

CHELtenham BOROUGH

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES PROJECT REPORT

PART 2 – CHAPTER 5 OAKLEY

January 2017

Report compiled by GRCC, working in partnership with Oakley
Neighbourhood Project and Oakley Regeneration Partnership

Chapter 5: Oakley

Report Context

GRCC was commissioned by Cheltenham Borough Council in 2016 to support twelve communities in Cheltenham Borough to consider their aspirations and present these in order to inform the Cheltenham Plan, a planning strategy document being produced by Cheltenham Borough Council during 2016-2017. The Cheltenham Engaging Communities Project builds on previous partnership working between GRCC and Cheltenham Borough communities in 2014-2015 which resulted in evidence gathering and recommendations by communities for designation of Local Green Spaces across Cheltenham Borough. The findings from that Local Green Spaces Study were summarised in a [report](#) presented to Cheltenham Borough Council in 2015.

The Cheltenham Engaging Communities Project Report is structured in 2 Parts:

Part 1 of the report provides an overview across Cheltenham Borough, summarising each community's approach and drawing out key messages.

Part 2 of the report contains 12 separate chapters, each devoted to one community, tracking their approach to the task and drawing out their conclusions, aspirations and priorities. Each chapter contains Appendices which provide fuller detail of a profile produced by the community and outputs from engagement activities they have conducted as part of this project and relevant previous activity.

This document forms Chapter 5 of Part 2 of the Cheltenham Engaging Communities Project Report and contains information about Oakley.

Introduction to Oakley

The area of Oakley is a mature, residential suburban area to the north east of Cheltenham Town centre, and includes the neighbourhoods of Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors. The area adjoins Pittville and the town centre to the west, All Saints and Charlton Kings to the south, Prestbury to the north and some open farmland to the east. It is very close to the Cotswolds escarpment and therefore the Area of Outstanding Natural beauty (AONB).

How Oakley Neighbourhood Project and Oakley Regeneration Partnership approached the Cheltenham Engaging Communities Project

The Oakley Neighbourhood Project (ONP) and Oakley Regeneration Partnership (ORP) worked with GRCC to prepare this Chapter which includes contributions from local residents during community consultation. Both organisations are well embedded in the community, with ONP meeting with residents and offering activities on a daily basis and both organisations have a sound grasp of the values of the community and issues affecting local residents, businesses and community groups. ONP and ORP made use of GRCC support to engage with community members during a fun day and to facilitate meetings to discuss future priorities. It is worthy to note that in October 2016, the Oakley Neighbourhood Project closed therefore latter stages of work was conducted with members of Oakley Regeneration Partnership.

Oakley Neighbourhood Project and Regeneration Partnership engagement with the wider community

In order to build an understanding of the vision, community aspirations / priorities and key issues in relation to the Oakley area, the community went through a number of key stages.

The first stage was to review and consider a community profile that included desktop evidence from national and local data. Members of ONP considered desk top evidence along with information from previous work / discussions by the residents' group and used a basic framework provided by GRCC to produce a profile of Oakley. The profile contains sections on history, economy, housing, community services, transport, physical environment and the characteristics of the population. The full profile can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

The next stage involved community engagement activity during summer 2016 in order to explore other residents' opinions and priorities and inform the conclusions drawn. This was based on a community questionnaire to try and gain a wider perspective on issues which had previously been raised, followed by a workshop to consider results and draw conclusions.

During Oakley Fun Day 28th July a stand was set up and adults were invited to engage in discussion and answer a questionnaire as they participated in the fun day. Those who did not have time to answer the questions were encouraged to fill in the questionnaire on the ONP website and hard copies of the questionnaire were also available from The Cornerstones Café and Oakley Resource Centre throughout August. The 8 questions included a mix of open and multiple choice questions and explored a number of issues including some relating to future development and how to build a stronger community. In total 72 survey responses were received and analysed by GRCC.

1. What is your opinion on the following in Oakley? (tick one per row)

	Very good	Good	Poor	N/a
Play facilities				
St Michael's Church and Cornerstone Centre				
Oakley Neighbourhood Project				
Whaddon Youth Centre				
Getting around Oakley by car				
Getting around on foot				
Getting around by bike				
Getting around if you're disabled				
Access to public transport				
Sports facilities				
Buildings - condition				
Buildings - design				
Open spaces				
Employment opportunities				
Access to shops and services				
Access to Health services				
Access to Police support				
Facilities for older people				
Facilities for families and young children				
Facilities for adults				
Other – please specify:				

2. What improvements would you suggest?

3. Please describe the characteristics (such as parking, design, garden provision, infrastructure) that you feel are important in any new development in Oakley or any area of Cheltenham.

4. What activities and groups would you like to see going on in this area?

5. How can we build a stronger community in our local area?

6. The Vision for our local area – please complete the following sentences:

a) In five years' time Oakley should be a place where....

b) In twenty years' time Oakley should be a place where....

7. What improvements are needed to our green spaces? (please name the green space)

Name:

Email Address:

Home address (Street):

Phone Number:

Thank you for completing our survey which was prepared by Oakley Neighbourhood Project

Following the closure of the Oakley Neighbourhood Project and bearing in mind the reduced capacity of the organisations to participate in the Cheltenham Engaging Communities project, GRCC facilitated a meeting of a sub group of the Oakley Regeneration Partnership to explore points that had been raised during the community consultation, previous consultations and findings from the community profile. The group used the information to draw out aspirations and key issues for the community.

