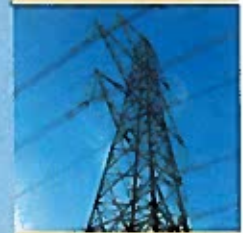
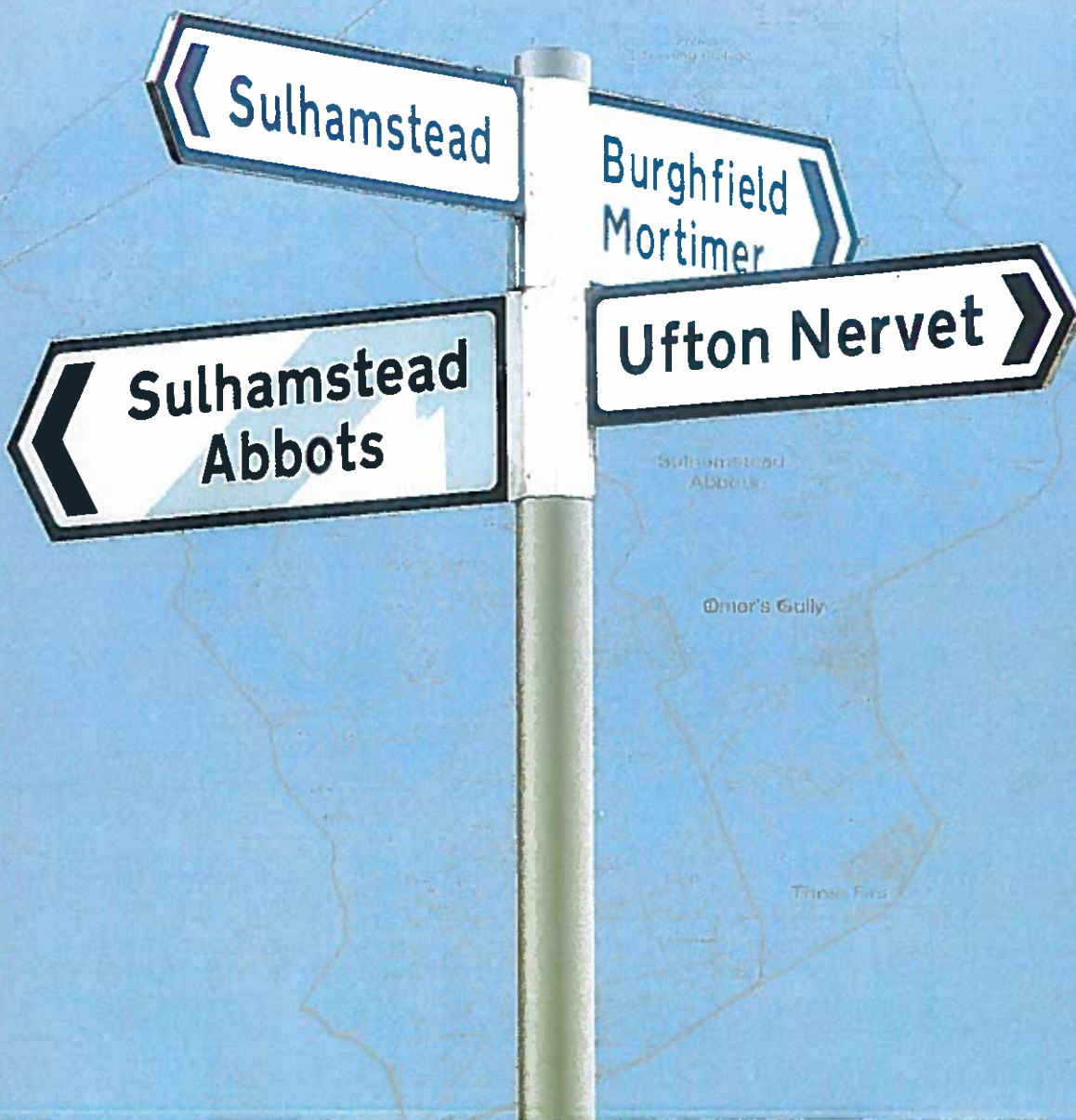


Sulhamstead & Ufton Nervet Parish Plan 2006

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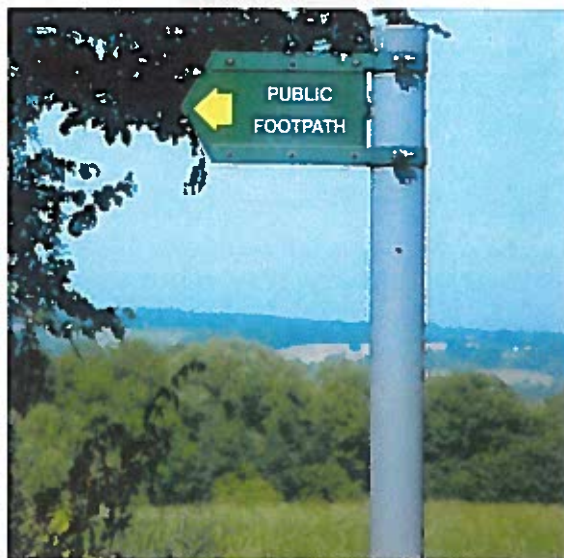
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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2005, the Parish Councils of Sulhamstead & Ufton Nervet (SUN) joined forces to launch a joint Parish Plan initiative.

The purpose of the Plan was to define the actions that the Parishes should take, either jointly or individually, to enhance the living environment and quality of life for those living in the Parishes and to report these findings back to the two Parish Councils and to West Berkshire Council (WBC).

After consultation with members of the Parishes, a Parish Plan Steering Group was formed consisting of 14 people.

This Plan document represents the culmination of the efforts of not only the Steering Group but also an additional 21 helpers who gave freely of their time when requested to do so.

The Plan and the consultation preceding it try to allow for the fact that Sulhamstead Parish is split between an essentially rural area, north of Omer's Gully (see the map on page 13), and an essentially suburban area south of Omer's Gully. Residents in the latter area tend to associate themselves with Burghfield Common. Ufton Nervet is, of course, rural.

The following summarises the main contents and points arising from each section:

Section 2

This defines the approach taken in the preparation of the Plan.

Section 3

This concentrates on the history of the two Parishes and describes both Parishes today.

Section 4

This summarises the key issues that have

arisen from the process of consultation and the analysis of Questionnaires.

Section 5

This expands on the detail of the responses made which support the conclusions of Section 4.

Section 6

This proposes a way forward in terms of actions to be taken by the two Parish Councils, either singly or collectively and with the direct support of WBC, with specifically targeted funds.

