

Maiden Bradley Parish Plan and Handbook 2012

About this Publication

In 2005 the Parish Council oversaw the preparation and publication of the first version of our Parish Plan. Three years later, in 2008, the Editorial Team of the Parish News produced the Handbook. The former, making use of an extensive survey, offered evidence of what residents in the Parish most valued, what they wanted to see preserved and enhanced, what they disliked and wanted changed, and the new developments they desired. The latter set out to provide a directory of useful information about the Parish, its people, facilities and activities, which might be useful to residents, new arrivals, and anyone wanting to know more about our community.

Towards the end of 2011 pressure grew to update both documents. The Parish Council wanted to feed relevant material in to the community planning of Warminster and the cluster of surrounding villages, which Maiden Bradley had joined when Salisbury District Council came to an end. In order to do this, the existing Parish Plan needed a review and update, to see how things had progressed in the 6 years since its publication. Although newer, the Handbook was seriously out of date. In the 3 years since first publication there had been big changes internally, in contact details for clubs and societies for instance, and externally, especially with major changes in our local government structure.

Following discussions between the Clerk to the Parish Council and Bryan Glastonbury (at that time Editor of the Parish News, and one of the authors of both the original Parish Plan and the Handbook) a proposal was agreed. Instead of separate publications there would be a combined Parish Plan and Handbook, to be published in Jubilee Year 2012. The Parish Council¹ would raise funds for the printing costs, and would oversee arrangements, including public consultations, for the Parish Plan component. The Editorial Team of the Parish News² would work on the Handbook. Bryan Glastonbury would have an authoring role across the board, and be responsible for design and layout.

Work commenced in earnest early in 2012, and the document can be considered to be up to date as at March 2012. It has three parts, a general introduction to the Parish, the Parish Plan, and finally the Handbook.

¹ Members of the Parish Council are ...

² The Editorial Team are Pat Kennedy, Meg Oliver, Kay and Les Mayne, and Bryan Glastonbury

Introducing Maiden Bradley

Maiden Bradley is a small parish in Wiltshire close to the Somerset Border. Our formal parish title is Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield, but although there are visible foundations of a settlement, there is now little left of Yarnfield. The Parish takes in the Village and a number of small surrounding settlements, mainly farms. It is a very old parish, referenced in the Domesday Book. Romano-British finds in the locality date back to at least 200 AD. For part of its life Maiden Bradley was best known for its Priory and its hospice for 'women of good birth' suffering from leprosy. Later it became the focal point for the workers on the Duke of Somerset's estates and in the Duke's family home, Bradley House, and in these decades it reached its largest size.

The origins of the name 'Maiden Bradley' are lost in obscurity. 'Bradley' probably is of Celtic origin, meaning 'wide clearing'; less likely it may have a Saxon root, from the word for 'broad camp'. The 'Maiden' may refer to the 'leprous maidens' of medieval times rather than the old Celtic word for fortification (as in Maiden Castle near Dorchester).

A description of the village a couple of centuries ago says – "At Maiden Bradley the road from Frome and Bath in the north, to Mere and Blandford in the south, crosses an ancient route that went from Salisbury to what was once the thriving western port of Bridgewater, gateway to the Bristol Channel. The intersection at Bradley Cross was the scene of bustling activity, with wheelwrights and fodder merchants on hand and coaching inns nearby" (*Guardian*, 31.10.11, drawing on Chris Oliver's booklet on Maiden Bradley 1773).

However, the parish as we now know it dates from the period after the Second World War. By the end of the 1950s the population was dipping towards its current size. The Duchy of Somerset Estates still owned much of the land, and employed local people; but some of the Estate's farm land and many of its dwellings were sold, new local employment and self-employment was growing, and more people looked to nearby towns for work, shopping and some aspects of social life.

The population of Maiden Bradley recorded in the last census where results are known (2001) is the same as that for 1971 – 335. Of these, 41 were recorded as of school age (5 – 15), no longer sufficient to support the Village School, which closed in 1969. The population is recorded as living in 150 households. It is widely expected that 2011 census results will show little change in the overall population, but maybe an increase in the young and old age groups.

Maiden Bradley comes within the local government orbit of Wiltshire Council, but geographically is at the boundary of several local government areas, and on the outer periphery of its own Unitary Council. The nearest sizeable towns are Frome (Somerset), Warminster (Wiltshire) and Gillingham (Dorset). Our location sandwiches us between two major national tourist attractions. Three miles to the north is Longleat, with its Safari Park, and Center Parcs holiday village. A similar distance to the south is the National Trust property at Stourhead. The B3092 runs through Maiden Bradley (as Church Street), and links these two sites, but is also a 'rat run' for HGV traffic between industries to the north (around Frome, Bath, Bristol, etc.) and places south and along the A303.

We are a Conservation Area, and form part of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There are 23 listed structures in the Parish, with All Saints' Church having a Grade 1 listing. Three areas, Brimsdown Hill, Bradley Wood and Long Knoll, are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Not surprisingly there are excellent walks in the Parish. Being in a Conservation Area and AONB means that more attention is given to conservation and planning matters.

We have many of the traditional facilities of a small parish, such as the pub and shop (with post office). We retain a strong agricultural focus, but also have some local small businesses, such as timber sales and building. As well as this local employment, many residents commute to local towns. The parish has an active social life, much of it centring on a large number of clubs and associations.

Anyone wanting to read about the history of Maiden Bradley, or life here in the past will find three publications useful - *A History of Maiden Bradley* (1997) by Hugh Kitching; *Memories of Maiden Bradley* (2004) by Don Newbury, which is a personal memoir of the 1920s; and *Maiden Bradley 1773* (2011) by Chris Oliver, which draws on a survey of roads and towns done at that time by Richard Baker, who was on the staff on the 9th Duke of Somerset. All are theoretically available via the Maiden Bradley Historical Association, but since that association is currently not functioning anyone wanting to get hold of copies might try Dr. Ian Henry, 76a High Street, Maiden Bradley for helpful information. The Wiltshire Council site,

www.wiltshire.gov.uk, has some relevant information, and gives access to the County Archive on www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community.

For more up to date information about the Parish there is the Maiden Bradley Parish News, a monthly newsletter delivered free to all households. The Parish Council maintains a Maiden Bradley section on www.southwilts.com, and posts paper copies of minutes and other documents on notice boards in the village. The Warminster Journal is a weekly news sheet for the wider area, and the (free) Blackmore Vale Magazine often covers Maiden Bradley matters.

Maiden Bradley has a reputation as a parish with a strong community spirit, as the large range of clubs and societies listed in the Handbook section illustrates. In many ways it is a typical 'traditional' village, working hard to retain pub, shop and church as focal points of community life, and organise the sorts of activities that have been a feature of rural areas for many decades. At the same time it recognises the importance of not losing out on the benefits, including the technologies, of 21st century living.

Parish Plan 2012 Review and Update

Parish Plan contents:

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Background.

Parish Plans began at the start of the 21st century. The Government of the day wanted local communities to take more control of their own lives, by saying what they want done for their neighbourhoods and how they intend to set about doing it. A Parish Plan, says the 2000 White Paper *Our Countryside – The Future*, should ‘identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved’.³ Maiden Bradley’s first Parish Plan was produced in 2005, so there is need of a review and update, but the push into action now comes from the decision to revise the Warminster and Villages Community Plan (WVCP). When the 2005 Maiden Bradley plan was put together we were part of a cluster of parishes linked to Mere. When Wiltshire Council was formed and Salisbury District Council ended, Maiden Bradley found itself moved from the Mere cluster to its current Warminster grouping, so needs to have a presence in the Warminster and Villages Community Plan. Further, an effort is being made to project more into the future, with some schemes on a time frame up to 2025.

Why bother with a Parish Plan? The reason, we are told, is that if we have a Parish Plan then we have a means of ensuring that local government will take notice of our wishes. Our own Parish Council can use a Plan to guide its activities, and both Wiltshire Council and the Warminster group can be counted on to respect our views. A Plan is not a set of hard and fast conditions that must be followed, but if it provides a clear statement of the views of the community then such views press heavily on the local bodies that take decisions affecting our lives.

The initiative for both the original Parish Plan and this review comes from our Parish Council, but it needs to be stressed that this is not solely with the intention of producing an action plan for the Parish Council to undertake. As the review shows, while some of our achievements to date can be put down to the Parish Council, the bulk have been the outcome of the work of volunteers from our community, and this continues to be the way forward. The quality of our life as a small parish rests heavily on voluntary initiatives.

Method of Approach.

The 2005 Plan was firmly grounded on evidence from the population. A questionnaire was drafted by an independent Working Group, and delivered to every household, with spare copies and a box for responses prominently displayed in the Village Shop, while members of the Working Group were available to offer help if needed. Half of the Parish responded. For the 2012 review the Parish Council felt that a new questionnaire was not needed, because the main aim is to provide a progress report on existing ambitions. Hence it was agreed that the initial consultation with the community should focus on two specific matters –

- How do local people rate the importance of keeping going with proposals from the 2005 Plan that have not yet been achieved?
- Are there new issues that we should be considering?

