

Eynsham Parish Plan 2007-08

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1 For acknowledgements please see page 44

1 Introduction

- 10.1 Communities such as Eynsham have developed over the years by a combination of organic, spontaneous, natural growth and careful planning.
- 10.2 This Parish Plan embodies Eynsham's vision for life in the early 21st century. Combine this with the individual inspiration, enthusiasm and sheer hard work which many people have shown in the past – and the village will continue to be the active, vibrant, living community that attracted many of us to it in the first place.
- 10.3 It is inevitable that village life must adapt to changing circumstances; but it is important that this happens in a considered and positive way, encouraging the next generation to build on past successes and come up with new ideas for the future.
- 10.4 Eynsham is fortunate in having many groups already active within the village, along with organisations providing voluntary services where need has been previously identified. These existing groups will often provide the backbone for future work: they have the skills, the willing volunteers and the local knowledge to provide a good foundation.
- 10.5 With extra funding these groups may be able to expand into new activities; train up the next generation of volunteers and leaders; and acquire extra physical resources or refurbish existing ones.
- 10.6 This Plan builds on many existing reports, plans and surveys², which have looked at all aspects of village life including the natural and built environment and the concerns and aspirations of residents. Initially, the plan seeks to bring these ideas together – and identify which matter most to local residents – so that effective solutions may be found.
- 10.7 When a community has produced a coherent Parish Plan, demonstrating real needs and identifying solutions for them, various funds become available to implement the resulting 'Action Plan'. Further steps are required first, because funding agencies have to account for public money and need to ensure that the money is well targeted. But although the process may seem complex the choice of projects is left to the community, not imposed from outside.
- 10.8 Over the next year or so this outline plan will be transformed into an Action Plan, which will propose and – if agreed by the community acting in concert with the Parish Council and other partners – seek funding for those things which the village considers important.
- 10.9 Bidding for one of the larger grants calls for four teams of volunteers, looking at Environment, Economy, Transport & Access and Community & Social issues. The Steering Group is keen to remain involved – and to hear from you if you are interested. A number of groups and individuals are active in these areas already; but the future of Eynsham matters to every one of us. Our contact details are on page 46.

2 Please see Bibliography at pages 58-9

2. Executive summary

- 20.1 The Eynsham Parish Plan is a report on Eynsham in 2006/07. Many Eynsham residents have helped to create it. It is based on the views expressed by people who live and work in the village, supported by research.
- 20.2 The Plan has a number of purposes:
- i. to set out the way the people of Eynsham would like to see the village develop
 - ii. to inform and influence the plans and policies of local authorities and other agencies
 - iii. to offer recommendations for a Parish Action Plan
 - iv. to provide a context to village life and activities for those who wish to be involved.
- 20.3 The Plan has taken over 18 months to produce and involved volunteers from all sections of the community, including churches, shops, police, schools and the departing part-time youth worker. The Parish Council has maintained an interest and has received regular reports through Chris Roles and more recently Richard Andrews.
- 20.4 Funding for the work came from Defra³ and the Parish Council. We have also received help from SEEDA, ORCC, OMTN, Carnegie Trust UK, Iain Nicholson of OTCN and Catherine Chater. The Steering Group is very grateful for their contributions and advice. A fuller list of contributors will be found in Section 6.
- 20.5 The consultation process that informs the Plan is described in Section 4. After an initial survey to identify Eynsham's key concerns, a questionnaire based on these went to every house in the village – and achieved a 25% response. Along the way were letters, emails and talks to groups; flyers, press releases, public events and one-to-one discussion.
- 20.6 Residents' top priorities, covered in detail at Section 5, include:

more visible policing; more local jobs; traffic reduction; control of heavy vehicles; more affordable housing; small retail development; more activities for young people.

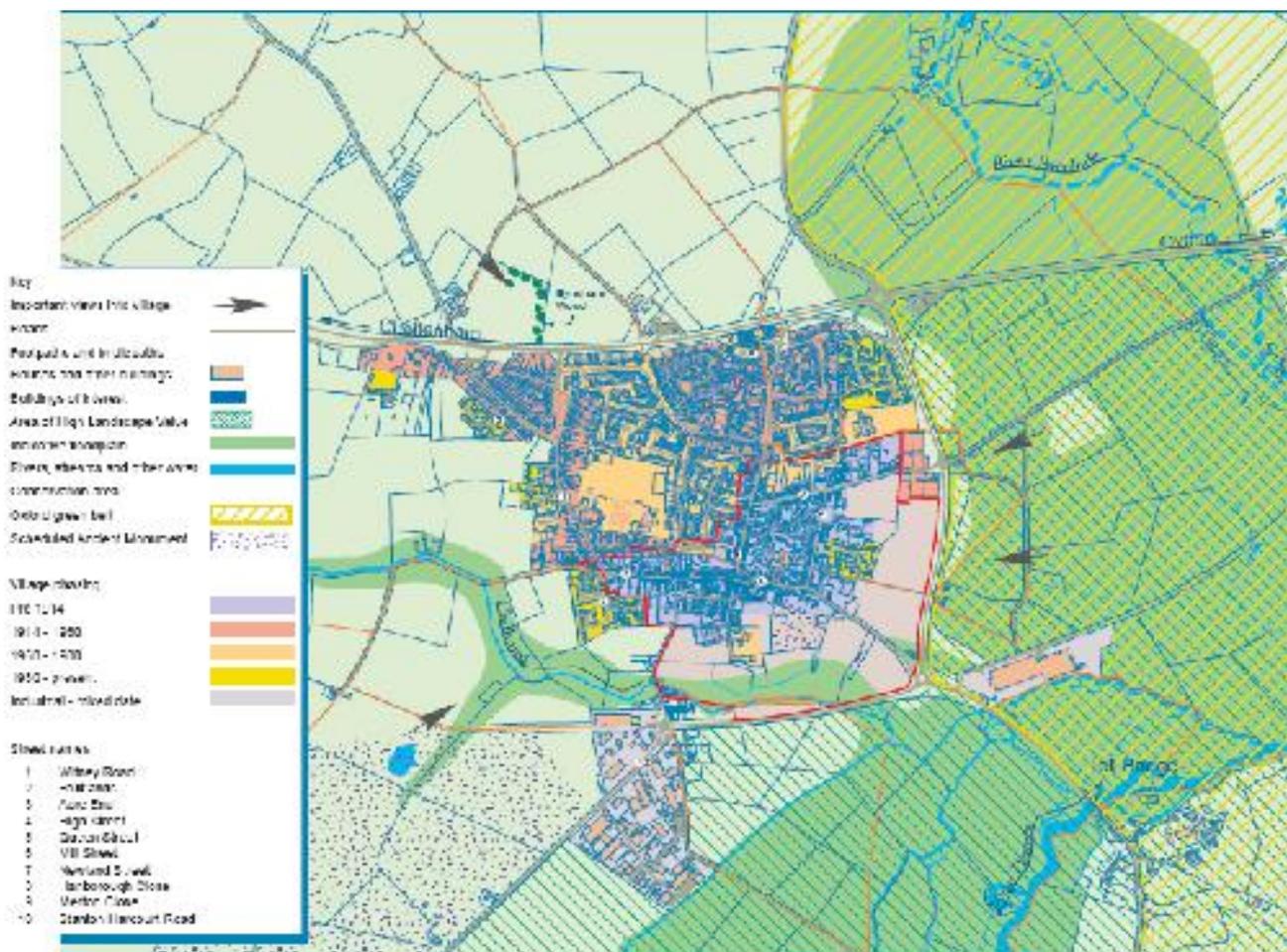
- 20.7 We have provided a background (The Facts) to the expressions of opinion⁴; pointed to some emerging options and wider issues (The Vision); and formulated the responses into a draft Action Plan. Numeric data from the questionnaire is supplied at Appendix 2.
- 20.8 Meanwhile, nothing stands still – and the Steering Group has already made a difference. Local firms have set up a new business network (Oxfordshire's first at village level); representatives of 16 voluntary groups have met to review the Actions and explore ways of working together; and a funding bid is under way to clear the Wharf Stream.
- 20.9 Energy and enterprise are around us already, at group and individual level. But engagement is more demanding. As Henry Ford put it:

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

3 Please refer to the Glossary at Section 8 for a full list of abbreviations

4 All information provided is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of going to press – July 2007

3. Introduction to Eynsham



Above: Eynsham's setting, at the edge of Oxford's green belt

- 30.1 Eynsham is the fourth largest settlement in West Oxfordshire, located just south of the A40, half-way between Oxford and Witney and just beyond the western edge of the Oxford green belt. In the 1970s it expanded rapidly from a relatively small village, largely to accommodate some of Oxford's development pressures, and these pressures continue.
- 30.2 Included in the parish of Eynsham is the separate hamlet of Barnard Gate, on the northern side of the A40.
- 30.3 Eynsham offers a wide range of facilities, and employment, to residents and surrounding villages. The traditional village centre is complemented by small industrial estates on the outskirts, with a number of high-tech companies, including Siemens Magnet Technology who employ over 600 people here. The settlement also has an active leisure, religious, social and sporting calendar. Nevertheless, with falling rolls in the schools⁵ and closing services on the streets, it cannot afford to be complacent.

5 Eynsham Community Primary School total number of pupils on roll in 2001: 381; in 2006: 321

- 30.4 Eynsham has been a significant village since its geographical advantage was first realised by early settlers and traders. With its slightly elevated position above the Thames flood plain, Eynsham also provided plentiful resources of local building materials including stone and wood. The Anglo Saxons had a settlement here centuries before construction of the 11th century Benedictine Abbey.
- 30.5 Early records indicate that in 1650 Eynsham village had approximately 116 dwellings with around 580 inhabitants; and in 1738 160 dwellings with over 700 inhabitants. Whilst the census of 1801 recorded 183 dwellings with 1,166 inhabitants, by 1871 the figures had doubled to 488 dwellings and 2,177 inhabitants. The population doubled again from 1961 to 1971 and reached a peak in 1991 but now appears to be in decline (2001 Census: 4,665).

	households	population
1650	116	580
1738	160	700
1801	183	1,166
1871	488	2,177
1961		2,628
1971		4,427
1991		4,800
2001	1,950	4,665

- 30.6 Twentieth century transportation demands finally prompted relocation of the A40 to the north of the village, giving Eynsham's narrow streets a brief respite from traffic. Loss of the railway station must have been far less welcome: it closed to passengers in 1962 and the line ceased operation in 1970 – in exactly the same time-frame as new housing developments and infill doubled the village population. The eastern bypass, built in the 1980's, offered a step towards rebalancing the infrastructure; but pressures have mounted since. Traffic within and around the village is now a major concern – affecting attitudes to visitors and to further development alike.

4. The Process

- 40.1 The initial impetus for this project came from a “think piece” by Chris Roles in the Eynsham Echo, June 2005⁶. The Steering Group was formed in November 2005 following discussions with Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC), mainly – but not exclusively – to access Market Towns Initiative (MTI) funds from the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). To be able to apply for this funding, Eynsham would have to either complete a Market Town health-check or have a current Parish Plan. The steering group decided to carry out a Parish Plan and in early 2006 applied for and received a grant from Defra. This was match-funded by the parish council.
- 40.1 At the outset the Steering Group contacted the District and County Councillors, all the Parish Councils of the hinterland, church representatives and both local schools. The Steering Group also set up a dedicated email address.
- 40.2 In March 2006 the Steering Group produced an initial consultation form (see Appendix A1) to find out what topics the Parish Plan should address. This form was delivered to every house in the parish with the Eynsham Echo in April. The form was also sent to all businesses, schools, clubs and associations in the Eynsham Directory, by email or post.
- 40.3 A supply of forms was put into Bartholomew School for pupils and staff to complete. There were drop off points located around the village. Throughout this process, forms and results were also published on the official village website Eynsham Online.



Illustration 1: May Day 2006 – people were asked to complete a consultation form



Illustration 2: David Cameron MP (centre) with Christopher Roles (left) and Ann Tweney (right)

- 40.5 The Eynsham Action Plan was launched at May Day Celebrations in the village square. At the launch, the Steering Group talked to members of the public to explain the Parish Plan and the Market Towns Initiative. People were also asked to complete a consultation form.

- 40.6 David Cameron MP launched the Action Plan and commented about Parish Plans:

“These can help local people have their say about the future of their community. I would encourage everyone to join in.”

6 See Appendix A4 on page 60

When asked what he thought about the Market Towns Initiative, Mr. Cameron said:

“Keeping our market towns and villages like Eynsham strong and vibrant is essential for the future of West Oxfordshire.”

- 40.7 The launch was a great success and in total 309 individual consultation forms were returned. The next action for the Steering Group was to create a questionnaire, using software designed for Parish Plans⁷ but focusing on the “hot topics” raised at the initial consultation. The questionnaire was delivered to every house in the village⁸ in July. Drop off boxes were installed as before and the Steering Group called on most houses in the village to remind people and/or collect their form at the doorstep.
- 40.8 Representatives from the Steering Group spoke at both a British Legion meeting and an Eynsham Society meeting during the summer.
- 40.9 Response to the questionnaire was impressive, with returns from 484 out of 1950 households (831 individuals). Over the next few months the committee was busy entering the data and analysing the returns. Once a summary was available, initial results were published in the Eynsham Echo and delivered to each house in the parish.
- 40.10 During August and September 2006 a call was issued for artwork and photography for the Parish Plan, via the stand at the Village show and an entry in the Echo. This aimed to increase project involvement and to keep the issues alive. Eynsham Primary School children responded magnificently (see Section 58.3).
- 40.11 Subsequent months were spent cross-checking our findings against other reports, consulting many key players individually and drafting this document – which is naturally a work in progress. Its format follows the model provided by the Countryside Agency: “Our Village Parish Plan”⁹.
- 40.12 Steering Group members reported to the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2007 and held an open event for representatives of informal groups in June. This year they have also been instrumental in reviving the Eynsham Business Network and developing a bid for funds to clear the Wharf Stream.
- 40.13 The Eynsham Parish Plan will be available at Eynsham Online www.eynsham.org.uk and in print at Eynsham library. Further printed copies will be sent to local authorities and councillors, David Cameron MP, all parish councils in the hinterland, neighbourhood police, schools, churches and other interested bodies. Copies of the Executive Summary and draft Action Plan have been delivered to every house in the parish.
- 40.14 The Steering Group will now give full attention to exploring synergies; seeking access to funds for the benefit of projects in Eynsham; and lobbying for changes that depend on other bodies to bring about.

