

# BARLEY PARISH PLAN 2015



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

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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

The Parish Council wants a plan that draws upon the collective views and aspirations of the people of Barley for their village. The plan will 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 Parish Council asked for volunteers to prepare the plan, prompting a group of villagers to form the Barley Parish Plan Committee; the principal participants are:

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- **Timeline**

The Committee was formed in April 2014. From the outset, members decided they must first consult widely on what villagers would like to see included in the Parish Plan. The Committee had a stand at the 2014 Barley Show to canvass the views of villagers, followed by suggestion boxes located throughout the village that summer. There was a fantastic response, with a wide variety of views, issues and imaginative ideas being shared.

The Committee then compiled a questionnaire, drawing on all the suggestions and comments. The questionnaire was circulated in January 2015, with more than two-thirds of all households in the parish responding. Those responses underpin this Plan; the results were collated and analysed over the following 2 months, before defining priorities, recommending initiatives, proposing actions and responsibilities, and finally writing up the Plan document.

The plan was completed in July 2015. The Committee intends to feed back the results to villagers in August 2015.

- **The way forward**

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.

## 2. CONTEXT

- **History of Barley<sup>1</sup>**

The village of Barley lies at the north eastern tip of Hertfordshire, tucked away in a hollow on top of a hill. Listed in the Domesday Book as Berlei, this was the Norman version of an older name; pre-conquest it may have been known as Beora's Ley, meaning 'a woodland clearing owned by a Saxon Lord called Beora', or Beora sele, which in Old English simply means Beer or Feasting Hall.

Although the village is concentrated around a central meadow, or Plaistow, the parish of Barley is actually far larger. It includes the hamlets at Smith's End, Shaftenhoe End, Abbotsbury and Mincinbury, extending from the A505 close to Royston in the north all the way to Morrice Green in the south. The parish boundaries are ancient; to the north and east the borders once separated the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and East Anglia. The village also lies close to two of the four great highways of medieval England; Ermine Street, a major Roman road and the Icknield Way, the ancient track that links with the Peddars Way and The Ridgeway to create a trail from Norfolk to Wiltshire. The main road through the village was also the medieval route from London to Cambridge.

The land to the north of the village is chalk and gravel; to the south this turns to boulder clay and was once heavily forested. The Barley hills are part of the chalk escarpment known as the East Anglian Heights. They also mark a watershed; to the south and east watercourses form part of the Thames basin area, whilst the streams running northwards off the hills are tributaries of the Great Ouse that flows into the sea at the Wash.

There is evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the parish and settlement from the Iron Age. Groups of Romano-Britons also lived in the area and the Normans viewed Barley as one of the major villages of Hertfordshire. In the late Middle Ages much of the land was owned by religious orders, so there were no resident lords of the manor. After the Dissolution, the pattern of absentee landlords continued; eventually, consolidation by successful tenant farmers and by enclosure resulted in a few large farms.

The parish church of St. Margaret of Antioch was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Otherwise, traditional buildings in the parish mainly date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century; however the Town House with its original timber roof is early Tudor and is one of the oldest village halls in the country, having also been used variously as a school, workhouse and almshouse. The timber-framed Barley Lock Up by the war memorial is 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Always an agricultural community, Barley has also been home to men and women who were great scientists, soldiers, politicians, actors, artists and religious leaders. The first mayor of New York once lived in Barley and two Rectors went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Agricultural and medical advances in the 19<sup>th</sup> century supported larger rural families, so that the population rose to nearly 900 at its peak in the mid 1800's, living in 179 dwellings; but by 1901 the number of residents had fallen to 505, due to agricultural depressions, farm mechanisation and general population drift to towns. Over a century later, the 2011 census shows a population of 662 living in 287 dwellings.

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<sup>1</sup> The committee would like to thank Barley resident Chris Allan for his contribution to this history.

- **Parish boundary**

The full extent of the civil parish is shown on the plan at Appendix A. The parish encompasses an area of approximately 2,725 acres.

To the north and east, the parish boundary is also the county boundary with Cambridgeshire. The northern boundary tracks the Icknield Way footpath, heading eastwards almost as far as Sells Close Farm on the B1368 to Flint Cross. The eastern boundary follows Cumberton Bottom, an ancient drainage ditch, crossing the B1368 and carrying on east of Barley village, across the B1039 Chishill Road at the culvert. It then passes Shaftenhoe End and Mincinbury, running for a short while alongside Little Chishill Road before diverging to follow Water Lane, sharing the border with Essex for a few hundred yards at the south eastern tip of the parish near New Lake.

The most southern point of the parish extends almost to Morrice Green. The boundary then crosses the Nuthampstead Road, following footpaths northwards until reaching Pinner's Cross, where Smith's End Lane meets Bogmore Road. It follows Bogmore Road west towards Barkway, before turning north again, crossing the Cambridge Road. The western boundary cuts through the Newsells estate, crosses the Royston Road just west of the black barns, before continuing northwards past Burloes Farm, until reaching the A505.



- **Composition of Barley parish**

The census of 2001 showed there were 279 dwellings in the parish with a population of 659. The most recent census in 2011 showed little change, with 662 people living in 287 dwellings. The latest official housing figure (from the 2013 North Hertfordshire District Council Street & Property List by Electoral Area) shows 293 dwellings.

