

CHARLTON KINGS PARISH PLAN



April 2017

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Foreword

Welcome to the first formal Parish Plan produced by Charlton Kings Parish Council. Charlton Kings is a relatively young Parish Council, having been formed in 1995. More recently it has been developing its internal processes and policies to ensure that it is well placed to respond to the challenges currently facing local government and is in a strong position to address the needs of the Localism agenda set by central government. Previously, we have carried out a programme of works designed to improve the overall well-being of our community based on a rolling four-year programme which has been published on our website. The contents of this new comprehensive document are a natural extension and introduce a new level of transparency and community involvement to our processes.

The main recurring theme of the Plan is to pursue policies that seek to preserve our heritage whilst continuing to reflect a community that enjoys a unique blend of town and village feel and has immediate access to some magnificent countryside that is so valued. To be successful we will need to work in close partnership with all other statutory service providers to ensure that our community's concerns are adequately addressed. However, to achieve our aim that Charlton Kings remains a highly desirable place to live, work and relax will require the Parish Council to encourage community groups, businesses, schools and other interested parties to work collaboratively to help deliver the range of projects listed in our five-year plan. To this end the Parish Council is keen to invite individuals with expertise and interest in specific projects to join our delivery task groups.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the public who have contributed to our various consultation events over recent months. My thanks also go to Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) whose guidance and help with analysing the data has been invaluable. Finally, I would wish to thank my colleague members, all of whom volunteer their time freely for the benefit of our community. They have toiled to understand the data received, some of which has offered conflicting view points, and have developed a plan to best reflect a sustainable way forward for our community whilst at the same time seeking to protect the elements that the majority see as important. They have also recognised the need to provide for the development of our various services to reflect future needs.

Mike Palmer

Chair

Charlton Kings Parish Council

Introduction

What is a Parish Plan?

The purpose of the Parish Plan can be summarised as follows:

- A record of what is important to our community
- A means of pre-planning actions that are needed to tackle problems or improve well-being for the community
- To identify which characteristics and features of the parish need to be preserved
- To provide guidance to be considered when responding to planning and other consultations from third parties
- A source of information for service providers to ensure the needs of local people are recognised and where appropriate addressed
- Evidence of need in support of funding applications
- As a vehicle for managing change and monitoring progress
- A building block for input into the Cheltenham Local Plan
- To provide a focus for community activity

How will we take the Parish Plan forward?

The Parish Council will continue to develop the implementation of its Parish Plan during 2017, including detailed action planning to enable the Parish Council to identify actions and key partners/deliverers, supported by specific community action/task groups as necessary. Progress of actions will be monitored through Parish Council meetings and details published on its website.

The Parish Plan is intended to provide clear guidance for the next 5 – 10 years but it needs to be a dynamic document and will be subject to regular review to ensure that the actions, policies and programmes continue to reflect local needs and priorities.

We will do our best to offer the important elements of service which would otherwise fail to be delivered due to the current financial situation and resultant reduction in provision by other tiers of government. In addition we will continue to seek to work in partnership with key service providers to ensure the best possible outcomes for our local community.

Chapter 1 | Charlton Kings today

Charlton Kings parish is a mature, residential and rural area in the south east of Cheltenham, situated on the lower slopes of the Cotswold escarpment. It is one of five parishes in the borough of Cheltenham, adjoining Charlton Park and All Saints areas to the west, the neighbourhood of Oakley to the north and open, largely rural, land to the south and east. It includes the neighbourhood of Battledown as well as the area known as Charlton Kings.

It is a large parish, with a population of over 10,000, and is a reasonably affluent area with excellent access to services. It benefits from easy access to the centre of Cheltenham and the surrounding countryside which is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There are higher proportions of people aged 0-15 and over 65 in Charlton Kings than is the average for Gloucestershire and England and it is well served by very high quality state and private, primary and secondary schools.

To many of its residents, Charlton Kings is a village that has always had a separate identity and which retains its village character and community feel. This may not be obvious to the outsider and there is no obvious 'border' separating it from Cheltenham, but Charlton Kings has all the hallmarks of a village. The sense of community persists and there are residents born and bred in the village who have returned or in some cases never left.

It is a thriving, vibrant community with many cultural and sporting groups. The area around St Mary's parish church remains the focal point of the village for many, with the library, pubs, club, shops and schools close by. The bustling shops, cafes and pub at Sixways on the London Road serve those who live in nearby Ryeworth, Battledown and Ewens Farm and act as another village hub. The range of pubs in the village suit differing tastes and the Charlton Kings Club (formerly Working Men's Club) in Church Street has been a popular venue for well over one hundred years.

There is a great variety of housing in the village, from cottages tucked away from the thoroughfares, through to a large number of Edwardian and Victorian semi-detached houses, to 21st century designs, with more or less everything in between. The village has three Conservation Areas based on St. Mary's, Cudnall Street and Bafford, which are afforded special consideration in matters of development control.

In addition, the area known as the Battledown Estate is protected by a Deed of Covenant which guards against overdevelopment. Battledown was laid out in the 19th century with Victorian villas for the well-off, and is now interspersed with more eclectic modern styles. It is part of the role of the Parish Council to do what it can not only to protect these special areas, but also to maintain the character of the village by resisting inappropriate overdevelopment.

From 1895 to 1974, Charlton Kings was administered by Charlton Kings Urban District Council until responsibility was transferred to Cheltenham Borough Council. In 1995, Charlton Kings Parish Council was established to give residents more of a say in their community and more autonomy over local issues. Prior to that, in the early 1970s a residents' association was active, initially formed to combat plans to build a large supermarket close to St. Mary's. By 1976 it had almost 2,000 members, an impressive number and testimony to the degree of commitment residents have to keeping Charlton Kings special.



Charlton Kings Summer Fair on Grange field

Amongst the Parish Council's many activities to support the local community, it runs and helps organise the very popular winter and summer fairs which take place in the Church Piece and Grange Field area and gives grants to local groups on an ongoing basis.

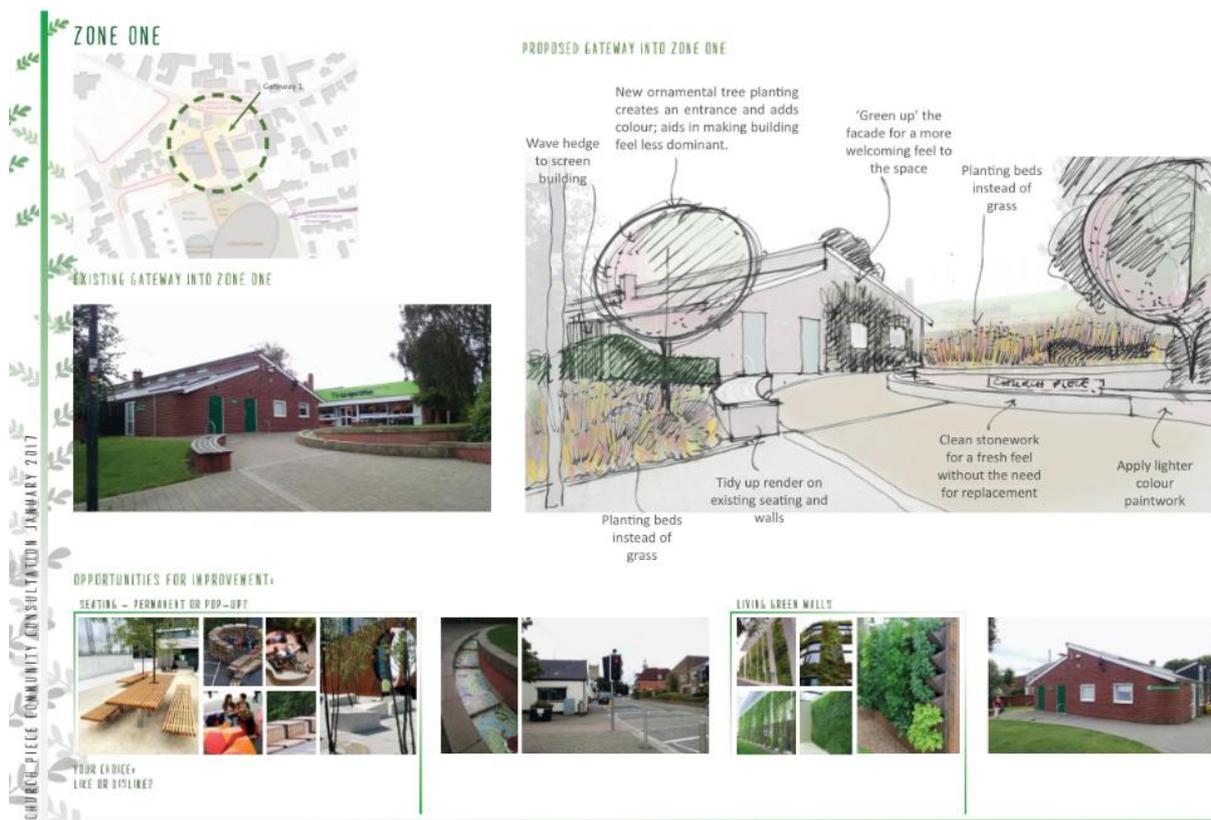
Chapter 2 | How we produced the Parish Plan

The Parish Council decided to begin the process of developing a Parish Plan in early 2016, and with the help of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council developed a detailed questionnaire that was distributed to every household in the parish to help understand what was important to the local community.

With Parish Council meetings being held monthly, and councillors frequently interacting with residents in the neighbourhood, it was felt that there was already an understanding of the current 'hot topics' in the parish – aspects drawn to the attention of the clerk or councillors by residents and items considered at Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council has also embarked on projects in recent years including enhancement of community buildings, improvements to the extensive parish allotments, and measures to improve public rights of way.

However, for the Parish Plan, the Parish Council wanted to be confident that its perspectives on important issues reflected those of the wider community and felt that a combination of invitations to 'interactive sessions', the chance to complete a questionnaire, and targeting key groups, provided a balanced approach. An interactive session with parishioners during the Parish Meeting in summer 2016 identified key themes, and, during autumn 2016, the questionnaire was distributed to all residents via the Cheltenham *Local Answer* publication. Parish councillors targeted key groups in the parish and conducted discussion groups – e.g. with older people, young people and with local businesses.

The Parish Council analysed the data and considered the detailed findings of the questionnaire and, in January 2017, residents were invited to a second interactive session at a Parish Meeting. The 60 attendees were presented with the results and participated in an exercise to prioritise suggested community ideas and solutions. This session also involved input from the Parish Council's design consultants Austin Design Works, who discussed and received feedback on ideas to improve landscaping in Church Piece and its environs.



Landscape design sketches for Church Piece (Austin Design Works)

Chapter 3 | Our urban environment – housing and green spaces

Housing in Charlton Kings parish is of very mixed age and style, but a unifying feature is the presence of mature greenery and open spaces. The housing estates in the parish are more homogenous, but as the developments are numerous and generally small, there is still a good variety of style and layout. Although conserving space is always a concern on development sites, the estates in Charlton Kings retain a relatively spacious feel and benefit from many mature trees and a reasonable amount of green space on most streets.

Whereas three-quarters of Charlton Kings parish is open agricultural land and woodland, there are few public green spaces in the built-up areas, namely Beeches Playing Field and the open QE11 green space in Battledown. Each features a well-used play area for both younger and older children, and there is a skate park in the Beeches and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) as part of the Grange Field. In 2015, the Parish Council took part in the Local Green Spaces study conducted in partnership with Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and Cheltenham Borough Council, and applied to have the more informal and well-treed open green space at Newcourt Green formally designated as a Local Green Space.

There are, additionally, other green areas which together make a substantial contribution to the green urban environment. The four allotment sites in the parish at Ryeworth and Haver in the north, and Sappercombe and Croft in the south, amount to some 3ha. However, they are somewhat less popular than they used to be and there is generally a small number of plots available for new tenants. Most houses have some area of garden which collectively form an important green

resource; the abandoned railway line has two informal nature reserves, and highway verges and numerous street trees complete the picture of an urban centre that is relatively well-endowed with 'green infrastructure' compared with other areas of Cheltenham.

Together with the surrounding countryside, all of which is designated as an AONB, the green spaces within the built up centre of Charlton Kings are important in defining how Charlton Kings residents feel about their home. Resolution of how to accommodate new houses, businesses and their supporting 'grey' infrastructure, while retaining and improving this 'green infrastructure' that Charlton Kings is fortunate to enjoy is important to many residents.

Housing development

Nationally, there is an intense focus on the need to build more houses, in order both to make provision for those who need them and to slow or halt the inexorable rise in house prices that has resulted from an imbalance between supply and demand.

Cheltenham is not immune to this building boom and will need to make provision within the Local Plan for its share of the 30,000+ houses that the Joint Core Strategy Inspector says should be provided in the 20 year period 2011 -2031.



Mixed new housing - Coates Close, Church Street

The fact that the whole periphery of Charlton Kings, away from its link to Cheltenham on the A40, is bounded by the Cotswolds AONB, might suggest that there is very limited opportunity to increase housing provision. However, between the years 2014-15 and 2015-16, Charlton Kings Parish Council's tax base for determining its precept rose by 45 Band D equivalent houses in just that one year; this does not take into account the very many extensions to existing properties that are a frequent element of our Planning Committee's deliberations.

Residents' views on development in Charlton Kings

In our Parish Plan consultation there was a good range of responses to the issue of how to retain the village character. Responses recognised the term 'village character' and it was felt that Charlton Kings has its own identity. Opinion was divided on whether there should be any new development at all, or whether it should be 'sympathetic' to its current identity while conserving green spaces and the AONB. Responses were unanimous in supporting the importance of 'quality of design and architecture', with critical comments about developments that proposed 'square boxes' or were 'too modern', and a clear view that new development should be 'sympathetic' and reflect the current 'street scene'.

Most responses acknowledged that there will be a need for further development but this would need to be sensitively applied so as not to have a negative impact on the character of Charlton Kings. With regard to whether additional development take place in the future, there were varying views about where it should take place and, perhaps unsurprisingly, this question generated more

responses than any other. Some greenfield locations were suggested but a clear consensus emerged that development on open land and green spaces should not be allowed. There was, evidently, an uncertainty over the definition of 'under-used' land but a clear dichotomy between proponents of using large back gardens and the larger number who disagreed. The careful use of 'infill', to ensure a good mix of society was proposed but, overall, brownfield/industrial estate/derelict and 'waste' areas were most favoured as locations for new development.

The question about what type of development would be appropriate elicited many responses, with almost every response strongly emphasising the need to prioritise the building of affordable/starter/council/social housing, especially for young people and disadvantaged groups. The responses indicated a concern that the supply of new housing in recent times is in the process of changing the demographic of Charlton Kings. 75% of respondents either agreed or agreed strongly with the idea that a good mix of housing, including starter and retirement homes, should be maintained.

Finally, there were a number of thoughtful submissions in respect of the need to develop supporting infrastructure both to meet existing circumstances and new scenarios as a result of future development, e.g. additional school places, car parking, traffic management and attention to flooding issues.

Conclusions in respect of future development in Charlton Kings

Respondents were mostly pragmatic in respect of identifying the likely future demand for, and need to satisfy, housing in Charlton Kings. Many went further and actively promoted the need to maintain the social mix of residents, by moving to a new phase of housing provision that actively favoured starter and properly affordable homes that would allow young people and those on low incomes to own their own home. Whatever the outcomes, emphasis was placed on the need for supporting infrastructure to be properly provided in parallel with any new development.

There was preference to avoid building on 'green' sites of any description, favouring future development on brownfield/waste or infill land; but other views were also expressed. The use of large gardens for additional housing similarly elicited a mixed response.

Strong views were expressed about the way in which the 'village character' of Charlton Kings could and should be retained, and the quality of design and architecture was identified as an important element in this.

Green spaces

In July 2002, the government published, as one of a series of policy guidance documents, a paper on 'Sport, Open Space and Recreation' (PPG 17) that described the contribution that open spaces make to people's quality of life and in making towns and cities attractive places to live. It emphasised the importance of open spaces for their recreational and community value, and also their contribution to urban quality of life and in supporting wildlife.

The current Cheltenham Local Plan Policy in respect of green space refers to the extensive, historic parks and gardens within the town centre, but also says that in the wider area of Cheltenham, green space is just as important to the local townscape and character, and is highly valued by residents. Open green spaces, as well as when planted with trees, provide:

- Landmarks, views and vistas that create relationships between the built environment and the landscape and countryside

- A benefit to human well-being by reducing carbon dioxide levels, increasing oxygen levels, filtering particulates, reducing noise levels and lowering peak summer temperatures
- Opportunities for both formal and informal recreation, relaxation and social interaction
- Habitats for a wide range of common, and some less common, wildlife species
- Economic benefits by enhancing the quality and attractiveness of the area to businesses
- A setting that enhances the special character and appearance of a building or group of buildings
- A more peaceful and relaxed ambience as a result of lower density development

However, the importance to community well-being of these services needs to be recognised by the proper funding of their maintenance and long term enhancement.

