Parish Plan

2012 to 2022

Somerford Keynes and Shorncote

to maintain and improve over the next 10 years...



2012...the year of the Golden Jubilee and London Olympics.





'Peace, quiet & tranquil, with a sense of community and friendship in a rural beautiful location'. 'A beautiful village with many dedicated people who work hard for the community' 'Vibrant community' with 'Active, friendly, welcoming villagers' 'Happy living here in a semi-rural location'

1 Executive Summary

A Parish Plan is a unique opportunity for residents within a Parish to appraise the environment in which they live and, more importantly, voice their thoughts about how they would like to see it in the future.

The civil Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote is situated on the south-eastern boundary of the county of Gloucestershire at the heart of the Western section of the Cotswold Water Park and is surrounded by gravel workings and lakes formed by the gravel extraction. There are 170 permanent homes as well as approximately 250* holiday homes, located in the Lower Mill Estate to the south of Somerford Keynes. There are two principal authorities in the area: Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council.

Previously, two appraisals were carried out in the Parish: in 1991 and 2001 and provided a great insight into the Parish: its demographics, its likes and dislikes and its aspirations. The current Parish Plan takes the appraisal one step further with the production of an action plan, evidence from which can be used to make a case on behalf of the Parish to other authorities (such as Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire Highways etc) or to obtain funding for projects within the Parish. It is also in line with DCLG guidance for the frequency of such plans.

Every community needs to know where it intends to go and what it hopes to achieve in the next few years. The Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote has a permanent population of approximately 420 people plus numerous holiday makers and second home owners. It needs a Parish Plan to map out its future.

The Parish Plan was developed by a group of volunteer residents, independent from (but fully supported by) the Parish Council. This group consulted residents in the Parish through interviews, a coffee morning and open Parish Plan meetings, as well as developing, distributing and analysing a questionnaire that was delivered to ALL homes, both permanent and holiday, in the Parish. 67% of the questionnaires from the permanent homes were completed and returned, and 20% from the holiday homes were completed. This document details the responses and views of the permanent residents in the Parish (including the Four Acres settlement). There is also a separate overview of the opinions of the Lower Mill Estate second home owners.

The Parish Plan Group was delighted with the overwhelmingly positive response and the input that came from so many residents. The Group would like to express its thanks to Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, who provided continuous advice on the process and time-saving logistical support.

After the analysis of the input provided by the residents in the Parish, and consultation with the key organisations within the Parish (the Parish Council, the Village Hall Management Committee and the Parochial Church Council) the action plan was drawn up. Naturally, to achieve some of the projects requested in the response will be beyond the ability of your Parish Council but it believes that the majority of those included can come to fruition if we work hard enough together as a community.

It is essential that the Parish Plan is a working document and that the actions are adopted by the appropriate bodies within the Parish. A Parish Plan working group should be established to monitor and push for the completion of actions.

*The Lower Mill Estate has outline permission for 550 holiday homes; so another 300 are likely to be built during the life of this plan

Parish Action Plan

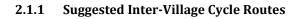
The following table contains the Parish Action Plan that resulted from the consultation process. It is a live document that will be used to record progress on each of the actions and it will be managed by the Parish Council.

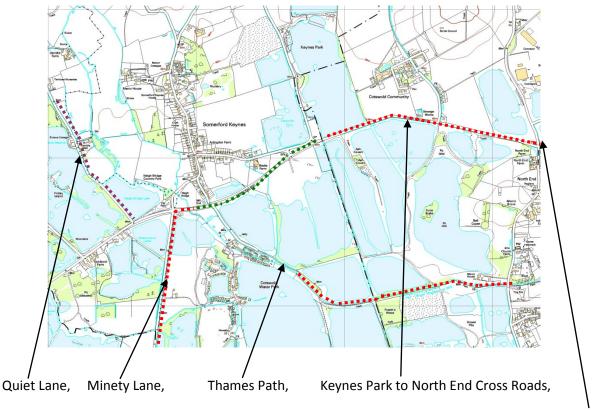
Comments made during the interview stage or on the questionnaire returns are in italics.

Action No.	Action	You Said	Progress	Responsibility
		Transport and Traffic		
2.1	Investigate the reasons as to why some residents have difficulty accessing Cirencester based services and how solutions can be formed to address this issue.	10% of households experience difficulty accessing services (doctor, hospital etc) in Cirencester. Of these 11 households, 73% have members who are over 60 years old.		The Parish Council
2.2	Investigate the viability of, and funding for, routes that will enable residents to travel safely between neighbouring villages on foot and by cycle.	Hopes expressed for 'Network of cycle/foot/horse tracks linking the villages' and 'Safe paths for cycling/walking down Spine Rd and to Ashton Keynes, South Cerney and bridle way right of access'. The suggested routes from the questionnaire are shown in map 2.1.1.		The Parish Council, in consultation with Gloucestershire Highways and funding bodies
2.3	Investigate the viability of new footpaths within the Parish	As well as routes between villages, households expressed hopes for new footpaths within the Parish such as 'Safer walking to Neighbridge area'. Map 2.1.2 shows the desired new footpaths.		The Parish Council, in consultation with Gloucestershire Highways and funding bodies
2.4	Investigate how the speed of vehicles can be reduced in and around the Parish.	Liked least : 'Spine Rd getting busier - more noise/traffic' and 'Speeding traffic through the village'. Nearly 50% of households responded that a 'reduced speed limit' was a requirement. The identified points for this are shown in map 2.1.3		The Parish Council, in consultation with Gloucestershire Highways and other enabling bodies
2.5	Write a formal letter of support to Andy Bus to express satisfaction with their 93 bus route.	Very good that we have a frequent bus service'. Whilst only 15% of households use the service on a regular basis, 57% of households viewed the service as an essential part of village life.		Parish Plan Group
		Housing and Development		
3.1	Investigate, through a housing needs survey, areas within the Parish where low key developments will be acceptable. A Neighbourhood Development Plan NDP can also be considered for this.	A good number of households agreed with the sentiment of ' <i>No further</i> <i>housing developments</i> ' with 51.8% of the opinion that there should be no more housing. However, 50.9% stated that some housing should be permitted such as starter homes and homes to downsize to. This was reinforced by comments such as: ' <i>More affordable,</i> <i>smaller houses</i> ' and ' <i>More low cost</i> <i>housing for young people and the</i> <i>elderly but in a controlled way</i> '. The		The Parish Council and GRCC