Outputs from community engagement activities

A) Community consultation during the Oakley Fun Day

The following provides a summary of the key results and a full analysis report can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Question	Number of responses
What is your opinion of employment opportunities in Oakley?	32- good/v good 26- poor 13- no opinion
What is your opinion of access to police support?	36- good/ v good 23- poor 8 –no opinion
What is your opinion of Oakley Neighbourhood Project?	58- good/ v good 1 –poor

	11- no opinion
What is your opinion of access to sports facilities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32- good/ v good • 23- poor • 12- no opinion
What is your opinion of open spaces?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50- good/ v good • 13 – poor • 8 – no opinion
What is your opinion of access to health services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45- good/ v good • 18- poor • 4 – no opinion
What improvements would you suggest?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social activities / community- 11 comments • Parks / green spaces / play area- 9 comments • Pavements & roads- 9 comments
Please describe the characteristics that you feel are important in any new development in Oakley or any area of Cheltenham?	Roads, pavements & parking – 20 comments
How can we build a stronger community in our local area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events / activities – 13 comments • Meeting places – 7 comments

Question 2 was an open question exploring respondents' suggested improvements for the Oakley area. Improvements in social activities / community and parks / green spaces / play area featured strongly as did the roads, pavements and parking. A high level of respondents referred to roads, pavements and pathways as being important characteristic for any new development in Oakley or any area of Cheltenham. There was a low satisfaction level with the local employment opportunities whilst there was a high level of opinion with regard to the Oakley Neighbourhood Project. Comments relating to how a stronger community could be built in the local area largely revolved around access to community events / activities as well as places to meet.

B) Workshop to draw out aspirations

The community identified four key community aspects with associated aspirations and objectives which are summarised below. Additional points raised during the workshop session can be found in [Appendix 3](#).

Aspiration 1 – relating to community safety and transport infrastructure

Oakley will be a safe place to cycle and walk.

The achievement of this aspiration requires the following objectives to be met:

- Efficient traffic management- especially when considering any new development/ change of use applications.
- Improvements in road surfaces and potential for cycling routes
- Tackling speed limits

Aspiration 2: relating to built environment

To achieve a balance between residential dwellings, community spaces and buildings for economic and social use.

The achievement of this aspiration requires the following objectives to be met:

- To fully utilise the existing assets available to the community to meet unmet needs in the local community.

Aspiration 3: relating to community spaces, culture and recreation

Aspire to ensure that buildings are kept and managed to envelop into the social community.

The achievement of this aspiration requires the following objective to be met:

- Improved Oakley based service provision from a health & wellbeing perspective.

Aspiration 3; relating to the economy and local opportunities

Any new development to support the economic and social sustainability of the Oakley community.

The achievement of this aspiration requires the following objective to be met:

- To promote and encourage businesses to locate into the local area where there is development opportunities.

[Appendix 4](#) contains link to previous consultations carried out by ONP and which are reflected in the workshop output as well as the community profile.

Appendix 1: Community Profile

This profile has been produced by Oakley Neighbourhood Project (ONP). GRCC provided a basic framework and some desk top researched data about the area as a starting point and the ONP reworked the section, using their local knowledge and perspectives. Any additional community commentary, giving a flavour of local feeling on topics is shown *in italics*.

Location

Oakley area adjoins Pittville and the town centre to the west, All Saints and Charlton Kings to the south, Prestbury to the north and some open farmland to the east. It is very close to the nearby Cotswolds escarpment and is largely a residential area, comprising a mix of social and private housing.

People and Households

Data

Data about people and households in Cheltenham is gathered at a ward level, so for the purposes of this research, the ward of Oakley has been used. The population of the ward is approximately 5,765¹.

Key facts

Census data² for the area provides the following information:

- 48.7% of residents are male and around 51.3% are female
- There are 41.72 persons per hectare in Oakley ward, which means that it is in the top 10% most densely populated wards in the county.
- Nearly all data indicators for children and young people are in the highest 10%, which suggests that needs in this area are high. Indicators include aspects such as free school meals, emergency admissions and educational achievement.
- Many indicators that affect economy and enterprise of an area are ranked in the highest 10%. For example, the number of lone parents and the number of carers are both high.
- Crime indicators suggest that crime levels are fairly high, with numbers for violence, victims under 20 and arson all being in the highest 10% for the county. All crime indicators are in top 35% of levels across the county.
- Needs relating to healthy living and older people are closer to county averages, but mental health assessments, occupational therapy assessments and uptake of daycare services are all in the highest 35% of county levels.

Deprivation

A Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographic area designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Each LSOA is graded based on where it falls in its score for multiple deprivation, across five divisions in the full range. Oakley is made up of four LSOAs. Of these, the two in the centre of the ward are in the highest quintile for deprivation while the other two are in the second-

¹ MAIDeN mid-2013 population estimates

² MAIDeN Neighbourhood Profiles

highest quintile. This demonstrates that the area features a fairly high level of multiple deprivation, with some households being very deprived.

Educational Achievement

The number of working-age residents of Oakley with no qualifications is high (35%) when compared to borough (17%), regional (21%) and national (22%) figures. This is balanced out by the much lower number of people with a degree-level qualification (19% in Oakley, compared to 36% Cheltenham-wide).

History and Heritage

- Oakley was documented as a good source of timber in medieval times, hence the name.
- The name 'Oakley' was adopted by a farm that once stood in the area.
- Some of the area was developed in the 19th century, once neighbouring Pittville became a popular destination for spa visitors
- The first housing developments in the Whaddon area started to be built in 1929.
- The Lynworth Farm Estate was built shortly after the Second World War, which is also when much of the other development in the ward occurred.
- GCHQ was situated just east of the ward boundary from 1951. In recent years, the site became increasingly inactive until finally being decommissioned in 2012.

There is no conservation area in the ward, but there are a small number of listed buildings in the area, including Cheltenham Cemetery and Crematorium and associated buildings.