The main conclusions of this Plan document for future action are as follows:

- 1) Fly tipping and litter should be cleared more quickly and the occurrence reduced if possible. Consultation with both WBC Streetcare and the police is anticipated.
- 2) Measures to calm traffic should be introduced in three key areas, along with the re-imposition / introduction and enforcement of weight limits to prevent the incursion of Large Goods Vehicles (LGVs) into narrow country lanes.
- 3) Safety should be improved at the junction of Hollybush Lane and Shortheath Lane. Other areas are also highlighted for further investigation.
- 4) Public transport should be provided to link people who live in the central area of the two Parishes with Theale Station and with the bus routes on the A4 and Reading Road, Burghfield Common.
- 5) Facilities for children of primary school age should be expanded to include a play park to be located near to the SUN School.



6) A small sports facility should be provided, to be located near to the Village Hall, to encourage youth to participate in the existing organised Youth Club.

7) A Business Club should be formed to bring together small businesses and home workers, and thereby encourage small businesses to thrive in the Parishes.

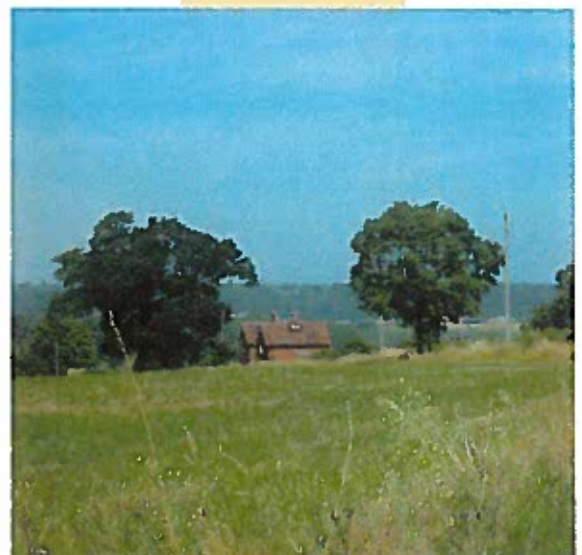
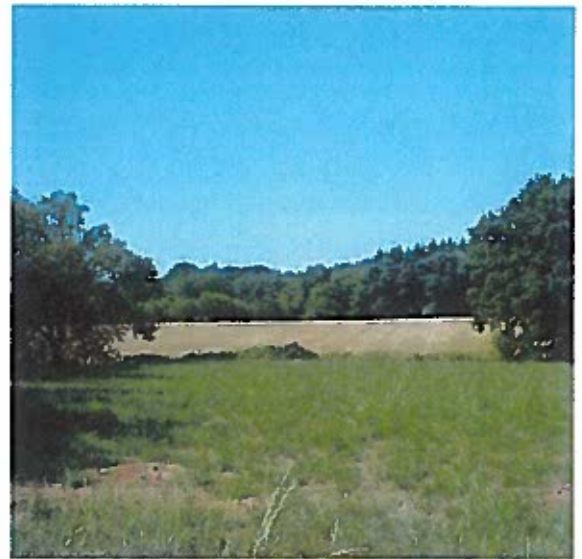
8) Neighbourhood Watch schemes should be set up in most areas of the Parishes to reduce crime.

Each action has been given a timescale of one, two, three or four plus years for completion. Whilst the above list may seem relatively short, there are some significant tasks here that will take patient discussion, the gathering of further evidence and extensive fundraising for completion.

The process of producing the Parish Plan has brought together new faces, created a far greater understanding of the needs of all parts of the Parishes and developed a greater sense of community involving so many people prepared to give of their time to great effect.

But the test of any plan is not in its preparation but in its delivery. As mentioned in the next section, the Parish Councils and WBC are the means of that delivery, but we should retain the involvement of the wider community.

Chairman
Sulhamstead & Ufton Nervet Parish Plan Steering Group



SECTION 2

WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?

This Parish Plan is designed to improve the quality of life for those living in Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet.

We need to start by understanding how the two communities have developed in terms of population, age groups and lifestyle, and examine what people like and dislike about the place in which they live.

We then need to establish how people who live in SUN wish to see their Parishes develop in the next few years.

An Action Plan is then proposed to determine how this should be done. There are three categories - quick wins, medium term results and longer term desired developments.

Only when accepted by the two Parish Councils and in most cases by WBC is this Plan formally endorsed. Provided this happens, the two Parish Councils will use this as a checklist of items to be worked upon and completed for the improvement of their parish communities.



The approach taken in preparing the Plan

We decided to combine the efforts of Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet to produce one plan. The two Parishes have much in common, share the same SUN School at Ufton Nervet, use the same facilities and have large geographic areas that are essentially rural in character.

However, we are able to identify any different needs for Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet, and also for those other areas of Sulhamstead south of Omer's Gully, for example the Three Firs / Reading Road area.

In order to build this plan, a series of events has been held and there has been wide consultation:

- 1) A launch event was held in February 2005, at the SUN School. This produced team leaders and other people who have helped throughout the project.
- 2) Volunteers were selected in March 2005 to form the Parish Plan Steering Group and a constitution was drawn up.
- 3) A grant of £5,000 was obtained from Awards for All, an organisation set up under the Lottery umbrella.
- 4) The first History event took place in May 2005 at the SUN School. This included not only a full display of the Parishes through the ages but also a tabletop map of the villages designed by the children to enable people to express their views as to how SUN should change for the future.

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- 5) The second History event was held at the SUN Church Fete in July 2005, where visitors were given yet another opportunity to give their input.
- 6) A Questionnaire was designed to be sent to everyone in the Parishes to obtain their views on Parish development.
- 7) A pilot Questionnaire was launched in September 2005 to enable the Steering Group and helpers to give their input regarding its design and relevance. Analysis was immediate and some changes made to layout and content.
- 8) The final Questionnaire was hand-delivered to over 700 homes, with maximum effort made to contact residents and encourage the return of the Questionnaire. If people could not be contacted in person pre-paid envelopes were supplied. More than 55% of households responded.
- 9) We also canvassed the views of children at the SUN School and at the Youth Club.
- 10) Full input and analysis of results of all the Questionnaires was undertaken, followed by the production of this document.

The Parish Plan could not have been completed without the unstinting help of so many. A list of those people and organisations that have given such welcome support can be found at the end of this document.



SECTION 3

SULHAMSTEAD AND UFTON NERVET

History of the Villages

Sulhamstead means 'Narrow Valley Homestead' and was the name given to the area by the first Saxon settlers. It is believed there was a Danish Camp of some sort there during the troubled times just before and during King Alfred's reign.

Sulhamstead is an oval-shaped village stretching from Burghfield Common to the A4. Sulhamstead's 20th Century civil parish is made up of two ancient parishes - Sulhamstead Abbots and Sulhamstead Bannister Upper End.