	i			
		detailed housing needs survey should		
		be carried out.		
3.2	Advocate the continuation of	86% of households advocated the	The	Parish Council
0.2	the Settlement Protection	continuation of this policy		CDC
	Zones.			
3.3	Communicate to CDC the	Concerned 'That the village will become		e Parish Council
	overwhelming support for	a dormitory village with second homes'	and	GRCC
	there to be no more holiday	and liked least 'Encroachment by		
	homes permitted in the Parish.	developers taking over the the open countryside i.e. holiday homes'. 77% of		
		households do not want any more		
		holiday homes to be given planning		
		permission.		
		Environment		
4.1	Improve the condition and	Approximately 40% of households have		e Parish Council,
	maintenance of well used	the view that the maintenance and		consultation with
	footpaths, pavements, cycle ways and bridleways within	management of pavements, footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways needs		ucestershire
	the Parish.	improvement.	-	hways, GCC, CDC I funding bodies
4.1	Lobby Gloucestershire	Nearly 50% of households stated that		e Parish Council.
	Highways to improve the	road maintenance should be improved.	in c	onsultation with
	condition of the roads within	Residents liked least about the Parish	Glo	ucestershire
	the Parish	the 'State of roads - potholes'.		hways and
				ding bodies
5.1	Establish the status of	Crime and Anti-Social Behaviou Whilst most households are aware of		ish Council in
5.1	current Neighbourhood	the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme,		isultation with
	Watch Scheme.	only half of households receive		neighbourhood
		communications from a neighbourhood		tch coordinator.
		watch co-ordinator.		
		Services	1	
6.1	Write to Post Office to	Over 95% of households are satisfied	Par	ish Plan Group
	commend Cirencester based service.	with their postal service.		
6.2	Create a group / organisation	Many comments were made about the		ish Plan Group
	that can lobby for the	requirement for improvement to	and	l Parish Council
	improvement of broadband and mobile telephone	telecommunication services within the Parish with 'slow broadband' and 'No		
	coverage within the Parish.	mobile phone coverage' being stated as		
		things that residents liked least about		
		the Parish. Nearly 60% of households		
		expressed a wish for 'fibre broadband'.		
		Community Life		
7.1	Work for the creation / affirmation of public rights	Over 80% of households value footpaths within the Parish and there is	The	Parish Council
	of way into and around	a strong desire to ' <i>Legalise old</i>		
	Keynes Country Park to	footpaths around lakes stopped so far		
	ensure that the public has	by Watermark'		
	uninhibited pedestrian			
	access into the park.			
7.2	Investigate the viability of	Many households expressed views for		Parish Council,
	creating a play area / open	'More facilities for parents and children		onsultation with
	space within village.	such as play area' and a desire to 'Create a communal meeting place with	GR	ding bodies and
		benches/play area'. Nearly 40% of	GR	
		households stated that they would like		

7.3	Establish a group / organisation that can investigate the viability of a shop and post office and investigate the optimal location for it, should it be viable.	'Lack of village shop' occurred frequently in the 'Liked Least about living in the Parish' and over 80% of households stated that they require a shop as a new facility.	Parish Plan Group and Parish Council with GRCC.
7.4	Run an event for the children of the Parish to establish their needs and their requirements.	The Parish Plan Group recognises that it has yet to ascertain the views of the children within the Parish	Parish Plan Group

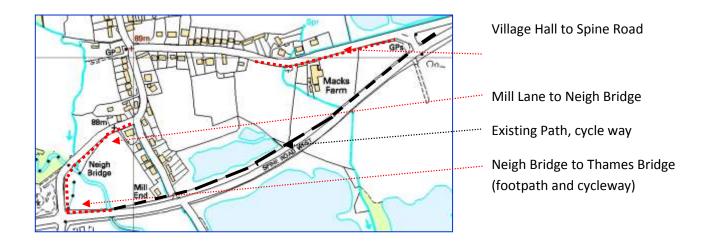


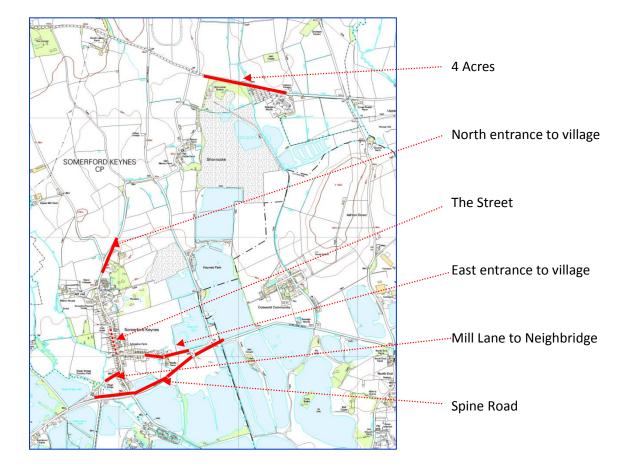


Existing cycle paths in green, proposed paths in red,

North End Cross Roads rework.

2.1.2 Suggested New Footpaths within the Parish





2.1.3 Suggested Areas for Reduction in Speed Limit

3 The Process of Creating the Parish Plan

3.1 Team Recruitment

It was important that the team created to develop the Parish Plan was representative of the residents of the Parish. The Parish Council, through its newsletter and village events, appealed for residents to become involved in the creation of the Parish Plan and invited any interested resident to attend the launch of the Parish Plan Steering Group on Monday 31st October 2011.

A number of people attended this meeting and two groups were formed; the 'core' group was set up to plan, manage and carry out the steps required to create the Parish Plan and the second group was a group of willing volunteers who would help at Parish Plan events and with the delivery and collection of the questionnaire.

3.2 Identification of Key Issues

It was established early on in the process that a questionnaire was likely to be the main mechanism through which the views of the entire Parish could be ascertained. However, it was extremely important that the questionnaire should address the issues that were pertinent to today's residents. For example, the quality of broadband and the impact of holiday homes were issues very relevant to today but did not appear in the Appraisal of 2001.

It was also important to understand the make-up of the Parish as since 2001 there are now two new communities in the Parish; a holiday home community on the Lower Mill Estate and the Four Acres travellers' community.

To establish the content of the questionnaire, it was important to understand what people value about living in the Parish, what they like, what concerns they have and what they would like to see in the future. To gain this information, a series of informal interviews were conducted across a cross-section of residents and a coffee morning was held in February 2012 to achieve this.

The statements made during this process led to the creation of the following key areas of investigation:

- Household
- Transport
- Traffic
- Housing and Development
- Environment
- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Services
- Community Life

3.3 Production of Questionnaire

Having identified the key issues, the core team developed the questionnaire with a great deal of assistance from Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council (GRCC). GRCC ensured that the questions were valid, of the right format and unambiguous. Their professional approach ensured that the resulting data was very informative. Each household was asked to complete one questionnaire.

A copy of the questionnaire can be found in appendix C.

3.4 Distribution and Collection

The group of willing volunteers distributed a questionnaire to each of the 170 permanent households in the Parish enclosed in envelopes to ensure anonymity of residents. The volunteers returned to the households and collected 114 completed questionnaires, a return rate of 67%.

GRCC scanned the returned questionnaire and presented the Parish Plan team with a set of statistics for each question and provided a summary of the data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. This enabled the core group to quickly analyse the results and develop an Action Plan. The Action Plan was presented to residents of the Parish in January 2013.

As an adjunct to interview and questionnaires the businesses operating within the parish were contacted for their opinion on any issue that might be included in the Parish Plan.

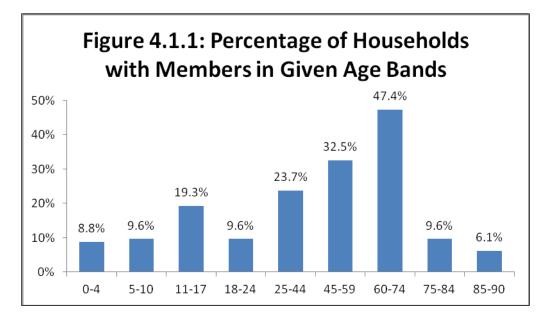
Typical "Like Most"	Typical "Like Least"
Good Community Spirit	Poor broadband/mobile phone
Rural country life beautiful countryside	Lack of mains drainage
Small village	Gravel extraction
Lack of lighting and mains drainage	Lack of political control
Peace and quiet	2 nd Homes and overdevelopment of leisure industry
Neighbours and friends	Speed of traffic and poor footpaths

Coffee morning "Like most" and "Like least" comments:

4.1

4.1 Parish Household Demographics

Households were asked to indicate to which age bands members of the household belong. Figure 4.1.1 shows what percentage of households had members in each of the age bands.