Physical Character

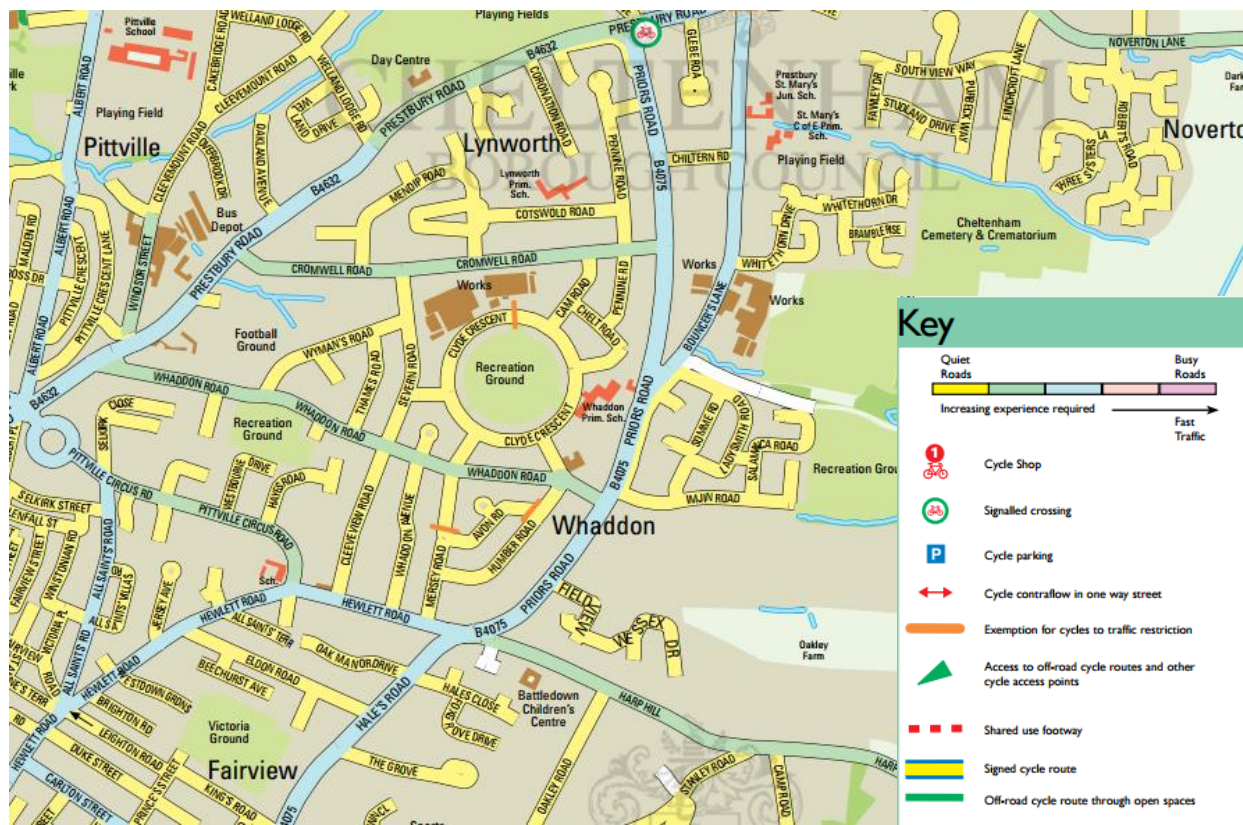
Much of the ward is residential, with most housing being built during the second half of the 20th century, aside from a few streets closest to Pittville. Many streets tend to be fairly uniform, owing to the larger-scale development that occurred rather than infill, but there is a variety of building styles, representing architecture from the 1920s through to very recent years.

Unlike the tight Victorian grids of more central Cheltenham areas, the street layout in the area is slightly looser, incorporating crescents, squares, courts, cul-de-sacs and curving road shapes. While much of the housing was built as social housing and therefore is fairly tightly packed, the road layouts allow for a slightly more spacious feel, as does the reasonable amount of greenery and open spaces, the most distinctive of which is the park in the centre of circular Clyde Crescent. The more modern nature of many of the houses means that nearly all homes have front gardens, which adds to the spaciousness, and abundant off-road parking takes the strain off on-street parking. Flats tend to be three- or four-storey, and set out in squares or within lawns, again giving a more spacious feel. One exception to this is the recent estate close to the former GCHQ site, which has incorporated regency elements of design and has situated buildings very close together with little green space.

Roads, Transport and Access

Roads

Several arterial roads run through the area: Priors Road runs roughly vertically through the ward and connects the A40 in the south to Prestbury and the Cotswolds. Prestbury Road runs along the north-western boundary of the ward, joining the town centre with Prestbury. Most other roads in the area provide access for residential populations, although some minor arterial roads connect small residential streets with main routes in and around town.



Cycle ways

There are no dedicated cycle trails or facilities in Oakley, so cyclists travelling through and around the area currently use the roads. Roads in the area have been graded by the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Cycling Campaign as being either quiet, reasonably quiet or medium. A higher rating needs a higher level of skill from the cyclist.

Extract from Cheltenham and Tewkesbury cycle map
(<http://www.cyclecheltenham.org.uk/docs/cyclemap.pdf>)

Public Transport

Cheltenham Railway Station is roughly 48 minutes' walk, or 2.4 miles away (Google Maps). The bus station is a 1.3 mile or 27-minute walk from the heart of the ward (Clyde Crescent, GL52 5QY), but some buses do go through the area, such as the A (Lynworth – Cheltenham – Benhall – GCHQ), 606 (Cheltenham – Greet – Willersey) and V (Sainsbury's – Cheltenham – Cleevemount Estate).

Parking

The vast majority of houses in the area have an off-road parking option, meaning that on-road parking is relatively easy for visitors. There are no council car parks in the ward. Sainsburys superstore and industrial

units in the ward have their own car parks, meaning that employment parking is largely self-contained. Many houses have off-road parking, but parking spaces are more scarce for residents of flats and of the newer estate close to Sainsbury's.

Community Services and Facilities

Healthcare

There are no GP surgeries within the area, but Severnposts Surgery, on Prestbury Road, is just north of the ward boundary. The nearest dental surgery is Hewlett Road Dental Surgery in Fairview. There is one pharmacy in the ward, which is on Whaddon Road.

Libraries

The nearest libraries are in the town centre and in Prestbury.

Places of Worship

The area has five active places of worship: Akanishta Buddhist Centre (Whaddon Road), Harvest Field Church (Lynworth Hall), St Michaels Church (Whaddon Rd), St Marks Methodist Church (near the Crematorium), Evangelical Church (on Whaddon Road). All of them offer some degree of community engagement and activity.

Community Spaces and Facilities

There are three dedicated community centres in the area: Oakley Community Resource Centre (Clyde Crescent) and Parklands Community Centre (Wyman's Road). Cornerstones Café is a community centre where many different groups meet and it houses IT facilities and a launderette as well as a café.

Pubs can sometimes offer a community space. The ward contains two pubs: The Hewlett Arms (Harp Hill) and The Beehive (Bouncers Lane). It is not known whether either pub offers any community spaces.

