

Garsington Plan

Recommendations for action



After a public meeting in January 2013 attended by about 60 people, a Steering Group was set up to collect views on a range of topics to help shape a plan for Garsington's future. The Group carried out extensive research, talking to people at village events and delivering a survey questionnaire to every household in the village.

Around 800 responses to this were received (some of the results are highlighted below) and several of the suggested activities are already happening (volunteer drivers, litterpicking, a choir, tree and bulb planting etc).

This 4 page summary of the 32 page report outlines the main recommendations for action that have arisen from this activity. Copies of the full report are available from St Mary's Church, Garsington School, the Village Hall, the Sports and Social Club and the Clerk to the Parish Council, or from Jane Kay at janejay@mac.com or you can find it on the Garsington village websites www.garsingtonparish.org or www.plan.garsington.org.uk, together with the survey results.

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Of the 28 recommended actions, 15 are thought to be of high priority. **They are only recommendations and it is up to the Parish Council to decide which should be acted on, or indeed to change the priorities we have suggested.**

We recommend that the Parish Council:

- Create committees and working groups to support actually carrying out the Garsington Plan, a Councillor to lead on each group. These are outlined below.
- Look into the arguments in favour of producing a Neighbourhood Plan which, unlike the Community Plan, would have some legal force.

- Take steps to preserve the character of Garsington in recognition of the strong support shown in the survey for maintaining the Green Belt, and robustly represent the views of residents.

92% said that it was “important” and 79% “very important” that Garsington stays separate from Oxford

Suggested committees:

1. Housing

- To look into housing need and development, following a previous survey in 2004 which highlighted the need for affordable housing. It seems especially important to develop a village response at a time when major new plans are being developed throughout the county.

70% in favour of some housing development

2. Transport

- To monitor the transport needs of village residents.
- To try to reinstate the bus service for Kings Copse, including organising a public meeting for the residents with representatives of local bus companies.

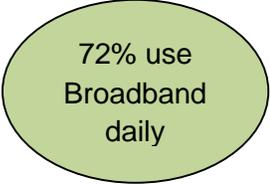
3. Traffic and Road Safety

- To improve safety in the centre of the village, particularly in relation to the school.

85% concerned about speeding vehicles

- To review options for improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists, including a properly paved path and cycleway between Garsington and Oxford.

- **Suggested working groups**



72% use
Broadband
daily

4. External communications

A *Digital Volunteers* group to:

- Create, promote and maintain a single community website for the village.
- Monitor and review broadband and mobile phone issues.



92% read
the Parish
Newsletter

5. Services and Amenities

Responding to the strong support for a play area at the bottom of the village, a working group to:

- Ask people where a play area should go and what equipment would be preferred.
- Discuss with land owners.
- Find out what the land and equipment would cost.

6. Social and Cultural

Parish Council and Sports & Social Club committee to:

- Hold a public meeting to discuss the future of the Garsington Sports & Social Club building and, if appropriate, to set up a working group to plan for the Club's future. The meeting will be jointly chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council, and the Chair of the Sports and Social Club.
- Look into how we could create better social and sporting facilities for children and young people.

7. Conservation and Sustainability

A Village Environment working group to be set up to:

- Look after publicly-owned green areas, wildlife conservation areas, paths, stiles and tree and bulb planting etc.
- Identify possible target sites for planting and conservation measures.

Finally, to make all this happen we suggest the setting up of the **Garsington Plan Action Group (GPAG)** to monitor turning the Plan into action, and to report to the Parish Council.

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This is a long list of things to be done (and there are 12 more medium priority and 2 low priority recommended actions which for reasons of space have not been included in this summary). Clearly it is not realistic of us to expect the 7 existing Parish Councillors to implement them all without help, which is why we suggest the setting up of various groups to assist.

These will need members which is where you come in! We understand that most people lead very busy lives already, but we do ask you to consider joining in to help make things happen.

We don't want groups to get bogged down with meetings but to keep focussed on getting things done. If you are at all interested but would like to discuss what's involved before you commit yourself, please don't hesitate to contact Matthew Dovey on 01865 601279.

GARSINGTON NEEDS YOU!