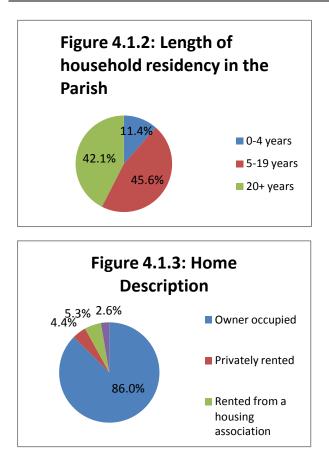


As this survey asked households to tick all of the age bands to which its members belonged, rather than asking each individual to do so, it is not possible to do an exact comparison with the survey carried out for the Parish Appraisal in 2001. However, the trends show that whilst the number of children under 18 remains constant, the population is getting older with the largest age band being the 60-74 age band and this appears to be at the expense of the 25-44 age band.

You may have noticed that the percentages total more than 100%. This is because many households ticked more than one box as they have members in different age bands. In this case it is the relative numbers that are important.

86% of the households that responded were in the village of Somerford Keynes with the remainder located in Shorncote and its environs (4%), Four Acres Travellers Settlement (6%), Lower Mill Estate permanent residents (3%) or were described as 'other` (1%).

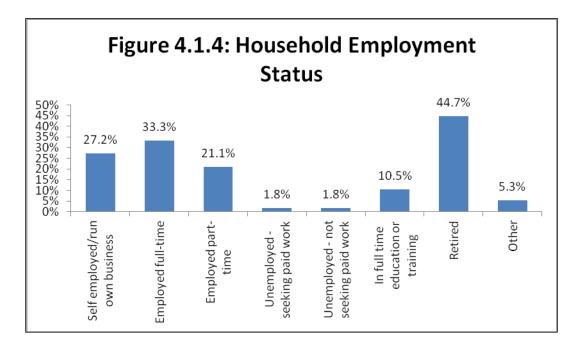
Properties do not change hands frequently as 42% of households have resided in the Parish for at least 20 years. This is a key factor in the population of the Parish ageing since the Parish Appraisal in 2001. Also, nearly all properties are owner occupied. The following two charts detail the results about homes:



In line with the age demographics, nearly half of all households have at least one member who is retired. Only 2% of households have a member over 16 years of age who is unemployed and is seeking employment. The following chart shows the percentage of households with at least one member in each of the given employment types.

4.1

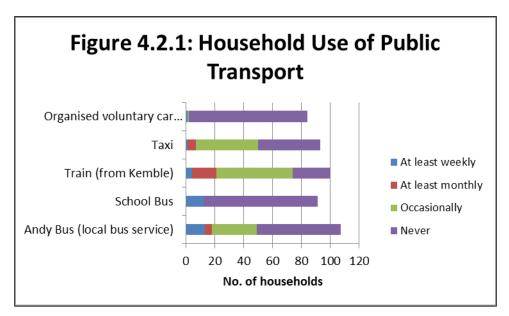
28% of households have a member who works from home at least some of the time.



4.2 Transport and Traffic

Car ownership in the Parish is high with most households (72%) owning at least two cars. However, 5% of households own no cars. Because of this, the majority of households do not experience any difficulty in accessing services (doctor, hospital etc), shops or friends and family outside of the Parish.

However, 10% of households experience difficulty accessing their doctor or Cirencester hospital. Of these 11 households, 73% have members who are over 60 years old.



There are a number of public transport services available to households and the following chart displays their use.

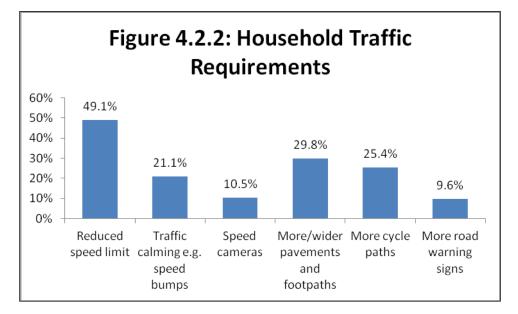
Despite the fact that only a modest number (15%) of households use the Andy Bus (which provides a public transport service to Cirencester and Malmesbury) on a regular basis, over half the number of households (57%) view the service as an essential part of the village's life and a similar number (51%) view it as important for other households.



Picture 4.2.1: No 93 Andy bus

'Very good that we have a frequent bus service'

When asked what traffic measures are needed in the Parish, households responded as shown on the following chart:



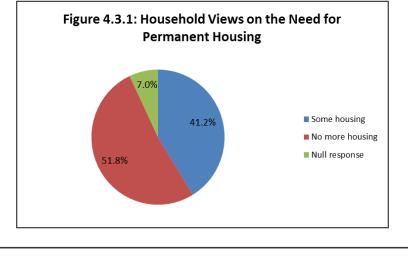
Dislike: 'State of roads – potholes'

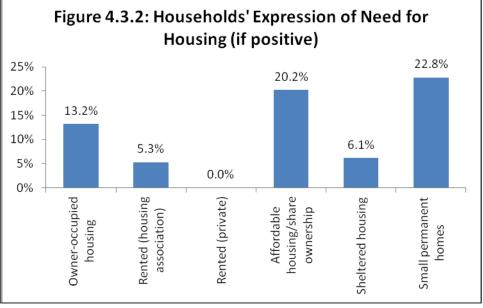


Picture 4.2.2 – Water Lane road surface damage.

4.3 Housing and Development

Just over half (52%) of the households that responded stated that they did not think that there was a need for any more permanent housing within the Parish. The remaining 48% expressed that there was a need for the following types of permanent housing (a household could select more than one type of housing):





Statements given during the Parish Plan process show that where there is a wish for further housing and these houses should be small and be suitable as starter homes for young families or downsizing homes for older residents.

'Threat of development which changes the feel of the villages or the water park'

'Do not want to see any further development'

'Older people have no ability to downsize into more manageable housing'

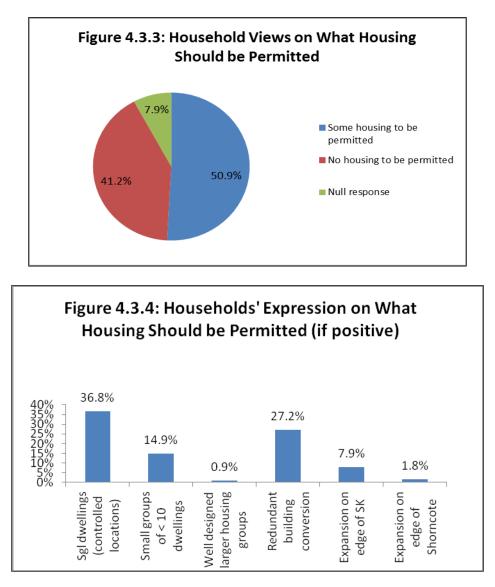
4.3

4.3

'Affordable housing for first time buyers'

When asked what type of housing development should be permitted in the Parish, rather than what type of housing is needed, the results were moderately varied. 41% households stated that no housing development should be permitted and 51% of households gave at least one preference for the type of housing development that they thought should be permitted. Of the 17 households who said that there was no need for further housing and then stated that housing development should be permitted, 16 said that this permission should be given for the conversion of redundant buildings, 7 said it should be single dwellings in controlled locations and 2 said it should be for small groups of fewer than 10 dwellings. (Some households expressed a preference for more than one option).

