

BARLEY PARISH PLAN: First review 2021



Produced by: Barley Parish Plan Committee, for Barley Parish Council

1. INTRODUCTION

- **What is the Barley Parish Plan?**

In 2015 the first Barley Parish Plan was produced. The purpose of the Parish Council was to produce a plan that drew upon the collective views and aspirations of the people of Barley for their village; the intent being that the plan would be used to help inform the Parish Council about the wishes of residents, to assist in the identification of priorities for the village and to attract and direct resources appropriately.

The Plan is not intended to be prescriptive, but rather to focus attention on what matters to villagers, to identify their priorities and suggest how residents' enthusiasm for their village can be harnessed and encouraged. The Plan is also intended to give voice to debates with those bodies (either statutory or within the voluntary and charitable sectors) who can positively contribute, financially or otherwise, to the aspirations of the village.

- **Timeline**

The first Parish Plan, after extensive public consultation, was published in 2015. The intention was to conduct the first review after five years. A new committee was established in Spring 2020 to start that review process, but its work was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the committee has now reconvened and is starting that review process afresh.

As with the preparation of the original Parish Plan, the Parish Council asked for volunteers and the principal participants of the 2021 Barley Parish Plan Committee were:-

Yvonne Lee (Parish Councillor)	y-lee@hotmail.co.uk
Mel Chamings (Clerk to the Parish Council)	barley.pariahclerk@gmail.com
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- **The way forward: first review**

The Committee has reviewed what has happened over the last five years and how the previously identified village aspirations have been met. Please see Appendix 1 for a detailed update.

- **Questionnaire**

In tandem with the first review, the Committee compiled a new questionnaire (a copy is included as Appendix 2) to canvas the current views of villagers over a range of key topics, to allow the plan to be updated and to remain relevant.

2. SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

In the order of 269 questionnaires were delivered of which 111 were completed and returned, representing a 41% return rate.

Note: %ages in tables below are %ages against number of responses. They would need to be adjusted to be reflective of a %age of the number of households in the Parish

1. VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES – footpaths and cycleways

1.1 Foot path to Barkway

	Yes		No		Total no. responses
Do you support the provision of a footpath between Barley and Barkway?	74	67%	37	33%	111
Would you use such a facility?	54	55%	44	45%	98
Would you be prepared to join an action group to explore the provision and funding of such a footpath	17		90		107

Comments:

- What is the need?
- Would use it but not to walk dogs to Barkway
- Could be helpful for pushchairs/wheelchairs
- Would help support local small businesses and walkers
- Can use the Newsells footpath
- If included a cycleway would support it

1.2 Footpath to Great Chishill

	Yes		No		Total no. responses
Do you support the provision of a footpath between Barley and Great Chishill?	73	70%	31	30%	106
Would you use such a facility?	68	65%	37	35%	105
Would you be prepared to join an action group to explore the provision and funding of such a footpath	16		87		103

Comments:

- What would be the route?
- To the windmill? – existing footpath after that
- If included a cycleway would use it
- Shouldn't be use by unleashed dogs
- Would support if countryside not roadway
- Would help support local small businesses and walkers
- Cant get both done, Barkway would be easiest and should be done first

1.3 Cycleway to Royston

	Yes		No		Total no. responses
Do you support the provision of a cycleway between Barley and Royston?	74	69%	33	31%	107
Would you use such a facility?	42	40%	65	60%	107
Would you be prepared to join an action group to explore the provision and funding of such a footpath	11		93		104

Comments:

- Would support if sufficient demand

2. VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES

2.1 Changing facilities for the Plaistow

	Yes		No		Total no. responses
Do you support the provision of changing facilities?	76	71%	31	29%	107
Would you be prepared to join an action group to explore the provision and funding of such facilities?	7		96		103

Comments:

- Would support if combined with scout hut
- Keener on scout hut than changing facilities
- For whom? Is there a current need?
- Do scouts want to share now?

2.2 Equipment in the Plaistow

	Yes		No		Total no. responses
Would you like to see adult exercise equipment installed on the Plaistow – similar to that available in Great Chishall and Royston?	57	54%	49	46%	106
Would you use it?	33	34%	63	66%	
Please suggest any other equipment/facilities you would like to see provided, including any other sporting activities	See comments below				

Comments:

- No idea what Chishall and Royston have, but support principle
- May use it – but dependent upon equipment

Suggested equipment/facilities:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage football teams of school age • Larger playground • Petanque • Croquet lawn • Badminton hall • Keep unchanged • Parallel bars and step exercise • Map of walking routes • Would prefer improvements to playground which would be used and enjoyed. Barkway & Chishall have much better playgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squash or badminton • Basketball hoop and some concrete • Cross trainers • Got everything/good as it is • Sporting activities for children • Zip wire • Not a zip wire • No need for more equipment • Would be nice to get football back in the village/football team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowls green • Netball net • Sunken trampoline in play area • Bike track around the edge • Additional trees for shade • Leave as open space • No hard surfaces • There should be no adult organised sport
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2.3 Village hub

	Yes		No		Total no. responses
Do you think a village hub is appropriate for Barley?	42	51%	41	49%	83
Would you be prepared to support a hub?	39	50%	39	50%	78
What form do you think this should take eg physical or online					
What services should a hub provide?	See comments below				
As Barley is a small village, would it be more appropriate to have a larger hub to include other villages	27	48%	29	52%	56

Comments:

General

- What is a “village hub”? No explanation given
- A lot of “not sures”

Online v physical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinion divided on physical v online • In terms of physical, a lot of support for the Town House or 	Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful information about the village • Tea, cakes, books, toys, games, talks
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<p>church to be utilised for the purpose. Observations that both underutilised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pubs should be village hubs • Online could marginalise vulnerable residents • Online with physical “pop up” 1/2 per week • Already have face book page • Coffee shop in conjunction with new shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library, support for the elderly/vulnerable, coffee mornings, charity fundraising • Catering facilities for clubs & societies ,elderly • Pop up coffee shop, local crafts, exchanges, talks • OAP care • Social space, communication & information between residents • Clubs and societies • Platform for news/events/concerns/social engagements/support for local businesses • Regular meetings for our communities • Need group to run it as a project. Need volunteers to run
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2.4 Electric vehicle charging points

	Yes		No		Total no. responses
Are you supportive of the principle of the Parish Council providing publically accessible EV charging points	89	86%	14	14%	103

Comments:

- Don't know
- Please just sort out the car park
- Any charging points should not be installed at public expense. Should require payment to use and payment receipts used to offset cost of installation
- But not at parishioners expense

	Yes		No		Total no. responses
Are you supportive of the upgrading of the Town House car park?	90	81%	20	19%	110

Comments:

- What is the justification to delineate for EV charging points? Just need post with notice “only for recharging”

- Needs doing now rather than waiting for EV charging points
- Would it produce any more spaces
- Need to resolve access/right of way
- Not an essential expenditure
- Resurfacing
- Loss of spaces for EV charging not justified
- In a small village we should be encouraging walking & cycling instead of using cars, even if electric

3. VILLAGE COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The best way for the Parish Council to give you information that affects you and the village. Indicate 1-5 where 1 is the best.

