



Community Plan
For Malmesbury and the Villages
The Future for the Area
2005 – 2015

***Covering the parishes of* Brinkworth, Brokenborough, Charlton, Crudwell, Dauntsey, Easton Grey, Great Somerford, Hankerton, Hullavington, Lea and Cleverton, Little Somerford, Luckington and Alderton, Malmesbury, Minety, Norton and Foxley, Oaksey, Sherston, Sopworth, St Paul Malmesbury Without**

Parish and Town Visions

Brinkworth: We wish to develop and sustain an accessible, cohesive, peaceful, clean, safe and attractive village that is inclusive to all ages and stages and which is consistent with our rural history, minimising the loss of traditional farming activities and their replacement with suitable alternative activities; it should also fully recognise the unique length and scattered nature of Brinkworth as a ribbon development.

Brokenborough: We are a small and fragmented parish, the centre of which is the quiet hamlet of Brokenborough. Farmland borders the parish on all sides, along with historic sites such as the Fosse Way. The Church and pub are at the centre of the community.

Charlton: We benefit from an active village community seeking to maintain and develop a variety of facilities and activities within a rural environment.

Crudwell: We wish to develop and sustain a clean, safe and attractive area that is inclusive to all ages and stages, is consistent with our history and fully recognises the rural nature of Crudwell and its outlying hamlets.

Dauntsey: We are a very rural village having a population of approximately 400 people. Historically, we are a widespread village which was split even more by the M4. In recent years, we have seen a regeneration of the



Rizla and Harry, Great Somerford

village with two successful cricket clubs, a thriving school and a good community feeling. The opening of the new school hall, which is to be available to community groups is a much needed facility which will improve this cohesion.

Easton Grey: Our mission statement is to maintain the rural community feeling of the village and to ensure that the largest possible part of the population is made up of full-time residents.

Great Somerford: To maintain Great Somerford as a working village that is peaceful, safe, clean, attractive and accessible. To encourage development that is consistent with, and enhances its rural character. To support the growth of the village school as an important part of village life.

Hankerton: We wish to maintain the rural friendly feel and good quality of life enjoyed by the community and to keep the village safe and peaceful. We hope that people of all ages feel welcome and supported by the community.

Little Somerford: To maintain

the essential attributes that make Little Somerford a peaceful, safe, clean, attractive and accessible village. To encourage development that is consistent with, and enhances its rural character.

Lea and Cleverton: Our mission statement is to maintain a good quality and standard of life for the residents of the Parish by maintaining and enhancing the preservation of the rural amenity of the area. Taking account of and encouraging the appreciation of the past history and blending with the need to fulfil the requirements of the existing and future community; also seeking to encourage greater participation in local affairs by Parishioners.

Luckington and Alderton: We want to be sure that all our people, of all ages, have a good quality of life, enjoying a supportive community and an attractive environment.

Malmesbury: Working together to improve the quality of life for all in Malmesbury and the

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surrounding villages.

Norton and Foxley: Maintain the friendliness and community spirit as a key feature of the rural communities of Norton and Foxley. Work together to improve local facilities and to protect the local heritage.

Oaksey: The village has a strong sense of community and a wide social mix of residents. An ability to identify specific needs and then to fundraise to achieve them has resulted in many improvements to our village life. We have an active Youth Club run by volunteers, a Women's Institute, an enthusiastic Church choir, a committed Parent Teacher Association, and Cricket and Football clubs.

Sherston: To maintain and develop a welcoming sustainable involved and vibrant rural community which fully appreciates and conserves its history and natural beauty.

Sopworth: This is a small, happy village with a good community spirit.

St Paul Malmesbury Without: Our vision is the achievement of a safe and pleasant environment in which to live and work. In particular, to reduce the adverse impact that traffic on the A429 has on the safety and quality of life of the whole parish. We also seek to maintain the beauty of the countryside and villages whilst at the same time improving housing, education and health facilities for all.

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Front cover photo: Country lane near Norton



Introduction to the Community Plan



The Village Green, Little Somerford

In 2000, the government placed a responsibility on local authorities to find ways of engaging more closely with the communities they exist to serve. Working in partnership through a body called the Wiltshire Strategic Board, the Councils across Wiltshire have responded by developing a strategy entitled 'A County fit for our children'. At a district level, there is a local strategic partnership which will address common issues emerging from the five community areas across North Wiltshire.

A community plan forms a fundamental part of this new initiative. The main emphasis is on developing a partnership approach to local governance and of finding ways to use local government resources in a more cost effective and responsive manner.

Community plans are also an attempt to stimulate and broaden the current local government consultation processes within a manageable geographical area. Information on the future social, economic and environmental aspirations and needs of those who live in the towns and villages within each of Wiltshire's 20 community areas will be drawn



Sherston High Street

not just from plans developed by Parish and Town Councils, but also from the inputs invited directly from local businesses, service providers, voluntary organisations, faith communities, youth representatives, school councils and interested members of the public.