There are two recycling banks in the ward, one in Sainsbury's car park and the other situated close to Whaddon Road football ground.

Recreation and Leisure

The ward is home to Cheltenham Town FC (Whaddon Road Football Ground). There are no other built sports facilities in the ward.

There are several playing fields in the ward, such as Whaddon Rec, Clyde Crescent and Prior's Sportsfield and all of these have sports pitches. The nearest swimming pool is Leisure @ Cheltenham on Tommy Taylor's Lane, which is 1.6 miles away, or 31 minutes' walk, from the heart of the neighbourhood area. There is a bowling club on Whaddon Road.

Green Spaces

There are a lot of green spaces in the area, some with designations and some without. Cheltenham Crematorium (accessed via Bouncers Lane) holds a Registered Parks and Gardens status. Important green spaces include Whaddon Recreation Ground, Clyde Crescent and the recreation ground at the end of Imjin

Road. Oakley Regeneration Partnership took part in the Local Green Spaces Study conducted in 2015, in partnership with GRCC and Cheltenham Borough Council, applying to designate (as local green space) Lynworth Green and Prior's Fields (decision pending at time of reporting). There are some allotments near to The Robins.

Educational Facilities

The area contains three primary schools:

- Berkhamstead School (independent) (Hewlett Road)
- The Ridge Academy (Clyde Crescent)
- Oakwood Primary School (Cotswold Road)

There is no secondary school in the ward, and the nearest is Pittville School (Albert Road), which is around 1.2 miles away, or a 24-minute walk.

The ward is home to several early years settings, including:

- Oakwood Children's Centre (Clyde Crescent)
- Berkhamstead Kindergarten (Hewlett Road)
- Battledown Children's Centre on southern edge of ward (Hewlett Road)

Economy

Employment

Oakley ward is mainly residential, so many residents are required to travel out of the area to get to work. However, the Sainsbury's superstore and Kohler Mira manufacturing centre offer some employment opportunities within the ward. Oakley is a medium-length bus ride away from central Cheltenham retail and administrative employment, with the town centre being around 1.5 miles away. Cheltenham Racecourse is also about 1.5 miles away, and its infrastructure provides some jobs that may be accessible to residents. GCHQ was a local employer but it has closed its offices in Oakley.

Income

The ward area is also a Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA), which is a small geographical area used to analyse average household income in England and Wales 2007–8. Oakley is known as Cheltenham 006, an area that had an average weekly income of £520 at that time. This is in the lowest quintile for income.

Retail and Services

The area close to the old GCHQ site is the largest retail centre in the ward with its large supermarket, a petrol station and nearby takeaways, but there are three smaller retail and service clusters in Oakley:

- Whaddon Road: pharmacy, takeaway, convenience store
- Lynworth Place: convenience store; fish and chip shop, florist, hairdresser
- Hewlett Road: Tesco Express, hairdresser, 3 takeaways, off-licence

Housing³

³ All information in this section taken from the 2011 Census

Housing Tenure – proportions

Fewer houses in this area are owned outright than the national, regional or borough averages, and mortgaged properties are lower too, although there is not such a gap. Social rentals are very high (over three times more social rentals than Cheltenham's social rent proportion overall and over three times the national average). Private rental numbers are at only half the overall Cheltenham level.

Housing types⁴

Area	Owned outright %	Owned – mortgage or loan %	Shared Ownership %	Social – council %	Social – other %	Private Rental Landlord %	Private other %	Rent free %
Oakley	23.5	28.6	0.4	30.2	4.2	10	0.8	2.1
Cheltenham	32.1	32.4	0.7	8.0	4.2	20.1	1.3	1.1
Gloucestershire	35.5	33.9	0.8	5.9	7.0	13.8	1.6	1.4
South West	35.4	32.0	0.8	5.8	7.5	15.2	1.9	1.4
England	30.6	32.8	0.8	9.4	8.3	15.4	1.4	1.3

⁴ Source NOS Census 2011

Appendix 2: Consultation – Oakley Community Survey (Summer 2016)

This report consists of an analysis of the 72 responses to the Oakley questionnaire received by GRCC. Respondents included people who completed the questionnaire during or after the Oakley Fun Day or those who visited the community centre.

Responses to open questions have been categorised by theme and a summary of the number of responses in each category provided followed by the comments themselves.

1. What is your opinion on the following in Oakley?

Respondents were asked to give a rating of 'Very good', 'Good', or 'Poor' (or indicate if it did not apply to them) on a variety of aspects of Oakley. The ratings are set out in the table below, along with the number of respondents to each part of the question. Please note that not every respondent gave a rating (or registered N/A) for every option.

	Very Good	Good	Poor	N/A
Play facilities	12	40	5	10
St Michael's Church and Cornerstone Centre	44	20	1	7
Oakley Neighbourhood Project	31	27	1	11
Whaddon Youth Centre	11	22	5	30
Getting around Oakley by car	14	40	4	13
Getting around on foot	26	36	4	4
Getting around by bike	14	30	8	15
Getting around if you're disabled	8	26	13	22
Access to public transport	24	32	7	7
Sports facilities	4	28	23	12
Buildings – condition	10	47	6	7
Buildings – design	10	42	6	12
Open spaces	20	30	13	8
Employment opportunities	9	23	26	13
Access to shops and services	24	41	3	2
Access to Health services	9	36	18	4
Access to Police support	11	25	23	8
Facilities for older people	10	33	14	13
Facilities for families and young children	19	28	13	12
Facilities for adults	14	29	14	10

An 'Other' option was included to allow respondents to add their own suggestions. Two additional responses were given:

- No public loos
- Toilets - good

2. What Improvements would you suggest?

51 of those taking part in the survey responded to this question, although some made more than one suggestion within their answer and three comments specified that the respondents had no suggestions.

These comments have been divided into themes as indicated in the table. Where more than one suggestion was made within a comment those suggestions have been divided and included in the relevant themes, giving a total of 75 suggestions. A selection of comments are included below. The full list of comments can be found in [appendix 2a](#).

