

Shaping the Future of Latton Parish



A Community Led Parish Plan
2013 – 2018

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Foreword, by Graham Blunden, Chair, Latton Parish Council

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Foreword

It is with real pleasure that I write the foreword to this first Latton Parish Plan. I am proud that as a small Parish we have come together and with commitment and energy have produced this Plan which has already begun to influence and focus activities within and beyond the Parish boundaries.

I want to personally thank everyone who completed the Household Survey in 2012 and provided thoughtful views and opinions. Without your excellent response it would have been impossible to shape a set of actions to address your expressed issues and concerns. I would also like to thank all the organisations that contributed as part of our stakeholder consultation and helped shape our thinking on the future of the Parish.

I am a relatively new Chair on the Parish Council and since taking up this role have been struck by the hard work, effort and goodwill that many in the Parish put in to making Latton a good place to live. I was pleased that in the main, residents in Latton Parish say that it is a good place to live. However, this Plan and the information you have given lets your Parish Council know that there is more we can do to improve life for all. Please read the action plan which I hope reflects your feedback.

Latton Parish has a distinct historical heritage. Many before us felt that Latton was important. The Romans built their famous road networks through the Parish. St John the Baptist Church and the Preaching Cross tells us that Latton Parish was 'on the map' in medieval times. The Latton Canal Basin was the M5 / M6 interchange equivalent in 1830's – 1860's. However, no community stands still. There are exciting changes happening around us and opportunities to work with others to improve the quality of life in the Parish. This planning process has brought people together to join up and understand Latton Parish better and it will help us to have greater influence on how our community is shaped going forward.

Finally, one of the purposes of a Parish Plan is to support and encourage everyone to get involved and contribute to Parish life. If you would like to help move some of the actions forward please do contact me. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours faithfully



Graham Blunden

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1.0 Introduction



Latton is a small civil parish in the far north of Wiltshire bordering Gloucestershire. The village itself is approximately two miles north of Cricklade and nine miles north of Swindon. It is around six miles south east of Cirencester. The parish is made up of 1,825 acres of land and comprises the village of Latton and the small hamlet of Eysey and the area of land known as Water Eaton. The western boundary of the parish ends just as the town of Cricklade begins. The parish runs north west and then south east of the village. North of the northern boundary of Latton lies Gloucestershire; the northern boundary of Latton is the northern boundary of Wiltshire.

The A419 Trunk Road, which connects Gloucester and Swindon and forms a link between the M4 and the M5 runs through the north east of the parish, while the Roman road known as Ermin Street crosses the Parish. The Thames and Severn Canal runs through Latton Parish and at a junction at Latton Basin joins with the North Wilts Canal.

One of the boundaries of Latton Parish borders North Meadow which has a great variety of wildflowers and is of international importance as one of the finest examples of lowland hay meadow in Europe. It is protected as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Latton Parish is recognised by the Cotswold Water Park as one of the twenty seven Cotswold Waterpark Parishes. The Water Park was formed by extensive gravel extraction in the area in the 1990's and the landscape has changed significantly during that time. The Cotswold Water Park is an area of 40 square miles, with more than 150 lakes, set across the countryside of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire. The Headquarters of The Waterpark Trust is located in Latton Parish.

The land around Latton is mainly used for agriculture. There are a few businesses based in Latton Parish and the Manor Farm Estate provides commercial space for businesses. Thames Water has a control centre in the Parish. Twenty four households in Latton Parish are used as workplaces.

