# CHERHILL AND YATESBURY Parish Plan 2010







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## 1.0 Introduction

# **Background**

The Parish of Cherhill is situated in the North of Wiltshire, some 3 miles east of the nearest town, Calne and 14 miles South West of the major conurbation of Swindon. The parish contains the villages of Cherhill, with a population of approx. 580 and Yatesbury, with a population of approx. 140. The parish comes under the jurisdiction of Wiltshire Council and is situated in the Calne Community Area of the County.

## A Brief History of Rural Obscurity

In common with much of rural Wiltshire the Cherhill Parish area holds the remains of human endeavour from prehistoric times. Traces of Neolithic habitation have been found at Yatesbury and the parish lies immediately north of the Bronze Age fort known as Oldbury Castle. The remains of both Roman and Saxon dwellings have been found in the parish and both Cherhill and Yatesbury had manor houses in medieval and later times. Perhaps the most obvious site is the Cherhill White Horse, cut into the hillside south of the parish in 1780 under the direction of Dr Alsop, a medical doctor from Calne.

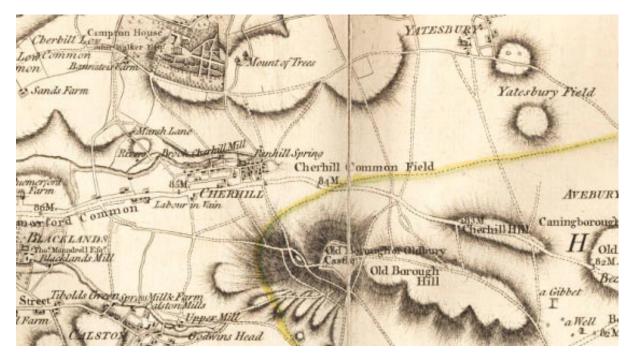
Whilst the area has been agricultural throughout history, a major change came about with the 1916 construction of the Bristol Aircraft Company Flying School on land near Yatesbury. The airfield went through various iterations, coming into full Air Ministry ownership in 1939 as RAF Yatesbury and finally closing in 1964. In 2006 work commenced on the sympathetic conversion of some of the old airfield buildings to residential and business use. Unfortunately, the current economic climate has caused the suspension of the work.

# **How Things Have Changed**

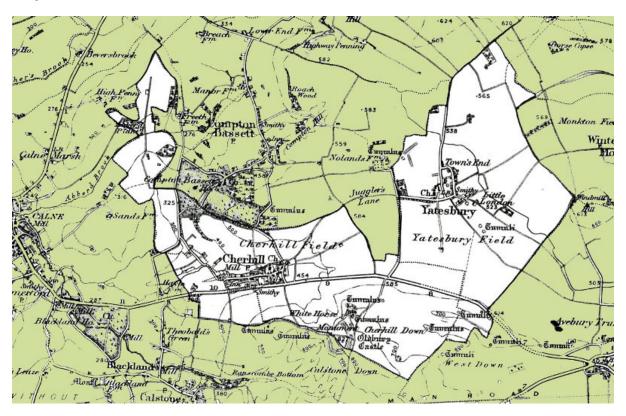
In the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the Vicar of Cherhill, the Revd Plenderleath, approached the owner of over 90% of the land in Cherhill and suggested that a committee of tenant farmers be formed to consider the scope and funding of local celebrations of the event. The landowner's response was both unequivocal and to the point - under no circumstances should such a committee be created – they might want to make decisions! Since that time both land ownership and attitudes seem to have changed considerably!