	1	2	3	4	5
Posters on the notice boards	29	14	27	18	19
Village web site	29	16	22	16	11
Parish council email	41	22	11	12	18
Village face book page	37	13	19	7	26
Door drop	38	20	14	14	20

Comments:

- The Diary omitted from list
- Didn't know BPC circulated emails

3.2 Website

	Regularly	Occasionally	Never	
How often do you use the village web site?	6	59	44	
If you have used the site, which sections did you visit?	See comments below			

Comments:

General

- Web site not updated enough/not always up to date
- Specific offer of help to redesign/develop web site

Sections visited:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Events/facilities/BPC• General review of site and news• Clubs/news/events• Info on BPC/events• Church• What on/Village Plan/news• Village shop/tennis club• Town house/Shop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clubs• BPC• BPC Minutes• Gardening club• Speedwatch• Shop• Tennis club/community groups
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3.3 Facebook

	Yes	No
Are you a Facebook user?	64	44
If you use the facility how could it be improved?	See comments below	

Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping up dated • Encourage more people to use it • Control needs to be much tighter to cut out gossip & occasional verbal abuse • Currently well managed, with advertising limited. Admin good at closing down inappropriate posts. • More control on personal comments • It has no security settings or protection • A link to face book • Don't like how tensions escalate • More information from BPC to be published there 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor ore closely who is accepted – should be Barley and immediate area • More news less ads • Less commercial promotions • Keep traders off site • Information for new residents with useful info and links to contacts • Someway of highlighting important messages • Make business promotional messages less frequent • People constantly complaining, too many adverts, far too many OWL alerts • Section for people to post recommendations for tradespeople • Make it clear that it is a community page unrelated to any "authority". Too many users think it's the right place to report issues/problems
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3.4 Email

	Yes	No
Do you receive emails?	49	55
Do you find this form of communication useful?	69	10
Should the use of email communication be expanded to include other information?	21	10
If so, what would you like to be included?	See comments below	

Comments:

General

- Needs to be an email a week before every BPC meeting saying what's on the Agenda and mentioning upcoming events
- Not aware of BPC emails

What information should be included?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant village events • Neighbourhood watch • Information on large planning applications eg those at Barkway and Royston • Village communications • To include anything on Facebook page – publicise village activities, initiatives, groups etc • Hub could be used for communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic version of The Diary • News, meeting minutes • Local information and events • Planning • Notice of future events • Developments and infrastructure affecting the village • Village updates • Bus timetables
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3.5 Door Drop

	Yes	No
Would you be prepared to help deliver important messages in the future?	57	48

Comments:

- Can there be an opt out and email/pdf instead?

4. VILLAGE EVENTS

4.1 Village show

	Yes		No		No of responses
Should the show remain village centric	97	91%	10	9%	107
Do you think the Show should aim to be bigger and to attract many more commercial stalls from outside	43	45%	53	55%	96
Would you participate in deciding and managing its future	28		73		101

Comments:

- Need clear objectives for the show
- Quality of quantity

4.2 Other events

	Yes	No
Would you be interested in joining a group to take these, or other new activities, forward?	21	78
Do you have any other suggestions?	See comments below	

Comments: suggestions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor live music/village BBQ • 1/4ly village quiz • Popular area for walkers & cyclists. Town House could be used for afternoon teas in the summer • Holding more events in the church • Open mic nights/games nights/gin tastings • Use church as concert venue • Town House underutilised as is church which needs upgrading – toilets/kitchen, needs to be warmer and friendlier • You have to be in mind the impact on the houses that surround The Plaistow – more noise etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby groups/soft ply • Film club combined with Barkway • Toilets for church but not kitchen • Photography club, guided nature walks • Village BBQ on streets to get to know neighbours • Films/concerts – facilities need updating • As full vaccination comes into place, whole village should focus on making greater use of Town House for events • Bring in famous singers and raise money for the church
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5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

5.1 Climate change

	Yes	No
Would you be interested in working in partnership with the Parish Council to identify the key practical actions	31	69

that the village can take to make a difference and address this issue?

Comments:

- Need to work with farmers who are already doing positive things
- Need Environmental Plan

5.2 Traffic and safety

	1		2		3		4		5		Total no. of responses
Are you concerned about the speed of traffic through Barley (where 1 is very concerned and 5 is not concerned).	60	55%	25	23%	18	16%	3	3%	4	4%	110

Comments:

- Single most important issue in the village
- Need frequent enforcement checks at rush times 0600-0830 & 16.30-9.30, downhill on embankment
- Concerned about Picknage Road
- Main road must be changed to promote slow driving; remove cats eyes & white dotted lines, more obstacles/chicanes, need pedestrian crossing points

	Yes		No		Total no. of responses
Would you like to see a 20mph speed limit introduced through Barley?	89	80%	22	20%	111
If the introduction of a 20mph limit required supporting engineering works such as street lighting, would this change your view?	44	45%	53	54%	97

Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But not throughout village • Pointless as 30mph is ignored/needs to be enforced • Would support one along Church End • Don't understand why 20mph would require street lighting • Totally opposed to street lighting/ would be disaster • Street lights need to be LED solar – streets are too dark in winter • Fowlmere has discreet street lighting and speed humps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to know more about technical options • Speed bumps like Newton and Fowlmere • Not for Church End • Don't think its workable • Yes for Picknage Road and Church End • High Street - no
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	Yes		No		Total no of responses
Would you like to see a 40mph buffer zone introduced on the approaches into Barley	88	81%	21	19%	109