The Residents of Latton Parish

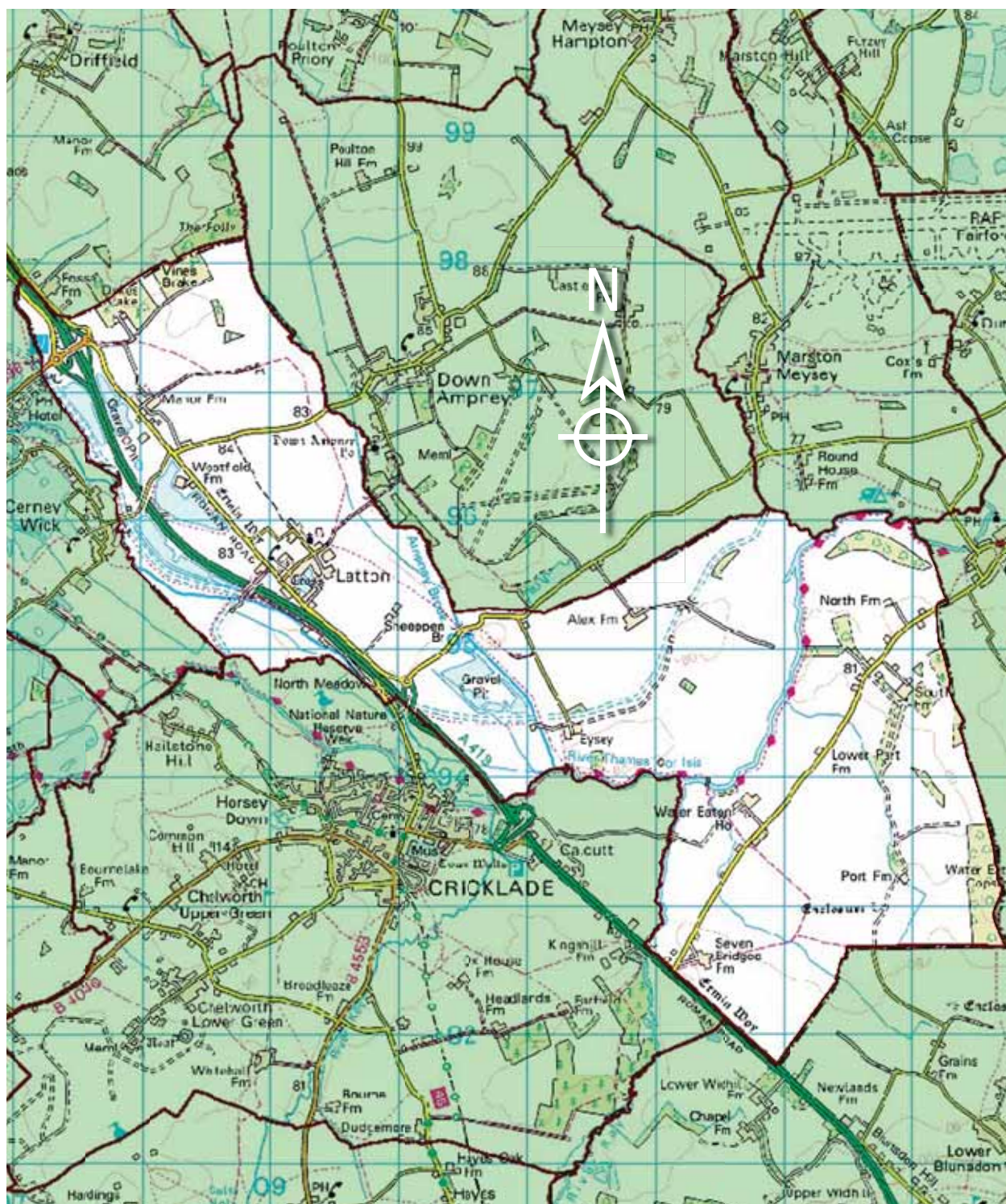
There are 218 households in Latton Parish. 548 people live in Latton Parish as recorded in the National Census data 2011. The population is evenly balanced with 270 males and 278 females

The age profile of residents in Latton Parish is at Table 2

Table 2

Age	Numbers registered in the age category
Under 5	33
6 – 11	41
12 – 18	60
19 – 25	22
26 – 40	86
41 – 60	192
61 – 80	100
Over 81	14

Source National Census Data 2011



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2.0 Developing the Latton Parish Plan



This section describes the process that was used to develop the Parish Plan.

Getting Started

The Latton Parish Council were keen to develop a plan that would reflect the views of residents and bring the community together to work on issues that affect the quality of life in Latton Parish. At a well-attended meeting in November 2011 residents came together to explore issues and concerns about life in the Parish. At this meeting there was overwhelming support to develop a plan setting out a way forward for Latton Parish.

A request for volunteers to lead the planning process resulted in a group of Latton residents forming a steering group to co-ordinate the production of the Plan. Officers were appointed and these volunteers became The Latton Parish Plan Steering Group. Latton Parish Council identified funding to support the development of the Plan and a further grant of £500 from the Area Board at Wiltshire Council secured sufficient funds to carry out the work.

Listening to Residents

The first stage of the process was to enable residents to give their views. A household questionnaire was developed and in October 2012 every household in Latton Parish received a copy. There was an excellent response. Community First were commissioned to analyse the data and a document providing the results was produced entitled 'Shaping the Future of Latton Parish, Results of the Household Survey' December 2012.

Other events were held to gain ideas and opinions from residents. A 'Wishing Tree' was used at the opening of the Jubilee Garden to collect 'wishes' for Latton.

Communicating and Engaging

Throughout the planning process updates on progress were communicated to the community. Articles were written and placed in the Latton Parish Newsletter and The Chronicle magazine; notices were put on Parish noticeboards and fliers produced for stakeholders and for residents. At the Christmas tree event a visual display was created giving information about the early findings from the Household Survey.

Talking with Stakeholders

It was recognised early in the planning process that the various perspectives from stakeholders such as local authorities, neighbouring parish councils, local businesses, charitable organisations and landowners with an interest in the future of Latton Parish should be understood and their engagement sought. It was hoped that by better understanding stakeholders needs and concerns these could be fed into the Plan and solutions to common issues developed in partnership.

A list of stakeholder organisations was identified and each contacted by letter which set out consultation questions. Follow up meetings took place between January and April 2013 and stakeholders gave their perspectives how their own organisation's future plans, aims and aspirations might impact Latton Parish. Information about resident's views, issues, ideas and needs were shared.

