



Burton Latimer Parish Plan 2012



Introduction

Welcome to our Parish Plan!

As Burton Latimer grows and changes, it is vital that future developments reflect the views of our local community. Developing a Parish Plan is one way of ensuring that our town can meet the challenges and take advantage of the various opportunities that are likely to come our way over the next few years.

Similar projects elsewhere have helped to create a sense of pride in the local community and its heritage. Parish Plans can also help to influence decision makers – such as the town, borough and county councils – about a community's aspirations for the future.

However, Parish Plans have so far typically been developed by small and medium-sized village communities rather than towns. Burton Latimer's larger population made it more difficult for us to do this in a way that allowed the widest possible range of people to contribute – and our project therefore required a more complex approach.

To get things off the ground Burton Latimer successfully secured a grant from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) towards the first stage of our Parish Plan project, which involved the development of a questionnaire for all Burton Latimer households.

This document brings together the findings from our household questionnaire, along with the results of other schemes that have canvassed local people's views over the last few years. It has been approved by Burton Latimer Town Council, and has been submitted to Kettering Borough Council for adoption.

There is, however, one final point to emphasize: a Parish Plan is intended to be a working document, rather than something that is filed away on a shelf and forgotten. In our case, updates and progress reports will be provided at least annually, and these will be published both on the town's community website (www.burtonlatimer.org) and alongside *Burton Latimer News* – the council's quarterly newsletter that is distributed to all households in the town.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this project – including ACRE, members of the steering group and, of course, everyone who completed our household questionnaire.

Fergus Macdonald, Chairman
Burton Latimer Parish Plan Steering Group
November 2012

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About our Parish Plan



What is a Parish Plan?

Preparing a Parish Plan is a process that enables local communities to decide how to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of their area – and then to make it happen. The Plan itself is a structured document that takes stock of the past and present, records the choices and decisions that local residents have made for the future, and sets out a timetable for the actions that have been agreed.

The Plan is intended to be a 'living document' – in that it can be used to monitor progress. It can also be revised and updated from time to time as actions are completed, and new issues are identified.

Why does Burton Latimer need a Parish Plan?

As Burton Latimer grows and changes, it is vital that future developments reflect the views of our local community. One way of making sure this happens is to involve as many people as possible in the creation of a Parish Plan for the town. Developing a Parish Plan should help us to...

- foster a sense of community spirit through people working together on the project;
- take stock of what we have or don't have in the town;
- understand what we value about the town, and what we would like to change;
- encourage a sense of pride and heritage;
- identify potential threats to the town's assets;
- reflect on how the town has developed over recent years and how it may develop in the future;
- collect evidence to influence decision-makers;
- inform our discussions with statutory authorities about the community's needs;
- draw up plans, and devise effective ways of implementing them;
- form the basis for local voluntary action.

How does the Parish Plan relate to other recent opinion-seeking processes in the town?

The views of local residents have been canvassed in recent years through a number of schemes. The advantage of our Parish Plan is that it enables the findings from all these previous exercises to be brought together into a single document. Since 2006, local people's views have been sought through:

- **Questionnaires and surveys** – which have covered local sports and leisure facilities, anti-social behaviour, and the range of shops within the town;
- **Public meetings** – including presentations in respect of the Urban Design Framework, the extension of the Conservation Area and the suitability of sites within the town for future development;
- **Informal conversations with Town Councillors** – in particular, at Burton Latimer's monthly farmer's market, where local residents can raise issues and concerns directly.

How has our Parish Plan been developed?

The local steering group

Our Parish Plan project has been overseen by a steering group consisting of local residents:

Fergus Macdonald (Chairman)	David Gunn	Tom Kelly	Jan Smith
Jeff Baynham	Warwick Hunt	John Meads	

The household questionnaire

The first stage of our Parish Plan project involved the development of a questionnaire for all 3,200 Burton Latimer households. 706 completed questionnaires were received – which, at 22%, is an impressive response rate for this type of survey. All households subsequently received a copy of the questionnaire analysis, and the findings were also displayed at a drop-in session at the Civic Centre – giving local residents a chance to add further comments.

The Plan

This Parish Plan document combines the findings from our household questionnaire with the results of other schemes that have canvassed local people's views in recent years. It has been endorsed by Burton Latimer Town Council as a 'blueprint' for the future, and has been submitted to Kettering Borough Council for adoption.



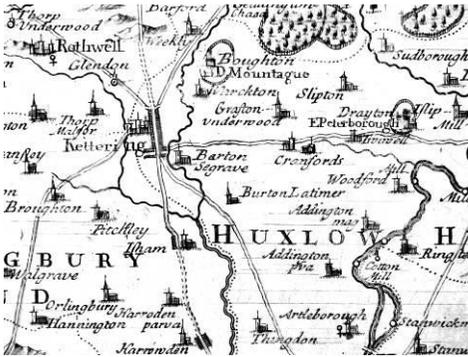
Burton Latimer / the past

Early days & ancient history

Burton Latimer started as a small settlement alongside what was to become the main road from London to Carlisle. It was first mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, but before the Norman Conquest it was known as 'Burtone'.

There is some archaeological evidence of previous activity in the area during the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the Roman period. A recent scientific excavation of land off Higham Road has revealed the site of a Romano-British settlement between the 2nd and 4th century AD, before being abandoned. The occupants were probably farmers.

At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, Burton was held by Guy de Raimbeaucourt, and a mill is recorded beside what is now the Weetabix site.



Lords of the manor

Over the following centuries the manor became divided into two holdings, eventually passing to the Latimer family, based at what is now the Hall, and the Plessey family at what is now the Manor House next to the church. The holdings were united in the 1760s but the title of Lord of the Manor was not unified until the 19th century.



19th century economic development & ironstone quarrying

By the time the Common Land on the Wold was enclosed in 1805, the area was in an economic depression. Agriculture was not flourishing; lace making and weaving were also in decline.

The major changes came about fifty years later, with the arrival of the railway – which connected Burton to London and the industrial midlands. Then, large ironstone deposits were found in the district and quarrying began around the village.

From quarrying to light industry

In the last part of the 19th century, two new industries arrived. By 1885, the first four clothing factories had opened, followed in 1898 by the first shoe factory, and Burton grew rapidly to become a small, thriving light-industrial town.

Around its edges, the quarrying carried on, until the pits were worked out in the early 1920s. Some extraction of limestone and clay still went on in the northwest of the town, on the area now occupied by Morrisons distribution centre. By the early 1980s however, it was over.