Comments:

- Unlikely to change driving habits
- Only as an additional measure
- Would support 30mph limit being extended out by 50m at each village entrance to slow traffic before entering village

5.3 Road cleaning and litter picking

	Yes		No		Total no of responses
A. Do residents who park on the road and need to move a vehicle so the street can be cleaned consider they are notified in a suitable manner and timeframe so they can move their vehicle on the day the street is cleaned?	35		2		37
B. Would you like to see more frequent cleaning of the streets of Barley?	48	50%	47	50%	95
C. Would you like to contribute to litter picking around Barley	42	48%	46	52%	88

village? (an acknowledgment must be given to the sterling efforts of Jan McGill and David King)									
D. Would you like to contribute to litter picking on the roadside verges leading into Barley?	34	40%	50	60%	84				
	Mthly	1/4ly	6mthly	Annually					
E. What frequency of litter picking would you support	41	28%	29	43%	9	13%	2	3%	81

Comments:

A.

- Where will residents park?
- Still too many parked cars on the High Street to allow thorough cleaning
- Noticeable that employees of businesses such as Richmonds & Margaret House do not move cars unless specifically asked

B.

- Yes to pavements
- If it will help drainage
- Only drains

D.

- Only if Group organised
- Too dangerous

Further comments street cleaning and litter picking

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of comments from people that they do “informally” pick up litter every time they go out and/or around their own property • More frequent clearing of gutters and surface water drains • Everyone should be responsible for their own frontage, look beyond boundaries, pick up litter and tidy up verges • Additional bins on The Plaistow • More encouragement/persuasion to take litter home • Bin men don’t pick up rubbish they spill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haven’t noticed much litter – litter pickers must be doing a great job • Too many cars parked on roads to enable in depth cleaning • Don’t believe NHDC come once a month • Better maintenance of signage • Pavement clearing & weed killing should form part of NHDC contract • Why is Picknag Road left out of street cleaning • Everyone should do own street • Campaign to stop dropping litter
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular cleaning/clearing drains in winter. Smiths End often over flowing • Footpaths often strewn with litter – perhaps more signs • Signs in lay-bys on Cambridge Road and Little Chishill Road saying where tips and bins are • Street cleaning in Smiths End Lane does not exist - it's a disgrace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned by mess caused by lorries carrying straw bales through the village – they should be sheeted • Recently noticed increasing amount of litter in roads and pathways beyond village limits
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5.4 Footpaths: What if anything would you like to see with regards improvements for footpaths and bridleways.

Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners need to cut hedges back regularly from footpaths and at junctions • Regular cutting of hedges along lanes and footpaths • Footpath to be created along Cambridge Road to Icknield Way • Linking bridleway from Royston Road to Icknield Way • Keep clear of nettles & brambles • Improved signage & awareness of permissive paths • More clearing particular in Spring • Keep horse riders off footpaths • More accessible paths for vulnerable users • Replace bench at Smiths End Lan/Bogmore Road junction • More footpaths going east • Stockbank should be resurfaced for cyclists – very slow and risks of punctures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some field kissing gates need mending • Green lane behind Doctors surgery up to Mount to be improved and cleared regularly • Map of footpaths & permissive paths to be available eg on notice boards • Leaflet of footpaths with map • Footpaths to Barkway, Chishill & Royston • Dog fouling penalty notices • Ask Cokenach to allow filed paths • Footpath from High Street to Plaistow needs attention • Improvements to signage, seating & waste bins • Map of walking routes leading to other villages • Paths get very muddy in winter, some paths appear to be ploughed • Aim should be 5-6 mile circular walk without using roads
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- Hard-core to be laid on footpath form Pudding Lane to church
- Less dog fouling – dog owner’s to take more responsibility
- Keep benches free of undergrowth
- Keep paths clear of fallen trees and undergrowth generally
- Cutting back nettles & overhanging branches/brambles
- More barriers on road edge to footpaths to stop horse riding and cyclist
- Additional signage
- More dog poo bins – Green/Drs Surgery, The Mount, at Bogmore Road at junction with path from horses field, Shaftenhoe End, High Street/Picknagge Road junction, Church End: on all footpaths
- Hard-core infill to prevent muddy puddles at all gateways to horses field at Churchfields, also on the footpath to Nuthampstead by the wood with the pond
- Link Barley footpaths to Great Chishill permissive bridleways

- Should have surfaces on footpaths suitable for all year use
- Footpaths form The Chequers to The Fox and Hounds are poorly maintained & very narrow. Not good when pushing wheelchair/pram. Much of width has been lost under grass and encroaching hedges. Parts of High Street also bad.
- Footpath through the horses field to the cricket ground can be very boggy
- Surfaces on the footpaths in the village should be maintained so they are comfortable to walk on
- Would be really helpful if landowners ie Cokenach Estate did not use footpaths as roadways for their heavy vehicles. They have rights f way over the by-ways but not the footpaths. This often makes paths unwalkable

6. Further suggestions which have not been covered by this questionnaire or general comments:

- Danger of losing farmland to housing – hope BPC will support local farms & fields
- Concerned at increase in HGV’s – more signage to say rods are unsuitable – ruining verges, hedgerows and trees
- Promote environment through appropriate wild flora planting. We appreciate the importance of vehicular impact on the village but there is more to sustaining environmental impacts than cars
- Acute vehicle passing problems in Smiths End Lane. Make Smiths End and Shaftenhoe Road each one way
- Identify and make first aiders within the village for civil protection
- Identify safeguarding officer for village
- Barley could be greener – EV charging & recycling
- Speed of traffic con London Road

- Parking a major issue – encouraging more activities will exacerbate the problem
- Are Richmonds going to move?
- Will village shop leave before it has larger premises
- People should take dog poo home. Promote “stick & flick” along field paths
- Residents should be asked to clear over hanging trees & shrubs form footpaths
- More public parking – Margaret House and Richmond’s staff use too much on-street parking and Town House parking
- Next time add a “don’t mind/don’t have a view box to the questionnaire
- After last survey no follow up with people who expressed an