Bannister comes from the knight John Banastre whose family first held the manor about 1120. The name may also come from the French for basket maker. Bannister Church came under the jurisdiction of Pamber Priory and, following the suppression, the King gave the Priory and most of its property to Queen's College, Oxford.

Sulhamstead Abbots is so called because it was once under the jurisdiction of the Abbot of Reading. The font is all that's left of the original Norman church. Firstly dedicated to St. Bartholomew, then re-dedicated by the villagers as a result of the Black Death plague to the 'Mother of Our Lord' it became St. Mary's - a terrified plea for mercy that they would not be forsaken in the face of the rampaging disease. Some flints from St. Michael's Church, demolished in the latter half of the 20th Century, were used in the building of St. Mary Abbots' new vestry.

The Parish of Ufton Nervet, which stretches from the Burghfield - Padworth Road to the A4 (Bath Road), covers a strip of land four miles long and about a mile or so wide between Padworth and Sulhamstead.



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It was about 1,500 years ago that Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet were both given high land and water meadows, hence they are both relatively long and thin.

Ufton or 'Offetone' is recorded in the Domesday Book Survey of 1086. "Ufton Robert - Land of William, son of Anscule, held by Man-at-Arms". "Ufton Nervet - Land held by Giles, brother of Anscule".

The first recorded under-tenant in the 13th century was Richard Neyrvet, who gave his name to the manor (later called Ufton Richard or Ufton Nervet). He sold the land to the Abbot of Reading before 1274, which was then granted to Sir John Williams of Thame in 1544.

Ufton Nervet and Sulhamstead were incorporated in the Aldermaston Borough of Taxes in 1298. King Henry VIII levied a Tax on Sulhamstead of under Nine Shillings per one hundred acres and under Five Shillings per hundred acres on Ufton Nervet in order to finance his army.

Numerous significant archaeological sites are to be found within the Parishes. These have revealed artefacts such as worked flints of the Mesolithic period, burial urns identified as originating from the Bronze Age, and evidence of crop mark sites from Neolithic to Roman and 6th Century Saxon period. A round barrow located close to Island Farm Cottage, Ufton Nervet, is registered as an Ancient Monument. These barrows are funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age, with most examples belonging to the period 2,400 - 1,500 BC.

In 1957 an aerial survey by Reading Museum and Art Gallery revealed a section of what is believed to be the Roman Road from the north



SECTION 3 SULHAMSTEAD AND UFTON NERVET



gate of Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) to Streatley at Ufton, near the main Bath Road just beyond Jack's Booth, (Spring Inn). The roadway, cutting dead straight across fields and the line of the Bath Road and the railway, would appear to have forded the river Kennet and then made for the hills, where a change of direction would have led to the Roman city. Ditched either side, it is 80ft. wide and, although potholes show, is stoutly metalled. Later aerial inspection revealed various markings from rings to rectangles which indicated there had been varied habitation from the Bronze Age to the Roman Age.

Sulhamstead House, built by David May in 1744, was set in 1800 acres of estate grounds; an Ionic porticoed house overlooking the Kennet Valley, its garden boasts a 600 year old Cedar of Lebanon tree.

Folly Farm is a fine example of a Lutyens house and Gertrude Jekyll garden whilst The Old Rectory in Ufton Nervet is a William and Mary house. There is also Tyle Mill, rebuilt following a severe fire in 1914.

The only remaining inn is on the Bath Road and was once a busy coaching inn. Originally named Three Kings Jack's Booth and now known as The Spring Inn, it was the venue used by wealthy cloth merchant Jack of Newbury for completing deals with local wool producers and a resting place during his travels between Newbury and London.

The little chapel of Ufton Richard, an ivy covered ruin, can be found near the old pound, almost opposite the Dog and Partridge Inn which was converted into a private residence in about the mid 1900s.

Dating from the fifteenth century, Ufton Court is a Grade One listed building of historical significance. The Tudor Manor house has

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medieval origins that can be seen in the structure and the interior of the house and in the medieval tithe barn that adjoins the house. The house has suffered very few significant alterations during its long life. It sits amidst eleven acres of grounds, some of which are set out as orchards, herb, kitchen and formal gardens. Within the gardens are a series of large medieval fishponds.

The house has many exciting hidden priest holes, cunningly concealed behind moving walls and under the floorboards, to hide the priests and money should the authorities raid the house.

It was originally owned by the Perkyns family until 1782. Lady Marvyn, wife of Richard Perkyns, an extremely generous and practical lady who died in 1581, bequeathed that the people in the Parish of Ufton should receive - "about the middest of Lent, twenty bushels of wheate, the same wheate to be made into good and howshoulde bread" and "fiftye ells of canvas of twelve pence the ell to make them shirtes and smockes, and fiftye yardes of narrow blewe clothe of twentye pence the yarde to make them coates and cassockes". This tradition, known as the Marvyn Charity, continues to the present day although the parishioners now receive bread and cotton sheets. The Ufton Estate was sold to Mr. Benyon de Beauvoir in 1838.

The village school built in 1870 was brought up to date nearly a hundred years later to become the Sulhamstead and Ufton Parochial School.

The estimated population of Ufton Nerve in 1086 was 36 - 87, whilst the Black Death plague reduced the recorded number in 1377 to 26 - 50. In 1851 the combined recorded population of the two villages was 26 - 30 per 100 acres and increased at a very slow rate up to 1971 when the figures were 75 - 110 per 100 acres.



SECTION 3 SULHAMSTEAD AND UFTON NERVET



TYLE MILLS, SULHAMSTEAD.



Agriculture in the form of smallholdings and sheep farming appear to provide the main employment during the early period until the 1500s. The next 150 years saw the development of the road and waterway links with Reading, Newbury and London providing access to major collection centres for locally produced raw materials. The 1700s saw the introduction of paper mills, including Tyle Mills at Sulhamstead.

In the 1800s the major service trades within the area were wheelwrights, blacksmiths and farriers which were supplemented by the woodland trades such as hurdle makers, rod merchants, basket makers and osiers. A revolution in building methods in the 1870s witnessed a change in construction methods and materials and both Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet saw the introduction of brickmakers and local brick kilns.

1847 and 1848 brought the first railway links to Reading, Hungerford and Basingstoke, providing greater possibilities for the expansion of local trades and individual travel.

Interesting Facts & Local People

In the late 18th century, Dr. Henry Beke, Rector of Ufton, was the government financial consultant who devised income tax.

Robert Fenn of Sulhamstead developed a disease resistant potato.

Florence Nagle (the daughter of Sir. George Watson who lived in Sulhamstead House) was a well known racehorse trainer and dog breeder, who in 1966 took on the Jockey Club in the courts and won a famous victory, forcing racing's ruling body to give licences to women trainers.

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She also bred Irish Setters and included the name Sulhamstead in their names.