7 Countryside and Community Research Unit: Village Appraisals for Windows

8 Questionnaires were not delivered to Barnard Gate. It may be that some Barnard Gate residents were able to obtain questionnaires from the village drop-off points. The Steering Group apologises for this oversight.

9 See the Bibliography, pages 58-9

51 COMMUNITY SAFETY

51.1 The Facts

51.1.1 “West Oxfordshire has a crime rate per thousand population of 49.4, well below the national figure of 112.6 and approximately half the Thames Valley average 99.6.”¹⁰

51.1.2 West Oxfordshire is also the safest place in Oxfordshire; and Eynsham is safer than Burford, Chipping Norton or Witney. Nevertheless, its rate of 60.66 per thousand is above average for the district and significantly higher than Bampton, Carterton, Charlbury and Woodstock. Towns and villages near the A40 are especially vulnerable to vehicle-related crime.

51.1.3 In the period covered by the Audit (April 2001-March 2004), criminal damage and violent crime were the most commonly recorded incidents across the district as a whole. Eynsham saw its share of criminal damage – especially to vehicles – but happily rather less of violent crime:

“Violent crime victims and offenders ... (were) mainly males between 18 – 25 with offences peaking after pub closing hours ... The offenders (were) predominantly local people assaulting local victims.”

51.1.4 For Eynsham theft was the commonest crime, especially drive by theft from the garages on the A40. As the chart shows, the total number of recorded incidents rose dramatically in 2004/5. The rise is probably too great to be accounted for by lower tolerance or higher reporting and may have coincided with the arrival of a new Tesco Express outlet on the A40 east-bound.

51.1.5 However, recorded incidents fell by 19% between 2004/5 and 2005/6¹¹; and while the latest report (April 2007) shows a 3% rise (371 incidents) criminal damage was down a dramatic 23%, from 110 to 85 cases.

One of the year's lowest points was senseless vandalism to the newly-refurbished toilet block on Oxford Road Playing Fields.

51.1.6 Local crime monitoring and management is in the hands of West Oxfordshire Community Safety

Partnership, a multi-agency framework comprising police, district and county councils plus health authority, probation and the voluntary sector.

Its activities in 2006 were vigorous and wide-ranging:

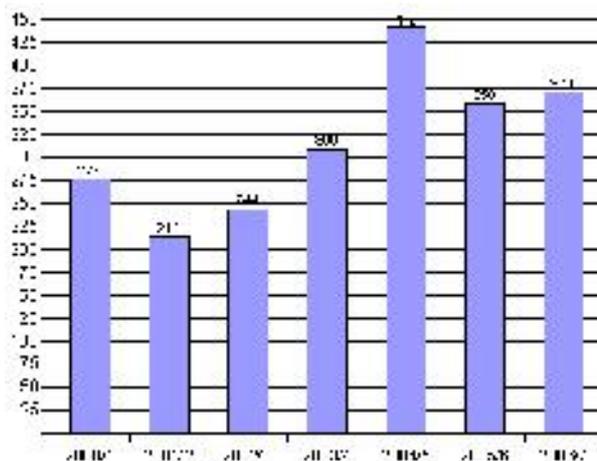


Table 1: EYNSHAM CRIME FIGURES 2000/1 - 2006/7

10 WODC Community Safety Audit, April 2005

11 Police report to Annual Parish Meeting April 2006

- i. a neighbourhood framework covering (with Eynsham) the parishes of Cassington, Hardwick with Yelford, North Leigh, South Leigh, Northmoor, Standlake and Stanton Harcourt;
- ii. residents' survey in February 2006 which identified three top concerns: vandalism/graffiti, anti-social behaviour and speeding;
- iii. formation of a small Eynsham Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) with representatives from police, parish council and the community;
- iv. stronger police presence – Back Lane office, mobile unit and on foot patrol;
- v. steady work on graffiti removal and promotion of a designated graffiti wall;



Illustration 3: NAG members turning a 'kickwall' into a designated space for graffiti, Oct 2006



Illustration 4: Neighbourhood engagement and follow-up survey, July 2007



Illustration 5: The graffiti wall redecorated, July 2007

- vi. poster campaign on anti-social behaviour i.e. threatening & intimidating behaviour, foul language, harassment, drug & alcohol abuse;
- vii. use of regular print media such as the Eynsham Echo for crime prevention messages;
- viii. contributions to Eynsham Online and a dedicated page for Eynsham on the new "Who's My Bobby?" website;
- ix. speed safety awareness-raising, reinforced by traffic calming measures (see Traffic section 56.1.7 below)

51.1.7 Recent work in hand includes a "no cold calling" zone in collaboration with Oxfordshire Trading Standards and a series of Neighbourhood Watch drop-in sessions. Eynsham's first was held on 16 May 2007. There are also many instances of positive action in the activities run by local churches, scouts, social and sporting bodies.

Unfortunately there was a hiatus in (County Council-funded) activities at Eynsham Youth Centre following the departure of the one staff member at the end of 2006.

51.2 Community Safety : The Opinions

51.2.1 Question 20 of our survey asked: “Do you think any of the following law and order measures are needed?” This question was answered by 739 (88.9%) respondents, with 3162 expressions of opinion in all. The top three priorities were:

i.	Greater police presence	557	(75%)
ii.	More activities for young people	485	(65%)
iii.	More drug/drink education/prevention	459	(61%)

51.2.2 Feeling was strong on other issues too:

i.	CCTV	312
ii.	After School Club	309
iii.	Neighbourhood Watch	335
iv.	Good Neighbour Scheme	298

51.2.3 377 people thought there was still a need for better consultation between police and public. The survey went out in July 2006, only half way through the Partnership programme recounted above.

51.2.4 In the free-form section, residents expressed the view that they are:

“unable to socialise at night for fear of being mugged or beaten up by hoodies hanging around the lanes¹².”

51.2.5 The pubs and the area outside the Spar and Fish Shop came in for several complaints. These views echo more general concerns. There was strong opposition to extension of opening hours for pubs in 2005; one group of residents went so far as instructing a



Illustration 6: Conduit Lane, May 2006

solicitor to plead their case. One-off licence extensions are now subject to rigorous control across the district and in extreme cases rowdiness on or immediately outside the premises can lead to the loss of a publican's license.

51.2.6 Specific suggestions for improvement included:

- i. regularly re-painted graffiti wall¹³
- ii. extended hours for the youth club
- iii. music centre¹⁴/coffee bar
- iv. revived swimming pool and tennis courts

12 There were 76 references to 'gangs of youths'

13 Last undertaken October 2006

14 Music facilities have recently been installed in the Youth Centre

51.3 Community Safety: The Vision

51.3.1 West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership is:

“Committed to reducing crime, disorder fear, and making offenders accountable.”

51.3.2 Its priorities for 2005-8 are:

“Acquisitive crime, domestic violence, substance misuse, supportive communities, safe communities, and anti social behaviour”.

51.3.3 For each objective but one, the target (and measure of success) is a lower number of recorded offences. The exception is Supportive Communities, dealing with 'fear of crime'.

51.3.4 The published target for Supportive Communities is both surprising and perhaps disappointing:

“To maintain the low level of fear of crime [when] walking alone by day.”

51.3.5 Considering the views expressed above, it can only be hoped that more attention may be given to the night scene as the Partnership develops its Strategy for 2008-11. The two new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who take up their posts in September 2007 may have a crucial part to play in helping the community to help itself.

51.3.6 Young People are a specific target area for Supportive Communities. As lead partner in this area, Oxfordshire County Council is to:

“Review existing youth service provision and CSP funded youth projects and report to the CSP on where there is greatest need in Dec 2005/6/7”

51.3.7 Again, a more proactive approach would be welcome: arguably our one half-time professional youth worker is needed by a wider range of young people than the (District Council-funded) joint-use Sports Hall due to open in autumn 2007.

52 EMPLOYMENT

52.1 The Facts

52.1.1 Eynsham offers a wide range of facilities and employment to residents and to the surrounding villages. The traditional village centre is complemented by small industrial estates on the outskirts, including a number of high-tech companies – Siemens Magnet Technology employed around 650 people here at the end of 2006.



Illustration 7: Siemens Magnet Technology, Wharf Road

52.1.2 The Eynsham Directory records over 230 firms, predominantly in the service sector, many of which are sole traders. Emerging categories with five or more entries are:

- i. business development services
- ii. computer systems & software
- iii. fashion
- iv. fast food & takeaways
- v. health & well-being
- vi. media & marketing



Illustration 8: The quirkiness of Eynsham's small firms is part of their attraction



Illustration 9: Eynsham has had links with the printing profession for hundreds of years

52.1.3 Categories no longer available include chimney sweeps, cycle repairs, thatchers and electricians.

52.1.4 Survey Question 6 asked about employment status. The responses are shown below, with figures from the 2001 Census for comparison:

	2001 Census	Survey Q6
Employed	73%	48%
- Employees	-	40%
- Self-employed ¹⁵	-	6%
- Self-employed ¹⁶	-	2%
Unemployed	2%	2%
Economically inactive	24%	49%
- In full-time education	-	4%
- Unwaged	-	4%
- Retired	-	39%
- Sick /disabled	-	2%
Total respondents	3430	795

52.1.5 As the table above shows, the percentages of people in our survey who are in employment or retired differ sharply from 2001 Census data. It is clear that a third of the work-force is not represented in our (voluntary) survey, possibly because retired people were more likely to complete it.

52.1.6 Question 7 turned to employment location, asking: “If you work, where do you work?”

Responses were as follows (total respondents 412):

i.	in Oxford	108	(26%)
ii.	In Eynsham	88	(21%)
iii.	At home	58	(14%)
iv.	In Witney	36	(9%)
v.	Other	122	(29%)

52.1.7 From these results it seems that 36% of people who work, do so in Eynsham – at home or at another workplace in the village. Most of the 29% whose work location is 'Other' are employed in this geographic area, as the average journey to work is 7.98 miles¹⁷.

52.1.8 In contrast, West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011: Employment states that:

“surveys of employment sites in the rural areas indicate that only around 15% of the workforce live locally, i.e. within 3 miles, whilst nearly 25% commute over 13 miles to work, usually by car.”

52.1.9 The variation in our survey may be due to our 'sampling' method: we may have captured chiefly the experience of part-time workers. This conclusion is supported by the Local Plan's comments on differences between full- and part-time workers:

“Surveys of new housing (in Witney) indicate that only around 17% of new full-time workers work in the town (compared to 27% in Oxford) although approaching 50% of the part-time workforce does work in Witney.”

15 not employing staff
16 employing staff
17 2001 Census

52.1.10 In 2001 approximately 15% of West Oxfordshire working residents worked in Oxford. The Local Plan indicates a shift in this pattern:

“Local surveys of new housing in settlements close to Oxford suggest that over 40% of new residents work in the City of Oxford.”

52.1.11 Our survey results fall mid-way between the two at 26%; but whatever the exact figure there’s no escaping the impact of Oxford on Eynsham housing and Eynsham traffic.

52.1.12 Closure of the Oxford Instruments site on Old Station Way in 2006 involved redundancy or relocation for around 180 employees. According to the HR section “not many” of these were Eynsham residents: since the work was skilled, it drew in staff from Witney and surrounding villages. The local loss has been mainly in terms of office jobs; and custom to local pubs, catering and other support services.



Illustration 10: Entrance to Oakfield Industrial Estate

The company is negotiating sale of the premises so further opportunities may arise.

52.1.13 On a similar scale are losses at Siemens Magnet Technology, where numbers fell from 709 at the start of 2006 to around 645 at the end. Approximately 70 employees lived in Eynsham at the beginning of 2007.

52.1.14 However, six vacant premises in the village centre have re-opened in the last year, bringing an increase in employment diversity. Nor are so many units standing empty – David Pimm's complex of 30 offices in Abbey Street is almost fully let – which he stresses marks only a recovery to levels of two to three years ago.



Illustration 11: Signs for offices in Abbey Street, central Eynsham

52.1.15 Travel to work modes, drawn from the 2001 census, are shown below:

Public Transport	299	12%
Car, motorcycle, or van	1619	63%
Work at home / other	636	25%

52.1.1 Responses to the Parish Council survey on bus use among residents in summer 2006 were disappointing (see Section 56.1.8). The potential for reducing traffic within Eynsham by increasing bus/bike use is largely unexplored; so far the strongest advocates are students at Eynsham Primary School (Section 58.3.8).

52.2 Employment: The Opinions and The Vision

52.2.1 Our survey Question 9 asked:

“Should the following be encouraged in Eynsham ...?”

This question yielded 755 responses. Employment issues took both second and third places:

	Favour or strongly agree	
i. Affordable housing	449	(59%)
ii. More jobs in Eynsham	418	(55%)
iii. Small retail development	407	(53%)

52.2.2 Preferences follow, in descending order of popularity:

	Favour		Strongly Favour	
i. Small retail development	250	(33%)	157	(20%)
ii. Small business development	217	(28%)	82	(11%)
iii. Small scale industrial workshops	175	(23%)	78	(10%)

Interestingly, the call for more jobs, and implied need for more houses, is in direct conflict with any desire to keep the village “as it is”.

52.2.3 Question 8 asked:

“If you intend to become self-employed what barriers/issues do you feel might restrict you?”

81 responses were given, in descending order:

i. Lack of start-up finance	48	(59%)
ii. Lack of premises	29	(36%)
iii. Lack of confidence	24	(30%)
iv. Need for business skills	17	(21%)
v. Lack of advice/information	17	(21%)
vi. Lack of contacts	13	(16%)
vii. Lack of required technical skills	5	(6%)
viii. Other	3	(4%)

53 ENVIRONMENT

53.1 The Facts

53.1.1 Eynsham's environmental challenges begin with its location, at an important crossing of the river Thames, midway between Oxford and Witney and within a stone's throw of the A40. For 20 years the eastern bypass filtered commuter traffic away from the village centre. But the infrastructure has not developed to match demand: Swinford Toll bridge is now a notorious bottleneck and early morning traffic in the village often tails back to the Market Square. More details appear in the Transport/Traffic section 56. Parking issues, which generate equally strong feeling, are discussed in section 53.2 below.



Illustration 12: Traffic tailback along Oxford Road, September 2006

There are several positive stories too, owing much to specific grants and Parish Council support, but also to the enthusiasm and hard work of volunteers.