The following charts show households' views on whether any housing development should be permitted and if so, what type of housing development should be permitted:



It was stated in the questionnaire that the settlements of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote have village protection zones around them and that they are to prevent any further developments and gravel extraction within the zones. Whilst, just under half of the

responding households were aware of this, 86% were in support after reading the details of the protection zones. These details are included in appendix D.

When asked whether the household is supportive of any more holiday homes being given planning permission in the Parish (over and above those that already have permission on the Lower Mill Estate), the majority of households were against (77%) with 7% in support. This evidence is supported by the many concerns raised during the interview stage:

'Swamped by holiday homes'

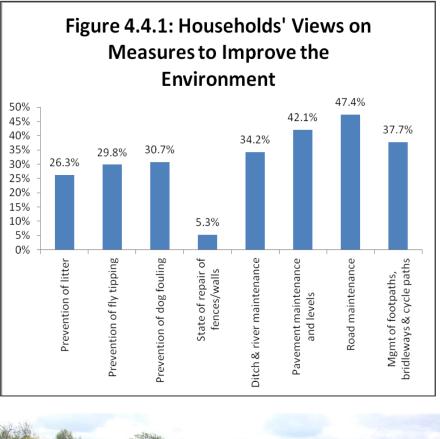
'More and more holiday homes - not permanent family homes'

'Further holiday home development and gravel extraction'

4.4

4.4 Environment

Every household was asked questions about the immediate environment in which it resides and how it can be improved. The following chart shows the responses. It is worth noting that the questionnaire was carried out before the extremely wet summer and November/December of 2012.





Picture 4.4: Servicing of highly effective flood defence in 2011

Of the other given suggestions for improving the environment in the Parish, 46% of households expressed a desire for tidier roadside verges, 26% and 25% respectively stated a desire for more tree planting on verges/open spaces and a community composting scheme respectively.

Only a small number of households stated that environmental issues caused them a problem, with 11% of households stating that flooding and 8% of households stating that aircraft noise caused problems. Again, it is worth noting that the questionnaire was carried out in June 2012 before the long spell of wet weather.

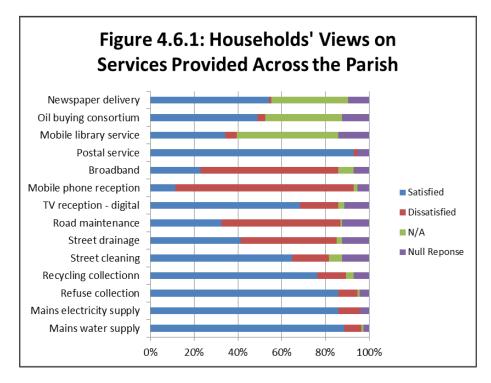
4.5 Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Thankfully, only 3% consider crime and anti-social behaviour to be a problem in the Parish. Also, 79% of households are aware of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. However, just under half of households receive communications from a neighbourhood watch co-ordinator.

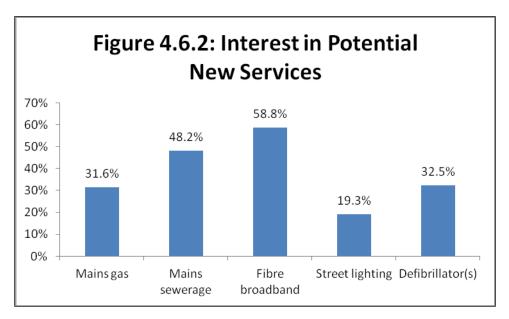
The level of crime is also low in the Parish with only 12% of households having been affected by crime (including the theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles, vandalism, burglary, excessive noise and threatening behaviour) in the past five years. In line with national trends, the fear of crime is higher than the crime rate with 26% of households reporting that they thought any of the listed types of crime are a problem. The results were inconclusive as to whether all crimes were reported to the police and whether households are satisfied with the police service.

4.6 Services

Households were questioned on whether they were satisfied with a large number of services that are provided across the Parish. Figure 4.6.1 shows the results:



Households were then asked about which services, not currently available, they would like in the future. The results are shown in the following chart:



The results highlight the growth of the internet since 2001, where broadband is now seen as an essential service and households requiring a high-speed, reliable, fibre service which is not currently available in the Parish.



Picture 4.6.2 - Communication service providers, other are available.

83% of households have an internet connection. Of the 15 households (13%) that do not have an internet connection, 4 are at 4 Acres. 11 are in Somerford Keynes, of which 9 contain members who are over 60 years in age.

4.7

4.7 Community Life

During the interview stage, it became clear that many aspects within the Parish are highly valued:

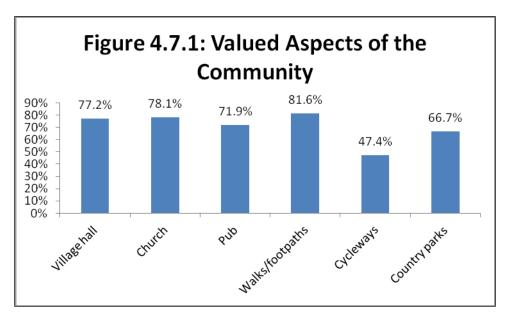
'Walks in the countryside from right outside back door'

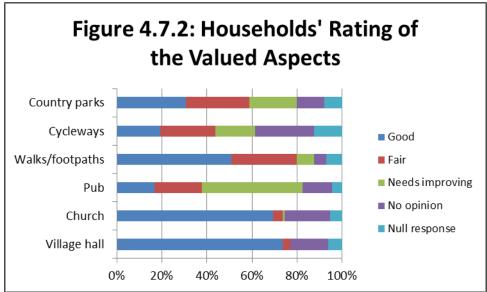
'Good network of footpaths and interesting walks'

'Great village hall'

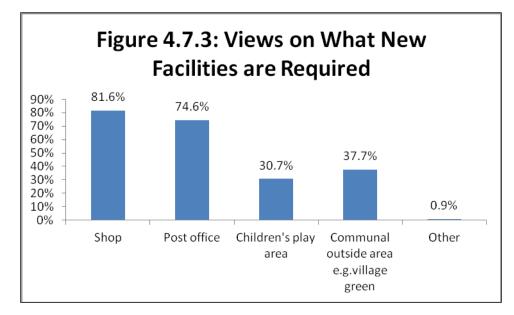
'Unspoilt water parks'

The following charts shows to what extent these aspects are valued and how households rate the valued aspects of our community:



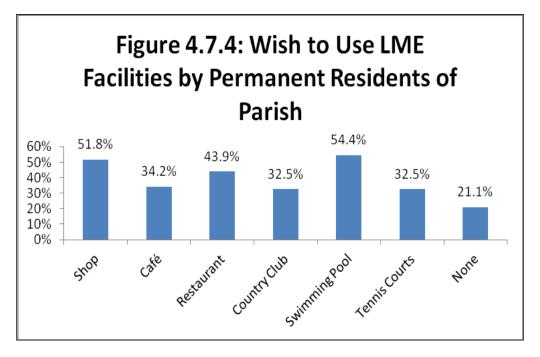


As a follow-on, households were asked what new facilities they would like to use in the Parish and figure 4.7.3 shows the responses.



