of 62 comments and suggestions made in the under-18s consultation session and the following summarises the key issues raised:

What you said: What do you love about MB?

Community

Village shop

Walking in fields

Activities – art exhibition, panto, coffee morning, litter pick

The recreation ground

Pub

Lovely people

What you said: What you would like to change about MB?

Cost of school bus for 6th form students

Traffic while walking to and from school bus, and around village outside school hours – weight limit, wider pavements, zebra crossing, mirror on blind turn, have a sign by pub saying 'children and elderly crossing'

Better mobile phone signal

Village shop opening hours outside school hours

An under-18s council group to liaise with PC and Village Hall

Pub to have a playground and children's events

'get-togethers' for under-18s

Village sports activities e.g. charity football match, cricket match

Evening yoga class at village hall

Bus service to Frome

Recreation ground – outside gym, better sports facilities, don't build on rec

Village events – Bonfire night, music festival, autumn games

Dogs – dog park in recreation ground, dog poo bins,

Local walks/footpaths, running trails, cycling routes

Second village noticeboard by the pub

Village to be eco-friendlier

Protect our public spaces

Action Plan

Actions	Q42019	Q12020	Q22020	Budget
Traffic				
Continue existing efforts to reduce speeding on Church Street, Frome Road, Back Lane, Kingston Lane and The Rank - (SID, Speed watch, traffic calming)	Continue to operate SID rotation Continue to do Speed watch WC to finish improvements to traffic calming on Church Street (done) Discuss purchase of traffic 'box' in budget PC to send letter to engineer highlighting key findings of parish plan and asking for advice about solutions	Recruit and train more Speed watch volunteers		Traffic 'box' (£300)
Explore options to reduce speeding and improve safety on High Street, working with residents and Wiltshire Council (e.g. a new SID, Speed watch, improvements advised by highways)	Meeting with engineer in October about High Street Outline plans for PC in November and progress to CATG Discuss including second SID in budget	Finalise plan and budget for traffic management changes for High Street Purchase second SID Establish SID team for High Street	Process traffic plan through CATG & plan financing Put SID into operation	Second SID (£2,500) Traffic management improvements on High Street (25% of estimated £6,000)
Publish regular data from the SID and Speed watch (e.g. in Newsletter, Noticeboards, Facebook)	Create standard format for information to go in the newsletter Publish first report in November newsletter Put copy in Noticeboard and on Facebook	Monitor regular reporting of information		
Continue efforts to enforce weight limit (engagement with Wiltshire Council on A350/303, support of Weightwatchers)	Support Weightwatchers initiatives Write to local MP with copy of parish plan to highlight that traffic and weight limit are a top priority Ensure the views of under-18s in the village are consulted, especially			

Investigate long-term options to improve pavements (width, maintenance) and to create pavements where there are none (High Street, Frome Road) and identify budget cost. Present findings	regarding safety walking to and from the school bus Include in letter to engineer	Discuss in meeting with engineer	Report feasibility and cost to community	£xxx
Investigate options for bollards/railings to improve pavement safety and identify budget cost. Present findings to the community.	Include in letter to engineer	Discuss in meeting with engineer	Report feasibility and cost to community	£xxx
Investigate options for pedestrian crossing near the school bus pick up and identify budget cost. Present findings to the community.	Include in letter to engineer	Discuss in meeting with engineer	Report feasibility and cost to community	£xxx
Consider alternatives ways to fund long-term traffic related improvements to the village			Discuss fundraising options with community based on decisions made	
Internet and mobile phone Establish a volunteer group to investigate long-term options to have a mobile phone mast, considering practical options and health implications, and to explore options regarding improving internet to remote farms	Parish Clerk to advise if WC has a plan linked to government policy to improve mobile phone access in rural areas by 2026	Call for interested volunteers with expertise or interest in this field Establish volunteer group Volunteer group to conduct research, in particular how we can be included in government policy plans to develop rural mobile phone access by 2026		£xxx