Cecil Aldin who painted the Setters was a well regarded Sporting Artist and was Master of the South Berkshire Hunt. He lived for a while at The Abbots in Sulhamstead.

The Reverend James Fraser was spotted by Gladstone as a cleric with huge potential and was promoted from country vicar to Bishop of Manchester in one step.



Spooky...

Sulhamstead Bannister

The ghost of a Victorian Lord of the Manor, Mortimer George Thoyts was seen in the old churchyard shortly after his death in 1870. The adjoining Meales Farm was once haunted by a ghostly figure who crossed the fields towards Brazenhead Farmhouse. It was thought to be the spirit of John Wickens, an 18th century farmer from Meales who married the daughter of the Brazenhead household. The ground floor of the latter house was also haunted by a ghost, that of a little woman in a white gown. Perhaps she was John's wife.



Sulhamstead Abbots

In Victorian times, a girl was run down by a cart and killed in the lane between Sulhamstead Abbots and Ufton Nervet. Since then, on November evenings, the sound of the invisible cart and horses has been heard coming up behind walkers near the spot where the accident happened.

The lower lane (Bottom Lane) below the park at Sulhamstead House is said to be haunted by a headless figure, gender unknown.



SECTION 3

SULHAMSTEAD AND UFTON NERVET

The Villages Today

The Parishes are extremely fortunate to benefit from an excellent primary school, a small but thriving youth club, an active cricket club and a local church with well-above average attendance. Functions take place in the Village Hall, the Parish Room and the SUN School. Ufton Court is used for educational courses and on special occasions by the community (e.g. Millennium Dinner Dance).

The rural area of the Parishes consists of Ufton Nervet and Sulhamstead north of Omer's Gully and is largely arable farming and small density housing settlements. It provides a much needed "green belt" between the heavily built up villages of Burghfield and Theale. The quality of life is much enhanced by the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Hose Hill nature reserve, together with numerous footpaths and bridleways.

The suburban area is situated south of Omer's Gully (the roads in the vicinity of Bluebell Drive / Abbots Road / Hollybush Lane etc, Acorn Gardens / Bramble Close, Firlands and Three Firs / Reading Road / Padworth Road), which, as mentioned, tend to associate more with Burghfield Common than Sulhamstead. Housing density here tends to be higher and the area benefits from having the Willink Leisure Centre close by, with a much more developed infrastructure, including pavements, street lighting, sewage disposal and better bus transport.

Public transport within the Parishes is confined to bus services along the northern and southern fringes, where a reasonable level of service is available. But access to these services from the centre of the area is difficult and requires a journey of between one and two miles. There is

no provision for parking of cars or bicycles at any of the points that might be used to access the bus services.

Good rail services are provided from Theale and Mortimer stations but these are each some two - three miles distant from the centre of the Parishes and, although buses serve both stations, the problem remains of actually accessing these bus services. Theale station has ample car parking and secure lockers for bicycles but parking is very limited at Mortimer.

What the Questionnaire showed

Response to the main Questionnaire was slightly higher in Ufton Nervet at 61% compared with 54.1% average for the two Parishes combined.

The overall number of households in SUN is 708 (123 in Ufton Nervet and 585 in Sulhamstead - of which 451 are south of Omer's Gully) and with an average 2.5 children per household making an approximate total of 1,770 people in the two Parishes with 20% under the age of 17. The split between male and female is almost exactly 50%.

30% of respondents in both Ufton Nervet and Sulhamstead have lived in SUN for over 25 years. Nearly 31% of Ufton Nervet respondents are retired, contrasting with 23% in Sulhamstead.

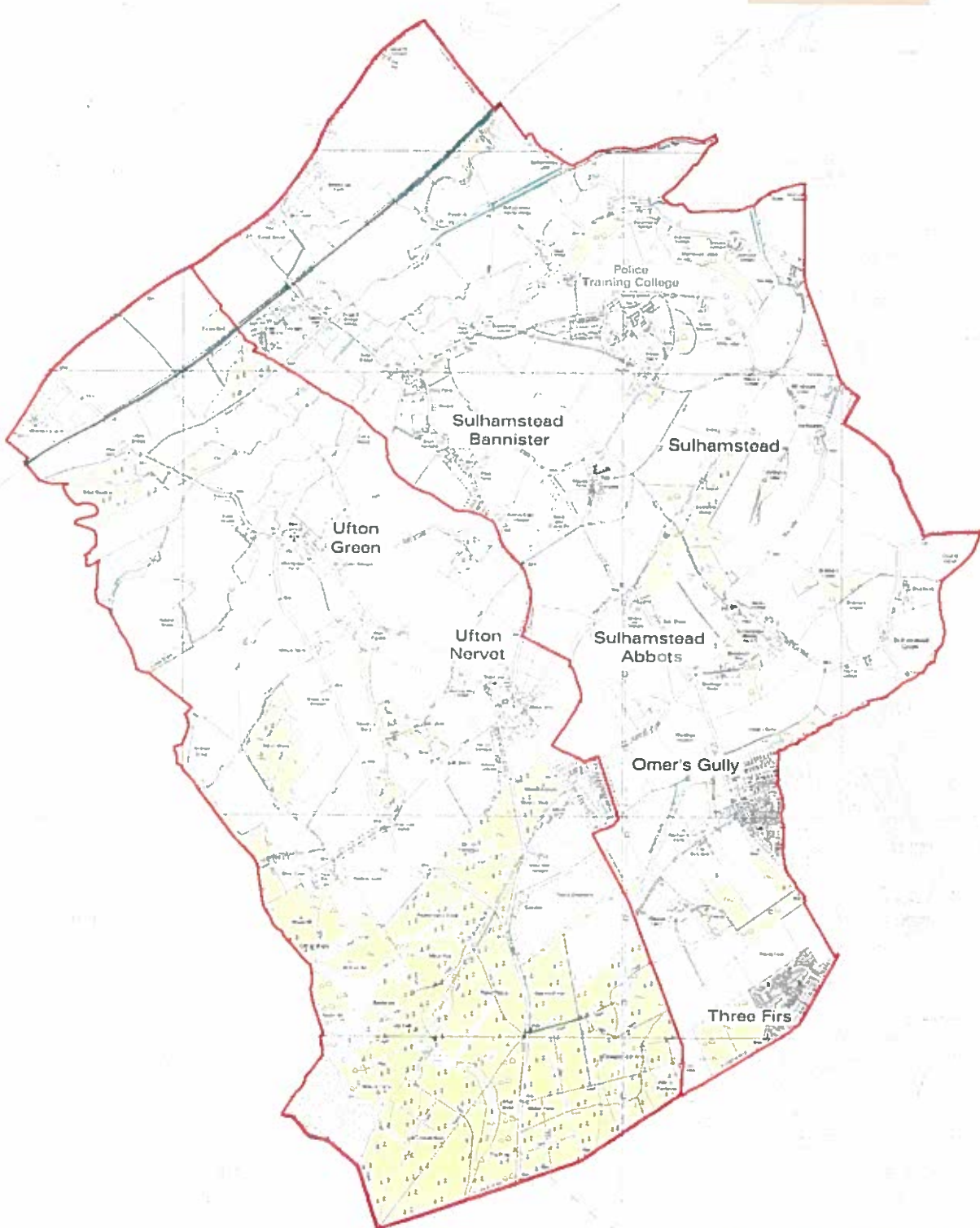
Nearly 80% of Ufton Nervet residents believe that the quality of life is the same or better than it was 10 years ago, compared with 64% in Sulhamstead.