23% of all households questioned stated that there are not adequate facilities for children/teenagers in the Parish (7% of households stated that there are). However, when only households with members under the age of 18 are taken into account the former figure rises to 71%, reflecting the particular needs of that group.

At the request of Lower Mill Estate, permanent residents of the Parish were asked what future facilities located on the Lower Mill Estate (that could be accessible without entering the main estate), they would like to access. The results are shown below:



It should be noted that only a minority of LME homeowners wished to make the pool available to Somerford Keynes and Shorncote residents.



Picture 4.7.4 - Entrance to Lower Mill Estate

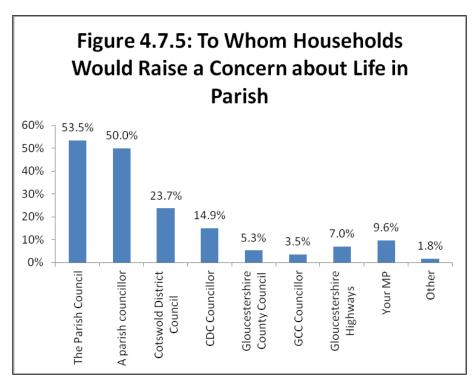
The village hall is a much treasured and well used facility within the village with 55% of households using the facility at least several times a year. However, 39% of households rarely or never use the hall.

Similarly, the church is a much valued aspect of community life with 48% of households stating that they attend festival services. There is considerable support (approximately 20%) for regular Sunday services. There is, however, minimal support for weekday services. The Church and it's surrounds are very well tended by a group of keen volunteers, which is much appreciated by those with family members buried there.

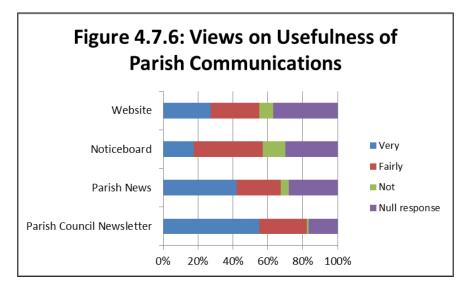




86% of responding households stated that they understand the role and function of the Parish Council. 9% stated that they did not. When questioned whether they thought the Parish Council were doing a good job, 74% responded in the affirmative and only 2% thought that they were not doing a good job. This is reflected in the fact that just over 50% of households stated that they would raise a concern about some aspect of life in the Parish with the Parish Council or a parish councillor first. All the responses to this question are shown below:



The majority of households (86%) stated that they are as well-informed as they would like to be about what is happening in the Parish, 10% stated that they are not. Over three quarters of households are aware of the Parish Council newsletter, the church Parish News and the Noticeboard as means of communication. The website <u>www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk</u> is less well-known and is known to only two-thirds of households. Households were asked to comment on how useful they find each of the means of communication and the results are shown below:



The reponse from the contacts with the business community ranged from interest in being involved in the process to no indication of interest at all. Copies of the Action Plan were sent to those who expressed an interest.

4.8 Second home owner views.

The arrival of a large estate of second home owners over the past 10 years at Lower Mill has resulted in changes. As reported elsewhere in this plan the second home owners now have voting rights in local elections. The Parish Plan core group did discuss the involvement of the second home owners in the development of the plan with the Parish council and this resulted in a mandate to include the second home owners in the consultation part of the Parish Plan and report their opinions in the resultant documents.

The questionnaire was circulated to the second home owners via the Lower Mill Estate email list and there was a 20% response rate, which is high for this type of exercise. Their responses are covered in Appendix E item 1.2. In order to gauge their opinions in contrast to those of the permanent residents GRCC computed the 50% plus opinions of the permanent residents, the second home owners and then the combined the opinions.

What was most interesting was the high degree of correlation in these 3 sets of opinions, this being detailed below. In some ways the entire parish is of the same opinion on quite a range of matters.



Picture 4.8: Lower Mill Estate from the Air

Comment [pw1]:

Chapter 4.8

Somerford Keynes and Shorncote Parish Plan Questionnaire 2012

SUMMARY

For each of the three datasets, answers given by over 50% of respondents relating either to potential new developments, actions they would support, facilities they would use, amenities they value, or things they are dissatisfied with are summarised below. All percentages are out of the total number of respondents in each dataset.

A. PERMANENT RESIDENTS (% OF 114)

- 86% -support the continuation of the settlement protection zones
- 82% dissatisfied with mobile phone reception
- 82% would use a shop in the parish; 74% a village shop is an acceptable new development
- 67%-82% value the following as part of the fabric of the community: 82% walks/footpaths; 78% church; 77% village hall; 72% pub; 67% country parks
- 77% either strongly disagree (68%) or disagree (9%) that more holiday homes should be given planning permission
- 75% would use a Post Office in the parish
- 63% dissatisfied with broadband; 59% would like fibre broadband
- **57%** Andy Bus sevice is an essential part of our village life; **51%** our household does not use the Andy bus service but we see it as important to other households
- 54% dissatisfied with road maintenance
- 54%- would like access to a swimming pool located on the Lower Mill Estate; 52% would like access to a shop on the Lower Mill Estate
- **52%** no more permanent housing is needed in the parish

B. Lower Mill Estate(LME) SECOND HOME OWNERS (% of 51)

- 65%-98% value the following as part of the fabric of the community: 98% Walks/ footpaths; 96% pub; 84% cycleways; 78% country parks; 65% village hall
- 92% -dissatisfied with mobile phone reception
- 92%- a village shop is acceptable new development; 90% would use a shop in the parish
- 78% support the continuation of the protection zones
- 69%-75% would be happy for permanent residents of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote to access the following on LME if accessible without entering the main estate: 75% shop; 71% café; 69% restaurant
- 71% do not feel as well informed as they would like to be about what's happening in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote
- 69% management of footpaths, bridleways, rights of way and cycle paths needs to be improved
- 62% either strongly disagree (37%) or disagree (25%) that more holiday homes should be given planning permission
- 61% think conversion of redundant buildings should be permitted in the parish
- 59% more cycle paths are needed in the parish and surrounding areas
- **57%** would use a Post Office in the parish
- 55% small scale sustainable business is an acceptable new development
- 55% dissatisfied with broadband; 51% would like fibre broadband