This process led to many positive outcomes which have included:

- The results of The Household Survey relating to the issue of Maintaining and Enhancing Access to the Countryside were provided in support of Down Ampney Parish Council's application to develop a bridge crossing at Down Ampney Brook. This application was successful.
- The Latton Parish Newsletter is now being distributed to the businesses in Latton Parish to keep them up to date with Parish activities and information.
- The results of the Household Survey relating to the impact of the excessive A419 road noise has been summarised and sent to The Highways Agency to inform their investigation into the impact of road noise in Latton. Support for the A419 Noise Action Group (A419NAG) campaign which aims to reduce road noise was fostered. The Co-operative Group has supported some research by noise consultants to measure noise levels on the A419.
- Concerns from residents about the impact of HGV's has prompted further research into this issue. This research took place in May 2013 and the resulting report will further support a case for a weight limit on The Street at Latton. This research report, Latton Heavy Goods Vehicle Research, May 2013 is available on www.lattonparishcouncil.org.uk
- An agreed framework for dialogue and sharing information has been established with the main landowner in Latton Parish, The Co-operative Group.
- A greater appreciation of where funding may be available to support Parish improvements has been developed.
- The benefits and opportunities of Latton Parish Council being an active member of the Parish Panel developed by The Waterpark Trust for twenty seven parishes in the Cotswold Water Park area to have a greater influence on developments in the Water Park are better understood.
- Opportunities to link Latton Parish residents with services, activities and facilities at Cricklade have been identified.

Please see Section 4: Listening to Stakeholders – Results of the Stakeholder Consultation page 14.

Action Planning

Once the information from residents and stakeholders was assembled an opportunity for Latton Parish Councillors to add to it and develop a realistic action plan to address the issues identified was put in place. Parish Councillors and the Steering Group members worked on the results with support from Community First (Wiltshire's Rural Community Council). A draft action plan was developed. In June 2013 the action plan was agreed by The Latton Parish Council.

Moving Forward

The Latton Parish Plan is intended to provide Latton Parish Council with a clear mandate to carry forward improvements with the Parish. The Parish Council will own the action plan and will be responsible for monitoring and co-ordination.

Some of the actions may be beyond the Parish Council responsibilities. Where this is the case The Parish Council can use the Latton Parish Plan to influence other agencies and authorities. The Parish Council can also use the Plan itself to empower and support residents to take action as well.

3.0 Listening to Residents - Summary of Results from the Household Survey

Background

This section of the Latton Parish Plan provides a summary of the results from the Household Survey carried out in October 2012. A full report 'Shaping the Future of Latton Parish, Results of the Household Survey, Community First, December 2012 can be found on the Latton Parish Council website.

The Household Survey achieved a 47% response rate which is considered to be good. The breakdown of responses from the various areas in the Parish is as follows:

- 78% from Latton village
- 11% from outside Latton village
- 10% from Water Eaton
- 1% stated none of the above

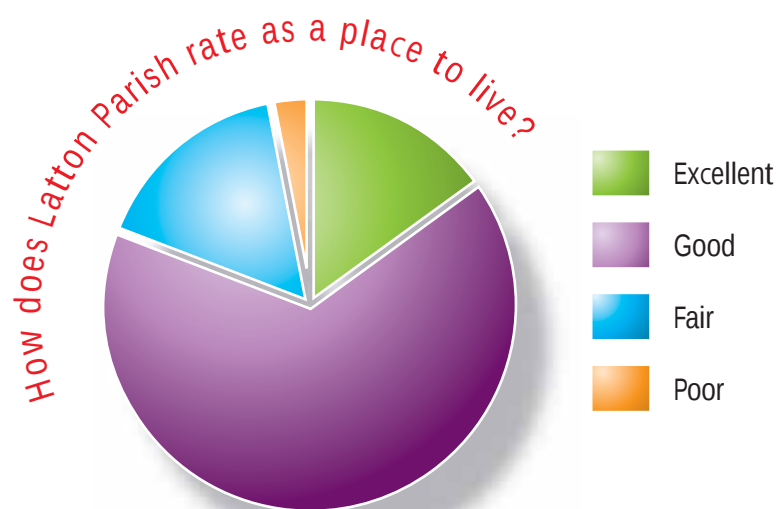
The households responding contained a mix of all age groups and they had a very similar gender mix to the Parish population as a whole.

The following section summarises the response to the various questions

The initial question asked about Latton Parish as a place to live.

Question: How does Latton Parish rate as a place to live?

Response: 81% of respondents rated Latton Parish as a good place to live.
15% of these said that Latton was an excellent place to live



3.0 Listening to Residents

What do people like about living in Latton Parish?



Question: What do people like about living in Latton?

Response: Top of the list is the countryside and access to the countryside then proximity to local facilities and good access to the main transport routes. Residents like the peace and quiet, but reported that the A419 road noise disrupts this. Residents mentioned the rural setting, that they liked their neighbours and a sense of community. The small size of the village was valued as was the safe and secure nature of the Parish. Finally, residents said that they liked the recreational area and the community garden.

- Countryside, access to countryside (53.7%)
- Proximity to local facilities, access to main transport routes (47.3%)
- Peace and quiet - apart from road noise (36.5%)
- Rural setting (16%)
- Neighbours (15%), sense of community (13.9%)
- Small size of village (11.8%)
- Safe and secure (9.6%)
- Playground and community garden (7.9%)



3.0 Listening to Residents

What do people dislike about living in Latton Parish?



Question: What do people dislike about living in Latton?

