



Abington Parish Plan 2004



**Little Abington Parish Council
Great Abington Parish Council**

Abington Parish Plan

From Valerie A. Benson, Chair of the The Abingtons Parish Plan Steering Group

The Action Plan is now complete and will be presented to both parish councils for their consideration. We hope that they will be able to implement at least some of the actions that have come out of the Questionnaire and the various follow-up meetings.

The Parish Plan would not have been possible without the hard work of the Steering Group members, Gloria Fletcher, Rachel Haining, Deena Haugh, Jennifer Hirsh, Phil Holloway, Steve Livsley, Roy Mallows, Marion Rusted, Ernest Taylor and Ken Way. They each have given an enormous amount of time and energy to the project. A particular thank you is due to Paula Harper, parish clerk for Great Abington, for facilitating the financial matters on behalf of the Steering Group. Thanks are also due to the small army of additional people who delivered and collected the Questionnaires last December.

If we had not been given the gracious use of the Village Institute, and permission to use the Cricket Meadow and Recreation Ground, it would have been difficult to hold some of the events. Likewise the United Reformed Church allowed us to hold some of our meetings there. A sincere thank you to each of them.

Finally, I hope that all feel satisfied that their time was well spent and appreciated and pleased that the project is now successfully completed.

December 2004



Cllr Patrick Orme, South Cambridgeshire District Council

This plan is the outcome of the huge effort and support of a great many people in Great and Little Abington. The Abingtons have seen great changes in the past and there are still major concerns today, especially about the need for affordable housing and more facilities for young and old alike. Work on the Parish Plan has brought people from both villages together and helped to foster the community spirit. With the support of local authorities, including South Cambridgeshire District Council, I am confident that this important and ambitious plan will be a great success and help to improve everyone's quality of life in the near future.

Cllr Tony Orgee, Cambridgeshire County Council

Producing a Parish Plan can be an excellent way of involving the whole community in the development of that community. So it has proved in the Abingtons. A great deal of thought and effort went into producing the questionnaire. This work was justly rewarded in the exceptionally high number of questionnaires returned. The results will help your county and district councillors and your local parish councils to present the views of the community. However, the Parish Plan is not an end in itself. We can all build on the work done to improve the quality of life locally. We all have a role to play in the future of our villages.

*Anne Dunbar-Nobes, Chairman, Great Abington Parish Council
and Jennifer Hirsh, Chairman Little Abington Parish Council*

The Action Plan presented here is the culmination of many months of dedication and commitment by many people to improving the well-being of our community. This document, built on the replies to the Questionnaire, will guide our priorities over the next five years. Together we will work to support and facilitate these actions and represent these views at every opportunity. The process of developing the Parish Plan has revealed just how rich our community is in resourceful, good-hearted people who are willing to step forward to make a positive contribution to life in the Abingtons. We thank you all and look forward to working with you.

Abington – Past and Present

Abington actually comprises two parishes, Great Abington and Little Abington, which lie on either side of the river in the Granta Valley about 8 miles south east of Cambridge. They are on the historic easterly route from Cambridge to Colchester and are bounded on their western side by the Roman route that ran from London to Norwich which is now a major trunk road, the A11.

The two parishes extend roughly 4 miles north to south from the Roman Road, an ancient trackway, in the north to the Essex county boundary near Abington Park Farm in the south; and roughly 2 miles west to east from the new A11 to Hildersham.

Historically, by the very early nineteenth century when parliamentary inclosure took place in both the parishes, a large part of the land was owned by the lord of the manor who owned Abington Hall. There were no great changes through the nineteenth century with most of the cottages being owned by the estate. However finally the Abington Hall Estate was sold in 1929 and this brought many changes.

The population at that time was relatively small. Following the sale and deterioration of many of the cottages, more housing was started and just before and after the Second World War many Council houses were built. Several new housing estates have been built in the last 30 years as the village has become a more desirable place to live for those who worked in Cambridge.