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Sulhamstead and Ufton Nerve Map



SECTION 4

KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRES & CONSULTATION

This section summarises the main conclusions that follow in Section 5 and the resultant key issues that need to be addressed.

Overall, about half of those responding have lived in the Parishes for over 16 years and the quality of life for 67% has been the same or better. However, for just under 25% the quality of life has worsened and therefore identification of key issues for positive change is important.

In summary, these are as follows.

Flytipping

A real campaign should be launched to address two areas: firstly to ensure that flytipped material is cleared as soon as possible and secondly to find ways to reduce the occurrence. The first is about vigilance to tour the Parishes frequently and get action in place from WBC's Streetcare to clear, and the second is to consult with the police regarding surveillance and warning/prosecution. The first will be immediate; the second will take far longer.

Litter

The passage of traffic through the Parishes is a fact of life as residents of Tadley, Mortimer and Burghfield all use the parish roads to get to the M4 and A4. Litter collection by WBC can be as infrequent as once per year on heavily used roads. The Questionnaire response is for the installation of litter bins at problem sites and this will help on footpaths and stopping places. However, this will not address the litter thrown from vehicles.

Possible ways to reduce the impact of litter could include, for Ufton Nervet, the employment of a litter warden and, for Sulhamstead, the extension of the warden's hours. Sponsorship of litter collection by fast food chains serving those who pass through the villages may also be possible, as their takeaway food is easily recognisable. All options need to be explored. WBC need to be involved to increase their pick up frequency.

The Impact of Traffic

The main problems affecting safety and nuisance are as follows:

Firstly, too many LGVs use the Parishes' roads as a short cut. Weight limits in force some years ago have been removed, specifically in Hollybush Lane. Other areas need weight limits imposed to prevent LGVs using country lanes. WBC need to be involved here.

Secondly, five key areas have been identified where traffic has been observed by respondents to be travelling too fast for country lanes. These include Hollybush lane north of Omer's Gully, Sulhamstead Hill, Island Farm Road and the Reading Road. A revisit of actual speeds encountered to validate opinion is needed as a first step. Traffic calming and speed cameras, unpopular though they are, have to be considered if the evidence supports this.

Thirdly, traffic junctions are highlighted as danger areas, particularly the Shortheath Lane/Hollybush Lane junction when approached from Shortheath Lane; 87 people identified this as a major safety concern due to lack of visibility at the crossroads.

The above concerns, coupled with an apparent feeling that there is a need to speed up repair of the roads once damaged by traffic or frost, makes the impact of traffic a major area for improvement.

Public Transport

30 - 40% of residents would like to see improvements in routes, cost and timetabling but 66% of residents say they would only use buses infrequently. A dialogue with the major bus companies who have routes on the A4 and through Burghfield needs to take place. In addition, the services of other transport providers needs to be included, ie Readibus. Only when this has been completed can the feasibility of providing/increasing the bus services be established.

The Needs of Young People

Young children of primary school age have strongly requested a play park to be located near the SUN School.

Older children want a sports facility located near the Village Hall to be used at times when youth activities are taking place at the hall. In addition they would support any extension of youth facilities, a café in the hall, youth council etc.

The play park and sports facility need to be thought through in greater detail, but keeping youth motivated and occupied outside school hours has benefits across the two Parishes.

Reducing Crime & Antisocial Behaviour

Improved consultation with the police, coupled with the provision of more activities for young people in the Parishes are seen as the most significant steps that could be taken to produce a result in this area.

Neighbourhood watch schemes come third overall but first in the rural areas of Sulhamstead.

The above conclusions are broken down in Section 5 into topics, objectives and actions with timescales assigned to each action.



SECTION 5 RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRES AND CONSULTATION

The following information supports, in greater detail, the key issues and conclusions of Section 4.

Crime and vandalism

The overwhelming majority of respondents (93%) feel secure at home, although a relatively large proportion (38%) is nevertheless concerned about burglary / housebreaking. A small number, mostly residents of the southern end of the Parishes, report that they feel insecure outside the home but nearly all cite locations outside the boundaries of the two Parishes, often those places where numbers of young people gather.

Of other crimes and anti-social behaviour that concern respondents, the most serious by far (75% of respondents cited this) is fly tipping, with litter (54%) second. Other major concerns are car crime, drug taking and vandalism.

Almost half of respondents feel that the police coverage in the Parishes is poor, although 30% think it reasonable. A greater police presence is requested by over half of respondents (56%), along with improved consultation with local people. More activities for young people as a

means of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour receives about the same level of support as does an increased police presence. The introduction of Neighbourhood Watch schemes is also favoured.

Employment, Local Commercial and Industrial Development

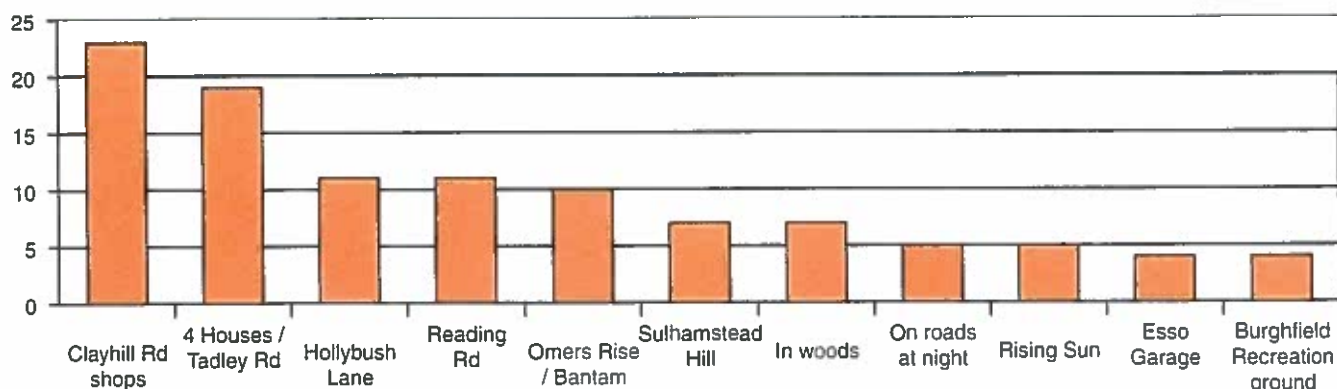
The main place of work for 10% of respondents is given as home, with 35% not working (25% retired), 15% working in the Reading area, 22% in other local areas and the rest in London or over 10 miles from home. Apart from home working, the current employment opportunities in the two Parishes are limited to farming, together with a small number of specialised services and businesses.