Modern industrial growth

The 1950s saw further expansion of factories like Weetabix and Alumasc. However, by 1980 the clothing and shoe industries had been killed-off by cheap foreign imports and the high cost of employing so many people to make the goods.

The village becomes a town

In 1895, Burton Latimer Parish Council was constituted, and it took over responsibility for providing amenities for the village (as it then was) from the previous local authority – Kettering Sanitary District.

The parish was designated an Urban District in 1923 – but with the local government reorganisation in 1974, Burton Latimer lost the right to govern itself and became part of Kettering Borough, with two representatives in each of the Latimer and Plessy Wards. At this point, the Urban District Council was replaced by a Town Council – which continues to this day.

With its severely diminished powers, the new Town Council could only act in an advisory role and as a sounding board for local opinion, as it lacked the authority and means to carry out its own recommendations. Although Kettering Borough Council provided Burton Latimer with an annual grant to pay for local administration costs, it was not until the Town Council decided to levy a parish precept in 2001 that money was available to spend on projects that the Borough or County Councils would not finance.

Into the new millennium

By 2000 the town's new bypass and the building of the A14 made the town attractive again as a manufacturing and distribution centre. High-profile national firms like Morrisons (with its distribution depot), Versalift, Alpro Soya and Abbeyboard have based themselves on the north side of town.

Facing further change

Burton's population is scheduled to increase to about 10,000 over the next ten years – a far cry from the small village of poor agricultural workers, weavers and lace makers of two hundred years ago. And the local landscape is changing, too, with Burton Wold – the former area of common land to the east of the town where local people once grazed cattle and collected firewood – set to become one of the largest inland wind farms in England when current expansion plans are implemented.



Burton Latimer / the present



Burton Latimer Urban Design Framework

Between 2004 and 2006 Kettering Borough Council and Burton Latimer Town Council held the biggest exercise in public consultation on future plans for Burton Latimer in living memory.

It involved workshops for invited stakeholders followed by a caravan exhibition in the centre of town, to which all residents were invited. A professional team was steered by a group of Councillors and residents. The resulting report was adopted by the Local Planning Authority as supplementary planning guidance.

The focus of the planning exercise was the High Street, with a view to putting the town centre at the heart of the growth agenda for the town as a whole. Because of past planning decisions, the functions of the town centre had become scattered along the High Street. The retail offering also needed to be strengthened – but government policy to give priority to housing for brown field development was undermining the town centre by reducing the frontage available for retail and services.

There was a real danger that the town centre would decline beyond the point of no return unless action was taken. The result would be a dormitory rather than a community.

Issues & concerns to be addressed

A ten-point policy framework was established for improving the town centre:

1. Ensure the growth in numbers of dwellings benefits the town centre.
2. Improve the quality of the town centre environment to make it a more attractive and people-friendly place.
3. Enhance the role and offerings of the town centre for local people.
4. Create a safer town centre.
5. Support measures that make viable and encourage more high quality uses within the town centre to sustain a 'special destination'.
6. Capitalise on and strengthen the food, restaurant and evening role of the town centre.
7. Manage traffic in town more effectively to improve the pedestrian environment.
8. Make more of underused land and gap sites in the town centre, particularly on High Street.
9. Support and encourage active ground floor uses within the core town centre area;
10. Target detractors to character for remedial action to enhance the traditional character of the town centre.

Within this framework a series of targets were drawn up, and four particular schemes were marked as the keys to major improvements in the town centre:

- Town Square / Community Service Centre;
- Paddock Garden Court redevelopment / Council car park redevelopment;
- Redevelopment of the former surgery and existing library;
- High Street environmental improvements.

Although the work concentrated on the town centre, respondents were given the opportunity to contribute to a 'wish list' for development in the town at large to inform later work on the Local Development Framework. This list included:

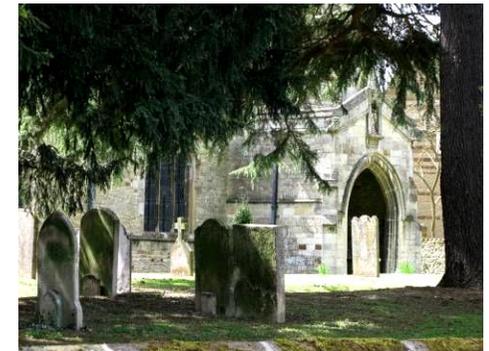
- Way-finding;
- Community safety;
- Refurbishment of Churchill Way retail parade;
- Redevelopment of back-land at Churchill Way;
- Redevelopment of Jock's Autos site;
- Shop front improvement scheme;
- Burton Latimer perimeter green route;
- Redevelopment of frontage sites on the Kettering Road approach;
- A New Business / Enterprise Centre;
- A new sports centre for Burton Latimer.

Actions we have already taken

The weakening of the property market has made early realisation of some of these plans more difficult. However progress has been made:

- In the latest planning applications for redevelopment in the High Street the Local Planning Authority has been able to use this framework to actively encourage the use of ground floor spaces for retail purposes.
- The purchase and reuse of the derelict former health centre as a civic centre has consolidated ownership of one of the key sites and brought together all public services in one area (library, fire service, police, Town Council, Borough Council and County Council).

The departure of the Town Council and the Borough Council from the Town Square area makes redevelopment of that area easier once the commercial case becomes viable.



Our household questionnaire

Many people said that they really welcomed the chance to give their views – and that all the issues covered by the questionnaire were important for our town.

“It is good that you obviously value local opinion.”

“It is good that our opinions are being sought – but how will they influence future action?”

“This questionnaire is a fantastic idea!”

The key features of our questionnaire are...

- It was designed, refined and tested by a group of Burton Latimer residents;
- The survey contained 22 questions, covering nine themes:

Housing	Traffic & transport	Safety & crime prevention
Education & employment	Amenities & services	Places of worship
The local environment	Leisure & recreation	Local government
- The questions gave people the chance to say what they value about living in Burton Latimer and how they think the experience of living and working in the town may be enhanced in the future;
- The questionnaire was delivered to all 3,200 Burton Latimer households in February 2011, and was completed by 706 local households – a response rate of 22%.

What did we find?

The most frequently mentioned topics requiring action were...