Once again a response sheet was delivered to all households, with spares and a box for returns in the Village Shop. The Parish Council took the view that a brief format for responding would be the sensible route to follow, so a single sheet was produced. On one side there was a summary of progress to date, and the other a list of six key areas where Council felt that more action was needed. Respondents were asked

³ The original documentation for Parish Plans is a guidance pack from the Countryside Agency (CA122, July 2004).

to rate each of these as a mark out of 10, with 10 as the highest level of importance. Below that was a blank space with an invitation to write in any new objectives that should be recognised.

This time the response rate has been lower, but still good for this type of survey. It was 28%.

One other item about method to mention. Maiden Bradley's 2005 *Parish Plan* was written and structured to different guidelines from those of parishes within the Warminster area, which had been part of West Wilts District and not, like us, Salisbury District. In consequence this update is structured differently from the 2005 Plan, but the Parish Council has looked carefully at the necessary cross-mapping to ensure that everything is covered. Even so, there are some problem areas, and the new format perhaps weakens our ability to get across a number of relevant points about our community's lifestyle, culture and opinions. These include –

- Our location on the periphery of Warminster, and dependence on provisions (schools, GPs, shops, etc.) that are not located in Warminster. Frome (in Somerset) is equidistant and widely used for shopping. Most primary school age children go to Whitesheet School (in Zeals and Kilmington, outside the Warminster area). Most secondary school age pupils go to Gillingham (in Dorset), as does the school bus. A GP clinic in the village is provided by the practice in Stourton, again crossing local government boundaries. The main road through the Parish (B3092) runs North to South, from Frome to Mere. The route to the East (to Warminster) is a narrow minor road. Isolation may also be a factor, e.g. our poor quality mobile signal, though there are signs that this may be about to change. These points are not intended and should not be taken as an attempt to distance ourselves from Warminster: rather they are making the point that Maiden Bradley is something of a frontier community, and this has given it particular characteristics.
- The emphasis in the 2005 Plan on maintaining and enhancing our quality of community life as a village community (i.e. rather than as a dormer outpost of Warminster). Three factors feature here. One is Maiden Bradley's development as a ducal village, based around the family home and estate of the Duke of Somerset. This at its peak had the effect of creating a self-dependent community, with a high level of local employment. Much of this has now changed, but some aspects remain, such as that the Duke of Somerset's Estates still own many properties and much of the land in the Parish. The second is the long tradition, still very much a characteristic, of extensive community social life. The Handbook section of this publication is an illustration of the many clubs and societies this small community of 335 people supports. The third is the emphasis we placed in 2005 on conservation and restoration, strongly supporting maintaining our rural and predominantly agricultural environment.
- The importance we placed on a better deal for younger people. The needs of young people are not a heading in the new format, so we have pushed them in anyway, under the Culture and Leisure heading. Perhaps Maiden Bradley's concern in this area arises in part because it is blessed with a potentially fine recreation area, but fails to make full use of it.
- Our views on governance, which have no place in the new format. In 2005 we were largely supportive of moves to bring more decision-making down to our community level.

Review of the 2005 Parish Plan.

The tables that follow review progress to date. The headings for the tables are those requested by Wiltshire Council, with slight modification to incorporate our priorities, such as adding 'Young People' to the Culture and Leisure heading. In the left hand column is a summary of the conclusions of the 2005 survey, and where percentages are given these are the proportions of the respondents who indicated support. In the right side column is a summary of relevant developments since 2005.

The Economy, including Tourism and Employment	
<i>2005 views and proposed actions -</i>	<i>Developments since -</i>
Maiden Bradley is in a productive agricultural area of mixed farming and some forestry. There are also a number of small businesses and self-employed individuals, some in tourism, though many residents find employment outside the Parish.	In keeping with majority views, there has been no industrial development in the Parish.
87% say we should seek to remain an agricultural	

<p>community. 55% would like to see more locally based jobs, but 70% oppose creating industrial units, and 71% oppose any building on open spaces for the purpose of creating jobs.</p> <p>The proposed action is to develop a strategy for taking advantage of the substantial tourism already occurring around our Parish, and provide support for Bradley House in any parallel development.</p>	<p>Regarding tourism, there was strong initial action, with an increase in B&B provision, and Bradley House having an active programme of events, mainly marriages. This particularly benefited the church, pub and shop.</p>
<p>The 2005 Plan stated – ‘the Village Shop ... is regarded as a parish treasure, and has gained national recognition as an exemplar of local co-operative action to retain a key resource.’ 98% supported the shop and wanted its continuity to be ensured. The shop is in tenanted property, and is community owned and run, with a local voluntary committee and a mix of paid and voluntary staffing.</p> <p>The specific action was to encourage the shop’s Management Committee to review the options with regard to the tenancy of the shop premises, and come forward with proposals.</p>	<p>On the specific issue of tenancy, several options were considered and rejected. The strongest reason is the risk of losing passing trade if the shop moved away from its current well-known location on the main road. The population of Maiden Bradley is not considered large enough to support a village shop without help from people outside the Parish or passing through along the main road.</p> <p>The shop has received a major modernisation, thanks to help with significant fund raising by local volunteers, grants from the Parish Council for specific items, and gifted equipment from the Co-op. In 2010 it was Wiltshire Village Shop of the Year. An active policy of stocking an increased range, with an emphasis on local produce, continues.</p> <p>The shop is not secure. Its finances are precarious, and are likely to remain so. However, and the strength of commitment from staff and volunteers is unwavering. The burden of property rental remains.</p>

Housing and the Built Environment	
<i>2005 views and proposed actions -</i>	<i>Developments since -</i>
<p>Over three quarters of us are owner occupiers, with the rest in rented or tied properties. We have an unusually high proportion of rented properties, mostly belonging to the Duchy of Somerset Estates.</p> <p>We are largely (90%) content to be protected by the planning restrictions arising from conservation area and AONB status.</p> <p>We divide two thirds / one third between a majority (68%) who favour no new building or a maximum of 5 new dwellings in the coming decade, and the minority who support a more active building programme. A large minority (41%) favoured any new building to be at the lower end of prices.</p> <p>Proposed action required the Parish Council to convey the majority views to elected officials and planning officers, and seek to ensure that planning decisions respect the community’s wishes. Parish Council liaison with the Estate, as the main landowner, was also mentioned.</p>	<p>Expectations have been met. There has been limited new building, with the main site (High Street) based on the conversion or replacement of older buildings.</p> <p>Survey work was carried out in response to largely external pressure for ‘affordable homes’. This showed a low level of likely demand from local people, but a significant difference in defining what constituted ‘local’ for this purpose. An attempt to obtain suitable land failed.</p> <p>The difference in definition is between the view of our community that ‘local’ should mean people living in, who have lived in, or who have family ties to the Parish. It clashes with what appeared to be the view of the local authority that ‘local’ could mean just about anyone in Wiltshire.</p> <p>The narrower definition remains that of our community, and within that framework the possibility of affordable housing remains on the table should an opportunity arise.</p>

Culture, Leisure and Young People	
<i>2005 views and proposed actions -</i>	<i>Developments since -</i>
<p>For many decades Maiden Bradley developed around the need for staffing for the Duke of</p>	<p>Leaving aside the recreation ground and its incorporated swimming pool and youth club, all</p>

<p>Somerset's household, gardens and estate. While most of this is now history, it has left behind a tradition of a community that is cohesive, develops its own cultural and leisure pursuits, and has a great many things 'going on' for people who want to get involved.</p> <p>In the 2005 survey people valued the traditional facilities of church and chapel (81%), pub (69%), and village hall (69%), as well as the range of clubs and societies (91%) and the monthly Parish News (87%).</p> <p>However, a different picture emerges regarding sports facilities, the use of the recreation ground, its swimming pool and the youth club (at that time a building on the recreation ground). Because so much difficulty has been experienced in keeping these going, there was divided opinion on whether we should or could keep them. At the same time it was strongly expressed that if these facilities were allowed to close, we would be letting down our young people.</p> <p>Ambitious actions were proposed –</p> <p>Prepare and cost a plan, and seek funding for development and ongoing upkeep, to enable sports, including football, cricket and swimming, to be enjoyed on the Rec.</p> <p>Plan, cost and seek funding for bringing youth club facilities up to date, including a new youth club building.</p> <p>Seek funding for upgrades to the Village Hall.</p> <p>Parish Council to review the situation of premises that may need work to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.</p> <p>Consider ways of increasing the flow of volunteers to help arrange and run parish activities.</p>	<p>valued facilities remain in operation. Further, All Saints' Church has a new roof, and substantial changes have been made to the village hall to bring it up to date and accessible to people with disabilities. Both benefited from highly successful fundraising campaigns run by voluntary groups.</p> <p>Sadly the Chapel is little used at present, though this may not be the sort of matter that can justify any intervention from the wider community.</p> <p>There have been changes to clubs and societies, but a thriving community life continues.</p> <p>As for the recreation ground, the Parish Council handles its upkeep, it is used for the annual village show, and a Frome football team plays there. The play area for younger children is well used and kept to standards recommended in RoSPA reports. However, there are no Maiden Bradley sports teams; the youth club has closed and its building demolished after a bout of vandalism made it unusable; and the swimming pool has not been opened in 2011.</p> <p>Several difficult challenges have emerged –</p> <p>The size of the population is small for team sports to flourish, and part of the reason for the youth club falling into disuse was a dip in numbers in the relevant age group (now reversing).</p> <p>The capital cost of a new youth club would be high.</p> <p>In relation to the swimming pool, the insurance costs for opening it have been found to be greater than any potential income from entry charges. The insurance of leisure activities has been identified as a wider problem.</p> <p>Our community functions through a very high level of volunteering, but because of our size there are limits to what is possible. Shortage of volunteers is a major impediment, and in addition there is great dependence on a few key people as organisers and in fund raising.</p>
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Environment, including countryside and land-based issues	
<i>2005 views and proposed actions -</i>	<i>Developments since -</i>
<p>In the survey we strongly supported a conservationist approach to our parish (98%), and identified many candidates for ongoing restoration and maintenance. Many people also stressed the need for new developments to be sympathetic to tradition.</p> <p>The proposed actions asked the Parish Council to ensure that the very clear and near unanimous support for a conservationist focus is reflected in the policies and actions of all tiers of local government.</p> <p>There should be ongoing liaison with the Duke of</p>	<p>The conservationist focus has continued.</p> <p>The Walled Garden has come into use as a thriving community garden.</p>