Theme	Number of comments
Social activities/community	11
Parks/green spaces/play area	9
Pavements and roads	9
Crime and safety	8
Other	7
Health services	6
Disabled access	6
Sports/fitness	5
Parking	5
Appearance and cleanliness	4
No suggestions	3
Public transport and traffic	2

A selection of comments

- Pavements and roads; public transport even if it's once per hour on the Priors Farm estate. No cycling or parking on pavements. Doctors or dentist surgery.
- More litter bins; litter wardens; responsibility for vandalism; no cycling on paths.
- Condition of roads and pavements to be improved. Better access for wheelchairs.
- More facilities in the local park.
- We could do with a better play area and better youth centre.
- The roads and pavements are in very poor condition, the parks amenities need improvement and police response time is poor.

- Lack of meeting places for adults – pubs closed – no sports facilities except football/bowls. Could do with a gym. With growing population here, could do with health centre. Skate park.
- 1. Stop filling in gaps of the open spaces; 2. Health service are good if GPs don't close (Prestbury Road); 3. Access to police support – Lynworth station closed and Cheltenham and poor 999 service; 4. Small business support/development – university 3rd age local opp?
- 1. Speed bumps on Severn Road/Whaddon Road – cars racing extremely fast danger to children and animals, elderly. Someone will get hurt. Please; 2. Pavements uneven, trip hazard, and cars on pavements; 3. More police on the beat especially at night during summer. Increase in antisocial behaviour on streets by shop/church late at night, young people getting drunk and disorderly.
- Improvements for getting around for disabled on the path and also where parked on the drop curbs. Cheltenham Borough Council need to think about health and safety of the public.

3. Please describe the characteristics (such as parking, design, garden provision, infrastructure) that you feel are important in any new development in Oakley or any area of Cheltenham

42 respondents provided an answer to this question. The answers have been divided into themes, with answers providing multiple suggestions being divided across the relevant themes, and a selection of comments included below the table. The full list of comments can be found in [appendix 2a](#).

Theme	Number of comments
Roads, pavements and parking	20
Parks and open/green spaces	8
Other	8
Design	7
Garden provision	7
Cleanliness	3

A selection of comments

- More help tidying street
- The design of houses in the area are very good and all facilities are good especially the Cornerstone where we do our art group and other activities
- Adequate parking, pleasing design, green spaces, access to schools/healthcare
- More parking spaces on the road
- Too much litter at CTFC
- It's a difficult area to be more open for parking as there is already limited parking or access for everyone. But it's a pretty and developing area for room of any improvements. People are generally happy.

- Community minded design green open spaces
- Design elements to fit into existing characteristics
- Bigger houses and bigger gardens
- Roundabout on Whaddon Road – be nice to have wild flowers growing on there like in PE Way. Encourages wild life and bees etc. Don't ever get rid of any parks, this is so important to have plenty of space for sport and for children to play and dogs to go for walks.

4. What activities and groups would you like to see going on in this area?

43 respondents provided an answer to this question, several of whom made multiple suggestions for activities and groups. These have been divided by theme as appropriate, with some comments duplicated if they apply to multiple themes. Longer comments and those that do not fit into the various identified themes are included below.

Sports/fitness	Age-specific (children/young people)	Age-specific (adults/older people)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming pool • Dance classes suitable for adults e.g. salsa • Running club/cycling club • Exercise classes • Sports throughout the year • More sports in the 6 weeks • Hockey • Sport activities • Sport for kids • More football tournaments for kids • More sports • Physical activities for children • Football activities for age 5 up • Aerobics • Running club • Cycle club • More sports activities young and teenage disabled people • Exercise group/equipment for the elderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport for kids • More football tournaments for kids and other activities • Physical activities for children • Football activities for age 5 up • More sports activities young and teenage disabled people • More arts and crafts, children and adults • Youth clubs • Computer clubs for kids • More things for children • Scouts • Drama/sports etc for 5+ • More things for children • Play groups • More activities for children • More fun activities for children during holidays • More activities in school holidays • More activities in school holidays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance classes suitable for adults e.g. salsa • More arts and crafts, children and adults • Keep classes for adults • Older people activities • Older people activities • Exercise group/equipment for the elderly <div data-bbox="978 1240 1369 1711"> <p>Classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance classes suitable for adults e.g. salsa • Cooking classes • Keep classes for adults • Taught art class • French, Spanish conversation • Bicycle maintenance • Art classes (art/photography) </div> <div data-bbox="978 1718 1369 1973"> <p>Arts/crafts/music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More arts and crafts, children and adults • Arts and crafts • Choir • Music groups/singing </div>

All-age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities suitable for all age groups • More meetings and get-togethers of all ages. Old and young in the same group • More things for every age group 	Suitable for people with disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sports activities young and teenage disabled people • More group activities for disabled people 	Support groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support groups • Groups to help support people with mental health • Groups for people who find it hard to understand basic life needs
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Comments

- Physical activities for children to get them off their ipads etc for the benefit of their future health
- Dentist, doctors surgery
- More group lunches
- We attend the Cornerstone on Thursday morning for art group and we look around the corner shop, which offer a lot of help and support for everyone
- None
- If they could have an early evening Bingo, joke or comedy leisure where people are not afraid to express or show what there made of
- Fun days and group activities
- Bingo + cinema at Cornerstones is etc. Do what is needed to encourage these
- Nature/wildlife
- Army and RAF groups in the area
- Men shed project
- Encourage children to respond and clean after themselves

5. How can we build a stronger community in our local area?

Answers were received from 35 respondents. These responses have been divided into themes, with responses providing more than one suggestion being divided between the themes as appropriate. Full comments by theme can be found in [appendix 2a](#).