Barley is a thriving village with a range of facilities including a first school, doctors' surgery and dispensary, shop, garage and petrol station, two public houses (one closed), a coach operator, riding stables and many other small businesses, some conducted from home. The parish also includes hamlets close to the village and more isolated dwellings, farms and farm buildings. Most of the parish acreage is arable land with some grazing pasture and woodland.

- **Roles and responsibilities for parish affairs:**

- **Parish council: Barley Parish Council**

The parish council is a civil authority and is the lowest, or first, tier of local government. It is an elected body that has tax-raising powers. Parish councils work to improve community well-being and services at the local level.

Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well-being.

Parish councils can provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services including allotments, bus shelters, car parks, open spaces, community transport schemes, events and festivals, footpaths, leisure and sports facilities, litter bins, planning, street cleaning and lighting, traffic calming measures, village greens and youth projects. These existing powers were recently strengthened by powers contained in the Localism Act including the extension of the general power of competence to eligible local councils.

- **District council: North Hertfordshire District Council**

The second tier of local government for Barley is North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC). District councils are responsible for delivering major local services such as housing, leisure and recreation, environmental health, waste collection, planning applications and decisions, and for collecting local taxation.

- **County council: Hertfordshire County Council**

County councils are required to take a strategic view for the whole county across a range of services (including those provided by the district council) as well as being specifically responsible for the direct provision of education, highways, transport planning, passenger transport, social care, libraries, waste disposal and strategic planning.

- **Central government**

Central government sets and maintains national strategic goals, within which local authorities are able to shape the development of their local communities. However, central government remains in control of most revenues from taxation, so that around 75% of the funding for local government spending is allocated from the centre.

- **Voluntary and charitable bodies**

Many other organisations contribute to parish affairs including sporting, heritage, ecclesiastical and other charitable bodies. They are too numerous to mention here, but those that may affect the delivery of this plan are detailed in section 5.

- **Planning, the village settlement boundary and conservation area**

The district council is required to produce a local plan, which must reflect county and national planning policy. It also seeks to identify key areas and characteristics that are considered to be important, e.g. local amenities, the environment, and how new development should be considered. The local plan also identifies settlement boundaries and conservation areas. The settlement boundary or 'village envelope' for Barley is shown in Appendix B. The Barley village conservation area is shown in Appendix C.

North Hertfordshire District Council is in the final stages of public consultation on its local plan for the period 2011-2031 and current expectations are that this will be adopted by the middle of 2017.

The draft local plan makes some key comments on Barley:

- It has a reasonable range of services for a village its size. These services include a primary school, doctor's surgery, post office and general store, petrol filling station/garage and two public houses.
- Barley is identified as a Category A village in the settlement hierarchy. (Category A villages are those where there is a social and economic case for allowing further growth within defined settlement boundaries. Category A villages have been defined by the district council as those with schools.)
- Whilst Barley is smaller than the neighbouring village of Barkway, it does have a wider range of facilities and so does attract visits from both Barkway and other nearby settlements. However, for many requirements residents would still need to visit the nearby town of Royston.
- Barley has grown slowly but more or less continuously over recent centuries and so contains a wide variety of buildings. This includes buildings from the start of the 17th century as well as St Margaret of Antioch Church which originally dates from the 12th century. The Barley conservation area covers much of the village.
- The economy of Barley is mixed and reflects the relatively diverse range of facilities and businesses that exist in the village. In addition to those mentioned above this also includes a coach hire company, doctor's surgery and livery operation.



## 3. THE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Introduction

A comprehensive and anonymous questionnaire was prepared and circulated to every household in the parish, based on the comments and suggestions made by villagers in an initial consultation. A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix D.

- **Response rate**

There are 293 households in the parish, of which 203 responded to the questionnaire; therefore, a resounding 69% of households have contributed to the formulation of opinion in this report.

- **Content of the questionnaire**

The questionnaire asked questions pertaining to:

- The Village Environment
  - Maintenance
  - Broadband
  - Traffic and safety
- The Village Character
  - Aspects of village character
  - New building
- Village amenities and facilities
  - Use and importance of existing amenities and facilities
  - New and improved amenities and facilities
- Community
  - Communications
  - Events and groups
  - Activities for young people

- **Summary of questionnaires**

Households were asked to rate their responses on a scale of 1-5; where 1 equated to **not** important and 5 equated to **very** important, and so forth.

A detailed analysis of the responses to the questionnaire is included in Appendix E; the results are presented there in both graph and pie chart format, together with a summary of comments made. It is not intended to set out the responses in detail here, but rather to provide a summary of each section, drawing out the key points of interest and an indication of the comments made.

## Summary of questionnaire responses

### THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

#### Maintenance

This section (questions A1-A7) asked villagers to rate the importance of 5 actions important to the upkeep and safety of the village's roads and pavements, and 2 actions necessary for the maintenance and hygiene of the village's footpaths and tracks.

##### Roads and pavements

Respondents' primary concerns are to ensure that potholes and worn tarmac surfaces are repaired promptly (with 87% expressing the view that this is quite or very important), and that hedges are cut back regularly at junctions to maintain visibility (with 84% declaring that this is quite or very important).