53.1.2 Eynsham Wood to the north of the A40 was a Millennium project, championed by the Eynsham Society and supported by the Woodland Trust. These 13 acres – part of the ancient Wychwood Forest – were planted with native broad-leaved species, adding paths and glades, signs and seats to increase public enjoyment. The saplings are already forming young trees and the site is beginning to shape up to the vision.



Illustration 13: Eynsham Wood - a Woodland Trust Initiative

53.1.3 The Abbey Fishponds site to the south is considerably more accessible and already well-used. The Parish Council is restoring the area with a variety of partners, to protect its past and enhance its biodiversity. The most recent grant, from Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, will create a large area of open, shallow water and much improved habitat for various invertebrates, amphibians and bird life – and a major recreation resource for villagers and visitors alike.

53.1.4 Footpaths and Bridleways: Thanks to Oxfordshire County Council's definitive map and statement of public rights of way, published in February 2006, Eynsham is well placed to collaborate in the Improvement Plan. The Parish Council has converted the Statement into a parish map, now available online, and is making an inventory of problems such as broken stiles and gates, missing sign-posts and impassable vegetation.

When the audit is complete it will be passed on to OCC with a request for the repairs to be implemented.



Illustration 14: Sue Chapman and the Eynsham Morris open the circular walk, 1994



Illustration 15: Rights of Way 'Now' – mud and cattle on the way to Eynsham Lock, 2006

53.1.5 The Allotment Fields on the eastern fringe are another popular resource, with rarely a single plot available for rent¹⁸. Recent work on the boundaries, funded by the Parish Council, has given due weight to environmental considerations. The phased layering of the hedge between the two fields and along the perimeter is a work of art, of which plot holders are justly proud.



Illustration 16: Allotments – collective clear-up after layering of boundary hedges, February 2007

53.1.6 Within the Village, open spaces have consistently been planted with trees and shrubs, though some of the mature trees are becoming dangerous (possibly accelerated by heat and drought in 2006) and have been felled in the last 12 months. A professional survey of St Leonard's churchyard in May 2006 found 45 trees, of which 4 were a potential risk, and advised remedial work on one third of the remainder. Smaller open areas, such as the grounds surrounding older houses, are unfortunately disappearing as “infill” and front gardens regularly lose out to hard standing as plots diminish in size. On the other hand, verges and footpaths are often managed imaginatively, with rose beds, self-sown seedlings and spring bulbs cropping up in unexpected places; the verge beside Old Witney Road play area is the latest possibility. There are also occasional opportunities for sensitive restoration, as with the area behind St Leonard's Church Hall.

18 There were 12 people on the waiting list at the time of writing

- 53.1.7 The Primary School Grounds Project, fostered by the European Eco-Schools Programme and the County Council OSCAs scheme, demonstrates the value of starting young. Students have already set up compost bins, created a tree nursery and made a willow dome, put up bird and bat boxes, planted flower beds and a vegetable patch (including potato towers from old tyres). They are also sharing “green” ideas with other schools and have ambitious plans for further work¹⁹.



Illustration 17: Primary School Grounds Project - willow arbor

53.2 Environment: The Opinions

- 53.2.1 Question 19 found that traffic reduction was top priority for improving Eynsham's environment (435 votes: 59%). Free-form responses expanded on this, with strong views on the number of vehicles parked in the village as well as the volume of traffic.
- 53.2.2 Back Lane car park is an under-used resource. It is not clearly sign-posted from approaching roads and traffic flow is restricted by residents' cars. However, increased use might conflict with existing arrivals at the rear entrance of Bartholomew school.
- 53.2.3 Terraced properties in the village centre – Mill Street, Acre End and the Square – generally have no off-street parking, so residents vie with commuters and with people coming into the village to work for the limited on-street parking.
- 53.2.4 On-street parking in Acre End and High Street has created “pinch points” where heavy lorries and buses often make the narrow south side pavement hazardous for pedestrians.
- 53.2.5 Bike parking racks were suggested outside the Spar.
- 53.2.6 Question 17 looked at environmental services. 98% of respondents thought the refuse collection service good or reasonable but the figure dropped to 68% for roadside care/ street cleaning.
- 53.2.7 Question 18 found that at least 50% of respondents wanted to see more litter picking and more litter bins – in spite of the Parish Council's supplementary funding for these services.
- 53.2.8 Specific complaints included:



Illustration 18: Refuse and recycling on Acre End Street, December 2006

¹⁹ Further contributions appear at section 58.3.6

- i. Litter outside shops
- ii. Bottles, paper and uneaten food scattered over foot paths and playing fields
- iii. Dog fouling
- iv. Spillage from passing vehicles along the A40

53.2.9 Some comments were directed at young people coming into the village at lunch time. Suggested sites for more litter bins and dog waste bins included the path from Spareacre Lane to the A40.

53.2.10 Positive attitudes to recycling were reinforced by views that the current programme should extend to a wider range of items (e.g. community composting: 37%). However, the facilities in Back Lane car park can barely cope with existing volumes, especially in holiday periods. When the bins become full, recycled material left beside them can be scattered around the car park by wind or by vandals.

53.2.11 Question 12 looked at playing fields and play areas. While respondents were generally satisfied with these, free-form comments suggested the facilities in Oxford Road north side play area could do with extending and updating. This supports the Parish Council's plans to upgrade the Witney Road play area and install youth shelters in both fields.

53.2.12 Maintenance of hedges, ditches, footpaths, walls and open spaces were all viewed as environmentally important (Question 19). One of the highest votes went to footpaths and bridleways (645 respondents: 86%). Not so many people thought current maintenance levels were good or reasonable (Question 17 – footpaths 47.9%, bridleways 34.8%).

53.2.13 654 respondents to Question 19 (87%) felt that more resources should be focused on cleaning up local rivers and streams. The Wharf Stream is included in the Vision section 53.3 below, with more detail in the Leisure section (55.3).

53.2.14 Free-form responses raised other concerns and fears; the commonest are outlined here. Additional gravel extraction on the village outskirts might bring additional heavy goods traffic; dust and noise; another potentially unused lake; and possible future land-fill use.

53.2.15 Any significant housing development could bring more parking problems; additional traffic queues; loss of or erosion of open land and conservation areas; and further strain on existing environmental services.

53.2.16 Pavements were frequently described as unsafe, “hideous” or “appalling” and unsuitable for wheel chairs and buggies. Reduced funding for maintenance of roads and footways in Eynsham has already worked through into unsightly holes in the streets and widespread breaking away of curbstones.



Illustration 19: Footways were described as 'appalling' and 'very bad for wheelchair users'

53.3 Environment: The Vision

53.3.1 Reduction in land-fill rates is a key environmental challenge and West Oxfordshire has made good progress in this direction.

“A record-breaking amount of household waste ... was recycled in October. Latest recycling figures show that 27.34 per cent of household waste was recycled and composted, the highest amount ever recorded in the District.”²⁰

53.3.2 Proposals for reducing the frequency of bin collection are more contentious, as food waste left on or near the street for two weeks could represent a health hazard. “Future technologies” under consideration at county/regional level offer another way ahead, with a major composting plant proposed at Worton Farm (Oxford Times 9 February 2007). The system is already in use in Edmonton, north London, within 50 meters of housing.

53.3.3 Development of the area around Eynsham Lock emerged as a common theme in comments and discussion. The various strands include:

- i. a sustainable landscape scheme involving coppiced woodland, managed water levels and a better environment for fish spawning – OCC/Environment Agency (under discussion)
- ii. boating/fishing tuition at the Lock
- iii. clearing the Wharf Stream to enable small craft to reach the Thames from the historic trading point beside the Talbot Inn. “Currently it is clogged with fallen willows, eroded embankments, weeds and brambles.”
- iv. putting up a Rights of Way map at Eynsham Lock.

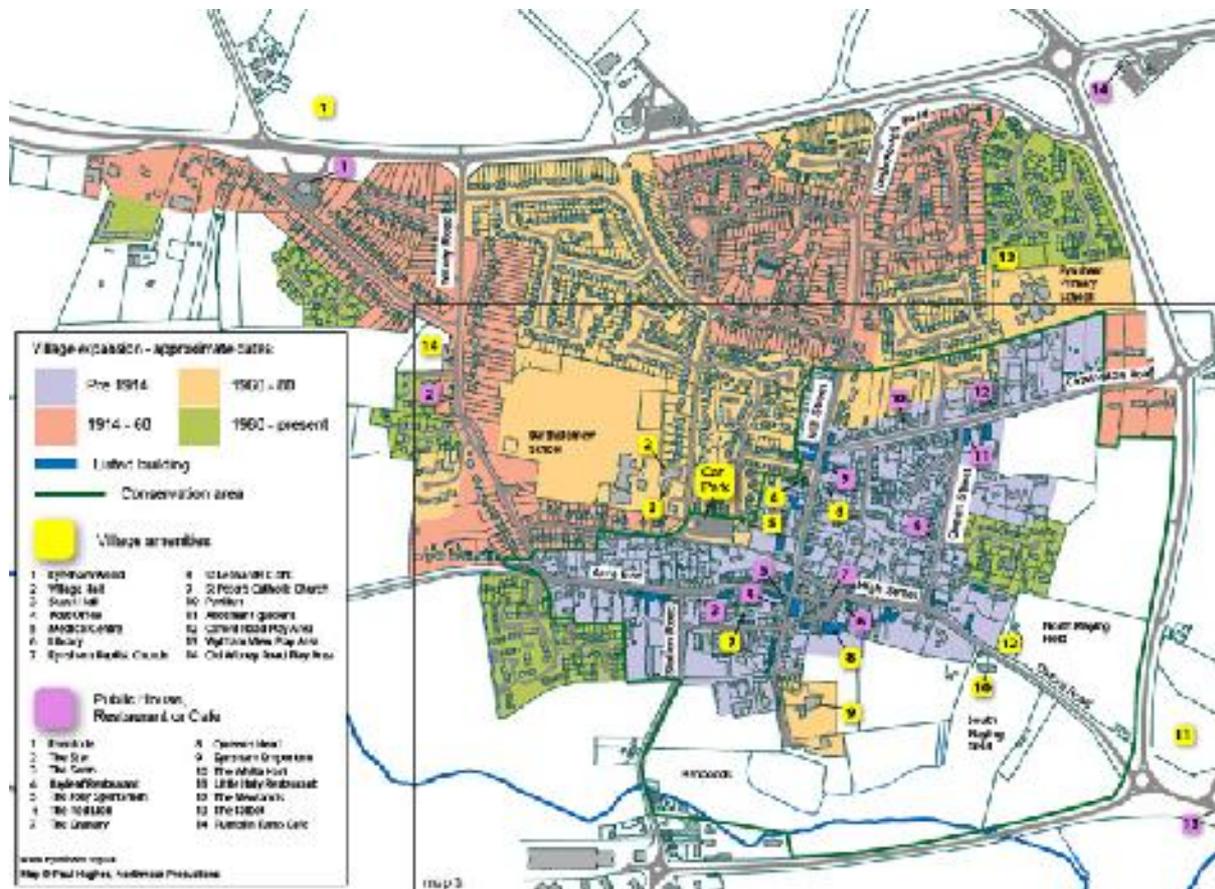


Illustration 20: The Wharf Stream

54 HOUSING

54.1 The Facts

Housing growth in Eynsham is not new, as shown on the map below:



54.1.1 From its historic core beside the Abbey, the village expanded north-east into New Lands in the 13th century; and then almost doubled in the first half of the 20th century with ribbon development further north, along the Witney and Hanborough Roads. The period from 1960-1980 was a time of systematic consolidation – linking the newer and older areas – with little consideration for local materials and style, or for parking need.

54.1.2 The issues are ably covered in the Village Design Statement (2004), especially on pages 15-18. More recent development has largely consisted of infill or “rounding off” and has arguably been more successful, e.g. Merton Close, Orchard Close.

54.1.3 Figures for recent completions show a rapid tailing off in new build:

i.	1 April 1981 - 31 March 1986	237
ii.	1 April 1986 - 31 March 1996 (10 years)	116
iii.	1 April 1996 - 31 March 2001	47
iv.	1 April 2001 - 31 March 2005	20



Illustration 21: Infill on Newland Street beside the White Hart, June 2007



Illustration 22: Work begins on ten dwellings behind Acre End Street, June 2007

- 54.1.4 At the same time, West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC)'s Housing Need Survey 2004 has seen a dramatic rise in price of housing, far in excess of wage inflation and especially in the more affordable properties. In the two year period since the previous survey:

“The average price of a terraced house has increased by 29.7% (and) flats / maisonettes have increased ... by 39.1%”

- 54.1.5 The number of properties for sale at this end of the market is low in any case, at 16.7% and 3.6% respectively of the total market in Eynsham, against 27% and 7.2% respectively across the district as a whole.

- 54.1.6 The picture for rented accommodation is hardly brighter, with prices above the district average for properties of every size. The income level required to buy a 1-bedroom flat is £37,200 and to rent it £24,000, yet 54.4% of the population earn under £23,920. Furthermore, the 20-29 age group (the most likely to be forming new households) is expected to increase by 7.9% between 2006 and 2011; and 95% of first time buyers cannot afford current access prices to either the private rental or home ownership market. In short, more affordable housing has become essential.

WODC defines affordable housing as:

“... housing provided with either public or private subsidy for people who are unable to resolve their housing requirements in the local housing market because of the relationship between housing cost and local incomes”

- 54.1.7 For Eynsham, the first significant response to the need for affordable housing came in summer 2005, with a planning application by Cottsway Housing for 40 homes between Chilbridge Road and Merton Close, on land owned by Oxfordshire County Council, for individuals or families who could show a direct connection with the village under Rural Development Exemption Site legislation. Any future residents would also need to have a local connection and properties would be either part owned or rented.

- 54.1.8 Eynsham Parish Council rejected the application on 15 November 2005:

“Despite acknowledging the need for affordable houses ... (the Council) had to weigh

this against the danger of further development from opening up this side of the village, the infrastructure and additional traffic using Chilbridge, Acre End Street and Witney Road, together with the environment and threat of flooding in Station Road.”

54.1.9 The application was discussed by the Lowlands Planning Committee of WODC on 19 December 2005. About 40 people from Eynsham attended the meeting. Permission was granted subject to the applicant's first entering into a Legal Agreement requiring that the development is limited to affordable housing.