Residents' views on green spaces in Charlton Kings

Responses to the questionnaire showed that people have a great affinity with the surrounding countryside, with 88% of respondents saying that one of the things they liked about living in Charlton Kings was 'access to the countryside', and 72% agreeing strongly with the proposition that 'For the future it is most important to maintain green areas around the village'.

Many respondents linked the protection of green spaces to the protection of the AONB.

The maintenance and safeguarding of green spaces was cited by some as being the most important thing that would improve their enjoyment of Charlton Kings and was a strong theme throughout, together with an emphasis on liking 'open spaces'. The benefits to well-being identified by government and in the Cheltenham Local Plan were reflected in many of the responses:



Green spaces and recreational facilities are important for general well-being and should be maintained as such

Retaining country/town feel by preserving green spaces and AONB", "Better green infrastructure joining existing green spaces together.

Wildflower bank on Beeches green space

As well as reflecting the need for these areas to be properly maintained, several respondents promoted additional tree planting, especially around the Beeches, and recent efforts to create attractive wildflower displays, e.g. in Newcourt Green, were welcomed; although there was some concern between providing natural wildflower meadows and a wish for 'tidiness'.

Several responses drew attention to the need to address the litter problem in streets and the car parks, as well as on green spaces and recreational areas. Similarly, dog fouling was an issue that was felt to be inadequately addressed at present.

Conclusions in respect of green and open spaces

The responses leave little doubt that one of the things that residents most value about living in Charlton Kings is its embrace by the Cotswolds AONB together with the range of formal and less formal open/green spaces that are central to Charlton Kings residents' sense of identity and place.

However, in providing answers in respect of protecting and enhancing its green spaces and surrounding countryside in a parish that is so well-endowed in this way, respondents could not offer

suggestions to where potential development could be located, and this is addressed in the next section.

Green spaces and countryside in and around Charlton Kings

In order to plan for the future, it is important to be aware of where our green/open spaces are and what designations and levels of protection they have. *Map 1* shows the areas of designated/non-statutory, landscapes, green spaces and wildlife sites in the parish that are currently recognised by some form of designation in the Cheltenham Local Plan, and *Map 2* shows them at a larger scale in the built-up area of Charlton Kings. Together, these comprise

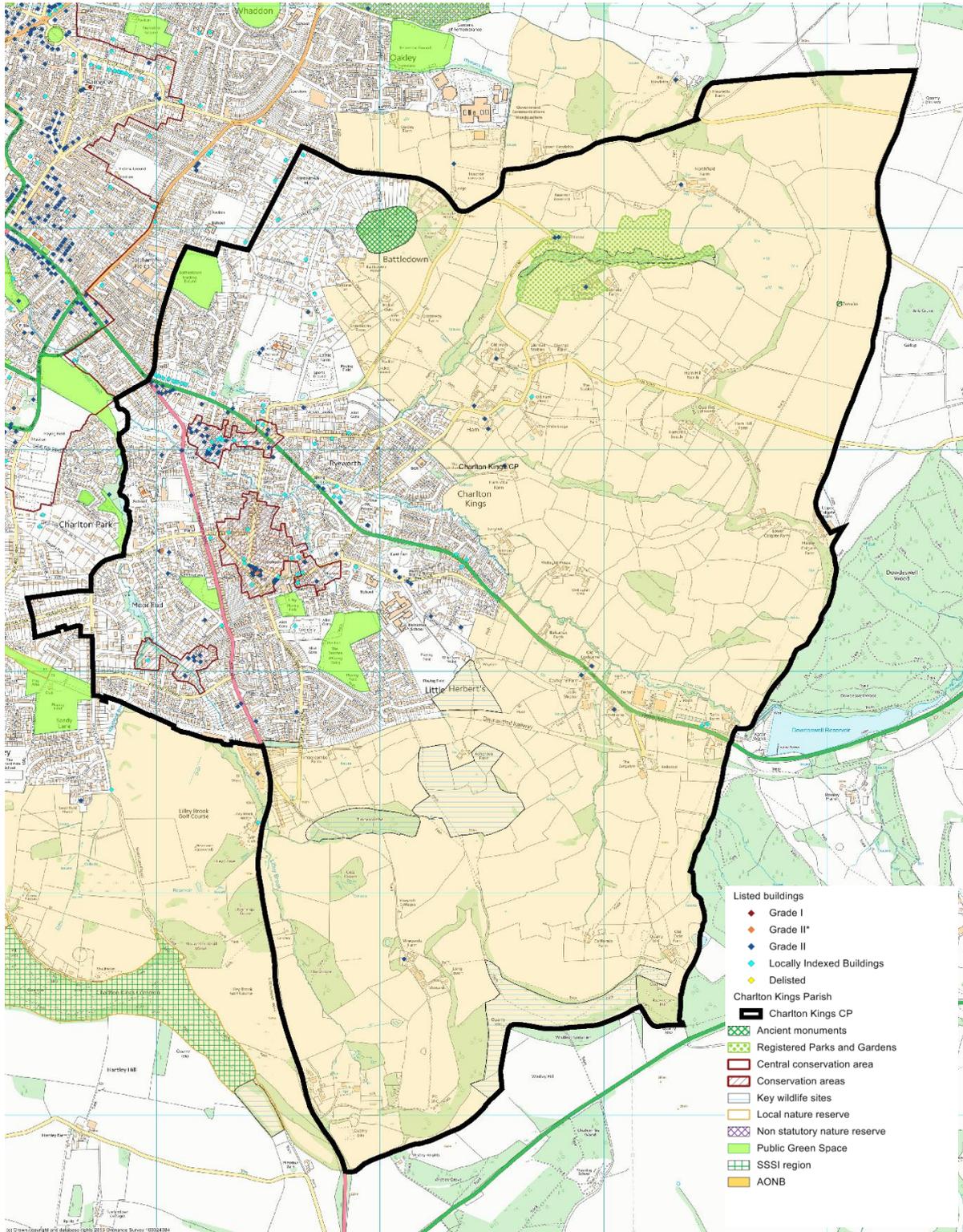
- Public Open Space
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Local nature reserves
- The Cotswolds AONB
- Key wildlife and geological sites

NB. There is no land identified as Green Belt surrounding the parish.



Newcourt Road local green space

Map 1



Charlton Kings Parish plan showing built heritage and nature conservation areas

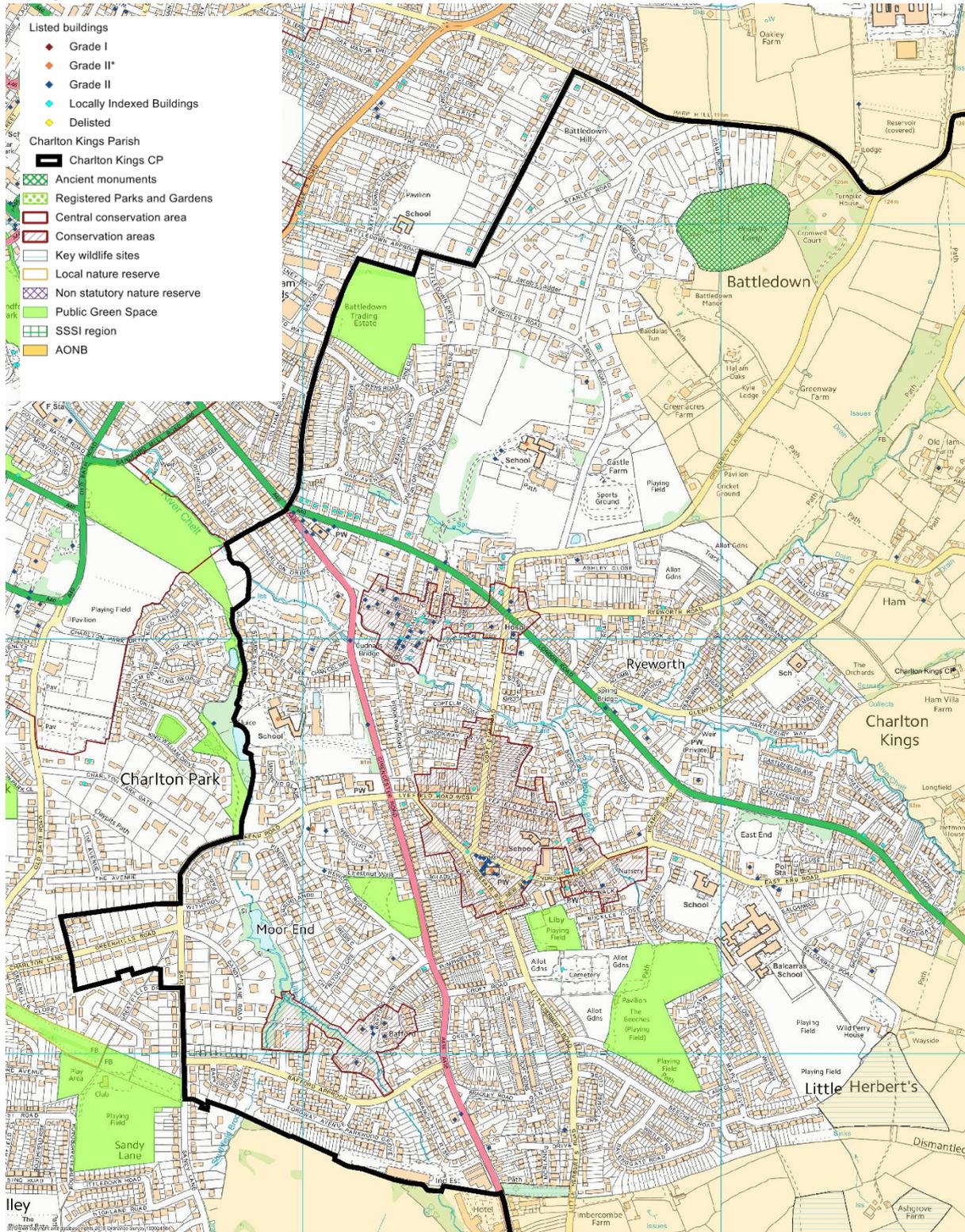
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Map 2



- Listed buildings
 - ◆ Grade I
 - ◆ Grade II*
 - ◆ Grade II
 - ◆ Locally Indexed Buildings
 - ◆ Delisted
- Charlton Kings Parish
 - ▬ Charlton Kings CP
- Ancient monuments
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Central conservation area
- Conservation areas
- Key wildlife sites
- Local nature reserve
- Non statutory nature reserve
- Public Green Space
- SSSI region
- AONB

Charlton Kings Parish Built Up Area

1:4000

17 February 2017



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It is also important to understand the measures that are open to the Parish Council and to residents to influence or control levels of development in the parish.

- The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all applications for planning permission, and proposals for works on trees with Tree Preservation Orders or that are in Conservation Areas. The council's Planning Committee has delegated powers to make recommendations to Cheltenham Borough Council and may decide to raise an objection, make observations (often in respect of design, scale or less significant impacts of a proposed development), or to make a statement of no objection. The Borough Council must take these into account when reaching its decision as the statutory planning authority and where the Parish Council has recommended that the application be refused, will in the majority of cases pass the decision making process to Members of the Planning Committee itself.
- Where an application is refused by Cheltenham Borough Council and the applicant goes to appeal, the Parish Council may make representations to the Planning Inspector.
- Individual residents or residents' groups may make representations in a similar manner.

Actions

- There is a need to map and make an inventory of other green spaces with a view to making recommendations, where appropriate, for their protection, management and enhancement. The work undertaken with GRCC as part of the exercise to recommend sites as statutory Local Green Spaces, e.g. Newcourt Green, could be a starting point for this work, to identify a set of consistent values for our overall wealth of green infrastructure.
- As part of this exercise, we would identify cemeteries, allotments and school grounds, but would not look at private gardens. Nor would we, for this purpose, attempt a land-use survey of open countryside, although for other projects such as Natural Flood Management, some elements of field mapping may be required.
- The Parish Council does not have the responsibility to identify land that might be available for future development. However, as a statutory consultee on all planning/development applications in the parish, it will, as a result of this analysis, review its planning and safeguarding policies.
- It will also review its position in respect of liaison with Natural England, which has the responsibility to review, and bring up to date, the boundary of the AONB.

Overall conclusions

- It will be a priority to protect our most valued green spaces to maintain the 'semi-rural' character of Charlton Kings.
- The Parish Council will promote and encourage affordable housing development.
- The Parish Council and its associated service providers and relevant statutory agencies will work towards balancing the past, present and future character of the built and natural environments in Charlton Kings.

Chapter 4 | Creating a community hub

One of the key objectives of the Parish Plan is the regeneration of Church Piece and its environs and this would encompass the Grange Field, Kings Hall and Youth Centre plus the library and commercial shops that together make up the Church Piece area. The Parish Council has already commenced dialogue with the various parties to investigate how best we can integrate all these various assets and interests into a cohesive plan that ensures that Church Piece and its immediate environs provide a community hub for the whole of the Charlton Kings community. This initiative builds on the excellent work that the Parish Council started just over 5 years ago, when it took over assets transferred from Cheltenham Borough Council. This work involved the demolition of the old public toilets to enable a new office for the Parish Council to be constructed that now provides a valuable community information centre and acts as a conduit for other agencies as well as a local police point. In addition, new public toilets were built; the old Stanton Room was completely refurbished and new conference room facilities were added to provide enhanced facilities for use by the community.

However, their attractiveness is marred by the poor surroundings in the precinct and our community sees the upgrading of the whole area as a major priority, which includes Grange Field, and the Kings Hall and Youth Centre. However, to achieve our ambitions, the Parish Council needs to negotiate a long lease on Grange Field with Cheltenham Borough Council and, to this end, initial discussions have already taken place. We have also had early discussions with both Cheltenham Borough Council and the trustees of the Kings Hall regarding how we can achieve the best outcome for both the improvement of the Kings Hall as a building and as a thriving youth and community facility. However, the Parish Council will fully investigate all options before embarking on any decisions.

As well as providing a physical hub for the community of Charlton Kings it is equally important to provide easily accessible information. The Parish Council is therefore investing in the upgrading of its website not only to provide residents with information on the Council's affairs and activities, but also to allow good community interaction with and valuable links to other key agencies including Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council – a one stop shop.

To realise these ambitions to create a truly meaningful community hub, the Parish Council will need to work in close partnership with others so, as well as Cheltenham Borough Council and the trustees of the Kings Hall, the Council will seek to work closely with the community-inspired group Connect and the Local Enterprise Partnership which could be critical in helping to develop a 'Tech Hub' within the Kings Hall complex.

Key residents' views on Church Piece and its environs

As indicated earlier, the strategy for the creation of a community hub has been driven by the responses received from residents in our two questionnaires, ideas put forward by residents at Parish Meetings, and from discussions with young people using the Kings Hall and Youth Centre. Key points concerning developing a community hub were:

- Church Piece and the surrounding area could be used to provide a focus for community activity
- Youth provision needs to be improved in Charlton Kings
- Provision of youth activities would be improved by a 'drop in' style café

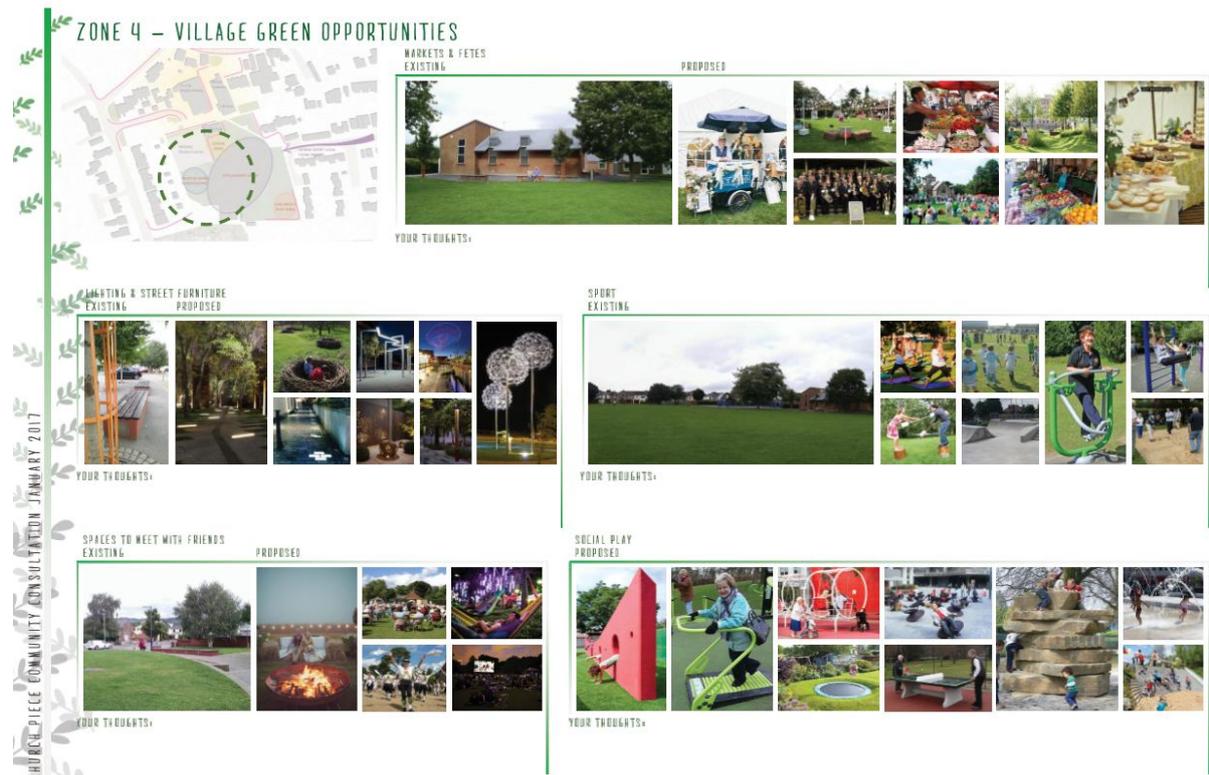
- The linking of the Church Piece ‘built-up’ area with the surrounding green field areas
- The provision of green field areas for community events
- More needs to be done to help and support the elderly
- Installing more CCTV to deter antisocial behaviour
- The provision of public access Wi-Fi within Church Piece

Key decisions or actions needed to complete the Community Hub

Grange Field

Role and activities

- The leasing of Grange Field, or an arrangement whereby the Parish Council assumes its day to day management, would ensure that there was an integrated community space encompassing this valuable green space along with Church Piece, and good links to The Beeches.
- The Grange Field provides a prime ‘green space’ for community events such as the Summer Fair and will provide tremendous opportunities for greater community use as an outside exercise and relaxation area.
- The ‘outdoor gym’ exercise equipment already provided by the Parish Council could be relocated closer to the Kings Hall and precinct area, making it more accessible to users.
- The vision for the improvement of Church Piece and the surrounding areas, as set out by Austin Design Works, made the linking of Church Piece with Grange Field a key stage in the overall improvement scheme and their concepts included improvements to Grange Field that would provide a visual link between the whole Church Piece area and the surrounding countryside.