A considerable number also thought that improving road drainage in the village (66%) and that keeping pavements clean and free of weeds (62%) is quite or very important. Individual comments drew attention to poor drainage in Smith's End Lane, Shaftenhoe End Road, and the High Street.

A significant minority of respondents (36%) expressed the view that more salt bins should be provided (and replaced).

##### Footpaths and tracks

A majority (61%) of respondents thought that the clearing of undergrowth and the removal of overhanging branches on footpaths was important. Slightly less than half (42%) supported the provision of more bins for dog waste, although this subject did prompt 18 comments.

#### Broadband

With Barley scheduled to be connected to the internet by fibre optic cable in September 2015, this section (A8-A10) asked households how important faster broader speeds are to them and for what purposes.

Roughly similar numbers of respondents confirmed that faster broadband is very or quite important for online shopping, entertainment and social media (71%); for education, study, homework or research (70%); and for work or to do business from home (74%).

#### Traffic and Safety

This section (A11-A19) asked villagers about their concerns regarding the speed of traffic in the village and the demand, if any, for the organisations responsible for traffic management in the village (Hertfordshire Police, Highways and Hertfordshire County Council) to take action to reduce speeds and increase road safety. Villagers were asked to express their views on seven different traffic calming and road safety measures that could be deployed in the village.

Three-quarters of all respondents are either very concerned (49%) or quite concerned (26%) about the speed of traffic through Barley, while only 11% in total are either quite unconcerned or not concerned. Two thirds of respondents (67%) want the relevant authorities to take action with regard to speeding.

The specific suggestions for traffic calming and road safety included in the questionnaire received considerably less support in most cases. Answers were very often qualified by comments or supplemented with suggestions for alternative measures (please see the full questionnaire responses in Appendix E).

The imposition of a lower speed limit outside the school was the most popular measure tested in the questionnaire, with 48% of respondents very happy and 14% quite happy with the suggestion. A number of comments advocated a 20mph limit here and elsewhere in the village.

Moderate support was expressed for regular visits from the Hertfordshire Camera Safety Van (26% very happy, 22% quite happy), more frequent police enforcement (very happy 28%, quite happy 17%), and extending the 30mph speed limits beyond the village boundaries (23% very happy, 10% quite happy).

The construction of pinch points, chicanes, and a pedestrian crossing in the High Street, all attracted significantly more negative reaction than positive support. Nine respondents observed that the number of parked cars (especially on the High Street) provided an effective means of reducing traffic speeds. A couple of respondents also pointed out that traffic calming structures could not be constructed without introducing street lighting.

Overall this section generated more comments than any other, not only about speeding; many were concerned with the hazard and obstruction caused by parking in certain places, about HGV traffic, and about road safety at specific locations in the parish.

## **VILLAGE CHARACTER**

### **Aspects of village character**

This section (B1-B12) tried to ascertain which aspects of Barley are valued most highly by its population, including general characteristics of the village as well as specific features or buildings. Comments in this section mostly supplemented the specific questions posed.

A majority of villagers clearly value Barley's rural atmosphere and want it to be preserved; 82% consider this very important (with a further 12% asserting it is quite important). 80% said that retaining views of the surrounding countryside is also very important (with a further 13% saying this is quite important).

Respondents felt that it is important to preserve the existing variety and mix of building styles within the village (81% in total). A majority also thought that maintaining the village's current size is important (57% very important, 18% quite important), as well as sustaining the current population (42% very important, 30% quite important).

The lack of street lighting received majority support (45% very important, 17% quite important), but the comments for and against some form of street lighting were broadly equal. The Plaistow is viewed as integral to Barley's character; 95% viewed its retention as either very important (83%) or quite important (12%).

Respondents also expressed strong support for protecting the physical structures or buildings mentioned in the questionnaire, in particular the Town House, St Margaret of Antioch Church (see also Existing Village Amenities and Facilities below), and the Fox and Hounds gantry. By comparison, preserving the Lockup seems to be slightly less important to the village, although a clear majority still indicated that it was very important (53%), or quite important (21%).

There was slight majority in favour of improving the village entry points, with a total of 54% thinking this to be either very or quite important. This subject prompted some strong comments.

## **New building**

Four questions (B13-B16) were directed to assessing how happy villagers would be to see the building of new houses in and around Barley village and what type of housing development they would support, if any.

The questionnaire results suggest that villagers are on balance prepared to see some in-fill houses built within the village envelope (with 41% very or quite happy, and 35% quite or not happy), but they are strongly against any building outside the village envelope (with only 17% very happy or quite happy, and 61% not happy or quite unhappy).

Slightly fewer respondents were happy (32%) rather than unhappy (39%) at the idea of building additional low cost housing in the village, with others quite neutral on this point (27%). However, when asked how happy they would be for a larger development to be built if it were necessary to fund this low cost housing, a large majority of respondents (71%) were not happy at all (with a further 8% quite unhappy).

