

# Fringford Village Plan

An aerial photograph of Fringford Village, showing a cluster of houses with dark roofs and light-colored walls, surrounded by lush green fields and trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The village is nestled in a valley, with rolling hills and more fields visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

January 2016



## Fringford Village Plan – January 2016

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### Abbreviations

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CLP	Community Led Plan
FVP	Fringford Village Plan
PC	Parish Council
CDC	Cherwell District Council
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
CFO	Community First Oxfordshire (ex ORCC)

## Introduction and background

In summer 2013 our Parish Council, working closely with the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (now renamed Community First Oxfordshire), initiated a formal planning process to develop a 'community led plan' (CLP) for Fringford. Community Led Plans have been encouraged by central government as a way for communities to get more closely involved in their own villages and neighbourhoods and to have a direct say in how their environment evolves. After a lively and informative kick-off meeting in the village hall in August 2013, a committee was formed and we named our particular CLP the Fringford Village Plan. Since then this group of six Fringford residents have been consulting with the villagers and capturing views and information in order to develop this plan – always keeping in mind the objectives we set ourselves from the start (see figure 1).

This document is the culmination of that process. In it we set out the collective and consensus outcomes of the consultation process and outline some future plans and ideas to improve our community. This plan may represent the final job for the Fringford Village Plan committee, for now at least, but a number of working parties and volunteer groups will be needed to keep things moving forward. The execution of the plan which reflects the views of the whole community can really only happen with the collaboration and active participation of the whole community.

Figure 1 Objectives for Fringford Village Plan

### Preserve what we cherish

- Protect the core environment
- Maintain the services and groups we love
- Enhance existing elements where we can

### Change what we don't like

- Encourage new and improved village services
- Undertake remedial work to improve our village
- Improve communication and collaboration across our community

### Plan for the future

- Present a collective and consensual voice
- Keep our community vibrant and viable
- Protect our rural identity



## The Fringford Village Plan - 'in a nutshell'

It very soon became apparent from this process that people just love living in Fringford! This small rural village just a few miles outside of Bicester (a fast-growing and busy market town) is seen by almost all residents as a great place to live whether it is for kids, young families, working couples, 'empty-nesters' and retired folks alike. Our assets are primarily built around the idyllic countryside environment linked with a couple of key focal points for socialising (notably the village hall and the village pub, The Butchers Arms). The church of St Michael and All Angels and the activities they organise are also a core part of our character and life in Fringford.

The things we love and the things we wish to change are summarised in this table. A more complete report and action plan is shown overleaf.

	Aspect of life in Fringford	Actions to protect or to rectify
<b>Things we love</b>	Rural environment	Avoid large scale housing projects Look after the mature trees More poop bins and benches Feasibility of allotments
	Village green	Keep trying to find ways to better protect the verges Explore improved parking options for whole village Look at renovating the pond near Hall Farm Improve/add-to the kids playground
	Footpaths	Keep footpaths clear from overgrowth. Consider developing cycle paths
	Cricket ground	Now the ground is secure liaise with FCC to maximise use for village benefit
	Village hall	Support fund-raising activities Look at ways to expand use of the excellent new facilities
<b>Things we'd like to change</b>	Broadband speed	Upgraded in 2015
	Better communication	Fringford Village Voice launched in 2013 Encourage more visitors and more services/zones within village website
	More social events	Set up a cross-group social committee to support existing events/organise new ones Keep Spring Fayre vibrant and viable and make it a regular annual event
	More sports facilities	Start a feasibility study for a tennis court
	Tackle speeding through the village	Build white gates at entrances Set up '20 is plenty' campaign Liaise with highways and OCC for additional measures
	Better bus service	Keep lobbying service providers Look at creative alternatives
	Lack of a village shop	Consider practical shopping options or other ways to have a local retail outlet in Fringford (full permanent shop may not be feasible and has certain downsides)
	Improve neighbourly care	Set up volunteer network to assist and engage isolated residents

## Consultation

This flow chart summarises the consultation we had with villagers across the life of the planning process.