- **Housing** – in particular, concerns about the scale, pace and location of recent developments within the town (and those that have already been approved for the future), and the risks of overwhelming the infrastructure;
- **Traffic and transport** – including the need to address speeding, parking problems, HGV traffic and the poor state of many side roads;
- **Safety & crime prevention** – with anti-social behaviour and underage drinking being highlighted as problems, along with a need for more effective enforcement (and possibly extension) of the town’s no-alcohol zone;
- **Local amenities** – in particular, the questions of how to attract and support businesses and shops to Burton Latimer more effectively, enhance local facilities in the town (with the public conveniences attracting particularly strong criticism) – and provide more help for those with disabilities;
- **The local environment** – including the wish for a generally cleaner, tidier and more vibrant town, improved (and litter-free) pavements and footpaths, and less dog fouling.

Why do people like living in Burton Latimer?

The most frequently mentioned features that people value about living here are...

- Burton Latimer is a small town, with a friendly atmosphere and a strong community feel;
- it is surrounded by attractive countryside, which helps to create a pleasant and peaceful environment within the town;
- the town is in a convenient, central location, with good road and rail links;
- local shops provide most of our basic needs, and neighbouring larger towns are within easy reach for other items;
- there is a good range of local amenities within the town – such as the library, post office and medical centre;
- there are good bus links – especially to Kettering.

and the factors most likely to persuade people to move away from the town are...

- recent over-development of housing;
- the detrimental effects of recent planning decisions on the character and feel of the town;

“The size of the town is fantastic. Burton Latimer feels more like a large village than a town because everyone is friendly.”

“There is a great sense of community and togetherness which you don't get in larger towns.”

“I LOVE Burton Latimer – it is great!”

“Burton is a lovely town and I never regret moving here.”

Housing development



Almost 50% of local households who responded to our questionnaire said that no more housing development should be allowed in Burton Latimer.

What type of housing is currently available in Burton Latimer?

There are currently about 3,230 houses within the Town – and these can be divided into five main groups based on their period of construction. In chronological order, these are:

- the Original Conservation Area – which is centred on Church Street, and contains a number of notable, historic buildings;
- the Old Town Area – which mainly consists of terraced houses within the Finedon Street, Alexandra Street, Duke Street, and Station Road areas;
- Immediate post-WW2 developments – such as the Spinney Road estate off Cranford Road, and the houses in the service road running alongside Station Road;
- Later post-WW2 developments – which encompass the semi-detached houses in the Churchill Way and Queensway area. The adjoining side roads also include a number of detached and semi-detached bungalows;
- More recent major developments – which include the estate off Spinney Road and the one centred on Cornfield Way.

There have also been a number of smaller developments, many of which have included a number of social housing residences.

Building work on two additional estates off Higham Road and Cranford Road started in 2011. When completed, these developments will produce over 400 new dwellings in the town.

What about future house-building in the town?

Almost 50% of local households who responded to our questionnaire said that no more housing development should be allowed in Burton Latimer. However, the most common views expressed by those who may be prepared to consider future house-building in the town are...

- the re-development of disused or neglected land within the town is by far the most acceptable option;
- small pockets of in-fill housing and the re-development of small plots or garden land also receive some backing;
- there is negligible support for further large-scale development schemes.

However, the main concerns are...

- housing development is running ahead of the infrastructure needed to support it;
- new and planned housing is not being built in the most appropriate or acceptable locations – as identified by past local consultation exercises;
- more affordable housing needs to be provided for younger people – and for older residents wishing to downsize;
- by growing too big, Burton Latimer risks losing its character – and spoiling the features that make the town attractive.

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ Burton Latimer Action Group (BLAG) was established in 2007 to represent the voice of local residents, particularly on planning issues.
- ✓ Members of this group now sit on the Liaison Forum, which considers – and makes recommendations about – the 5,000 houses planned for the Kettering East development.
- ✓ Public meetings have been held to give local residents more say about where future house-building in Burton Latimer could most appropriately take place.
- ✓ Using the feedback from these events, Burton Latimer Town Council has prepared and submitted a plan to Kettering Borough Council for adoption.

What further steps are we planning to take?

⇒ Burton Latimer Town Council will seek greater influence over the use of money received by Kettering Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council from housing developers (known as “section 106 monies”), to ensure that it benefits our town. The main priority will be to direct these funds towards projects that boost the local infrastructure in ways that are needed to support further development – such as improvements to highways, bus services, policing, schools, and facilities for people with disabilities.

“Further expansion needs to have infrastructure in place BEFORE housing is built.”

“I would hate to see the town expand too much because it would spoil the feel of the place.”

“We still like it here, but feel that it has grown too big for the amenities now.”

“I worry that we are losing the community feeling.”

Business & employment



Most of those who expressed a view on this topic mentioned the need to attract more businesses to the town – and to provide more support for those that are already here.

What businesses are currently based in Burton Latimer?

High Street & retail businesses

Most of Burton Latimer's shops and services are located in the High Street and Churchill Way areas. The range of shops has narrowed over the last 15 years, with long-standing family-run concerns (like the butcher and greengrocer) disappearing long ago.

These traditional shops have steadily been replaced by a variety of other businesses, including: hairdressers; restaurants, cafés and takeaways; a charity shop; and two pre-school nurseries. Other retail units have been taken up more recently by specialist service providers – including Corby Kilns (who supply and maintain kilns used by potters) and a flight simulation centre.

However, attracting long-term tenants has proved difficult in many cases, and a number of prominently-sited premises in the town centre are currently lying empty.

Small and medium-sized enterprises

Burton Latimer has a Chamber of Trade & Commerce, and there are over 200 small and medium-sized businesses based in the town, which provide a wide range of goods and services. Most of these involve people working from home or from small premises around the town – and include builders and allied trades, manufacturing and light engineering firms, a range of therapists, and providers of financial, legal and business services. There are also several used car sales outlets in the town, and two large garden centres on the outskirts.

Industrial areas

Station Road is the long-established home of Weetabix and Alumasc, while Latimer Park – a more recently created industrial area on the northern fringe of the town – has attracted a number of major companies, including Alpro, Versalift and Abbey Board. Morrisons also has one of its large distribution centres on this site.

In addition, there are small pockets of industrial activity in the town – for instance, at the foot of Higham Road – and there is also a large fruit and vegetable packaging plant in Finedon Road.

Furnace Lane – which is off Finedon Station Road and lies just outside the parish of Burton Latimer to the south-west – also hosts a number of commercial enterprises and industrial units.

The most frequently mentioned concerns about this topic are the need for...

- More support for small businesses in Burton Latimer;
- Ways of attracting a wider range of quality shops and service providers to the High Street;
- More information about the local services available in the town.