## **VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES**

### **Existing amenities and facilities**

This section (C1-C20) asked about some of the more prominent aspects of the village, chosen for their visual or historic significance, or as providers of important services, or a combination of both factors. In particular, for each one there was a separate question about use and value, because to assume they are the same thing can lead to wrong conclusions. The comments box allowed people to add other aspects they considered particularly important.

Taking the Town House and Church together, the pattern of use and valuation of the two buildings is not dissimilar. Both are used regularly (at least monthly) by moderate numbers of villagers (37% for the Town House, and 16% for the Church), and both are used at least occasionally by a majority (55% and 53%, respectively). Overall however, villagers value these buildings very highly; 73% think the Town House very important (with a further 19% saying it is quite important), and 59% think the Church very important (with a further 17% stating it is quite important).

With 87% of respondents shopping there daily or weekly, and a further 9% using it monthly, the village shop is the most frequently used village facility. An overwhelming 94% also consider it very important and valuable.

The Post Office is used less (although a possibly optimistic 17% of respondents state that they use it on a daily basis, and a further 50% weekly), but the continuation of its services are considered highly important by 88% of respondents.

Both the footpaths in and around Barley, and the Plaistow are amenities used frequently by a large number of villagers, and both are valued highly by respondents. 75% use the footpaths weekly or more often, with a further 15% using them monthly. 42% use the Plaistow weekly or more often, with a further 24% monthly. Over three-quarters of those responding think that the continuing availability of both the footpaths (82%) and the Plaistow (79%) is very important.

With 91% of respondents rating it very important (and a further 4% quite important), the doctors' surgery clearly remains a highly valued service to the village and surrounding district, regardless of the frequency of visits by each household, which were stated to be monthly by 57% of respondents (although this may also include dropping off and collection of prescriptions).

The questionnaire also asked about Drayton's garage, The Chequers pub, and Barley Cricket Club. Not surprisingly, villagers record lower and less frequent use of these facilities than those covered above. However, all three are valued by a majority of the village, with a total of 74% rating Drayton's either very or quite important, 86% for The Chequers, and 60% for the Cricket Club.

In the comments section, a few people asked why the school or tennis club had not been included. The continuing of a school in the village is driven primarily by the fluctuating number of school-age children and no preference of residents will affect that, although provision of affordable housing might. The use of the Tennis Club is known and its value reflected in its membership; it is also part of the general amenity of the Plaistow.

However over 11% of all respondents asked why the Fox and Hounds had not been included, all supporting its continued use as a pub. It wasn't included because the committee thought that its closure is currently primarily a commercial issue, albeit with a community/public policy component. If a change of use is applied for, the running must be made quickly through a concerted campaign by all those interested; the Parish Plan is a different forum with a different timescale.

## **New and improved village amenities and facilities**

This section (C22-C36) asked villagers to give their opinions about a variety of improvements to village amenities and facilities that were identified from suggestions made in the initial phase of consultation.

### **The Plaistow**

Of the seven improvements suggested for the Plaistow, only two received support from a significant number of respondents. A total of 62% were agreed that the play area should be

renewed with equipment for all children, further validating the fundraising activities already being progressed by the Barley Playground Refurbishment Committee (see section 5). 61% of respondents also supported the suggestion of providing proper access for prams and wheelchair users.

A large minority (46%) supported having more rubbish bins but 34% of respondents were neutral on this point, although this question again prompted comments about dog-fouling. A smaller group (41%) were positive about a picnic area and tables, but 29% were again neutral. Ideas for basketball nets and hard play areas, zip-wires and skateboard ramps received less support and stronger opposition, but in all these cases at least a quarter of respondents were noncommittal.

The limited number of comments made about the Plaistow and the number of neutral responses reinforces the view that improvements should focus on accessibility and the play area.

### **Other outdoor amenities**

Under this section no suggestion had clear majority support, but two were supported by large minorities. The idea of a footpath from Barley to Great Chishill attracted a positive response from 49% of respondents; the proposal for a cycleway to Royston was supported by 48%. The lack of support for the other four suggestions is perhaps because these focus on specific interest groups, rather than having more universal appeal. However, if all village amenities required majority involvement, there would be no Tennis Club or any allotments, so perhaps other interests with strong minority support, such as horse riding, should also be supported?

### **The Town House**

This section asked villagers for their response to the suggested renovation of the Town House's infrastructure and equipment. A total of 65% of respondents thought that renovation of the Town House's roof and interior was very (34%) or quite (31%) important. While this level of support is not up with the value and importance to villagers of the Town House, only 5% of respondents stated that renovation was not important. A majority (56%) of respondents also supported the idea of rejuvenating the catering facilities.

The comments section included a wide variety of ideas for other amenities and facilities that can be read in Appendix E.

## **COMMUNITY**

In this section (D1-D13) a total of 11 questions were asked covering 3 aspects of community life:

- a) **Communications** within the village, both current provision and what improvements could be made.
- b) **Events and groups**; respondents were asked to indicate which suggested village activities they would be interested in.
- c) **Activities for young people**; households with children aged between 10-15 were invited to rate the importance in the village of a place for young people to meet and organise activities, while children were asked to express their interest in going to this kind of facility.

## Communications

Residents were asked how difficult it is to find out what is happening in the village. Overall, there is no clear view on this; one third of respondents said it was difficult, but roughly one third also gave a neutral opinion, while 27% answered that it isn't difficult.