Theme	Number of responses	Selection of comments
Community events/activities	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With more community groups/gathering fetes, etc • More community days • Organise more events inviting all members of the community • More activities in the holidays
Communication	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More publicity • Need positive news articles. We're stuck with a bad reputation even though it's not as bad as what people say

Community involvement/partnerships	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By encouraging people to invite friends or encourage others who could do with someone open a door to join in on days like today, and not being stuck indoors • If everyone mixed more
Meeting places	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Cornerstones • Lack of meeting places is a problem • Have more community buildings
Safer community	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong presence of PCSOs/police working with local children. There is a strong community but if we are not careful children could fall into crime/antisocial behaviour
Other	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep trying – the uninterested individuals may not thank you but keep trying • Already strong

6. In five years' time Oakley should be a place where...

Answers were received from 38 respondents. A selection of comments are below, the complete list can be found in [appendix 2a](#):

- Everybody feels welcome
- Community is strong
- People feel supported and valued
- People feel safe and there are more facilities e.g. based at the neighbourhood project/parks
- You feel safe and proud to live in (which I do already). There are many opportunities for young people to thrive and be the best they can be
- The name 'Whaddon' ceases to be a joke
- Children feel safe and can make lots of friends
- The services liaise regularly with each other

7. In twenty years' time Oakley should be a place where...

Answers were received from 35 respondents. A selection of comments are below, the full list of comments can be found in [appendix 2a](#):

- Everyone is respected and valued
- People would want to live
- Everyone can feel safe and trust local friends, services and have the time when needed. Somewhere they can always go.
- No more potholes
- Kids can play out in front of the house

- People feel safe and have good communication between the authorities and local community
- A lot of people are in employment, children are being supported in education and do well at school. One can only hope the best

8. What improvements are needed to our green spaces?

Answers were received from 28 respondents. Most did not name a specific green space, instead responding in general terms. However, the following green spaces were referred to specifically:

Clyde Crescent – 4 comments

- C Crescent Whaddon better play area bigger
- Lockable gates in Clyde Crescent
- Lockable gates to Clyde Crescent to stop scooter riders
- Rubbish cleared glass etc... Clyde Crescent park

Old GCHQ/Priors Farm – 1 comment

- Some of the fields towards the old GCHQ (Priors Farm) are very overgrown if walking with small dog almost impossible to walk through.

Whaddon park – 1 comment

- Whaddon park could do with more for the kids to play in

Oakley park – 1 comment

- Oakley Park – more climbing frames even more allotments

The remaining comments have been divided by theme:

Cleanliness/safety

- Kids should not vandalise
- More parks and dog bins
- To encourage local community not leave rubbish or things broken and to help keep all green areas within park, surrounding safe for everyone
- Cleaned regular needles found
- More bins for less litter
- Pick up litter
- Community clean up, sharing skills

Facilities/equipment

- More fun things for the older kids
- More play equipment
- Park facilities catered for young children
- Exercise equipment for older residents

Plants/greenery

- More flowers
- Road blocks need to have more trees
- Flowers and park land

- More care taken to improve them. More planting and flowers
- Wild flowers
- Green spaces left community to enjoy not got building on

Other

- Can't comment
- N/A
- Dog restrictions
- Hopefully there will be green spaces left before the developers get hold of them
- There are a couple of cafes and the open spaces have more use made of them
- Community allotments to feed people who are not so well off/single families, etc/ elderly

Appendix 2a

Q2. Full comments – what improvements would you suggest?

Pavements and roads – 9 comments

- Pavements and roads
- No cycling or parking on pavements.
- No cycling on paths
- Condition of roads and pavements to be improved.
- Paving slabs levelled out
- Potholes are repaired!
- The roads and pavements are in very poor condition
- The pavements and potholes in roads
- Pavements uneven, trip hazard, and cars on pavements.

Parking – 5 comments

- Parking not great
- More car parking
- More parking
- No pavement parking
- Parking on streets

Public transport and traffic – 2 comments

- Public transport even if it's once per hour on the Priors Farm estate
- Speed bumps on Severn Road/Whaddon Road – cars racing extremely fast danger to children and animals, elderly. Someone will get hurt. Please.

Appearance and cleanliness – 4 comments

- More litter bins; litter wardens
- Maybe a general painting of public areas, bus stops, etc; more rubbish bins around the area
- Bushes in Clyde Crescent need to be pruned more often; more litter bins
- Litter/dog poo

Health services – 6 comments

- Doctors or dentist surgery
- Doctors surgery
- Health service are good if GPs don't close (Prestbury Road)
- Doctors/dentists surgeries which people (inc older ones) can walk to
- With growing population here, could do with health centre.
- Dr surgery

Crime and safety – 8 comments

- Responsibility for vandalism
- More police presence
- More visible police presence in area
- Access to police support – Lynworth station closed and Cheltenham and poor 999 service

- Police presence on foot more often
- Stop drug dealers
- Police response time is poor
- More police on the beat especially at night during summer. Increase in antisocial behaviour on streets by shop / church late at night, young people getting drunk and disorderly

Parks/green spaces/play area – 9 comments

- More places to walk dog
- More facilities in the local park
- Better play area
- More play equipment for older children in play area
- Better play area
- We could do with a better play area
- The parks amenities need improvement
- Oakley park/play field needs more climbing frames and things for children to play on.
- Bigger play area

Social activities/community – 11 comments

- More social activities in day time at Cornerstones
- More facilities and entertainment for older people. In common with most other Churches, the accent is on children. They should realise that older people often keep things going by volunteering and finance
- More for kids
- Just more encouragement for children's activities, learning
- Maybe some more groups for all ages
- More school holiday free activities. Community BBQ area
- More to do for kids in holidays
- More things for school ages 6+
- More for working families; more for children
- Lack of meeting places for adults – pubs closed
- Some pubs and social clubs + more places to socialise

Sports/fitness activities – 5 comments

- Sport facilities
- More chance for sports/running
- We need a place where you safely learn to ride a bike that is only for bikes
- Accessibility to do further wide range of sports or group fun and family together
- No sports facilities except football/bowls. Could do with a gym. Skate park

Disabled access – 6 comments

- More for disabled to get around. More drop curbs
- More for people older and disabled and people with illness
- More drop kerbs as got a m scooter
- Improvements for getting around for disabled on the path and also where parked on the drop curbs. Cheltenham Borough Council need to think about health and safety of the public

- Better access for wheelchairs
- Paving slabs levelled out – bad for wheelchair

Other – 7 comments

- We need a place where you safely learn to ride a bike that is only for bikes
- To be given more money to continue in your great service. To advertise more so more people will attend
- Stop filling in gaps of the open spaces
- Small business support/development – university 3rd age local opp?
- Better youth centre
- Employment opportunities and wider variety of shops
- Council should listen to people and what they say. Don't leave properties empty, i.e. the old school