54.1.10 Further consultation between Cottsway Housing and the residents of Chilbridge Road was planned.

54.1.11 In December 2006 WODC announced:

“There is a possibility that there will be 28 properties for rent at Chilbridge Road Eynsham available in Summer 2007: 4x one bed roomed flats; 6x two bed roomed flats; 9x two bed roomed houses; 7x three bed roomed houses; and 2x four bed roomed houses... (also) 12 properties for sale on a new build Home Buy (shared ownership) basis at Chilbridge Road Eynsham available in summer 2007 ... 6 x 2 bed roomed houses and 6 x 3 bed roomed houses.”

In each case:

“To be eligible, applicants need to have a local connection with Eynsham or neighbouring parishes”

Subsequent delays seem to be due differing legal opinions on the road access.

54.1.12 In July 2005 the independent Inspector’s Report on the Local Plan recommended the addition of a new housing site on the eastern edge of Eynsham, off Bitterell.

54.1.13 Objections at the time were strenuous and a meeting called by the Eynsham Society on 29 November 2005 attracted 138 electors.

54.1.14 The West Oxfordshire Local Plan – 2011: Housing (adopted June 2006) steers the majority of new house building to Witney and the four largest towns and key service centres: Carterton; Chipping Norton; Eynsham and Woodstock. Allocations for the period 2001-2011 are:

i.	Witney	1563 - 1613
ii.	Carterton	2116 - 2186
iii.	Chipping Norton	65 - 105
iv.	Eynsham	100
v.	Woodstock	60

54.1.1 Development of Eynsham East is scheduled for Phase Two (planning permission will not be granted before 1 April 2008). Detailed provisions follow:

“Land to the west of the B4449 Eynsham eastern by-pass as shown on the Eynsham inset Map is allocated for housing. Within this area the following provision will be made:

- i. Housing (2.8ha) which shall include up to 50% affordable housing, taking into account the level of local housing need;*
- ii. Structural landscaping and amenity open space (0.9ha).*
- iii. The site should accommodate around 100 dwellings together with open space and structural landscaping on the boundary with the by pass. The site lies within the Eynsham Conservation Area and any application should be of sufficient detail to enable the Local Planning Authority to assess the impact of the proposed development. Development will not be permitted before a planning brief has been approved by the Local Planning Authority. The brief shall include measures for improving pedestrian and cycle links between the site and the centre of the village. Investigations will be required to demonstrate sufficient sewerage capacity before development is permitted. An archaeological field evaluation will be required prior to development.”*

54.1.15 The two land owners held a meeting with West Oxfordshire District Council Planning Department towards the end of 2006 and later undertook some archaeological work on the site. In spring 2007 they offered the land for sale as a single parcel to developers, without binding themselves “to accept the highest or any offer”. Written bids were to be submitted by 3 July.

54.2 Housing: The Opinions

54.2.1 Eynsham Parish Council (EPC) conducted its own survey in May 2004 in preparation for the Local Plan Enquiry. The sample was small but representative (every tenth name on the electoral register) and the response rate high (85%). The slightly milder positions expressed in our recent survey (Question 9) may be due to its wider scope:

54.2.2 Affordable housing:

	EPC	Survey Q9
Respondents	295	710
in favour/strongly in favour	67%	59%
balance of support/opposition	48%	36%

54.2.3 Open market housing:

	EPC	Survey Q9
Respondents	295	621
in favour/strongly in favour	25%	20.0%
balance of support/opposition	-23%	-19.6%

54.2.4 The EPC survey also asked:

“Should the Local Plan Inquiry conclude that one of these sites should be recommended for development, which do you think should be chosen?”

The responses were:

i.	Eastern bypass	147	(55%)
ii.	Station Road	71	(27%)
iii.	Western fringe	49	(18%)
iv.	No answer	28	

54.3 Housing: The Vision



Illustration 23: sympathetic blend of old and new building materials along Oxford Road

54.3.1 Perhaps the Parish Council's response to the Draft Local Plan still best expresses our hopes:

“With the appropriate type and scale of development through to 2011, Eynsham can continue as a real community, one which accepts the need to change but which maintains its essential village identity. Starved of new housing, the village will age and its younger generations will be denied the chance to stay and contribute to the village in which they were born. Encircled by new development, that essential identity would be fatally weakened and its physical setting irreparably damaged. It is the sincere hope of the Parish Council that developers and planners alike recognise the need to strike the appropriate balance.”

55 LEISURE & RECREATION

55.1 The Facts

55.1.1 Eynsham has over 90 clubs, associations and support groups, catering for almost every age and taste: sports, arts and cultural groups meeting on a regular basis. These operate as independent organisations, meeting in venues such as the village hall, church halls and primary school, or as evening class activities in Bartholomew School.

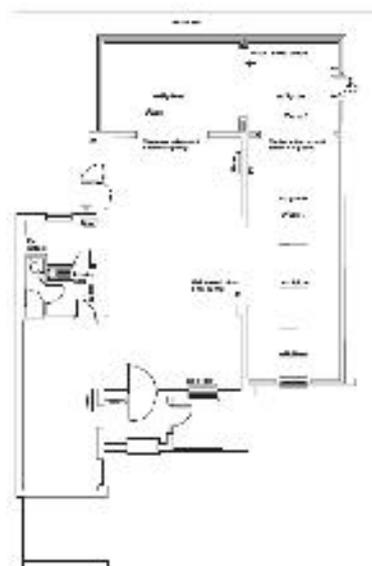


Illustration 24: Tapestry of village organisations, completed Autumn 2006



Illustration 25: Eynsham Library and proposed extension drafted 2003-4

Other options include 3 churches, a library, 10 pubs and a wide range of walks: see the Environment Section.



55.1.2 Use of the Square as a social centre has been much enhanced by separation of pedestrian and traffic zones and by sympathetic re-paving.



Illustration 26: Eynsham Market Square, renovated 2002



Illustration 27: People of all ages enjoying the Carnival in Market Square, July 2007

55.1.3 The village calendar includes May Day and other events centred on the Square, Eynsham Carnival, Flower Festival and Open Gardens (July) and Eynsham Show (September) – involving many village organisations and attracting visitors from outside too.

55.1.4 Art, culture and heritage are served by a strong showing in Arts week; lively choral and history societies; and over 90 listed buildings.

55.1.5 Venues available for groups to use are also diverse and have been greatly enhanced by the addition of the village hall (2001/2). The village Playing Fields, with recently refurbished Sports Pavilion, as well as the cricket and croquet grounds, also provide good quality venues for sports clubs and community activities.



Illustration 28: Eynsham Village Hall, opened June 2002

55.1.6 On a sadder note, the Hugh Cooper Memorial Library, opened in 1988 as “a pioneering collaboration between a village society and its local authority” (the County Council), now languishes in a cabinet in a private house with proportionately restricted access. Much of the material is available nowhere else, e.g. Eynsham History Group's own researches, local railway memorabilia, photographic records and other donations from the late Bishop Gordon's library.

55.2 Leisure & Recreation: The Opinions

55.2.1 Question 11 asked “What new leisure facilities would you attend in Eynsham?” There were 495 responses to this question, as shown:

i. Tennis	169	(34%)
ii. Rambling Club	139	(28%)
iii. Community Drop in Centre	121	(24%)
iv. Creative Arts for Children	93	(19%)
v. Community Lunches	89	(18%)
vi. Cyber Café ²¹	59	(12%)
vii. Volleyball	37	(7.5%)
viii. Basketball	34	(7%)
ix. Whist Drive	4	(3%)
x. Senior Citizens Group	1	(0.2%)
xi. Other	182	(36%)

55.2.2 These results are supported by the responses to the open questions. Other suggestions for Eynsham leisure facilities included:

²¹ Voting for the cyber café is particularly striking, given that only 65 people under 25 years old returned a form

- i. restoration and improvement of the outdoor pool (59)
- ii. flood- lit all-weather tennis courts
- iii. flood-lit Astroturf pitch
- iv. clearing the Wharf Stream to allow small craft access to the Thames
- v. extending basketball hoop concrete area to create a full pitch

55.2.3 The main reason given for having these facilities locally was to reduce travel to facilities at towns such as Witney and Carterton. Attention was drawn to other settlements in the area that have access such facilities e.g. Yarnton; Kidlington; Carterton.

55.2.4 There were 736 responses to Question 12 on the children's playground(s). 438 people (58%) thought existing provision was good or reasonable; 30% had no opinion; only 9.4% thought it poor. The Parish Council has committed over £22,000 towards redevelopment of Witney Road Play Area in the financial year 2007/08. The plan includes a full-size basketball pitch.

55.3 Leisure & Recreation: The Vision

55.3.1 Three major projects, commanding broad support, are already under way and are outlined below. The other facilities suggested in the open question responses might also be developed by smaller groups of people. Further consultation may be required for these.

55.3.2 A large sports hall is being constructed at Bartholomew School. Thanks to a joint-use agreement and part funding from the Parish Council, there will be community access to a fitness suite in this building. This will provide an important new recreation and leisure facility in the community.



Illustration 29: Framework of school & community sports hall, February 2007

55.3.3 The Wharf Stream and surrounding area were mentioned in the Environment section 53.3.3:

“As well as being of heritage significance, (it) also visually enhances the walk from The Talbot inn to Swinford Lock²². Currently it is clogged with fallen willows, eroded embankments, weeds and brambles. Elementary dredging would return the tributary to an open stream. Such work would need to be carefully planned to preserve the stream as a natural habitat for wildlife.”

55.3.4 *“If such work were carried out, the Wharf Stream could also act as an access route for Eynsham boats and canoes to the Thames. The confluence is approximately 150 meters downstream of Swinford Lock. The road to the Lock is private and the path down to the side of the river is steep, with no vehicle access or convenient unloading point. The west bank is privately owned.”²³*

22 (sic). More commonly known as Eynsham Lock, though it is in the parish of Swinford.

23 Eynsham Wharf Stream: letter to Environment Agency by David Miller et al.

55.3.5 St Leonard's Church Hall now requires material updating and is not currently suitable for the variety of uses to which it can be put. In particular, the kitchen is not appropriate for modern catering use.

55.3.6 The congregation is keen for it to be a pleasant, useful, and well looked after resource for the village and the church, reflecting the congregation's faith. Initially, it is focusing on a "quick fix", spending a limited amount of money on making the hall presentable for a maximum of three years.

55.3.7 This work, already under way, involves checking electrics; limited re-painting; cleaning; acquiring new equipment; and making the kitchen safe and suitable for limited "coffee and cakes" type events. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has approved spending of Hall funds to pay for some of this work.

55.3.8 The church's longer term vision for the hall is complete refurbishment or re-build, depending on planning constraints. Consultation has been carried out on what people would like to see in a new look; and there has been a very positive response for as versatile a building as possible. The processes leading to this are expected to take about 3 years and will involve a major fund-raising effort.

The hall also has a large and potentially very useful garden.

St Leonard's Church Hall is working towards a big vision whilst undertaking a "quick fix". Their energy and enthusiasm could be a model for other community initiatives.



Illustration 30: St Leonard's Church Hall at "quick fix" stage, March 2007

56 ROADS, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

56.1 The Facts

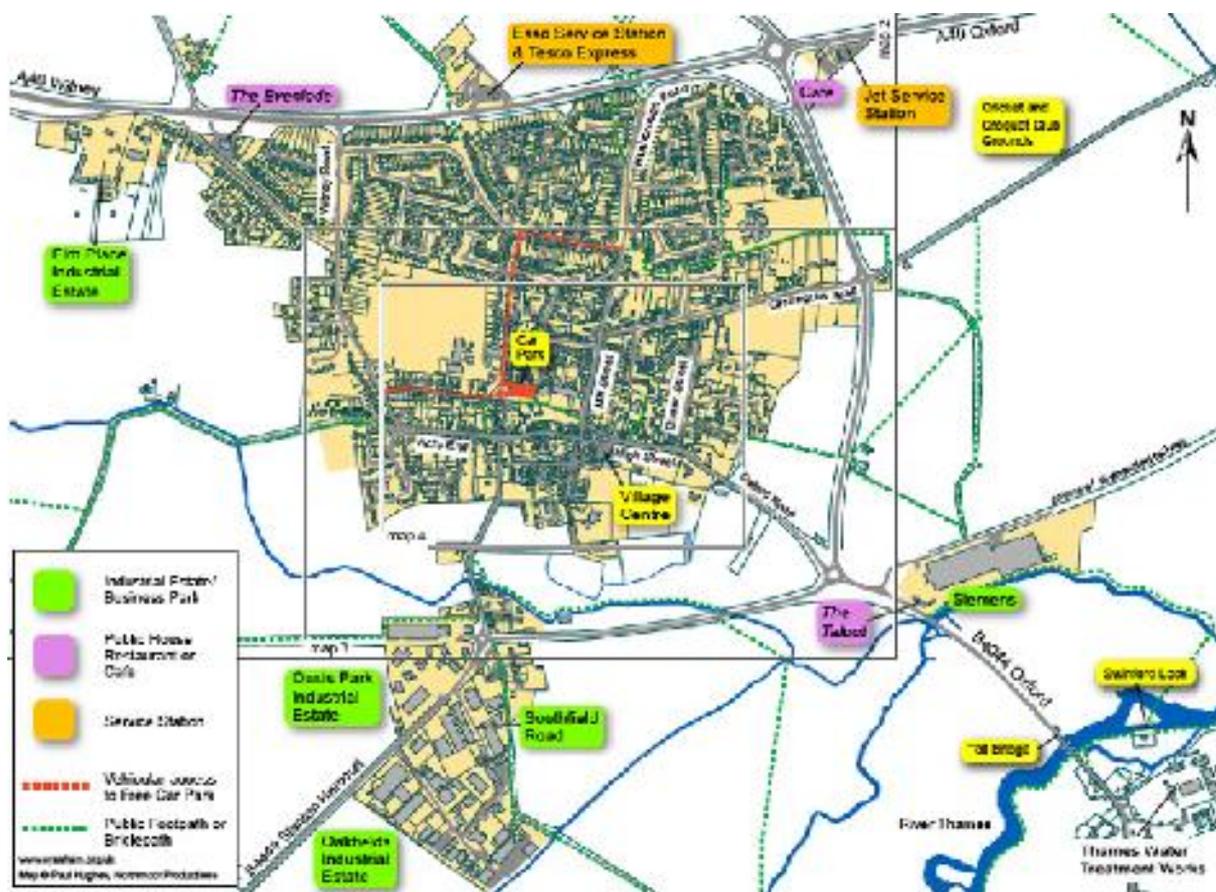


Illustration 31: Map of Eynsham – access, industrial estates and car park

- 56.1.1 The A40 bisecting the parish of Eynsham is a major part of the county road network, but significant congestion problems arise from the volume of traffic wishing to use the road.
- 56.1.2 The West Oxfordshire section of the Local Transport Plan states:

“Congestion on the A40 between Witney and Oxford is amongst the most severe transport problems in Oxfordshire. Flows on the A40 single carriageway between Witney and Oxford are approximately 23,000 – 29,000 vehicles per day. The high level of congestion on this route means that many vehicles, including the frequent buses between Witney and Oxford, taking an alternative, less direct route to avoid the congestion and frequently journey time delays.”