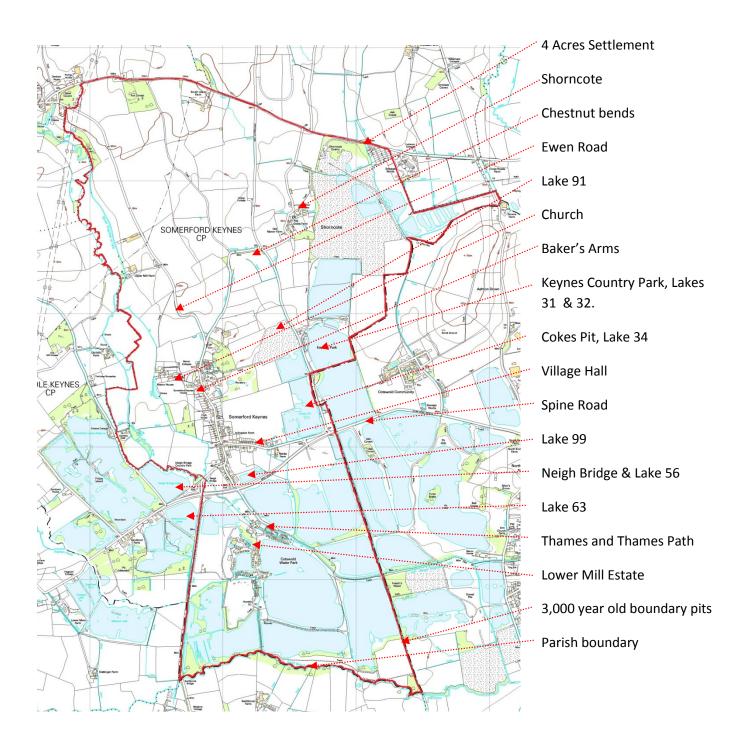
Chapter 4.8

Page 2

C. ALL RESPONDENTS (% OF 165)

- 59%-87% value the following as part of the fabric of the community: 87% walks/ footpaths; 79% pub; 73% village hall; 70% country parks; 68% church; 59% cycleways
- 85% dissatisfied with mobile phone reception
- 84% -support the continuation of the settlement protection zones
- 84% would use a shop in the parish; 79% a village shop is acceptable development
- 72% either strongly disagree (58%) or disagree (14%) that more holiday homes should be given planning permission
- 69% would use a Post Office in the parish
- 61% dissatisfied with broadband; 56% would like fibre broadband

Appendix A – Map of the Parish, showing boundary and locations mentioned.



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Appendix B – Geographical and Historical Notes

Somerford Keynes is a small village, population 420 (2010), set on the edge of the Cotswolds and with the beginnings of the River Thames to its north west. Historically there is evidence of Bronze and Roman settlement nearby. One village boundary, to the south east has evidence of being over 3,000 years old. There is a Saxon Charter dating to 685 AD with the Church providing evidence of Saxon settlement with a Doomsday Book entry. An active Historical group meets in the Village on a bimonthly basis and holds a good record of artefacts as well as recording various aspects of the village's history. Further sources of Village history are detailed in Appendix E.

There have been few changes to the administration of the Parish since 2001. The Cotswold District Council remains as does Gloucestershire County Council. There is a move to change the electoral divisions so that they become a "single member division" and reduce the number of Councillors. The Gloucestershire County Council has already reduced its representation by 10 Councillors. There are also changes proposed to alter the Parish boundary to include Neigh Bridge Country Park and Lake 63 on the opposite side of the Oaksey Road into Somerford Keynes Parish. This is with the agreement of the adjoining Poole Keynes Parish. The owners of second homes in the Parish, primarily at Lower Mill, can vote at local elections as well as their primary place of residence.

One controversial issue that has emerged since 2001 is the demise of the Cotswold Water Park Society, replaced by a new Trust. The Society was set up in 1997 to administer the local authority assets in the Cotswold Water Park including Keynes Country Park. The park was sub-leased in 2008 by the Society to Watermark Leisure Ltd by means of a legal agreement which caused considerable disquiet. Complaints were sent to the District Auditor and the Local Authority Ombudsman who both agreed that the agreement raised issues of concern but felt unable to intervene. Watermark then attempted to close the park to all but paying entrants. An application was therefore submitted by the Parish Council to make all the paths at Keynes Country Park Public Rights of Way. As a result a meeting was held in the village hall in March 2010 to discuss matters, with Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP, in the chair. The prime reason stated for allowing the lease to go ahead was claimed to be because of the financial difficulties of the Society. (The Chief Executive of the Society was later jailed for $4\frac{1}{2}$ years for fraudulently removing £700,000 from the Society funds.) The agreement unfortunately still stands. Watermark has since given notice for leaving the park in 2016. The controversy was one factor in the disbandment of the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee, set up by the major local authorities in 1969 to co-ordinate policy in the gravel extraction area.

There have been very few new houses built in the Parish since 2001 except at Arlingdon Farm where seven new houses were built and a small bungalow demolished and rebuilt as a house. Development at Lower Mill takes up a considerable amount of time for the Parish Council, much of it controversial. There have been many applications for various changes of use and design and such things as Restaurants, Bistro, Shops, a Cheesery, Cooking School and community hall. One area where development has occurred is next to the Sewage Works where 40 pitches for traveller caravans appeared, without permission; however this site now has full approval and is known as Four Acres.

The Thames flood defences installed in 1998 work well and, in despite of the worst period of rainfall for 100 years, (which happened after the consultations) have kept the majority of the village dry. The recent problems have come from the eastern side with flooding from the County Ditch in Spratsgate Lane. Part of the problem has been a lack of maintenance of the ditches and rivers. Initially the Environment Agency refused to clear the Thames spillway protecting the south of the village because of water voles, not because of finance, finally common sense prevailed. Meetings continue to be held with the appropriate authorities.

Farming and gravel extraction are still major Parish businesses with leisure activities an obvious growth area. Hills at Shorncote are still extracting from within and outside their Shorncote site. There

is a possibility of extraction at the Cotswold Community site to the east. Waterland continue to expand its southern part of Keynes Country Park as do Head for Heights. Go by Cycle moved their operation from the Country Park into a village protection area and this field is designated Zone A in the CDC Supplementary Planning Guidance. There is also camping and caravanning on the site.

Gravel extraction continues to be an issue. Lake 91, opposite Keynes Park was completed however the decision to extract from inside the by-pass at the end of Mill Lane has been resolved. This site was part of the Lower Mill extraction site cut off by the by-pass in 1978. Thought too small to be economical, changing market conditions made it viable and Hanson decided against strong local opposition, to go ahead in 2003. As mitigation the extraction was done with the wellbeing of the local residents in mind and the subsequent Lake 99 modelled as a nature reserve. After much hard work, plans were agreed and grants obtained with the handover completed in May 2013. The fields to the north and west of Keynes Country Park and adjoining Shorncote were removed as areas of search from the Local Minerals Plan by a Government Inspector. However Moreton Cullimore Gravel purchased the land and, in 2010, applied for permission to extract. The matter has caused considerable local concern, not least of which from the residents of Shorncote, and is still ongoing and not resolved.

The Village Hall flourishes. A new entrance with a disabled toilet has been built and the hall refurbished, mainly with volunteer labour. It has a new kitchen, lighting, heating, video, a sound system with a hearing loop. Solar panels are installed on the roof to generate power and income. It was one of the first village halls in Gloucestershire to receive a Hallmark 3 designation. The hall is well used and forms the centre point for village social events including the very successful Golden Jubilee celebration in 2012 which was celebrated with a street party. The village at last won the Bledisloe Cup for the best kept village in 2004. The village is fortunate that it still has a pub, The Bakers Arms.

There is a well run village website to keep everyone up to date and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, that regretfully reported the loss of Saxon stone fragments from the Church, apparently stolen to order. Volunteering is essential for a well run village. Apart from the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council volunteers look after and maintain the village hall, maintain the churchyard, clean and provide flowers at the church, help set up the newspapers, run the Village Church Fete, Neighbourhood Watch, take part in the annual spring clean up, organise village social functions and, of course, write the new Parish Plan.



New entrance gate to Lake 99

Appendix C – 2012 Questionnaire

Somerford Keynes and Shorncote Parish Plan 2012

Have your say

The Somerford Keynes and Shorncote Parish Plan project is a unique opportunity for all residents to voice their thoughts about the way the Parish is today and the way they would like it to be in the future.

This questionnaire, which only takes 15 minutes to complete, has been distributed to every household in the parish so that everyone has an equal opportunity to be heard.