Response: Transport related issues were amongst the biggest dislikes within the Parish with road noise, heavy vehicles and speeding being the biggest issues. The lack of services and fast Broadband were amongst the other dislikes. After these issues were mentioned residents felt that they disliked the fact that there was no shop or post office and lack of a village pub. Some respondents mentioned the lack of mains drainage in the village and the smell of gas as a problem. Some residents said that the bus services were inadequate and there was a lack of community spirit.

- Traffic and road noise (61%)
- Impact of heavy lorries (24.4%)
- Speeding traffic (21%)
- Lack of shop or post office (25%)
- Lack of pub (20%)
- Lack of a good, fast Broadband connection (10%)
- Lack of mains drainage/sewage (4 respondents)
- Smell of gas (4 respondents)
- Lack of community spirit (4 respondents)
- Inadequate bus services (3 respondents)



When asked specifically about traffic responses were as follows:

Questions relating specifically to roads and traffic

- 69% felt traffic noise from the A419 had a great impact on their lives
- 53% felt that HGVs travelling through the village did too
- 67% gave concerns about traffic speeding an impact score of 4 or 5 (out of 5)

“Speed has increased along with traffic levels causing a level of noise which can now be heard throughout my house at all times. The constant noise is causing illness in my family”

“We never have opened our bedroom window at night due to traffic noise”

Air Quality was also an issue raised in the Survey. In response to this around 26% of households scored their concern about air quality as 4 out of a possible 5. 26.8% respondents however, had no concerns about air quality

Comments related to:

- Traffic fumes (34% responses)
- Impact of A419 (22%)
- HGVs (12%)
- Smell of gas (18%)

Noise pollution was a topic explored in the Household Survey.

47% rated the level of noise pollution as high (5 out of 5). 27% gave it a score of 4 out of 5.

The Survey found that 71.7% respondents felt that local environment is extremely important.

When asked what, if anything spoils the local environment

The following issues were raised.

- Traffic noise (51%)
- Impact of HGVs (25.6%)
- Speeding (6.4%)
- Dog fouling (8.9%)
- Litter (6.4%)
- Air pollution and dust (3.8%)

Lack of access to facilities and services can be a drawback of living in a small rural community. The Household Survey looked at this aspect of life in Latton Parish.

22.8% recorded difficulties in accessing a NHS dentist. When asked why, 37% of those responding reported difficulties finding a dentist and signing up. 15% found it difficult to access leisure facilities. Some older residents mentioned ill health and infirmity as a barrier to accessing services. Lack of facilities for older people was mentioned, as was lack of a suitable bus service, and lack of parking at hospital

13% responses related to ill health/infirmity

- lack of facilities for older people
- lack of bus service (disabled respondent)
- lack of parking at the hospital

The Household Survey explored the value that Latton Parish residents placed on key local facilities and services

This list reports the value that households place on local facilities and services in order of importance

- Shops and facilities in Cricklade
- Local footpaths
- Access to Cotswold Water Park
- Latton Playing field
- Parish notice boards
- Latton Village Hall
- Community garden

However, residents appear to place value services more than they use them. 20% of respondents said that they did not use local facilities and services and had no need as they were not nearby. Some respondents said that once they were in the car they drove out of the area (to Cirencester or Swindon) to use services and facilities

There was evidence that many residents did not know about local services and facilities and that better information would encourage greater use. Residents also said that and that some facilities have opening times and schedules of visiting the Parish (e.g. the mobile library) that did not fit with their working lives.

Evidence from the Survey also demonstrated that elderly people in Latton without transport found accessing local facilities more challenging.

Residents in Water Eaton reported that they looked towards Castle Eaton (outside of Latton Parish) to access information and some local services such as The Village Hall.

Latton Parish Village Hall

Background

For some time Latton Parish Council has explored the sustainable use of the Latton Village Hall as a community facility. The Survey was timely in helping to gather further data about resident's thoughts on the Village Hall to help shape the future of this facility.

"I value the village hall and don't want to see it lost, but haven't found anything yet to attend in it of interest to me on a regular basis"

The Survey asked what would encourage households to use the Latton Village Hall. 20% said that the hall was in need of modernising, 16% said that they would require more and better co-ordinated activities, other comments included activities at the wrong times, the hall needs a better layout and is too small. Some people mentioned cost and that an on line booking system might help. Ideas for increasing use were offered and these were:

- Offer free use for 12 months to drum up interest
- Encourage local groups to use the hall
- Obtain new equipment and facilities



Question: What, if any, additional local facilities and services would respondents like?

Response: Many residents would like a shop / post office. Some residents thought a pub would be a good addition to the village. Other services included a coffee shop, newspaper deliveries, dry cleaning and laundry service, more activities in the village hall, community centre, mobile cinema, coach trips to theatres and gardens, sports and play facilities, “full scale” allotments, foot paths mapped out, interconnecting paths around the lakes, more cycle paths, improvements to bus services, improvements to utilities, use of Parish Newsletter to advertise items for sale and help wanted.....

Transport

The Household Survey found that Latton Parish residents are a community of car drivers and 98% of respondents use the car to travel outside of the Parish

In 2001 46.7% of households owned two cars in Latton compared to 31% in Wiltshire as a whole and 23.6% in England (Census data).