<p>Somerset over the creative use of the Walled Garden.</p> <p>The Parish Council should set up and maintain ongoing information about the upkeep, preservation and restoration needs of our public areas and facilities, and initiate approaches to see if some more valued features (e.g. Fountain, Village Hall mural) can be listed.</p>	
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Transport, Access and Traffic	
<i>2005 views and proposed actions -</i>	<i>Developments since -</i>
<p>The survey found that 92% of adults have access to their own road transport, and 73% use it regularly to go to work. Just 6% do not have their own transport, and 8% make use of public transport.</p> <p>At the same time there is great concern about traffic on the B3092. General worry about through traffic is expressed by 96%, with 97% being concerned about speeding, 94% about lorries and 82% about the risk to pedestrians. 92% support the campaign for a 7.5t weight limit on the B3092.</p> <p>Proposed actions were to continue pressure on Wiltshire Council (then County Council) for a 7.5t weight limit on the B3092; press for traffic calming and safety measures in Church Street and at the north and south crossroads, and in relation to pavements and pedestrian safety on all roads; campaign for action to reduce speeding through the Village; and continue to monitor and protect the situation of the minority who do not have their own transport.</p> <p>Another area of concern was the risk to children, older people and those with disabilities arising from the narrowness of pavements, absence of pavements (e.g. on High Street), and lack of crossing points on the B3092.</p>	<p>Some public transport continues, and the 2012 consultation indicated support for the Wiltshire Link Scheme.</p> <p>Traffic calming measures have been installed at both ends of the B3092. An improved crossing point has been set up by the shop. More recently a voluntary group has been formed, trained, and is carrying out speed checks in the 30mph limit area.</p> <p>While there has been a beneficial impact from these developments, other proposed actions have not yet taken place, and traffic flow has increased in volume. Paper agreement has been achieved with Wiltshire Council for a 7.5t limit, but in the knowledge that no action is likely in the foreseeable future. No changes have been made to pavements or roads where there are no pavements, and there continues to be anxiety about pedestrian safety and children crossing the B3092 on their way to / from the play area and school bus stops.</p>

Education and Life-long Learning	
<i>2005 views and proposed actions -</i>	<i>Developments since -</i>
<p>Being close to the border between Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, has the effect of enlarging choice. The survey threw up no evidence of dissatisfaction with the use of schools outside the Warminster area, or in the case of secondary schooling, outside Wiltshire.</p> <p>There is a pre-school group (Owlets) meeting in the Village Hall. For state education there is some choice. Young children from the Parish mostly go to Whitesheet (Kilminster and Zeals), with fewer to Crockerton or Horningsham primary schools. For older children a school bus runs to Gillingham.</p> <p>Some use is made of private day schools.</p> <p>The 2005 Plan proposed no actions, but set a task to keep a watching brief to ensure that the current</p>	<p>Educational choice continues much as in 2005. However, Owlets has ceased operations.</p> <p>No information was collected in the 2005 survey about use of adult education, but at an informal level much goes on in clubs such as the Reading Group and Garden Club.</p>

range of choice is maintained.	
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Health and Social Care	
<i>2005 views and proposed actions -</i>	<i>Developments since -</i>
<p>We are not close to the main centres for health or social care services, but being close to the border means that many residents do not look towards Warminster or Wiltshire for these services.</p> <p>Primary Health Care is provided from practices in Warminster, Bourton, Frome and Mere. A Bourton-based GP does a weekly surgery in Maiden Bradley, provides access to other primary care services (e.g. community nursing, health visiting), and his prescriptions can be sent into the Village Shop for collection. There is generally a choice of hospitals. Social care is organised from Trowbridge.</p> <p>The weekly surgery and prescription delivery is much valued, especially by those who do not have transport. However, the surgery takes place in a private house, due to the kindness of the occupant. While this is greatly appreciated, it is assumed that this is unlikely to keep going long into the future, so there is concern about having a replacement premises as and when needed. In consequence, the Parish Council was asked to review the long term position of the GP surgery, assess the viability of replacement premises when required, and liaise with the PCT for guidance.</p>	<p>The position remains as in 2005, including the long term insecurity surrounding the GP clinic in the village.</p>

Crime and Community Safety	
<i>2005 views and proposed actions -</i>	<i>Developments since -</i>
<p>In 2005 Maiden Bradley was covered by policing from Mere, with a named officer for liaison and reporting and a monthly report published in the Parish News.</p> <p>Despite assurances that we are in an area of very low crime, about a half of us are still bothered about the risk of burglaries, theft of or from vehicles and criminals coming in from outside the area. Most of us (79%) were content with the service we got from our local police officer, though perhaps less happy with the extent of action to deal with traffic offending.</p> <p>There was a Neighbourhood Watch, which was generally felt to have too low a profile.</p>	<p>Policing has now moved from Mere to Warminster. We still have a named liaison officer and a publicised reporting process, and there are close links with the Parish Council.</p> <p>The police have also offered help and advice on security matters, and continue to do so.</p> <p>Action has also been taken in relation to speeding, with the provision of equipment and training for a volunteer team to carry out speeding checks.</p> <p>On the down side the Neighbourhood Watch has ceased operating.</p>

Key unmet tasks set out in the 2005 Plan.

For its 2012 consultation the Parish Council identified 6 major areas where achievements had not been adequate, or not sufficiently solid to allow us to rest on our laurels. All represent aspects that were rated as highly important in 2005, so it is no surprise that they remain strongly supported. They are discussed below in rank order of level of support for giving them a continuing high priority. This is calculated by averaging the mark given out of 10 for all respondents.

Keeping the Village Shop up, running and thriving. Support level 9.7 out of 10. The 2005 Plan had suggested that the Shop Committee should review the suitability of the current premises, largely on account of the high rental. This was duly considered and rejected in favour of a major internal revamp and a widening of the range of goods on sale. With massive ongoing help from volunteers, extensive fund-raising, and input from a number of external bodies such as the Co-op, this has been achieved. However, balancing

the books remains a challenge and source of concern, and requires both commitment from the local community to use the shop, and a good level of passing trade.

The 2012 response shows just how important the shop is seen to our community, and the level of backing for the initiatives that are being undertaken. So far no solution has been found for overcoming the rental it pays as tenant of the shop premises, and since this is a significant part of overhead costs, it remains a subject of concern.

Getting a 7.5t weight limit in place on the B3092, as well as better safety (e.g. pavements) for pedestrians. Support level 8.9 / 10. As in the 2005 survey, opinion on this issue is somewhat polarised. Once again, a large majority of respondents rated it very highly, most giving it 10 / 10, while a much smaller group gave it minimal priority, feeling there should be no traffic restrictions on the B3092.

While there may be matters beyond our control over the weight limit (i.e. the need for A350 to A303 access to be improved first), there are no such reasons why action should not be taken to meet the request for improvements to pedestrian routes in the village, and these remain an achievable target in the next few years. Specifically these cover improving (basically widening) pavements in some areas, putting pavements where none currently exist, and providing a crossing over the B3092 especially for children, in relation to their access to school bus stops and the recreation ground.

Giving young people a better deal re. the Rec, youth club, swimming pool and other leisure opportunities. Support level 8.5 / 10. This is an area that has deteriorated since 2005 rather than progressed, with the vandalism at the youth club building leading to its demolition, and the swimming pool ceasing to open for the summer vacation period. However, a new initiative is in the early stages of seeking to get things moving forward again, making use of the village hall, and hoping to reopen the pool. In the 2012 consultation this was the sector that led to easily the largest number of written comments about ways forward, and these are taken up later in the discussion of 'new ideas'. Indeed, some people who chose to give a low rating in the consultation did so not because they opposed it, but because they thought it did not go far enough.