No suggestions – 3 comments

- None
- I can't think of any
- None

Q3. Full comments - please describe the characteristics (such as parking, design, garden provision, infrastructure) that you feel are important in any new development in Oakley or any area of Cheltenham

Cleanliness – 3 comments

- More help tidying street
- A new wheel bin as I am disabled
- Too much litter at CTFC

Roads, pavements and parking – 20 comments

- Improve roads and pavements
- Better parking facilities
- Adequate parking
- Mostly have to park on roads
- Parking design
- More parking spaces on the road
- It's a difficult area to be more open for parking as there is already limited parking or access for everyone. But it's a pretty and developing area for room of any improvements. People are generally happy
- Road surfaces could be repaired ASAP. Off street parking poor.
- More place to park on the road.
- Too many cars parking on pavements.
- Parking in town low to no charge and more of it (killing the town)
- Not much parking around the Crescent and other areas
- Disabled access and parking centred towards young families
- Better parking required
- Parking
- Thames Road pavement needs fixing. Stop parking on pavements, children can't play on the pavement.

- Car parking. Cars always parked half on and half off of pavements
- Parking is dangerous on some roads – more towards town e.g. Hewlett Road, bottom of Prestbury Road. Ensure development includes adequate parking provision.
- Parking spaces by the flats.
- More parking, especially for disabled people

Garden provision – 7 comments

- Garden provision
- Pleasant gardens
- Decent size garden
- Nicer gardens
- Bigger gardens
- Bigger gardens
- Design and garden provisions is important

Parks and open/green spaces – 8 comments

- Pittville park is very good
- Plenty of open space
- Green spaces
- Open green space. Community BBQs.
- Parks, shops, cafes
- Green open spaces
- More trees on the streets
- Roundabout on Whaddon Road – be nice to have wild flowers growing on there like in PE Way. Encourages wildlife and bees etc. Don't every get rid of any parks, this is so important to have plenty of space for sport and for children to play and dogs to go for walks.

Design – 7 comments

- The design of houses in the area are very good.
- Pleasing design
- More 1 bed bungalows with gardens for people with pets
- Community minded design
- Design elements to fit into existing characteristics
- Bigger houses
- Housing for young single people

Other – 8 comments

- All facilities are good, especially the Cornerstone where we do our art group and other activities.
- Access to schools/healthcare.
- Better disabled facilities
- None
- Family, friendly. More community
- Health centre

- Not on Priors – the forgotten estate
- There should be more cash points around for people to access money

Q5. Full comments - How can we build a stronger community in our local area?

Meeting places – 7 comments

- Support Cornerstones
- Have more community buildings
- A lot more people using Cornerstones and Prodig Centre
- A lot more people using Cornerstones and Prodig Centre
- Community gardens
- Lack of meeting places is a problem
- Have more community buildings

Community events/activities – 13 comments

- More community based activities
- More activities in the holidays
- Have more activities in the holidays
- Organise fun things to do like today
- A lot more people getting together
- More local groups and activities involving everyone
- Children play groups
- With more community groups/gathering fetes, etc
- More community days
- Have more things going on in the community
- Organise more events inviting all members of the community.
- Have more community meetings
- By doing more groups, activities, etc to bring people together as a community

Communication – 4 comments

- Communication
- More publicity
- Need positive news articles. We're stuck with a bad reputation even though it's not as bad as what people say
- Going around talking asked communities what they like and open days on the estate showing the community what has been there estate can be more like a community

Community involvement/partnerships – 5 comments

- By more contact with the local community
- Involve everyone
- By encouraging people to invite friends or encourage others who could do with someone opening a door to join in on days like today, and not being stuck indoors
- Encourage people to join/come along
- If everyone mixed more

Safer community – 3 comments

- By having police on patrol more often
- For people to feel safe

- Strong presence of PCSOs/police working with local children. There is a strong community but if we are not careful children could fall into crime/antisocial behaviour.

Other – 5 comments

- More litter campaigns
- By seeing more people at church on a Sunday would be good
- Already strong
- Asset based community development
- Keep trying – the uninterested individuals may not thank you but keep trying

Q6. In five years' time Oakley should be a place where...

- Carry on being friendly place
- Awareness for disabled people and church
- We can all be happy together
- All ages meet and greet
- Community is strong
- All are/have time/place to enjoy sporting activities
- Everyone feels safe
- Families can play together and feel safe
- To continue for the next generation
- To be able to get around easier
- Families and community are not divided
- We feel safe and all areas are free from rubbish
- Everybody feels welcome
- No more potholes
- People feel safe and free from crime
- People to feel safe and happy
- We learn
- Children have plenty to do
- Children feel safe and can make lots of friends
- We love to live
- More trees are planted
- We are a strong community and where people feel safe
- My children will grow up happy
- People feel supported and valued
- It is clean, safe and fun
- Hopefully no crime etc
- Nicer place to live
- It should be a nice place to live
- The services liaise regularly with each other
- There is a doctors surgery
- There is better access to health services
- The name 'Whaddon' ceases to be a joke
- People feels safe and there are more facilities e.g. based at the neighbourhood project/parks

- People would like to live
- You feel safe, and proud to live in (which I do already). There are many opportunities for young people to thrive and be the best they can be.
- Families feel safe and healthy
- Community see council are friendly tell true communities and can really help not being fobbed off
- Children and families feel safe and welcome to come and go freely.

Q7. In twenty years' time Oakley should be a place where...