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ A forum for regular meetings between local businesses and the town council has been established.
- ✓ A comprehensive directory of locally-based businesses in Burton Latimer has been put together. Copies are available at the library and can be downloaded from the community website www.burtonlatimer.org.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Re-establish the local Chamber of Trade and Commerce, to provide a strong voice for locally-based businesses.
- ⇒ Support High Street and local retail businesses by smartening up the High Street and Churchill Way – in line with proposals set out in the Urban Design Framework (see pages 6 & 7).
- ⇒ Use incentives (for instance, a rent-free period) to encourage more stall-holders to use the monthly farmers market, and run a new advertising campaign to attract more customers.

“Give more support to encourage small businesses in Burton Latimer – as this will create further employment prospects for the young.”

“I would like to see quality, local, affordable places to shop.”

Education



Half of all respondents mentioned the need for more school places – for all ages – if the town's population grows to the size implied by recent housing plans.

What educational facilities are currently available in Burton Latimer?

Pre-school and early years

The town currently has six Ofsted-registered day nurseries for children aged five and under: Apple Tree Day Nursery and Sunshine Pre-School are at opposite ends of High Street; Acorn Day Nursery occupies a purpose-built building adjacent to the sports field on the edge of the town; and Duke Street Pre-School operates from the Methodist Church Hall. In addition, Acorn and Apple Tree run out-of-school facilities at the two local primary schools, which cater for children in the early years age group both before and after the school day, and during school holidays.

Primary Schools

Burton Latimer has two primary schools. St Mary's Church of England Primary School is based in the High Street. It is a voluntary controlled school of mixed gender entry, with an estimated 197 children on its roll aged 4 – 11 years. Meadowside Primary School is an amalgamated infants and junior school. It is a community school of mixed gender entry, with an age range of 4 – 11 years and an estimated 326 children on its roll. The school also hosts the local children's centre, provides facilities for adult learning, and houses a community toy library.

Secondary Schools

There are no secondary schools within the town. However, Latimer Arts College – although located in the nearby village of Barton Seagrave – was originally built for Burton Latimer pupils, and remains the town's principal secondary school. It is a foundation school of mixed gender entry, with an estimated 1157 pupils aged 11 – 18 years. The school also hosts a designated special provision for up to eight students.

Burton Latimer's primary schools are also feeder schools for three other secondary schools in Kettering: Southfield School for Girls – a foundation school of single gender entry, with about 1012 pupils; Bishop Stopford School – a voluntary aided school of mixed gender entry, with an estimated 1447 pupils; and Kettering Science Academy – an 'all through school' with an age range of 4 – 18 years. It is classed as a city academy, and has an estimated 1387 pupils on its roll.

Other Educational Facilities

There are currently no special provision schools or higher education colleges located in Burton Latimer. Tresham College of Further and Higher Education has sites in the neighbouring towns of Kettering, Wellingborough and Corby. The nearest university is based in Northampton.

The most frequently mentioned concerns about this topic are the need for...

- more primary school places – especially if the town’s population grows to the size implied by recent housing plans;
- a secondary school in the town;
- more after-school activities and holiday clubs;
- ways of meeting the wider learning needs of local residents – including the provision of adult education (for example, through evening classes).

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ Burton Latimer Town Council has established the principle with Northamptonshire County Council that our town needs additional primary school places to cope with the projected growth of the local population in the long term.
- ✓ A proposal to expand St Mary’s School with effect from September 2013 has been approved by Northamptonshire County Council.
- ✓ French language classes and IT classes for adults have been established at the Civic Centre.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Develop the Civic Centre further as a venue for local educational activities.
- ⇒ Explore the potential for adult education courses being offered locally (for instance, using facilities at the Civic Centre) by neighbouring educational establishments – such as Tresham College, Moulton College, and the University of Northampton.
- ⇒ As the population of Burton Latimer grows, expand schooling in the town to provide education for local children through to the age of 18 years.

“Can schools cope with the planned housing and explosion of population in the next five years?”

“We need another infant / primary school and – if the town gets larger – a secondary school.”

The local environment



The state of Burton Latimer's environment was identified as one of the five most important topics by those who responded to the household questionnaire.

What are the most attractive environmental features of Burton Latimer?

The Conservation Area

The town's historic, and much loved, conservation area was originally centred on Church Street, but in the last few years has been extended (as a result of local consultation) to include parts of High Street. The Probation Service – under the Community Payback Scheme – has recently enhanced the nearby cemetery area, by painting all the railings and clearing undergrowth.

The Pocket Park

Burton Latimer Pocket Park is an 11 acre area of meadowland on the western fringe of the town, situated on the flood-plain bordering the river Ise. There is a wide diversity of wildlife along the riverbank, and within the surrounding grassland and hedgerows. The town's famous duck race and fete is held in the park each year, in June.

Open spaces

Open spaces within the town include the The Paddocks, and the Millennium Garden. The Millennium Garden is effectively the town square and, apart from being the venue for the monthly farmer's market, also acts as a focal point within the town. The area has recently been further enhanced by the addition of a new flagpole and an attractive town map, which was produced by a local artist in consultation with pupils from the local primary schools.

Public footpaths

A network of public footpaths within Burton Latimer links the town with the surrounding villages, and provides good opportunities for walks and, in places, benches to sit on. Our Parish Footpath Warden regularly inspects all footpaths within the town, and the benefits of this are already being seen by improved signage and weed clearance.

Waste management and recycling

Waste and recycling facilities are located in the Churchill Way car park, and there are numerous litterbins around the town. Several strategically placed receptacles allow dog walkers to dispose of their waste appropriately.

Green energy

Since the establishment of Burton Wold Wind farm in 2006, Burton Latimer has been at the forefront of alternative power generation. A Community Fund was set up by the wind farm operator to deliver energy efficiency projects and education to residents and community groups in the town.

The main suggestions for improving the town's environment are...

- action on dog fouling and litter – such as the provision of more litter and dog waste bins;
- improvements to pavements and footpaths – including tidying-up, hedge-trimming, and better wheelchair access;
- more designated cycle paths;
- more tree-planting;
- more information and publicity about green spaces, environmental attractions, and sustainability;
- tidying and better general maintenance of the town centre area, including the Millennium Garden;
- improved energy efficiency – such as using solar power for public buildings, installing energy efficient street lamps, and reducing the amount of street lighting (either the number of lights, or the duration);
- more seats in the Pocket Park and The Paddocks;
- more recycling facilities – especially for items not collected by Kettering Borough Council;
- greater protection from development for the surrounding countryside, especially the Ise valley.