Explore collaboration with The	Volunteer group to contact Deverills	Seek external expertise e.g. Rural Services Network and other pressure groups active in this field Research potential sites (e.g. church tower, mast on White Sheet hill) Develop action plan Establish regular collaboration	
Deverills and any other relevant village to collaborate to get a mobile	about this issue	Establish regular condition	
phone mast			
Communication Continue to gumport the development	Maintain annual agant		Continue funding for
Continue to support the development and publication of the Parish Newsletter	Maintain annual grant Support efforts to provide community updates on issues relating to the Parish Plan e.g. environment, traffic reports, volunteering etc Encourage volunteers to write in the newsletter		Continue funding for newsletter £xxx
Consider ways to improve visual/physical communication in the village via a Noticeboard e.g. print a monthly poster listing the standard activities in the village (e.g. first page of newsletter) and put in the Noticeboard	Consider how best to use the PC noticeboard by the bus stop Consider whether to fund a new noticeboard by the pub when renovated Produce one poster for the Village Hall noticeboard with standard weekly events and shop opening hours		A new Noticeboard by the pub £xxx Cost of printing and laminating poster (maybe volunteer) £xxx
Encourage use of the Noticeboard for notices about various activities	Encourage people organising events to provide posters to JP who manages the Noticeboard currently		SVINIA

Annual village events			
The PC will publish a list of the events and activities people have suggested	To be included in the Plan		
The PC will invite volunteers to organise the listed events, via a Volunteer Meeting in the hall (January), as well as putting a poster in the Newsletter and the Noticeboard, and approaching people who have expressed an interest	Regular insert in the newsletter about volunteering opportunities Steering committee to contact people who have expressed an interest in volunteering (prior to January meeting)	Hold a volunteer evening in January (New Year Resolution)	
The PC will establish a Volunteer Group, coordinated by a Councillor/s, but populated by volunteers	Put on the agenda of the PC in December to establish a Volunteer Group that takes the lead in coordinating specific village activities and helps to mobilise volunteers Ask councillors who want to be involved	The Volunteer Group to include interested under-18s Volunteer Group to draw members from a) steering committee outreach and b) January volunteer meeting	
The PC will prioritise investigating the feasibility of restarting two annual events in 2020 in the village, if community support is available, over the next 5 years: - Bonfire Night (5 November); and - Annual Summer Village Fete		The councillor/s on the Volunteer Group identify volunteers ready to organise bonfire night and/or the summer fete and ensure this includes under-18s members of the community PC supports the volunteer groups in efforts to organise Bonfire Night and/or a summer fete	Potential part-funding of village events e.g. Bonfire Night and the Summer Fete £xxx
Village Shop			

Share the comments and suggestions made in the consultation with the Village Hall Committee	Write a letter to the Village Hall Committee with a copy of the parish plan and ask that they consider parishioners comments, especially the request to extend shop opening hours to Saturday morning. PC to publish response in the newsletter.		
Ask the Village Hall Committee to assess the feasibility of opening hours on a Saturday morning, given their reliance on volunteers, and to provide a response (Newsletter, Noticeboard, Facebook)	As above. Ask village hall to consult under-18s in discussions about shop opening hours		
Support the Village Shop in its efforts to mobilise volunteers and to sustain the service it provides	PC and Volunteer Group to respond to requests for support from the village shop		
Village Hall			
Share the comments and suggestions made in the consultation with the Village Hall Committee	Write a letter to the Village Hall Committee with a copy of the parish plan and ask that they consider parishioners comments and prioritise any activities and events feasible. PC to publish response in the newsletter.		Ad-hoc support in response to requests £xxx
Ask the Village Hall Committee to assess the feasibility of any of the proposed ideas, and availability of willing volunteers, and to provide a response (Newsletter, Noticeboard, Facebook)	As above. PC to ask hall to consult under-18s about village hall events		
Support the Village Hall with efforts to mobilise volunteers	PC and Volunteer Group to respond to requests for support from the village hall		
Footpaths and stiles			