- Ongoing shop improvement and café
- The community gets together more
- Everyone wants to live
- Everyone is respected and valued
- People would want to live
- Community can all be friendly towards one another
- To continue
- There is more community buildings
- People can park along the road more easier
- Everyone can feel safe and trust local friends, services and have the time when needed. Somewhere they can always go
- Crime is less
- People feel happy to move here
- More trees and flowers
- No more potholes
- No more potholes and less traffic
- People to feel safe
- We learn more
- As above (*respondent answered previous question as "children have plenty to do"*)
- People are happy and there will be no forms to fill in
- We love to live
- More bins
- Flowers can grow
- We are a strong community and where people feel safe
- There are support groups community feel
- Kids can play out the front of the house
- No drug dealers are about
- It should be a nice place to live
- People feel safe and have good communication between the authorities and local community
- Proud of
- There are more activities going on that are sustainable
- There is more to do in the area
- A lot of people are in employment, children are being supported in education and do well at school. One can only hope the best
- The residents can be proud of where they live



- I don't know
- It's safe and welcoming where everyone gets along as a community. Where people feel their children will be safe.



Appendix 3: Workshop Output

The meeting in, November 2016, of a sub group of the Oakley Regeneration Partnership to explore points that had been raised during the community consultation, previous consultations and findings from the community profile was organised and facilitated by GRCC. The following table contains more detail on the workshop's outputs.

Aspect	Aspiration	How we know this	Other points raised (e.g. potential solutions/ reality check)
Transport	<p>High level aspiration</p> <p>Oakley will be a safe place to cycle and walk.</p> <p>The achievement of this vision requires the following objectives to be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient traffic management- especially when considering any new development/ change of use applications. • Improvements in road surfaces and potential for cycling routes • Tackling speed limits 	<p>(Ref: Community Survey)</p> <p>Lack of joining of cycle routes</p> <p>Parking issues identified, especially parking on pavements restricting access for pedestrians.</p>	<p>The roads and pavements are in very poor condition.</p>
Built Environment	<p>Higher level aspiration</p> <p>To achieve a balance between residential dwellings, community spaces and buildings for economic and social use</p> <p>The achievement of this vision requires the following objectives to be met:</p> <p>To fully utilise the existing assets available to the community to meet unmet needs in the local community.</p>	<p>Ref: Community Activities Survey 2012</p>	<p>Limited storage areas / space for residents. Cheltenham Borough Homes (CBH) own garage sites that could offer storage space.</p> <p>The Youth Centre – to use the building rather than let an asset lie dormant.</p>
Cultural & Creational	<p>High level aspiration</p>	<p>Strong link between community spaces and community cohesion where communities can build around</p>	<p>Oakwood School – importance of a local centre to provide sustainability and</p>

	<p>Aspire to ensure that buildings are kept and managed to envelop into the social community.</p> <p>The achievement of this vision requires the following objectives to be met:</p> <p>Improved Oakley based service provision from a health & well being perspective.</p>	<p>the spaces (Ref: Community Survey)</p> <p>Doctor's surgery located within community space (Ref: Community Activities Survey 2012)</p> <p>Need to additional sports activities (Ref: Oakley Wheeled Space Project – 2015)</p>	<p>community engagement.</p> <p>Youth Centre – flexibility of use rather than no use of the building.</p>
Economy	<p>High level aspiration</p> <p>Any new development to support the economic and social sustainability of the Oakley community.</p> <p>The achievement of this vision requires the following objectives to be met:</p> <p>To promote and encourage businesses to locate into the local area where there is development opportunities.</p>	<p>Loss of Premier Products company and employment opportunities</p>	<p>Cheltenham Football Club Development – Parklands area. Options to attract services / shops / businesses (gym / health centre) to both service the local community and offer employment opportunities.</p>

Appendix 4: Previous and parallel consultations

The community has taken advantage of opportunities to participate in consultations by the borough or county council. In its meetings it has also considered issues raised by community members. Knowledge of these responses and issues were brought to the discussions when considering Oakley's future priorities.

- Oakley Wheeled Space Project – Clyde Crescent Park
 - Door to door consultation 2015
 - 161 residents were engaged through one-to-one conversations with 74 being in favour of the project and 5 against
 - Clyde Crescent chosen as a proposed site:
 - Central Location
 - Popular with young people
 - Large enough to accommodate ramps without disruption to other users or housing
- Community Activities Survey 2012
 - 70 participants
 - Six questions posed as part of the questionnaire
 - The following summary of top ranking results
 - What sort of training would you like?
 - Information Technology
 - What sort of health activities would you like?
 - Exercise classes
 - What sort of advice would you like?
 - Budgeting & Job Seeking
 - What sort of social activities would you like?
 - Sports
 - What sort of activities for children and young people would you like?
 - After school clubs
 - Is there anything else you would like to see in the community space?
 - Doctors
- Community Audit January 2017

This audit was carried out by Cheltenham Borough Homes as reported in the OAKely Workshop notes January 2017

CBH have now spoken to over 100 people - 11% of CBH tenant population via a phone survey.

The key issues emerging are:

- 77% people enjoy living in this area – there is a great deal of pride in the community.
- 63% felt that there is a good range of housing
- 63% felt that the resource centre is a good building

- 87% felt safe
 - But, many people don't know what's going on
 - There is a definite appetite for volunteering
 - People want more training
 - There are still some concerns about the level of anti-social behaviour in the local area.
 - A higher proportion of respondents have some form of disability
- **Feedback from Oakley Residents Association Meeting 19th January 2017**
Residents feel that there are particular issues with the following:

A lack of visible police presence; some concerns that changes in policing structures has meant that PCSOs that had built up good links with the local community have been moved elsewhere. This means that people are less likely to come forward and share information with the police, meaning the police lose out on valuable community intelligence.

A lack of universal youth work; meaning that the areas has seen an increase in ASB, plus some risks to more vulnerable young people.

A risk around wellbeing, isolation and poor mental health; there is a need for residents to meet each other and engage, plus ongoing concerns about healthy eating and access to GPs

An assessment of activities in the area by age has found only 5 sessions for 11-16s, and 8 sessions for 16+s.
 - **Feedback from Festive Events**
Residents had been given the opportunity to share any issues of concern in the Cheltenham Borough Homes Family Festive Event. The following were raised:

Concerns:

 - Drugs
 - Speeding
 - parking

Would like to see more:

 - Messy play
 - Bingo
 - Support for young children
 - More events
 - Trips
 - Keep fit
 - Reading and writing classes
 - Drop-in sessions for young mums to meet and chat to provide mutual support

Many attendees had indicated that they would be happy to help out on providing activities.