When asked about modes of travel around Latton Parish, residents said:

- 85% get around the Parish on foot
- 84% by car
- 52.5% by bicycle
- 10% by bus
- 4% by mobility scooter or wheelchair

Public Transport

50% of respondents said that someone in their household used the bus service. When asked what would encourage use of the bus service answers included:

- Greater frequency of buses (29%)
- Later buses (12%)
- More direct routes (7%)

25% responses related to destination

- Direct route to Cirencester (4 households mentioned this)
- Better service from Swindon bus station
- Link between Water Eaton and Cricklade
- Direct route to hospital

Working in Latton Parish

The Household Survey found that 25% (24 households) are used as work places. 14% of these respondents were self-employed and 12% work from home.

When asked if there is anything that might support and improve life for people working in Latton Parish responses included. Better or faster Broadband (the majority mentioned this), reduced traffic noise, better public transport, mains sewage, directory of local businesses, shop, improved mobile phone signal, fewer power cuts, resolution of plans for gravel extraction, earlier postal deliveries

Resident's Improvement Ideas

There were many positive suggestions of actions from residents captured by the Household Survey. The key ideas have been grouped together. Based on these ideas for improvement a number of key themes for action have been developed.

Deal with the impact of traffic, noise and speeding by:-

- resurfacing the A 419
- weight and speed limits
- diversions for HGVs
- traffic calming
- speed cameras
- police checks
- modifications to Castle Eaton turning

Develop and foster community involvement; create better community facilities, events and activities by support for -

- community shop/post office
- local pub
- more regular community events
- central hub or meeting space
- improvements to village hall
- improvements to playground
- craft hub
- outlet for local produce/projects
- youth club
- sports and fitness facilities

Help connectivity and effectiveness (especially for people working at home) through

- faster Broadband (5%)

Support a better bus services by

- later running of buses
- a Sunday service
- a shopping bus for those unable to drive

4.0 Listening to Stakeholders – Summary of Results



This section of the plan summarises the responses to the invitation to those organisations having a stake in the future of Latton Parish to input into the Parish Plan. Stakeholders were asked to input about any plans they might have now or in the near future that could impact on Latton Parish, to explain if there is any support that the Latton Parish could provide through the Parish Plan to further the organisation's objectives and if there was any support that could be provided to Latton Parish.

The following stakeholder organisations responded to the invitation to take part in the consultation.

- Cotswold Canals Trust
- Cotswold Water Park Trust
- Cricklade Town Council
- Cricklade Business Association
- Down Ampney Parish Council
- Gwynnespeed (Rally School)
- The Co-operative Group
- Waterpark Storage Limited
- Wiltshire Council, Department of Neighbourhood and Planning

The key themes that arose as a result of the written submissions and discussions from the stakeholder consultation were:

- Stakeholders, in the main, supported initiatives to minimise the impact of traffic on the Parish (road noise and HGV's through the Parish) and have given active support
- There was a willingness to engage on an ongoing basis with Latton Parish
- There was a greater appreciation that Latton Parish is in the centre of a changing environment with tourism, wildlife and conservation, gravel extraction, canals development as examples
- An appreciation of the need to join up Latton Parish better so that residents could access important services in neighbouring towns
- A commitment to collaborating to solve issues and understand perspectives was very positive
- Recognition that Latton Parish fits within a number of strategic plans of stakeholder organisations and opportunities to be influential and support these was identified.

Canals Restoration

The process of engaging with stakeholders identified the canals restoration as being a particularly innovative and important initiative that will impact on Latton Parish over the coming years. Restoring the canals is a long term and ambitious project and has wide local and national stakeholder support.

The Chair of the Cotswold Canals Trust and The Canals Officer from Wiltshire Council were very keen to foster engagement with Latton Parish and have set out below their account of the aims of the canals restoration and the benefits to the area of the scheme.

Canal Restoration – Latton Parish

Latton was a busy canal highway at the end of the 18th century and through much of the 19th century. The Thames and Severn Canal opened in 1789 and the North Wilts Canal in 1819. Both just about survived into the 20th Century but were closed and then abandoned.

Over the last 35 years a number of volunteer led schemes have started the process of re-acquiring and restoring the waterways and they are both now supported by strong Partnerships including the Local Authorities.



The economic benefit of canal restoration has been monitored extensively during the restoration of the Kennet & Avon Canal where independent research shows that the canal corridor (121km) contributes £42m annually to the local economy and supports directly 1300 jobs.

The Cotswold Canals (Thames & Severn) and the Wilts & Berks Canal (North Wilts Branch) are being restored with the aim of completion in the next 10-15 years. The shorter term aim for both projects is to open the canal towpath to provide traffic free access to the Cotswold Water Park, Swindon and Lechlade.

When both projects are completed Latton will once again be the focus of much waterway related activity as a busy junction of two canals and their associated towpath visitors. Latton Basin is being restored as a heritage site but may or may not form part of the 21st century restored link to Swindon as there is a possible site for a new junction with the North Wilts Canal near Eisey.

Alan Oliver, Wiltshire Council Canals Officer

Mike Guest, Chair, Cotswold Canals Trust



5.0 What needs to be done – The Key Emerging Issues

The Household Survey results and conversations with stakeholders identified a number of concerns within Latton Parish.