Design ideas - Linking Grange field with Church Piece (Austin Design Works)

Management

- The Parish Council would take over the control and running of Grange Field from Cheltenham Borough Council, the current owners.
- The Parish Council wishes to ensure that this green space continues to be properly managed and maintained. Taking control would ensure that good levels of maintenance were maintained that would not be subject to cuts due to the Borough Council having to find savings in its overall budget.
- The Parish and Borough Councils would need to agree how best this asset could be transferred and the detailed costs for its upkeep through a care and maintenance contract.

Charlton Kings Youth and Community Centre (Kings Hall)

Role and Activities

- The prime role of the Kings Hall remains that of providing a Youth Centre. Ideally, the existing management/supervision structure would remain in place to control and organise 'youth' activities.
- If encompassed within the Parish Council's day-to-day control, the Kings Hall would provide the ideal venue for all 'hard floor' activities and would provide increased options for Parish Council staff when offering letting opportunities.
- Linked to the MUGA and Grange Field, the Hall could provide the focus for big community events – see below for potential ideas for enhancing this concept.
- A complete review of current and potential users should be undertaken to ensure sustainability both in terms of financial viability and best use – consideration could be given to securing more 'anchor' users particularly during daytime, e.g. gym use or fitness training. Consideration should be given to making the Kings Hall part of a Community 'Leisure Centre' that would link it to both Grange Field (and possibly The Beeches) and Church Piece. This could be achieved by incorporating additional features such as a drop-in café, either within the building or, if funds could be made available for major building alterations, an extension could be added – possibly a conservatory/atrium type of structure with links to both Grange Field and Church Piece. An outside covered seating area could link the Kings Hall with the main precinct area and could be made available to local charities for fund raising events.
- Other 'outside the box' uses should be considered such as a technical hub and educational enhancement activities linked to local schools and businesses, which would help to develop closer links with the Local Enterprise Partnership.



The Kings Hall and Multi- Use Games Area (MUGA) on Grange Field

Management

- Identify the precise role of the trustees and, if this management structure needed to be retained, how best the involvement of the Parish Council could be integrated to take on the prime responsibility for the management of the Kings Hall itself.
- It is important that the Trustees retain responsibility for the core Youth Centre activities.
- Set up an all-embracing management and booking structure that covers all letting facilities for the Stanton Suite and Kings Hall. This would enable the best use of space both in terms of numbers, types of activity and surfaces.
- Consider the recruitment of a manager for the combined buildings – perhaps an Estates Officer to look after all Parish Council owned property, including the allotments and Grange Field.

Property Issues

- The Kings Hall currently has a 35-year lease from Cheltenham Borough Council that is shortly due for renewal. The building itself was provided by the community and is run as a charity administered by trustees.
- The Kings Hall does have to pay business rates but current discussions indicate that, with charitable status, this could be discounted to a manageable level.
- Identify the full scope of works needed to bring the building up to full serviceability and works necessary to ensure the building meets all requirements for future activities or potential users. This would almost certainly involve some redesigning of the building itself
- Explore how best to finance the building and other works. – if the Parish Council were to take responsibility for accessing this finance it would need to have some form of a long-term lease arrangement on the property

Commercial Shops in Church Piece

It is recognised that the Parish Council has little or no influence over the commercial premises located within Church Piece but exploratory dialogue with the freeholder, managing agents and the shop owners themselves has been very encouraging. With positive action from the Parish Council, there is every reason to believe they will support the plans for enhancing and improving the whole area. The Mid Counties Co-operative Society, which occupies a large part of the commercial premises, has indicated that its store is earmarked for refurbishment/upgrading during the next 18 months to 2 years

Overall conclusions

- These proposals address the majority of issues raised in the questionnaire responses and the feedback from the Parish Meetings, in terms of Church Piece and its immediate environs becoming a Community Hub.
- The Parish Council is committed to promoting and encouraging a village centre that provides good facilities for all residents but particularly those that ensure our young people develop into good and responsible adults and provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our older residents.

- The improvement of the whole area will provide a great social centre for both large scale and smaller village events and activities.
- To achieve completion of the project will inevitably require funding via grants, sponsorship or loans or a combination of these sources

Chapter 5 | Local transport initiatives

The parish has two significant primary roads passing through it. These are, in the west the A435 Cirencester Road that connects central Cheltenham and Charlton Kings with Cirencester and the A40 London Road which runs roughly horizontally through the middle of the parish and joins central Cheltenham with Andoversford to the east and, eventually, Oxford and London. Most other roads in the area provide access for the residential population, although some small lanes run east from the parish to farms and hamlets.

A cycleway runs from Cox's Meadow to Moorend Road alongside the Lilley Brook on the boundary of the parish but otherwise, cyclists travelling through and around the parish currently use the roads which have been graded by the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Cycling Campaign as being either quiet or reasonably quiet, apart from the A40 and A435 which are classed as busy or very busy. A higher rating needs a higher level of skill from the cyclist.

Public Transport

Cheltenham Railway Station is 2.8 miles away, an hour's walk from the centre of the parish (Greenway Lane, GL52 6PN)¹ and the bus station is 1.7 miles away, a 37-minute walk². Charlton Kings is well-served by buses: the B route (Cheltenham - Charlton Kings- Wyman's Brook- Swindon Village- Arle Farm), P&Q (Cheltenham – East End Road - Ewens Farm), 51 (Cheltenham – Cirencester), 801 (Cheltenham to Moreton-in-Marsh via Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water and Northleach), 853 (Gloucester – Cheltenham – Northleach – Oxford); as well as the National Express routes to London and elsewhere.³

The 'Inform Gloucestershire' Local Insight Profile for Charlton Kings shows that average travel times to key services such as school, further education, GP and hospital, by walking and public transport, vary between 6 minutes and 20 minutes, which is lower than averages in Gloucestershire or England.

Car ownership

The majority of houses in the parish have an off-road parking option and there are two free public car parks in the parish, one at Sixways and one at Church Piece. The proportion of households with no car is 14% which is lower than the county average of 17%, with 36% of households having 2 or more cars compared with 31% for Gloucestershire. There are a lot of cars in Charlton Kings.

The large number of responses on all aspects of travel and transport, together with traffic and highways management matters, reflected the issues often brought up at Parish Meetings and in

¹ Google Maps

² Google Maps

³ ThinkTravel website: http://www.thinktravel.info/files/uploads/Cheltenham_Bus_Map_V2.pdf

everyday reports to the parish office. The many associated individual observations identified considerable areas of concern in just about every aspect, but also offered a wide range of solutions; from the very practical to the highly optimistic!

The Parish Council is not a statutory provider, either of transport services, parking, or highways/footway maintenance. Its role, and one that it actively engages with, is to link with the statutory providers to help identify priorities for action to address problems and to develop new opportunities such as looking forward to electric vehicles.

Of those who expressed a view, 90% either agreed or strongly agreed that, as alternatives to car transport, it will be important to encourage a greater use of buses and make better provision for cycling and walking. There was less certainty from the two thirds of those who responded who, overall, felt that more needed to be done to manage the effect of vehicles, by increasing parking restrictions, lowering speed limits, creating better road signage, and creating more car parks and a new Park and Ride facility. The wide range of views expressed in the individual comments, showed that this aspect is complex as has been experienced by the Parish Council when assessing the best solutions for transport problems.



Resurfacing New Street

Relatively few observations were made about highway repairs or gully emptying, topics that have been high on the list of issues raised with Gloucestershire Highways. Given the national shortfall in funding allocated to highways maintenance, the constraints imposed by Gloucestershire County Council's contract arrangements and the poor overall state of the

network, the Parish Council considers that the Parish now enjoys a standard of maintenance that compares favourably with other areas in Cheltenham and wider Gloucestershire. However much still needs to be done in order for the parish infrastructure to be brought up to an acceptable standard that meets all user requirements.

Reference was made to pollution levels from increasing traffic emissions and suggestions emerged for the need to begin to future-proof our transport systems by the provision of public charging points for the increasing number of electric vehicles, conceivably powered by a local energy production scheme.

Traffic management

This issue generated the greatest number of responses. Most respondents, although not all, felt that the volume of traffic in Charlton Kings had grown to levels that make travel difficult, at least at key times of day. Specific issues identified included 'rat-runs' like East End Road; the need to reduce through traffic; on-street parking that narrows access for service vehicles at key points such as on Horsefair Street; 'pinch points' such as on Church Street between the Merryfellow and Yangtse; abuse of an existing one-way system and the suggestions for others; the need for traffic-calming measures



Congestion and parking problems

e.g. on Ryeworth Road and East End Road, and many comments about congestion on the A40 and elsewhere.

Road safety – speeding

There was strong support for a reduction in speed limits. Some wanted a generic 20 mph limit throughout the village while others suggested specific locations such as by schools and on Church Street, Ryeworth Road and Battledown Approach. A range of traffic calming measures and better signage were suggested for particular locations and a new pedestrian crossing by the war memorial was proposed. Some respondents felt that the problem would be lessened if existing speed limits were enforced and there remains a perception that speeding vehicles are a problem throughout the built-up area of the parish although this view is not supported by the parish's speed monitoring camera.

On-Street parking

This issue produced a mix of generic issues and location-specific problems. Generic issues included widespread concern about parking on double yellow lines and the lack of enforcement; problems caused by parking around schools at start and finish times and thoughtless parking at dangerous junctions causing particular difficulties for service vehicles. However, there were also concerns about the effect on businesses when parking restrictions are enforced and it is clear that parking availability on Lyefield Road West is still considered to be an issue.

Car parks

There were more conflicting opinions on the state of car parking in Charlton Kings than on other subjects. Very many responses suggested that the capacity of the existing car parks at Church Piece and Sixways were inadequate to meet demand and many responses suggested that this was as a result of commuters blocking spaces all day with no enforcement of time limits (although subsequent monitoring has found this not to be the case). Others expressed their satisfaction at being able to park as required. Finding locations for new car parks was seen to be a problem in itself, and there was specific reference to under-capacity in Church Piece when events were being held in the Stanton Hall.

A new Park and Ride?

Most respondents were sceptical as to where a new facility could be located and indeed whether it would be viable as "a lot of traffic is going through Cheltenham". There is no doubt that the A40 and A435 suffer from severe congestion problems, particularly at commuter peak hours and during times of local major events such as the Cheltenham Festival or problems on the motorway network. This congestion not only causes frustrating delays but also adversely contributes to the poor levels of air quality experienced along these routes. The committed new development included elsewhere in Cheltenham outlined in the forthcoming Joint Core Strategy together with further development of Cheltenham as a regional shopping destination will further exacerbate conditions on these important new routes. It will be for the Parish Council to canvas the Highway Authority to ensure that adequate attention is given to these routes when the new strategic traffic model is available and mitigation measures can be tested.

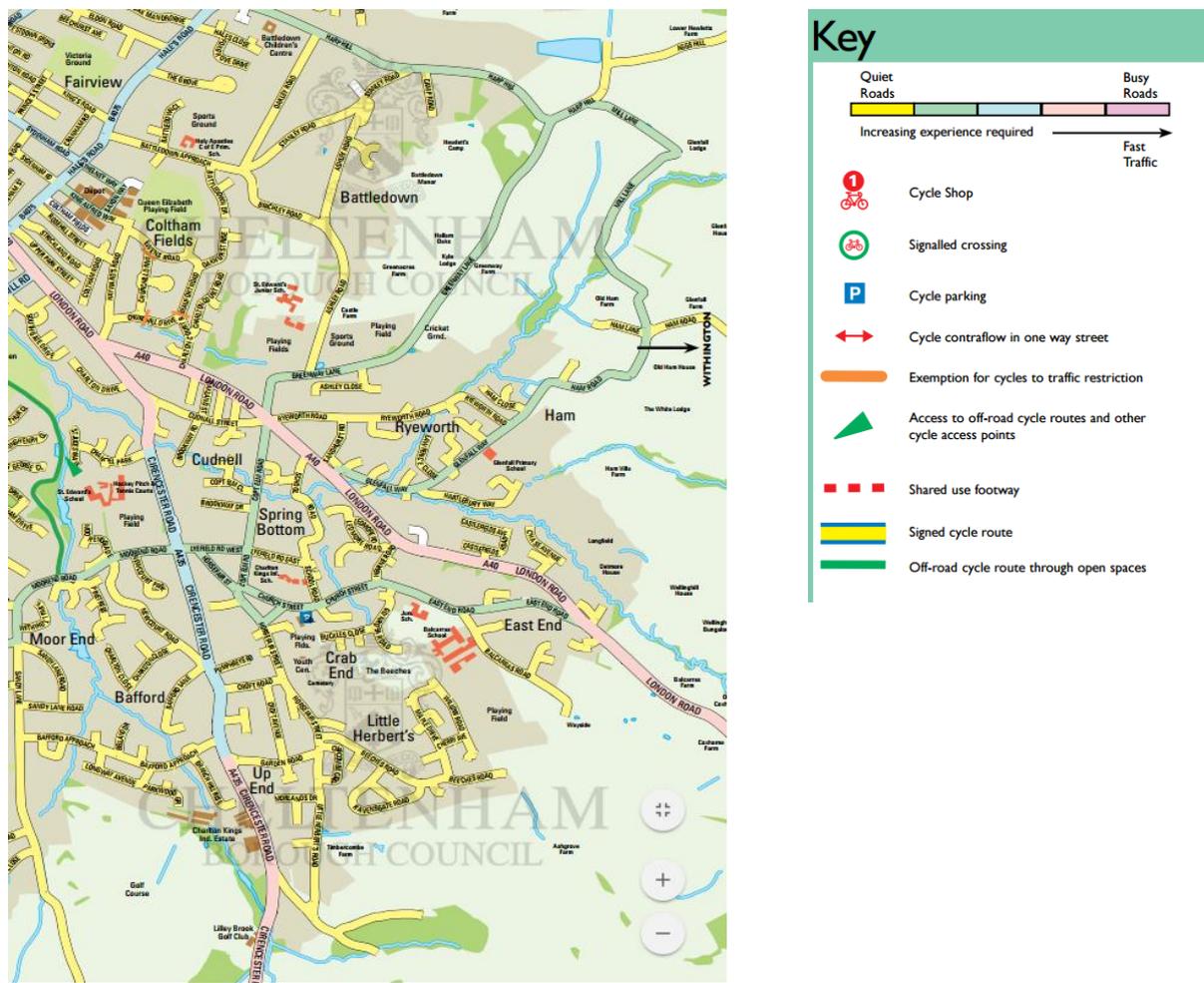
'Other' means of getting around

Although the focus was, inevitably, on motor vehicles, the question on other means of getting around gave rise to a wide range of interesting responses, with 90% agreeing that more attention should be paid to the areas of walking, cycling and bus travel. The condition and maintenance of our footways provoked as many critical responses as the condition of the roads. Several respondents

commented on the difficulties and lack of provision for crossing busy roads. This is particularly relevant to the elderly and young families as Charlton Kings has above average numbers of these categories.

Comments on cycling were constructive in requesting safer routes and facilities such as a network of protected 'Quietway'/ linked-up cycle paths, e.g. linking to the Cox's Meadow route into town, and the re-opening of the old Andoversford railway line as a cycling route. Cyclists did however themselves come in for some criticism in relation to cycling on pavements and with no lights. Bus services are highly valued, with pleas to protect the B, and P&Q routes, but also to increase the frequency of services, extend the times when services are available especially in the evening, reduce the costs, and create a direct service to the railway station.