- 56.1.3 It continues:

“The main cause of congestion is insufficient capacity at the Wolvercote and Cutteslowe roundabouts, but Eynsham roundabout and the signals at Cassington also add to the congestion. Westbound congestion is at its worst during the evening peak and is caused primarily by insufficient junction capacity at the Eynsham roundabout and insufficient link capacity between Eynsham and Witney.”

- 56.1.4 OCC's proposed solution is to redesign the existing signals at Cassington to reduce delays to A40 traffic and increase bus priority; increase bus priority measures to increase the attractiveness and reliability of bus services between Witney, Eynsham and Oxford; and redesign the key ring road roundabouts north of Oxford (Cutteslowe & Wolvercote).
- 56.1.5 While highways are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council, the District and Parish Councils are involved in traffic congestion and and public transport issues via the Traffic Advisory Committee.
- 56.1.6 Eynsham Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) has representatives from the Parish, District and County Councils, the bus operators and Thames Valley Police. This committee feeds into member organisations, giving them a more local perspective.
- 56.1.7 Recent related activity has included:
- i. separation of traffic / pedestrian zones in the Square, shortlisted for 2003 Civic Trust award
 - ii. traffic calming in Acre End Street, John Lopes Road, Mill Street and Spareacre Lane
 - iii. A40 improvements including bus controlled lights / no right turn at Witney Road junction
 - iv. pressure for action to reduce delays at the toll bridge including a motion to the district council and a supporting online campaign
 - v. NAG speed awareness campaigns, supported by local police and parish council.



Illustration 32:
Swinford Toll bridge is now a notorious bottle-neck



Illustration 33: speed awareness campaign – members of Eynsham NAG with PC Richard Conner, June 2006

- 56.1.8 In the summer of 2006 Eynsham Parish Council commissioned a Transport Needs Survey from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. Based on a very low response rate (112/1887 households), ORCC concluded:

“... good levels of bus usage in the Parish and the frequency of service creates a culture of bus usage amongst residents. There are smaller numbers of users of the subsidised 11 and 18 services, but usage figures would indicate that they are being relied upon to access employment or key services and by those who live further away from the village centre.”

“There are many comments on services, commonly about the high ticket prices and some on lack of information, and on integration of the range of services available in the area.

“Publicity of services is currently good, although the Parish Council will need to maintain this standard to keep levels of usage high. As only one of the respondents have indicated that they use the Octabus Dial-a-Ride, the parish council could increase publicity of this service for those who are unable use public transport.

“For medical appointments, residents are served by Eynsham’s voluntary car scheme and the Parish Council could also maintain publicity of the scheme and advertise for volunteer drivers.

“The Parish Council might also consider a simple audit of the bus stops to see if the timetable information is accurate, if there at all, and to see if there are adequate timetable cases.”²⁴

“The Parish Council could also pass on comments made in relation to the level of fares to the bus operators in question.”

56.2 Roads, traffic & transport: The Opinions

56.2.1 Question 16 of our questionnaire focused on traffic:

“Do you think the centre of Eynsham can be improved by the following?”

Responses follow (total respondents 730; total ticked 1541):

i.	Vehicle length /weight restriction	417	(57.1%)
ii.	One way traffic	232	(31.7%)
iii.	Traffic Warden	193	(26.4%)
iv.	Traffic calming	191	(26.2%)
v.	Western by pass	190	(26.0%)
vi.	Pedestrianisation	135	(18.5%)
vii.	Does not need improving	77	(10.5%)
viii.	Other	106	(14.5%)

56.2.2 We also asked (Q18):

“What do you think should be done to help protect and enhance the local environment of Eynsham?”

The traffic related responses follow (total respondents 726; total ticked 3025):

i.	reduce traffic	435	(59.9%)
ii.	improve public transport	155	(21.3%)

24 Timetables were updated at all bus stops early in 2007, though some of the cases have seen better days.

56.2.3 The open questions yielded further expressions of concern about traffic.

Would like: (total responses 460)

- i. less traffic 19 (4.0%)
- ii. more traffic restrictions 7 (1.5%)

Dislike: (total responses 1243)

- i. the amount of traffic 125 (10%)
- ii. A40 27 (2%)

Could be improved by: (total responses 808)

- i. more traffic restrictions 61 (7.5%)
- ii. scrapping toll bridge 32 (3.9%)

56.2.4 Other specific concerns included:

- i. Speeding: Eynsham's top community safety priority in a survey conducted by the police in November 2005, though recent work seems to have improved the situation.
- ii. Safety at Bartholomew School (Witney Road Exit). This is an ongoing item on the TAC agenda.
- iii. Road and footway surfaces: as discussed in the Environment section 53.2.16.
- iv. Heavy delivery lorries: it appears that current restrictions are not enforced, though there is some confusion on the regulations for through traffic in the village centre.
- v. Aircraft noise: from increased volume of flights to Brize Norton, especially at night.
- vi. Extra traffic: potentially arising from proposed gravel extraction and/or Bitterell development.



Illustration 34: Conflict between traffic and deliveries in Church Street

56.2.5 Public Transport came up frequently in the open responses. When asked for “three things you like about Eynsham (Question 21), 177 people mentioned the public transport service (10.6% of a total 1666 responses).

56.2.6 However, 18 people mentioned the buses among “three things you dislike about Eynsham” (Question 23: 1.5% of a total 1243 responses). They said the service was unreliable, poor and expensive and they did not like the route.

56.2.7 There were a further 55 negative remarks along similar lines.

56.2.8 Parking concerns were raised by 92 people. There are difficulties in most parts of Eynsham because of the narrow streets and lack of drives or garages at some homes. There were also comments about Eynsham being used as a:

“park & ride for Oxford”

56.2.9 ... since vehicles were left near the bus stops all day while people caught a bus into Oxford. As shown above, 26.4% of respondents wanted a traffic warden. Some residents would like more parking made available. Other suggestions for improvement²⁵ included more parking restrictions and a full time traffic warden on duty.

56.3 Roads, Traffic & Transport: The Vision

56.3.1 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)'s Local Transport Plan: 2006 - 2011 has five main strands: tackling congestion; delivering accessibility; safer roads; better air quality; and improving the street environment.

56.3.2 Although all five strands apply to Eynsham, the most pressing problem is congestion. OCC plan to tackle this by the following six actions for the county:

- i. Make public transport faster, more reliable and more user friendly
- ii. Manage, develop and maintain the county's road network to reduce the impact of bottlenecks (including road works) and make better use of existing road capacity to improve the traffic flow
- iii. Make walking and cycling safer and more convenient.
- iv. Enable people to make better informed travel choices
- v. Manage parking to support transport improvements and initiatives
- vi. Ensure that new development is planned in such a way as to minimise congestion problems.

56.3.3 “Park & Ride” on the outskirts of Eynsham might redirect traffic from outside the village to park there when owners work in Oxford. This could produce limited employment and an income for Eynsham. It would also relieve the parking problems during the day in the centre. This is very much at the suggestion stage and may not even be viable.

56.3.4 Other suggestions from the survey included:

- i. *“build a complete ring-road”*
- ii. *“pedestrianise the centre”*²⁶
- iii. *“make the A40 a dual carriageway”*
- iv. *“take over the Red Lion car park and make it available for two hour parking”*

25 Further suggestions have come from students at Eynsham Primary School – see Section 58 Young People

26 Possibly as part of the Market Square improvements – phase two

57 SERVICES and VISITORS

57.1 The Facts

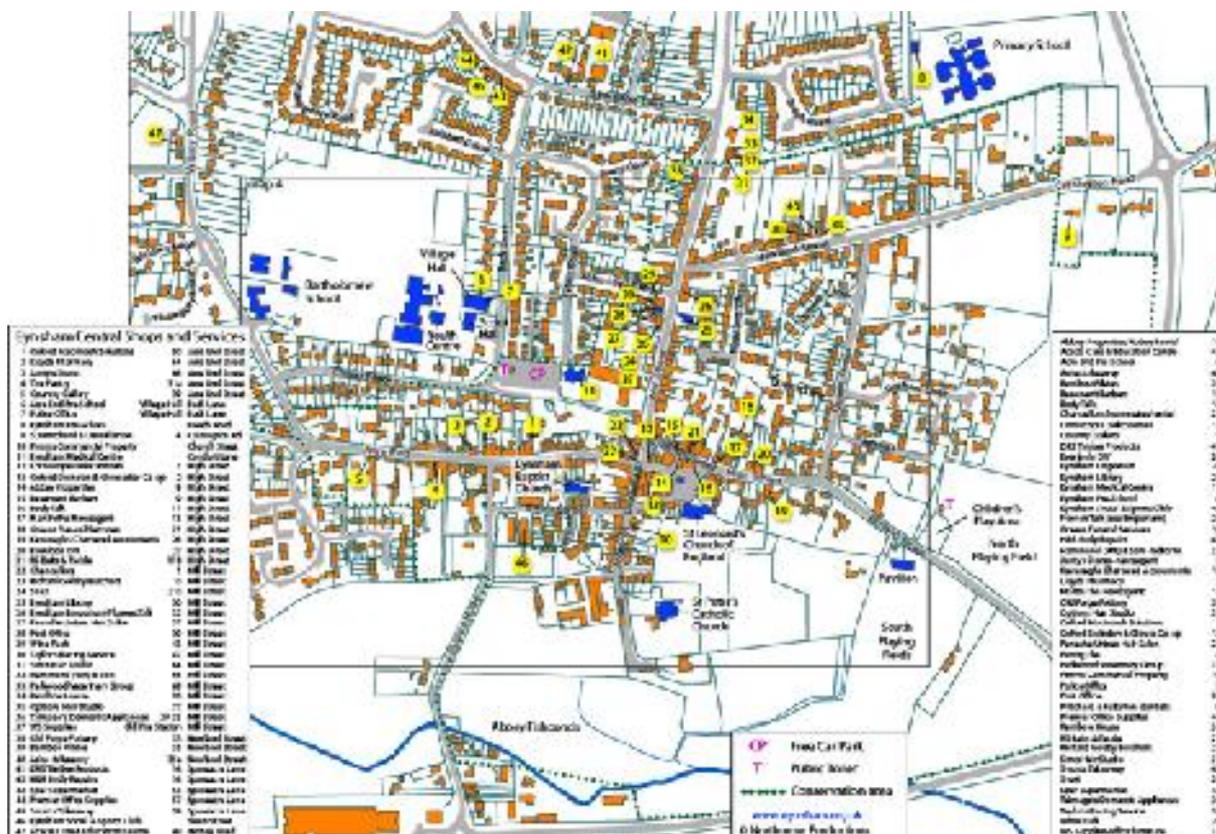


Illustration 35: Eynsham Central Shops and Services

57.1.1 Eynsham has been a significant village since its setting and resources were recognised by early settlers and traders. The river made it rich. Later, as roads improved and the trading route between London, Oxford and South Wales developed, it became an important stop-over point for watering horses and accommodating travellers.

57.1.2 Eynsham's amenities were widely lamented in the first half of last century. The Eynsham Record contains many references to problems with water, firefighting, sewerage and street lights. Shopping and other services were hardly better:

*“Just met Rupert Davies who said that when he was a student (all of fifty years ago) Eynsham was a terrible place. He went to take a service and, waiting for a bus home, found his way to the local pub, which was even drearier than the chapel! He has driven through recently and finds a great improvement”.*²⁷

57.1.3 Better quality, wider choice and cheaper prices could clearly be found outside. As travel became easier and bus services improved, the nearby centres of Oxford and Witney grew and Eynsham saw corresponding decline. Closure of the local Barclays Bank in 1993 may be seen as a turning point.

27 Christine Lillington, member of the Bristol local history group, 1986. Eynsham Record 9, 1992

57.1.4 Today the village is a popular place to live and still supports 9 old hostelrys. It also offers three churches, primary and secondary schools and ample nursery provision. A doctor's surgery, chemist, library, post office and core provision shops have all survived the decline. There are also several business parks, whose custom helps to sustain the local pubs and catering services.

57.1.5 Eynsham's facilities naturally bring in custom from beyond the parish. Visitors also appreciate its quiet attractions, though it is far from a tourist resort. River users find their way from Eynsham Lock to the village square; and the conservation area provides endless photo opportunities. Leaflets such as Eynsham Abbey Heritage Trail and Eynsham Unlocked, which have extended resident and visitor horizons, are in constant demand and widely admired. The District Council supports such initiatives, being: *“committed ... to manage tourism in a way that contributes to the conservation of the environment, recognises that the great attraction of the District lies in its natural and built environment, generates employment and supports the local economy”*

57.1.6 Eynsham's service infrastructure is already impressive for its size and developments over the last 15 years seem to offer further possibilities:

- i. Road congestion and increasing transport charges are forcing people to reconsider their shopping habits.
- ii. Campaigns for locally-grown produce and organic supplies are strengthening the opportunities for local sales.

57.1.7 These trends have been reinforced by successful redevelopment of the Market Square and an emerging “hub” based on Eynsham Emporium. Internet and high-speed communication links are enabling more people to work from home. A suite of 30 refurbished offices in the village centre is entirely broadband-enabled.

57.1.8 Nevertheless, some established businesses are being forced to shrink (e.g. Siemens) or relocate (e.g. Oxford Instruments) and the population is static or even in decline (1991 Census: 4,800 – 2001 Census: 4,665).