The concerns have been grouped into the key issues so that a realistic plan can be developed to start to tackle the issues. However, Latton Parish, as a community, has limited resources to be able to deal with all the concerns raised. Some of the issues will take longer to address and securing funding for some actions may be required.

The key issues identified are:

- Mitigate Road Noise and Traffic
- Preserve and Improve Public Transport
- Maintain and Enhance Access to the Countryside
- Maintain and Sustain Local Businesses and Services
- Develop Community Facilities

The following section sets out what is already been done about these issues.

MITIGATE ROAD NOISE AND TRAFFIC

The A419 Road Noise

What is already being done?

There have been attempts by residents in the past to raise the issue of the A419 road noise and its impact. A new A419 noise action group (A419NAG) formed in 2012 and has brought together communities affected to work together to raise awareness and seek to have the road resurfaced.

What more can be done?

- Parish Council to support the A 419 Noise Action Group
- Latton Parish Plan to provide further evidence from residents views
- Parish Council to consider supporting further work e.g. noise surveys
- Parish Council to help mobilise community support

Traffic

What is already being done?

There is an active Community Speed Watch group in the Parish. There is pressure being put on other agencies and local authorities to support 'weight restrictions'.

Resident's concerns about the impact of HGV's prompted further research into this issue. This research report will further support a case for a weight limit on The Street at Latton. This report, Latton Heavy Goods Vehicle Research May 2013 is available on www.lattonparishcouncil.org.uk

Some progress on traffic management through better signage has been achieved at Water Eaton.



What more can be done?

A lead Parish Councillor appointed to being partners together to move forward all the issues associated with traffic would provide focus and co-ordination.

- Identify community resources to work on issues
- The new research report on HGV's in Latton Parish can be circulated to agencies and other partners to influence and raise the issue

PRESERVE AND IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Household Survey identified that private car ownership in Latton Parish was higher than the national average and that the overwhelming majority of people relied on their cars for work, shopping and leisure. However, for some people without private cars their quality of life was greatly diminished.

The Household Survey tended to look at the public bus service (Swindon to Cheltenham route) and the shortfalls in terms of how this service caters for the needs of Latton residents. During the action planning process a definition of public transport was broadened to other types of public transport such as private services e.g. supermarket shopping bus, 'Dial and Ride', community transport services run by volunteers and taxi companies. These services may provide solutions.

The exploration of public transport as an issue in Latton demonstrated that little had been done.

What can be done?

- Scope out and really understand what options for public transport for Latton residents are already available. (There are pieces of the picture known but not full details).
- Promote what is already available. (Use the Latton Parish website to publicise what is already available).
- Extend the North Wiltshire Community Transport Link Scheme operating at Cricklade to cover Latton
- Identify who else can help solve the problems e.g. Rural Community Councils have support to help solve transport solutions for rural areas
- Send data about the types of service residents want to bus company
- Collaborate with other parishes to find out whether there are similar issues and whether these can be addressed jointly

MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

What is already being done?

Latton residents stated that they like living in Latton Parish because of good access to the countryside

"The peace and quiet, away from town life"

"Many walking paths over the countryside"

"Being in the countryside but within easy reach of the main road network and towns"

However, there has not previously been very much focus on ensuring that this aspect of the Parish life is enhanced and maintained.

What can be done?

- Understand better the aims and aspirations of the Wiltshire Council Public Rights of Way strategy and link these to Latton Parish.
- Explore opportunities e.g. funding through the Paths Improvement Grants, working with stakeholder partners to enable Latton Parish to improve access to the countryside
- Publish information about the footpaths
- Provide better interpretation of the surroundings and history so that public enjoyment of the countryside is enhanced
- Seek to work with partners such as The Cotswold Canals Trust and Cotswold Water Park who share the aim of making the countryside accessible to all
- Engage further with landowners
- Link with initiatives supported by Cricklade Town Council and its partners that are providing funding for improving walking opportunities in the area

DEVELOP COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Rural areas are in danger of losing facilities and services and this has happened in Latton Parish gradually over time. Lack of access to services and facilities can create feelings of isolation.

The Household Survey found that people living in Water Eaton look towards Castle Eaton (outside of Latton Parish) for facilities and community activities so addressing this issue is more complex. Latton village tends to be a focus for the majority of residents. The evidence that has been gathered about the issues and reasons why people don't currently use the Latton Village Hall can be used to support funding applications to fund improvements.

The proximity of Latton Parish to major centres of services e.g. Cirencester and Swindon and to local services in Cricklade may mean that services in Latton are not sustainable however; there may be opportunities through development of Latton Village Hall to create a multi-use community hub.

What is being done already?

The lease on the Latton Village Hall has been secured and there is now a focus on upgrading the village hall. The Jubilee Community Garden has been established and continues to move forward. Some of the playground equipment has recently been refurbished. Events for residents have taken place such as the summer barbecue and Christmas tree lighting event.

What more can be done?

- There is potential for village hall development. This will require focus, commitment and resources.
- Better links with Cricklade in terms of access (transport and walking routes, the latter may happen as part of the canals restoration) so Latton Parish residents can more easily access the community events, activities, facilities in Cricklade
- Work with Cricklade Town Council to develop and support a communication flier publicising events in Cricklade and Latton ensuring this is distributed to all residents
- Develop a notice board in Water Eaton so residents feel better connected and informed



SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

The consultation process with stakeholders resulted in an understanding of the businesses operating in Latton Parish. It also brought together the business community and the Parish Council. It highlighted a need to engage on an on-going basis. It is in the interest of the Parish and the economy locally that services and businesses are supported so that they can be a vibrant part of the community. Opportunities for business in the Parish in the future may increase through the canals development and the tourist trade.