Extract from Cheltenham cycle map (<http://www.cyclecheltenham.org.uk>)



Overall conclusions

- There is much to consider in these responses, which will guide the Parish Council's continuous engagement with the statutory service providers.
- The range of issues needs to be prioritised and will be of particular value in providing the agenda for liaison meetings with Gloucestershire Highways/Amey. As well as ongoing programmes such as the "Safer Parish" traffic speed monitoring, there are also a number of new issues the Parish Council might seek to take forward on its own initiative.

Actions

Engagement with partners

Our partnership with Gloucestershire Highways (GH)

- This long-established relationship has resulted in the Parish Council having significant input into identifying local projects to improve highway conditions. We will continue to develop this relationship and carry out our own condition survey and needs analysis in order to try to achieve the highest standards possible for maintenance given the poor financial climate faced by the Highway Authority.

Measures to improve A40 & A435 through routes- particularly at junctions

- The Parish Council will continue to press GH for junction improvements at Sixways, Holy Apostles and Hales Road, to provide safer facilities for pedestrians and more efficient and effective turning arrangements for traffic. We will also look carefully at future planning applications to assess impact on these vulnerable access points

Park and Ride option

- The Parish Council will continue to press for a Park and Ride facility on the Southern / Eastern side of Cheltenham to reduce pressure on key through routes, particularly as new development in the town centre increases potential customers to the centre. Reductions in through movements would help improve local journey times and reduce pollution from existing queues of standing / slow-moving traffic in Charlton Kings.

Parish Council initiatives

'Safer Parish' speed monitoring initiative

- In response to local concerns regarding the perception of excessive speed the Parish Council launched its 'Safer Parish initiative' to monitor traffic speeds on key routes (see website for detailed description of initiative).
- Results indicate that excessive speeds are not an issue, although there are occasional breaches of existing speed limits. These will continue to be monitored for potential patterns and where appropriate raised with the various enforcement agencies so that action can be taken.



Safer parish – Parish Council speed monitoring equipment

- The use of mobile monitoring equipment appears to be effective and will continue to be a feature. The Parish Council opposes the blanket use of 20mph on all roads within the parish; the main and secondary distributors should be maintained at the most appropriate, reasonable speed limit to encourage safe movement of traffic with minimum chance of increasing pollution levels which inappropriate 20mph zones would cause. We would support 20mph particularly in the vicinity of schools and in residential streets where children are likely to play.

A parish-wide traffic study

- The Parish Council will look at traffic movements throughout the parish, including around schools, to identify 'rat running' and congestion hotspots, in order to raise with the Highways Authority necessary traffic management initiatives to ameliorate the detrimental effects.

A comprehensive look at on- street / off-street parking

- Existing parking regulations need to be reviewed to determine their appropriateness. In particular, it is important to provide casual parking opportunities at business locations to maintain a sustainable economy. There will be problems finding adequate, safe, on-street parking because of the large stock of housing without access to off-street parking and because of in-garden parking that restricts carriageway parking (which is exacerbated by inappropriate use of advisory white line markings which remove legitimate parking space). Measures are needed to stop on-pavement parking, which causes problems particularly for disabled people and those with push chairs.
- Existing off-street facilities at Sixways and Church Piece will be defended from development as being vital to the local economy. The Parish Council would like to include the extension of the Church Piece car park as part of its redevelopment proposals for Church Piece / Grange Field.

Local bus provision

- The Parish Council will continue to encourage residents to use the B and the P&Q buses and will liaise with their operators, Stagecoach and Pulhams, to ensure the best possible service; including early morning and late evening buses. Timetables will always be available in the parish office.

Supporting the 'Green Agenda'

- We will continue to encourage use of walking and cycling as an alternative to car journeys and link with measures to reduce pollution from idling engines, etc.
- While accepting that the scope for further dedicated off-road cycle paths is very limited due to road geometry, the Parish Council will continue to be alert to opportunities for improving the experience of cyclists using streets and roads in the parish, since the spin-off for quality of air and reduction in road congestion is clearly beneficial. We will monitor the use and availability of bike stands and seek to make more provision if there is demand.
- We will continue to look at new developments to see whether they could incorporate dedicated routes to facilitate a network of walking/cycling links particularly for school children attending local schools.
- We will seek to work with partner organisations to ensure that we plan for the widespread introduction of electric vehicles so that Charlton Kings is at the forefront of providing support services such as public charging points.

Chapter 6 | Enjoying and protecting our countryside

There is open, farmed land and woodland bordering the south and east of the parish, and the importance that residents place upon the value of their surrounding rural environment to their quality of life was clearly reflected in the results of the survey.

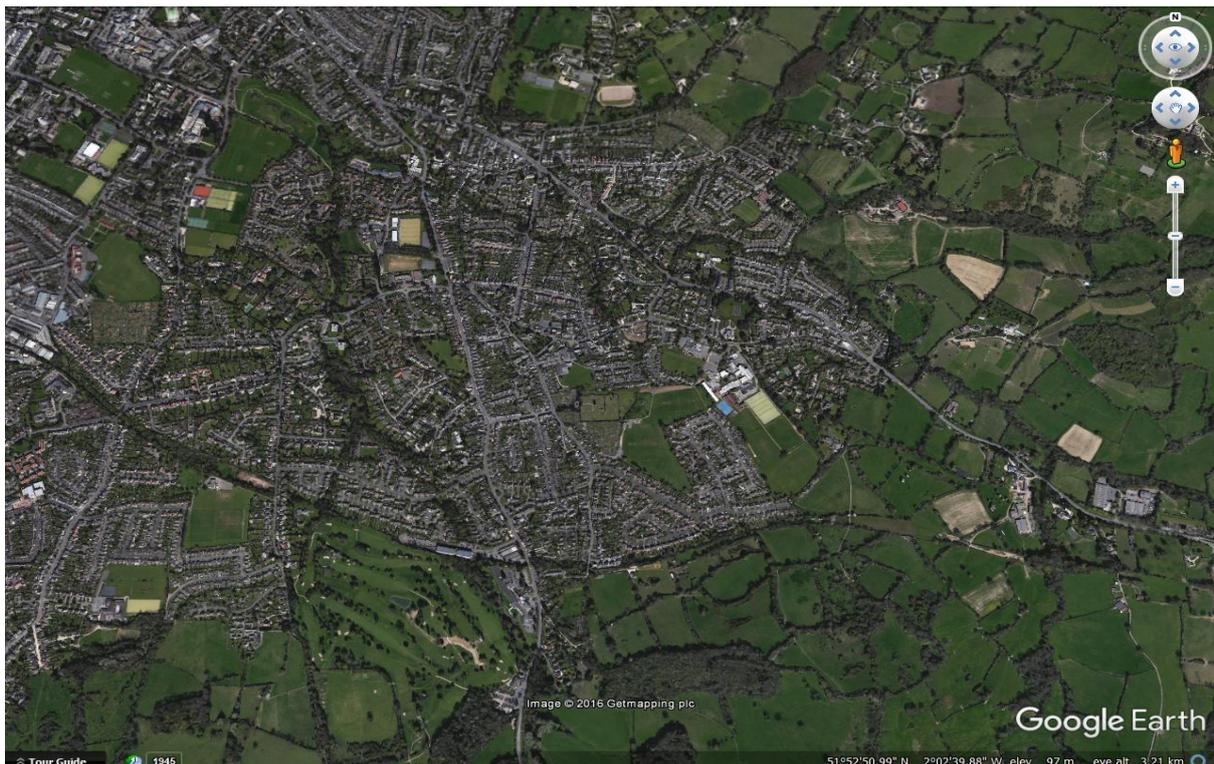
The Parish Council will support the views of its community and protect, maintain and enhance our natural assets ensuring that people can enjoy access to the countryside and wildlife.

- 91% of respondents agreed, or strongly agreed, that it was important to maintain and expand our existing wild spaces to preserve our wildlife for the future.
- 88% reported that one of the things they liked about living in Charlton Kings was ‘access to the countryside’
- 79% agreed, or strongly agreed, that there are enough suitably maintained paths in the surrounding area to meet the needs of families seeking recreational walking.

As a result of specific responses the Parish Council has where possible focused activity on protecting our countryside and wildlife, and promoting access.

The Parish Council’s countryside and wildlife assets

Residents recognise that a big element of the character of the parish is its feeling of a built-up centre of population in a rural context. This is unsurprising, given the dominant presence of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which forms some three-quarters of both its boundary and its area. The AONB’s boundary closely follows the edge of the built-up area and in most places, marks a clear line between ‘town’ and ‘country’. Charlton Kings does not, therefore, have the Cheltenham-Gloucester Green Belt as part of its periphery. The AONB, the largest by far in England at 2,000 Km², was originally designated in 1966 with a boundary review in 1999, since when some locally-significant changes have taken place.



Charlton Kings and the Cotswolds AONB (Copyright Google Earth)

Similarly, the parish is fortunate to have several high-value ‘Key Wildlife Sites’ (KWS) and one Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). Please refer to *Map 1* on page 12 which shows countryside designations and Key Wildlife and Geological Sites.

Key Wildlife and Geological Sites



Ashgrove Farm Key Wildlife Site

- Ravensgate Common – mosaics of unimproved Oolitic limestone grassland, neutral grassland, scree communities, and scrub; all of this supports an invertebrate fauna (especially of butterflies) and associated birds, reptiles and mammals, of county importance bordering on national interest.
- Glenfall woods.
- Ashgrove Farm pastures- species-rich limestone and neutral grasslands with areas of ridge and furrow. Charlton Kings railway line. Little Herbert's railway cutting RIGS.

Actions

The Parish Council will support the views of the community and protect, maintain and enhance our landscape, wildlife and geological heritage.

- The Council will seek opportunities to work with the Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board to promote and protect key landscape features.
- The Council will, similarly, strengthen its links to groups with a specific interest in wildlife and geological conservation such as the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, with a view to ensuring the long-term protection and management of sites of wildlife and geological importance; and will seek financial and specialist support from Natural England, where appropriate.
- The council will ensure that landowners are aware of the special interests of their land and are encouraged and assisted to safeguard, and enhance where appropriate, its interest.
- In recent years the Parish Council has been actively engaged with a management group in overseeing the Higher-Level Stewardship agreement on Ravensgate Common. This involves the management of the hill and the escarpment. Butterfly Conservation and Natural



Ravensgate Common Key Wildlife Site

England, together with individuals, such as the Common Rights holders and graziers, are involved with the project to restore the unimproved limestone grassland and promote all its associated flora and fauna. The Parish Council remains committed to its role in leading this project.

- Both the Woodland Trust and the Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common, from whom we can draw expertise and advice, are involved with land of high nature conservation value adjacent to our Parish at Lineover Woods and the limestone escarpment to the south-west.

The Parish Council's Public Rights of Way (PROW) initiatives

It is Gloucestershire County Council and not the Parish Council that is the statutory authority for Rights of Way, but we will continue to work closely with their team that looks after all categories of Rights of Way, including footpaths and bridleways. Given their budgetary pressures and much reduced workforce, we will continue to support their activities to maintain and improve the extensive network that exists within our Parish. In recognition of the importance placed on supporting our valuable natural resources, the Parish Council retains an annual budget for Rights of Way and has purchased the equipment necessary for our tasks that is used by our volunteer working parties.

The Council recognises the direct link between enjoying the countryside and the health and well-being of our community. Walking and experiencing the natural world is a free experience, and it is therefore important that we strive to make these opportunities accessible to as many people as possible.

Our Rights of Way Working Group has recently:

- Protected access to the parish historic spring at Spring Bottom on School Road, and erected a clear fingerpost to direct people to this ancient water resource.
- Resurfaced four sections of footpath.
- Commissioned the installation of steps and a handrail to enable easier access up and down the Ravensgate escarpment.
- Arranged for four broken stiles to be replaced by gates.
- Established an additional "permissive footpath" linking with Timbercombe Woods, to provide both an alternative, less arduous, climb for walkers and a route that keeps dog walkers away from cattle.
- Promoted the re-routing an important bridleway to avoid a stretch which becomes a quagmire in wet weather.



Replacing a broken stile with a new gate:
Footpath ZCK25 Balcarras Road to London Road

Actions

- We aim to develop greater public awareness of the routes that can be explored in the locality.
- The Parish Council recognises the importance of promoting outdoor activities and will encourage participation through:
 - Installing informative maps in strategic locations.
 - Advertising recreational facilities on relevant websites and in local magazines.
 - Listing publications that illustrate local walks, and work towards making available information that links various routes to points of interest and facilities.
 - Developing links with walking groups who make use of the local countryside.

- The network of footpaths will be surveyed and any maintenance issues prioritised to develop a work schedule. In order to deliver these outcomes, we will encourage volunteers to be part of a pool of people available to carry out straightforward work.
- As a substantial number of individuals walk particular routes on a regular basis, often while dog-walking, there is potential to develop a ‘buddy’ system where “footpath guardians” could monitor the paths, act as the eyes and ears of the community and report any issues.



Charlton Kings Friday walking club

- We will develop stronger links with experienced organisations regarding countryside issues such as the Cotswold Wardens, who have already been invaluable in helping us with installing gates, building steps and improving footpath surfaces to make areas in Charlton Kings more accessible.

Chapter 7 | Heritage⁴ and Conservation

Charlton Kings can trace its origins back to the Iron Age. Its name has its roots in the Saxon *ceorls' tun*, where a *tun* meant a fenced enclosure with a dwelling. It originally consisted of series of farmsteads, which were part of the Royal Manor and One Hundred of Cheltenham, hence the ‘Kings’ element. Over time, the small homesteads in the area gave way to large manor houses and estates, including Charlton House (now the headquarters of Spirax Sarco) and Lilleybrook (now the Doubletree by Hilton Cheltenham Hotel). The tower of the 12th century parish church of St. Mary’s has been a landmark in the centre of the village for more than 600 years.

The Battledown neighbourhood was originally a settlement for Baedala, a Saxon who built an enclosure there. It remained wooded until the 12th century, when it was cleared for agriculture.



St. Mary’s church tower

⁴ This section is mainly a summary of information from <http://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/charlton-kings/>, <http://www.battledown.co.uk/history.asp> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlton_Kings http://www.cheltenham4u.co.uk/charltonkings_history.asp?area=Charlton+Kings

The Battledown Estate was built as a private residential estate from the 1860s through to the 1920s and is still evolving subject to strict covenants on what is allowable, as it is the only surviving Victorian private estate in Gloucestershire and one of very few in the whole country.

Charlton Kings remained largely agricultural until the late 19th century and the dairy farms in the locality provided milk for the large private houses of Cheltenham, which had become a fashionable spa town. After the agricultural depression struck in the 1880s, the women of the area had to take in washing for their households to survive. By then, Cheltenham had developed into an educational centre, with the establishment of four Colleges, and the laundries of Charlton Kings took in washing from these establishments as well as from the large houses in the town. A large public washing drying ground was made available off Horsefair Street (where the allotments now are).

Two main roads from Cheltenham to London and Cirencester run through Charlton Kings, and in the 18th century these were turnpike roads used by stagecoaches. Many of the pubs in the area were originally built as alehouses along these thoroughfares e.g. the London Inn, and much of the early, mainly 19th century development in Charlton Kings was along these main roads, with the areas between being gradually filled out with small estates and residential roads throughout the 20th century.

There are three conservation areas in the parish centred around Cudnall Street, St Marys and Bafford (see maps below). The parish also has over a hundred Grade 2 Listed Buildings, ranging from St Mary's and Holy Apostles churches to private houses such as Kings House (Grade 2*), to the London Inn. Included in the list are the village stocks, recently restored by the Parish Council, and the drinking fountain at the junction of London and Cirencester Road at Holy Apostles, with its still-relevant inscription "*That which is provided for the public benefit, the public is expected to protect*". In addition, Battledown Camp, the churchyard cross in St. Mary's, and Northfield round barrow are all designated as ancient monuments.

Charlton Kings has several literary associations. Author Lewis Carroll visited Alice Liddell here where, it is said, he got his inspiration for writing *Alice in Wonderland*, and the mirror that inspired the book's sequel, *Through the Looking Glass*, still hangs in the house where she lived. The poet Cecil Day-Lewis lived in Box Cottage in Bafford Lane where he wrote his first detective novel.



Kings House, School Road C1600. Listed Grade 2*

There are several publications on the heritage of Charlton Kings including the *Around Charlton Kings* booklet and its successor *More Walks Around Charlton Kings* produced by Charlton Kings History Society.

