

PADBURY

Village Plan 2008



The purpose of the Village Plan

What is a Village Plan?

IT IS a plan for the future of the village, taking account of the views of every villager who cared to express them about what we value and wish to preserve in our village and about what we wish to change and improve.

The plan is inclusive and on-going. It will develop with the village.

Why does Padbury need a Village Plan?

THE Village Plan document aims to help and support the work of the Parish Council. It will provide a quantified summary of the views of the village on how Padbury should develop and the Parish Council will ensure that the plan is reviewed and revised regularly.

The Parish Council will also work with other groups and organisations, both in the village and outside, which are keen to work for or on behalf of Padbury. The Village Plan

will also form a basis for fund-raising and lobbying on behalf of Padbury.

Padbury is not not unique in having a Village Plan – other villages have one too and have found them helpful.

What has been the process so far in compiling the Village Plan?

WORK to create the Village Plan began in spring 2006, when the Parish Council authorised the forming of a Steering Group to manage the process.

This followed a presentation from Buckinghamshire Community Action which has supported the creation of Padbury's Village Plan throughout.

The Steering Group is chaired by Chris James. Its Secretary is Debbie Gibbs. Other members are: Fred Morris and Nicky Hoddy (parish councillors); David McGahey; Philip Smith; David Illing.

Villagers in Padbury have been consulted throughout the year-long process and their feedback has been

central to the development of the Village Plan so far.

What happens now?

AFTER studying the results of the questionnaire sent to every household in the village, the Steering Group has identified the key priorities and, in agreement with the Parish Council, has set up four committees to focus on the main issues to come out of the questionnaire.

These are:

- Roads and Traffic.
- Footpaths and Environment.
- Sports and Play.
- Social Events.

The Steering Group will meet with the Parish Council at least once a year to discuss updates and progress on the Village Plan. The group also plans to hold update meetings for the village on at least an annual basis so that it can inform Padbury residents of the progress being made to bring our Village Plan to fruition.



Padbury Village Plan 2008

A sought-after area in which to live

PADBURY is situated in semi-rural north Buckinghamshire, three miles to the south of Buckingham. In estate agency speak, it is a "sought-after" village.

Including outlying farms, Padbury comprises around 320 houses with a population approaching 800.

Historically, much of the village has been owned by All Souls' College, Oxford, which has sold properties as they become vacant. Today, the college has only a few left in its ownership.

Padbury is a Conservation Area, with very few houses lying outside the boundaries. Architecturally, it is a mix of older thatched properties, 20th-century council housing (in one area on the edge of the village), some smaller developments built in the 1960s and 1970s along with more

recent developments of farmyards, a builder's yard and infills.

The busy A413, connecting Buckingham and Aylesbury, passes through the 'top end' of the village.

The area is highly regarded, which makes house prices in Padbury comparatively high. This is a particular problem for first-time buyers as there is almost no housing available for under £170,000. The most recent developments, of former farmyards and a builder's yard, have created four- and five-bedroomed houses, now selling for between £600,000 and £1 million.

Mobility among the younger, employed households is high, which emphasises the contrast with the older, now retired, residents, some of whom were born and bred in the area.

Among the former council homes, which number around 100, some are now privately owned though many are still rented and include small bungalows for the elderly and two blocks, each of four flats.

Employment in the area is high, although agriculture and rural industries - which traditionally provided many jobs - are struggling. Padbury itself has little employment.

There is now only one active farm, two pubs (one of which has a small shop attached) and a well-regarded butcher's shop which also sells a range of delicatessen products.

In many households, both partners have jobs and many travel out to work, some on long commutes into London. Some villagers work from home.



SHOPPING ● TRANSPORT LINKS ● EDUCATION

BUCKINGHAM is largely sufficient for everyday needs, including supermarkets, a market on Tuesdays and Saturdays, a monthly farmers' market and an occasional French market. The nearest major shopping centres are Milton Keynes (14 miles), Aylesbury (14), or Oxford (25).