Encouraging and enabling an increased flow of volunteers, on which so many community activities depend. Support level 8.4 / 10. The decision of central government to promote the idea of 'Big Society', in which wide aspects of the quality of a community's life are determined by the level of voluntary input, is nothing new to Maiden Bradley. For as far back as the oldest residents can recall, the role of volunteers has been of great importance, and this is still firmly acknowledged. The experience from 2005 to 2012 illustrates different types of involvement – people who commit to a voluntary activity and run with over a number of years; people who prefer to respond to calls for help with specific one-off projects; people who have preferences or relevant skills for different types of involvement, whether helping run a social activity or something more of a maintenance and rebuilding type; people, usually retired, who can commit to quite long hours, and others who have only a little time to offer; people with particularly important talents in areas like fund raising or community motivation. All have made a contribution to keeping Maiden Bradley a good place to live.

However, there are challenges. Many volunteers are older people, and they eventually need to pull back, so getting in new younger people is an ongoing task. New volunteers bring in new ideas and preferences, and while some are content to slot into existing activities, others want to use their initiative with new projects. Hence our community has to be flexible enough to live with change, allowing some things to fall away, and new projects develop. As the Handbook section of this publication shows, quite a few social activities, for instance, have dropped out in the period 2008 to 2012, while others have come forward to take their place.

There are also more demands placed on us from outside. As a wider society we have become more involved with issues of health and safety, and more prepared to go to law for damages if things go wrong. That has put pressure on the need for volunteer training and accreditation for some activities, and financially on the ever higher cost of insurance. These are problems to be tackled as we go forward. In recent years there have been instances where parish activities have been curbed or scrapped altogether because of the high cost of carrying out health and safety recommendations and funding the necessary insurance cover. Examples include the non-opening of the swimming pool, and the cost of providing overall cover for team sports on the recreation ground. So for a small parish like ours, with a correspondingly small Parish Council precept, this has become a serious problem. The most likely solution for reducing individual parish costs would be for a larger body, such as Wiltshire Council, or a cluster of parishes, to establish an overall insurance policy for the area, and carve up the cost amongst participating parish councils according to their population.

Investigating and if need be taking action with regard to special housing needs for our older residents. Support level 8.1 / 10. As stated earlier, an attempt was made a few years back to respond to largely external pressure to have some 'affordable housing'. It dropped out largely because a survey found little demand from local young families ('local' in the sense of having distinct Maiden Bradley links), and obtaining suitable land proved difficult. However, since that time there has been discussion about the housing needs of older residents, with suggestions that several have been forced to leave because they needed special housing. The 2012 consultation appears to show a good level of support for investigating further, possibly in relation to help with housing adaptations rather than or as well as new building.

Any new house building needs to be seen in the context of the strong 2005 survey opinion that it should be in keeping with protection of our Conservation Area and AONB status, and thus at a low level and planned with great care. The Parish Council has observed this position and will continue to do so.

Ensuring the GP surgery in the village continues. Support level 7.8 / 10. In the 2012 consultation this topic, along with the use of the recreation area, provoked many written comments, often linking the two. Once again, some respondents who gave the specific wording a low rating did so because it needed to be linked to a more tangible proposal.

New Challenges.

One theme dominated the section in which people were invited to write in their ideas for future developments. It usually came up on the basis of one or more of 3 expressions of opinion –

- That the recreation area needed a serious makeover, and not just with young people in mind;
- That the village hall is no longer 'fit for purpose'; and
- That a long term solution is needed to the location of the weekly GP clinic.

The proposal is that a new flexible multi-purpose building should be located on the Recreation Ground, to serve as a generic community centre, capable of providing meeting and performance space, youth club, changing facilities, storage for sports ground equipment, catering, clinic and so forth. While some saw it as additional to the existing village hall, others saw it as a replacement.

Fewer people addressed how this might be achieved. However, if these ideas stimulate further interest, then the formidable task arises of funding a new build, but with the experience of significant recent successes, such as the new All Saints' roof, this is not something Maiden Bradley should feel to be beyond its potential. One suggestion from the consultation is that significant funds could be obtained by selling the village hall area after gaining planning permission for housing, perhaps including some earmarked for older residents.

Nationally there are now some examples of such developments, and they will have practical experience to share. Maiden Bradley is not an area with significant vandalism, but it did occur at the Youth Club, and it is known that multi-purpose buildings have a lower risk of vandalism than single-purpose premises which tend to be closed and empty for much of the time.

Other written comments. These tended to focus on the importance of not losing sight of things that are important to the village, but have not featured in this review. Most often mentioned is the Link scheme, along with wider public transport, and ensuring that we keep the Somerset Arms.

Timing - From now to 2025?

The Warminster group are aiming to indicate plans running up to 2025, but experience since 2005 makes it clear that timetabled developments some years into the future are unrealistic, at least for Maiden Bradley. Analysis of achievements since 2005 show that the presence of a 'Should be completed by ...' target in the Plan had no noticeable impact on when tasks were undertaken. Rather a range of other factors are the determinants, such as –

- An opportune moment, perhaps because of a grant possibility.
- A group or individual deciding to pick up a challenge and give it a go.
- An idea that catches the imagination and sets people working.
- A feeling that if something isn't done now, it will quickly get worse.

It would be far from the truth to think that the Parish Council, or some other volunteers, get out the Parish Plan, look at it, and say to themselves - 'This is the next thing on the chronological list, so time to get stuck into it.' The substantial successes that have been achieved have relied more on the ability of our community to be flexible and take opportunities when they offer themselves.

The Role of the Parish Council.

As already stressed, much of the initiative for new developments, and the welfare of treasured facilities, rests with the wider community, volunteers in particular. However, at a strategic level, Council is aware that it has a responsibility to ensure that the strongly held views of its constituents are respected, and the task of pressing through local government channels for decisions and actions affecting Maiden Bradley to be in keeping with our priorities.

While Council will not expect, or be expected to take the lead on many development projects, it has areas of expertise and access that can make useful contributions. In particular, through the Clerk, it has knowledge of local funding sources, a significant position in the Warminster group of parishes, links to other parish councils in this group, and easy access to our Wiltshire Councillor, the Police and our MP. It is also in a position to advise on such matters as regulations and health and safety.

Council is aware of some more specific tasks linked to it in the 2005 Plan. These are –

- Do whatever it can to ensure the continuation of the weekly GP surgery and prescription service in the village.
- Carry out a review of listed buildings and other sites where listing might be warranted.
- Liaise closely with our designated police staff, and the Parish News to publish relevant information and advice from the police. As part of this, Council will take an initiative designed to get an active Neighbourhood Watch going once again, and look into the case for a linked Farm Watch. It will also support the newly established speed checks.
- Governance is a theme in Maiden Bradley's 2005 Plan, but appears to be excluded from the topic headings of WVCP. The view from our community is that it is appropriate for us to have the opportunity to appraise and receive information about the way we are governed, and that covers the work of the Parish Council, Warminster Area Board and Wiltshire Council. Council will press for its recognition.
- Support voluntary activity by enabling training, and by seeking to combat the impediments posed by the increasing demands of health and safety compliance, and high insurance costs.

The Measure of Success.

The majority of our population appear contented and proud that we are a relaxed rural community, with a strong commitment to facilities and activities that promote community life. Hence, as we move towards 2025 we will be judged as much on what we have preserved as on what we have created. We want a flourishing shop, pub, church, GP clinic and array of social clubs and events. We want a good level of local employment, but based on agriculture, tourism and local businesses as far as possible, not on industrial development. We want the self-dependence that comes from having such a good flow of volunteers for such a wide range of activities. We want our parish to look at least as good then as it does now.

At the same time we are aware of challenges. We want to cease being an ever-increasing through route for lorries. We want to make our village safer for children and pedestrians. We do not want our older people to be forced to move away because there is no suitable housing. We want to tackle the under-used and under-developed recreation area, and we have imaginative ideas for how to move forward.

We know we cannot depend on the outside world to give us these things, and are aware that the biggest need from the 2005 Plan requiring outside intervention, the weight limit on Church Street, has been blocked at national government level. So we also know that what we achieve, and how we find ourselves in 2025, will be down to our own efforts. Nothing new there!

The Handbook

Handbook Contents and Introduction:

	Page
Facilities, amenities, clubs, organisations and local businesses.	
Shopping, working and leisure in Maiden Bradley and surrounding areas.	
Transport	
Housing.	
Health	
Education (with child-minding).	
Local government, policing and emergencies.	

The Maiden Bradley Handbook sets out to describe the Parish, its facilities, activities, businesses, and the various aspects that make up a small rural community. The Handbook provides general information that anyone living here needs to have, on health and education services for example, and is a practical guide for accessing a wide range of contacts and local opportunities. Where phone numbers are given without a code they are local numbers with the 01985 prefix.