The land in the two parishes is still mainly agricultural but now comprises only five farms and employs very few people. In the depression before the Second World War the Land Settlement Association set up a site on the southern side of Great Abington with over sixty houses and plots of land for unemployed miners mainly from the coalfields in Yorkshire and Durham. This estate now comprises privately owned properties and very few of the holdings are still used for horticulture.

The Welding Institute (now called TWI) started in Abington Hall in 1946 and is now an internationally renowned research institute; it employs a number of people who live in the village. In the 1990s a new Science Park, specialising in biomedical research, was developed on land adjacent to TWI and on the edge of Great Abington. Further developments continue here.

Each parish has a Parish Council. The combined population of both parishes is about 1400 living in about 570 households. The population divides by age group roughly into: 25% aged 18 and under, 50% aged between 18 and 60, 25% aged 60 or over.

There are many rented houses in the village, both local authority and housing association owned, and of varying sizes. The privately owned houses range from family sized to smaller bungalows.

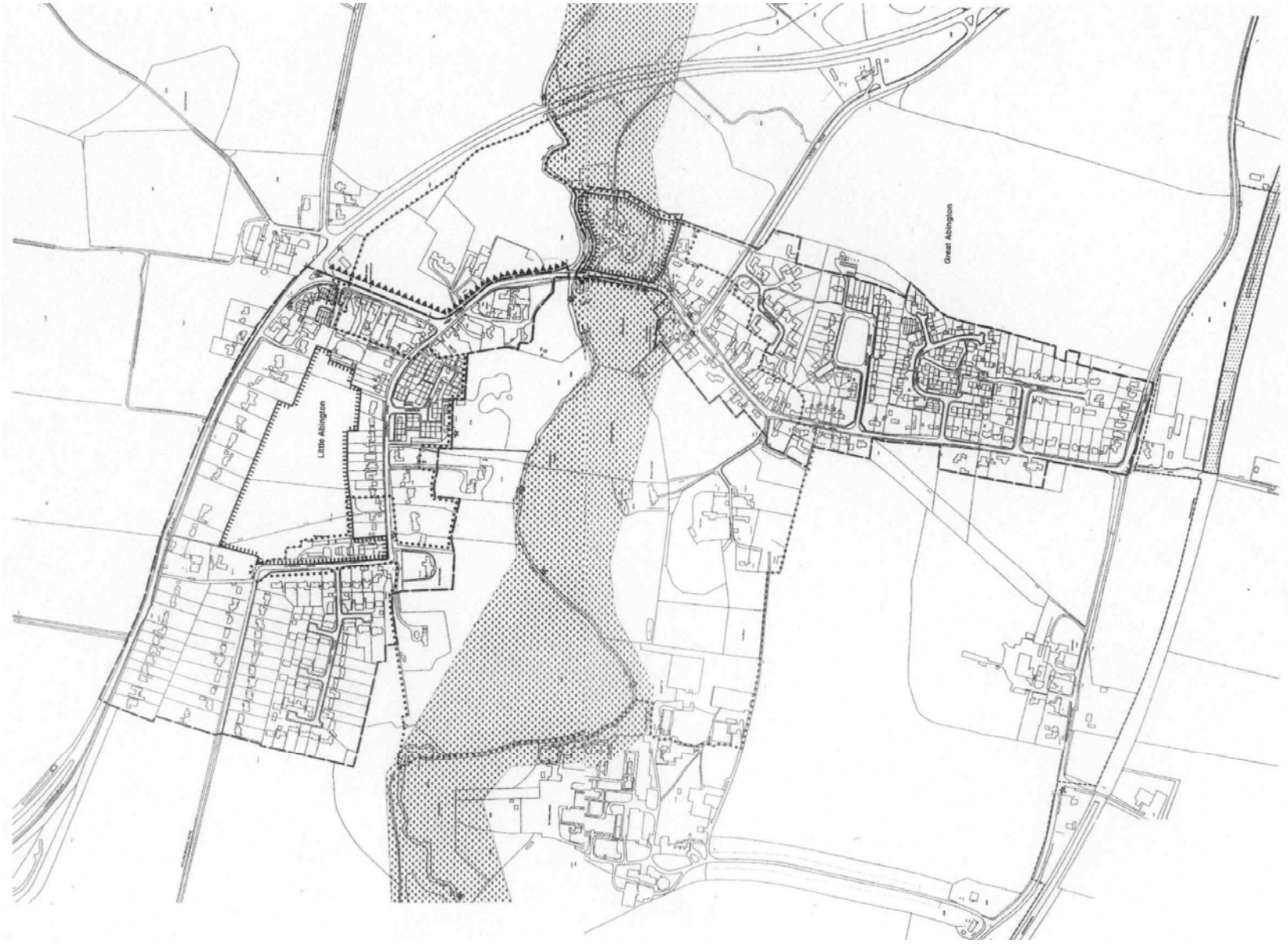
The village has a primary school, two Anglican churches and a United Reformed Church, one public house, a village shop/post office and a number of other businesses. The main road to Haverhill, and Colchester beyond, the A1307, which previously ran through the centre of the village, had a new section constructed in the 1960s which now bypasses most of the houses. Being on a radial route out of Cambridge, the village has a regular bus service and is four miles from a railway station with services to London and Cambridge.