Please complete one questionnaire per household. It's vitally important that as many households as possible complete the questionnaire so that the results represent the whole parish.

All returns will be anonymous and confidential.

Please place your questionnaire in the Parish Plan envelope provided. It will be collected from you w/c 9th July 2012.

On the pink sheet is the emergency plan questionnaire. Its purpose is to establish a plan for the Parish of how to respond to an emergency such as flooding, extensive power cuts etc by identifying the location of essential resources and skills that could be used in such an event. For this reason, this questionnaire is not anonymous so please place the pink sheet in the separate envelope marked 'Emergency Plan' for collection.

With thanks from the Somerford Keynes and Shorncote Parish Plan Steering Group: John Sweet (Chair), Sheila Jones, Jenny Lloyd, Sarah Powell.

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This project is supported by the Parish Council and Cotswold District Council.

When you complete this questionnaire, please consider the needs and views of your entire household. The information that you give remains anonymous.

YOU	R HOUSEHOLD	Q6	Please tick the employment status of everyone in
Q1	Where in the Parish is your household? (tick one)		your household aged 16+ (tick all that apply)
	Somerford Keynes village		Self employed/run own business
	Shorncote and outlying properties		Employed full-time
	Lower Mill Estate		Employed part-time
	Four Acres		Unemployed - seeking paid work
	Other		Unemployed - not seeking paid work
Q2	Are you: (tick one)		In full time education or training
QZ	Permanent residents of Somerford Keynes and		Retired
	Shorncote		Other
	LME second home owners	07	If employed, do you work from home?
Q3	Which age groups normally live in your	Q7	
70	household? (tick all that apply)		the time
	0-4 18-24 60-74 91+		Yes - some of the
	5-10 25-44 75-84		time
	11-17 45-59 85-90	TRA	NSPORT
Q4	How long have you, as a household, lived in the	Q8	How many vehicles are normally based at your
	Parish? (tick one)		home? (tick one box in each row)
	0-4 years 5-19 years 20+ years		0 1 2 3+
Q5	Which of these best describes your home? (tick		Car/van
	one)		Motorbike/moped
	Owner occupied Privately rented		Motor home/caravan
	Rented from a Other		Mobility scooter
	housing association		

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Q9 Does any adult in your household have difficulty travelling independently to the following ? (tick one box in each row)

	Regularly	Sometimes	Never
Doctor			
Cirencester hospital			
Other health facility (e.g. optician/dentist/pharmacy)			
Central Cirencester shops			
Main supermarkets			
Friends & family			
Other (please specify below)			

Q10 How often have you as a household used the following services in the past twelve months? (tick one box in each row)

		At least	At least		
		weekly	monthly	Occasionally	Never
	Andy Bus (local bus service)				
	School Bus				
	Train (from Kemble)				
	Taxi				
	An organised voluntary car scheme (e.g. Dial-a-Ride)				
Q11	What are your views on the Andy bus service? (tick a	ll that apply)			
	Essential part of our village life			there were buses	at different
	Our household does not use it, but we see it as	times	of day		
	important for other households	Too ex	xpensive		
	Do not value it at all	Not re	eliable enougł	n	
	Would use more if the buses were more frequent	Other	(please speci	fy below)	

TRAFFIC

Q12 Which of the following do you think are needed in the Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote and surrounding areas? (tick all that apply)

- Reduced speed limit
- Traffic calming e.g. speed bumps

Speed cameras

- More/wider pavements and footpaths
- More cycle paths

More road warning signs

If you have ticked any of these, please state locations or suggest ideas:

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

- Q13 Do you think that there is a need for more of the following types of permanent housing in the Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick all that apply)
 - Owner-occupied housing
 - Rented (housing association)
 - Rented (private)
 - Affordable housing/shared ownership
 - Sheltered housing
 - Small permanent homes
 - No more housing

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Q14 What type of housing development should be	ENVIRONMENT
permitted in the Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick all that apply)	Q19 Which of the following do you think need to be
Single dwellings in controlled locations	improved in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick all that apply)
Small groups of fewer than 10 dwellings	Prevention of litter
Carefully designed larger groups of housing	Prevention of fly tipping
Conversion of redundant buildings	Prevention of dog fouling
Expansion on the edge of Somerford Keynes	State of repair of fences/walls
Expansion on the edge of Shorncote	Ditch & river maintenance
None at all	Pavement maintenance and levels
Q15 What new development would you find	Road maintenance
acceptable in the Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick all that apply)	Management of footpaths, bridleways, rights of way & cycle paths
Village shop	Q20 Which of the following would you like to see in
Small scale sustainable business	Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick all that
Small scale leisure development	apply)
Large scale leisure development	More tree planting on verges/open spaces
Commercial business units	Tidier roadside verges
None at all	Community Composting Scheme
Comments:	Q21 Do the following environmental issues cause a
	problem for your household? (tick all that apply)
	Flooding
O16 The settlements of Semarford Kounes and	Noise from aircraft
Q16 The settlements of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote have village protection zones	Noise from road traffic
established around them. This is to prevent any	Noise from lakes and leisure activities
further developments and gravel extraction within the zones. Were you aware of this? (tick	Other (please specify below)
one)	
Yes	
Details of the zones can be found at	CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
$\underline{www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk/parishcouncil.htm\#protection}$	Q22 Do you think crime and anti-social behaviour are problems in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote?
If you do not have web access please ask the person	(tick one)
who delivered this for a copy of the map.	Strongly agree Strongly disagree
Q17 Do you support the continuation of the protection	Agree Don't know
zones? (tick one)	Disagree
Yes No Don't know	Q23 A Neighbourhood Watch scheme exists in the
Q18 Do you think any more holiday homes should be	parish. Are you aware of it? (tick one)
given planning permission in the Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick one)	Yes No
Strongly agree Strongly disagree	Q24 Do you receive communications from a
	neighbourhood watch co-ordinator? (tick one)
	Yes No
Disagree	

Q25	Please tick the issues that you think are a problem in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote, and indicate whether your household has been personally affected in the past five years: Problem Affected Theft of vehicles	Q29 Of the services not currently available, which would you like? (tick all that apply) Mains gas Mains sewerage Defibrillator(s) Fibre broadband Comments:
026	Vandalism	Q30 Does your household have an internet connection? (tick one) Yes No COMMUNITY LIFE
100.00	behaviour in the past five years, did you report the incident to the police? (tick one)	Q31 Which of the following in the Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote do you value as part of the fabric of the community? (tick all that apply) Village hall
Q27	Are you satisfied with the police service provided to Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick one) Yes No Don't know	Church Pub Walks/footpaths
	/ICES Are you satisfied with the following services in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? Yes No N/A	Q32 Please rate the following services in Somerford
	Mains water supply Mains electricity supply Refuse collection Recycling collection Street cleaning Street drainage Road maintenance TV reception - digital Mobile phone reception Broadband Postal service Oil buying consortium Newspaper delivery	Keynes and Shorncote: (tick one box in each row) Sood Fair improving opinion Village hall