Residents' views

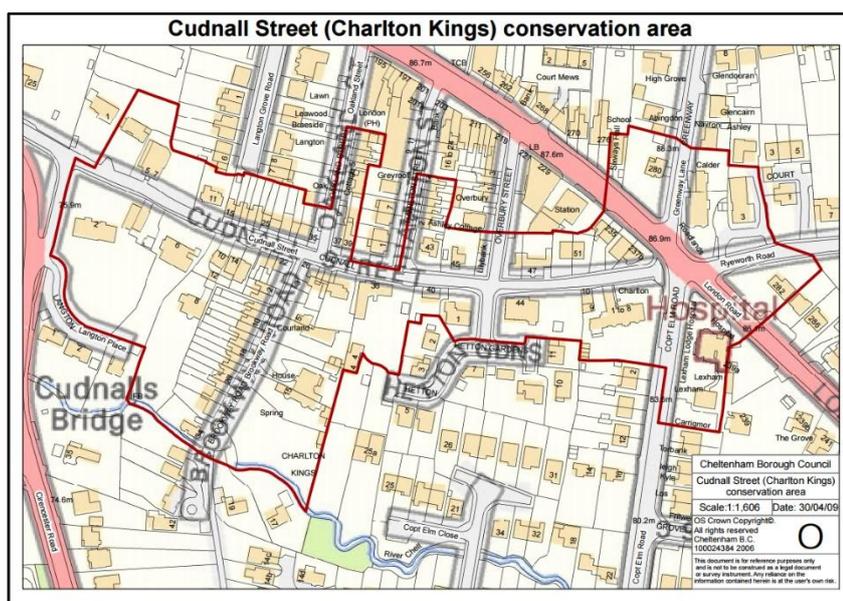
93% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it is important to acknowledge the history of Charlton Kings and that where buildings of historic or local interest exist they should be preserved.

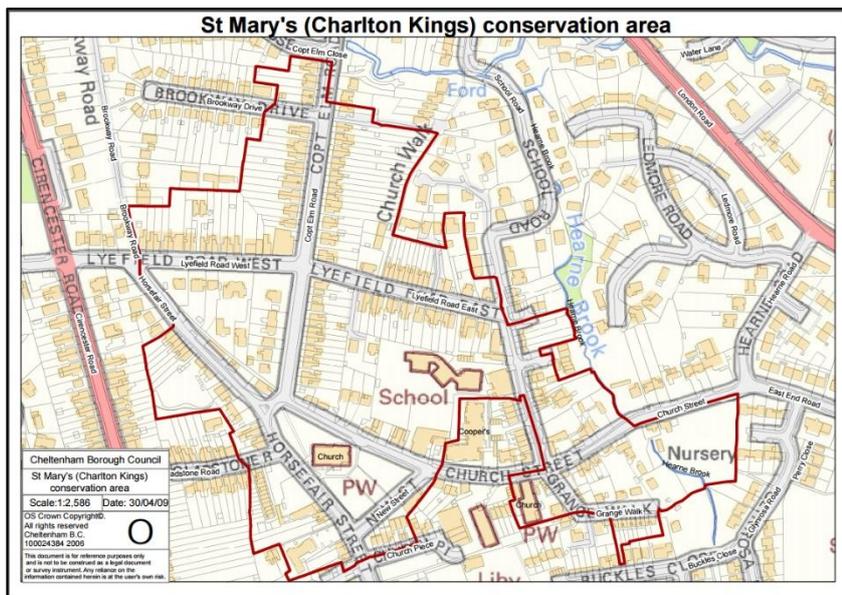
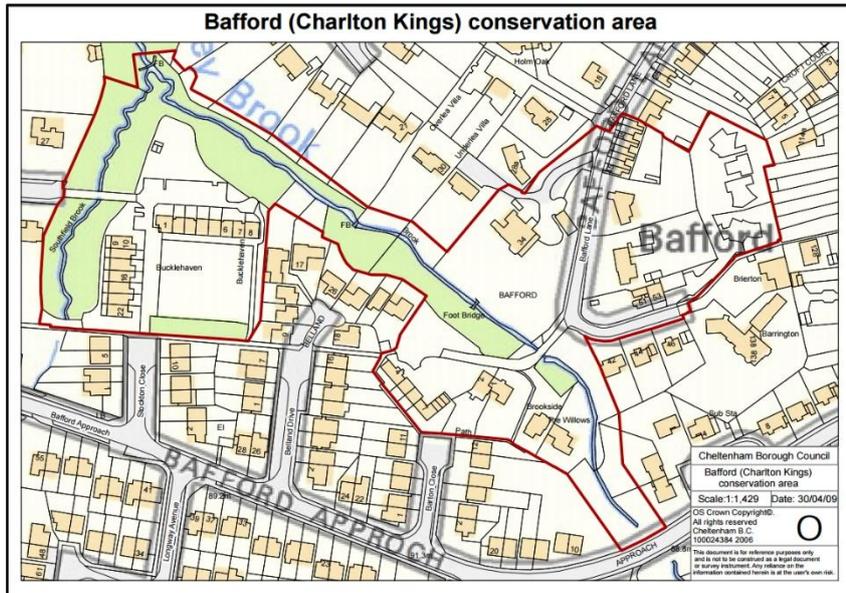
94% agreed or strongly agreed that conservation areas are valuable to help preserve the attractiveness of Charlton Kings.

Some commented that historic information should be made available and heritage buildings should be signposted.

Actions

- Cheltenham Borough Council is reviewing the boundaries and effectiveness of all conservation Areas in Cheltenham and we will contribute to the assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the three areas in Charlton Kings in influencing the outcomes of planning applications.
- The Parish Council will create its own record of all listed buildings and structures in the parish and seek to identify other buildings/structures of historic or architectural significance for possible future listing.
- The Council will look at the possibility of creating parish-specific plaques on historic buildings and, if feasible, seek sponsorship.
- We will work with local organisations such as schools and Charlton Kings History Society to produce material on the heritage of Charlton Kings.
- We will sponsor the re-publication of books and articles on the history of Charlton Kings in digital format.
- Priority will be afforded to producing, and making available, information on urban walks, to guide walkers to points of interest.
- We will seek to provide visual signposts to guide people on urban walks and those viewing listed buildings.
- We will provide information at strategic outlets, and in downloadable format on our website, to promote visits to and exploration of Charlton Kings.





Chapter 8 | Our Community

Introduction

“Community” is at the heart of what every Parish Council should be seeking to support. While the Parish Council can actively engage in and directly provide only a small number of facilities, events, buildings and services, it has a significant role in giving support, encouragement and leadership to the voluntary, public and government sectors who, together, are responsible for most of the built and social infrastructure that maintains the community of Charlton Kings.

Charlton Kings is a large parish of over 10,000 residents the majority of whom live in a built-up area that comprises just one quarter of the area of the parish. The modern A40 road creates something of

a physical divide between the 'village' of Charlton Kings and the estates in Battledown. The Parish Council strives to create an inclusive approach in everything it does and 68% of respondents said that they do think of Charlton Kings as a single entity. 29% felt that it comprised a number of separate entities although over a quarter of respondents felt unable to answer this question. If anything, these responses should strengthen the Parish Council's resolve to serve the entirety of its electorate, while acknowledging that the distribution of key facilities in the parish will naturally focus many activities on Church Piece and nearby green spaces.

Respondents to the survey liked many things about Charlton Kings as a place to live, work and enjoy life. Most (71%) liked the "village atmosphere" and 64% the range of local shops. The quality of local schools was liked by just 58%, and only half thought positively about the availability of local activities and services.

Respondents to the questionnaires provided a wealth of feedback that will be invaluable in planning the future direction of the Parish Council in the key areas of its work.

Who makes up our community?

Everyone progresses through life needing different types of support and being able to contribute in varying ways. Young people depend on their families but also on the understanding of the wider community that the needs of one young generation will change beyond the recognition of older members of the community; parents need to be able to access a wide range of services to support their families and ensure that their own lifestyles can cope with the demands on their lives; working people require facilities that will support their commitment to jobs and social institutions; older people (of whom there is a greater than average proportion of the population in Charlton Kings) start to require greater levels of support from their community but also may have the most to offer in return.

Charlton Kings as a valued place to live

Previous chapters have sought to describe the values that residents place on their 'town in the country' home and there is a strong commitment to maintaining the 'village character':

The village atmosphere with local people and long history.

The local village feel.

Many more street planters and street flower beds to bring more beauty to the village throughout the year.

Feels like a big family and people are friendly.

However, a repeated criticism was that there was too little attention paid to the problem of litter and rubbish, which concerned respondents where it blighted both green spaces and streets:

Less rubbish, public bins/recycling being emptied more frequently.

Tidy up the total mess around the recycle bins in Church Piece Car Park - possibly moving them to a better site where they would not look such an eyesore.

The sections below outline the ways in which people see their community and the goods and services that it offers them. A number commented that access to fast broadband was still a problem.

Community life in Charlton Kings

Community and cultural events

The three questions that asked how people viewed the future community, cultural and social life of Charlton Kings, all received optimistic responses.

57% were positive or very positive about the value of regular community events, with very few (4%) dissenters. The many responses that highlighted the value that residents place on the Summer Fair, and the Winter Fair and Christmas lights switch-on event more than justify the Parish Council's recent decision to take a more active role in organising and promoting these events to bring the whole community together:



Support the Village Fair, fireworks, Christmas light switch on.

Charlton Kings Winter Fair in Church Piece

An almost identical response was made to the suggestion that there should be more cultural performances (with 58% of respondents participating in cultural activities themselves). Charlton Kings also offers easy access to the Cheltenham Festivals.

Charlton Kings library is a key cultural and social resource and its value to residents was reflected in supportive comments. The library also serves as an important outlet for communicating information from organisations and interest groups to the many people who regularly use it.

However, only a third of respondents thought that it would be important to make Charlton Kings a "more vibrant place with better social activities"; perhaps reflecting a nervousness about 'organised fun'?

Shops

There are four centres for shops in Charlton Kings: on London Road at Sixways, Cirencester Road on the southern edge and in the village centre around Church Piece and Lyefield Road West. Respondents were broadly satisfied with the range of local shops but identified some additions they would like to see provided to give a more comprehensive range of locally available goods and services.

Pubs and Clubs

There are three fewer pubs than there were a decade ago but six pubs and clubs remain and have carved out well-defined niche markets to suit all comers and also offer a community space:

- The Charlton Kings Club (Church Street)
- The Clock Tower (Cirencester Road)
- The Langton (London Road)

- The London Inn (London Road)
- The Merry Fellow Inn (School Road)
- The Royal (Horsefair Street)

There are also several cafes distributed around the village.

Respondents were generally positive about the facilities offered

Churches

The parish has four active churches that come together to celebrate special occasions, such as the annual Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial and offer numerous church-led groups and activities:

- Charlton Kings Baptist Church (Church Street)
- Holy Apostles C of E Church (London Road)
- Sacred Hearts Catholic Church (Moorend Road)
- St. Mary's Church C of E Church (Church Street)

Respondents particularly mentioned their love of choral services at St. Mary's and the way in which the local churches combine to support the whole community.

Community spaces

There are several spaces in the parish available for community use:

- Charlton Kings Baptist Church (2 rooms)
- Charlton Kings Parish Council (Stanton Suite)
- Holy Apostles Church (Hall)
- Kings Hall
- Sacred Hearts Catholic Church (Hall)
- St. Mary's Church (Parish Centre rooms)

Sports and Leisure facilities

More than half respondents agreed that there were enough opportunities locally to keep fit and improve health, and the great majority felt that there were good places to walk.

- Balcarras School houses a sports centre open to the public,
- Charlton Kings Cricket Club - Greenway Lane – one of the oldest in the country.
- Health and Leisure Club at Doubletree, on Cirencester Road.
- Lilley Brook Golf Club is on the edge of the parish on the west side of Cirencester Road.
- Sacred Hearts Catholic Church has a squash court
- St. Edwards swimming pool is opened to the public outside school hours (known as Aquazone). The nearest year-round swimming pool is 2.4 miles away from the heart of the parish (Cheltenham Ladies' College Sports Centre), although Sandford Lido provides a seasonal swimming option just 1.3 miles or 26 minutes' walk away.

Although many people agreed that there was adequate access to local sports clubs, there were many suggestions as to how the provision of formal keep-fit and sporting facilities could be improved. The most responses related to the availability and affordability of swimming pools.

Facilities for Young people

Respondents to the questionnaires were very supportive of the need to ensure that good and appropriate facilities and service provision were made for young people, although some comments clearly indicated that there was a need to improve on the actual delivery of these good intentions. Over half (52%) of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there needs to be an improvement in the provision of facilities and services for younger people; with very few disagreeing with this view. Creating a drop-in style café was equally well supported, whereas the provision of 'youth-shelters' in parks was supported by a smaller proportion of respondents. Specific ideas put forward by respondents will be considered when developing the Parish Council's plans for youth facilities.

There were some comments made about behaviour and the noise of facilities such as the skate park, which emphasises the need for very careful planning and consultation before major initiatives are undertaken.

Educational Facilities

The parish contains four primary schools:

- Charlton Kings Junior School (East End Road)
- Charlton Kings Infant School (Lyefield Road East)
- Glenfall Community Primary School (Glenfall Way)
- Holy Apostles C of E Primary School (Battledown Approach)

and two secondary schools:

- Balcarras School is an 11-18 Academy based in the heart of the parish on East End Road.
- St. Edwards, on Cirencester Road and London Road, is an independent school with a wide age range, taking children from 1–18.

The parish also houses several early-years settings, including St. Edwards Nursery (London Road), St Mary's Playgroup (Church Road), Battledown Children's Centre (on Harp Hill which serves pupils with the whole range of additional needs from the Cheltenham area), Charlton Kings Kindergarten (Lyefield Road East), The Nursery School (Church Street), The Little Kingdom Nursery and Pre-school (Church Street) and Glenfall Pre-School (Glenfall Way).

Health, safety and social care

GP Surgery

There is one GP surgery in the parish at Sixways Clinic on London Road. The Gloucestershire Care Quality Commission gave the Sixways Clinic an overall rating of 'good' in January 2017 after there had been a complete overhaul of the appointments booking system, etc. and the Patient Participation Group had been happy with the result.

Safety and crime

National Police crime statistics show that Charlton Kings is a very safe place to live and that it suffers a low level of criminal behavior. Nevertheless, residents want an effective police presence, while recognizing that with the limitations on the police budget, they cannot expect to see the days of having a village police station again. However the Parish Council has provided space within its office for local police. There was a wide variation in responses in respect of crime, the police presence, and the value of extending CCTV coverage.

The police are clearly highly valued as a key community asset, although because they are not necessarily seen when people are around themselves, there is a perceived absence of a police presence:

Social Care

Whilst the Parish Council is not responsible for social care in the village, it could operate effective signposting to services of which people may not be aware, such as:

- Fire Brigade free home checks
- Church Visitor Schemes
- The minibus service for Senior Citizens – shopping trips etc.
- Healthwatch
- Relief in Need charity
- Warm and Well initiative
- Organisations that people could be referred to by GPs
- Childcare options
- Counselling services



Charlton Kings Senior Citizens' bus

This is a critical area in a community that has a larger than average number of people aged over 60 and one where the number of service providers can be overwhelming. The Parish Council will seek to improve its website to provide greater clarity and links to relevant service providers. Comments received support the council's intention to increasingly focus on the needs of this sector of our community.

Communication

Recognising the importance of telling people who contribute to an annual precept how it is spent, the Parish Council has, in recent years, improved both the ways in which it communicates its business to residents and people outside the parish and the amount of information that it publishes. Information sources now include:

- A well-managed website that is linked to Facebook and Twitter accounts
- A monthly column in *The Local Answer* that reaches every home in the Parish, with articles that are targeted to current events and issues.
- Parish Council notice boards to disseminate information on council and committee meetings and other topical matters.
- Posters in bus shelters and many local businesses that draw attention to upcoming meetings such as the Parish Meeting.

However, this is only one element of enhancing communications between organisations and interest groups, and many respondents commented on the need to improve the overall pattern of communications in the community. In particular respondents identified a need for a directory detailing all organisations, clubs etc that are active in the community

Overall conclusions

- It is impossible to summarise the broad spectrum of activities, facilities, interest groups and resources that make up the social, spiritual and cultural life of Charlton Kings.
- Residents clearly see much that attracts them to a life here but also have enormous enthusiasm for improving community life in all its varied aspects.
- The Parish Council will reflect these ambitions in drawing up a programme of actions that can be taken forward as a result of this survey.



Charlton Kings war memorial –
annual service of remembrance

Many community-based actions are covered in other chapters: the following are in addition to everything else.

Investigate ways in which to improve communications

- Additional public notice boards and an 'open' community notice board for use by interest by interest groups.
- A major upgrade of the Parish Council website.
- An annually updated summary booklet (replicated online) of all organisations offering regular clubs/entertainment/support to be available in our office for enquirers.
- We will attempt to come up with a schematic plan that clearly describes all bus routes and operators.

Summer Fair and Winter Fair and lights switch-on

- Develop a programme of activities for the Summer Fair, to include Zumba dancing, Air Cadets, Brass band, funfair and The Snake Man. Reinvest profits in a rolling programme of summer and winter events.

Social care

- Develop a proactive role for the Parish Council and make information available through all our communications channels.

Police liaison

- Continuously reinforce our relations with police representatives and with the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Establish a working group to enhance Neighbourhood Watch in Charlton Kings and broaden its current scope.
- Continue to offer shared facilities within our offices to allow local police presence.