However, most respondents either had reservations about or were definitely against further commercial or industrial development in the two Parishes.

Fourteen people indicated they would like to receive a business questionnaire or to be included in a possible directory of businesses in the area.

Areas where people don't feel safe

Number of responses



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Housing

The current debate over the Government's plans for major housing development in the south east of England is reflected in the views of the two Parishes. While around 50 % of respondents believe the number of houses built over the last ten years was "about right", around 30% say there has been too much building - a percentage which increases significantly in the areas where most has taken place. Meanwhile nearly 70% say we can't accommodate any more new houses.

The recent experience with the latest housing developments has been less than satisfactory. The new housing off Hollybush Lane has woefully inadequate car parking allocation with the result that local Hollybush Lane residents have to accommodate the overflow in some cases outside their own homes and in their own assigned car parking area.

Around 20% of respondents are concerned about the lack of sheltered accommodation for elderly people and, if there was to be new building, 28% believe that young people should be the main beneficiaries, while around 20% say it should be targeted at key workers, such as teachers and nurses.



SECTION 5 RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRES AND CONSULTATION

Addressing the needs of young people

Based on those households which responded to the Questionnaire, 20% of those responding were children / young people under the age of 17. Some 25% of this group are at the SUN Primary School, 20% at the Willink, 18% in playgroups and 37% in other schools. Some 34% of the children live north of Omer's Gully.

In addition to the actual Questionnaire, three distinct surveys were conducted during the Parish Plan exercise:

- 1) A comprehensive survey of ninety children who attend the SUN School. This culminated in a History Day that took place in May 2005 and involved children building a model of the area, putting in their needs and concerns.

An individual survey of pupils at the SUN School aged between 7 and 11 years who live in the Parishes (total twenty two). This was done under class supervision.
- 2) An individual survey of fifteen senior members of the Youth Club aged between 10 and 17 with an average age of 13. There was zero duplication between 2) and 3) above.
- 3) An individual survey of fifteen senior members of the Youth Club aged between 10 and 17 with an average age of 13. There was zero duplication between 2) and 3) above.



Findings are as follows:

For the SUN Primary School children:

Their primary expressed need is for a play park close to the school. They have produced a wish list of facilities that they would like to see, including swings, slides, roundabouts etc. They also feel that speeding traffic is an issue as eight children walk to school. Twelve are active members of the Youth Club or Beavers, and virtually all would welcome and attend any improved youth facilities attached to the Youth Club.

For the senior Youth Club members:

Their primary expressed need is for a sports facility, ideally attached to the Village Hall, to enable tennis, football, etc. to be played. They would also welcome a small corner shop where sweets and basic needs could be bought. These children expressed major concerns about fly tipping, litter and vandalism and were most worried about speeding traffic, burglary and travelling alone after dark.

Both groups of children would support a youth council and a properly supervised youth café at the Village Hall that operates on Youth Club nights.

The recreational needs of these two groups are therefore very different and could be difficult to provide at one location.

The Youth club is well liked by those that attend regularly, but only a few young people use it regularly (17). However 70% of those who gave an opinion felt that it was good or reasonable.

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Environment

Questionnaire responses on how to improve the environment stress the following:

Reducing fly tipping and litter are seen as the highest priority requirements across the whole area (over 80% and over 60% of respondents respectively).

This is followed by improving the provision for recycling, the need for better bus services and the provision and repair of pavements (50% each), followed by reducing the flow of through traffic (40%).

Very few (under one in four) want to see employment opportunities in the area increase.

Roadside care is seen to be lacking by around a third of all respondents.

To keep SUN tidy, the highest score was for the installation of litterbins at problem sites (60% of respondents), followed by the provision of a paid litter warden (nearly 30%), organised litter volunteers and entering a "Best Kept Village" competition (25% each).



SECTION 5 RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRES AND CONSULTATION

Public Transport

30 - 40% of respondents would like to see some improvement in routes, cost and timetabling of bus services. Improved access for the disabled is mentioned by about 20%. Buses cater for the disabled. Only one platform at Mortimer station is accessible to wheelchairs and neither platform is at Theale station.

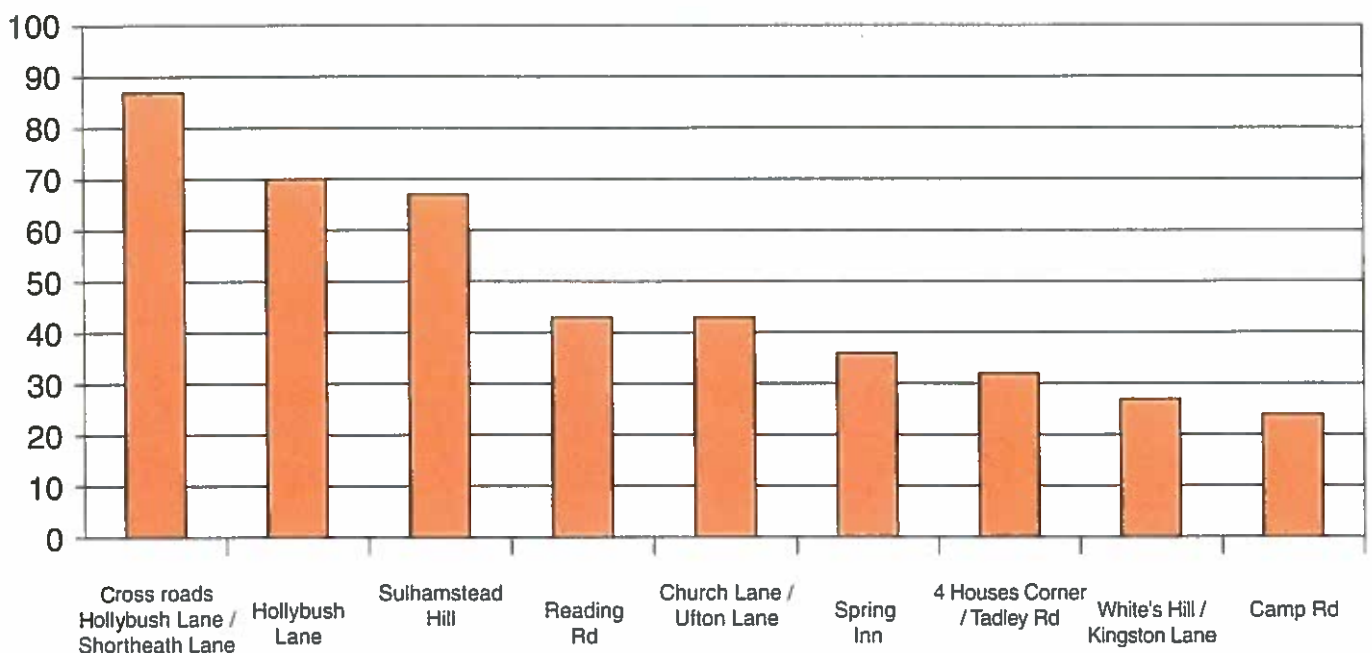
A total of 66% of respondents indicate that they would use a bus service that ran through the centre of the Parishes if one were provided, but over 60% of these say they would only use it occasionally. Only 5% of respondents would use a service daily during the week and 18% more at the weekend.