# **Continuity and Change**

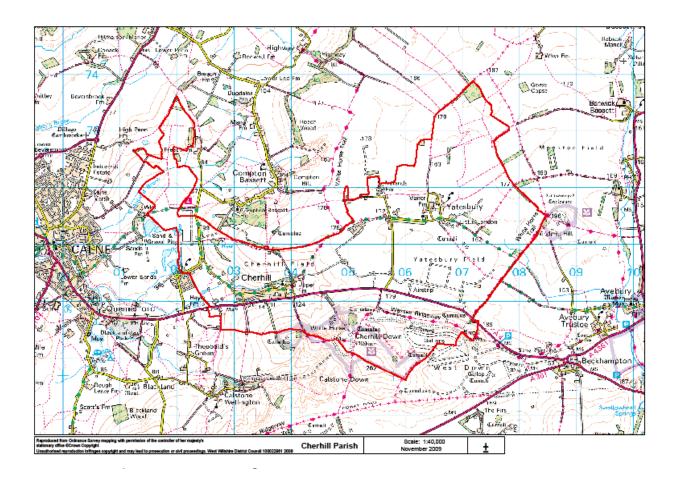
# Map Circa: 1773



# Map Circa: 1898



## Map: 2009



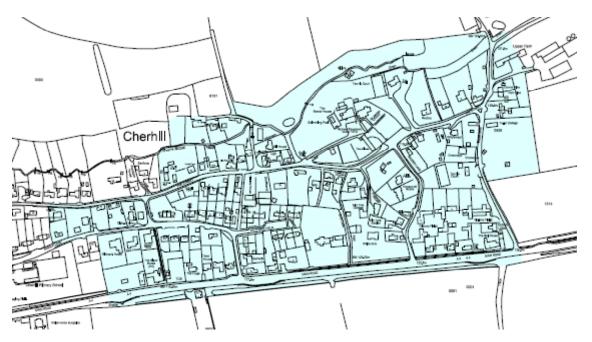
## **Cherhill Village Design Statement**

Cherhill Parish Councillors worked with others to try to create the Village Design Statement which would identify the type of development that would be acceptable in the village in the future. Much work was carried out to identify what the characteristics of the village were and on creating a comprehensive statement with photos. This work was commenced under the former North Wiltshire District Council but was overtaken by a change to the planning system. Had the statement been completed, this Village Design Statement would have been a valuable reference for the future development in the village.

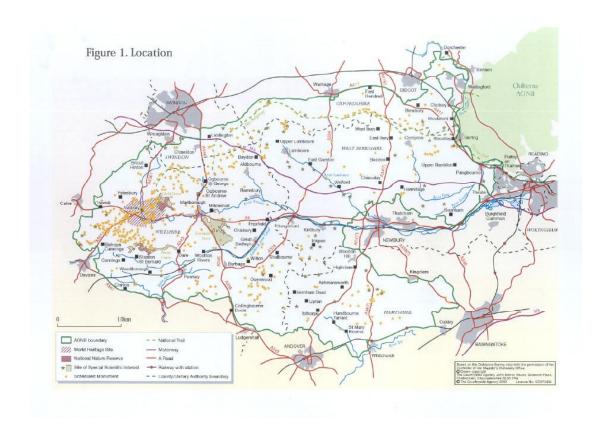
## **Cherhill Conservation Area**

Cherhill had a small Conservation Area centred round the Church and Manor House. In 1998 after public consultation and at a public meeting, it was agreed that the conservation area would be extended to include more of the village, to give added weight to planning considerations when decisions about developments were being made. The enlarged Conservation Area included most of the listed buildings and other buildings of historic interest in the village.

# **Cherhill Conservation Area Map**



# North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)



Most of Cherhill and all of Yatesbury are located within the AONB at its eastern boundary. The AONB covers much of Wiltshire and includes parts of Oxfordshire and Hampshire. The AONB gives protective coherence to one of the largest tracts of chalk downland in southern England which is one of the least affected by development.

# **Footpaths, Bridleways and Byways**

Cherhill and Yatesbury benefit from a good network of rights of way running through the parishes. These enable people to access the surrounding countryside as well as travel between villages. The national cycle route (NCN 403) runs through Cherhill and Yatesbury connecting Calne and Avebury and further networks.

## **Sights of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

Cherhill Downs are part of the Calstone and Cherhill SSSI, which is an extensive area of unimproved pasture of exceptional botanical quality, with one of the most species-rich examples in southern England.

#### 2.0 The Parish Plan

Parish Plans are a Central Government initiative, initially managed via DEFRA. The decision to produce a Cherhill Parish Plan was made at a public Parish meeting in June 2006, facilitated by Community First and a committee of volunteers assumed the task.

A comprehensive household survey, in the form of a 78-question document, broken down into 8 sections, was distributed to all households in the parish in late 2007 and elicited a 69% response. Although the majority of the questions were designed to produce a 'tick the box' response, respondents were given the space and opportunity to include remarks.

Given the scale and scope of the questionnaire and the excellent response, the analysis and consideration of the results required considerable time and effort. Analysis for Nolands residents was separated from Yatesbury because at the time of the survey Nolands was part of Compton Bassett Parish, but is now part of Yatesbury as a result of boundary changes in April 2009. The initial analysis of the responses was presented to parishioners at public meetings held in September 2009. Some minor changes were made as a result of those meetings and these are incorporated in the final plan. It is intended that the plan will be submitted to the Calne Community Area Partnership, Calne Area Board, Wiltshire Council and other interested bodies.