There was apparent consensus among respondents that improvements could be made to village communications by more frequent updating of information on and greater use of the village's existing means of communication, rather than adding further systems or channels. So, while only 25% of respondents thought that more bulletin boards would be useful, 55% stated that they would like bulletin boards to be updated more frequently. A majority of respondents (59%) would like the information on the village website to be updated more frequently, but there was only limited support (28%) for establishing a Barley Facebook page. Two-thirds of respondents believe greater use should be made of the Diary to publicise village events. This response also suggests that villagers see the Diary as a valuable asset.

No comments box was provided for this section, but that proved no barrier to communication as respondents simply used box D10 instead; their views can be read in Appendix E.

## Events and groups

Support within the village for attending film and theatre events is relatively high. 55% of respondents indicated they would attend cinema screenings on the Plaistow or in the Town House, and 59% expressed some or a lot of interest in attending theatre productions on the Plaistow. By contrast, there was limited interest in forming a village drama group, with only 12% of respondents indicating any interest in participating.

This section elicited a wide variety of other suggestions for cultural, educational, and recreational events from 18 respondents. The most popular of these appears to be the organising of some form of music event(s) on the Plaistow or in the Town House. A summary of the suggestions can be seen under D10 in Appendix E.

## Activities for young people

The majority (72%) of households who answered the question thought it was important to provide a place for young people to meet and organise their own activities. However, Barley's young people themselves seemed a little less enthusiastic; 59% of those who responded expressed moderate or high interest in going to such a club or place, although only 18% expressed little or no interest.

When asked what activities could be organised for young people, a wide variety of suggestions were given. However it appears that by this point some commentators, in their enthusiasm to contribute, overlooked the age group restriction, so comments should be treated with caution.

## ANYTHING ELSE

A final invitation to comment on anything not covered elsewhere in the questionnaire also generated a wide variety of suggestions and opinions, which can all be read in Appendix E.

## 4. VILLAGERS' OPINIONS AND PRIORITIES

The purpose of this section of the plan is to gauge the overall strength of opinion that villagers expressed when answering each question, in order to rank the importance and priority that the questionnaire responses gave to each issue or suggestion.

- The following tables have been collated from the questionnaire results, as detailed in Appendix E: Responses to Village Questionnaire.
- In the tables the sections are in same order as the questionnaire, but within each sub-section the answers are ranked by strength of opinion, rather than the original question order.
- To determine the rankings from responses rated 1 to 5;
  - Responses which gave no answer or were neutral (3) were disregarded
  - The number of respondents answering *quite important* (4) and *very important* (5) were added together as **A**
  - The number of respondents answering *quite unimportant* (2) and *not important* (1) were added together as **B**
  - **B** was subtracted from **A**, and the result divided by the total number of questionnaire responses (203) then multiplied by 100 to produce the strength indicator.

$$\text{Strength Indicator} = \frac{(A - B)}{203} \times 100$$

- The questionnaire asked villagers to identify the frequency of use for certain existing facilities; the results of those questions have not been included here as they are a matter of fact, not an opinion or priority. However as mentioned earlier, these responses help to interpret the opinions recorded, and the full results are contained in Appendix E.
- Within the Community section of the questionnaire, villagers were asked to agree or disagree with the statement "*It is difficult to find out what is happening in the village*"; the response to this question has been omitted here as it cannot be prioritised against the answers to the other questions in that section. Again the results to this question are included in Appendix E.
- In the final sub-section on Community, two questions were posed about activities for young people; they were directed at different age groups so cannot be directly compared. As before they are excluded here and the results can be found in Appendix E.

<b>THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT</b>		<b>Strength indicator</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>		
1	Prompt repair of potholes and worn surfaces	84
2	Cutting hedges at junctions to maintain visibility	80
3	Improving road drainage in the village	54
4	Cleaning back undergrowth and overhanging branches from footpaths.	53
5	Keeping pavements and gutters clean and weed free.	47
6	More bins for dog waste	17
7	More salt bins	7
<b>Broadband (requirement or purpose of use)</b>		
1	Work or business from home	62
2	Shopping, entertainment, social media or browsing	61
3	Education, study, homework or research	58
<b>Traffic and safety</b>		
1	Concerned about the speed of traffic	63
2	Want action taken to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety	51
3	Lower speed limit outside school	47
4	Regular visits from the County's camera safety van	22
5	More frequent police enforcement	16
6	Chicanes	-11
7	Pinch points	-12
8	Speed limits extended further beyond village boundaries	-13
9	Pedestrian crossing in the High Street	-20

<b>VILLAGE CHARACTER</b>		<b>Strength indicator</b>
<b>Aspects of village character</b>		
1	Protecting the Town House Building	96
2=	Keeping the Plaistow as an open space	95
2=	Retaining the rural atmosphere	95
4	Keeping the views of the surrounding open countryside	93
5	Protecting St Margaret of Antioch church	86
6	Retaining the variety and mix of building styles	81
7	Maintaining the Fox and Hounds gantry	76
8	Preserving the lock up	68
9	Maintaining the current size of the village	67
10	Maintaining the current population of the village	65
11	Improving the appearance of the village entry points	42
12	Not having street lighting in the village	41
<b>New building</b>		
1	Happy for some infill houses to be built within the village envelope	6
2	Happy for additional low cost housing in the village	-7
3	Happy for houses to be built outside the village envelope	-45
4	Happy for a larger development, if it is necessary to fund low cost housing	-71