By far the most popular destination for such a service is Reading, with Theale station the second most popular choice. Other destinations mentioned include Newbury, Basingstoke and Calcot Retail Park - all served by existing bus and/or rail services so the problem appears to be that of accessing these services.



Danger areas

Number of responses





Road Safety

Most roads in the Parishes are quite narrow and winding for modern traffic and have no footways, making walking and cycling dangerous. In a number of places hedges appear not to be trimmed back at all other than by the passage of traffic.

The lack of public transport places a high reliance on car travel for parishioners but there is also a large amount of through traffic, some of which consists of Large Goods Vehicles, often contravening weight restrictions. All canal crossings in the Parishes have weight restrictions on them. It is worthwhile seeing how many of these weight restrictions can be enforced, and exploring the extent to which smaller roads in the Parishes can have weight restrictions imposed (or, indeed, re-imposed) on them.

Responses on general road safety tended to be specific to the part of the Parishes where the respondents live or perhaps the roads on which they travel frequently. For example, Sulhamstead Hill is mentioned by 66 respondents from that part of the area but by only one from the area south of Omer's Gully. Similarly, the Reading Road through Burghfield Common is cited by 43 respondents from south of Omer's Gully but by none from elsewhere.

The single problem most often mentioned across the Parishes (87 respondents) is the seriously limited visibility for drivers at the cross roads of Hollybush Lane and Shortheath Lane when coming from Shortheath Lane.



SECTION 5

RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRES AND CONSULTATION

The difficulty in getting onto the Bath Road at the Spring Inn is mentioned by a fair number of respondents spread across the two Parishes as is the Hollybush Lane/White's Hill/Kingston Lane route, presumably because of the amount of traffic on a narrow and winding road.

Less widely of concern but significant nonetheless is Church Lane / Ufton Lane. Again this is a narrow and winding road but in addition has the School at its southern end. Some specific concern is expressed about the hazard posed by the large number of cars parked on the road when children are being dropped off or collected.

The junction at the southern end of Island Farm

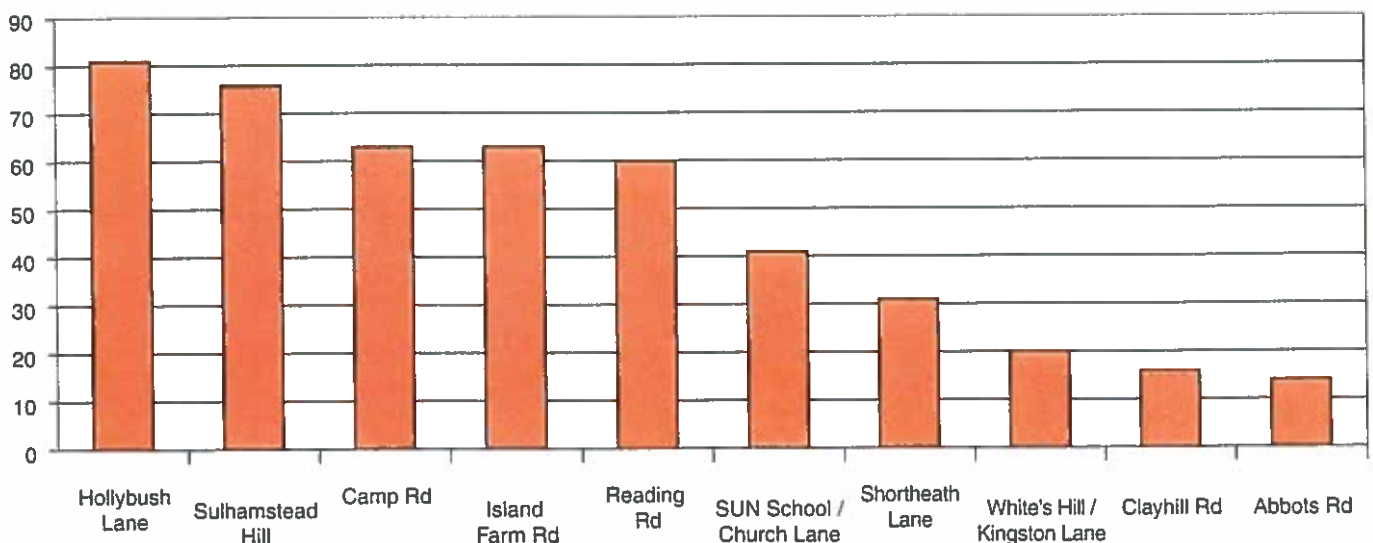
Road is also of concern to those living in Ufton Nerve and Three Firs / Reading Road; poor visibility is again the main reason but coupled here with a fast main road and a tricky bend.

Vehicle speed is a very subjective area, although the Parish Councils already hold actual data for some locations. It must be emphasised that any action taken to improve the general road safety situation (by straightening or widening roads, for example) is likely to worsen any problem caused by speeding traffic.

There are widespread worries about speeding in Hollybush Lane, despite speed bumps designed to control it.

Traffic travelling too fast

Number of responses



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Close behind comes Sulhamstead Hill, although that is largely a response from that part of Sulhamstead and from Ufton Nervet, with very little support from elsewhere.

Camp Road and Island Farm Road have drawn almost as many responses (almost exclusively from residents of Ufton Nervet) and this view is supported by the Parish Councils' data, particularly for Camp Road.

Reading Road has been mentioned by almost as many respondents, again almost exclusively from that part of the Parishes.



SECTION 5 RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRES AND CONSULTATION

Local Facilities

By far the strongest support comes for our local footpaths. Around 44% of respondents use them every week, with a further 15% walking them monthly. Bridleways are slightly less popular.