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ Two new seats have been installed – one along Wold Road and another in the cemetery.
- ✓ A piece of land next to the pocket park has been acquired, to allow this protected wildlife haven to expand.
- ✓ Additional bins for dog waste have been placed around the town.
- ✓ The local footpath network has been extended and improved – with a new barrier to prevent motorbikes using the path through the Spinney – and more cycleways have been created.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Create a new footpath route on the eastern side of the town – to be called the Jubilee Walk.
- ⇒ Provide a wider range of recycling facilities at more locations within the town – and ensure that recycling bins are emptied more frequently.
- ⇒ Use the Community Payback scheme to help keep Burton Latimer tidy.

“Reducing litter and dog waste would create a better environment for everyone.”

“Burton Latimer is surrounded by wonderful countryside and green land.”

“The Pocket Park is a great example of ‘something’ for the community – it is well-used and looked after.”

“The pedestrian route to and up Wold Road is a big asset.”

Traffic & transport



Traffic and transport issues were seen as the second most important topic covered by the household questionnaire.

What are the key traffic & transport features of Burton Latimer?

Access to main roads

Burton Latimer sits at the conjunction of two major roads: the A6 – which runs north / south, and bypasses the town to the east; and the A14 – a busy cross-country dual carriageway linking the M1 and A1, and which also forms Kettering's bypass.

Bus services

There is a regular shuttle bus service connecting the town with Kettering and Corby, and a less-frequent direct service to Oundle and Peterborough. Burton Latimer is a staging post on the longer-distance bus service to Bedford (which includes a stop at the Waitrose store on the outskirts of Rushden), and local buses also connect with services to other neighbouring towns, including Wellingborough and Northampton.

Rail services

The nearest railway stations are in Kettering and Wellingborough, which are both on the main line linking London with the north of England. Trains on this line enter London at St Pancras International, where passengers can connect with the Eurostar service.

Car parking

The town has three public car parks, but elsewhere the increase in private car usage has put additional pressure on residential parking spaces – particularly in the Duke Street and Alexandra Street areas.

Traffic volume and flow

The building of the town's bypass in 1990 led to a significant reduction in the volume of traffic passing through the town centre along the old A6. More recently, mini-roundabouts have been installed at each end of High Street – which has also benefited from the introduction of a 20mph zone. HGVs are able to access most of the local industrial areas by avoiding the town centre and (with the exception of the designated HGV route along Finedon Road) residential areas.

Highway maintenance

The responsibility for maintaining the town's roads lies with Northamptonshire County Council.

The main suggestions for improving traffic and transport in the town are...

- **Highway & pavement maintenance** – more timely pot-hole repairs, and more effective gritting of roads (especially side roads built on a slope) in the winter;
- **Speeding** – extension of the 20mph zone, additional traffic calming measures, and better placement of the Finedon Road Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) speed detector;
- **HGV traffic volume** – reducing the number of HGVs passing through the town centre and along Finedon Road;
- **Parking** – better enforcement (or revision) of current parking restrictions in High Street, disabled parking bays outside Churchill Way shops, and the replacement of grass verges in Churchill Way and Queensway with hard-standing;
- **Bus services** – a later-evening Burton Latimer / Kettering time-table, better access to Higham Road (and in particular, to the relocated medical centre and pharmacy) and Kettering station, better bus stop locations, and shelters at all bus stops;
- **Road junctions** – revision of the mini-roundabout at Church Street / High Street, and better lighting at A6 / Cranford Road.

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ A major pot-hole repair programme is under way.
- ✓ The volume of HGV traffic passing through the town along High Street has reduced as a result of new direction signs from the A6 & A14.
- ✓ New parking restrictions have been established in the High Street.
- ✓ The local bus service has been extended to enable better access to Higham Road, Kettering Station and Kettering General Hospital.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Continue the current highway resurfacing programme.
- ⇒ Create parking bays for the disabled in front of the Churchill Way shops.
- ⇒ Ensure all major bus stops in the town have shelters.
- ⇒ Protect Church Street from any extra traffic that may result from possible future changes to junction 10 (or the creation of a new junction 10a) of the A14.
- ⇒ Press for a roundabout at the A6 / Higham Road junction if the town expands further in this area.

“Parking in the High Street – particularly outside the bank – is an accident waiting to happen.”

“Traffic volume through Burton is of a very high volume regardless of the bypass.”

“Residents ruin grass verges by parking on them.”

“Lorries make my walls rattle.”

“A lot of paths are in a bad state and need repairing.”

Safety & crime prevention



40% of respondents said that they never, or rarely, felt unsafe in Burton Latimer – although many noted that there was still room for improvement in this aspect of the town.

What are the key safety & crime prevention measures in Burton Latimer?

Crime levels

In general, Burton Latimer has been a law-abiding and safe place over the years, with most crimes committed being of the minor kind. Statistics for the town show fairly low levels of theft, burglary and anti-social behaviour.

Police / Safer Community Team

The town's policing falls within the remit of PCs and PCSOs from Kettering Rural Team – which is part of Northamptonshire Police. Members of the team hold regular surgeries at the library, and officers are also on hand at the monthly farmers market to discuss issues with local residents.

Burton Latimer Anti-social Behaviour Team (BLAST)

BLAST is a community-based initiative that aims to find ways to reduce local crime and anti-social behaviour. Past projects have included: a risk-assessment of alleyways and footpaths to ensure they are safe and have adequate lighting; the extension of the town centre's no-alcohol zone; and advice for vulnerable residents to minimise the risk of being burgled.

Street lighting

Responsibility for maintaining street lights on Burton Latimer's main and residential roads is divided between Northamptonshire County Council and Kettering Borough Council. Some footpaths and alleyways are less well lit than others – and in an effort to save energy, every other street light in some roads is currently turned off.

CCTV

The town centre area is monitored by CCTV, with cameras located at the High Street / Church Street and High Street / Churchill Way junctions, and in the Churchill Way car park.

No-alcohol zone

A no-alcohol zone was established in the town centre area in 2000, and this was extended in 2009.

Neighbourhood watch schemes

There are two neighbourhood watch areas in Burton Latimer, each with its own Street Co-ordinator.

The most common situations where people feel vulnerable in the town are...

- outside the Churchill Way shops – particularly in the evening;
- anywhere where groups of youths tend to gather;
- walking along secluded footpaths – for instance, along unlit paths and alleyways in the town, or through the Spinney;
- on the King George V playing field after dark.

The main suggestions for improving this aspect of the town are...