57.1.9 Key issues for the continued success of the village – and the district – are summarised in WODC's Economic Development Strategy 2004-7:

- i. *Population growth*
- ii. *Availability of employment sites and business premises*
- iii. *Health of market towns*
- iv. *Rural economy and rural community life*
- v. *Economic development through tourism*
- vi. *Education and employment*
- vii. *Information and communications technology (ICT)*
- viii. *Transport.*

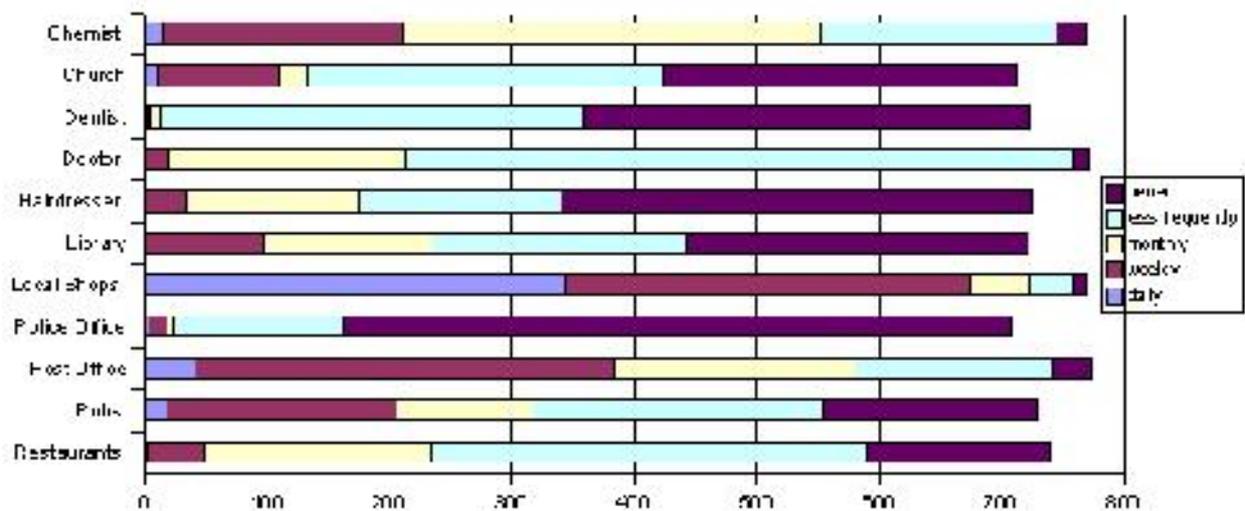


Illustration 36: Eynsham Emporium, former site of Barclays Bank

57.2 Services & Visitors: The Opinions

57.2.1 Question 10 asked “How often do you use the following shops and services”? From the 793 responses, the most commonly visited (daily/weekly) were:

- i. Local shops 674 84%
- ii. Post office 383 48%
- iii. Chemist 211 26%
- iv. Pubs 206 25%



57.2.2 Other services, visited monthly or less frequently, included:

- i. Doctor 738 92%
- ii. Restaurants 543 68%
- iii. Library 344 43%
- iv. Church²⁸ 315 39%

57.2.3 The facilities least (never) visited included:

- i. Police Office 545 68%
- ii. Hairdresser 385 48%
- iii. Dentist 366 46%
- iv. Church 287 36%

57.2.4 Question 9, on service development options, asked “Should the following be encouraged in and around Eynsham?”

57.2.5 407 people answering this question (53%) were in favour or strongly in favour of encouraging small retail development. The free-form responses reinforced this, tending to equate smallness of scale with quality and friendliness; and calling for more of the same – though there were also requests for “a bigger Post Office”.

57.2.6 Surprisingly, given years of intensive fund-raising by the Friends of the Library, there

²⁸ Unfortunately, St Leonard's Church is not regularly open to visitors outside of service times.

were only 5 proposals to extend the Library.

57.2.7 People pointed to the “empty shops” ... “small, useful shops are disappearing” ... “several have gone in the 14 years I have lived here.” Unfortunately, however, there was no useful guidance on type or content for the new enterprise/s.

57.2.8 Several respondents called for attention to the “poor condition of public toilets” (6) – an unwelcome visitor experience – and the “depressing appearance of the Spareacre Lane retail block” (26), which is seen as a focus for “gangs hanging around”.



Illustration 37: Public toilets in Back Lane Car Park. Negotiations between district and parish council are still unresolved

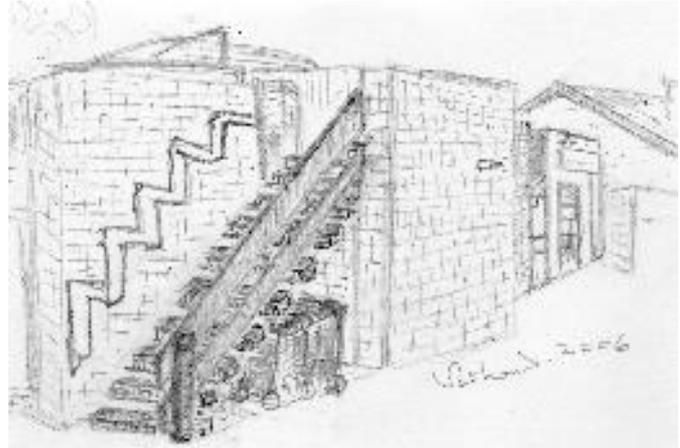


Illustration 38: Part of Spareacre Lane retail block

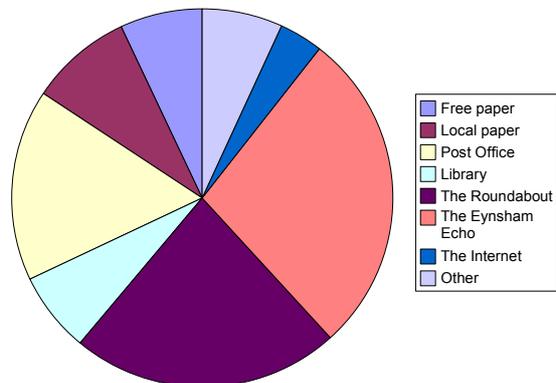
57.2.9 There was no clear mandate for visitor attractions, though the work requested on the street scene would benefit visitors too:

“Not enough has been done to keep Eynsham's heritage alive ... Only the Square has been done well. Can't the rest of the village get some TLC?”

“More benches and seats” ... “more trees in the centre” ... “a fountain and water feature”

57.2.10 Question 13, which received 760 responses, asked: “Where do you usually get information about events taking place in Eynsham?” People used several sources, as demonstrated by multiple-choice voting:

i.	Eynsham Echo	568	74%
ii.	The Roundabout	465	61%
iii.	Post Office	332	43%
iv.	Parish notice-boards	255	33%
v.	Local papers	181	23%
vi.	Library	143	18%
vii.	The Internet	77	10%



Top of the free-form suggestions was Word of mouth (65 votes)

57.2.11 Question 14 on new services , with 549 responses, asked

“Do you think that Eynsham needs any of the following?”

Overall numbers were down but feelings strong:

i.	Local information point	327	59%
ii.	Notice board	215	39%
iii.	Map	210	38%
iv.	Visitor information point	208	37%

57.2.12 Other suggestions included a leaflet covering the various meeting places, because:

“The Village Hall is always booked”

57.2.13 Signposting occurred as an issue several times in free-form responses – *“especially to the car park”* – and anecdotally at events that attract people from further afield, such as Open Gardens and the Carnival. No coherent approach has yet been taken to signposting within the village: several are battered and uninformative while some are downright misleading.



Illustration 39: Mill Street / Oxford Road sign to car park:
“one of Eynsham’s best-kept secrets”



Illustration 40: Sign to car park from Spareacre Lane obscured
by other street furniture



Illustration 41: Station Road / Acre End Street – no sign to
village centre or car park



Illustration 42: Oxford Road – no sign to village centre or
Market Square

57.3 Services & Visitors: The Vision

57.3.1 West Oxfordshire District Council promises to:

“ ... encourage market towns and their surrounding villages to work in partnership to enable market towns to be;

- i. Comprehensive local service centres*
- ii. Access points for a range of education, training and employment opportunities*
- iii. Gateways for tourism capitalising on the Oxfordshire Cotswolds*
- iv. Centres for processing local products*
- v. Focal points for local transport networks*
- vi. Centres for culture”*

57.3.2 Possibly Eynsham could do more itself to engage with villages in the hinterland. Already, however, there are signs of more conscious interaction among local businesses. A flyer distributed at the end of February drew a warm response to the concept of a business network. This could develop a more integrated approach to services, with support from the Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network (OTCN), and act as a catalyst for the WODC vision outlined above.



Illustration 43: a more integrated approach to services

57.3.3 Small-scale improvements to the street scene and to information services, which might be funded from the Parish Council communications budget, include a central street map and notice-board/s. Wider work on signage would fit in with District Council proposals for street furniture:

“Minimise signage, and locate signs on existing lamp posts or buildings, or at the back edge of the pavement; use a single dark colour for all items.”

57.3.4 This might be a good time to implement recommendation 3.106 of the Village Design Statement (2004):

“Put up new signposts to show off-road paths for tourists using the moorings at the locks, or for those using the Thames Footpath, and provide footpath maps at Eynsham Lock and Pinkhill Lock.”

57.3.5 Longer-term, perhaps, it may be possible to replace ugly overhead cabling with wireless networks.



Illustration 44: Typical view of Eynsham's overhead cabling

58 YOUNG PEOPLE

58.1 The Facts

- 58.1.1 Eynsham has a wide range of structured activities for young people, with over 20 clubs and uniformed organisations (e.g. scouts, army cadets). There is, however, no Guide group; and the overwhelming majority of existing activities run in term-time only.
- 58.1.2 Provision of unstructured activities, such as advice and drop in sessions, is far more limited. The Youth Centre is the only provider, with a confidential term-time health service offering advice on issues such as healthy eating, family planning, stress and bullying.
- 58.1.3 Generic youth provision at the Youth Centre is currently available only on Monday and Tuesday, from 7.15 to 9.30pm. This is open to 13-19 year olds within a catchment area similar to the local secondary school. There is no access for 11-13 year olds.
- 58.1.4 A considerable amount of investment has been made in the Youth Centre in recent years for refurbishment, internet access and high quality sound equipment and resources funded by LEADER+. Only a minority of Eynsham's young people access this high quality facility at present.

58.2 Young people: The Opinions

- 58.2.1 Only 65 (8%) of survey respondents were in the age group 11-24. Questions about issues that concern young people have largely been answered by older respondents, which may mean that the survey does not reflect the full range of younger people's views about how Eynsham could develop.

- 58.2.2 Closed question responses about young people's issues concentrated on provision of services within the village. 438 (58%) respondents to Question 12 thought the children's playgrounds were either good or reasonable. However, 485 (65%) respondents to Question 20 thought there should be more activities for young people and 309 (41%) expressed a need for an after-school club.



Illustration 45: Refurbishment in progress at Witney Road play area, July 2007

- 58.2.3 In answer to the open question on what they disliked about Eynsham, a number of people indicated that they feel threatened by groups of young people “hanging around” (see Community Safety section 51.2). A number of responses also indicated some people associate young people with noise, drinking and graffiti. Overall, a significant number of responses indicated people believed young people could pose a problem to the peacefulness of the village. Some saw more provision of activities and greater police presence could improve Eynsham.

58.3 Young people: The Vision

- 58.3.1 There is frequent discussion in Eynsham about the perceived threat of young people to property. Some villagers' views of young people are based on a minority, who are more visible on the streets, and who are seen to be linked to vandalism and graffiti. In some cases the threat is more apparent than real. What evidence there is suggests that only a very small number of visible young people are involved in damage to the village fabric.
- 58.3.2 While the Youth Centre gives access to high quality services for young people, the current restricted provision reflects the level of staffing resources; and this is not predicted to change in the short to medium term. Potential models of restructuring may provide a greater flexibility of service. (Further information is available from the Youth Support Service, CYPF, Oxfordshire County Council.)
- 58.3.3 Bartholomew School has identified the need for a collaborative approach to “behaviour management” and is aiming to work with students, School Council, staff, parents and the wider community. The tools include “a new uniform ... and changes to the exeat system” along with “extra monitoring of the village at lunchtimes by school staff.” It is also calling for feedback:

“Anything you can tell us in these areas will help, and we will continue to strive to make you proud of your school, the school that should be a central part of the community.”²⁹

- 58.3.4 One way forward in working with Eynsham's young people would be to introduce outreach workers who could work directly with young people on Eynsham's streets.
- 58.3.5 Another potential method is the development of community projects where residents from a range of backgrounds and ages can mix together to achieve a purposeful goal, as instanced in the churches' annual community action event, The Noise.



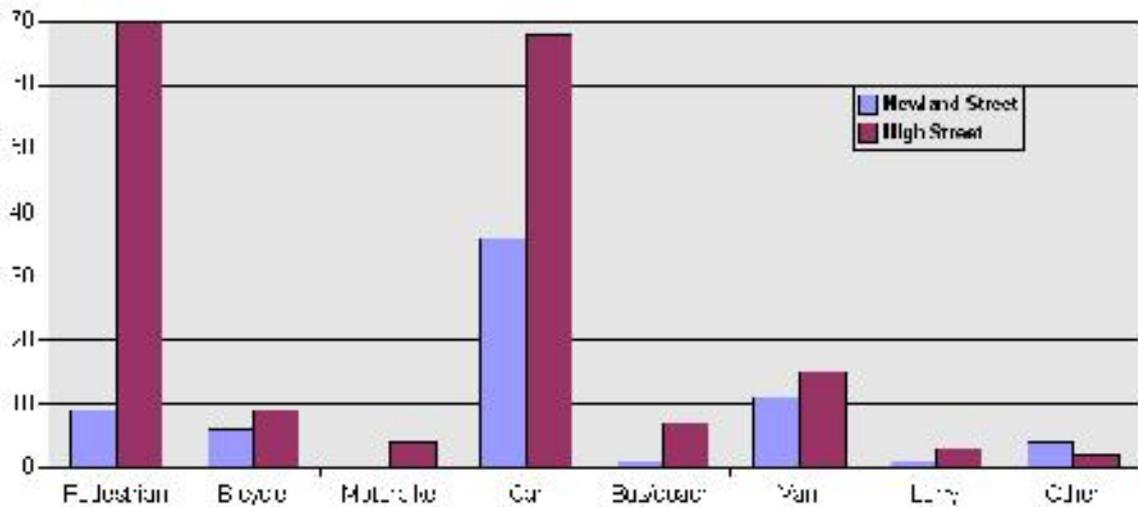
Illustration 46: Community Action – picking litter



Illustration 47: and garden clearing with Eynsham Noise, May 2007

- 58.3.6 Eynsham Primary School has taken a similar approach, frequently engaging young people in real issues, as seen in the Environment section 53.1.7 above.