<b>VILLAGE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES</b>		<b>Strength indicator</b>
<b>EXISTING AMENITIES AND FACILITIES</b>		
<b>Importance of continuing availability</b>		
<b>1</b>	Village shop	98
<b>2</b>	Village footpaths	95
<b>3</b>	Post office	94
<b>4</b>	Doctors surgery	93
<b>5</b>	Plaistow	92
<b>6</b>	Town House	91
<b>7</b>	The Chequers	81
<b>8=</b>	Draytons' garage	64
<b>8=</b>	Church	64
<b>10</b>	Cricket club	42
<b>NEW AND IMPROVED AMENITIES AND FACILITIES</b>		
<b>The Plaistow</b>		
<b>1</b>	Renew the children's play area with equipment for all ages	52
<b>2</b>	Better access to the Plaistow for prams and wheelchairs	49
<b>3</b>	More rubbish bins	32
<b>4</b>	Picnic tables and picnic area	16
<b>5</b>	Basketball net and hard playing area	-3
<b>6</b>	Children's zip wire	-11
<b>7</b>	Skate board and scooter ramp	-29
<b>Other outdoor amenities</b>		
<b>1</b>	Footpath from Barley to Great Chishill	28
<b>2</b>	Cycleway to Royston	19
<b>3</b>	More places to walk dogs off lead	4
<b>4</b>	Fitness trail	1
<b>5</b>	Additional bridleways	0
<b>6</b>	More allotment plots	-6
<b>The Town House</b>		
<b>1</b>	Renovate the roof, etc.	59
<b>2</b>	Rejuvenate the catering facilities	43

<b>Community</b>		<b>Strength indicator</b>
<b>Communications</b>		
<b>1</b>	Greater use of the diary to publicise village events and activities	56
<b>2</b>	More frequent updating of information on the village web site	47
<b>3</b>	More frequent updating of information on existing bulletin boards	40
<b>4</b>	More bulletin boards	-11
<b>5</b>	A Facebook page for Barley	-12
<b>Events and groups</b>		
<b>1</b>	Attend theatre productions on the Plaistow	39
<b>2</b>	Attend cinema screenings	33
<b>3</b>	Get involved in village drama group	-52

## 5. MOVING FORWARD: Initiatives, responsibilities and actions

### Introduction

In order to deliver any element of this plan, there is a need to engage with a wide variety of organisations; not to mention encouraging villagers to get directly involved, which will be an essential part of turning many suggestions from this plan into live projects. Organisations may be statutory, discretionary or voluntary and so may have differing responsibilities in terms of any specific project. Furthermore, all organisations which may be able to assist will inevitably have funding constraints and mandates which place limits on the type of support they can give. So it will be necessary to engage widely, and for villagers to be proactive, recognising the importance of self-help to transform their great ideas into reality.

The following pages list the initiatives that may be taken, 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:

In the tables following, the column headed 'Responsibility' lists those groups or bodies that must be involved, but it does not necessarily mean that each one has an obligation to support any proposal. The column headed 'Timeframe' relates to the Action in the previous column, not when the village priority will be delivered.

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
FOSStM	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

Details of the scope and responsibilities of these bodies, and relevant contacts, can be found at Appendix F.

## The Village Environment

### Maintenance

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Timeframe
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.	Ongoing
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.	Ongoing
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 ( <i>Details in Appendix E</i> ).  Funds are constrained	BPC can lobby to ensure clear priorities are agreed and villagers informed.	Ongoing
			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	Ongoing
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	Ongoing
			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 ( <i>Details in Appendix E</i> )	BPC to request 2-3 new bins from NHDC, based on sites suggested in comments box	End 2015
7 More salt bins	HCC	This is a health and safety issue. Specific sites were suggested in questionnaire comments box ( <i>Details in Appendix E</i> ).	BPC to lobby HCC	Ongoing

## Broadband

The questionnaire asked villagers to gauge the importance of access to the internet (and faster broadband speeds) for a range of different purposes including work, education, and shopping, social media and entertainment. Many comments were received about slow internet speeds.

A fibre optic connection to the local exchange is due to be installed and commissioned by September 2015. However, the questionnaire results

demonstrate that villagers' employment, education and lifestyles increasingly rely upon fast internet access to the outside world. The internet should be recognised now as an important element of the general infrastructure supporting successful rural communities, those which are not simply retirement or dormitory villages.

## Traffic and safety

- In conjunction with Hertfordshire Constabulary (HC), a Speed Watch group was established in Barley in 2011; its purpose is to address traffic speed and road safety in the village.  
The group now works under the auspices of the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (HPCC) and is known as DriveSafe (DS).
- Data from HC and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) show that traffic speeds within Barley village have continued to increase over the last 15 years:
  - Traffic exceeding 50mph is up tenfold on 2006 figures
  - A survey undertaken in 2011 on Cambridge Road recorded more than 2 vehicles a day exceeding 71mph.
- Some of the issues identified in the questionnaire have already been raised by DS and some progress is being made.