Villages such as the Abingtons are changing and evolving with the high growth rate in South Cambridgeshire in the present and in the future. This Action Plan addresses the way in which villagers would like to see the village change where it is in their power to influence decision making.



The Abingtons

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The Parish Plan

In 2002 the two Parish Councils decided to prepare a joint and in mid 2003 a Steering Group was formed with members from both parishes.

After many meetings it was decided to hold a “Start-Up” event to raise awareness amongst villagers and this was held in the autumn of 2003. This event drew out from villagers issues that they were concerned about and these helped to formulate the questions in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire was finalised and printed by late November 2003 and delivered to every household in the two villages. The forms were then collected in early December with a high return rate of over 75%.

The questionnaire

The issues considered in the questionnaire covered the following and many more items:

- Abington Institute (the village hall)
- Low Cost Housing
- Youth Activities
- Mobile Warden Scheme
- Road Safety
- Recreation Ground
- Village newsletters
- Environmental issues

The Abington Institute

The Institute was built in 1909 and extended in the 1970s and is now badly in need of renovation. Plans for the renovation and extension of the building now have planning permission. Active fundraising is currently underway including support from local business sponsors. The questionnaire addressed the issues of future use of the building and many positive responses have come from this which has already resulted in some new village groups and activities. The aim will be to make the Institute a new and vibrant centre of village life again.

Low Cost Housing

Many young people who may have been born or brought up in the village are forced to move away because housing is not affordable. There is an identified need for more low cost housing for purchase, shared equity or rental.

Youth Activities

There are relatively few facilities in our village for teenagers. The hard surface area on the Recreation Ground, installed a few years ago, is popular. A complete set of new play equipment for the younger people has been installed during 2004 and a Youth Shelter has been erected, all on the Recreation Ground. As a result of the Parish Plan, meetings are now being held to try to re-establish a youth club with trained leaders, to meet weekly in the Abington Institute.

Good Neighbour Scheme

Again as a direct result of the Parish Plan a scheme is currently being considered to provide help and contact with elderly and vulnerable people who live in their own homes. It might provide small services such as shopping, collecting pensions or prescriptions, dog walking and fulfilling other needs.

Road Safety

The centre of the village, near the school, the shop and the Institute, can be very busy with cars parked in unsuitable places, particularly at the start and end of the school day. This, combined with through traffic, can make this a dangerous area for children and parents.

Newsletters

Following support in the questionnaire, the four village newsletters: What's On, the Church magazine and Parish Council newsletters, have recently been combined into one. This has an independent editor and is printed at no cost to the village by a local business.



Results from the questionnaire

The number of questionnaires returned was 433, which represents a return of over 75% of households. The answers to the questions are therefore considered to be representative of opinions in the village.

A summary report of the results was produced in mid 2004 and presented in a booklet which was delivered to all households.

Two further public meetings were held in the following weeks. These were well attended and produced some useful discussion on priorities for the Action Plan.