Work with the Wiltshire Rights of Way officer to assess and improve rights of way and permissive paths in MB Hold a wider meeting with the responsible landowners/farmers and interested parishioners to discuss how to improve footpaths including signage, maintenance, stiles/gates and permissive paths	Send a letter to the WC officer dealing with rights of way and footpaths, including the parish plan and asking him/her to come to MB to walk the paths and provide expert advice on improvements	Follow up by inviting the WC officer for rights of way/footpaths to a PC meeting and advertising attendance to the public	Organise a wider community meeting with landowners and parishioners on ROW/footpaths	Part-funding of gate improvements to footpaths, with application to Wiltshire Council or appropriate grantee (£xxx)
Support community efforts to establish a footpath maintenance group, with training from Wiltshire Rights of Way	Steering Committee to approach interested volunteers to form a community footpath group	Call for volunteers for community footpath group to be on the agenda for the January volunteer meeting And in the Newsletter volunteer section	Establish community footpath group and hold training with WC rights of way officer/ and with Mere footpath group	
Continue to monitor and address maintenance and access to footpaths and respect for the Countryside Way	PC to regularly walk the footpaths and report on conditions		Community footpath group to monitor and report to PC where necessary	
Support community efforts to print and display a map of local walks in the Noticeboard		PC to investigate cost of ordering custom OS map and laminating and displaying Steering committee to ask volunteers in meetings and in January if interested in producing a booklet or map of village paths and walks		Laminated OS Map for display (£xxx – around £30) PC to support with part-funding production of a map/booklet (£xxx)
Investigate potential funding to improve stiles and gate access to local footpaths	Discuss in meeting with WC rights of way officer	Parish clerk to advise on local government sources of funding for wellness, etc. PC to investigate other funding options		Switch from gates to stiles (£xxx)
Recreation ground				
Establish a volunteer group to consider how to improve use and	Establish a volunteer group to consider options for the rec	Parish Clerk to advise on local government sources of funding for		Cost of the outdoor gym £xxx

facilities at the existing recreation ground e.g. investigate the cost of an outdoor gym, playpark maintenance, dog exercise area	(including outdoor gym, potential dog area, poo bins, play park maintenance etc) Include the under-18s in the volunteer group that makes plans for the rec ground	an outdoor gym and other potential changes Volunteer group to identify gym equipment/options that would work (including the under-18s in this discussion) PC to investigate other funding options	Improvements to the play park £xxx Fencing and poo bins for dog area if goes forward £xxx
Housing			
Record and consider wishes expressed regarding the number, type and location of housing to be built in any future housing development	PC to send letter to Wiltshire Planning Department highlighting survey information on housing and conservation		
Share this information with Wiltshire Council planning department	As above		
Carbon footprint			
Support community efforts to invite a relevant expert to give a talk on climate change and the environment	Steering group outreach to volunteers and January volunteer meeting to include call for volunteers for the environment Include under-18s in any volunteer group	Support volunteers' efforts to organise a talk in the village hall on the environment Support volunteer efforts to investigate and propose activities we can all undertake to reduce our carbon footprint	
Seek advice from relevant expert authorities in local government and other organisations on what other similar communities are doing to reduce their carbon footprint	Parish Clerk to report back after climate change training		
Investigate options regarding permissions for solar panels and wind turbines		Parish Clerk to seek advice to confirm whether declaration of climate emergency changes permissions for solar panels or	

		wind turbines in MB (AONB;	
		conservation zone)	
The Church		,	
Pass on suggestions about alternative use of the Church to the Church management and the Estate. Ask for their feedback on the feasibility of any of the ideas suggested	Write a letter to the Vicar and Friends of the Church with a copy of the parish plan and ask that they consider parishioners comments. PC to publish response in the newsletter.		£xxxx
Support the Church's efforts to mobilise volunteers for its maintenance		January volunteer meeting to include call for volunteers to maintain and fundraise for church PC and Volunteer Group to respond to requests for help from the Friends of the Church	
The pub			
Ask the Estate to consider comments and suggestions by villagers about the pub as a social hub, in their commercial renovation plans	Write a letter to the Estate with a copy of the parish plan and ask that they consider parishioners comments about the pub and how they hope to use it in the future.		
Support the opening of the newly refurbished pub in 2020	The PC will take steps to support the pub opening and to encourage community involvement		
The bus service			
Ensure information about The Link service is in the Newsletter, Noticeboard and Facebook	The PC to ask the Parish Newsletter to include as standard a small advert about The Link Lucinda could replicate the advert in the newsletter on Facebook And a replica to go in the noticeboard with other materials		£xxx
Share the results of the survey with the bus company, highlighting request for a service to Frome at weekends, and ask about their plans for the service in the near future	The PC to write to the bus company/ies with a copy of the parish plan, highlighting the comments made and asking them to consider providing a service to and		