58.3.7 Years 3 and 4 looked at traffic around the village as part of their local geography studies in summer 2007 – with some interesting results. The work included two half-hour traffic surveys, in Newland Street and the High Street, held around mid-morning on 11 June.



“From our survey we found out that the High Street was far more busier than Newland Street. There were lots more pedestrians on the High Street than on Newland Street. We think it's because the High Street is the main road in the village ...

We saw tens and tens of cars going past on the High Street. Sometimes ... there are dangers of crashes, like a lorry reversing, and blocking two roads then all the cars will have to wait. I think, so the road would be better to drive down, put some traffic lights or widen up the roads and paths so people can walk down the road safely. Or maybe even put a one-way road down it.”

58.3.8 A set of posters followed, underlining the message that walking is good for you (and neatly linked with Walk to School Week). Some of the work will be on view at the Village Open Day on 22 September.

Key messages include:

- i. Leaving the car at home helps you stay fit and healthy.
- ii. You won't get stiff if you ride a bike or walk.
- iii. People who walk or cycle to school are more alert than those who go by car.
- iv. Walking costs nothing and it's not as far as you think.
- v. Don't use the weather as an excuse, because even in the UK it rains hard on only 8 working days a year.
- vi. You can always take an umbrella or just wear a rain coat and get your boots on.

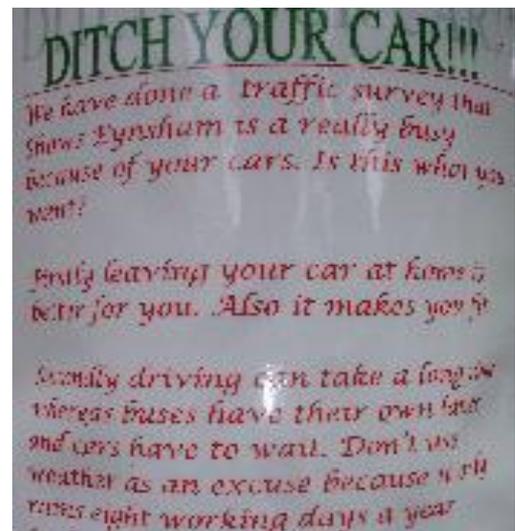


Illustration 48: posters created by Eynsham Primary School, May 2007

- vii. Driving can take longer. Buses have their own lane so don't get stuck in traffic. Bikes don't get stuck in traffic anyway.
- viii. Finally, buses cause less pollution. So go on your bus or bike and save the planet!

58.3.9 The young people also considered traffic at the Toll Bridge – past, present and future – and again produced some refreshing suggestions:

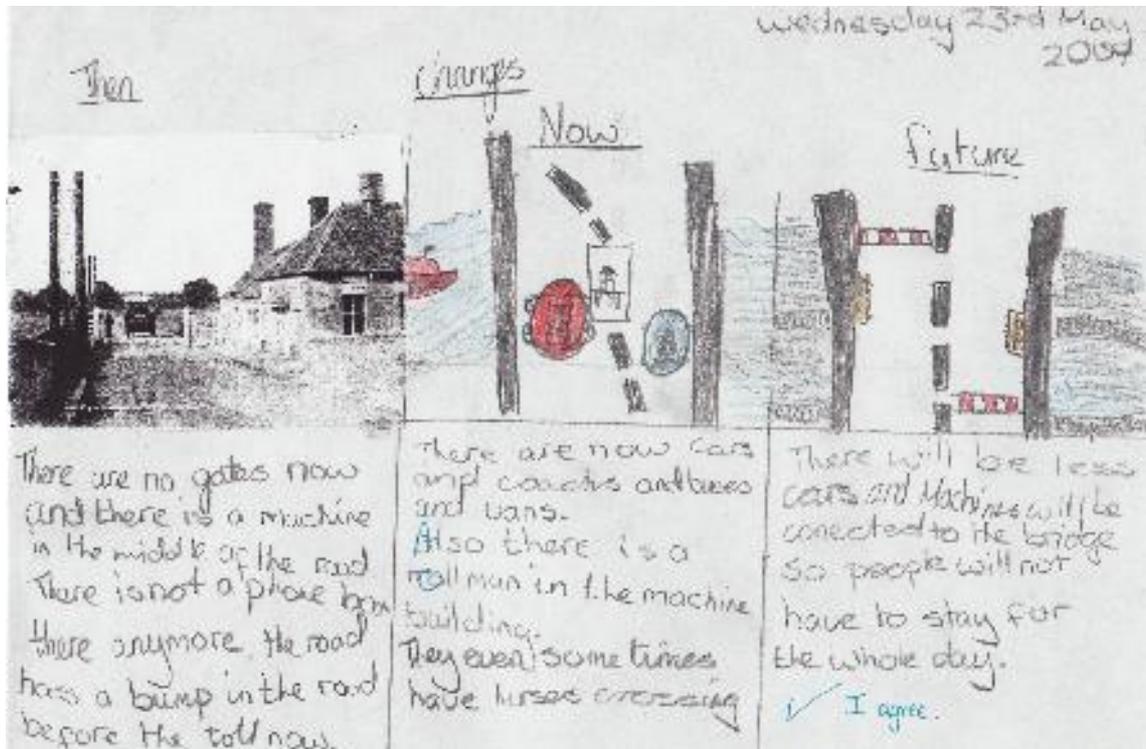


Illustration 49: The Toll Bridge - past, present and future

“There are no gates now and there is a machine in the middle of the road ... the road has a bump in the road before the toll now. There are now cars and coaches and buses and vans. Also there is a tollman in the machine building ... There will be less cars and machines will be connected to the bridge so people will not have to stay for the whole day.

Now the toll bridge is a bit different because it's got a little cubicle with a hatch. When people go on the toll bridge they have to open their window and pay five p. There could be just a normal bridge and you didn't have to pay five p. And there was a special path and parking place where you can look at the lake.”

58.3.10 These are ideas worth taking up by the community here and now. Eynsham should not have to wait for this generation to grow up.

6. Acknowledgements

We have received many generous contributions, by phone or email or in conversation, from:

Individual	Position/Representing
Morey Andrews	St Leonard's Church
Gordon Beach	Chairman of Eynsham Parish Council
Sue Chapman	Images and background information
Simon Davies	OCC Youth Worker to end 2006
Pamela Delahay	Thames Valley Police
Laura Gilbert, Mouchel Parkman	New Sports Hall
Jackie Heath	Clerk to Eynsham Parish Council to 2007
Jennifer Harland	Eynsham Country Market
Nick Hines	Traffic Advisory Committee public transport representative
Paul Hughes	Northmoor Productions (maps)
Verity Hughes	Eynsham Parish Council, especially Fishponds
Nick Mottram	Wychwood Project (landscape scheme at Eynsham Lock)
Nita Robertson	Oxfordshire County Council (census data)
David Rossiter	District Councillor to 2007 and Parish Councillor
Joanna Smith	West Oxfordshire District Council (affordable housing)
Siemens Magnet Technology	Employee data and green travel scheme
Anne Warren	Eynsham Community Primary School

.... among many others who know who they are, including our printers Blenheim Colour, the Eynsham Echo delivery team and the kind “hosts” of our questionnaire forms and drop-off boxes at:

- Evenlode DIY
- Eynsham Emporium
- Eynsham Medical Centre
- Rainbow House
- St Leonard's Church
- The Spar

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7. Contacts³¹



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31 Please see also the acknowledgements in Section 6

8. Glossary

ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CYPF	Children, Young People and Families
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
ECI	Eynsham Community Initiative
EPC	Eynsham Parish Council
MTI	Market Towns Initiative
NAG	Neighbourhood Action Group
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
OMTN	Oxfordshire Market Town Network
ORCC	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
OSCA	Oxfordshire Special Conservation Awards
OTCN	Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PFM	Playing Fields Managers
SEEDA	South East England Development Agency
TAC	Traffic Advisory Committee
TOE	Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment
TVP	Thames Valley Police
WODC	West Oxfordshire District Council
WOSP	West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership

9. Draft Eynsham Action Plan

#	Topic	Section	Action	Objective	Responsibility ³²	
1	Community Safety	<i>see also Young People</i>				
1.1		51.2.1	More visible policing on the streets, especially at night		Thames Valley Police – TVP	
1.2		51.2.2	CCTV in Market Square	Minimise ASB	NAG?	
1.3		51.2.2	Neighbourhood watch		TVP	
1.4		51.2.2	Good neighbour scheme			
1.5		51.2.5	Set up local Pubwatch scheme in collaboration with Oxford and Witney		WODC?	
1.6		51.2.1	Support drink/drug education on school curriculum		Bartholomew School; TVP	
1.7		51.2.1; 58.2.2	After-school club/longer hours for Youth Centre	More activities for young people	Community Safety Partnership	
1.8		51.2.6	Re-paint graffiti wall		NAG?	
2	Employment	<i>see also Services & Visitors</i>				
2.1		52.2.1	Create more employment opportunities	Community viability	WODC	
2.2			Encourage apprenticeships		Employers; school	
3	Environment					
3.1		53.1.5	Provide more allotments		Parish Council	
3.2		53.2.7	Increase litter collection		WODC	
3.3		53.2.10	Extend recycling facilities		WODC	
3.4		53.2.12	Footpaths – renew stiles/gates/signposts		OCC	
3.5		53.2.13; 53.3.3	Clear Wharf Stream	Access to the Thames	OCC; Environment Agency	
3.6		53.3.3	Rights of way map at Eynsham Lock	Leisure/visitors	Environment Agency	
3.7		53.2.13	Clear streams and ditches		Riparian owners	
3.8		53.2.14; 56.2.4	Control gravel extraction		OCC; WODC; Hansen	
3.9		53.2.16	Footways – monitor/repair damaged areas	For pedestrians & wheelchairs	OCC	
4	Housing					
4.1		54.2.2	Promote supply of affordable housing to meet local need	Community viability	WODC	
4.2		54.2.4	Engage with Eynsham East development	Potential planning gain	WODC	
5	Leisure & Recreation	<i>see also Young People</i>				
5.1		55.3.2	Maximise community use of new Sports Hall		WODC; EPC	
5.2		55.2.1; 51.2.6	Resurface & floodlight tennis courts		Bartholomew School?	
5.3		55.2.2; 51.2.6	Restore outdoor swimming pool		Bartholomew School?	
5.4		55.2.2	Extend basketball area to full-size pitch		Parish Council	
5.5		55.2.2	All-weather astro turf pitch		PFM	

32 Please refer to the Glossary at Section 8 for a full list of abbreviations

#	Topic	Section	Action	Objective	Responsibility
5.6		55.3.5	Develop St Leonard's Church Hall & garden	For wider use	St Leonard's Church
5.7		55.2.1	Community drop-in centre		
5.8		55.1.6	Rehouse the history library	Heritage, accessibility	Eynsham History Group
5.9		55.1.1	Library extension		OCC; Friends of Library
6	Roads, Traffic & Transport				
6.1		56.2.1	Vehicle length/weight restrictions in village centre		TAC; OCC
6.2		56.2.1; 58.3.7	Set up a one-way system		TAC; OCC
6.3		56.2.1	More speed restrictions/traffic calming		TAC; OCC
6.4		56.2.1; 56.2.9	Recruit traffic warden to enforce parking regulations		TVP
6.5		56.2.9	Time-restricted parking zones		
6.6		53.2.5; 58.3.8	Install bike racks outside the Spar	Encourage cycle use	Parish Council
6.7		56.1.8	Increase publicity for Dial-a-Ride	Public transport	OCC
6.8		56.2.1	Western by-pass	Traffic reduction	OCC
6.9		56.3.3	Park & Ride	Traffic reduction	OCC
6.10		56.1.7; 56.2.3; 58.3.9	Toll bridge campaign	Traffic management	TAC?
7	Services & Visitors				
7.1		57.2.5	Encourage more small shops		WODC
7.2		57.2.8	Tidy up Spareacre Lane shops		
7.3		57.2.11; 57.3.3	Put a local information point/ village map in The Square		Parish Council
7.4		57.2.11; 57.3.3	Bigger notice-boards	Local information	Parish Council
7.5		57.2.11	Set up visitor information point		
7.6		57.2.13	Review and improve signage	traffic management	EPC; WODC; OCC
7.7		57.3.2	Set up business network	Business support	OTCN; ECI
7.7		57.3.3	Printed map of shops		Business network
7.8		57.3.5	Set up wireless networks		
8	Young People				
8.1		51.1.7; 58.1.3	Promote Youth Centre	Minimise ASB	OCC
8.2		55.2.1; 51.2.6	Cyber café/music centre	Minimise ASB	
8.3		51.2; 58.3.5	Community activities	Minimise ASB	
8.4		53.2.10; 55.2.3	Witney Road Play Area		Parish Council
8.5		55.2.1	Creative arts for children		
8.6		58.3.4	Professional youth outreach worker	Community safety	OCC

APPENDICES

A1 Initial Consultation Form

EYNESHAM ACTION PLAN

A Parish Plan is a consultation with local people to ascertain their views; it will result in an action plan for the next 5-10 years.

A group of residents, including some parish councillors, have formed a Steering Committee to carry out a Parish Plan in Eynsham; it will be called 'The Eynsham Action Plan'. We have a Government grant to assist us and the Parish Council have committed to support us.

This process will allow you to contribute into the parish, district and county councils plans and in a strong voice tell them how you, the residents, see the future of Eynsham.

We are launching 'The Eynsham Action Plan' in the village square on May Day.

This form is an initial consultation so that the committee can discover the issues that need to be addressed. We need your help.

Please complete this form and return to us. There are drop off points at the Eynsham Medical Centre in Back Lane, The Emporium in Mill Street, Evenlode DIY in the High Street and the Spar in Spareacre Lane.

Alternatively, you can bring it to the May Day Celebration. There will be a stall with a drop off point and further information there between 10am & 3pm. We also accept replies by email at eynsham.mti@ntlworld.com

Your views are important - please participate in this consultation.

How many years have you lived in Eynsham? I do not live in Eynsham

Please tick

Occupation

Self-employed Employed At School Retired At College/Uni Unemployed

Age

5-11 12-16 17-25 26-50 50-65 over 65

We would like you to pick four subjects that you would like included in the Parish Plan. You can either choose from our list or create your own and insert them in the 'Other' section of this form.

Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retail outlets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilities for Senior Citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Play facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilities for Youths	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious matters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Law & Order	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilities for Disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other.....
.....
.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

A2 Questionnaire and consultation responses

All percentages are rounded up or down to the nearest whole percent

1. How many people including children normally live in your household? 1090

2. Number of households: 484

3. Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group:

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 - 4	15	20	35
5 -10	23	29	52
11 - 15	24	25	49
16 - 17	12	8	20
18 - 24	43	25	68
25 - 44	128	129	257
45 - 59	79	94	173
60 - 64	45	76	121
65 - 74	99	88	187
75 - 84	45	55	100
85+	9	19	28
Total	377 (45%)	454 (54%)	831 (100%)

4. What age group do you belong to?

0 - 4		-
5 -10		-
11 - 15	18	(2%)
16 - 17	10	(1%)
18 - 24	37	(5%)
25 - 44	187	(22%)
45 - 59	166	(20%)
60 - 64	104	(12%)
65 - 74	176	(21%)
75 - 84	96	(12%)
85+	26	(3%)
Total	820	(100%)

5. How long have you lived in Eynsham?

>1 yr.	26	(3%)
1 - 5 yrs.	96	(12%)
6 - 15 yrs.	163	(20%)
16 - 25 yrs.	141	(17%)
26 - 50 yrs.	270	(33%)
51+ yrs.	31	(4%)
Whole life	80	(10%)
Total	807	(100%)

6. Are you at present...?

An employee	322	(40%)
Unemployed	15	(2%)
Self-employed (employing others)	19	(2%)
Self employed (not employing)	47	(6%)
In a government training scheme		-
In full-time education	31	(4%)
Unwaged housewife/husband	31	(4%)
Retired	312	(39%)
Permanently sick/disabled	18	(2%)
Total	795	(100%)

7. If you work, where do you work?

At home	58	(14%)
Eynsham	88	(21%)
Oxford	108	(26%)
Witney	36	(9%)
Other	122	(29%)
Total	412	(100%)

8. If you intend to become self-employed what barriers/issues do you feel might restrict you?

Lack of start-up finance	48	(59%)
Need for business skills	17	(21%)
Lack of advice/information	17	(21%)
Lack of contacts	13	(16%)
Lack of premises	29	(36%)
Lack of confidence	24	(30%)
Lack of required technical skills	5	(6%)
Other	3	(4%)
Total	81	(100%)

9. Should the following be encouraged in and around Eynsham? Total: 755

	strongly agree		in favour		no strong opinion		have reservations		definitely not	
Visitor attractions	75	(10%)	164	(21%)	22	(29%)	97	(13%)	65	(9%)
Small retail	157	(20%)	250	(33%)	114	(15%)	80	(11%)	46	(6%)
Small business	82	(11%)	217	(28%)	176	(23%)	88	(12%)	54	(7%)
Small scale industrial	78	(10%)	175	(23%)	170	(22%)	99	(13%)	74	(10%)
More jobs	174	(23%)	244	(32%)	155	(20%)	48	(6%)	22	(3%)
More Affordable Housing	267	(35%)	182	(24%)	85	(11%)	86	(11%)	90	(12%)
More Open Market	69	(9%)	85	(11%)	160	(21%)	148	(19%)	159	(21%)

10. How often do you use the following shops and services? Total: 793

	daily		weekly		monthly		Less frequent		never	
Chemist	16	(2%)	195	(24%)	341	(43%)	193	(24%)	25	(3%)
Church	10	(1%)	100	(12%)	23	(3%)	292	(36%)	287	(36%)
Dentist	2	(1%)	3	(1%)	8	(1%)	345	(43%)	366	(46%)
Doctor	0	(0%)	20	(3%)	192	(24%)	546	(68%)	13	(2%)
Hairdresser	0	(0%)	33	(4%)	142	(17%)	165	(20%)	385	(48%)
Library	1	(1%)	97	(12%)	138	(17%)	206	(26%)	279	(35%)
Local Shops	344	(43%)	330	(41%)	50	(6%)	34	(4%)	12	(2%)
Police Office	4	(1%)	14	(28%)	5	(1%)	140	(17%)	545	(68%)
Post Office	41	(5%)	342	(43%)	197	(24%)	161	(20%)	31	(4%)
Pubs	19	(2%)	187	(23%)	111	(14%)	238	(30%)	173	(21%)
Restaurants	2	(1%)	46	(6%)	185	(23%)	358	(45%)	149	(18%)

11 Which new leisure facilities would you attend in Eynsham?

Tennis	169	(34%)
Volleyball	37	(8%)
Basketball	34	(7%)
Cyber Café	59	(12%)
Community Lunches	89	(18%)
Community Drop In Centre	121	(24%)
Creative Arts for Children	93	(19%)
Senior Citizens' Group	1	(1%)
Rambling Club	139	(28%)
Whist Drive	14	(3%)
Other	182	(36%)
Total	495	(100%)

12 Are the facilities provided in the children's playground?

Good	24	(16%)
Reasonable	314	(42%)
Poor	69	(9%)
No opinion	229	(31%)
Total	736	(100%)

13 Where do you usually get information about events taking place in Eynsham?

Parish Notice Boards	255	(33%)
Free paper	141	(18%)
Local paper	181	(23%)
Post Office	332	(43%)
Library	143	(18%)
The Roundabout	465	(61%)
The Eynsham Echo	568	(74%)
The Internet	77	(10%)
Other	137	(18%)
Total	760	(100%)

14 In relation to information services, do you think that Eynsham needs any of the following?

Notice board	215	(39%)
Visitor Information Point	208	(37%)
Local information point	327	(59%)
Map	210	(38%)
Signposts	156	(28%)
Brown Tourist Signs	58	(11%)
Total	549	(100%)

15 In relation to paths and street lights, would you like to see any of the following in Eynsham?

Cycle paths	286	(40%)
More footpaths	207	(29%)
More street lights	129	(18%)
More pavements	93	(13%)
Pelican crossings	150	(21%)
Dropped kerbs	201	(28%)
Traffic islands	86	(12%)
None of the above	179	(25%)
Total	706	(100%)

16 Do you think the centre of Eynsham could be improved by any of the following schemes?

One-way traffic flow	232	(31%)
Full-time traffic warden	193	(26%)
Traffic calming measures	191	(26%)
Pedestrianisation	135	(18%)
Western By-Pass	190	(26%)
Vehicle length / weight limits	417	(57%)
Other ways of improvement	106	(14%)
It does not need improvement	77	(11%)
Total	730	(100%)

17 What are your views on the standard of the following environmental services in Eynsham?

	Good	(%)	Reasonable (%)	Poor (%)	No opinion (%)	N/A (%)
Refuse collection	573	(74)	171 (22)	7 (1)	7 (1)	0 (0)
Street lighting	338	(44)	346 (45)	24 (3)	19 (3)	0 (0)
Public toilets	16	(2)	127 (16)	383 (49)	176 (22)	0 (0)
Roadside care / street cleaning	126	(16)	406 (52)	181 (23)	17 (2)	1 (1)
Roadside verges	78	(10)	389 (50)	197 (25)	34 (4)	0 (0)
Maintenance of Footpaths	53	(7)	319 (41)	296 (38)	36 (5)	0 (0)
Maintenance of Bridleways	29	(4)	241 (31)	156 (20)	204 (26)	0 (0)
Graffiti Removal	31	(4)	197 (25)	378 (49)	88 (12)	3 (1)

Total 768

18 What do you think should be done to help protect and enhance the local environment of Eynsham?

Recycling	375	(51%)
Reduced noise pollution	313	(43%)
Reduced light pollution	98	(14%)
Improved public transport	155	(21%)
Community composting	269	(37%)
Car sharing	132	(18%)
Improved rights of way	131	(18%)
Reduce traffic	435	(59%)
More Litter Bins	363	(50%)
More Dog Waste Bins	323	(44%)
More Litter Picking	373	(51%)
Other	58	(8%)
Total	726	(100%)

19 Which of the following would help improve the environment of Eynsham?

	Very important		Worth doing		Not necessary		Don't know	
Repair dry stone walls	167	(22%)	359	(48%)	29	(4%)	70	(9%)
Keep hedges short and tidy	222	(29%)	378	(50%)	58	(8%)	24	(3%)
Look after woodlands / trees	323	(43%)	304	(40%)	11	(2%)	17	(2%)
Look after Fishponds area	279	(37%)	298	(40%)	28	(4%)	35	(5%)
Clean & protect rivers /streams	421	(56%)	234	(31%)	5	(1%)	11	(2%)
Maintain open spaces	390	(52%)	251	(33%)	7	(1%)	17	(2%)
Clean ditches out regularly	319	(42%)	298	(40%)	13	(2%)	32	(4%)
Maintain bridle paths and footpaths	331	(44%)	314	(42%)	5	(1%)	28	(4%)

Total 743

20 Do you think that any of the following measures are needed?

A greater police presence	557	(75%)
Better consultation between police and public	377	(51%)
A neighbourhood watch	335	(45%)
More drug/drink education/prevention	459	(62%)
More activities for young people	485	(65%)
CCTV	312	(42%)
Good Neighbour Scheme	298	(40%)
After School Club	309	(41%)
Other	30	(4%)
Total	739	(100%)

21 How should the results of this survey be made known?

By a public meeting	129	(17%)
Full report to each household	273	(37%)
Summary report to each household	346	(47%)
Published on Parish Website	255	(35%)
All of the above	121	(16%)

Total 727

A3 Bibliography / References

SOURCE	DOCUMENT	DATE
Bartholomew School	Reports to Eynsham Parish Meeting – www.eynsham.org.uk/year.htm	2006-7 April
Caroline Cayzer & Claire Page	St Leonard's Church Hall, Church Newsletter	2007 Jan-Feb
Countryside Agency	Our Village Parish Plan	2004 December
David Miller et al	Eynsham Wharf Stream: letter to Environment Agency	2006 August
Eynsham Allotments Association	Reports to Eynsham Parish Meeting	2006-7 April
Eynsham Community Primary School	Reports to Eynsham Parish Meeting	2006-7 April
	School Grounds Project – www.eynsham.oxon.digitalbrain.com	
Eynsham Parish Council	Eynsham Churchyard Visual Tree Assessment & Risk Assessment – Boward Tree Surgery (Oxford)	2006
	Minutes of meetings – www.eynsham.org.uk/discussion.htm	2005-present
	Survey on housing policies: summary/report – www.eynsham.org.uk/locplan.pdf	2004
Eynsham Parish Meeting (EPM)	Minutes of discussion on housing development at Bitterell – www.eynsham.org.uk/bitterel.pdf	2005
	Minutes of Chairman's Report and Accounts	2006-7 April
Eynsham Online – www.eynsham.org.uk	data, documents, images and maps	
Eynsham Record	Eynsham History Society – ed. Brian Atkins	1984-present
Eynsham Village Design Statement Group	Village Design Statement – http://eynshamsociety.org.uk/VDS.pdf	2004
Eynsham Village Hall Management Committee	Reports to Eynsham Parish Meeting	2006-7 April
Eynsham Traffic Advisory Committee	Minutes www.eynsham.org.uk/traffic.htm	2006-present
Friends of Eynsham Library	Untitled leaflet – www.eynsham.org/LibraryLeaflet.pdf	2006?
Office for National Statistics	Census – www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk	2001
	... Neighbourhood Statistics – Eynsham CP	
	... Parish Profile – Accommodation and Tenure	
	... Parish Profile – Households	
	... Parish Profile – People	
	... Parish Profile – Work and Qualifications	
	... Neighbourhood Statistics – Eynsham and Cassington (Ward)	
	... Economic Activity – All People (KS09A)	

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SOURCE	DOCUMENT	DATE
Oxfordshire County Council	Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 – LTP2 especially Chapter 11 (West Oxfordshire)	
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council	Summary Report – Eynsham Transport Needs Survey Results	2006
Oxford Times	“Composting centre plan for villages” – 9 February	2007
Thames Valley Police	Crime Report – reports to Eynsham Parish Meeting www.eynsham.org.uk/year.htm	2005-7
	Eynsham graffiti wall www.eynsham.org.uk/graffiti.htm	
	Monthly reports to Eynsham Parish Council	
	Neighbourhood Action Group page www.whosmybobby.com/areapage/default.asp?active_page_id=85	
	Neighbourhood Management pages www.eynsham.org.uk/neighbourhood.htm	
	Road safety and speed control www.eynsham.org.uk/safety.htm	
West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership	Community Safety Audit	2005 April
	Community Safety Strategy 2005-8	
West Oxfordshire District Council	Anti-Social Behaviour Protocol	2006
	Building Futures: A Housing Strategy For West Oxfordshire 2004-2007	
	Economic Development Strategy 2004-2007	
	Housing Needs Survey: Final Report – David Couttie Associates	2004
	Local Plan 2011 – www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/localplan2011.cfm	2006
	... Housing Section – 3554-1707	
	... Inspector's Report – 5. Housing – 2203-1272	
	... Employment Section – 3137-1708	
West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership	Community Strategy: Working together for the Community	2006

A4 Sample Press Cuttings

MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE:

OK, yet another Government initiative released to confuse us,
but this one could be of major benefit to our village!

Eynsham village does have Market Town status and therefore qualifies under this new initiative. This means there could be funds available to develop community lead projects identified and implemented by and for our community.

In order to gain access to this funding several criteria need to be in place. For example, the views of the whole community need to be considered. This would require a questionnaire to you all and a positive response. Projects should be managed by a representation of all residents and businesses within the community. The Parish Council would play an active role by participating in and supporting any project committee.

To give some idea of what could be considered, the Parish Council have already received a number of potentially exciting projects from residents:

- *A monthly Farmers Market in the square*
- *Developing the Fishponds site*
- *Business support for small and medium businesses*
- *Internet style cafe for our young people*
- *Breakfast/afternoon drop-in centre for school pupils*
- *An Astro Turf (all weather) pitch in the playing field*

To give you a further insight, a presentation will be arranged in mid-June where a representative will outline the Government's programme and what is required. The time and venue to be announced later.

SO HOW TO WE GET STARTED?

We need people who would like to get involved in being a part of the process to enhance our village to contact Jackie Heath, Parish Clerk on 01993 813224 or Chris Roles, Parish Councillor, on 01845 880674

Eynsham Echo June 2005: first step towards an Action Plan