#### **Results Overview**

It is clear from the results of the questionnaire and the verbatim comments provided by respondents, that people like living in the rural environment provided by the parish and are broadly content with their lifestyle. Residents appreciate the relative personal security and low level of crime that can be found in rural areas. However, in common with the majority of rural communities, we are affected by a declining support infrastructure (no shop/post office, poor public transport etc). All these and other problems are highlighted in the following sections of this plan, as are steps that have already been taken and a range of intended actions.

# 3.0 Summary of Responses and Action Plans

#### Introduction

Within each section of the action plan timescales for completion are indicated. In general we have used:

- Short term Up to one year
- Medium Term Up to two years
- Long Term Over two years

## **Village Matters**

Many residents in the parish identified that the "*The Villages*", the church magazine, was their main source of information about parish events and activities. Notice boards are also seen as a major source of information and the Cherhill Village and School websites all appeared to be very under-used. The majority of those surveyed felt that they didn't receive enough information about the activities and events within the parish.

A number of people asked for a newsletter or similar that wasn't church based. There was also a notable demand for the notice boards to be updated more regularly.

When asked about the Parish Council, most people felt that they knew what the role of the Parish Council was, but were uncertain about its activities. Awareness of District and County Councillors (now Wiltshire Councillors) and their roles was low. However, awareness of who the MP was and his role, was much higher. The results in this section suggested that, whilst most people understood the structures of local government, they didn't necessarily feel involved in the process.

VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
A coordon on non	The exection of a	Device Coursil and	Ch and tanna
A secular or non religious newsletter for the parish incorporating better publicity of Parish Council and other local meetings and activities	The creation of a new parish newsletter, or the revamp of an existing one. Parish council to find new ways to make their activities and decisions better known	Parish Council and Parochial Church Council	Short term
The creation of/better use of a parish/village(s) website	Existing Website to be promoted/publicised or a new one to be created	Parish Council and Parish Community Groups	Short term
Publicity and awareness of the new Local Area Board and its activities.	Local Area Board to find ways to engage with parish residents.	Wiltshire Council and Calne Area Board	Medium Term



Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations - Yatesbury 1977

# **Faith and Community**

The survey asked whether respondents regarded themselves as being part of a religious group. 35% of respondents stated that they did, with similar percentages from Cherhill and Yatesbury. When asked whether their place of worship was in the Parish, 25% of the respondents replied that it was, but this would not take account of those who travel to other places of worship outside the Parish. Nationally the average for people attending a church at least once a month is 15%. Cherhill and Yatesbury Anglican parish churches, which are the only public places of worship in the Parish, adhere to the ecumenical protocol to encourage all Christian denominations and extend a genuine welcome to all.

The only school in the Parish is in Cherhill and is a Church of England Aided School. People were asked whether they thought the school was a faith school and 24% thought that it was.

People were asked whether their place of worship was important to them for various reasons. 31% replied that it was important for regular worship, slightly less for baptism, more for weddings and funerals.

42% of those who responded regarded the places of worship as important as the focal point of the community. This would indicate that Church related events keep the Church in the public eye and enhance community spirit. Roughly the same number felt the churches were important as historic buildings (they are Grade 1 Listed).

The role of the Church in the community is to care for the whole community; those who go to church regularly, occasionally, or not at all. The Church is a resource for all, whether people have faith or not, to support and uphold them in good times and in bad. This ethos is best expressed through the occasional offices of weddings and funerals.

VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Parish places of worship seen as central to village life	Encourage those who do not attend church to become involved in church activities	Parish Priest and Parochial Church Council	Long term
All parishioners understand that Cherhill C of E Aided school is a faith school	Give information in "The Villages" and in churches to explain faith school values	Parish Priest and Parochial Church Council	Long term



**Cherhill Carol Singing 2009** 

# Household

The Parish of Cherhill consists of some 297 households (2001 Census data), giving a total population of some 720, mainly in the settlements of Cherhill and Yatesbury. At that time the average age of the population was 43 years.

VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Little or no more housing development in Cherhill	Further infill should be controlled by robust planning processes	Wiltshire Council, Parish Council, Elected Wiltshire Councillor	Medium term
Controlled development in and around Yatesbury	Encourage controlled development	Wiltshire Council, Parish Council, Elected Wiltshire Councillor	Medium term
Affordable housing for the local community	Development by planning process	Wiltshire Council, Parish Council, Elected Wiltshire Councillor	Medium term
Development of more local facilities e.g. shop, post office	Identify suitable sites Possible community partnership.	Central Government; Wiltshire Council; Parish Council	Medium term
Households to have access to universal broadband at national speeds and connectivity	Ensure the Parish is included in the planned implementation of Government initiatives as outlined in Digital Britain 2009	Central Government Wiltshire Council Internet Service Providers	Medium term
Ensure future housing developments meet sustainability and energy efficiency standards	Work with developers to encourage both sustainable and energy efficient building systems	Wiltshire Council Parish Council Energy Providers	Medium term

#### **Local Environment**

People are generally happy with the local environment, but a number of concerns were expressed. Yatesbury residents were mainly concerned about the lack of communication from the Will Woodland land owning charity and the aggressive use of byways by 4x4 vehicles. Cherhill residents were also concerned about the speed of traffic through the village and the excessive levels of lighting on the A4, but not around the rest of the village. There was concern about parking problems in both villages.

Rural communities typically have a higher than average carbon footprint per person. This Parish is no exception, primarily due to our reliance on oil rather than gas for heating and because of poor public transport, there is a greater need to use private transport for commuting, shopping etc. Promoting energy efficiency through better insulation, low energy lighting and appliances etc. should be encouraged through providing information. Replacing oil with renewable sources of energy such as solar thermal, biomass or wind power should be encouraged. The possibility of providing a community-based scheme providing income to the Parish could be explored. New housing should conform to latest sustainability standards.

A number of people would like to see allotments provided and the use of herbicide and pesticide banned.

Recycling should include cardboard and plastic. Free brown bins should be provided for garden waste. Some Cherhill residents thought that the recycling collection was too early as bins have to be outside by 06:30.

VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Limit the use of herbicide or pesticide in residential gardening	Encourage residents to garden organically	DEFRA; Cherhill Gardening Club	Short term
Improve car parking in Yatesbury and Cherhill	Parish Council to investigate specific parking problems and solutions	Wiltshire Council Parish Council	Medium term

Controlled use of 4X4 vehicles on byways during adverse weather conditions	Encourage the use of private specialist, designated off road tracks	Wiltshire Council; Wiltshire Constabulary; Gleam; Compton Basset 4x4 track; Parish Council	Short term
Encourage Will Woodland to be more sensitive to the concerns of the Yatesbury population.	Encourage positive dialogue between Will Woodland and Yatesbury residents	Will Woodland and their managing agents. Yatesbury residents	Short term
Doorstep recycling to include cardboard and plastics	Encourage Wiltshire Council to extend doorstep recycling scheme	Wiltshire Council and its Waste Management Contractors	Short term
Investigate methods of reducing street lighting on the A4	Talk to Wiltshire Council highways department about the lighting controls	Wiltshire Council Parish Council	Medium term
Reduce Parish carbon footprint by maximising use of renewable energy and reducing fossil fuel use.	Investigate technologies and financial incentives; promote individual and community projects.	Central Government; Wiltshire Council; Parish Council; Energy Providers	Long term
Provide allotments for residential use	Further investigate demand and identify potential sites	Parish Council	Long term
Reduce speed limits within both villages	Investigate Government initiatives on the introduction of 20 mph zones	Wiltshire Council Parish Council	Medium Term
Ensure we provide and maintain high quality footpaths	Monitor condition of existing footpaths and report defects	Wiltshire Council; Clarence Hotline Parish Council	Short term

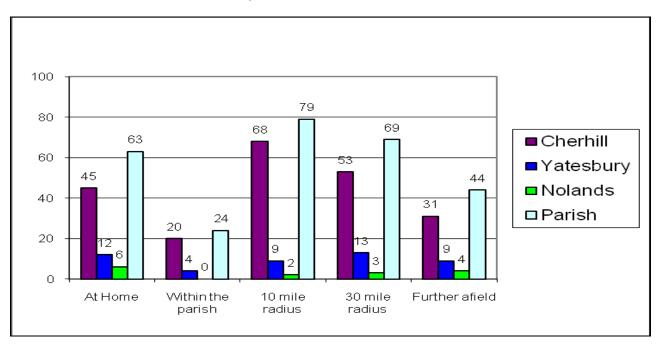
# **Economy and Business**

A total of 500 respondents aged 19-65 completed the survey. Of these 277 were in employment. Approximately 30% work within the Parish, 29% within 10 miles and 41% commute.