A total of 325 villagers completed the Fringford Village Plan village-wide questionnaire during spring 2015, responding to the 26 questions which were drawn up to cover topics raised during conversations with villagers at a series of events run since the start of the process in August 2013.

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## The status quo – or ‘what we do not wish to change’!

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Before going through the list of possible actions and next steps we felt we should reflect on some aspects of the consultation which have led to a consensus for ‘no change please’. Perhaps not surprisingly most of these revolve around the fact that we like living in a quiet, rural environment. Many of the charms and advantages of life in Fringford relate to the fact that it is a relatively small, relatively quiet village surrounded by countryside and fields. So for example some of the suggestions in the village-wide survey got a low number of votes and even raised some negative comment (e.g. a skate/BMX park). More than one respondent commented that we are not Bicester and do not therefore need to provide more extensive facilities. There was also a clear consensus on not exploring the possibility providing street lights. The majority view, it seems, is that night time darkness is a fact of life when living in a small village in the countryside. That is not to say that a few villagers are in favour of street lighting – but they are in a minority.

The question relating to the Spinney also received mixed responses. Overall, however, the majority like it as it is so, other than an occasional tidy up, there was no strong desire to explore changing it.

One other aspect which came out of the survey but is not mentioned in the action tables relates to our preferred modes of transport. For just about all activities noted in the questionnaire over 95% of residents use a private car. Having access to private transport is also a fact of life for rural communities. We do not ignore the issue of public transport however. Both bus services and alternative support for folks without their own cars are addressed in the action plan and will, we hope, be taken up by one of the action groups.

Our reliance on the motor car for most journeys does have consequences for parking and, particularly along the Stratton Audley Road through-route, raises concerns about speeding. The school sits at the heart of the village and attracts young families to the village, but it relies on children from neighbouring villages and they in turn rely on the car to get to Fringford. This dilemma cannot easily be solved; perhaps the best we can do is use reminders, like the proposed white gates, to remind people to be considerate when driving to, through and parking within Fringford.



## What villagers said and what we can do to plan for the future


### Action Tables

What we asked ourselves	What you told us	What can be done - how and next steps	Who
<b>Traffic and Transport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is speeding an issue?</li> <li>What kind of traffic calming measures would we like?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes. Especially along Stratton Audley Rd</li> <li>Top three choices were:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gates at side of road (50%)</li> <li>20 mph zones (45%)</li> <li>Electronic advisory signs (45%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate cost and siting of gates</li> <li>Investigate cost of electronic advisory signs sited at the entrance to the village</li> </ul>	Parish Council  Parish Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which new transport ideas would we use?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The top three choices were:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New and improved cycle paths (44%)</li> <li>More frequent local bus service (35%)</li> <li>'Turn up and go' bus scheme to Oxford, Bicester (21%, 20% respectively)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate formation of cycling group</li> <li>Cycle routes to local towns to be encouraged and investigated. Proposed routes to be defined.</li> <li>Work together and engage with OCC and organisations such as Sustrans on improvements</li> </ul>	CLP Voluntary Group  Voluntary Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can we improve our limited bus service?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68% put bus service in the dislike column</li> <li>The development of Bicester may attract more bus companies to the area (in spite of OCC's withdrawal of service subsidy on some routes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and lobby decision makers who might influence the inclusion of Fringford in new routes.</li> <li>Alpha taxis (Bicester) to be approached as a potential provider of a scheduled minibus service at specific times.</li> </ul>	Parish Council  Parish Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which methods of transport do we use?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overwhelming preference for car (&gt;90%), with walking a clear second place</li> <li>Lift sharing only registered 9% of potential users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate formation of voluntary support group</li> <li>Promote schemes such as Community Transport</li> </ul>	CLP  CLP/Voluntary Group
<b>Crime and safety</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do we feel safe in Fringford?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feel safe 96% - Do not feel safe 4%</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who is in the Neighbourhood Watch and would we like to join?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members 19% - Not yet joined 35%</li> <li>Would like to join 15%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicise Neighbourhood Watch and sign up all who are interested</li> </ul>	Neighbourhood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care of the elderly?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some older, housebound or lone residents feel a little isolated from the community and would welcome more interaction and support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate formation of voluntary support group</li> <li>Initiate a 'neighbourly buddy' system with volunteers and visitors to assist, chat and check welfare</li> </ul>	CLP Voluntary Group