- Speed humps as per Fowlmere and Newton to address increase in speeding traffic
- High volumes of large heavy vehicles inc Richmonds buses – needs to be addressed, together with parking especially on Church End and High Street
- Cleaning horse manure off roads
- Potential footpaths to Barkway and Chishill should include cycle ways
- Parking a big issue – utilisation of old pig sheds?
- “Shop parking” designation outside shop
- Footpaths from Richmonds to the village shop are dangerous for the partially sighted
- Reduce verge cutting to safety areas only
- Steps to improve road safety & reduce traffic speed & potentially reduce the use of Barley as a short cut

interest. Could all people who have expressed an interest in certain things be connected by email/door drop

- No bus shelters
- Volunteers could cut back tree & hedge growth that covers signs in the village, especially traffic signs
- Speed restrictions on Picknag Road
- Engage with local landowners to encourage greater access, possible through country stewardship schemes
- Who pays for more dog poo bins?
- Bulb planting to be combined with litter picking
- Keep Barley the hub & supportive village it is: stopping mass development
- Infill development in Barley – like garage – will see huge increase in traffic
- Compile a list of all residents who play games such as bridge, table tennis etc

3. MOVING FORWARD

It has always been recognised that in order to deliver any element of the Parish Plan, there would need to be engagement with a wide variety of organisations; but fundamentally it is essential for villagers to get directly involved, this is to turn many of the opinions and suggestions from this plan into live projects. The organisations that will need to be involved include statutory, discretionary and voluntary bodies, all having differing responsibilities, funding constraints and mandates, placing limits on the type of support they have been able to give.

The objective set by the Parish Council in 2015 for the Parish Plan, was for a document which drew upon the collective views and aspirations of the people of Barley for their village. The Plan has been used by the Parish Council to help identify priorities for the village, attract funding for projects and direct the limited resources available to it in the most appropriate way, and the Parish Council will continue to reference it going forward.

The Plan is not intended to be prescriptive, but rather to focus on what matters to villagers and their main priorities. Once again through this review process the enthusiasm of Barley residents for their village has shone through. But this enthusiasm and goodwill absolutely has to be followed through by the villagers if the more challenging projects, whether in terms of effort or money are to be realised.

4. CONCLUSION

The Parish Council will have consideration of the findings of the Plan Review and will continue to utilise it as an aid to formal council decision-making, and where it is able, act as a facilitator to help support villagers in realising their aspirations for their village.

Appendix 1

MOVING FORWARD: Initiatives, responsibilities and actions

The following pages list the key initiatives identified in 2015 reflecting villager's views and priorities; including those organisations that would be responsible or become involved. Some of the key names have been abbreviated, so for ease of reference the full names are listed here:

Abbreviation	Organisation
BPC	Barley Parish Council
BPCC	Barley Parochial Church Council
BPRC	Barley Playground Refurbishment Committee
DS	Drive Safe (previously Barley Speed Watch)
EA	Environment Agency
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOSM	The Friends of St Margaret's (Barley Church)
HC	Hertfordshire Constabulary
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council (Highways is a department of HCC)
HE	Historic England
HPCC	Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner
NHDC	North Hertfordshire District Council
THMC	Town House Management Committee

It was recognised that in order to deliver any element of the plan there would need to be engagement with a wide variety of organisations; not to mention encouraging villagers to get directly involved, which would be an essential part of turning many suggestions from this plan into live projects. The relevant organisations have involved statutory, discretionary and voluntary bodies all having differing responsibilities, funding constraints and mandates placing limits on the type of support they have been able to give.

THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT: MAINTENANCE

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Result
1 Prompt repair of potholes and worn surfaces	HCC	HCC funds are constrained	BPC can lobby HCC to ensure clear priorities are agreed and villagers informed.	Better liaison resulting in improved and speedier actions. Rolling programme produced by HCC which BPC contributes towards
2 Cutting hedges at junctions to maintain visibility	HCC	HCC funds are constrained	BPC can lobby HCC. Also areas should be identified where village can make improvements by self-help; BPC can assist in establishing an action group.	Improved liaison has resulted in more focus from HCC. Also more direct involvement from villagers
3 Improving road drainage in the village	HCC/EA	Specific comments were made concerning the High Street, Shaftenhoe End Road and Smith's End Lane Funds are constrained	BPC can lobby to ensure clear priorities are agreed and villagers informed.	Improvements made to London Road and Picknage Road. Improved dialogue with HCC
			Villagers can self-help by identifying those areas where work needs to be done and preparing a priority list of works from their perspective.	
			Encourage individual action to improve the situation e.g. landowners clearing and maintaining ditches.	
4 Clearing back undergrowth and overhanging branches from footpaths	BPC		BPC to encourage and facilitate the establishment of a village group to undertake this work	Volunteers always welcome to help to progress
5 Keeping pavements and gutters clean and weed free.	NHDC	Funds are constrained	BPC can lobby to ensure clear priorities are agreed and the villagers informed	Improved liaison – successes – eg timetable from HCC for gullies and support from residents in removing cars at the appropriate time
			Villagers can self-help by identifying those areas where work needs to be done and preparing a priority list of works from their perspective.	
			Encourage individual action to improve the situation e.g. property owners taking responsibility for pavements and gutters outside their properties?	
6 More bins for dog waste	BPC	Specific sites were suggested in questionnaire comments box	BPC to request 2-3 new bins from NHDC, based on sites suggested in comments box	No support from NHDC for the provision of additional bins. BPC pay an annual cost or the emptying the designated dog bins.
7 More salt bins	HCC	This is a health and safety issue. Specific sites were suggested in questionnaire comments box	BPC to lobby HCC	Achieved and salt now regularly provided.

THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT: TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Result
1 Concerned about speed of traffic	HPCC HC BPC DS	Traffic exceeding 50mph has increased tenfold from 2006.	DS has a continuing dialogue with HPCC & HC to discuss all options available to reduce speed in the village. For specific measures being taken, see actions below.	Positive progress as above. Volunteers to join Drive Safe are always welcome.
2 Want action taken to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety	HPCC, HC BPC DS		DS has an on-going dialogue with HPCC & HC to discuss all options available. Questionnaire results under discussion.	Positive progress as above
3 Lower speed limit outside school	HCC Highways BPC DS	The zig-zag lines outside the school are due to be renewed when Church End is resurfaced	HCC Councillor Tony Hunter is investigating with HCC Highways department the possibility of a 20mph speed limit for Church End, together with warning lights outside the school.	Growing campaign across county for 20mph speed limits. Discussing with HCC applicability for Barley
4 Regular visits from the County's camera safety van	HCC Highways HC, BPC DS		Currently being discussed between DS, HC and HCC Highways department	Positive progress as above.
5 More frequent police enforcement	HC BPC, DS		Together with BPC, DS has now negotiated regular police enforcement in the village as a priority.	Positive progress as above.
6 Chicanes	HCC Highways BPC DS	Village opinion did not support strongly. Chicanes are the most effective method of reducing speed, but are normally lit at night.	Village opinion against street lighting is much stronger than support for chicanes, which need to be lit according to HCC Highways department. To consider chicanes further, this conflict must first be resolved.	No action
7 Pinch points	HCC Highways BPC DS	Village opinion did not support strongly. Also normally lit at night.	As above	As above
8 Speed limits extended further beyond village boundaries	HCC Highways BPC DS		DS and HCC Highways department have discussed the possibility of introducing a phased speed reduction on village approach roads, with the possibility of extending the existing 30mph limit a small distance	To date not supported by HCC, but still pursuing as a pragmatic solution to reduce overall speeds.
9 Pedestrian crossing in the High Street	HCC Highways BPC DS	Village opinion did not support strongly. Also, the likely usage of a crossing is balanced against traffic movements. A pavement is needed on either side of the road at the crossing point and enough clearance from parked vehicles in both directions.	No action. HCC Highways department stated that a crossing cannot be justified against the usage criterion, nor can the clearance standards be achieved. Conflicting village opinions, over lighting the crossing and the change to the village's character, would also have to be resolved.	No action

Traffic and safety: Key points to note:-

- **Speed Warning signs purchased.**

BPC purchased a Speed Indicating Device (SID) in 2016. This equipment also acts as a Data Collector recording speeds, times and dates of passing traffic which is shared with the police for their consideration and possible action.

- **Speed Camera Application.**

As a result of lobbying by the old Speed Watch / DriveSafe team (Brian Haughey, Ian Turner, Nick White and Richard Emmerson), which has been backed up by the data from the Barley SID, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Hertfordshire Constabulary (HC) are considering the installation of a speed camera for a trial period, to identify persistent speeders. This is only to help reinforce the educational message from the OPCC's DriveSafe campaign and is not for enforcement.

- **Speed checks by the police.**

Police manpower is still limited, but Barley is now receiving more speed checks and an overall higher police presence.

- **Liaison with police.**

Liaison between BPC/Drive Safe and the Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team is very good, with regular conversations taking place.

VILLAGE CHARACTER				
Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Result
1 Protecting the Town House building	HE, NHDC, BPC, THMC, Villagers	BPC is the sole trustee of the Town House Charity which owns the land and buildings. The day to day running is carried out by THMC, including general maintenance and the lettings which fund this.	A rolling programme of expensive building maintenance will be necessary in coming years. These will require direct fundraising, grant-funding and/or fund allocation from the Parish precept.	BPC has established a “sinking fund” of £5,000pa to assist in the funding of future large expenditure.
2 Keeping the Plaistow as an open space	BPC, FIT	New initiatives for the Plaistow are set out below under Village Amenities and Facilities. Careful balance is needed between any new facilities and the value of the Plaistow as an historic open field and its overall contribution to the village.	BPC will continue to support the Plaistow recognising its valued and varied role in the community.	On-going. (The Plaistow is protected under the stewardship of the Fields in Trust).
3 Retaining the rural atmosphere	NHDC, BPC, Villagers	BPC already campaigns vigorously to ensure that Barley remains a rural village and encourages villagers to make their views known and to take part in any consultations affecting the village.	BPC to continue campaigning vigorously on this subject. BPC to cite the priorities and opinions of the villagers stated in this Plan.	On-going
			Villagers to continue making their views known and to take part in any consultations affecting the village.	
4 Keeping the views of the surrounding countryside	NHDC, BPC, Villagers	Both the countryside views from inside the village, and the open countryside itself.	BPC to campaign to protect the vistas into and out of the village using this plan.	On-going
5 Protecting St Margaret of Antioch Church	Church of England, FOSTM, Parishioners & Villagers	See last bullet point above. Annual maintenance and running costs for the building are currently £6,000 p.a., and increasing. On top of this, major renovation work to repair the roof and window glass is overdue, which will require separate special funding.	BPC and FOSTM to explore alternative sources of funding, including regular donations from a wider group of villagers. This is needed to cover running costs of the building and its continued availability as an amenity. FOSTM to help organise special fundraising activities for major works and request assistance with grant applications.	Waterproofing work undertaken in 2015-17, supported by major grant aid. Ambition is to improve amenities such as providing toilet facilities and improved heating. However, will need the support of volunteers not least with fund raising.
6 Retaining the variety and mix of building styles	NHDC, BPC, Villagers	NHDC is required to consult on planning proposals to develop, or change the use of, land and buildings; comments can then be submitted on building styles.	BPC will make representations to NHDC, as can individual villagers. (However, NHDC are not obliged to accept or uphold any representations.)	On-going
7 Maintaining the Fox and Hounds gantry	Property-owner, NHDC,	This is Grade II listed; NHDC has the power to take action to ensure listed buildings are maintained, but such action could involve	BPC to contact owner first, to request necessary maintenance is done.	The extensive refurbishment of the property included the gantry

VILLAGE CHARACTER

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Result
	HE	NHDC in direct costs, so there is a general reluctance by local authorities to exercise such powers.		
8 Preserving the Lock- up	HE, NHDC, BPC	The Lock-up (or 'Cage') is a Grade II listed building.	BPC to seek grants towards the maintenance and refurbishment of the lock up.	Completed by BPC
9 Maintaining the current size of the village	NHDC, BPC, Villagers		BPC to continue to campaign and object to any large development in or around Barley.	Was noted
10 Maintaining the current population of the village	NHDC, BPC, Villagers		BPC to continue to campaign and object to any large development in or around Barley.	Was noted
11 Improving the appearance of the village entry points	BPC, Villagers	Village opinion did not support this strongly, and comments suggest villagers would have opposing views on some 'improvements'.	BPC to act as a medium to determine if there is enough interest to form a group of villagers to action this point.	Was noted
12 Not having street lighting in the village	NHDC, BPC, Villagers		BPC will support the majority view of villagers, which opposes the introduction of general street lighting.	Was noted