The nearest railway stations are Milton Keynes, Bicester, Bletchley and Aylesbury, all 20-25 minutes by car and

providing easy access to London.

The most frequent services run from Milton Keynes Central to London Euston and the North, while the Bicester/Aylesbury line connects with Birmingham and London Marylebone.

There is good access to several airports: London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Luton, East Midlands and Birmingham.

Buckinghamshire has a reputation for excellent schools and still operates selection at 11+. In Buckingham there are good state junior schools and two secondary schools, one of which is a grammar school.

The area has a number of independent schools including Stowe.

Waddesdon C.E. Secondary School (8 miles) is the only C of E secondary school in the county.

Village has so much to offer

FACILITIES in the village include:

- Heavily booked village hall (formerly the village school);
- Well regarded Church of England First School;
- A playing field for cricket, football and other events;
- A hard tennis court, well used by an active tennis club;
- A small play area rented at nominal cost from All Souls' College. It has limited equipment which is sub-standard by today's criteria;
- The 13th-century St Mary's church, which houses historic, interesting wall paintings;
- Allotments;
- Millennium Wood, planted to commemorate the year 2000;
- Two public houses, one of which opened a restaurant at the end of 2006.



The New Inn pub and restaurant and Padbury Village Hall, which hosts meetings of many village groups and organisations.

PADBURY is an active village. Its organisations and events include:

- An annual Produce Show;
- Mothers' Union;
- Women's Institute;
- Busy Fingers: a play group for pre-school children;
- Youth Club;
- Walking group;
- Football club;
- Tennis Club;
- Active church community;
- Open Gardens weekend;
- Concerts in St Mary's Church;
- An annual Village Fete;
- Sunday school;
- The Padbury Parish Pump, a bi-monthly village newsletter;
- Padbury Sick Benefit Society, founded in the 19th century to look after villagers who were too ill to work and which today stages an annual Feast Weekend over the Whitsun Bank Holiday.
- Weekly meetings of Buckingham Camera Club;
- Friendly Club;



St Mary's Church, Padbury and the village playing field with cricket, football and tennis facilities



Survey draws a high response



Earnest conversation between steering group chairman Chris James and committee member David Illing at the Village Plan Open Day, held in the Village Hall in June 2007

THE Steering Group proceeded by holding an Open Day in Padbury village hall in June 2006.

On the basis of the ideas and issues identified at that meeting, a questionnaire was produced and distributed to every household in the village.

More than half of all households responded. This was a very high response rate to such a survey.

The challenges and opportunities flagged up in the questionnaire then formed the agenda of a second Open Day, in the summer of 2007, at which those attending were invited to sign up to be involved in the various actions arising from the two meetings and the survey.

The Open Day saw a steady stream of village residents come to the Village Hall to examine the

results of the questionnaire and many expressed interest in being part of the Village Plan going forward.

The issues raised through the questionnaire were discussed by Steering Group representatives with Padbury Parish Council and, at a meeting

organised with the steering committee, the council agreed to adopt the plan.

It was agreed that four groups would be established to prioritise the issues and move them forward in an appropriate fashion.

There will be parish council representation on

each of these committees to advise on matters already being dealt with and to offer their input in terms of local knowledge and awareness of other agencies that may prove useful to each group in achieving the aims of the committee.

Residents who signed up to help with various issues will also be invited to sit on the committees.



Padbury: the consultation

When looking at the figures below, some key points must be considered:-

1. Some issues are more attainable than others and therefore it should not be assumed that issues will be

tackled in the order shown.