What we asked ourselves	What you told us	What can be done – how and next steps	Who
<b>Community/Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The popularity of the Village Voice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Village Voice was started in response to requests for improved communication.</li> <li>95% of villagers said they like or love the Village Voice</li> <li>A small number younger residents were unaware of it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with the Village Voice as an important form of communication and develop it to include content that appeals to all age groups including children</li> <li>Share across whole families</li> </ul>	<p>Voluntary Editors</p> <p>All Villagers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whether villagers use website</li> <li>What other content would be useful?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the time of the survey (before the new website was launched) over 50% of villagers either had never or had only rarely made use of the previous village website. Only 5% made regular use of it</li> <li>Of a number of ideas for the new village website, a local 'freecycle' service (47%) and classified adverts with links (43%) were the most popular.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village website has been renewed with an improved look and feel</li> <li>Steps to expand the website content and to encourage more use to be considered</li> <li>Add 'freecycle' pages to website</li> <li>Consider classified advertising</li> </ul>	<p>Village Website Group (Current village groups' reps, web developers)</p>
<b>Business and economy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would we like a shop in the village?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73% said yes</li> <li>8% said no</li> <li>19% no answer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate formation of shop working group</li> <li>Suitable venue to be investigated</li> <li>Consider planning permission, parking and traffic flow</li> </ul>	<p>CLP</p> <p>Shop working group</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What kind of shop would we like?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36% wanted a dedicated shop</li> <li>29% - a community run shop</li> <li>15% - mobile shop</li> <li>12% - local temporary shop</li> <li>8% - pop up shop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with the 'Oxfordshire Communities First' organisation's local shop support team</li> </ul>	<p>Shop working group</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What local amenities do we like?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% people said they like the Butchers Arms and many said they visit frequently</li> <li>83% of people like the cricket club and ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote use of the pub for celebrations, events</li> <li>Continue with good atmosphere, village event involvement and encourage local patronage</li> <li>Support pub with custom</li> <li>Look at ways to broaden sports opportunities / facilities (e.g. tennis court) and further involve villagers</li> <li>Support the club</li> </ul>	<p>All villagers Pub</p> <p>All villagers Cricket Club</p> <p>All Villagers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is anything required to help</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Idea for a business club to share ideas and mutual support</li> <li>Networking notice board requested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate formation of business networking group</li> <li>Promote via website/Village Voice</li> </ul>	<p>CLP</p> <p>Business Group</p>



What we asked ourselves	What you told us	What can be done – how and next steps	Who
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we dislike around the village and would like to see changed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The footpaths are popular but can get overgrown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend village green maintenance contract to include footpaths within village</li> </ul>	Parish Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are concerns about dog mess</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More signs around village and reminders in the Village Voice to encourage dog owners to pick up their dog's waste</li> </ul>	Parish Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look after our trees, mature horse chestnuts are a real asset</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance programme should be continued</li> </ul>	Parish Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look after our verges especially the village green</li> <li>• Shortage of of road parking spaces at peak demand times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to maintain the green</li> <li>• Continue to work with the school and playgroup to encourage responsible parking</li> <li>• Investigate more school buses and car sharing from from surrounding villages</li> <li>• Continue to seek potential solutions to village-wide issues and pinch points (seek funding and explore options)</li> </ul>	Parish Council School, playgroup Village parents Friends of Fringford School Parish Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village tidy-up day to continue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend village tidy-up</li> </ul>	Voluntary Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether more should be made of the Spinney?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many villagers felt that the Spinney could be made more accessible for walkers, but many felt it should remain as it is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Spinney should remain largely as it is, with an occasional tidy-up to ensure it remains safe and accessible</li> </ul>	Voluntary Group (Nature)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is lack of street lights a good or bad thing?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On balance the majority of residents like the fact that Fringford has no street lights (approx. 70% for versus 30% against)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure we preserve the rural character and avoid the addition of street lights (there is little likelihood of funding for lights)</li> </ul>	Parish Council