The Handbook is intended for three groups of people –

- Residents of the Parish, who will of course already know most of the content, but should find it useful to have it all brought together in one place.
- Newcomers to the Parish, who should find here the bulk of the introductory information they will need.
- Visitors who want to find out what is going on, and get an idea what our community is like.

Facilities, amenities, clubs, organisations and local businesses.

Basic facilities –

There is no mains gas supply to Maiden Bradley.

Broadband is available through BT land lines, but there is no mobile phone signal in some parts of the Parish, and where it can be found it is often weak. At the time of going to press moves are underway to rectify this situation, and the Parish News will keep readers informed.

There are several electricity suppliers. Poles and lines are maintained by Southern Electric - 0800 9123000 for general enquiries, or 0800 0727282 for a power cut. Postal address for Customer Services is Electricity Customer Service Centre, PO Box 94, Portsmouth, PO6 2UT.

The water and mains sewerage for Maiden Bradley is the responsibility of Wessex Water. Most houses are on mains sewerage, but some have their own septic tanks. We are in Wessex Water's Area 1, and routine contact numbers are 0845 6004600 for sewerage and water supply, and 0845 6003600 for billing. The postal address is Wessex Water, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7WW. For emergency water leakage the number is 0800 6920692, and the sewage floodline is 0845 8505959.

There are several suppliers of central heating oil, including E.G.Martin (Westbury) on 01373 822784 or 846676; Butler (Devizes) on 0845 6029432; Countrywide Farmers Plc on 0800 1691735. There are a growing number of heating oil purchasing groups that seek to get best prices by organising a number of local deliveries at the same time, such as the Oil Club (www.oil-club.co.uk).

There are no vehicle fuel stations on the B3092 through the Parish. The nearest fuel stations are at Morrison's Supermarket in Warminster, Sainsbury's Supermarket in Frome, and Longbridge Deverill.

Wiltshire Council is responsible for refuse collection (see under Local Government for contact details). Collections are fortnightly on Mondays and should be out for collection by 7.00am. The Diary section of the Parish News gives details of collection dates. On bank holidays the collections are usually a day later, with special arrangements for Christmas and the New Year.

All households have a 'black box' for paper, cans and bottles, a blue topped wheelie bin for plastic and cardboard, and a black topped wheelie for non-recyclable waste. A green topped bin for garden waste is available on request from Wiltshire Council.

There are extensive recycling facilities in Warminster and Frome.

Public Libraries are run by Wiltshire Council, and the nearest is in Warminster. A mobile library visits Maiden Bradley (Village Hall car park) on alternate Wednesdays (0935 to 0955). The whole Wiltshire library stock is catalogued and on the web-based 'virtual library' – www.libraries.wiltshire.gov.uk. Warminster and Mere Libraries also have a number of public access internet connections.

For newspaper coverage of the Maiden Bradley area try the weekly Warminster Journal (available from the Village Shop). The Shop also stocks the free weekly BVM (Blackmore Vale Magazine), which is a useful source of information about local services. There are two local directories covering Maiden Bradley, and delivered free to every household annually – Local Pages - Warminster & Westbury (contact 0117 9231122 or www.localpages.co.uk), Dentons - Warminster and Salisbury Plain (contact 0844 7761967 or www.dentonsdirectory.com).

Amenities, Clubs and Organisations –

This section covers amenities within the Parish. Other sections, e.g. on education and shopping, refer to accessible amenities outside the Parish. Some, such as the Shop and Somerset Arms, are businesses, but appear here as key Parish amenities.

Village Shop and Post Office. This is a traditional village newsagent and convenience store owned by the community and not part of any national chain. It is run by a management committee on behalf of the shareholders of the Maiden Bradley Village Shop Association. In addition to the usual range of basic everyday items, the shop is proud to offer many lines of local produce and to support local suppliers. Fresh meat is supplied by Jon Thorner's of Shepton and Andrew Barclay of Wincanton who both deliver twice weekly. Fresh bread is supplied by Taylor's of Bruton and Maisey's of Radstock. Within the shop a computer is available for free access to the internet and copying and laminating facilities are provided for a modest charge. Locals and passers by are encouraged in by the provision of freshly cooked pasties, hot drinks, freshly made (on the premises) sandwiches and lovely fruit and veg fresh in every Thursday and available by pre-ordering on a veg bag scheme, as well as in the shop. In addition there is wine, beer and spirits and milk fresh twice a week including from one of the village farms. The Post Office offers all the usual sub-Post Office services including the availability of cash withdrawals from most high street bank accounts. The shop is very much the hub of the village providing a focal point for village activity, information and general networking. Car parking is available at the front of the shop or across at the pub car park just across the road.

The shop has 3, paid, part-time staff as well as the post mistress. In addition a small army of volunteers help to run the shop and we are always looking for more. The shop is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am-midday Saturday and 10-12 on Sunday.

The postal address for the shop is: Maiden Bradley Village Shop and Post Office, Church Street, Maiden Bradley, Warminster BA12 7HW. The telephone number is 01985 844206.

The Somerset Arms. Village pub and restaurant. Award winning Real Ales. Home cooked locally sourced food. Large garden. Skittle alley. Small meeting room. Free Wifi throughout. Well appointed en suite accommodation.

The Somerset Arms is run by Roy MacAskill and Cate Whittaker. Postal address is - The Somerset Arms, Church Street, Maiden Bradley, Warminster, BA12 7HW. Phone is 01985 844207; email info@thesomersetarms.org; website www.thesomersetarms.org.

All Saints' Church and linked activities. Church of England place of worship. Services held weekly, at least. Programme listed in Parish News and on Church notice board. Open daily for private prayer. Wiltshire County Council Community History (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community) states – "The Church was first mentioned in 1102 but the earliest features of the present church are the north bay of three arcades and the foundation of the wall of the north aisle, which date from c.1175. The south arcade is of the early 14th century and in 1328 there was chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary near the north aisle. There

was a major reconstruction in 1385, which created the church that we see today." All Saints' is a Grade 1 listed building.

Maiden Bradley shares a priest with Mere and West Knoyle. Currently the post is vacant, but is expected to be filled during 2012. The Church Wardens are Meg Oliver (844317) and Kim Baker (844684).

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is normally Chaired by the Priest in Charge. It takes decisions and makes plans for anything connected with All Saints'. Members are elected annually at the Annual Church Meeting. The PCC meets 4 or 5 times a year.

Maiden Bradley United Reformed Chapel. Located in Church Street, but currently inactive.

Recreation Ground, Youth Club, Play Area and Swimming Pool. Maiden Bradley has a Recreation Ground. It is a large grassed area with space for a games pitch. The Parish has no organised football, cricket or other outdoor sports, though a football team from Frome uses the facility. The annual Village Show uses the area. Around the Rec are a RoSPA monitored play area for younger children, a swimming pool, and the foundations of what was the Youth Club building. The pool has not been used recently, though attempts are in hand to re-open it in the summer. The current state and use of the recreation area is covered in more detail in the Parish Plan section of this publication.

Oversight of the Rec (e.g. grass cutting) and play area (e.g. safety checks and maintenance of equipment) rests with the Parish Council (see separate entry).

A Young Person's Group, aimed at 5 to 11 years olds, runs in the Village Hall from 5.45pm to 7.30pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month. Contact is Tricia Cox on 845043.

Maiden Bradley Village Hall. The village hall was built in 1912 and given to the Parish by Lord Ernest St. Maur. During the First World War it was used as a military hospital, and has murals dating from that time. Since then the Village Hall has been used for a variety of events. The main hall has a small stage. There is a smaller back room. Both are bookable. The Hall has toilets and a kitchen, and car parking. Disabled access is in line with the requirements of current legislation (e.g. ramp, etc.).

The Village Hall is owned by Trustees, and run and maintained by a Village Hall Management Committee, meeting every few months. Secretary to the Committee is Sam Haynes on 844671. At the time of going to press the holders of the posts of Chair and Bookings Secretary are about to change. See the Parish News for new arrangements.

Community Garden. Set up in 2009 within the walled garden of Bradley House. It brings together a wide spectrum of parishioners who collectively organise, prepare, plant and harvest each season a diverse range of vegetables, as well as flowers and fruit crops. The garden is a place to visit and enjoy, open to everyone in Maiden Bradley. Contact: Franck Baudrain; 01985 845130.

Maiden Bradley Show and Fete. A committee is set up annually to organise the Show and Fete in August. The venue is either the Rec or the Village Hall. Committee meetings take place as needed. Contact person is Paul Cox on 855832.

Owlets Baby and Toddler Group. Indoor and outdoor play in an informal atmosphere. Meets Tuesdays 10am to 12 in the Village Hall. Contact Sharen on 01747 840779 or Claire on 01747 840307.

Maiden Bradley Parish News. Monthly newsletter with photographs, delivered free to all households in the Parish, and mailed, by arrangement, to others. Each issue always includes a diary of forthcoming events; important contact details; family news; news from All Saints'; Parish Council report and agenda; and reports on the activities of clubs and organisations in the Parish.