What people like about the Abingtons

The most popular things villagers like about living in Abington are:

- Friendliness and community spirit
- Tranquillity and rural feel
- Attractive and well kept village in beautiful countryside
- Easy road and rail access
- Good village facilities
- Relatively safe environment
- Village is about the right size
- Good school
- Good bus service

Most people came to the village either in relation to their work or because they thought it was an attractive area to live in.

The main method of transport to work, training or college is by car or van.

The Village Shop/Post Office and the Acorn Garage are the most frequently used of the facilities available.



Concerns that villagers expressed in their answers to the questionnaire

Traffic speeding and control

The greatest concerns were speeding on the Cambridge Road, Pampisford Road, the High Street, and the old A11. Measures which would be acceptable to many people include 20mph speed limit in the village centre, flashing speed warning signs, more children warning signs, yellow lines on High Street near the Institute and enforcement of parking restrictions outside the school.

People who need extra help with day-to-day living

Some people need help with transport, shopping and household chores.

Police coverage

Many villagers commented on the lack of police coverage. The major concern expressed is that there needs to be an increased police presence to deter crime and antisocial behaviour.

Public Transport

Some villagers thought that the bus fares are too high; buses do not always run on time; and a service is needed to Sawston.

Housing

Responses indicate the need for low-cost housing for Abington people. (South Cambridgeshire District Council has carried out housing needs surveys in both villages). Many people consider that more new houses would spoil the village atmosphere and lead to more overcrowding of roads.

Safety

Within the village concerns centre around the Recreation Ground and the Institute. There also needs to be a cycle way on the A1307 to Babraham and Cambridge.

Youth and Leisure

There are inadequate facilities for young people.

Phones, TV and radio

Among the respondents, a number of people experience difficulty with mobile phone usage and with TV and radio reception.

Analysis of results

The questionnaire results were professionally analysed and the Action Plan has been drawn up from the responses that had significant support amongst respondees.

What villagers said they would like:

- Improved lighting in both villages
- Dropped kerbs for wheel/pushchairs
- More pavements and cycle paths where there are none
- Adult education and leisure classes in the village
- More police coverage
- Tennis court
- Concerts and drama productions, a youth club, a coffee bar, internet café, art and craft classes, line dancing and yoga in the refurbished Institute
- Combined monthly village newsletter
- Village notice board to advertise events and other information
- Improved village maintenance
- The churches used for additional community purposes as well as worship and to recognise their historic significance
- Riverside walk, additional footpaths, small natural conservation areas, access to historic sites and leaflets on existing walks
- Facilities for young people including a skate board ramp
- Neighbourhood Watch scheme

What is already happening?

- The new play equipment for the children has been installed during 2004
- A youth shelter has been erected on the Recreation Ground
- A new Youth Group has been formed with a view to starting a Youth Club with the support of County Youth leaders
- Plans for the extended and refurbished Village Institute have been passed by South Cambridgeshire District Council and funding raising is actively under way
- New village environmental groups have been formed including a Naturewatch and Rivercare scheme, a New Footpaths group and a Walking group.
- New village activities have started up including an Art group, a Scrabble club, Reading group and Language groups
- Replacements for the Airey houses have provided more affordable housing
- Single village news has replaced the four existing publications
- Broadband is now available
- Safety issues on the A1307 are being addressed at County Council level
- Pampisford Road to Chalky Road footpath has been resurfaced
- Double yellow lines have been agreed on the bend near the Institute and the Three Tuns public house
- Additional lighting will be installed in the High Street near the United Reformed Church
- Dropped kerbs have been installed in Great Abington on the recommendation of the Parish Council
- The village clean up day has become an annual event
- Tree planting continues on an annual basis



The Action Plan

The Action Plan for the next 5 years for the Abingtons

Issues are addressed under the following broad headings:

- The Institute Page 8
- The Environment Page 10
- Good Neighbour Scheme Page 14
- Transport, Traffic and Safety Page 16
- Leisure and Education Page 20
- Youth Page 22
- Housing Page 23

Abbreviations used:

CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
SCDC	South Cambridgeshire District Council
GAPC	Great Abington Parish Council
LAPC	Little Abington Parish Council

The Abington Institute (village hall)

The Institute was built in 1909 and extended in the 1970s and is now badly in need of renovation. Plans for the renovation and extension of the building now have planning permission. Active fundraising is currently underway including support from local business sponsors.