What we asked ourselves	What you told us	What can be done – how and next steps	Who
<b>Leisure/recreation</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is support for a number of ideas for new amenities with allotments, a renovated village pond, a nature reserve and tennis courts being most popular. The tennis courts and a nature reserve would be most used.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What extra recreational amenities would we like?</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tennis Court (55%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate formation of village sports group</li> <li>Further investigation of the feasibility of improved outdoor sports facilities, such as tennis courts</li> </ul>	CLP Sports Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature reserve</li> <li>A renovated village pond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the formation of village nature group</li> <li>Establish a working party to renovate the pond next to Hall Farm and play park and consider other environmental projects</li> </ul>	CLP Nature Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotments 68% said good idea but only 15% said they would use them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the formation of an allotment group</li> <li>Review available land around the village could be used for allotments and liaise with local villages on how they developed allotments</li> </ul>	CLP Allotment Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What we would like to see in the revamped Village Hall?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village Hall was the most liked feature of the village (99%). Now that it has been renovated future fund raising initiatives to focus on improving the facilities within</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus development on new and improved amenities highlighted in survey</li> </ul>	VH Management Team
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is significant interested in joining existing clubs: Cinema (35%), Pilates (28%) clubs plus also some interest also in bingo and WI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further promote clubs and how to join through membership drives in the Village Voice and website</li> </ul>	Activity/Club organisers VH Team
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More comfortable chairs required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding for new chairs</li> </ul>	VH Team
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadband (60%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate options and costs</li> <li>Install if viable</li> </ul>	VH Team
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A history display</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate formation of village history group</li> <li>Scope display and seek funding</li> </ul>	CLP History Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A defibrillator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding to provide one</li> </ul>	VH Team
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is considerable interest in setting up a Scout/Guide group in Fringford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility and viability follow up (liaise with other local scout groups and check supply and demand)</li> <li>Facilitate formation of Scout Guide Group</li> </ul>	Village group and local scout organisation/CLP

What we asked ourselves	What you told us	What can be done – how and next steps	Who
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring Fayre and other village wide events?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Spring Fayre is the most popular of the recent and proposed new events with Open Gardens, a Village Barn Dance, a Living History Day and a New Year’s Eve Party also being popular</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the formation of a village social events committee to coordinate existing cross-group events (i.e. not organised exclusively by Church, Village Hall, Cricket Club etc.) and consider the feasibility of future events</li> <li>• Collaborate on a calendar to plan activities</li> </ul>	<p>CLP</p> <p>Social Group</p>

## Housing - Background

### The Planning Process

Decisions on planning matters that impact Fringford are made by Cherwell District Council (CDC) guided by the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework.

In 2015 CDC gained central government approval for its ‘2012 - 2030 Local Plan’ which outlines the planning strategy for the District. The Local Plan calls for most of the District’s housing targets to be met by the ongoing development of Banbury and Bicester as these towns will provide the most sustainable locations. Whilst the protection of the rural environment is a key theme in the narrative of The Local Plan, the rural villages will also have to accept a small proportion of new housing.

Consultation is to take place on the implementation of the Local Plan during the first quarter of 2016. CDC seeks to place some new housing in villages that could provide the most sustainable lifestyle for residents (minimising the need for residents to travel to access services). As such, villages with a range of services such as employment, schools, medical centres and shops are to be expected to accommodate more new homes than those that lack such services. Short distances of villages to other areas with significant services will also be taken into account.