Church Piece and environs

- Explore the potential benefits of an extended CCTV.

Enhancing beauty

- Take and support initiatives to beautify the built environment of Charlton Kings.

Chapter 9 | Business and employment opportunities

Charlton Kings is primarily a residential area with the main area for retail opportunities focused on the Sixways shopping area on the London Road, together with a small number of shops and cafes located on Lyefield Road West, around Church Piece and on the Cirencester Road. Some of the larger employers in the area are located on Cirencester Road including Bence's, Yorkshire Building Society and Spirax Sarco and nearby but just outside the parish on the Battledown Trading Estate.



Spirax Sarco UK Headquarters



Barlands industrial estate

Recently, a number of new businesses have relocated to the Barlands Trading Estate towards Dowdeswell where the Battledown Brewery is now based.

The London Road has a cluster of mainly independent and small chain shops that serve local, borough and county populations. Aside from London Road, retail in the parish is mostly small and serves the local population. This includes:

- Church Piece – Coop food store, Fish and Chip outlet, Café, and Indian take-away; with a nearby Chinese take-away.

- Lyefield Road West shops – vets, pharmacy, florist, cafe and convenience store also housing the Post Office (within Smith and Mann/NISA)
- Cirencester Road – small supermarket (Sainsbury's Local); convenience store, butcher, hairdressers, beauty salon

Responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire highlighted an appetite for more amenities and opportunities for different types of businesses in Charlton Kings and a key objective of the Parish Council is to continue to protect and preserve those areas that provide employment and business opportunities within the parish.

The Parish Council welcomes new business initiatives such as those focused around the Barlands Estate which will bring more employment together with enhanced community amenities to the area.

The Parish Council will aim to take steps to create more opportunities to help and support local businesses to develop and thrive.

A key objective of the Parish Council is to join with the local schools such as Balcarras and St. Edwards to develop stronger associations with the larger local employers to help create opportunities for business incubation/entrepreneurship that link with the Parish Hub/Church Piece initiative.

Actions

- Link with the Community group and Church Piece improvements project to create a business/tech hub focused on the Church Piece area.
- Support the development of educational links between businesses and local schools.
- Forge links with the larger businesses in the area.
- Initiate a Charlton Kings-based Cheltenham Connect business group to support local small businesses and people working from home in Charlton Kings.
- Back new business initiatives that will benefit the local community.

Chapter 10 | Conclusion and next steps

The consultation responses received as part of the Parish Plan process have provided confirmation of the main issues that the community sees as important and which people wish to see addressed. The responses indicate the key areas where the community wishes to see improvement and reinforce the Parish Council's mandate to act in the best interest of its community.

Of the issues raised, a significant number are the responsibility of higher tiers of Local Government to address. In these instances, the Parish Council has a critical role to represent the community and work with the respective third party to ensure that adequate weight is given to the Charlton Kings perspective when drawing up policies and solutions to the issues raised. A key example of this is the reoccurring theme of the importance that residents have placed on the value of the AONB which abuts the Parish. This, together with the unique blend of town and country, is the key issue which the community wishes to see preserved. After much debate, national government has again stated that AONBs are to be safeguarded from development. It is therefore incumbent on the Parish

Council to press Cheltenham Borough Council to make robust and unequivocal policy statements on protection of this area when drawing up the Cheltenham Local Plan.

Throughout the document, at the end of each section, the Parish Council has provided a clear statement of policies and project initiatives it intends to pursue in order to address the various issues identified within that section. These, in turn, have been developed into a five-year action plan to take matters forward. Individual projects will be funded from the Parish Council's works programme where applicable but for the larger, more complex, projects it will be necessary either to obtain specific grants or negotiate a long-term loan from the Public Works Loan Board. This requirement may necessitate moving projects between programmed years to suit opportunities that may arise.

The vision of the Parish Council is that Charlton Kings will continue to offer a unique blend of village and town life throughout its built and natural environments and ensure that it functions as an active, vibrant community. There will be a 'sense of Charlton Kings' wherever people live within the parish.

The area of Church Piece and Grange Field will be seen as an important centre to the village, offering improved social and recreational activities, together with excellent walking links to shops on the London Road and to the facilities around Sixways.

People of all ages will be able to afford to live in Charlton Kings though the mix of housing available and future housing development will be sympathetic to the street scene.

In order to achieve these aspirations, the following objectives will need to be addressed:

- Maintain and enhance current green areas in the parish
- Investigate Parish Council management of further green spaces, including exercising Community Right to Bid powers (Assets of Community Value)
- Establish Church Piece and Grange Field as the prime centre for village activities and events, with the Parish Council being able to exercise a degree of autonomy on how the area is used
- Extend the programme of events in the parish
- Effective use of soft landscaping in recreational and community areas to mirror the open countryside to the east of the parish
- Range of affordable housing to be included in future developments enabling Charlton Kings to be home to people of all ages
- Enhance the range of routes and guided walks around the parish to highlight its rich environmental and cultural heritage
- Clear, signposted walking and cycling routes linking the main facilities within the parish and linking the parish with the town centre and open countryside
- Continue the strong tradition of volunteers maintaining footpaths in the parish, working with the Cotswold Wardens
- Review of parking arrangements within the parish, including accessible car and bike parking facilities
- Continue to work with Gloucestershire County Council (Highways) to address traffic and speed issues within the parish and to ensure effective maintenance through prioritisation of refurbishment/repairs
- Influence the Highways Authority to address the problem of through traffic on the A40 and A435 routes which is likely to be exacerbated by development scheduled elsewhere within Cheltenham and which will further negatively impact on the community

- Develop stronger links with local businesses and opportunities for business incubation/ entrepreneurship, e.g. through local senior schools

Charlton Kings Parish Council five-year action plan

The projects listed below are those emerging from the Parish Plan consultation exercise and which will be tackled over the next 5 years in order to deliver the key plan objectives. Each year there will be a range of smaller projects / initiatives identified on an annual basis designed to support the Parish Council's activities

Parish Plan – key projects for the municipal years 2017/18 – 2021/22

Theme	Project / Initiative	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Our environment : green areas and housing development	Work with CBC to ensure housing allocations for CK reflect need for affordable/ starter homes	✓				
	Prepare green space inventory		✓			
	Work with CBC to produce design guide which maintains the character of CK		✓			
Creating a community hub: developing the Church Piece and Grange Field areas	Modernise Parish website	✓				
	Negotiate with CBC for more autonomy in developing Grange Field / Church Piece	✓				
	Negotiate with trustees of Kings Hall to achieve sustainable management structure	✓				
	Improve car parking for community hub users		✓			
	Refurbish Kings Hall		✓			
	Implement refurbishment / landscape proposals:					
	Zone 1					✓
Zone 2		✓				
Zone 3				✓		
Zone 4					✓	

Theme	Project / Initiative	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Local transport initiatives	Parish wide traffic survey			✓		
	Review on street / off street parking				✓	
	Negotiate with GH measures to improve A40 & A435 through routes particularly at junctions		✓			
	Safer parish speed monitoring		✓			
	Install charge point for electric speed vehicles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Regular survey of highway condition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protecting our countryside and wildlife	Install panoramic walking map	✓				
	Produce guided walk information		✓			
	Develop accessibility of rights of way network	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Develop measures to improve sustainability of Ravensgate Common			✓		
	Improve management protection of wildlife sites		✓		✓	
Our heritage and conservation	Reassess boundaries and effectiveness of conservation areas			✓		
	Identify building/ structures of historic/ architectural significance and highlight their existence			✓		
	Produce relevant information to support knowledge of CK heritage				✓	
Our community	Develop programme of activities to support community involvement	✓	✓			
	Develop Grange Field as a community arena			✓		

Theme	Project / Initiative	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Business and employment opportunities	Work with businesses / schools to create a business / technical hub		✓			
	Initiate 'CK Connect' to support local small businesses and people working from home	✓				

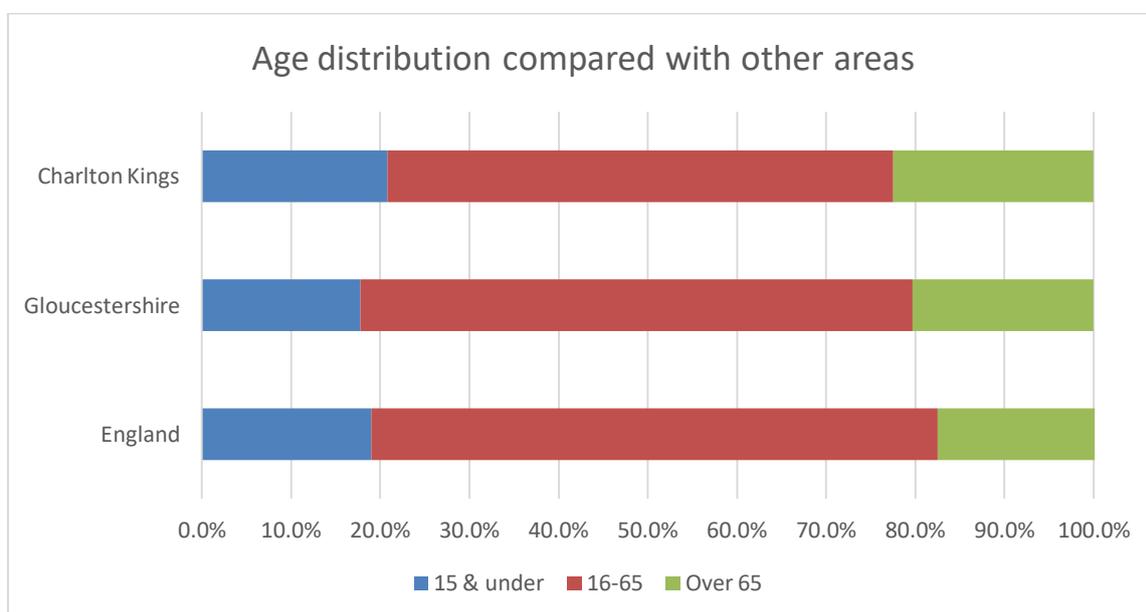
Appendix 1 | Community Profile

People and Households: key facts

Charlton Kings Parish is home to 10,230 people, living in approximately 4,000 households and 93% of people identify themselves as white British.⁵

Census information for the parish indicates that around 47.5% of residents are male and 52.5% are female. The parish is in the top 10% for population density for Gloucestershire areas, with 9.04 persons per hectare.⁶ This would be expected in a parish at the edge of Cheltenham Borough.

The area has a higher proportion of the 0 to 15 and 65+ age-groups than in Gloucestershire and England, as shown in the chart and table below:



	0 – 15	16-65	65+
Charlton Kings	20.8%	56.7%	22.5%
Gloucestershire	17.8%	61.9%	20.3%
England	19.0%	63.5%	17.5%

⁵ Inform Gloucestershire Local Insight Profile Charlton Kings 2016

⁶ MAIDeN Neighbourhood Profile

Unemployment benefit claimants and children in out-of-work households are lower than the Gloucestershire and England averages.

Crime indicators are consistent with other areas forming part of a town or city. Levels of burglary, theft, arson, criminal damage and violence rank in the highest 35% for Gloucestershire. However, instances of anti-social behaviour are lower, at just a third of the county average.⁷

The uptake of many services for healthy living and for older people is higher than the county average. For instance, the level of uptake for care management assessments, mental health assessments, equipment for independent living, meal services and assessments on those aged over 75 are all in the highest 35% for the county. The number of people over the age of 75 being assessed is in the top 10% for the county.

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. Charlton Kings Parish contains all or part of 7 LSOAs. Of these, six are in the lowest quintile for deprivation, and the remaining one (labelled Charlton Kings 2, a small area between the A435 and A40) is in the second-lowest quintile.

According to Inform Gloucestershire's Local Insight profile for Charlton Kings, 10.5% of households in Charlton Kings are in fuel poverty, compared with 10.6% in England.

Educational Achievement

According to the 2011 Census, the highest qualification held by all working-age residents is, on average, higher than the borough, regional and national averages, with a huge 44.2% holding a degree-level qualification (the England average is just 27%, and the Gloucestershire average is 29.9%).⁸ There are fewer than average residents with no qualifications and with lower-level qualifications. The Inform Gloucestershire Local Insight Profile for Charlton Kings shows that educational achievement in the early year's stages (pre-school) is particularly high compared with the England average.

Housing: key facts

Housing Tenure – proportions

Charlton Kings has a larger proportion of owner occupation than the England average and it has a larger proportion of detached and semi-detached homes than in England and a lower proportion of flats. Social rental is very low, and private rental is much lower than average for Cheltenham but less different from county and regional averages.

Housing Types

Detached houses are the most common housing type in the parish and detached and semi-detached houses together make up almost 74% of the dwelling stock.

⁷ MAIDeN Neighbourhood Profiles

⁸ Inform Gloucestershire Local Insight Profile Charlton Kings 2016

Housing Affordability

According to the Inform Gloucestershire Local Insight Profile for Charlton Kings the median detached house price in Charlton Kings is £588,810. The majority of properties are within council tax bands C, D and E (A is the lowest and H the highest).

Source: Inform Gloucestershire Local Insight profile Charlton Kings 2016	Owner occupation	Council tax bands- combined C,D,E	Detached	Semi - detached	Flats (purpose build, converted houses and communal properties)
Charlton Kings	84.4%	67.3%	37.8%	36.1%	11.6%
Gloucestershire	70.3%	47.3%	30.6%	33.8%	15.1%
England	64.1%	46.3%	22.3%	30.7%	22.1%

Economy: key facts

Employment

The Inform Gloucestershire Local Insight Profile for Charlton Kings shows that the 3 largest industry groups for businesses based in Charlton Kings are professional, scientific and technical (27.6%), post and telecom (14%), and construction (13.4%). Over 80% of local businesses are made up of those which employ 0-4 people, while 12% employ 5 – 9 people and 6% employ 20 or more people.

56% of Charlton King's working population work in Managerial, professional or associate professional employment, compares with 41% in Gloucestershire and 41% in England.

Appendix 2 | Outputs from wider community engagement

Themes explored in the questionnaire

The short questionnaire (Part 1) simply asked people to define what they liked about Charlton Kings and areas of importance for the Parish Council to concentrate on. Open questions allowed them to define the key areas for improvements and make suggestions for solutions. The more detailed questionnaire (Part 2) also invited people to respond to prompts relating to:

- Keeping fit and healthy
- Housing and Development
- Business opportunities and home working
- Transport and traffic provision
- Safety and wellbeing
- Community
- Access to the countryside, wildlife and conservation
- Sense of identity
- Heritage

Part 1 of the questionnaire was completed by 253 residents and Part 2 was completed by 232 residents. The full analysis reports showing responses to 'tick box' questions can be found in Appendix 2. The Parish Council working group also considered all comments.

What people like about living in Charlton Kings - Top 5 responses (% of respondents selecting)

- Access to the countryside – 88%
- Ease of access to Cheltenham and main road network – 74%
- Village atmosphere – 71%
- Range of local shops – 64%
- Quality of local schools - 58%

For the future it is important to... (over 50% of respondents strongly agree):

- Maintain green areas around the village (72% strongly agree)
- Ensure key services such as schools, doctors and others keep pace with the rising population (60% strongly agree)
- Ensure future housing development is sympathetic to the existing street scene (56% strongly agree)
- Improve road safety throughout Charlton Kings (53% strongly agree)

CKPC provided the following summary to reflect questionnaire results during the second Interactive session for residents in January 2017:

Key Themes - practical solutions

1. It is essential to maintain the green areas around the village, we should maintain a good mix of housing, resist development on back garden land, greenspaces and recreational areas, be sympathetic to the existing street scene.
2. Backing for improvements to Church Piece and the Grange Field area.
3. Support for local transport and traffic initiatives including parking, cycling, walking and buses.
4. Protecting our countryside and maintaining wildlife is important.
5. Our heritage is vital, buildings of local interest and conservation areas should be preserved.
6. People living in Charlton Kings think it has a different feel to Cheltenham and would like to have more regular community events.
7. More amenities and business opportunities for different types of businesses.