- better – and more effective use of – CCTV;
- better enforcement of the no-alcohol zone, and more effective measures to limit the availability of alcohol to underage people;
- a more visible police and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) presence on foot or bike in the centre of town;
- greater publicity for neighbourhood watch schemes, and support for their development in more areas of the town;
- better lighting on footpaths and in alleyways;
- develop a wider range of social activities for younger people in the town.

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ Burton Latimer Youth Scheme (BLYS) has been set up to provide social activities for younger people in the town – and is well-regarded by those who take part.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Encourage the installation of modern, directional, white street-lighting – which will make CCTV more effective.
- ⇒ Promote the development of more local Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- ⇒ Create a dedicated youth centre within the Civic Centre.

“More visible policing is needed.”

“Where are the REAL police officers? Not in Burton Latimer!”

“More police on foot are needed to patrol and make people feel safer.”

“We need a youth centre or somewhere for teenagers to go to rather than hanging around shops or streets.”

“Raise the profile of neighbourhood watch schemes.”

Local amenities & services



The library, post office, supermarkets and general stores received the highest ratings from those who expressed an opinion. The pharmacy and medical centre also scored well – although their relocation from High Street to Higham Road had created difficulties for some.

What are the main amenities & services available in Burton Latimer?

Essential services

Burton Latimer is relatively well provided for, having a library, post office, doctor's surgery, bank, opticians and a veterinary practitioner. There is also a pharmacy, a gym, a wide range of restaurants, two supermarkets and a selection of smaller shops. Public conveniences are available in the Churchill Way car park.

Most of these amenities are located conveniently in the High Street and Churchill Way areas – although the medical centre and pharmacy have recently moved away from the town centre.

Civic Centre

Extensive renovation work on the old medical centre in High Street has recently been completed, to convert the empty building into the new Civic Centre. This facility houses the Heritage Museum, an enlarged council chamber, and a room that can be hired for a wide range of purposes including adult education courses.

Another suite of rooms set aside to form a youth drop-in centre, which will be operated under the auspices of Burton Latimer Anti-social Behaviour Team (BLAST). Lastly there are two small office suites which are being rented by separate organisations and will therefore help reduce the running costs of the new centre.

Heritage Museum

The Burton Latimer Heritage Museum has recently moved to a newly-refurbished suite of rooms in the town's Civic Centre. The museum – which is run by volunteers – puts on regular exhibitions and talks, which focus on different aspects of the town's past. The Society's website and regular newsletter are also rich sources of information about the history of Burton Latimer.

Allotments

The town has a number of allotments located off Higham Road, which are run by an active local Allotment Association. These cultivation plots are in great demand, and there is currently a waiting list for new members.

Help for people with disabilities

The library and Civic Centre are wheelchair-friendly – as are the two supermarkets in the town centre – and the library has facilities for people with visual impairment.

The amenities and services in the town that local households rate most highly are...

- the library, post office, supermarkets and general stores;
- the pharmacy and medical centre – although the relocation of the pharmacy to its new site on Higham Road has created difficulties for some people;
- the Heritage Society museum, vet and optician.

And the aspects that score least well are...

- the local shops – in terms of their limited range;
- the town's public conveniences;
- the help available for people with disabilities.

Suggestions for improving the situation are...

- attract more retail outlets and businesses to the town – plus a dentist and a petrol station.

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ Pavements have been raised at bus stops to allow easier access to buses.
- ✓ Kerbs have been lowered and friction surfaces installed at road junctions, to mark crossing points.
- ✓ Bus routes have been revised to allow better access to the re-located medical centre and pharmacy on Higham Road.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Create parking bays for the disabled in front of the Churchill Way shops.
- ⇒ Review the provision of public WC facilities within the town.
- ⇒ Take forward proposals for improving the town centre, as set out in the Urban Design Framework (see pages 6 & 7).

“Good shops are essential. We desperately need to attract more.”

“A better High Street image needs to be addressed.”

“We need to encourage shops and new facilities to the High Street”

“The toilets (when open) are dirty and smelly.”

Leisure & recreation



The leisure and recreation facilities currently available in Burton Latimer were well-regarded by those who felt able to express an opinion – with the local places to eat and drink being rated particularly highly.

What leisure & recreation facilities are available in Burton Latimer?

Sports & teams

The main sports clubs within the town are Burton Latimer Cricket Club (which is off Kettering Road), Burton Park Wanderers Football Club (off Polwell Lane), and Burton Latimer Bowls Club (in The Paddocks). The town also has an active tennis club (with courts off Regent Road), amateur boxing club (based at the BPWFC ground), and table tennis club (at Yeoman's Hall in Meeting Lane).

Play areas

The King George V Playing Field (also known as the recreation ground) has two football pitches, an all-weather playing surface, and an area with playground equipment for young people. There is a children's playground in the Paddocks and an open space that includes a junior play area on the edge of the Cornfield Way estate.

Clubs & societies

The town's Community Centre offers a regular programme of activities, and runs a youth group that meets on Monday evenings. The library hosts a reading group and a scrabble club, and the local churches arrange a variety of activities for all ages and a wide range of interests. There is an active Heritage Society (with a well-run museum, based at the Civic Centre), Photographic Society, Allotment Association, Royal British Legion, Ladies Club, Rotary Club, and Needlework Group.

For young people, there are local Guides, Brownies and Rainbows units, and Scouts, Cubs and Beavers groups, plus Chevron baton-twirlers.

Places to eat & drink

It's not easy to go hungry or thirsty in Burton Latimer! The town has six restaurants (three Italian, two Indian and one Chinese), four pubs, clubs and bars, four cafés, five takeaways, and a fish and chip shop.

The leisure facilities in the town are generally well-regarded – and in particular...

- the places to eat and drink in Burton Latimer are rated particularly highly;
- there are over 40 clubs and societies that are currently active in the town.

The main suggestions for improving this aspect of Burton Latimer are...

- generate more publicity about what's on offer in Burton Latimer – such as a welcome pack for new residents;
- publicise local walks more effectively, with associated maps and leaflets;
- encourage the development of a leisure centre with sports facilities – and a swimming pool;
- provide more youth and teenage facilities – for instance, by redeveloping disused working men's clubs;
- identify somewhere for senior citizens to meet;
- create more play areas for children;
- set up an arts and creative centre in the town.

“There's no need for anyone to be bored in Burton Latimer.”

“We need to provide more leisure facilities for teenagers.”