### Potential Impact of Local Plan on Fringford

**The Local Plan Part 2** will broadly imply the levels of new development expected in each of the villages. Fringford has been defined as a ‘Category A Village’, that is one that does have some services on offer (School and Pub). As such the village would be expected to accept new housing development in the form of infill, conversion and ‘minor development’. The scale of minor developments has been defined as up to ten new dwellings. Once Part 2 of the Local Plan is adopted this will strongly influence decisions on individual development applications.

The Parish Council has a policy and process in place to inform villagers and to capture and consider their views. It will be involved in the consultation and encourages villagers to share their views with it and also directly with Cherwell District Council. It must be remembered that the Parish Council can only influence decisions and that the final decisions are ultimately made by Cherwell District Council.



## Parish Council Approach

The Parish Council's approach is based on precisely the kinds of values expressed by residents as important in their survey responses. The strategy of The Parish Council will be to judge each proposal on its individual merits but propose acceptance of applications for well designed, good quality infill, extension and conversion projects. It will support projects that are within the existing housing areas and that reflect the character of the village. It will oppose applications which are considered to have negative impacts such as overdevelopment of the plot, excessive on street parking or significant harm to neighbouring properties.

Whilst the Parish Council accepts that the village has to play its part in the resolution of the housing shortage and therefore accommodate some more development it would generally not support applications for significant developments on the edges of the village. This approach is based on the broad views of villagers as expressed in the CLP survey, the preservation of the character of the village, the very limited services on offer locally, the narrow roads and the restricted parking spaces.

**Action** *There is an important, proactive role for all villagers to play in helping influence the development of the village. In general, by staying aware of proposed developments, by responding to applications directly to CDC and by attending regular or one-off Parish Council meetings and expressing views residents can help the PC and give our representatives a mandate to feed back to the planners.*

What we asked ourselves	What you told us	What can be done - how and next steps	Who
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of additional housing do you think Fringford needs?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most common specific view expressed by residents overall is, if possible, to have no more housing in the village! (42%)</li> <li>• Second most suggested type of housing required was 'affordable housing' (31%)</li> <li>• In terms of location there was a strongly held view that any further development should take place within the existing housing areas of the village</li> <li>• Concern re large scale housing development (either in current village housing areas or on edge of village)</li> <li>• The type of housing cited by most respondents as acceptable was for an element of affordable, two bedroom homes to be built. (31%)</li> <li>• Beyond that there was interest in all kinds of houses being built from one bedroom up to four bedroom homes and support for the provision of some rental properties, both social and privately owned and some warden assisted housing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>On Cherwell Local Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence CDC Local Plan Part 2!</li> <li>• Share Parish Council policy with CDC</li> <li>• Influence CDC Local Plan Part 2!</li> <li>• Provide input to Parish Council and CDC - online or by letter or email</li> </ul>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>All Villagers</p>

What we asked ourselves	What you told us	What can be done – how and next steps	Who
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What criteria should influence decision making on planned housing?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsurprisingly the style of development sought was one that helped to preserve the village character</li> <li>• Have minimal impact on rural landscape</li> <li>• Have a low impact on neighbours and on green space</li> <li>• Be within the existing built up boundary</li> <li>• Have low impact on traffic flow</li> </ul>	<p><b>On regular Planning applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain villager general input and respond to CDC and gain specific input from near neighbours</li> <li>• Respond to CDC, follow up as required</li> <li>• Engage support of CDC Ward Councillor (if needed)</li> <li>• Present views to CDC Planning Committee (if needed)</li> <li>• Attend PC meetings - have your say!</li> <li>• Respond direct to CDC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Council</li> <li>Parish Council</li> <li>Parish Council</li> <li>Parish Council</li> <li>All Villagers</li> <li>All Villagers</li> </ul>