The News is assembled by an Editorial Team and delivered by a Delivery Team. A number of contact points are given inside each issue. For sending in copy or any editorial matters go to Pat Kennedy at 64 The Rank, phone: 845397, email: pat.kennedy6093@gmail.com. For delivery matters the contact is Anne Sercombe, via the Village Shop.

Maiden Bradley Gardening Club. A club for gardeners and those interested in gardening. Organises speakers and visits. Generally meetings are 2nd Monday in the month, but see Parish News for specific details. Contact person is Marilyn Doel on 844042.

Kilmington and Stourton Women's Institute. Meets in Stourton Village Hall on 4th Tuesday each month. Maiden Bradley contact is Diana Stevens on 844428.

Maiden Bradley Birdwatchers. A group of birdwatching and conservation enthusiasts, holding monthly meetings or local field visits. Contact is Chris Oliver on 844317 or email: c.oliver@forest-fact.co.uk.

Millennium Walk and other Walks. Information on 'permissive pathways' for walkers, linking the village to the wider parish. Facilities for commemorative tree planting, etc. Contact is Chris Oliver on 844317 or email: c.oliver@forest-fact.co.uk.

Welcome Club. Social activities for older people in Maiden Bradley and Horningsham. Has coach outings and meets with Horningsham Lunch Club. All meetings / lunches in Horningsham Village Hall. Contact is Chris Short on 847373.

Book Club. An informal group. A book is chosen monthly by participants, who then meet to talk about it. Meets usually in meeting in participants' homes. Contact is Jessica Johnson on 844174.

Maiden Bradley Historical Association. The aim of the association is to stimulate interest in local history, through meetings with guest speakers and occasional field trips. However, the association is currently inactive. Anyone interested in getting it running again should contact Dr. Ian Henry on 844623.

Community Speed Watch. Volunteers from Maiden Bradley after a brief training session by Wiltshire Police monitor the speed of traffic through the village with a speed gun and report speeders to the police. We share the gun with 2 other villages and aim to put in 1 or 2 sessions of one hour each day during the week. New volunteers are welcome. Contact is Patrick Nixon, The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7HN. Phone 844242, email patricknixon@onetel.com

Traffic Action Group. ?defunct. Giles contacted but no reply so far.

Local Businesses.

Barcroft Marketing. Marketing and Business consultancy. Mike Johnson on 01985 844955 or mobile: 07868 721927.

Baycliffe Farm. The pre-training yard for professionals in Horse Racing. Experts in all areas of pre-training, breaking and convalescence. E-mail: info@bacliffe.com. Website: www.baycliffe.com. Telephone: 01985 844401

The Bowen Technique. Effective and gentle treatment for such conditions as back/neck pain, elbows, knees and ankles, asthma, hay fever, migraines / headaches, frozen shoulder, arthritis, IBS and chronic fatigue. Contact Janie Godfrey on 01373 836982.

Bradley House Events Ltd. Family home of The Dukes of Somerset. Can be used for village events and meetings, conferences, product, launches, filming and special family occasion, both indoors and outdoors. House tours by arrangement. We look to continue to offer full and part-time employment and are keen to involve the village community in our activities such as: property maintenance, security, flower arranging, gardening, clay pigeon shooting, marquee hire, catering, wine and pub accommodation, business offices, agency / introductory work, community garden. Contacts are email: office@duchyofsomerset.co.uk; website: www.bradleyhouse.org; phone: (office) 01803 866633, (house) 01985 844202.

Henry Crabbe, Builder. Decoration, plus building repairs, maintenance, extensions and conversions. Henry Crabbe, 88 Frome Road, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7JA. Phone: 844517.

Dr Trevor Day. Reading and Writing for Results. Training and coaching in writing and reading, especially for higher education. Also undertakes writing assignments, particularly in educational research & practice and science. Contacts are: email: trevorday@reading-writing-results.com; website: www.reading-writing-results.com; phone: 01985 844822.

Downlands Tree Surgery. Expert tree care, skilled pruning, felling, stump removal, qualified and insured. Free tree health survey and quotations. Contact 95 Frome Road, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7JA, or phone: 214320.

DSB Builders. Provide most kinds of building work, including plumbing and heating. Contact DSB at 11 Church Street, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7HW; phone / fax: 844575; email: dsblimited@aol.com.

The Duke of Somerset's Estates. The Estates, including tenancies of rented properties, are run from the Estate Office in Berry Pomeroy. For lettings and other general information about the Estates contact the Estate Office, Shadrack, Berry Pomeroy, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6LR; phone: 01803 86633; email: mary.sturgess@duchyofsomerset.co.uk; website: www.duchyofsomerset.co.uk.

Francis & Jackson MsRCVS – Veterinary Surgeons. Friendly and professional veterinary practice dealing with, equine, farm and small animal cases. Brand new facilities in Trudoxhill (opposite Belle Vue Farm). 24 hour emergency service. Contact Belle Vue Small Animal and Equine Clinics, Millards Hill, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DW; phone: 01373 836186; email: clinic@fjvets.com.

Giles de Mare, Wine Merchant. Wine delivery service. Contact Giles de Mare at The Old Dower House, Church Street, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7HW; Phone: 844695; email: giles@demare.org.uk; web: demare.org.uk.

K.L.G.Electrical. For all electrical needs. Contact Keith Gunter, Wyvern, High Street, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7JG; phone: 844796 or (mobile) 07703573203; email: klgelec@supanet.com.

R & S Higgins. Mixed farm. Products include milk and cream (available from the Village Shop). Supplies milk to Wyke Cheese. Contact Robert or Sally Higgins on 844221.

Kiwi Kate. New Zealand made Possum, Merino and Sheepskin products. Contact on email: info@kiwikate.co.uk; website: www.kiwikate.co.uk; phone: 07801298365.

Maiden Flowers. Any kind of floral arrangements for all occasions. Contact Diana Stevens on 844428; email: dianastevens@live.co.uk or Sally Higgins on 844221.

NFU Mutual. Insurance, pensions and investments. Regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Contact NFU Mutual, Perry Farm, Maiden Bradley, Warminster, BA12 7JD; phone: 01985 845186; fax: 01985 844727; web: www.nfumutual.co.uk.

The Old White Hart Bed & Breakfast. B&B in what was, many years ago, a pub. Contact Esther Swan, The Old White Hart, 65-66 The Rank, Maiden Bradley BA12 7JF; phone: 844576; email: info@theoldwhitehartbandb.co.uk; web: www.theoldwhitehartbandb.co.uk.

PC Chauffeur Drive. A small business that offers chauffeur-driven trips, tours or transfers in a luxurious Mercedes-Benz or an executive people carrier. Bespoke tours, weddings, theatre trips, corporate events. Paul Cox at 60 The Rank, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7JF; phone: 844832; email: pcairtransfers@aol.com; web: www.english-chauffers.co.uk.

Piano or Guitar Lessons. Contact Sue Priestner on 844244.

Jerry Rayner Boiler Maintenance. Qualified boiler services and repairer, offering a quick, reliable service and competitive rates. Specialises in oil burners. Jerry Rayner on 841461 or (mobile) 07775 755981.

Rodmead Farm. Arable, beef and sheep farm. A W Neish on 844689,

Rural Business Services. Professional guidance, book-keeping and admin services for rural-based businesses. Contact Lucinda Stokes on 844017; email: Lucinda@ruralaffairs.co.uk; web: www.ruralaffairs.co.uk.

The Sewing Lady. Dressmaking, alterations, fancy dress, soft toys and soft furnishings. Any job considered and reasonable rates. Contact Jan Holt on 844775.

The Somerset Arms. Your hosts are Roy MacAskill and Cate Whittaker. See under Amenities section for details.

Sydenhams. Your local Builders' merchant and Timber yard cans supply all the builders' merchant products for local collection or delivery. An extensive range of hard wood flooring including our own Engineered Hardwood Flooring made from European Oak. Plus products to fix, finish, repair and clean your

floor. We also carry a wide range of hardwoods including Ash, Beech, Oak and Sapele available from stock in a variety of thicknesses. Location off Bruton Road, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7JG. Contact phone: 01985844771; email: phil.hogan@sydenhams.co.uk; web: www.sydenhams.co.uk.

Westcountry Environmental Services. Pest controllers and traditional molecatchers. Contact phone: 01985 844777; web: westcountrypests.biz; email: admin@westcountrypests.biz.

Shopping, working and leisure in Maiden Bradley and surrounding areas.

Shopping.

Maiden Bradley Village Shop and Post Office offer groceries, wines and spirits, fruit and veg, milk, fresh meat, newspapers, some chemists' goods, and postal and banking services. A considerable range of local products are available, including seasonal crops from the Community Garden and other Maiden Bradley gardens.

Further afield, the nearest supermarkets are –

Warminster has Morrisons, Waitrose, Lidl and Iceland.
Frome has Sainsbury, Asda, Co-op, Lidl, Iceland and M&S Simply Food.
Gillingham has Waitrose, Co-op.
Wincanton has Morrisons, Co-op and Lidl.
Trowbridge has a large Tesco Extra, Shaftesbury a smaller one.
Bruton has the nearest Budgens, and Trowbridge the nearest Aldi.