- DS has also raised the possibility of reintroducing rumble strips on the B1368 entrances to the village as an alternative to extending speed limits beyond the village boundaries.
- Many comments were made by respondents about other traffic and road safety issues; not just speeding inside the 30mph zone. The most commonly mentioned was the hazard and obstruction caused by parking, but comments were also made about sight lines, HGV traffic, increasing traffic flows and road safety at specific locations in the parish.
- It is important that the Barley DS group has a direct and continuing 2-way dialogue with villagers, to inform and give credence to its discussions with HPCC, HC, HCC (Highways Department) and BPC.
- The principle points of contact for Barley DS group are listed in Appendix F.

<b>Villagers priorities</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>1</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>2</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>3</b> 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.	Funding possible from 2016 budget.
<b>4</b> Regular visits from the County's camera safety van	HCC Highways HC, BPC DS		Currently being discussed between DS, HC and HCC Highways department	Ongoing
<b>5</b> More frequent police enforcement	HC BPC, DS		Together with BPC, DS has now negotiated regular police enforcement in the village as a priority.	Ongoing
<b>6</b> 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.	Keep under review
<b>7</b> Pinch points	HCC Highways BPC DS	Village opinion did not support strongly. Also normally lit at night.	As above	Keep under review
<b>8</b> 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	Ongoing: HCC to set out options
<b>9</b> 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.	Review again in 2017

## Village Character

### Aspects of village character

- The questionnaire responses in this section were clear and unambiguous; over 90% of respondents consider it is important to retain the rural character of the village, to ensure that the views of the surrounding countryside are not lost and to keep and maintain historical landmarks such as The Plaistow and the Town House.
- Barley has grown at a measured pace, allowing it to evolve in such a way that its historic features and landmarks have been retained and still play an important part in the life of the village in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- In 1969 the majority of the village was designated as Conservation Area (see plan at Appendix C), recognising that it is an area of special architectural or historic interest, where the character needs to be respected. It is the whole character of a place that gives a Conservation Area its very distinctive and special qualities. So as well as the merits of individual buildings, their layout and density are all important, including valuable historic open spaces and important trees.
- BPC has constantly sought to protect the character of Barley, particularly in its discussions with NHDC, whilst recognising that its evolution has to continue if it is to meet the needs of villagers.
- Villagers have shown that they value Barley's historic buildings; however, issues of funding and wider support must be addressed, to protect and maintain them going forward. The village has two notable heritage buildings, the Town House and the church; both contribute significantly to the village's character and amenity.
- Support for the church as a prominent village feature and amenity mirrors that of the Town House, albeit at slightly lower levels; the funding model however is no longer viable. There is no external funding from Church Authorities or the State to maintain the building and keep it open. All funds have to be raised in the parish, either by fundraising events or donations, and most donations towards the Church as an amenity now come from a very small group of parishioners.

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Timeframe
<b>1</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>2</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>3</b> 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.	Ongoing

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Timeframe
			Villagers to continue making their views known and to take part in any consultations affecting the village.	
<b>4</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>5</b> 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.	BPCC 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.	End 2015
<b>6</b> 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.)	Ongoing
<b>7</b> Maintaining the Fox and Hounds gantry	Property-owner, NHDC, HE	This is Grade II listed; NHDC has the power to take action to ensure listed buildings are maintained, but such action could involve NHDC in direct costs, so there is a general reluctance by local authorities to exercise such powers.	BPC to contact owner first, to request necessary maintenance is done.	Ongoing
<b>8</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>9</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>10</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>11</b> 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.	Ongoing
<b>12</b> 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.	Ongoing

## New building

- This section sought opinions from villagers and therefore there are no specific actions to be taken on the findings, other than the need for BPC to ensure that NHDC is aware of these findings and for BPC to reference villagers' opinion in any consultations to do with new building.
- Nowadays the statutory planning framework largely shapes the built environment of Barley village, 'influencing new development whilst seeking to protect and enhance the environment and the historic character of the village and surrounding area'.
- NHDC is required to consult with BPC on planning applications, but is not bound by the responses it receives; although in the main NHDC has been sympathetic to the views of BPC on planning and development issues.
- BPC has, and will, continue to object strongly to any proposals that would detract from the rural atmosphere of the village or result in a loss of its rural vistas. The views of the village expressed in this village plan will be cited by BPC in their discussions and consultations with NHDC.
- From 2010-2015 BPC actively participated in the NHDC Strategic Land Allocation Assessment consultation, seeking to protect Barley from large developments that would have significantly increased the size of the village and its population. It also lobbied for the promotion of the full use of 'brownfield' sites across the district for development as the preferable means of accommodating growth in the District.
- In the draft Local Plan for the period 2011-2031, NHDC has shown a good understanding of the strong desire of residents for Barley to remain a small rural village.