## Keeping it moving: Volunteers and working parties

Producing a CLP for Fringford has been a real community effort, coordinated by the FVP committee and supported by both Fringford PC and the CFO team. We are confident that this plan reflects the majority view of how we as a community would like to see things move forward in Fringford. The action tables above note various working parties and voluntary teams or groups that, at present, do not exist. Many of the regular activities we enjoy in our village are organised by existing groups such as VH management team, church restoration fund, Darby and Joan and Fringford Cricket Club, amongst others. Naturally all of these will continue. We have also identified many other potential actions and new activities for our community. It is felt that the best way to get these actions delivered is to build some new volunteer groups and working parties. To do this we need to mobilise and involve as many folks as we can. We look forward to all of the residents who furnished their details and agreed to help out in the long term now looking to get on board (plus it is hoped a few other folks too). The working parties we have in mind are listed below. Please note these are just working titles at the moment, once teams are in place they can call themselves whatever they like (within reason!). If you have a skill you can offer or are keen to get directly involved in any of these groups please step forward and come along to future meetings, seek out committee members and offer your help, advice and support.



<b>Committee or working group</b>	<b>Suggested responsibilities/area of potential focus</b>
Social committee	New social activities and Spring Fayre coordination
Nature group	Pond, allotments and village tidy-up
Sports committee	Tennis court feasibility, playground expansion
History group	Support a local history display in Chinnery room and other history related activities
Cycling group	Cycle paths feasibility. Other transport issues (with PC)
Neighbourly support team	Coordinating support for lone elderly or housebound residents
Shop working group	Feasibility of various village shopping or local retail options (avoiding a full permanent premises)
Business club	Coordinate 'business breakfast club' and support network, website enhancements

## Conclusions and next steps

It has become clear from this process that the residents of Fringford are proud of our village and are prepared to take steps to look after and improve it. It is absolutely a great place to live but not without areas for improvement. As well as feeding in the collective views of the residents to the respective tiers of local government (Parish, District and County Councils) this plan will also hopefully serve as a template and a trigger for some short term changes which we can manage or initiate ourselves. Some of these changes have already happened (broadband upgrade, Village Voice, return of Spring Fayre, Village Hall refurbishment) – albeit coincidentally in some cases! There are some other short term priorities which we can implement ourselves with appropriate volunteer groups, working parties and collective effort. Finally, there are some changes which will need official input and endorsement (e.g. traffic calming). The actions noted in the main tables above will all be followed through in time and will all, we hope, enhance our environment and improve life in our village.

This table encapsulates the short-term urgent, priorities and will also serve as a progress checklist to try to ensure our top ideas are turned into actions and outcomes.

<b>Priority action</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>
White gates at village entrances	PC	June 2016
Renovate Hall Farm pond	Nature group	July 2016
Protect the verges and improve parking	PC, school and villagers	On going
Spring Fayre 2016 and other socials (e.g. barn dance)	Village social committee	Through 2016
Organise a Fringford village history display in VH	History group	August 2016
Village clean up, spinney and footpath tidy	Nature group	Spring
Neighbourly network for chatting, shopping, lift-share and other singles support	Neighbourly support team	Through 2016
Explore new facilities for playground (e.g. slide or see-saw)	Sports committee	May 2016
Start a 'business breakfast' club	Business club	March 2016
Initiate a shop feasibility and viability study	Shop committee	May 2016



The Fringford Village plan has been a real collective community effort and the committee would like to acknowledge the support and input from all villagers who have participated. We have identified many ways in which we can improve life in Fringford and ways in which we can look after what we love. It is now up to all of us to keep things moving and take the actions required to execute the new schemes and ideas generated. Thank you to all residents for your support to date and we hope this plan will enable and encourage participation in the many working parties and volunteer groups needed to make life in Fringford even better!



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- Les Fagg
- Simon Biltcliffe
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- Fringford Village Hall Management Team