Tesco, Sainsbury, Waitrose, Iceland and Ocado online stores will deliver to the Parish.

Frome, Mere and Warminster have dispensing chemists, and patients registered with the Bourton practice can have prescriptions delivered to the village shop. Frome and Warminster have branches of Boots.

Warminster has a weekly produce market in the central car park on Friday mornings. Frome has one in the Cheese and Grain car park on Saturday mornings.

For Frome, Somerset Farmers Market runs indoors in the Cheese and Grain on the 2nd Saturday of every month. It is one of the largest farmers markets in the region. For Warminster, Wiltshire Farmers Markets has stalls by the library on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month, though there are fewer stalls than Frome.

Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Farmers Markets all have web sites where you can get details of the full range of venues and times, as well as information on stallholders.

The nearest Farm Shops are at Beckington, Longbridge Deverill and Stourhead. Whiterow Farm Shop, Beckington, is just off the A36 at the roundabout where the A361 spur to Frome turns off (phone: 01373 830798). Deverill Trout Farm is off the A350 (phone: 01985 841093). Stourhead Farm Shop is accessible from the National Trust Stourhead car park (phone: 01747 841164). Beckington carries the larger range and has its own vegetable growing area and pigs; Deverill has on-site trout and watercress, with a wide organic range; Stourhead has a butchery with local meat. Beckington also has an in-shop fishmonger and a café / restaurant.

The nearest garden centre is Lakeside in the Crockerton Shopping Centre. It will deliver to Maiden Bradley. Phone is 217413.

Frome, Warminster, Wincanton and Gillingham have extensive ranges of shops. However, the nearest full M&S store is in Bath, John Lewis at Cribbs Causeway north of Bristol, IKEA in Bristol, and B&Q in Trowbridge. Cribbs Causeway is a large modern shopping precinct. Clarke's Village in Street is the nearest substantial factory shop location.

Working.

There are no large employers in Maiden Bradley, so no regular supply of paid job vacancies. Occasional vacancies occur in agriculture and building (usually for persons with relevant skills), and sometimes organisations like the Somerset Arms and Bradley House have need of part time, sometimes temporary help.

Rail links for commuters are extensive if you can get to the nearest stations at Warminster or Frome – see the later section on Transport for details.

There is plenty of opportunity for fulfilling voluntary work, and key aspects of Maiden Bradley life (e.g. the Shop, Young Persons Group, Swimming Pool, Annual Show and Fete) depend on volunteer workers.

Leisure.

Within Maiden Bradley much leisure activity focuses around the clubs and associations, the Rec, Somerset Arms and Village Hall. There is currently limited sporting activity, though more is suggested in the Parish Plan. However, as the Diary of the Parish News shows, there are frequent club activities.

It is possible to make a tour of Bradley House, by prior arrangement. Contact Mary Sturgess, Estate Secretary, Estate Office, Shadrack, Berry Pomeroy, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6LR, phone: 01803 866633, email: mary.sturgess@duchyofsomerset.co.uk.

Maiden Bradley is an ideal place for walking, and a contribution to millennium celebrations was to establish a Millennium Walk.

Maiden Bradley is close (about 3 miles in each case) to two major tourist sites and a large leisure centre. South on the B3092 is the National Trust's Stourhead House and Garden. To the north is Lord Bath's Longleat Elizabethan House and Animal Park. Within Longleat Forest is the Center Parcs activity and leisure centre.

The nearest cinema is the family-run Westway Cinema, Cork Street, Frome (phone: 01373 465088). It features some of the latest film releases. Film clubs operate in Frome, Mere and Warminster. Frome has two commercial theatres, the Merlin Theatre (phone: 01373 465949) and the Memorial (01373 462795), the former tending to focus on drama, the latter offering more concert performances. Warminster has the Athenaeum arts complex that hosts occasional plays and other performances (phone: 01985 213891), The Frome Festival, a one-week arts festival featuring music, theatre and other media, runs in early July each year (www.fromefestival.co.uk), and Rook Lane Arts (phone: 01373 468040) offers music, film and exhibitions.

Transport.

There are scheduled bus services to Frome (Weds, Thurs and Sat), Salisbury (Tues), Warminster (Fri, Sat), Trowbridge (Thurs), Bath (Sat), and Mere and Gillingham (Wed, Fri, Sat plus other school days). The bus timetable is displayed at the bus stop by the Knap.

Community First runs the Wiltshire Link Scheme. It consists of local voluntary groups which offer a good neighbour service to local people who are in need either because they are elderly, disabled, single parents or perhaps are temporarily in need because of illness. The service mainly takes the form of providing transport (e.g. getting to appointments) or collecting (e.g. prescriptions, shopping). The Mere & District 01747 860096 scheme covers Maiden Bradley, along with The Deverills (some), Kilmington, Mere, Stourton with Gasper, West Knoyle and Zeals, Bourton and patients registered at Silton and Mere surgeries.

Mere and district Taxi Buzz is part of Connect2Wiltshire, and offers a local door-to-door service Mondays to Saturdays. Contact 08456 525255 during office hours.

For chauffeur driven cars see PC Chauffeur Drive in the Businesses section.

There are numerous taxi services in Warminster and Frome, including –

In Warminster	Starline and Wessex	212215
	D.J's Taxis	215151
	1 st Class Taxis	07976 514569
In Frome	Mikes Cabs	07966 492079
	KBS Taxis	01373 461004
	Arrow Taxis	07779 004030
	Carlton Cars	07787 542168
	Frome Taxis	01373 452211

Several small urban centres are within easy reach by car, such as Frome, Gillingham, Mere, Warminster, Wincanton, Shaftesbury, Westbury, Melksham, and the County Town, Trowbridge. Salisbury, Bath, Bristol and Chippenham are further afield but accessible.

Warminster Railway Station is on the Bristol – Bath – Salisbury – Southampton line, with connections for London from Bath (to Paddington) and Salisbury (to Waterloo). Frome is on the Exeter to London (Paddington) line.

Road communications have been a past feature of the development of Maiden Bradley, and what are now the small crossroads by the Knapp were once where North – South and East – West trunk routes crossed. Today the B3092 is not designated as a main goods traffic route, and the rest of the local network are best described as country lanes. However, the Parish has direct road access to urban centres to the North (Frome, Bath and on to Bristol), South (Mere, Gillingham), and East and North East (Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge).

Housing.

There are about 180 domestic properties in the Parish. Most are privately owned, but the Duke of Somerset's Estates has a number of rented properties, so anyone seeking to rent could usefully make that contact. See under Businesses for details.

Council Tax bands for Maiden Bradley for 2011/12, including the Parish Council precept, were –

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
1,010.32	1,178.71	1,347.09	1,515.48	1,852.25	2,189.02	2,525.80	3,030.96

Wiltshire Council is responsible for Council Housing (see under Local Government for contact details). They are the first point of contact for any matter concerning housing benefits or homelessness.

Health.

There is extensive and detailed information, including evaluations, about health services accessible for Maiden Bradley residents on the NHS Choices web site (www.nhs.uk).

Primary Health Care (GP).

We currently come within the catchment area of the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust or PCT, though as we go to press the future organisation of the NHS is changing.

The GP practices close to our patch are –

The Surgery, Gillingham Road, Silton, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5DF. Phone 01747 840226. Despite the Dorset address this practice provides services for Maiden Bradley patients. It is our closest practice, down by the A303 close to Bourton, and Dr. Harding offers an early evening (5 to 6pm) surgery every Monday at 36 Church Street, Maiden Bradley. Repeat prescriptions can be left at 36 Church Street for collection from the Village Shop. This is a small practice, with 3 listed GPs.

The largest practice on our patch, with 8 listed GPs and an extensive range of clinics, including cosmetic surgery, is the Avenue Surgery, Warminster, BA12 9AA. Phone 224600.

Another Warminster practice is Smallbrook Surgery, BA12 8QS. Phone 846700. This has 4 listed GPs.

In Mere there is the Mere Surgery, with 5 listed GPs, at Dark Lane, Mere, BA12 6DT. Phone 01747 860001.

When the surgery is closed, ringing the surgery number will give instructions or automatically divert you the out-of-hours service for the practice.

Hospitals.

Accident and Emergency services are available at the Royal United Hospital (RUH) in Bath, Yeovil District Hospital and Salisbury District Hospital. The phone number for RUH is 01225 428331, for Yeovil 01935 475122 and for Salisbury 01722 336262. In miles the RUH is closer, but traffic can be heavy, and on-site parking can be difficult. Salisbury District Hospital, in a rural area just the other side of Salisbury at Odstock, is further away, but is easiest for parking.

Non-emergency access to hospital services, whether in or out-patient, is normally arranged via your GP. NHS Choices lists over 20 hospitals in our area, most offering a limited range of facilities. You should normally be given a choice of several hospitals or clinics unless you require a specialist service only available on a regional basis. Out-patient clinics and some in-patient treatments are often provided at community hospitals, which are usually closer than the bigger hospitals.