Results of prioritisation exercise – Parish Meeting Interactive Session January 2017

Please place your top 3 items in order of priority by numbering the adjacent boxes 1,2 or 3			
Priority number	1	2	3
1. Improvements to Church Piece and Grange Field area	11	8	2
2. Maintaining the green areas around the village	11	6	9
3. Local transport and traffic initiatives including parking, walking and cycling	4	9	9
4. Protect our countryside and wildlife	9	8	5
5. Preserve our heritage, buildings of local interest and conservation areas	1	4	9
6. Hold more regular community events	2	3	1
7. Create more amenities and local business opportunities	0	0	3

 Indicates highest priority for action as chosen by audience attending the meeting

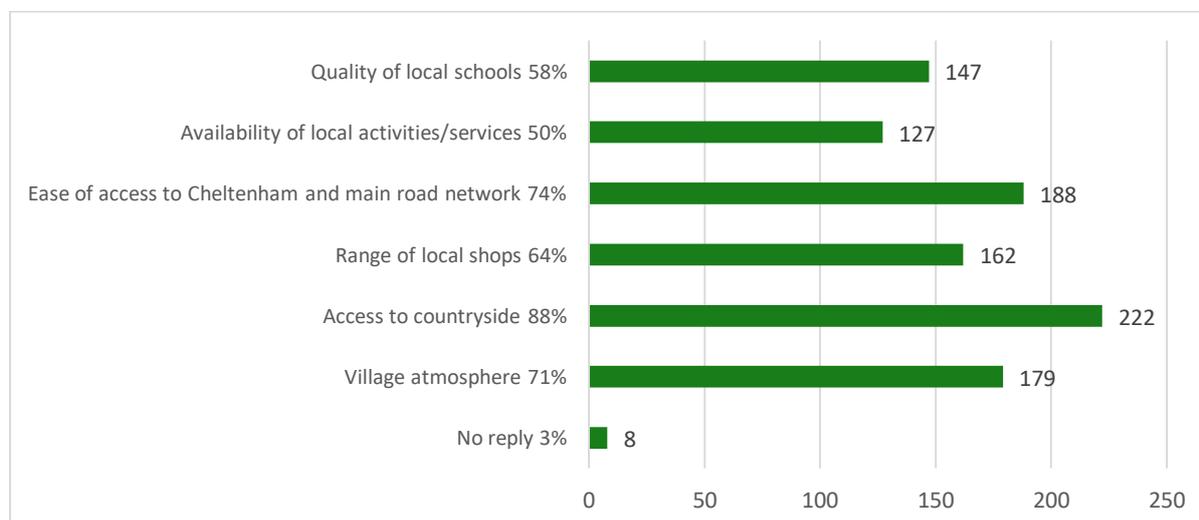
Appendix 3 | Consultation – Charlton Kings Parish Plan Questionnaire (Results Autumn 2016)

During Autumn 2016, a hard copy questionnaire was distributed to all Charlton Kings residents via the Cheltenham Local Answer publication. It was divided into 2 sections- Part 1 and, in a separate questionnaire, Part 2. Both questionnaires were available online as well as in hard copy. The following report provides a summary of answers to all 'tick box' questions. The questionnaires can be found at the end of this section.

Part 1

Overall 253 respondents completed Part 1 of the questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

Q1. What do you like about living in Charlton Kings? Tick as appropriate.



Q4. For the future it is most important to... (please tick one option per issue):

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree Strongly	No reply
Maintain green areas around the village	2 (1%)	-	6 (2%)	62 (25%)	182 (72%)	1 (0%)
Improve range of local community spaces/venues	1 (0%)	11 (4%)	88 (35%)	88 (35%)	56 (22%)	9 (4%)
Ensure key services such as schools, doctors and others, keep pace with the rising population	-	3 (1%)	15 (6%)	82 (32%)	152 (60%)	1 (0%)
Develop roads and utilities in Charlton Kings to support future growth of Cheltenham and its surroundings	15 (6%)	38 (15%)	63 (25%)	72 (29%)	56 (22%)	9 (4%)
Improve through traffic flow in Charlton Kings	14 (6%)	18 (7%)	40 (16%)	75 (30%)	102 (40%)	4 (2%)
Improve road safety throughout Charlton Kings	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	40 (16%)	70 (28%)	134 (53%)	3 (1%)
Ensure future housing development is sympathetic to the existing street-scene	3 (1%)	4 (2%)	19 (8%)	83 (33%)	142 (56%)	2 (1%)
Maintain a good mix of housing including starter and retirement homes	2 (1%)	13 (5%)	45 (18%)	104 (41%)	86 (34%)	3 (1%)
Increase amenities and business opportunities with more local shops/cafes	6 (2%)	41 (16%)	79 (31%)	71 (28%)	51 (20%)	5 (2%)
Increase commercial opportunities with more types of businesses	16 (6%)	52 (21%)	101 (40%)	56 (22%)	22 (9%)	6 (2%)
Make Charlton Kings a more vibrant place with: better social activities	4 (2%)	20 (8%)	99 (39%)	81 (32%)	40 (16%)	9 (4%)
- more cultural performances	5 (2%)	12 (5%)	102 (40%)	89 (35%)	32 (13%)	13 (5%)
- regular community events	3 (1%)	8 (3%)	87 (34%)	95 (38%)	48 (19%)	12 (5%)

Q6. About you

Please note, the 'Yes' figure includes those where the respondent had not ticked any box but had specified areas of Charlton Kings in the free text box.

	Yes	No	No reply
Do you live in Charlton Kings?	247 (98%)	5 (2%)	1 (0%)
Do you work in Charlton Kings?	50 (20%)	180 (71%)	23 (9%)
Do you participate in sports in Charlton Kings?	59 (23%)	181 (72%)	13 (5%)
Do you participate in cultural activities?	147 (58%)	95 (38%)	11 (4%)
Do you think of Charlton Kings as one entity?	171 (68%)	69 (27%)	13 (5%)
Do you think of it as separate areas?	113 (45%)	74 (29%)	66 (26%)

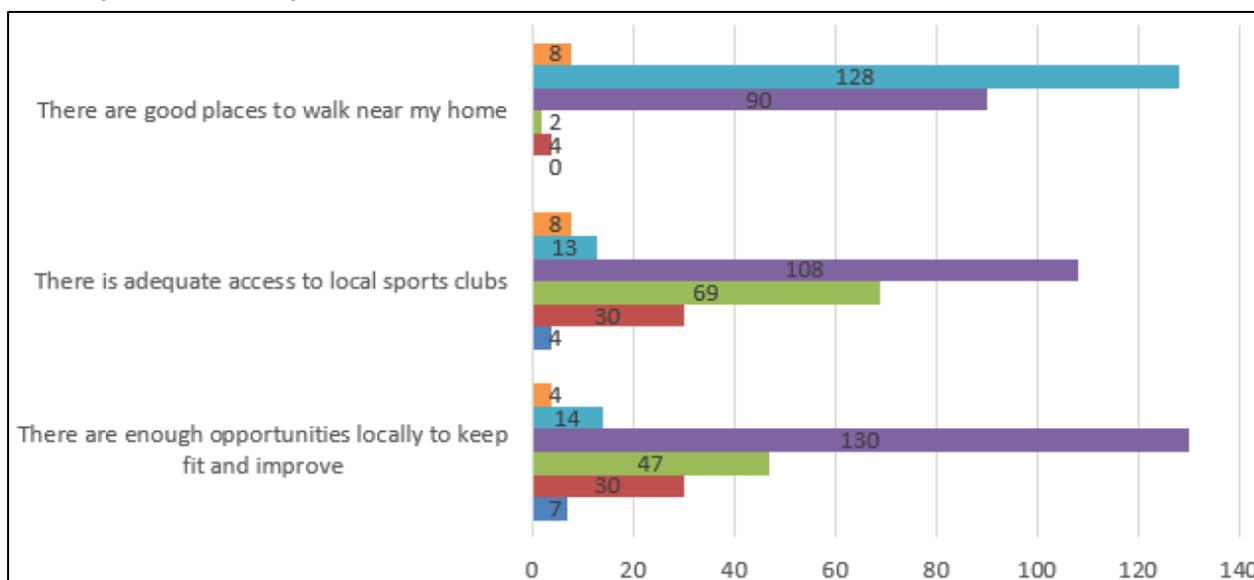
Part 2

This report was generated on 17th November 2016. Overall 232 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

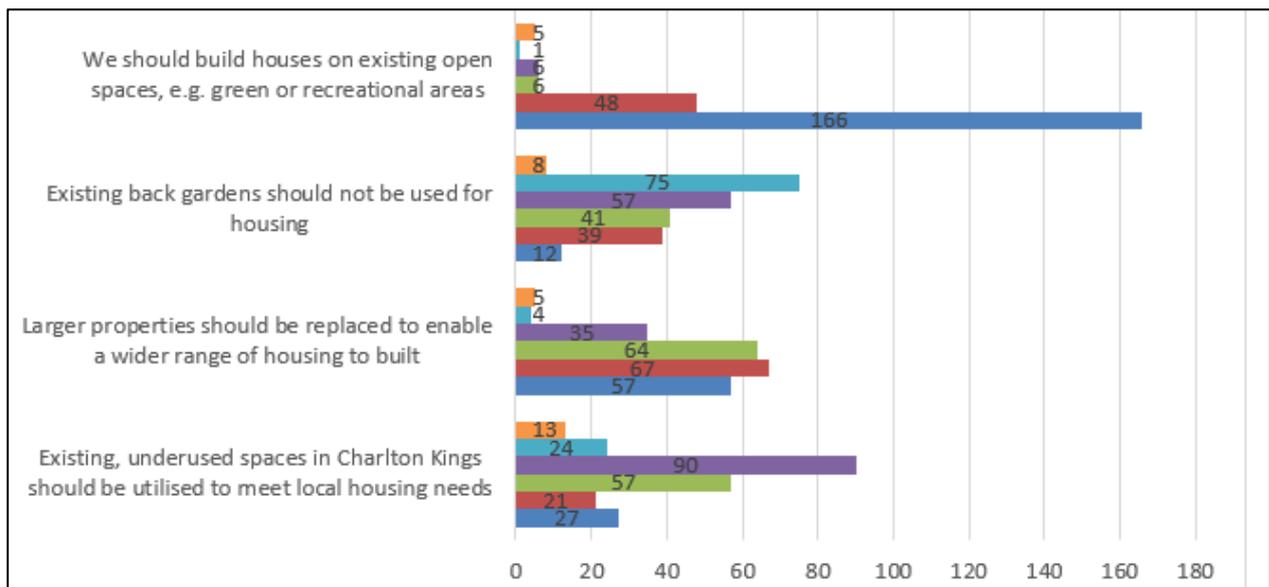
Key to responses:

■ No reply
■ Agree strongly
■ Agree
■ Neither
■ Disagree
■ Disagree strongly

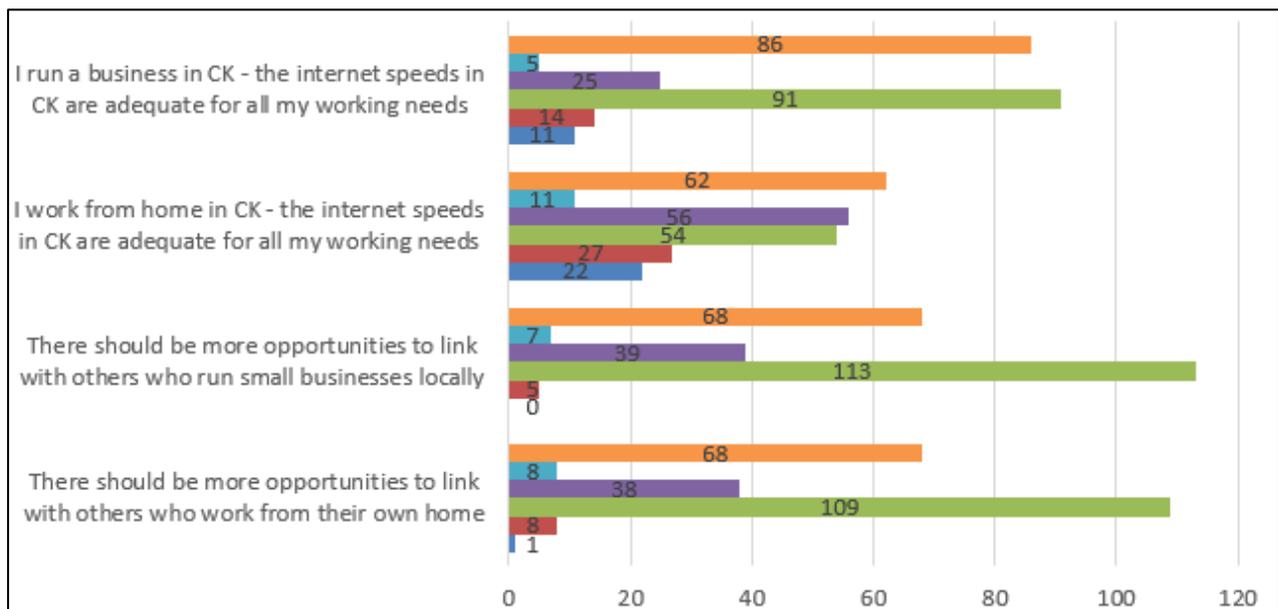
Q1. Keep fit and healthy



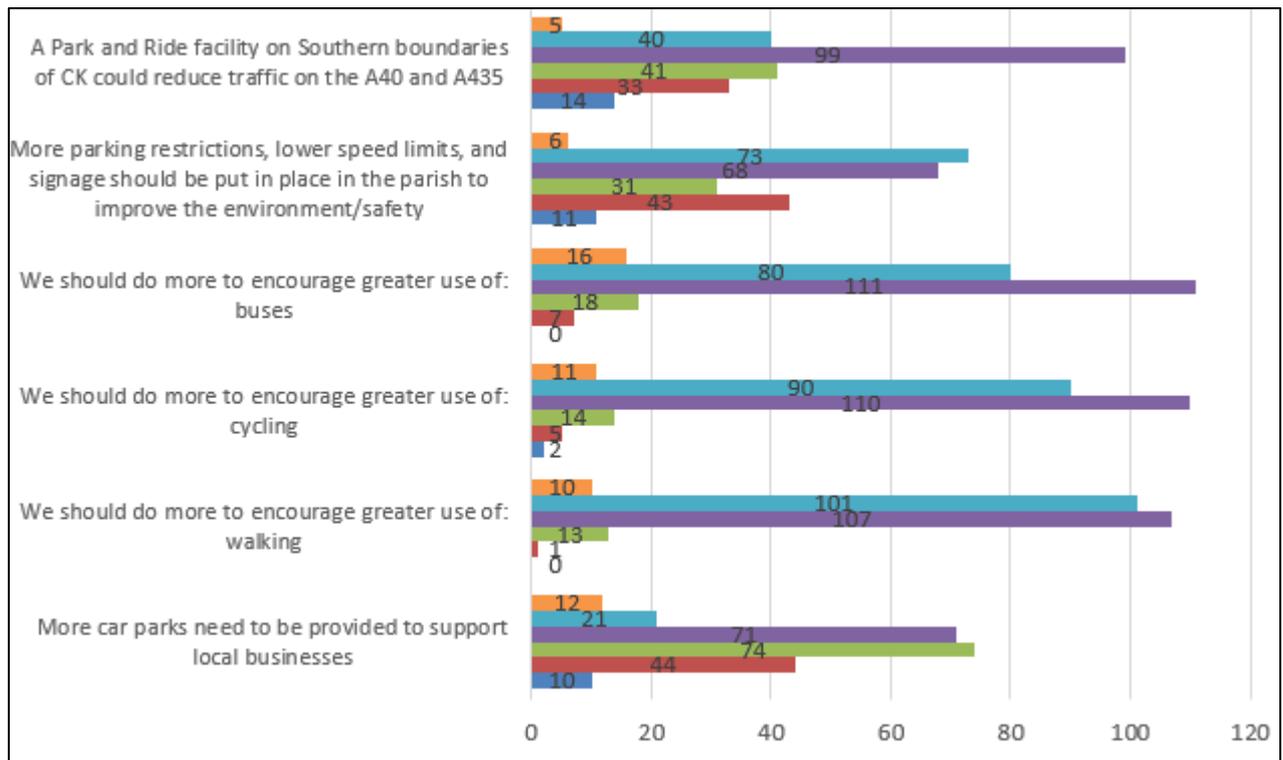
Q2. Housing and Development Issues



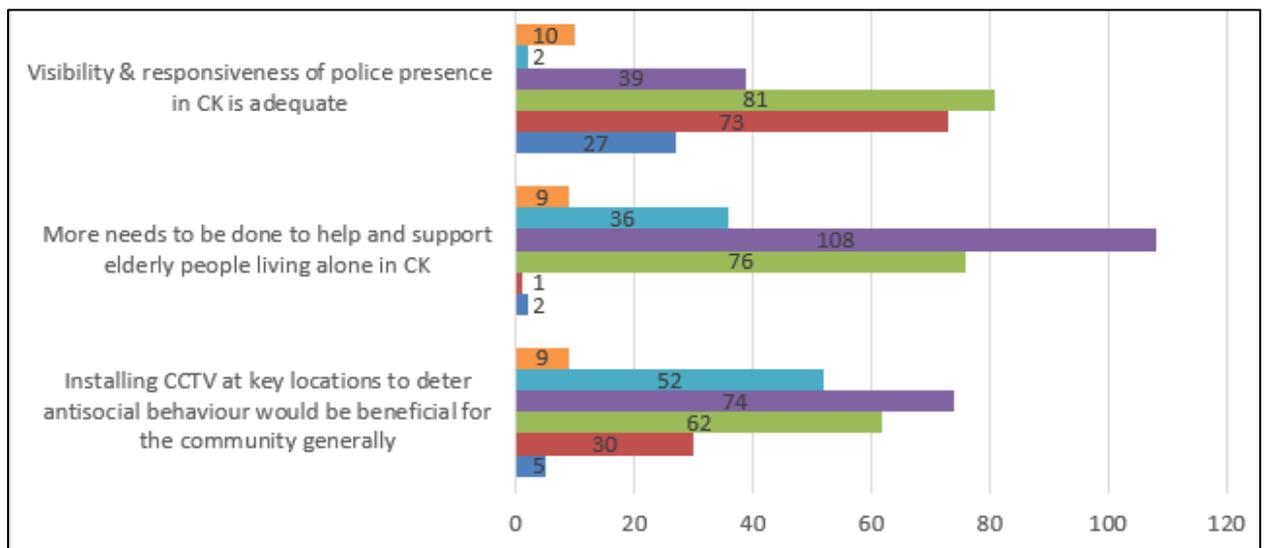
Q3. Business Opportunities and Home Working