2. Some issues are already being dealt with by the Parish Council: for example, speeding within the village.

3. Some points show that the majority of people are happy

with the status quo: for example, the state of the roads and the pavements. However, there are a significant number within the village that feel they need to be improved. These points are underlined in the table

HIGHLIGHTED ACTION POINTS IN ORDER OF VOTES GIVEN

SUBJECT	VOTES FOR		VOTES AGAINST		NO VIEW (if applicable)	
Padbury must maintain its Milton Keynes divide.	197	97%	1	0.5%	6	2.5%
Reduce speeding	184	90%	11	5.4%	3	1.5%
Prevent dog fouling	152	75%	31	15%		
Public map of village footpaths.	146	71%	44	21%	18	8%
Awareness of the Millennium Wood.	143	70%	51	25%		
Improve the Main Street play area.	142	70%	26	13%		
Improve the sports facilities at Springfields.	139	68%	15	7%		
Refurbish the sports pavilion	130	65%	2	1%	67	34%
An annual village fete	125	62%				
New footpath from Springfields	120	60%	18	9%	62	31%
Padbury website	118	58%	57	29%	26	13%
Improved signage of footpaths	110	55%	23	12%	68	33%
Improved parking	109	53%	70	34%		
Improvements for the disabled	108	53%	30	15%		
More affordable housing	103	50%	75	37%		
Footpaths more accessible	90	45%	26	14%	83	41%
<u>Pavements inadequately maintained</u>	84	41%	95	47%		
<u>Roads inadequately maintained</u>	81	40%	116	57%		
<u>Inadequate street lighting</u>	77	38%	117	58%		
<u>Cycle routes</u>	73	36%	89	44%		
<u>New site for village Christmas tree</u>	73	36%	81	40%		
Swimming pool	53	26%				
Village sports day	48	24%				
<u>Improved maintenance of village hedgerows</u>	46	21%	151	74%		
<u>More local issues in Padbury Parish Pump</u>	39	19%	109	53%		
Organised cycling	35	17%				
Padbury Golf Society	32	16%				
Skateboard park	29	14%				
Organised jogging	24	12%				
Internet cafe	16	8%				

THE ACTION PLAN

AS A RESULT of the responses to the questionnaire sent out to all village residents, the Steering Group has agreed the next stage of its work in developing the Padbury Village Plan.

The Steering Group is to set up four committees, each comprising village residents and

a representative of Padbury Parish Council, to look in more detail at the main issues arising from the results of the survey.

The committees will concentrate on roads and traffic; social events; sports and play; the environment. These were the issues deemed in the survey to be those on which progress was

most achievable and which were of the highest importance.

The committees will feed back information and comments to the Steering Group, which will then take these points for further discussion with Padbury Parish Council as to how progress might best be made.

THE COMMITTEES

ROADS & TRAFFIC

Priorities:

Issues of speeding and road

maintenance

- A reduction in the speed limit on the A413 as it passes through the village.
- Enforcing the 30mph speed limit on Main Street.
- Parking availability in the village.
- Cycle routes.
- Road maintenance.



SPORTS & PLAY

Priorities: Maintaining and improving leisure facilities in the village

- Redevelopment of Springfields pavilion and playing field facilities.
- Redevelopment of the Main Street playground (pictured).

SOCIAL EVENTS

Priorities: Maintaining the community spirit that Padbury enjoys

- Annual Village Fete.
- Annual Bonfire night fireworks display.
- To organise future regular/annual social events that bring the village together.

ALREADY UNDER WAY...

Establishment of the Padbury village website.

Meetings to set up the above committees.

All members of each committee will be contacted to arrange future meetings.

ENVIRONMENT

Priorities: Maintaining the village environment

- How to maintain the divide between Padbury and the expansion plans of Milton Keynes.
- Measures to reduce dog fouling throughout the village.
- A map of footpaths around the village.
- Raising awareness and use of the Millennium Wood.
- Affordable housing.

	Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Resource Implications
Community	Main Street Play area	Complete refurbishment	Top	1 year	Village plan committee and Parish Council	Main Street sub-committee	Funding needed from major providers.
	Springfields	As Above	Top	2 years	As above		As above
Service Providers	Speed	Reduce speed limit	Top	Immediate	Parish Council	Traffic Committee	AVDC
	Signpost of village amenities	WI funding	medium	Immediate			
Strategic	Watching growth of MK	On-going monitoring	Top	None	Padbury newsletter and Parish Council		