Mental Health Services.

Mental health includes coverage of drug and alcohol problems. The main organisation for our area is the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust. There is a freephone for the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0800 0731778, or email pals@awp.nhs.uk, or for general enquiries the Chippenham based HQ is on 01249 468000.

Ambulance.

In emergency call 999. The ambulance service is provided by the Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Its HQ is in Chippenham. Phone 01249 858500. We are covered by the Wiltshire (East) Sector, and our nearest ambulance station is in Warminster. Wiltshire has an air ambulance, shared with the Police.

Dental Services.

NHS Dental Services are co-ordinated by Wiltshire PCT, though arrangements if and when PCTs cease to exist are unclear. The NHS Choices website offers information on dentists in the area, including those who are currently taking new NHS patients. The dental helpline is 0845 7581926. Wiltshire PCT maintains dental access centres in Chippenham and Salisbury, primarily for people with a dental emergency.

Because we are so close to Dorset and Somerset some residents use dental services across the boundary, such as in Frome. These are usually for private dentistry.

General Health concerns.

NHS Direct is a telephone advisory service operated by qualified nurses 24 hours every day. The phone number is 0845 4647. NHS Direct will give advice on health matters, including guidance as to whether, and with what level of emergency, to seek to see a doctor or call an ambulance.

Social Care services.

Social care services are the responsibility of the local authority, in our case Wiltshire Council, based at Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN. (See the Local government section for more information). Wiltshire Council has two separate departments for social care services. Children's services are provided by the Department for Children and Education. Adult services are provided by the Department of Community Services, which arranges social care services to older people and people with a learning disability or physical impairment. There is an Emergency Adult and Child Social Care contact - 0845 6070888.

Pet Health. The nearest veterinary surgery is Francis and Jackson, Millards Hill, Trudoxhill, BA11 5DW; phone: 01373 836186; email: clinic@fjvets.com. They have a 24 hour emergency service.

Education and Child-minding.

Based on OfSTED and other reports, the quality of education for children from Maiden Bradley is considered to be high. The downside is that there is no school in Maiden Bradley itself, so all children have to travel. There is a choice of schools.

There is a Baby and Toddler Group meeting once a week in Maiden Bradley Village Hall (see Amenities section for contact details). Anyone wanting more comprehensive arrangements will need to go further afield.

State education in the Maiden Bradley area is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. However, as the information below shows, our position close to county boundaries means that some schools used by Maiden Bradley children are outside Wiltshire.

Childminders are registered with the Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED) and inspected by their Early Years Directorate. Financial arrangements are between the parents and the childminder. Ofsted are currently (early 2012) setting up a voluntary register of childminders, and it may be useful to keep in touch with progress on their website – www.ofsted.gov.uk. At present Ofsted publishes inspection reports but does not provide contact details. There are 11 childminders who are the subject of Ofsted reports within 5 miles of Maiden Bradley. Several website provide lists and some details of childminders, including Childcare.co.uk and Childminders.forumotion.com. The local Family Information Service keeps information on available childminders for phone or email callers. For Wiltshire you can phone 0845 7585072 or email info@askwiltshire.org for contacts with local childminders. For Bath and North East Somerset the contacts are 0800 073 1214 or email fis@bathnes.gov.uk. Other parts of Somerset, and this includes Frome, offer an online directory of childminders on www.somersetfid.co.uk.

Nursery and Pre-School. Nurseries provide play, care and educational experiences to children all day or on a part-time basis. Wiltshire Council provides free part-time nursery education places for all three and four year olds in Wiltshire whose parents want one. Free places can be provided by a variety of providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors. Additional provision, including care for children under 3 has to be paid for. Most nurseries are open to suit the hours of working parents, and the majority of places are allocated directly by the nursery.

For information about providers delivering the free entitlement contact 'ask', Wiltshire Council's Family Information Service.www.askwiltshire.org. Contact phone: 0845 7585072; email: info@askwiltshire.org.

State Primary Schools.

The largest group of Maiden Bradley children go to Whitesheet CEVA Primary, which has sites in Kilmington (for starters) and Zeals (for older children). There is a school bus that picks up at 8.10 am outside the Somerset Arms and drops off at about 3.55 pm at the Church Street bus stop. Whitesheet's phone is 01747 840394, email office@whitesheet.wilts.sch.uk, and website www.whitesheet.wilts.sch.uk.

Children from the Parish also use two other schools, though neither has a school bus. They are Crockerton CEVA Primary, phone 212168, email admin@crockerton.wilts.sch.uk, and website www.crockerton.wilts.sch.uk; and Horningsham Primary, phone 844342, email admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk, and website www.horningsham.wilts.sch.uk.

State Secondary Schools and Colleges.

The largest group go to Gillingham School in Gillingham, Dorset. The school bus for Gillingham School picks up from outside the Somerset Arms at 8.05 am. After school it drops off at 4.20 pm at the Maiden Bradley bus stop. Gillingham School's phone is 01747 822222, email office@gillingham.dorset.sch.uk, and web is www.gillingham.dorset.sch.uk.

Kingdown Community School and Sports College in Warminster and (for further education) Wiltshire College, Trowbridge are other options, but there is no specific school transport.

Private Schools.

There is a school bus to Bruton School for Girls picks up (School's own minibus) at 8.00 am and drops off about 4.30 pm. Contact the school on 01749 814400, or email admissions@brutonschool.co.uk. The website is www.brutonschool.co.uk.

Warminster School (boys and girls) does not have a scheduled pickup and return to Maiden Bradley, but is responsive to demand. Warminster School phone 210100, email admin@warminsterschool.org.uk, and web www.warminsterschool.org.uk.

Local government, policing and emergencies

Local government.

Maiden Bradley is part of Wiltshire Council which became a unitary authority in April 2009, after closing all district councils. The formal name of the Parish Council is 'Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield'. There are a few properties, but no longer a separate Yarnfield community, and part of the area is now viewed more as a historical site.

Parish Council.

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to attend, as all meetings start with an opportunity for public views to be expressed and questions to be asked. Copies of the Agenda are available from the clerk three working days prior to the meeting. The website www.southwilts.com also provides information on the Parish Council, and minutes are on the notice board by the shop. Reports on meetings are published monthly in the Parish News.

The members of the Parish Council are:

Councillor Angus Neish, Chairman and Parish Representative for the Rights of Way
Councillor Patrick Nixon, Vice Chairman
Councillor Pamela Thomlinson
Councillor Franck Baudrain
Councillor Ben Gunstone
Councillor Jerry Rayner
Councillor Kay Mayne

There are no stated political party affiliations.

The Parish Clerk is Mrs Sarah Jeffries MILCM, and she can be contacted on 213436, mobile 07540 611906, or email maidenbradleyipc@o2.co.uk. If you wish to contact her, or be put in touch with a Councillor via her, the best time is Monday to Thursday from 10.00am - 2.00pm.

The parish council is responsible for areas in the parish (e.g. rec, play area) but has few other direct powers. However, it is a key route or communicating with and influencing the decisions of Wiltshire Council, not least because our Wiltshire Councillor is a regular attendee at Parish Council meetings.

Wiltshire Council.

This is our first tier local council, with responsibility amongst others for planning, waste and recycling, education, local roads, community health and social care, housing benefits, libraries and council tax. Make contact at: County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN. The phone: 0300 456 0100 (local rate charge); email: customercare@wiltshire.gov.uk; web: www.wiltshire.gov.uk. Clarence is a council call line for reporting any problems connected with roads or street lighting. It is a free phone number – 0800 232323, or email Clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk

Our Wiltshire councillor is Fleur de Rhe-Philippe (Conservative) and our local area board is the Warminster Area Board.

Parliamentary Constituence.

We are part of the South West Wiltshire constituency, and our MP is Dr Andrew Murrison (Conservative). Contact him on 01225 358584 or email andrew.murrison.mp@parliament.uk. The Constituency Office is Suite 1, Holloway House, Epsom Square, White Horse Business Park, Trowbridge, BA14 0XG.

Policing.

Wiltshire is organised into Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) with a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) linking to parishes. Maiden Bradley is part of the Warminster sector. A PCSO routinely attends Parish Council meetings.

Use 999 for emergencies, 101 non-emergency reports of crime, and 0800 555111 for Crimestoppers. Email the police on matters of concern, but not crimes, on warminsterpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk. Wiltshire Police also have a web site – www.wiltshire.police.uk – with useful general and local information.

Maiden Bradley had a Neighbourhood Watch, though currently it is not active.

Emergencies.

999 for an emergency needing police, ambulance or fire engine. This applies to land lines or mobiles. 112 is also available and is the standard number throughout the EU.

The Environment Agency has a freephone number, 0800 807060, for environment related emergencies, such as floods.

NHS Direct has a 24 / 7 line for health matters – 0845 4647.

There is a Wessex Water sewerage floodline number – 0845 8505959

For a power cut ring Southern Electric – 0845 0727282.