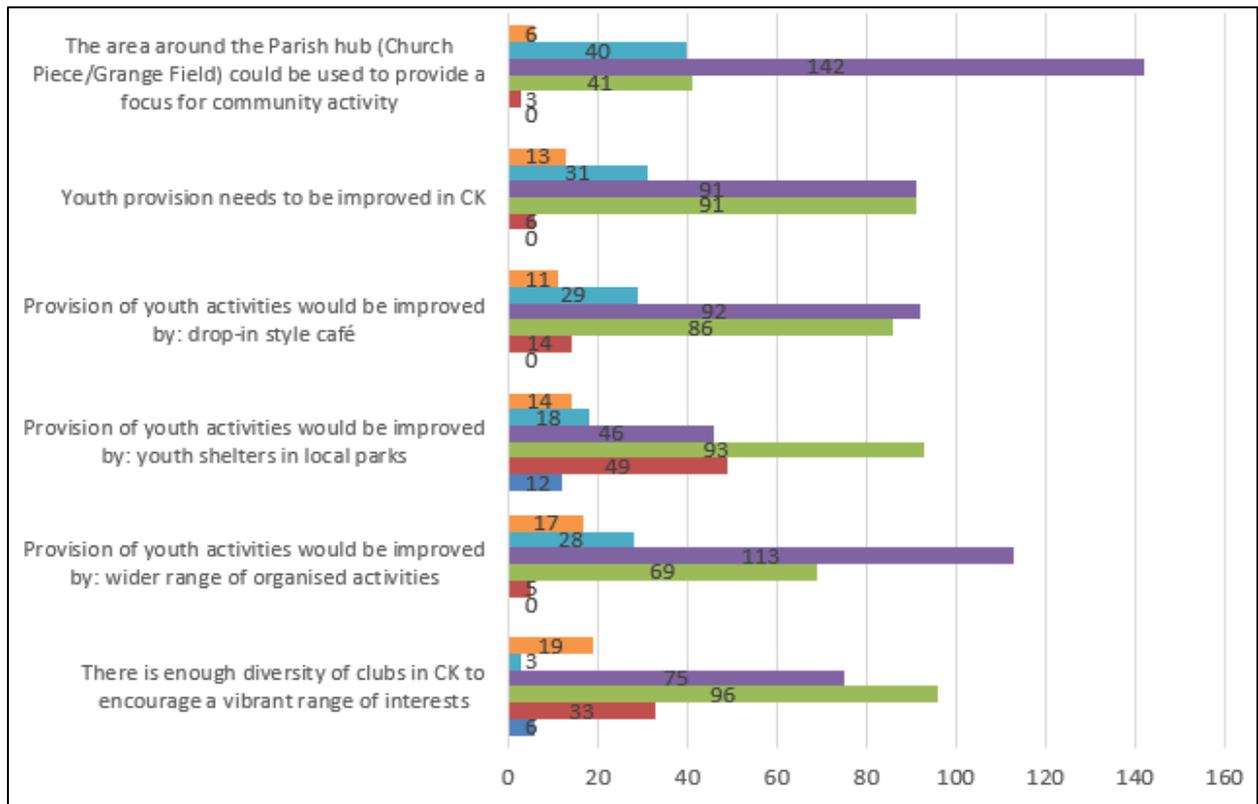
Q4. Transport and Traffic Provision



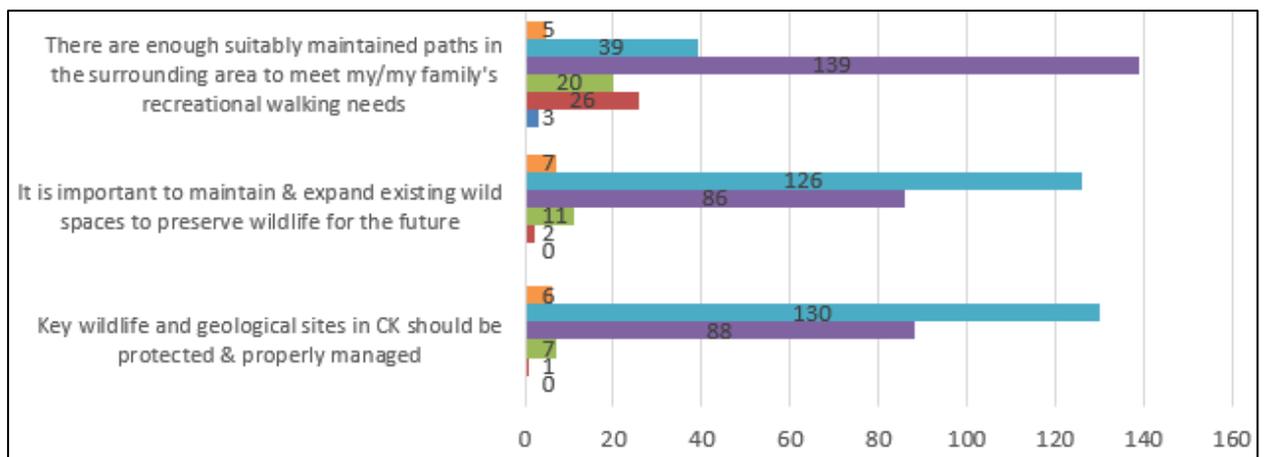
Q5. Safety and Well-being



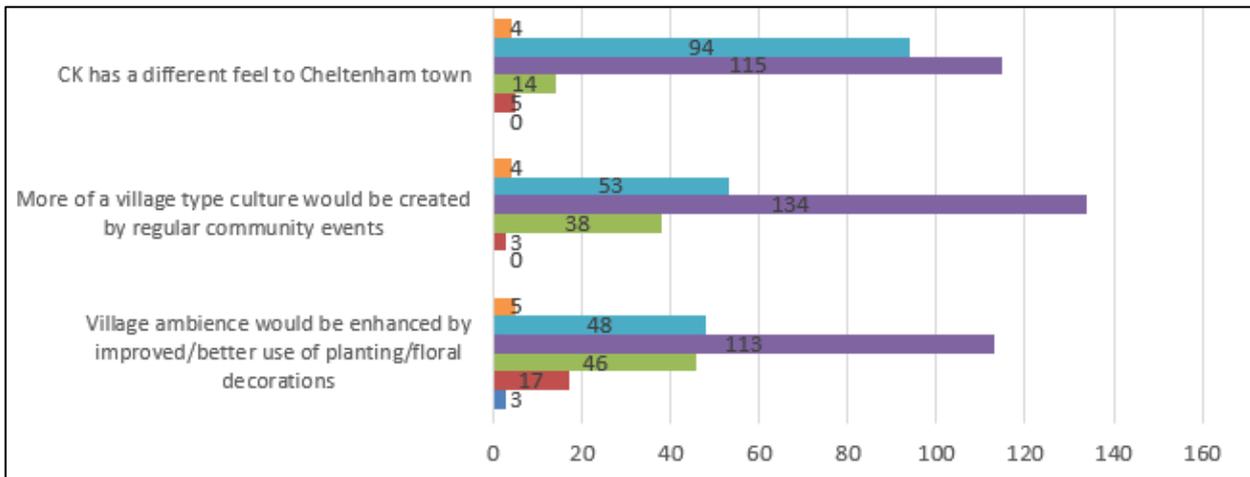
Q6. Community



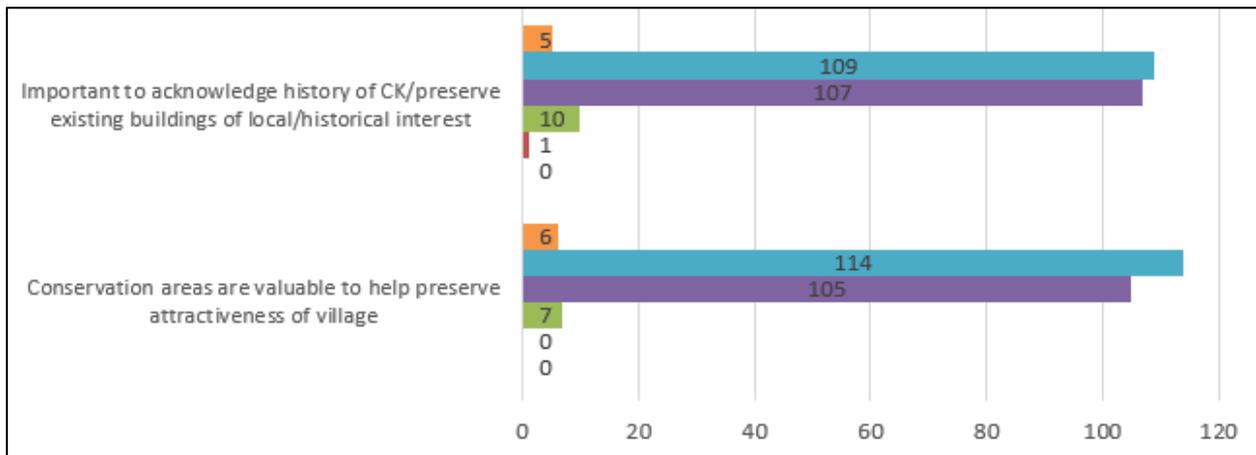
Q7. Access to the countryside, wildlife and conservation



Q8. Sense of Identity



Q9. Heritage



Q10. About you

Please note, the 'Yes' figure includes those where the respondent had not ticked any box but had specified areas of Charlton Kings in the free text box.

	Yes	No	No reply
Do you live in Charlton Kings?	225 (97%)	5 (2%)	2 (1%)
Do you work in Charlton Kings?	68 (29%)	150 (65%)	14 (6%)
Do you participate in sports in Charlton Kings?	75 (32%)	151 (65%)	6 (3%)
Do you participate in cultural activities?	158 (68%)	67 (29%)	7 (3%)
Do you think of Charlton Kings as one entity?	162 (70%)	60 (26%)	10 (4%)
Do you think of it as separate areas?	68 (29%)	132 (57%)	32 (14%)

Appendix 4 | Questionnaires Part 1 and Part 2

Part 1



Charlton Kings Parish Plan Questionnaire

Your opportunity to help shape our community

Many parishes across the country are preparing parish plans to help them create a vision for the future of their communities. The Charlton Kings Parish Council is starting the process of developing a parish plan for Charlton Kings, which will guide the work of the parish council and shape its programme for the next five to ten years.

As part of this process we would like to know what your views are on a range of issues affecting our community. We want to hear from residents of the parish, old and young, and from those of you who run businesses, organisations and groups across Charlton Kings to give everyone the chance to get involved and to contribute.

To help us do this we have put together this questionnaire for you to complete. A follow-up more detailed questionnaire will be available at various pick-up and return points around Charlton Kings, and both questionnaires can also be accessed online via the Parish Council website www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk. The pick-up and return points will be signposted around the parish; details will also be posted on the parish council website and listed in the Local Answer.

The questionnaire is anonymous, individuals will not be identified by their answers, and all responses will be analysed collectively. We will let you know the results of the resulting analysis, we will keep you informed throughout the process, and we will consult you on future actions.

Please take the time to fill in the questionnaires and return them by **1st November 2016** - your views are very important to us!

Parish Plan Questionnaire Part 1

Q1 What do you like about living in Charlton Kings? Tick as appropriate.

Village atmosphere.....

Access to countryside.....

Range of local shops.....

Ease of access to Cheltenham and main road network.....

Availability of local activities/services.....

Quality of local schools.....

Other - please specify

Q2 What is the most important issue that would improve your enjoyment of Charlton Kings?

Q3 Anything else?

Q4 For the future it is most important to (please tick one option per issue):

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
Maintain green areas around the village	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve range of local community spaces/venues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure key services such as schools, doctors and others, keep pace with the rising population	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop roads and utilities in Charlton Kings to support future growth of Charlton Kings and its surroundings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve through traffic flow in Charlton Kings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve road safety throughout Charlton Kings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure future housing development is sympathetic to the existing street-scene	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain a good mix of housing including starter and retirement homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase amenities and business opportunities with more local shops/cafes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase commercial opportunities with more types of businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make Charlton Kings a more vibrant place with: better social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- more cultural performances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- regular community events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5 Please add your own comments and ideas for ways some of these issues could be addressed.

Q6 About you

	Yes	No
Do you live in Charlton Kings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you work in Charlton Kings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you participate in sports in Charlton Kings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you participate in cultural activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you think of Charlton Kings as one entity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you think of it as a number of separate areas? If yes, please specify number of areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for completing this questionnaire
Clerk: E R Dowle Tel: 01242 250087 email: clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk



Charlton Kings Parish Plan Questionnaire - Part 2

Your opportunity to help shape our community

Many parishes across the country are preparing parish plans to help them create a vision for the future of their communities. The Charlton Kings Parish Council is starting the process of developing a parish plan for Charlton Kings, which will guide the work of the parish council and shape its programme for the next five to ten years.

As part of this process we would like to know what your views are on a range of issues affecting our community. We want to hear from residents of the parish, old and young, and from those of you who run businesses, organisations and groups across Charlton Kings to give everyone the chance to get involved and to contribute.

To help us do this we have put together this questionnaire for you to complete. This is a follow-up to the shorter Parish Plan Questionnaire Part 1 and asks for your views on a wider variety of issues. Both questionnaires can be accessed online via the Parish Council website www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The questionnaire is anonymous, individuals will not be identified by their answers, and all responses will be analysed collectively. We will let you know the results of the resulting analysis, we will keep you informed throughout the process, and we will consult you on future actions.

Please take the time to fill in the questionnaires return them by **1st November 2016** - your views are very important to us!

For each of the questions below please tick the option which most closely matches your views.

Q1 Keeping fit and healthy

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
There are enough opportunities locally to keep fit and improve health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is adequate access to local sports clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are good places to walk near my home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add any additional comments

Q2 Housing and development issues

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
We should build houses on existing open spaces e.g. green or recreational areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing back gardens should not be used for housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger properties should be replaced to enable a wider range of housing to be built	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing, underused spaces in Charlton Kings should be utilised to meet local housing needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you agree, please give examples. Please add any additional comments.					

Q3 Business opportunities and home working

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
I run a business in Charlton Kings - the internet speeds in Charlton Kings are adequate for all my working needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I work from home in Charlton Kings - the internet speeds in Charlton Kings are adequate for all my working needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There should be more opportunities to link with others who run small businesses locally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There should be more opportunities to link with others who work from their own home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please add any additional comments					

Q4 Transport and traffic provision

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
A Park and Ride facility on Southern boundaries of Charlton Kings could reduce traffic on the A40 and A435 Cirencester Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More parking restrictions, lower speed limits, and signage should be put in place in the parish to improve the environment and safety generally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We should do more to encourage the use of alternative means of getting around by greater use of: buses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- cycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More car parks need to be provided to support local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please add any additional comments					

Q5 Safety and Well-being

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
The visibility and responsiveness of the police presence in Charlton Kings is adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More needs to be done to help and support elderly people living alone within Charlton Kings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Installing CCTV at key locations to deter antisocial behaviour would be beneficial for the community generally.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you agree, please list places you think they should be located. Please add any additional comments.					

Q6 Community

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
The area around the Parish hub in Church Piece and Grange Field could be used to provide a focus for community activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth provision needs to be improved in Charlton Kings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The provision for youth activities would be improved by: a drop-in style cafe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- youth shelters in local parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- wider range of organised activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is enough diversity of clubs in Charlton Kings to encourage a vibrant range of interests for the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please add any additional comments					

Q7 Access to the countryside, wildlife and conservation

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
There are enough suitably maintained paths in the surrounding area to meet my needs and those of my family for recreational walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is important to maintain and expand our existing wild spaces to preserve our wildlife for the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key wildlife and geological sites in Charlton Kings should be protected and properly managed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please add any additional comments					

Q8 Sense of identity

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
Charlton Kings has a different feel to Cheltenham town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More of a village type culture would be created by regular community events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The village ambience would be enhanced by improved and better use of planting and floral decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please add any additional comments	<input type="text"/>				

Q9 Heritage

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
It is important to acknowledge the history of Charlton Kings and where buildings of historical/local interest exist they should be preserved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation areas are valuable to help preserve the attractiveness of the village	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please add any additional comments	<input type="text"/>				

Q10 About you

	Yes	No
Do you live in Charlton Kings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you work in Charlton Kings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you participate in sports in Charlton Kings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you think of Charlton Kings as one entity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you think of it as a number of separate areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Thank you for completing this questionnaire

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