In total 12% run their own business activity and 41 businesses were identified operating within the Parish:

- 7 Building and development
- 16 Office Technology, IT
- 10 Land-based
- 8 Other

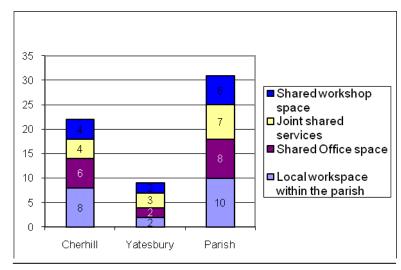
The table below shows where respondents worked.



Businesses in the parish employed between 1 and 8 part-time employees and between 1 and 6 full-time employees, with the following customer bases.



Businesses within the parish indicated that they would use the facilities shown opposite if available



VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To encourage maximum local business activity, coordinate skills and match needs to requirements within the parish.	Continue to encourage attendance at the local business forum	Parish Council, Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce (Calne Branch), Wiltshire Council, Business Link.	Medium
Businesses to have access to universal broadband at national speeds and connectivity	Ensure the parish are included in the planned implementation of government initiatives as outlined in Digital Britain 2009	Central Government Wiltshire Council Internet Service Providers	Short term
Identify suitable and appropriate office provision and business premises	Encourage provision of appropriate accommodation, shared/to rent /or buy.	Wiltshire Council, Local Estate/Land agents.	Medium term

#### **Health and Social Care**

People were asked in the questionnaire about the provision of services and facilities in Cherhill and Yatesbury for all age groups. A strong response was identified for the need for new parish community hall facilities. People were asked if new facilities were provided in the parish, how often they would use them. For a new community hall, 79% of people would use it frequently or occasionally.

If there was an Internet Café in the parish, it would be used frequently or occasionally by up to 20% of the population. A minority of respondents indicated that they would use a Skate Park, BMX track or even a swimming pool.

People suggested other facilities such as a shop with a Post Office, an open space for football or basketball and a tennis court. Another suggestion was for a community facility which provided a combined shop with a café and a meeting place with general facilities such as a film society or cinema and for sports and dancing.

Adult parishioners thought that the provision of services for older and disabled people in the parish was neither adequate nor inadequate, as was movement around the streets, transport to shops and public facilities and were equally divided in their replies. The provision of car parking and the quality of footpaths and pavements overall were thought to be inadequate.

People were asked about which facilities they currently use and a minority of people use after school care, the Parent & Toddler group, the Pre-school Nursery, a registered childminder or the School holiday play scheme. More people would use after school care, the Parent & Toddler group and a School holiday play scheme if they were available. One reply suggested that a community shop would be a great asset in Cherhill.

People were asked about the social and leisure facilities in the Parish for different age groups. For young people up to 16, approximately 80% of replies thought that facilities were poor. For the ages 16 - 25, again about 80% thought that facilities were poor. For the ages 26 - 40, over half thought that facilities were poor. For the age range 41 - 60, more than 60% thought that facilities were good or reasonable and for the over 60's, a higher number thought that facilities were good or reasonable. Respondents suggested the following facilities:

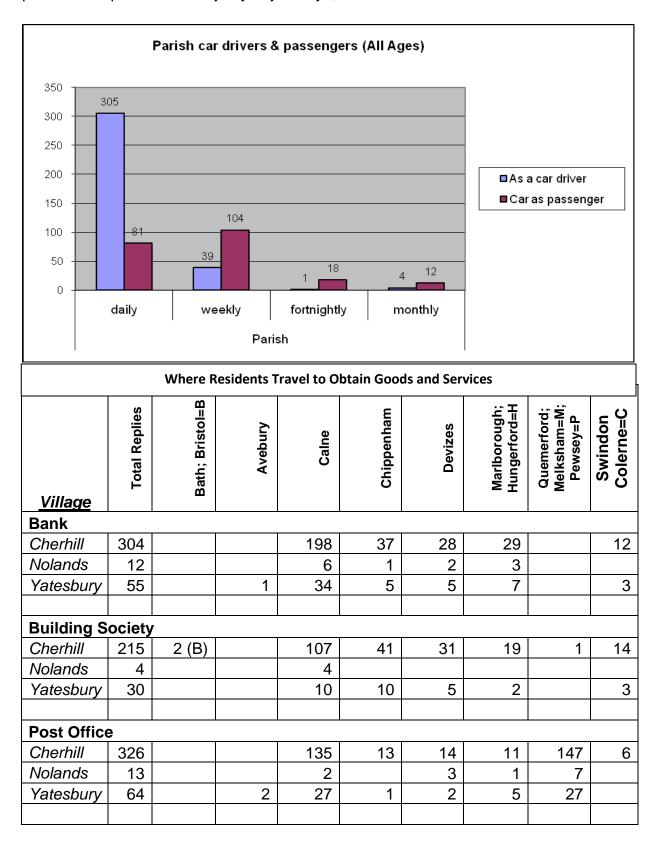
- Indoor play area for younger children and outdoor for older children
- Facilities for teenagers and a youth club
- Evening transport for teenagers
- A community bus for older people
- Use of the school as a community facility for evening classes etc
- A new Community Hall with more facilities
- More activities in Village Hall for all ages e.g. slimming classes, bingo
- Open the Village Hall on one afternoon or Saturday morning each week for tea and chat
- A squash court
- A public tennis court with coaching for youth players
- Self organised facilities for 16 25 year olds

Vision	Action	Partners	Timescale
Provision of car parking	Investigate where car parking could be improved	Parish Council, Wiltshire Council	Long term
Improved footpaths and pavements	Investigate where footpaths and pavements could be improved	Parish Council, Wiltshire Council	Medium term
Provision of new Community Hall with potential for additional facilities	Investigate where a new hall could be built and funding obtained	Village Hall Committee, Community First	Long term
Provision of Internet Cafe	Investigate whether this could be provided in an existing building	Parish Council and Village Hall Committee Wiltshire Council	Long term
Provision of Skate Park, BMX track or swimming pool	Investigate where this could be provided	Youth groups, Parish Council	Medium term

Provision of social & leisure facilities for young people up to 16	Investigate whether this is feasible in the parish	Wiltshire Council, Youth Action Wiltshire or a community group	Medium term
Provision of social & leisure facilities for young people 16 - 25	Investigate whether this is feasible in the parish	Village Hall committee, Parish Council or a community group	Medium term
Provision of social & leisure facilities for people 26 - 40	Investigate whether this is feasible in the parish	Village Hall committee, or a community group	Medium term

# **Transport**

The majority of households within the Parish consider themselves reliant upon private transport for the majority of journeys, as illustrated below.



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Cherhill	352		34	2 !	5	4			1
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Yatesbury	61		3		5	13	11		2
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Yatesbury	59		3	2 !	5	11	11		
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Yatesbury	41			3 :	3	13	18		4
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Yatesbury	56	7			5	2	14		27
raicsbury	50	,		'	J		14		۷1

VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To provide safe, flexible and reliable access to jobs, services and schools for all parish residents by variety of means.	Initiate dialogue with Unitary Councillors, Council Traffic Engineers and Passenger Transport Unit.	Wiltshire Council Calne Area Transport Sustrans Cherhill School	Long Term
To achieve a public transport system which meets the varying needs of the elderly, the mobility impaired and the young.	Identify the requirements and involve Unitary Councillors, Council officers and Operators.	Cherhill Parish Council Wiltshire Council	Long Term
To help parishioners reduce their carbon footprint by walking or cycling around the Parish and using public transport when accessing facilities and work.	Identify and prioritise footpaths and other public paths to be improved. Lobby appropriate bodies. Identify public transport needs and lobby for improvements.	Cherhill Parish Council Wiltshire Council Sustrans	Long Term
Improve the standards of alternative travel in order to reduce carbon emissions, make roads safer, improve health and protect the parish environment.	Draw up a 5 year improvement plan, set criteria and monitor the plan on an annual basis.	Cherhill Parish Council Wiltshire Council Calne Area Transport	Long Term

#### Youth

Young people identified that living in the quiet countryside was what they most liked about where they live. Feeling safe and living close to friends were also seen as important. Young people wanted more things to do, more places to 'hang out', provision of play equipment and more social events. A BMX/mountain bike track and a play park were highlighted as suggestions. Several young people indicated that too much traffic and a poor bus service were seen as problems.

When asked what facilities they would use if they were available, young people seemed to be willing to try anything, although a playing field and sports events came out highest.