Q34	If you have children/teenagers, are there adequate facilities for them in the Parish of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick one) Yes No N/A If no, what facilities are required?		How often does anyone in your household use the village hall or attend an activity or an event there? (tick one) Weekly Several times a year At least monthly Rarely/never What additional events or activities would you like to see held at the village hall?
Q35	Is there any club or society, leisure facility or activity that is lacking in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote (or that anyone in your household is participating in elsewhere) that you would like to see provided? Please state.	Q40	Which church services, at All Saints Somerford Keynes, do you attend or would consider attending? (tick all that apply) Would Attend consider Sunday morning
> If y and S > If y answ Q36	HE REQUEST OF LOWER MILL ESTATE (LME): ou are a permanent resident of Somerford Keynes Shorncote, please answer Q36 (leave Q37 blank) ou are a home owner on Lower Mill Estate please er Q37 (leave Q36 blank) If you are a permanent resident of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote, which of the following future facilities located on the LME (that could be accessible without entering the main estate) would you like to access? (tick all that apply) Shop Swimming Pool Café Tennis Courts Restaurant None Country Club We confirm we are permanent residents of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote If you are a LME home owner, which of the	Q42	Sunday evening Weekday morning Weekday evening Weekday evening Weekday evening Family service Morning Prayer Festival services None Do you understand the role and function of the Parish Council? (tick one) Yes Yes No What is your view of the Parish Council of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick one) Doing a good job Not doing a good job Don't know/No opinion If you had a concern about some aspect of life in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote who would you normally raise it with first? (tick all that apply)
~~~	following future facilities on the LME would you be happy for the permanent residents of Somerford Keynes and Shorncote to access (if they were accessible without entering the main estate)? (tick all that apply) Shop Swimming Pool Café Tennis Courts Restaurant None Country Club We confirm we are LME second home owners		The Parish Council A parish councillor Cotswold District Council CDC Councillor Gloucestershire County Council GCC Councillor Gloucestershire Highways Your MP Other

Q44 Do you feel that you are as well-informed as you would like to be about what's happening in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote? (tick one)

If no, how could communication be improved?

Q45 Were you aware of the following means of communication within the Parish? (tick all that apply)

Parish Council Newsletter

Parish News

Noticeboard

Website www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk

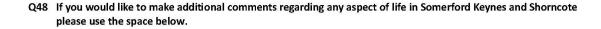
Q46 If yes, how useful do you find the communication? (tick one box in each row) Very Fairly Not

Parish Council Newsletter		
Parish News		
Noticeboard		
Website		
www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk		

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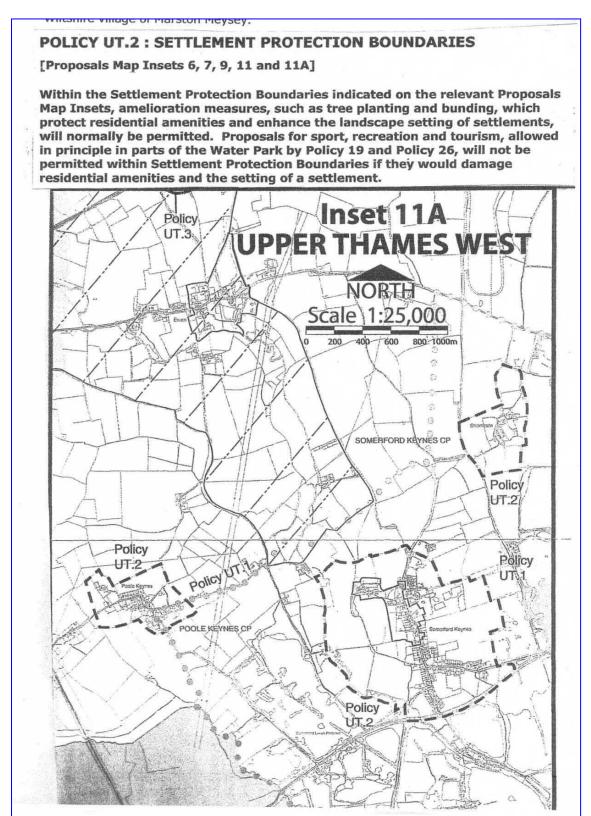
If not, how could communication be improved?

Q47 Please complete this sentence: "What we in this household really value about living in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote is..."



# Thank you for completing this questionnaire

## Appendix D – Settlement Protection Boundary (CDC Local Plan Policy UT.2)



### Appendix E – Supporting Documents / References / Sources.

Available from the Parish Plan team. It is hoped they can be placed on an Archive server.

1	Questionnaire responses	
1.1	Permanent residents by percentage.	Parish Plan 223pdf file
1.2	LME second home residents by percentage	Parish Plan 225, .pdf file
1.3	50% plus responses	Parish Plan 229, .pdf file
1.4	Permanent residents written responses	Parish Plan 232, .pdf file
1.5	GRCC Excel Chart analysis	Parish Plan 240, Excel file
2	Coffee morning responses	Parish Plan 160, .pdf file
3	Presentations	
3.1	Initial report 24 th September 2012	Parish Plan 241v4, .pdf file
3.2	Action Plan 16 th Jan 2013	Parish Plan 256v3, .pdf file

Photographic and graphic acknowledgements

John Brailey	Frontispiece, top.
Mike McKeown	Frontispiece, bottom.
John Sweet	Frontispiece middle, 4.2p1, 4.2p2, 4.4p1, 4.6p1, 4.7p3, AppendixBp2.
Ordnance Survey	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, AppendixA.
Lower Mill Estate	4.8p1.

Useful reference books and information regarding the History of the Parish and the Upper Thames.

Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames. Booth P. et alia. Oxford Archaeology, 2007.

Somerford Keynes and Shorncote Parish Appraisals, 1991 & 2001.

Through the Saxon Door. Gibbon G. Revised and reprinted 1985

# Appendix F Final Notes to First edition.

I would like to thank all of those who have so generously given their time to putting this plan together.

It is very much a whole community effort and with a relatively small population some people are doing more than one job. The high response rates do give considerable credibility to the opinions expressed and does reflect well in the move towards self determination that is prevalent at the moment. This Plan will give "Evidence Based" support to future funding applications as it has done already to the successful Lake 99 grant application.

A few words of explanation:

The progress column in the action plan will be used to record actions and activity as time goes by, in this case by either Parish Council or the reconstituted Parish Plan group.

Elements of the Parish Plan were designed as possible precursors to a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) or something very similar. NDP's are very rigorous in their approach to opinion and information. The Parish Plan has been described as very robust and an NDP would be even more so in representing Parish opinion to external organisations.

It is recommended that Parish Plans should be completely updated every 10 years or so. In this Plan we have used every useful idea we came across during the putting together of all aspects of the plan. This gives freshness and vitality as some of the experience of others can be very recent. The close involvement of GRCC made a huge difference and who ever does the plan 2022 will find them very useful. To this end a very complete archive will be set up of all material generated in both paper and electronic form. These are public documents so accessible to all.

We have gone to considerable trouble to remove typo's and maintain consistency. I apologise for any that get through and will happily correct them for the second edition. We have noted all the feedback received during the progress of the Plan and if your bête noire has been missed out please let me know and we will add it, and our comment to the Parish Plan file.

The layout is designed for reading on a PC screen or printed copy of needed. A shortened version will be located on the Parish Web site and the key reference files will be on the Gloucestershire University server towards the autumn of 2013.

and finally.....

The preface of the 1991 Appraisal made the remark that any survey of opinions was a snap shot and asked the question "which way was the camera pointed", in time. In 2013, some 22 years later one could say that the camera, and so our view point, is definitely looking to the future and our community now has considerable experience in expressing its collective point of view. Or perhaps

"Our deeds travel from afar, what we have been makes us what we are".

John Sweet, Parish Plan Co-ordinator, June 3rd 2013