from Frome on a Saturday and to highlight this is a request from	
under-18s. The PC to publish the	
response in the newsletter.	
Parish Council	
Consider how to improve The PC to publish an FAQ about its	
communication about the PC mandate on the PC website	
mandate – what it can and can't do	
Consider how to improve Take steps to ensure the website is	
communication between councillors user friendly and the minutes are	
and parishioners easily accessed	
Create a section on the PC website	
for the Parish Plan, where the plan	
and all responses and actions taken	
are published.	
PC to actively support and engage	
with the volunteer groups that it	
encourages to undertake activities	
Consider how to improve Key actions and decisions to be	
communication about the actions the highlighted in a comment box in the	
PC undertakes each month newsletter, written by respective councillors responsible	
Consider how to encourage Highlight the topics to be discussed Parish Clerk to advise on how other	
parishioners to attend meetings before the meeting (e.g. on PC encourage villagers to	
Facebook) participate	
Publicise visits by external experts to	
attract interest (e.g. on Facebook,	
newsletter etc)	
Change the layout of the tables and	
chairs to make it more informal	
during public session Conservation	
Invite the Wiltshire Council The parish clerk to invite relevant	
Conservation Officer and/or AONB expert from WC or AONB to give	
expert to give a talk on planning in a a talk in the village hall	
conservation area/AONB	

Support community efforts to provide public information (event, print, online) about the vernacular architectural style of the village and local historical features		January volunteer meeting to call for a volunteer who is interested in local history and vernacular architecture to collect photos and write some text for the MB village website and potentially a little exhibition in the village hall or church	
Investigate options to maintain and highlight local historical features		January volunteer meeting to call for interested people to research and prepare a village map with historical features etc (linked to the footpath map as well) Explore potential of associated signs to be put up at these sites in the village	Historic map and booklet about village (£xx) Historic site signs (£xx)
Police and crime			
Pass on survey comments regarding rural crime and satisfaction with the police response to the relevant police authority	The PC to share with the new PCSO a copy of the parish plan Invite the PCSO to attend the public part of each PC meeting Publicise PCSO attendance at PC meeting to the community in advance		
Ask the Community Police officer to share examples of how communities can protect against rural crime	The PC to ask the PCSO about this at the public part of the PC meeting Ask the newsletter to include a regular advert for people to sign up to the rural crime alerts scheme		
Rural tourism			
Support efforts to include more visible/physical information in the village about monthly events and activities in the village, local footpaths, attractions, and local history (e.g. Noticeboard, Facebook, Newsletter online)	Encourage volunteer efforts to promote the rural beauty of the village e.g. volunteer groups to smarten up village, painting of railings, garden competitions, hanging baskets, wreaths etc	January meeting to call for interested people to research and prepare a village map with historical features, foot paths etc – to create a map and a booklet etc.	As above – map and booklet Historic signs £xxx

Support efforts to recognise village's strategic position on national cycle route 25 e.g. signage, facilities for cyclists	Encourage more active use of the Noticeboard, and other forms of communication about events Include a link to the Sustrans cycle route on the MB village website Encourage cycling enthusiast to join volunteer group	January meeting to call for cycling enthusiasts in the village to recommend any proposed actions or activities	
	volunteer group	Include the cycle route on the	
		proposed map and	
Under-18s			
Support efforts by young people in	Invite the Under-18s to come to the		Respond to ad hoc
the village to liaise with the parish	PC when they are ready as an		requests for support
council and village hall regarding	informal group to discuss and		£xxx
their ideas, activities and events for	advance their ideas		
the village (e.g. via a youth council, an			
organised group or ad-hoc form of	Ask the Village Hall Committee to		
communication as they suggest)	invite the under-18s to join		
Ensure under-18s views are consulted	Committee meetings or to consult them when possible		
as part of all the relevant initiatives	them when possible		
conducted in the parish plan	Integrate as standard consultation of		
conducted in the parish plan	under-18s about actions we take as		
	part of the parish plan		
Investigate concerns raised about	PC to ask Wiltshire Council and our		
sixth form travel costs with Wiltshire	representative to advise about this		
Council and report back	fee and possible course of action		
Include in work on traffic concerns	PC to include concerns raised about	The PC to ask the under-18s to	
raised by children about impact of	safety walking to and from bus with	collate and record comments and	
HGVs and heavy traffic on safety	the highways engineer	experiences of traffic safety when	
when catching the school bus		walking to get the school bus.	
		PC to share these findings with	
		relevant authorities.	