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ A comprehensive directory of clubs and societies in Burton Latimer has been put together. Copies are available at the library and can be downloaded from the community website www.burtonlatimer.org.
- ✓ A skateboard “half-pipe” has been installed on the King George V playing field.
- ✓ Burton Latimer Youth Scheme (BLYS) has been set up to provide social activities for younger people in the town – and is well-regarded by those who take part.
- ✓ Information about what's on offer in Burton Latimer is posted regularly on the town's community website www.burtonlatimer.org.
- ✓ A children's play area and a five-a-side football pitch have been included in the Cranford Road housing development scheme.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Seek the views of younger people on this topic.
- ⇒ Create a “welcome pack” that can be issued to new Burton Latimer residents.
- ⇒ Publish a map of local footpaths and walks.
- ⇒ Identify footpaths that can be upgraded to bridleways.
- ⇒ Press for a sports and leisure facility to be included in any plans for a new school building within the town – for use by local residents outside school hours.

Churches / places of worship



The 30% of households who expressed a view on this topic were generally positive in their comments – with the local churches being seen as important, and welcoming, focal points of the town for churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike.

What churches / places of worship available in Burton Latimer?

Burton Latimer Baptist Church

The Baptist Church has been part of the town's community for over 250 years. The original Meeting House in Meeting Lane was built in 1744 and – although much altered in the 19th century – is still used as a place of worship every Sunday. A new suite of buildings incorporating the John Yeoman's Hall situated across from the chapel provides a modern facility for many of the activities of the church as well as other groups in the town.

Burton Latimer Methodist Church

Methodism has been represented in Burton Latimer since the 1830s. The current Chapel in Duke Street was built in 1890, and the school rooms were added in 1930. A new entrance in Piggott's Lane was constructed in 1999.

St Mary the Virgin (Church of England)

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin dates from the 11th Century, and substantial parts of the Norman church remain to this day. Subsequent generations added to a fine medieval church that is the most significant building in Burton. The 14th century wall paintings of the martyrdom of St Catherine are particularly noteworthy, as are the later paintings of the Old Testament Patriarchs that date from Elizabethan or Jacobean times.

St Nicholas Owen (Roman Catholic Church)

St Nicholas Owen Roman Catholic Church in Kettering Road opened in 1972 – four centuries after there was last a Catholic Church in Burton Latimer. Prior to the building of the new church, Sunday Mass was held in the British Legion rooms for twenty-seven years.

As well as being places of worship, our churches make other important contributions to the local community...

Burton Latimer's churches provide parent and toddler groups for support and friendship, and offer venues for children's and youth activities. Their facilities are also used for adult education and recreation activities – such as French lessons, craft clubs for people with learning difficulties, a table tennis club for all ages and abilities, and weight watchers.

Our church leaders contribute to the governance of local charities and schools. They are also involved with the planning and delivery of school assemblies – which adds to the spiritual development of young people. Visiting the sick and elderly who are attached to local churches is another important, and valued, aspect of their role.

Only 30% of households commented on this aspect of Burton Latimer – but the good news is...

- the churches in Burton Latimer are seen as important, and welcoming, focal points of the town for churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike. They are also viewed as being vital to the town, and are valued by the community;
- *Focus* magazine (which is produced by St Mary's Church), in particular, is regarded as a good source of information about what's going on in the town.

Suggestions for the future are...

- build on existing inter-faith collaboration and non-denominational activities;
- find ways of developing the churches' roles further – such as by extending their current visiting of the sick and elderly, offering a venue for concerts and arts, encouraging groups for all ages, and providing a drop-in centre.

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ The Alpha course is now available locally for those interested in exploring the Christian faith without having to attend church services.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Develop local church provision for young people who wish to deepen their understanding of faith.
- ⇒ Create opportunities for worship as churches together, for those who might not identify with traditional forms and patterns of worship.
- ⇒ Link with St Jude's Food Bank Initiative to provide emergency grocery provisions to those in significant need.
- ⇒ Establish a drop-in place.

"The churches are vital to satisfy the spiritual needs of the community."

"From our own experience the local churches are both comforting and caring."

"They have started Café Church, which involves the rest of the community."

"The churches work with each other for the benefit of the town."

Local government



Just over half of those who completed the household questionnaire said they don't know how to give their views to BLTC, contact a councillor or find out what happened at a BLTC meeting.

What is the local government set-up in Burton Latimer?

Representing local residents

Burton Latimer has two electoral wards – Plessy and Latimer – with a total of 12 town councillors. Local residents are also represented on other authorities by three Kettering Borough Councillors and one Northamptonshire County Councillor.

Burton Latimer Town Council (BLTC)

There are a total of 5,595 electors within the town, and the next elections for the town and borough councils will be in May 2015. Each year, the town's councillors elect a Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor from their ranks. The Town Clerk is the Responsible Officer for all financial and administrative purposes, and is the council's sole employee.

There are two standing committees within the Town Council: the Planning Committee; and the Finance and General Purposes Committee. In addition there are a number of working groups.

The Town Council meets on a monthly basis, as do the two standing committees. In addition the councillors hold a regular 'surgery' at the monthly farmer's market.

Kettering Borough Council & Northamptonshire County Council

Burton Latimer Town Council does not provide any services to the local community directly. Instead, these are provided by:

- Northampton County Council (NCC) – which is responsible for highways, public lighting, fire services, libraries and Social Services. Currently, the town's two primary schools also fall within the County Council's remit;
- Kettering Borough Council (KBC) – which is responsible for all other local government services, and is the Local Planning Authority.

The main things that local people say about their links with the town council are...

- two-thirds of local people think Burton Latimer Town Council is "OK" or better at understanding local concerns and keeping people informed of its decisions and actions;
- just over half don't know how to give their views to BLTC, contact a Councillor or find out what happened at a BLTC meeting.

Suggestions for ways to create better links between Burton Latimer Town Council and the local community include...

- encourage our Councillors to be more “visible” in the town – for instance, by attending the monthly farmers market;
- create more opportunities for face-to-face meetings with our Councillors – for instance, by setting up regular “surgery” sessions at the Civic Centre;
- use the community website www.burtonlatimer.org to stimulate discussion on specific topics and receive feedback;
- make more effective use of newsletters – including *Sounding Board* and other locally distributed material – to explain and promote Burton Latimer Town Council’s role, activities and decisions.

What are we already doing to improve this aspect of the town?

- ✓ The Town Council maintains four public notice boards around the town.
- ✓ The community website www.burtonlatimer.org has been used to seek local views on the town Councillors’ quarterly newsletter, and the annual Civic Ball.
- ✓ The Town Councillors’ quarterly newsletter *Sounding Board* has been comprehensively re-vamped in response to feedback received, and has also been re-named. It is now called *Burton Latimer News*.