All of this information is grouped together under specific headings to allow it to be viewed from a much wider perspective and to enable the various requirements to be addressed at a geographical community area,



Millennium Window, All Saints Church, Crudwell

rather than just at Parish level. For Malmesbury, this geographical area is known as 'Area 1' and North Wiltshire District Council involves local people in local decisions and allocates funding for local projects through the Area 1 Committee.

The community plan will be 'owned' by local people via the 'Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership'; this body is the means by which information is gathered for the plan and achievement monitored. The group comprises volunteers who represent many of the sectors of the community referred to above and representatives from the Parish and Town Councils.

This is the first issue of the Malmesbury and Villages

Community Plan and is the result of much effort by many people who have given generously of their time and much consultation and feedback from the local community, including those who attended the visioning event in May 2004. As you turn the pages, you will see detailed the most pressing needs, concerns and aspirations of the various parishes, together with information on the action being taken or intended.

We recognise too that there are many active voluntary and community groups that already achieve a great deal in the area and that these will continue to do so.

All of this is in the public domain and thus gives high visibility to what is being done on behalf of us all by those who

serve the community in the role of Parish, District or County Councillors. And perhaps, just as importantly, it will enable the progress being made to be more easily monitored and reported on. This plan is meant to be a living and dynamic document; it will be reviewed and updated as necessary. Anyone can join the Partnership and there will be an Annual General Meeting each year to which the public are warmly invited.

We all very much welcome this new initiative and strongly commend it to you. Do please find the time to read this plan and to see what is going on. Hopefully, you will be pleasantly surprised.

Bill Blake

Chair of the Core Group for Developing the Community Plan



Assembly of Malmesbury and the Villages on 15 May 2004.

What we value about our local communities

Sopworth

What we value about the village:

- There are many village events, mostly utilising the village hall (recently refurbished thanks largely to voluntary time and money)
- Village hall is very well supported
- Benefit from having one remaining working farm in the village
- No village shop or post office, but well served by Sherston and Luckington shops and believe it is important that these outlets remain going concerns
- No pub for past 25 years in the village, but well served by surrounding villages in this aspect
- Main road through village to Didmarton and Luckington has been re-surfaced in past year and much welcomed
- Parish lengthsmen are doing a satisfactory job on their regular visits

Easton Grey

Features of the village:

- Small hamlet type village with neither shop nor pub but well supported by the facilities in the neighbouring larger villages, notably Sherston. Malmesbury is only 3 miles away with its much more extensive choice of retail outlets
- Village has a church and is also a very social community with many children, most of whom attend primary school in Sherston
- Enthusiastic Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- Emphasis on the upkeep of the rights of way network in the parish

Apart from some small extensions to existing properties, there is little opportunity for new dwellings in view of the lack of additional infrastructure and the need to maintain the existing ambience of the village, most of which is in the conservation area

Malmesbury

What we value in Malmesbury:

- Community spirit and the friendliness of the people
- Malmesbury's proud heritage, historic buildings and unique hilltop location
- Self-sufficient – a wide range and good mix of shops and services, servicing not only the town but a large rural area
- A proper working town – not a dormitory for commuters, which welcomes and works for sustainable tourism
- Riverside walks and access to the surrounding countryside
- A tolerant, socially inclusive community which wants to balance conservation with the need to plan sensibly and sustainably for future generations

Sherston

Valued services and facilities:

- Vibrant community
- Retail shops, post office and public houses
- Pre-school and new primary school
- Doctor's surgery and dispensary
- Village hall and churches
- New children's playground and skateboard park
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Historic conservation area
- Local employment and business opportunities

Luckington and Alderton

What we value now and wish to keep intact:

- Our community and the spaces it uses: the shop, village halls, playing fields, churches and public house
- Our pre school and primary school which provide a focus and a future for the village and can become a centre for learning for all ages
- The green spaces within and around the village; the pond in Alderton and the network of public footpaths that connect residents with our rural identity

Hullavington

- Our local amenities ie the shop, post office, pub, garage, village newspaper, village website, school, coal yard, farms etc
- The rural nature of our village with its network of footpaths, farming landscape, quiet lanes for cycling and walking and the number of green spaces within the village building line
- The prevention of any development outside the 'red line' around the village
- The thriving community spirit within the village as demonstrated by the numerous interest groups along with their focal points such as the village hall, church and school
- The old buildings within and without the village that form an important part of the village heritage and the village visual environment
- A reasonable, if limited, bus service
- A relatively crime free environment
- A local hospital in our closest town (Malmesbury)

Norton and Foxley

Positive statements about our villages:

- Byways and public footpaths – it is important to ensure access to these at all times for use by ramblers and horse riders
- Public telephone boxes – the boxes in both villages are very important as mobile reception is not good. The box outside the pub, which has been given a two year reprieve, is used a great deal
- Post boxes – there are boxes in both villages which are valued
- Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- Valued historic churches
- A quiet but vibrant community with opportunities for small businesses including farming

St Paul Malmesbury Without

- Maintain fire and ambulance services
- Maintain the health service. Possible ideas: free car parking at the hospital
- Population growth should be taken into account when allocating nursing beds
- Maintain police presence and enforce speed limits
- The independence of village life
- Our existing facilities such as pubs, shops, community meeting places, the bus service, country pathways, parks and nature reserves with the will to maintain and improve them
- The sense of community and the community safety
- The opportunity for further development at the former Lucent site

Brokenborough

What we value about our community:

- Its rural location yet close proximity to the services within Malmesbury
- The river, public footpaths and bridleways
- Its separate identity from Malmesbury
- The village church
- Village notice board
- Its historic past – areas relate to King Athlestan's time
- The pub – the Rose and Crown
- Dial-a-Ride bus service
- Post box with regular collections
- Telephone box

Crudwell

What we value now and wish to keep intact:

- Village amenities such as the village hall, the playing field and recreation area, the church and public houses
- The primary school that provides a focus and future for the village
- Community activities centred on the village hall and playing field
- Communication via parish magazines and notice boards

Minety

What we value and wish to keep intact

- Our strong sense of community
- The post office and village shop
- Our network of footpaths and bridleways
- The open spaces
- Minety remaining a village
- Our village amenities – village hall, playing fields with its clubhouse, our school and pre-school, our church and our pubs. Most of all, our villagers!

Oaksey

A modern village hall opened by HRH Prince Charles in 2000 which provides an attractive venue for local events

- A village shop and post office owned by the community since 1996
- A thriving and popular 150 year old Church of England Primary School recently enlarged including a new school hall (2004)
- The Wheatsheaf public house with popular restaurant
- First village to provide affordable housing and older people's flats to enable older people to stay in the village

Hankerton

Although we have no pub or school, the village has a church with a good social community

- The footpaths are generally maintained and well used
- The area is peaceful with virtually no vandalism
- Nearby we have meadows of Special Scientific Interest now belonging to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Charlton

The village benefits from:

- having a well-used and well-supported village hall
- a small playground area owned and maintained by the Village Hall Committee
- a part-time post office facility and would wish to retain this asset
- a beautiful 12th Century church that is important to retain both as an historic building and as a place for those that wish to worship there
- the Horse and Groom public house which is a good focal point for the community
- the noticeboards and Parish newsletter which aid communication

Little Somerford

What we value and wish to keep intact

- The strong community spirit among the people and organisations of Little Somerford and the surrounding parishes which is fostered by the Parish Newsletter and activities such as the Somerford Show
- The tranquil rural atmosphere enhanced by the ancient buildings, harmonious street scene, trees and hedgerows, open spaces, views and vistas
- Meeting places such as the village hall, the church, the public house and play area
- Valued neighbourhood facilities such as the allotments and the shop in Great Somerford
- Public transport that is reliable and regular

Lea and Cleverton

Parish assets:

- Lea and Garsdon CE Primary School - a highly regarded and well run unit at which places are keenly sought after
- Rose and Crown public house – a tied house which is the major social centre of village life
- Village hall – a social centre where many functions and activities are held
- St Giles church, the churchyard and church room in which meetings both ecclesiastical and secular are held
- Footpaths – a comprehensive network of generally well-used footpaths
- Post Office
- Allotments
- Information circulated via bi-monthly PCC Newsletter and village hall notice boards
- Public transport – a regular service through Lea providing convenient and easy access to and from most local areas
- All Saints church, Garsdon with churchyard
- Jubilee Playing Field with tennis court, football facilities, cricket nets, boules pitch, slides and swings

Great Somerford

What we value now and wish to keep intact:

- Village character, green spaces and open vistas, amenities including the shop, pub, Churches, allotments, jubilee garden and football field
- Somerfords Walter Powell primary school and pre school and access to local senior schools, providing a focus and future for the village
- Communication through the Parish Magazine, community meetings, shop and display board notices
- Community spirit through organisations eg Coffee Pots, Gardening Club, WI, and volunteer activities eg school helpers, ad hoc working parties, fetes and shows
- The River Avon and the Avon Valley walk

Dauntsey

What we appreciate about our village

- Mobile library service is well appreciated in the village and used by older residents who have no transport of their own
- The thriving primary school with its new hall which can be used by community groups
- Good community feeling

Brinkworth

What we value now and wish to keep intact:

- Meeting places such as the village hall, the recreation field, the church and public houses
- The primary school that provides a focus and a future for the village
- Public transport that is reliable and regular
- Extensive network of public footpaths that connect residents with our rural identity
- Communication via parish magazines and notice boards
- The remaining working farms and small businesses within Brinkworth