Some businesses recognised the benefits of linking with the Cricklade Business Association in order to join with other businesses to network, share good practice, put forward collective views on issues affecting business, improve services and explore trading opportunities.

Internet connectivity as a business issue

The Household Survey results demonstrated that from the households who reported that they used their house as a working place lack of a fast Broadband service was their biggest issue.

What more can be done?

- Include the businesses in Latton Parish in the Parish Newsletter circulation
- Provide more informal and regular opportunities for businesses to meet and talk about issues with the Parish Council
- Encourage linking with the local business association
- Understand better the issues of the Broadband
- Look at how the rural Broadband project might benefit Latton Parish



6.0 Action Plan

The following table sets out aims, actions, possible timescales for completion of actions and starts to identify which partner organisations and people can help achieve these aims. It is acknowledged and Latton Parish would benefit from closer collaboration with partners and improved engagement with the community.

The action plan is intended to set out a framework of actions which will be regularly reviewed and progress against each aim communicated to Latton Parish residents and other stakeholders.

(The timescales used are short term = within 6 months, medium term = 6 to 18 months, long term = over 18 months).

Mitigate Road Noise and Traffic

Aim 1: Reduce traffic noise from A419

Action	Who can help?	Timescale
Support the A 419 Noise Action Group	Parish Council and community	Short term and on-going
Seek to influence decision makers on the future of the road by providing evidence from the Household Survey about the impact of road noise on the lives of people in Latton Parish	Parish Council A419 Noise Action Group	Short term
Establish a 'Traffic lead' to co-ordinate work on traffic issues across the Parish	Parish Council	Short term
Support further work e.g. noise surveys	Parish Council	Medium term
Mobilise community support	Parish Council	Medium term

Aim 2: Reduce the impact of traffic speed in the Parish

Action	Who Can Help?	Timescale
Maintain the Community Speedwatch	Parish Council	Short term
Collect further data on traffic speed and numbers	Wiltshire Council	Short term

Aim 3: Reduce the impact of heavy goods vehicles

Action	Who can help?	Timescale
Lobby for a weight restrictions in The Street, Latton	Parish Council	Medium term
Disseminate recent HGV research report findings	Parish Council	Short term
Establish a HGV project / campaigning group	Parish Council/ Community	Short term

Preserve and Improve Public Transport**Aim 1: Achieve greater understanding of public transport issues**

Action	Who can help?	Timescale
Scope out and understand what options for public transport for Latton Parish residents are already available	Parish Council/ Community	Medium term
Identify who else can help and consider options to solve the problems e.g. - Community First has a focus on transport solutions for rural areas.	Parish Council	Medium term
Contact Community Transport Services in North Wiltshire for information about Link Services	Parish Council	Short term

Aim 2: Lobby for improved bus services

Action	Who can help?	Timescales
Influence service development by providing data on residents issues and needs on the Latton bus service (from Household Survey) to bus company	Parish Council	Medium term
Find out from neighbouring parishes about their residents issues concerning the bus service to identify common problems and collaborate to provide solutions	Parish Council	Medium term

Aim 3: Increase awareness of public transport options

Action	Who can help?	Timescales
Promote what public transport options are available to residents though creating a community transport directory	Parish Council and Community	Medium term
Communicate with Parish residents	Parish Council	Short term

Maintain and Enhance Access to the Countryside**Aim 1: Increase awareness of access to the countryside opportunities**

Action	Who can help?	Timescales
Publish information about the walkways	Parish Council	Medium Term
Understand better how the Wiltshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan might support Latton Parish aspirations for maintaining and enhancing access to the countryside	Wiltshire Council Public Rights of Way, Community and Environment Department	Medium term
Provide better interpretation of the surroundings / history so that walkers enjoyment of their time in the countryside is enhanced	Wiltshire Council, Right of Way, Community and Environment Department	Medium term

Aim 2: Improve access opportunities

Action	Who can help?	Timescales
Define in detail where access should be improved by a. asking residents about where access needs to be improved and b. Exploring with stakeholders e.g. Cotswold Canals Trust, working in the area where access can be improved and where access is being opened up	Parish Council Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Department Cotswold Water Park Trust The Co-operative Group and others Cotswold Canals Trust Council	Short term
Collect information about who owns the land in Latton Parish as the beginning of the process to better engage with them about access opportunities for residents and visitors	Parish Council	Medium Term
Liaise with the initiatives in Cricklade that are providing funding for improving walking the area	Cricklade Town Council	Medium Term
Identify possible funding opportunities for improving walking in the area	Parish Council	Medium term





Develop Community Facilities

Aim 1: Improve existing community facilities and information

Action	Who can help?	Timescale
Develop a sustainable plan for the future of Latton Village Hall which may include improvement of the fabric of the Hall	Parish Council Village Hall Management Committee	Medium term
Increase use of the Jubilee Garden facilities and engagement of Parish residents	Jubilee Garden Committee	Short term
Develop a sustainable Parish website and develop other 'virtual' facilities	Parish Council	Medium term
Establish Parish Council noticeboards at Water Eaton	Parish Council	Short term