What further steps are we planning to take?

- ⇒ Establish a regular open surgery at the Civic Centre, where town councillors are on hand to discuss local issues and address residents’ concerns.

“The town councillors should be more active. I haven’t got a clue who is a member of the council and who represents my ward.”

“The Town Council needs to give residents a sense of what is being attained.”

“I have tried to discuss issues with the town council but no-one has ever come back to me. In the end, you give up.”

Burton Latimer / the future

A recurring theme among the household questionnaire responses was the importance of preserving Burton Latimer's character and restoring a sense of community in the face of future change and uncertainty.

Looking ahead

Burton's population is scheduled to increase to about 10,000 over the next ten years – a far cry from the small village of poor agricultural workers, weavers and lace makers two hundred years ago.

Questions & uncertainties

Currently, the main issues that are likely to affect the people of Burton Latimer in the short to medium term can broadly be grouped into three categories:

1. Where should new housing developments be located, and how this will impact on the future of the town centre and traffic within the town?
2. How will the proposed Kettering East development affect the town – and in particular, our access to the A14 at junction 10 (or at a new junction 10a that is being considered)?
3. How will the town cater for future growth – especially in respect of education, recreation and other services?

Planning for the future

In 2012 Kettering Borough Council (KBC) carried out a public consultation exercise to seek local people's views on options for future development in Kettering and the surrounding towns and villages – with the feedback helping to inform a Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document (or LDD for short).

When finalised and adopted by the Local Planning Authority, this document is expected to play an important role in guiding future development across the whole borough – including Burton Latimer – for the next 20 years.

Among other things, the adopted LDD will show where land in Burton Latimer may be used in the future for housing, employment and retail purposes, and where leisure and community facilities may be sited. The LDD will also contain policies relating to specific topics – such as design, affordable housing, and protection of the open countryside.

Listening to local voices – and making them count

Burton Latimer Town Council's (BLTC) formal response to the options for the town's future development outlined in Kettering Borough Council's consultation document was prepared after gauging local residents' views at two drop-in sessions held at the Civic Centre in March and May 2012.

Protecting and preserving what really matters to local people

In its response, BLTC urged the Borough Council to revise the options document in line with the feedback received, and to adopt a final version urgently to protect our town from speculative development in the wrong places.

In particular, BLTC emphasised the need to protect the historic part of Burton Latimer and the conservation area – both from inappropriate development, and from HGV traffic. The importance of considering the infrastructure requirements alongside any future development proposals was also stressed.

A framework for future development decisions

As well as making specific recommendations about the location of any new housing in the town, BLTC's response suggested five principles as a framework for future development decisions:

- Green open space should be preserved in three areas around Burton Latimer: around Burton Latimer Hall in Kettering Road; in the Ise Valley; and to protect views to the parish church from the A6 bypass on the Kettering side of the Higham Road junction.
- All developments should relate well and be supportive of the town centre, as agreed in the town's Urban Design Study.
- The main area of housing and employment development should be in the Higham Road area.
- A second area for employment development could be in the triangle between the A6 and A14 at junction 10.
- All infill development should be of a scale, design and density to complement existing buildings.

"I want to know what happens next and whether it will make a difference to the town."

"Bring back Burton Latimer's community spirit – that's what we need."

"Living here has changed my life for the better."

"I love living in this town."

Our action plan / short term

Each section of the Parish Plan lists actions suggested by local residents in their household questionnaire responses – including some items that have already been completed.

These pages bring together all the outstanding actions from each section, to create an all-inclusive “to do” list.

The action plan is divided into two parts: things that can be achieved in the short term; and things that will take longer to do.

Actions we can take OURSELVES	Actions that need input from OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Re-establish the local Chamber of Trade and Commerce, to provide a strong voice for locally-based businesses. ⇒ Use incentives (for instance, a rent-free period) to encourage more stall-holders to use the monthly farmers market, and run a new advertising campaign to attract more customers. ⇒ Develop the Civic Centre further as a venue for local educational activities. ⇒ Use the Community Payback scheme to help keep Burton Latimer tidy. ⇒ Promote the development of more local Neighbourhood Watch schemes. ⇒ Seek the views of younger people on leisure and recreation facilities. ⇒ Create a “welcome pack” that can be issued to new Burton Latimer residents. ⇒ Publish a map of local footpaths and walks. ⇒ Establish a regular open surgery at the Civic Centre, where town councillors are on hand to discuss local issues and address residents’ concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Seek greater influence over the use of money received by Kettering Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council from housing developers (known as “section 106 monies”), to ensure that it benefits our town. ⇒ Support High Street and local retail businesses by smartening up the High Street and Churchill Way – in line with proposals set out in the Urban Design Framework (see pages 6 & 7). ⇒ Explore the potential for adult education courses being offered locally (for instance, using facilities at the Civic Centre) by neighbouring educational establishments – such as Tresham College, Moulton College, and the University of Northampton. ⇒ Provide a wider range of recycling facilities at more locations within the town – and ensure that recycling bins are emptied more frequently. ⇒ Continue the current highway resurfacing programme. ⇒ Create parking bays for the disabled in front of the Churchill Way shops. ⇒ Create a new footpath route on the eastern side of the town – to be called the Jubilee Walk. ⇒ Identify footpaths that can be upgraded to bridleways. ⇒ Ensure all major bus stops in the town have shelters. ⇒ Review the provision of public WC facilities within the town.

Our action plan / longer term

Actions we can take OURSELVES	Actions that need input from OTHER AGENCIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ As the population of Burton Latimer grows, expand schooling in the town to provide education for local children through to the age of 18 years. ⇒ Protect Church Street from any extra traffic that may result from possible future changes to junction 10 (or the creation of a new junction 10a) of the A14. ⇒ Press for a roundabout at the A6 / Higham Road junction if the town expands further in this area. ⇒ Encourage the installation of modern, directional, white street-lighting – which will make CCTV more effective. ⇒ Create a dedicated youth centre within the Civic Centre. ⇒ Take forward proposals for improving the town centre, as set out in the Urban Design Framework (see pages 6 & 7). ⇒ Press for a sports and leisure facility to be included in any plans for a new school building within the town – for use by local residents outside school hours.

As a town, we can do some of these things ourselves – either through the Town Council, or by encouraging local organisations, groups and individuals to get involved.

For other actions (especially the longer-term ones) we will need outside help – for instance, from the Borough or County Council.

The action plan will be updated annually to show progress, and to add new items that have been identified.