NEW BUILDING				
Villagers opinions	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Result
1 For some infill houses to be built within the village envelope	NHDC, BPC, Villagers	Village opinion was very slightly in favour	See above – 1 st & 4 th bullet points	Has informed BPC responses to planning applications
2 For additional low cost housing in the village	As above	Village opinion was very slightly against	See above – 1 st & 4 th bullet points	Has informed BPC responses to planning applications
3 For houses to be built outside the village envelope	As above	Village opinion was strongly against	See above – 1 st & 4 th bullet points	Has informed BPC responses to planning applications
4 For a larger development, if it is necessary to fund low cost housing	As above	Village opinion was very strongly against.	See above – 1 st & 4 th bullet points	Has informed BPC responses to planning applications

VILLAGE AMENITIES & FACILITIES: THE PLAISTOW

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Result
1 Renew the children's play area with equipment for all ages	BPRC, supported by BPC	Refurbishment plan prepared – see below	See below	Completed through the hard work of the volunteer group, Barley Playground Refurbishment Committee, with the support of the BPC
2 Better access to the Plaistow for prams and wheelchairs	BPC		BPC to identify and assess the ways to improve access	Completed
3 More rubbish bins	NHDC		BPC to lobby NHDC	Bins regularly emptied by volunteers and this has improved the overall cleanliness. More volunteers are always welcome – please contact the Parish Clerk.
4 Picnic tables and picnic area	BPRC, supported by BPC		To be considered as part of playground refurbishment plan	Provided within the play area
5 Basketball net and hard playing area	BPC	Little village support for this facility	BPC to keep under review	No action
6 Children's zip wire	BPC	Little village support for this facility	BPC to keep under review	No action
7 Skate board and scooter ramp	BPC	Little village support for this facility	BPC to keep under review	No action

Key points to note:-

- new football net has recently been installed by BPC on the Plaistow
- Scout hut/changing facilities
 - BPC have submitted a planning application to NHDC for the erection of a changing facility alongside the scout hut, providing toilet and shower facilities. Planning permission has now been granted. Discussion are underway with the Scouts to determine the merits of “pooling” resources and doing a combined facility
 - The object is to encourage and enable sporting functions, such as football matches, to take place once again on the Plaistow, in keeping with the ethos of Sport for All and the BPC's responsibilities to Fields in Trust.
 - In addition the facilities will be available during functions held on the Plaistow such as fetes, etc.
 - The questionnaire did not ask about this project, but quite a few comments mentioned ideas for improved community facilities, including toilets and showers.

VILLAGE AMENITIES & FACILITIES : OTHER OUTDOOR AMENITIES

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Result
1 Footpath from Barley to Great Chishill	NHDC BPC Villagers	This would require an action group to put a proposal to NHDC and involve Chishill Parish Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council as it crosses the county border. There is no guarantee that this proposal would receive other council's support or funding.	BPC to explore if there is adequate interest within the village to form a group	Discussions are underway with the Transport Officer within the sustainability department at NHDC.
2 Cycleway to Royston	NHDC BPC Villagers	This would require an action group to put a proposal to NHDC. There is no guarantee that this proposal would receive funding	BPC to explore if there is adequate interest within the village to form a group	Discussions are underway with the Transport Officer within the sustainability department at NHDC.
3 More places to walk dogs off lead	BPC Landowners	BPC would not support dogs off lead on the Plaistow. Any other solution is reliant on the relevant landowners consent	BPC to consider a way forward, if any.	Not currently being actioned. Not within the gift of BPC to impose upon landowners
4 Fitness trail	NHDC, BPC	Insufficient funding available at this time to pursue this.	No action	This would need a volunteer group to take forward – design and raise funds etc.
5 Additional bridleways	BPC Land owners	Opening additional tracks to horse-riders would require consent from the landowners.	BPC to discuss if this is feasible	Government requirement for all rights of way to be formally registered by 2022 has seen an increase in the applications for bridleways to be reinstated.
6 More allotment plots	BPC	Strong interest from minority of village. It would require land to be donated, as there are currently no available sites for plots.	BPC to consult with landowners to see if feasible	Can only accommodate 5 on the existing site. No-one is currently on the waiting list so will be kept under review

VILLAGE AMENITIES & FACILITIES: THE TOWN HOUSE

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Result
1 Renovate the roof etc	BPC, THMC, Town House Charity	It is believed that the next big expense will be repairing the roof which could cost circa £60,000. The Town House Charity and BPC do not have the funds for this major renovation, but neither can this Grade II* listed building be allowed to fall into disrepair.	BPC to obtain an appraisal of the physical fabric of the building, so that a costed Planned Maintenance Programme can be prepared and agreed.	Roof works currently underway.
2 Rejuvenate the catering facilities	BPC, THMC	BPC has approved a proposal from THMC for new catering facilities, costed at c. £8,000.	THMC is seeking a contribution towards the cost from NHDC's Rural Communities Fund.	Completed

COMMUNITY: COMMUNICATIONS

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Actions	Result
1 Greater use of The Diary to publicise village events and activities	Villagers Village groups		Email contributions to diary@bandoodle.co.uk Jane Greening: 01763 848 202 Lucy Schönberger: 07967 979087	BPC regularly uses this medium
2 More frequent updating of information on the village web site	Villagers, Village groups, BPC		BPC to consider redesign of village web site and mobilising required expertise. Update all website sections and content.	New village web site created, funded and run by BPC
3 More frequent updating of information on existing bulletin boards	Villagers, Village groups, BPC		Villagers to provide BPC with notice of events and updated information	Regularly updated and monitored by BPC Clerk
4 More bulletin boards	BPC	Insufficient demand to pursue this.	None	
5 A Facebook page for Barley	BPC	Insufficient demand to pursue this.	None	Initiative taken up by villagers and established

COMMUNITY: EVENTS AND GROUPS

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Actions	Result
1 Theatre productions on The Plaistow	Villagers	Need to be self-funding	Interested villagers to organise in co-operation with BPC	No volunteers have come forwarded
2 Cinema screenings	Villagers	Need to be self-funding	As above	No volunteers have come forwarded
3 Village drama group	Villagers	Consider linking with Barkway Players	Interested villagers to organise new Barley drama group, or link up with Barkway Players	No volunteers have come forwarded