Villagers opinions	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Timeframe
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 <sup>st</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> bullet points	Ongoing
2 For additional low cost housing the in the village	As above	Village opinion was very slightly against	See above – 1 <sup>st</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> bullet points	Ongoing
3 For houses to be built outside the village envelope	As above	Village opinion was strongly against	See above – 1 <sup>st</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> bullet points	Ongoing
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 <sup>st</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> bullet points	Ongoing

## Village Amenities and Facilities

### Existing amenities and facilities

No action is required on the findings of this section, other than the need for the BPC to reference the opinions of the villagers' in any future decision-making.

### New and improved village amenities and facilities

#### The Plaistow

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Timeframe
1 Renew the children's play area with equipment for all ages	BPRC, supported by BPC	Refurbishment plan prepared – see below	See below	Summer 2016
2 Better access to the Plaistow for prams and wheelchairs	BPC		BPC to identify and assess the ways to improve access	End 2015
3 More rubbish bins	NHDC		BPC to lobby NHDC	Ongoing
4 Picnic tables and picnic area	BPRC, supported by BPC		To be considered as part of playground refurbishment plan	Summer 2016
5 Basketball net and hard playing area	BPC	Little village support for this facility	BPC to keep under review	Medium term
6 Children's zip wire	BPC	Little village support for this facility	BPC to keep under review	Medium term
7 Skate board and scooter ramp	BPC	Little village support for this facility	BPC to keep under review	Medium term

#### Playground Refurbishment Plan

- The Barley Playground Refurbishment Committee (BPRC) was formed in 2014 by eight mothers, working on behalf of the BPC.
- The existing playground is old, run down and badly needs upgrading and modernising. The BPRC would like to create a wonderful environment for the children of Barley; somewhere modern, safe, interesting and challenging for children of all ages to play, all year round.
- A plan has been prepared which can be viewed by contacting BPRC. The aim is to have the playground completed by the summer of 2016.
- To date, approximately £5,000 has been raised from various fundraising events, grants and donations; to achieve the full planned refurbishment, a further £ 50,000 is needed to meet the target.
- A number of Government grants exist for such projects, and all possibilities are being explored. The committee is hoping to receive local support for its fundraising campaign. All donations and sponsorship deals will be recognised in an appropriate way in signage at the park, fundraising documentation and press releases.
- For BPRC contact details see Appendix F.

## 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.
- The object is to encourage and enable sporting functions, such as football matches, to take place once again on the Plaistow.
- 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.

## Other outdoor amenities

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Timeframe
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	Explore interest by March 2016
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	Explore interest by March 2016
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.	Summer 2016
4 Fitness trail	NHDC, BPC	Insufficient funding available at this time to pursue this.	No action	N/A
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	By Summer 2016
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	By Summer 2016

## The Town House

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Action	Timeframe
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.	End 2015
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.	End 2015

## Community

### Communications

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Actions	Timeframe
1 Greater use of The Diary to publicise village events and activities	Villagers Village groups		Email contributions to <a href="mailto:diary@bandoodle.co.uk">diary@bandoodle.co.uk</a> Jane Greening: 01763 848 202 Lucy Schönberger: 07967 979087	By the end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of each month
2 More frequent updating of information on the village web site	Villagers, Village groups, BPC	Notice of diary events to Marc O'Brien: <a href="mailto:marcatbarley@gmail.com">marcatbarley@gmail.com</a>	BPC to consider redesign of village web site and mobilising required expertise. Update all website sections and content.	Ongoing
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	Ongoing
4 More bulletin boards	BPC	Insufficient demand to pursue this.	None	N/A
5 A Facebook page for Barley	BPC	Insufficient demand to pursue this.	None	N/A

### Events and Groups

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Actions	Timeframe
1 Theatre productions on The Plaistow	Villagers	Need to be self-funding	Interested villagers to organise in co-operation with BPC	N/A
2 Cinema screenings	Villagers	Need to be self-funding	As above	N/A
3 Village drama group	Villagers	Consider linking with Barkway Players	Interested villagers to organise new Barley drama group, or link up with Barkway Players	N/A

### Activities for young people

Villagers priorities	Responsibility	Comments	Actions	Timeframe
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.	Summer 2016

## 6. CONCLUSION

The objective set by the Parish Council for the Parish Plan, was for a document which drew upon the **collective views and aspirations of the people of Barley for their village**. Those views and aspirations have been comprehensively sought out and reported on in detail in this document and are the foundation for the proposed way forward.

The Plan will now be used by the Parish Council to help identify priorities for the village, attract funding for projects, and direct appropriately the limited existing resources available to it. However, the Parish Council cannot do these things in a vacuum; nor can the Plan be allowed to remain static, fixed at a particular point in time when first issued. It must be regularly reviewed and will need to be periodically updated, so that it remains an accurate, relevant and informative document for the village.

This Plan is not intended to be prescriptive, but rather to focus attention on what matters to villagers and on their main priorities. It has been apparent throughout the compilation of this Plan how enthusiastic Barley residents are for their village and its surroundings; this considerable enthusiasm, and goodwill, must be harnessed and encouraged if the more challenging projects (whether in terms of effort or money) are to be realised.

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.

It is for the Parish Council now to embrace and take forward this Plan, not just as an aid to formal council decision-making, but also to enable it to act as a facilitator to help villagers realise their aspirations for their village.



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