When asked if they would use low-cost evening transport to neighbouring towns/villages, the overwhelming percentage of respondents said that they would use it 'regularly' or 'sometimes', to visit friends/family or to go to the cinema/theatre. The most popular destinations were Calne, Chippenham, Marlborough, Swindon, Bath and Bristol.

VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
Identify more 'things to do' for young people in the parish	Set up a young peoples' group to carry out further research into young peoples' needs within the parish	Wiltshire Council Youth Service and its Youth service partners. Parish Council	Medium
To provide low cost evening transport to neighbouring towns and villages	Consult with local transport providers to look at feasibility of providing an evening service  Look into the possibility of getting a community bus within the parish	Parish Council Community First Calne Area Transport	Medium
To maintain and enhance the provision of play equipment	Continue to support the Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field and to develop appropriate facilities in Yatesbury	Parish Council Wiltshire Council	Medium

#### **Law and Order**

Most people made clear that they did not feel an extra police presence was required for the Parish. From those who responded it was determined that most people felt that the Polices' current involvement with the parish was adequate. Comments on improvement were mainly about the increased interaction between the police and the community, perhaps in the form of village "surgeries" or having officers "on the beat". There was little interest in, or awareness of, a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the Parish.

Anti-social behaviour in general was not seen as a significant problem in the Parish and only a few Cherhill residents identified any problems with drug or alcohol abuse. Incidents due to race, ethnic origin or religion were not seen as a problem by the vast majority of the Parish. Local parking concerns in Cherhill were near the Village Hall, Oliver's Hill and Middle Lane. In Yatesbury the parking problems were at The Street, the Village Hall and Church. Respondents also made specific reference to litter and dog mess, youngsters' behaviour and speeding traffic.

VISION	ACTION	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	
Improve parking at	Support the School	Parish Council	Medium	
Cherhill School/Middle Lane	Parking Action Group to develop a suitable	Wiltshire Council		
	parking solution.	School Governors		
		Wiltshire Police		
Improve parking	Identify potential	Parish Council	Medium	
facilities at Yatesbury	parking solutions with	Parochial Church		
Village Hall	local landowner	Council		
Ensure that the local	Consider the installation	Parish Council	Medium	
speed limits are enforced	of flashing speed signs. Possible low speed zone within Cherhill and Yatesbury.	Wiltshire Council		
		Wiltshire Police		
Encourage a more	To maintain the existing	Wiltshire Police	Short	
visible police presence	Police presence and village surgeries			

# **4.0 Linked Topics**

The matrix below shows where concerns were raised in more than one topic area:

	Broadband	Sustainable	Local	Car	Public	Speeding
	Quality	Environment	Facilities	Parking	Footpaths	Traffic
Household	х	х	х			
Environment		х		х	х	x
Business	х					
Health and						
Social Care			X	X	X	
Transport			x		x	
Youth			х			
Law & Order				х		x

As these concerns bridge more than one topic area, positive action to address them would be of maximum benefit.

# **5.0 The Way Forward**

Although publication of the Parish Plan signifies the end of activities funded directly by Community First, it is a major step in a continuing process. The Plan must now be implemented for the benefit of the local community.

Implementation of the plan will be the responsibility of Cherhill Parish Council, other formal groups such as Wiltshire Council, Community First, The Village Hall Committee and other partners identified in the action plans. These responsibilities have been identified in each section of the action plans together with the proposed completion dates.

The Parish Council having adopted the plan, will submit it to be included in the 2010 Calne Community Area Plan update. This, in turn will be submitted to the Calne Area Board and where relevant, Wiltshire Council. The Parish Council will regularly monitor progress to resolve the concerns identified in the Parish Plan.

# 6.0 Acknowledgements

The Cherhill Parish Council wishes to acknowledge the help and support, financial and otherwise given by the following individuals and organisations:

- Marion Rayner Community Development Manager at Community First
- Jane Vaughan Calne Area Board Manager at Wiltshire Council
- Jo Lilley Wiltshire College.
- Cherhill Parish Council
- Calne Community Area Partnership
- Parish Plan Sub-Committee: Bob Husband Chairman, Jenny Parrish –
   Secretary, Anne Davey Treasurer, Sandra Cox, Jackie Day, David Evans,
   David Grafton, Becky Holloway, Stuart Marno, Maggie Moore, Jane Page,
   Barry Seed, Daniel Wickens, David Willett
- All the people who completed the parish questionnaire for their time and comments