Aim 2: Enable Latton Parish residents to make better use of local community hubs

Action	Who can help?	Timescale
Promote and support community activities in Cricklade through joint publicity about activities	Parish Council	Short term
Share data of household needs with Cricklade Town Council to influence service development	Cricklade Town Council	Short term

Maintaining and Sustaining Local Businesses and Services

Aim 1: Improve Broadband speeds

Action	Who can help?	Timescale
Find out further data about problems Latton residents experience because of poor Broadband speeds	Community /Residents	Short term
Seek to address the problems as identified	Rural Broadband Project	Medium term

Aim 2: Promote businesses and services

Action	Who can help?	Timescale
Produce a local businesses / services directory for Latton residents	Parish Council	Medium term

Aim 3: Provide opportunities for local business exchange

Action	Who can help?	Timescale
• Provide more informal and regular opportunities for businesses to meet and talk about issues with the Parish Council	Parish Council	Medium term
• Encourage businesses linking with the local business association	Cricklade Business Association Parish Council	Medium term

Implementation of the Latton Parish Plan

It is expected that the Parish Council will develop a framework for the implementation of the Plan which will include a review process and feedback on progress.

7.0 References

Copies of the following documents can be found on the Latton Parish website at www.lattonparishcouncil.org.

- Shaping the Future of Latton Parish Household Survey, Summary of Results December 2012
- Shaping the Future of Latton Parish, Household Survey, October 2012
- Latton Heavy Goods Vehicle Research Report, May 2013

8.0 Finding out more

Latton Parish Council	www.lattonparishcouncil.org.uk
Cotswold Canals Trust	www.cotswoldcanals.com
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	www.wbct.org.uk
Cricklade Town Council	www.cricklade-tc.gov.uk
The Cotswold Waterpark Trust	www.waterpark.org
Wiltshire Council	www.wiltshire.gov.uk
Gloucestershire County Council	www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
Cotswold District Council	www.cotswold.gov.uk
A419 NAG Campaign	http://a419nag.co.uk

9.0 Acknowledgements

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Amy Middleton, Savills Office, Oxford

Peter Colmer, Conservative Councillor for Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey up to May 2013

Bob Jones, Chair of Cricklade Business Association and Liberal Democrat Councillor for Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey from May 2013

Penny Bell, Community Area Manager, Wiltshire Council

Huw Jones, former member of the Latton Parish Plan Steering Group

David Wilkins, former Latton Parish Councillor who championed the Parish Plan at its inception

The Latton Parish Plan was prepared by the Latton Parish Plan Steering Group comprising

Chair, Ralph Young

Deputy Chair, Tim Giddy

Secretary, Janet Sharpe

Treasurer, Barry Branigan

Graham Blunden, Representative of Latton Parish Council

The Latton Parish History Timeline

Prehistoric	Huge herds of half elephant / half mammoth animals roam the land in the Thames Valley (Early part of the last Ice Age). One herd drowns and early men use flints and axes to butcher the animals for food. (see 1998)
Circa AD 75	Romans control all of Britain. The Roman road, Ermin Street, crosses Latton Parish. There is a medieval wayside or Preaching Cross built in Gosditch, at the road junction with Ermin Street.
1066	Latton and Eysey became property of Earl Harold then after his death at the Battle of Hastings passed to William I
1083	Latton was given to a Priest, Rainbold
1101 – 1200	Church of St John The Baptist was built
1133	Latton was taken back to the Crown Henry I and then given to Cirencester Abbey
1377	114 people live at Latton
1539	The Dissolution of the Monasteries saw the destruction of the Abbey at Cirencester and Latton is given to Sir Anthony Hungerford of Down Ampney
1724 – 1802	Many people in Latton experience poverty. There is a large increase in the 'Poor Relief' paid to residents
1789	Thames and Severn Canal opens and snakes across Latton Parish carrying coal from Royal Forest of Dean and Staffordshire.
1819	The North Wilts Canal opens
1830's – 1860's	The height of trade transported through Latton by canal. A wharf and canal basin and lock in use
1832	A day school for the children of Latton and Eysey established
1835	Latton has a library open to men only attending Sunday school. This is housed in a Club Room which closed in the 1960's
1896	Parish of Eysey was incorporated into Latton Parish
1914	By the beginning of the First World War the canal wharf, basin and lock were closed
1927	Use of the canal ceased
1930	A creamery is built at Latton by the Co-operative making evaporated milk. Land is agricultural and mainly dairy
1947	Houses at The Limes are built
1970	The village school closes
1990's	Large scale gravel extraction begins
1996	The Co-operative Creamery closes
1987	The Latton by-pass section of the A 419 is opened
1998	Dr Neville Hollingworth, an Earth Sciences Programme Officer discovers the bones of mammoths and flint hand axes in a gravel pit at Latton
2001	421 people live in Latton
2002	New house building at Latton, Croft Close and Collett Place.



Clerk to the Latton Parish Council, 27 Croft Close, Latton, SN6 6LD