COMMUNITY: ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Actions	Result
1 Provide a space for young people to meet and organise their own activities	BPC, Villagers	Would need to be villager-driven project	BPC to establish a working group, to consult with villagers and explore the options for and feasibility of such a facility.	No volunteers have come forwarded

APPENDIX 2

VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE 2021

- Please do canvass the opinions of all of your household in completing the questionnaire.
- We do ask that all questionnaires are completed by 2nd July 2021 and we will do house to house collections on the w/b 3rd July.
- If you would like to get involved in any of the initiatives suggested by the questionnaire, please send an email to Mel Chammings, Parish Clerk at barley.parishclerk@gmail.com

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES – footpaths and cycleways

The brief for the Transport Officer for NHDC includes walkways and cycle paths, with the emphasis on sustainability, supporting the council's climate change strategy. The District Council are keen to support sustainable modes of transport particularly in rural areas, however, there is no guarantee that funding would be available and landlords would need to be brought on board as well. An action group for individual initiatives, supported by the BPC, would be key to making progress in these areas.

1. Foot path to Barkway

	Yes	No
Do you support the provision of a footpath between Barley and Barkway?		
Would you use such a facility?		
Would you be prepared to join an action group to explore the provision and funding of such a footpath		

2. Footpath to Great Chishill

(Any footpath would cross the county boundary and would need the involvement of South Cambridgeshire DC)

	Yes	No
Do you support the provision of a footpath between Barley and Great Chishill?		

Would you use such a facility?		
Would you be prepared to join an action group to explore the provision and funding of such a footpath		

3. Cycleway to Royston

	Yes	No
Do you support the provision of a cycleway between Barley and Royston?		
Would you use such a facility?		
Would you be prepared to join an action group to explore the provision and funding of such a footpath		

VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES – changing facilities for the Plaistow

- BPC has received planning permission for the erection of a changing facility alongside the existing scout hut, providing toilet and shower facilities.
- The object is to encourage sporting functions to take place on the Plaistow in keeping with the ethos of Fields in Trust
- In addition the facilities could be made available during functions held on the Plaistow such as fetes etc.
- The BPC cannot on its own cover the full cost of the development of such facilities.
- The scout group is also reviewing the possibility of replacing the scot hut. There may well be synergies in combining the facilities and this is being explored.

	Yes	No
Do you support the provision of changing facilities?		
Would you be prepared to join an action group to explore the provision and funding of such facilities?		

VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES – equipment in the Plaistow

- The BPC is committed to encouraging sporting activity and functions on the Plaistow

	Yes	No
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Would you like to see adult exercise equipment installed on the Plaistow – similar to that available in Great Chishall and Royston?		
Would you use it?		
Please suggest any other equipment/facilities you would like to see provided, including any other sporting activities		

VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES – village hub

- Many villages are now promoting “village hubs”

	Yes	No
Do you think a village hub is appropriate for Barley?		
Would you be prepared to support a hub?		
What form do you think this should take eg physical or online		
What services should a hub provide?		
As Barley is a small village, would it be more appropriate to have a larger hub to include other villages		

VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES –Electric vehicle charging points

- Petrol and Diesel vehicles will cease to be sold in the UK from 2030. There is already an increasing trend towards Electric and Hybrid cars and in 2020 they represented 10% of total car sales.
- The Parish Council has started preliminary investigations to consider the possibility of installing EV Points in the village, for both villagers who are unable to directly provide a connection for an electric vehicle at their house, and for visitors to the village.

	Yes	No
Are you supportive of the principle of the Parish Council providing publically accessible EV charging points		

- A potential site for publically accessible EV points is the car park behind the Town House. This would require the car parking spaces to be clearly delineated which, given the current surface of the car park, would be difficult.
- The installation of EV points could be the catalyst for improving the car park overall.

	Yes	No
Are you supportive of the upgrading of the Town House car park?		

VILLAGE COMMUNICATIONS

The Parish Council continually strives to improve communications with villagers and appreciates that to be truly effective and inclusive, various forms of mediums need to be employed.

Actions taken since the last Village Plan include refreshment of the village website, introduction of a village Facebook page administered by villagers themselves and, repurposing of the email list originally set up when the village was on the point of losing The Fox and Hounds. To ensure that everyone who needs to be captured in a particular communication we have also used leaflet door drops.

From the list below, please indicate the best way for the Parish Council to give you information that affects you and the village. Indicate 1-5 where 1 is the best.

	1	2	3	4	5
Posters on the notice boards					
Village web site					
Parish council email					
Village face book page					
Door drop					

Website

	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
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How often do you use the village web site?			
If you have used the site, which sections did you visit?			

Facebook

The Barley Facebook page was set up by villagers to allow and encourage the sharing of information.

	Yes	No
Are you a Facebook user?		
If you use the facility how could it be improved?		

Email

The Parish Clerk sends out details about the parish council meetings, and up and coming events.

	Yes	No
Do you receive emails?		
Do you find this form of communication useful?		
Should the use of email communication be expanded to include other information?		
If so, what would you like to be included?		

Door Drop

This method is currently used mainly to ensure coverage of all residents' For Example, notification of the Annual Parish meeting, help available during the pandemic. It has also been used to cover residents in specific locations e.g., Street Cleaning notification
This method relies on volunteers to deliver.

	Yes	No
Would you be prepared to help deliver important messages in the future?		

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VILLAGE EVENTS

COVID has undoubtedly impacted on the management and volunteer support of long-standing village events. The pandemic recovery period is a good moment to ask ourselves afresh what social events, joint activities or perhaps re-purposed locations would be fun and would express a revived sense of our community, encouraging people to take initiatives or post ideas.

- **The Village Show**

The Village Show has valued its continuity with the traditional character of village shows, emphasising all-age displays, competitions and local stalls; but its future will depend on refreshed and wider support. An alternative model could be more commercial, aiming at more external involvement and seeking a bigger market.

	Yes	No
Should the show remain village centric		
Do you think the Show should aim to be bigger and to attract many more commercial stalls from outside		
Would you participate in deciding and managing its future		

- **Other events**

Lunches and suppers, fêtes, dances, talks, films, music and concerts have all variously featured in the village, most of them intermittently. The church building, for instance, has notable acoustics but is under-equipped and under-used.