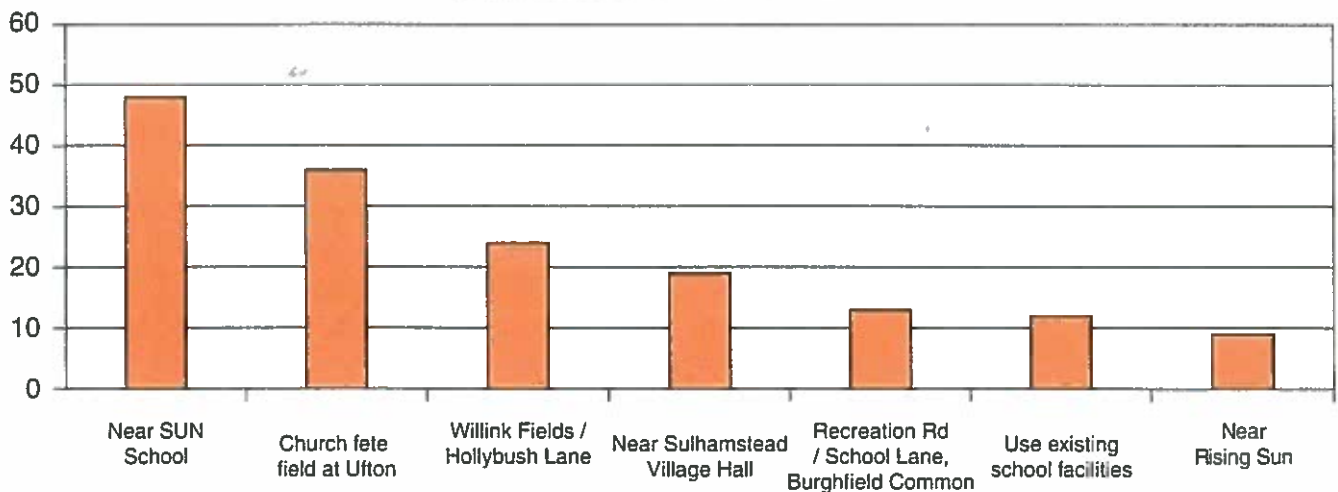
The Willink Leisure Centre is popular, with 15% using it every week, 7% monthly and a further 27% occasionally.

Our two local meeting places - St Mary's Church Room and the Village Hall - are clearly valued by the people who use them. But just over 80% of respondents never visit the Church Room. And while 8% use the Village Hall regularly and a further 36% occasionally, over 50% never do so.

On the standard of facilities for young people - including Brownies, Guides, Scouts and the Youth Club - around 80% of respondents say they have no opinion, in most cases probably because they do not use them or know about them. There is strong support for the idea of a playground for children under eleven in the two Parishes, with more than 70% in favour. Only 30% of those in favour have expressed a view as to the location of such a playground; out of those, just under 30% think it should be located close to the SUN School. The school itself is clearly valued, with more than 75% saying it is either very important or important to the community.

Number of responses

Possible locations of play area



The importance of St Mary's Church is also clear from the results of the survey, not just for Sunday worship, weddings, funerals and baptisms, but also as an historic building and a focal point for the two Parishes.

There has been an enthusiastic response to the future use of the redundant St Peter's Church in Ufton Nerve. Most favoured concerts and musical evenings, but there was also strong support for plays, exhibitions and meetings. However, when respondents were asked whether they'd be prepared to subsidise St Peter's with a higher parish rate, 70% were against. There is strong opposition to converting St Peter's into a business or offices; only 7% support that idea.

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Utilities

Mains water, sewage disposal, electricity and, where supplied, mains gas are all rated acceptable by the great majority of respondents.

Drainage of surface water is rated poor by one third of respondents north of Omer's Gully.

Whilst refuse collection is regarded as good or reasonable and recycling is generally rated as satisfactory, approximately half of respondents feel that highway maintenance is well below an acceptable level. Roadside care also fares badly.

Fixed line telephone reception is generally thought to be acceptable, but nearly a quarter of respondents feel that mobile phone reception is poor.

Keeping People Informed

Only 7% of respondents say they have trouble finding out what is happening in the two Parishes. 14% use local newspapers for their main source of information, with about 18% relying on village magazines and 15% on local posters. Other sources of information include notice boards (7%), shops and pubs, and a small proportion use local radio.

Around 72% of respondents have a computer at home with internet access. Some 57% would be interested in receiving information about SUN via email, or a website if one was to be set up.



**SECTION 6
PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**



Key Topic	Objective	Action	Timescale
1 Fly tipping	Clear up faster	1 Organise regular patrols and call in Streetcare to clear a.s.a.p.	12 months
	Reduce Occurrence	2 Record hotspots. Liaise with Police and install surveillance.	24 months
2 Litter	Reduce litter impact	3 Organise litter collection day.	Now
		4 Expand litter warden brief.	12 months
		5 Get WBC to increase frequency.	12 months
3 Traffic	Weight limits	6 Install litter bins and check frequency of emptying.	12 months
		7 Re-instate limits on Hollybush Lane. 8 Map Parish hotspots.	Now
	Reduce speeding	9 Consult WBC.	24 months
		10 Expand limit areas.	
	Improve road safety at crossroads Hollybush Lane and Shortheath Lane	11 Re-run speed monitoring.	Now
		12 Publish results.	asap
		13 Identify hotspots.	12 months
		14 Apply for traffic calming.	
		15 Establish and examine options.	12 months
	16 Possibly implement trial.	12 months	
4 Public transport	Establish link to A4, Burghfield Common and Theale Station	17 Monitor / re-evaluate.	24 months
		18 Examine services available.	12 months
		19 Meet with bus companies.	12 months
		20 Set up trial and advertise.	24 months
		21 Monitor and report back.	36 months
		22 Examine feasibility.	To be defined
5 Youth needs	Establish Play park	23 Approach landowners.	To be defined
		24 Cost, and raise funds.	
	Establish sports facility	25 Implement.	To be defined
		26 Liaise with Youth Leaders to ensure feasibility.	
		27 Get clear spec. of requirement and how it would operate.	
6 Business Club	Set up to run	28 Approach landowners.	12 months
		29 Cost, and raise funds.	
		30 Implement.	
7 Village Website	Improve Parish communication	31 Launch event.	12 months
		32 Examine piggybacking onto existing WBC website.	12 months
		33 Examine cost of set up of joint website for SUN.	12 months
		34 Ensure commitment to update.	12 months
		35 Launch.	24 months

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Questionnaire Analysis

The detailed analysis of the Questionnaire is available as an Excel document, and the more detailed analysis of those questions where respondents were asked to name locations (security, road safety, excessive speed and preferred location for any children's playground) is available as a Word document. Both of these are available electronically free on request, or in hard (paper) copy on payment of a nominal charge.