	Yes	No
Would you be interested in joining a group to take these, or other new activities, forward?		
Do you have any other suggestions?		

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS – Climates change

Do you know how the climate of the UK is expected to change?

By 2080 we could see:-

- Average summer temperature increase in SE England of 3.9%
- 23% decrease in average summer rainfall
- Increase of 16% average winter rainfall

We are already experiencing extremes in weather, and our small village is not immune. We cannot possibly deliver an effective Village Plan without including plans to tackle climate change.

The Barley Conservation Area covers much of the village and within it all trees are protected. In addition to which there are Tree Preservation Orders on other trees in the village. The Woodland Trust is advocating that we should go beyond this, and is strongly promoting the idea of communities and individuals taking responsibility for boosting the tree coverage of this country, which is now exceptionally low by taking local action. It suggests any tree felled be compensated by the planting of at least two, and preferably, three trees. There is also a policy for preserving flora in the churchyard and the Parish Council advocates for landscaping plans when consulted on planning applications. These are just some of the ideas that would help to make a positive change to our environment but there is more that each of us can do individually and collectively.

	Yes	No
Would you be interested in working in partnership with the Parish Council to identify the key practical actions that the village can take to make a difference and address this issue?		

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS – Traffic and safety

- In the current Barley Village Plan, 75% of respondents were either worried or very worried about speed through the village.
- Since then, the Parish Council funded the Speed Indication Device (SID) that you will see being rotated around the village.
- Data has also been accumulated which shows that pre-Covid 19 speeds haven't reduced since the last Village Plan Questionnaire, with the top speed on High Street being 108 mph, 86 mph on London Road and 68mph on Picknag Road.
- Speeding has been a priority of the police for many years, but staffing levels have meant that the reality of speed checks and enforcement has been limited, although recently there have been more frequent enforcement checks and there is the possibility that this might be stepped up with visits from a Camera Safety

Van and other Speed Watch technology. The Speed Watch group along with the Parish Council will continue to actively work with the police do what is possible to reduce speeds.

	1	2	3	4	5
Are you concerned about the speed of traffic through Barley (where 1 is very concerned and 5 is not concerned).					

- In Hertfordshire, and indeed nationally, there is a growing campaign for 20pmh speed limits (20 is Plenty).

	Yes	No
Would you like to see a 20mph speed limit introduced through Barley?		
If the introduction of a 20mph limit required supporting engineering works such as street lighting, would this change your view?		

- Along the length of the B1368 from Harston through to Puckeridge, many of the villages have 40 mph Intermediate Speed Limits or Buffer Zones on their approaches. This can contribute towards speed reduction and has a low implementation cost.

	Yes	No
Would you like to see a 40mph buffer zone introduced on the approaches into Barley		

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS – road cleaning and litter picking

Road cleaning is conducted by NHDC and carried out on a monthly cycle. It is reliant on the streets being clear of vehicles to ensure it is carried out effectively

	Yes	No
Do residents who park on the road and need to move a vehicle so the street can be cleaned consider they are notified in a suitable manner and timeframe so they can move their vehicle on the day the street is cleaned?		
Would you like to see more frequent cleaning of the streets of Barley?		

Would you like to contribute to litter picking around Barley village? (an acknowledgment must be given to the sterling efforts of Jan McGill and David King)				
Would you like to contribute to litter picking on the roadside verges leading into Barley?				
	Mthly	1/4ly	6mthly	Annually
What frequency of litter picking would you support				

Please add any comments on the subject of street cleaning and litter picking below, including your contact details if you would like to volunteer to assist with litter picking.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS - footpaths

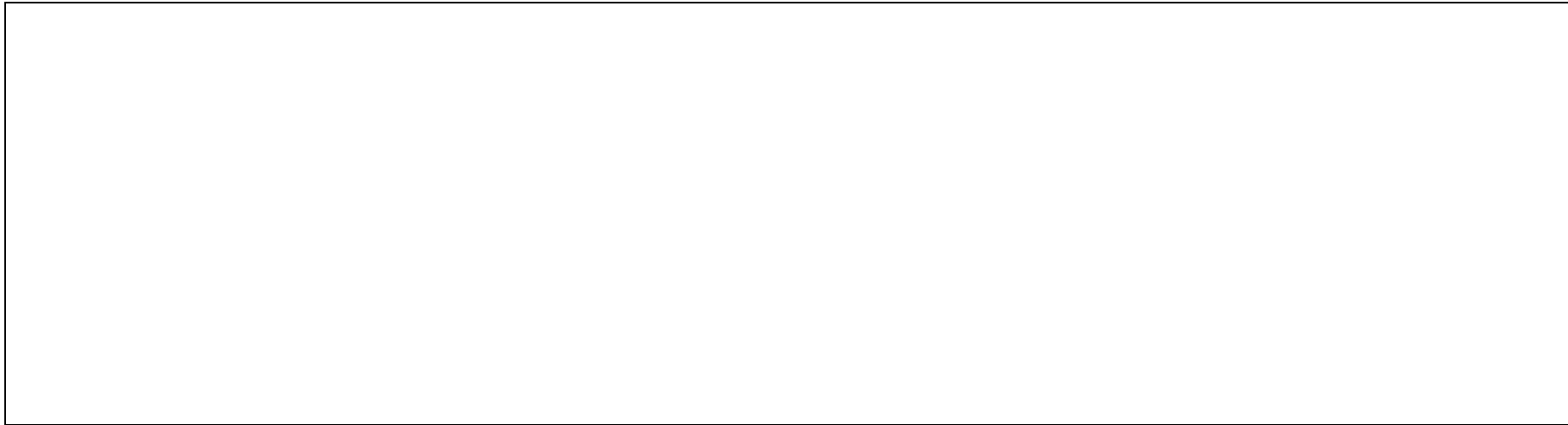
Barley has an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways that have enjoyed increased use during the Covid 19 pandemic.

What if anything would you like to see with regards improvements for footpaths and bridleways. Please comments, for example additional signage.

On the map below please highlight which footpaths might benefit from dog litter bins subject to approval from landowners.



If you have any further suggestions which have not been covered by this questionnaire or general comments, please do use the box below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for users to provide suggestions or general comments. The box is currently blank.



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