The development is a top priority as the building is a focal point for most community activities. All sections of the community including the Institute Committee, the Parish Councils, community groups and individuals are focusing on this.

The questionnaire addressed the issues of future use of the building and many positive responses have come from this which has already resulted in some new village groups and activities. The aim will be to make the Institute a new and vibrant centre of village life again.

The following action points have been identified

1. Obtain accurate costings for the building work
2. Identify funds already available
3. Request funds from Parish Councils
4. Apply for local authority grant
5. Identify other major sources of external funding
6. Establish a Community Fundraising Group and start activities
7. Establish target start and completion dates for the project
8. Negotiate alternative venues for community activities whilst building is in progress



Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Obtain accurate costings for the building work	Architect to work with other professionals	High	Institute Management Committee	Completed late 2004	Institute Management Committee – Project Group	Unknown
Identify funds already available	Check accounts from previous fund raising	High	Institute Management Committee	Completed late 2004	Institute Management Committee – Treasurer	None
Request funds from Parish Councils	Discuss with Parish Councils prior to setting 2005-2006 precept	High	Great and Little Abington Parish Councils	Completed – November 2004	Institute Management Committee – Project Group	None
Apply for local authority grant for community facility	Discuss with SCDC officers, complete form and submit	High	SCDC and all village organisations	By end of 2004	Institute Management Committee – Project Group	None
Identify and contact other major potential sources of external funding	Get advice on funding sources and personal approach	High	SCDC and local businesses	Within 3 months	Institute Management Committee – Major Funding group	None
Establish Community Fundraising group and start activities	Form groups from volunteers	High	Parish Councils and community groups	Done – November 2004	Community Fundraising Group	None
Establish target start and completion dates for project	Estimates from builders when large percentage of funding is available	High	Institute Management Committee – Project Group	As soon as feasible	Institute Management Committee – Project Group	None
Negotiate alternative venues for community activities	Discussions with school, churches, other village halls, local businesses	Medium	Institute Management Committee	As soon as appropriate	School, churches, other village halls, local businesses	Unknown

Environmental issues

The village has a rural feel with the river Granta flowing between the two parishes and there are many trees in the river valley. The village is bounded on two sides by major roads and surrounded by intensive arable farming.

Environmental issues appeared in several questions in the questionnaire and responses showed the high priority that villagers give to these issues, particularly footpaths, the river, trees within the village, conservation and village maintenance.

The village has major roads along two sides, the A11 to the west and the A1307. These create potential barriers for walkers and therefore an enhanced footpath network creating circular walks within the village and beyond is considered important. The river could potentially be more of an attractive asset to the village. The tree planting carried out over the last two decades needs to continue.

Pocket parks or conservation areas would be desirable. Making information about the village readily available by means of a central village notice board, maps, sign boards and booklets will also be highlighted.

Last but not least the village environment needs to be well maintained both on a week to week basis and by means of an annual clean-up event.

The following action points have been identified

1. New footpaths including access to historic sites
2. Maintenance of existing footpaths
3. Tree planting
4. Pocket parks and/or conservation areas
5. Rivercare scheme
6. Naturewatch scheme
7. Footpath maps, booklets and sign boards
8. Village notice board
9. Village clean-up
10. Village maintenance



Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Create new footpaths	Identify routes, negotiate with landowners, eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Roman Road To historic sites: Sluices and Brent Ditch Old Railway line Riverside walk 	High	Parish Councils, Cambs CC, landowners	Start late 2004, report on negotiations within 2 years, aim to achieve some or all by 2010	New footpath group formed Sept 2004	Low cost for planning. Possibly high cost for implementation but grants and volunteer time to be included
Maintain existing footpaths	Volunteer group or paid contractor; Parish Councils to monitor and take action	High	Parish Councils, Cambs CC and landowners	Ongoing	Parish Councils	Low cost
Plant trees	Form new tree group. Annual planting of small numbers of trees and hedging.	Medium	Parish Councils, South Cambs DC, Cambs CC	Ongoing	Tree group and Parish Councils	Low cost – volunteer time and possible free trees
Create one or more pocket parks and/or nature conservation areas	Identify possible sites, negotiate with land owners, set up parks	Low	Parish Councils and landowners	Unknown	New group	Unknown, depends on grants or external funding
Form Rivercare scheme	Form voluntary group and liaise with EnCams, Environment Agency and Anglian Water	Medium	Parish Councils, landowners, EnCams, Environment Agency & Anglian Water	Start late 2004 – new group formed at Sept 2004 meeting	New Rivercare group	Unknown at this stage
Form a Naturewatch group	Monitor wildlife and sites and record regularly. Report findings to village & countywide wildlife bodies	Medium	Parish Councils, SCDCC, CCC, County Wildlife Trust, English Nature	Start late 2004 – new group formed at Sept 2004 meeting	Villagers and leader	Low cost – lots of volunteer time

Create footpath maps, booklets, sign boards	Volunteer group to implement	Medium	Parish Councils	Start 2006, two year time scale	New footpath group	Low cost for maps and booklets. Funding needed from external sources for sign boards
Install new village notice board	Identify site, size, materials and potential usage	Medium	Parish Councils	From 2006	Parish Councils	Medium – met by Parish Council precepts
Undertake Village clean up	Volunteers organised on annual basis	High	Parish Councils	Ongoing	Parish Councils	Low cost
Provide Village maintenance eg ford, bus shelters	Paid contractor or volunteers	High	Parish Councils	Ongoing	Parish Councils	Met by Parish Council precepts





Good Neighbour Scheme – Help for Elderly and Vulnerable

The questionnaire identified that there were numbers of people in the village who have various difficulties in day-to-day living, many of whom are elderly.

According to the 2001 census, the numbers of people over the age of 65 in the village is 269, representing 20% of the population.

Help with some of the needs may already be adequately met by relatives, friends and neighbours. It is not known how many of these people live alone or have only an elderly spouse or partner living with them. A carer may need a few hours help in looking after someone so that they can go out. There may be short term needs if someone is ill or returns from hospital unable to cope for a time.

The actions recommended are:

- Firstly, to set up a Good Neighbour Group with a coordinating committee. The group will need to identify individuals with needs, possibly by questionnaire sent to all households (the results of this will need to be kept confidential by the group). Then the scheme will need to be set up with volunteers for the different aspects.



The scheme might cover:

- Voluntary transport to doctor, hospital etc for those without transport
 - Shopping for those unable to get out
 - Collecting prescriptions
 - Contact with vulnerable people daily
 - Being on call by phone in case of need
 - Respite for a carer for, say, half a day
 - Help with meals
- Secondly, investigate the need and viability of a mobile warden scheme in the village, bearing in mind that the numbers of people needing this may be too small.
 - Thirdly, investigate sheltered accommodation facilities for people from Abington in the area, for example in Linton and Sawston.



Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Form a volunteer Good Neighbour Group and name the group	Meeting in Sept 2004 set up group	High	None	Ongoing	Good Neighbour Group	None
Identify individuals with needs and nature of their needs	By questionnaire	High	Village News (for delivery of questionnaire)	3 months	Good Neighbour Group	Low
Set up Good Neighbour Scheme	Setting up groups of volunteers with coordinators	High	Parish Councils, CCC	1 year	Good Neighbour Group	Unknown
Investigate need and viability of mobile warden scheme	Good Neighbour Group to identify villagers who need this	Medium	Parish Councils, CCC	2 years	Good Neighbour Group	Unknown
Investigate sheltered accommodation facilities in the area	Make enquiries to SCDC and CCC	Low	SCDC, CCC	2 years	Parish Councils	None

Transport, Traffic and Safety

The revised 13/13A bus route has caused many problems and this needs to be addressed.

One of the major problems identified by villagers was the danger from parking and speeding traffic, and the Plan proposes limiting both parking and speed through the village centre, along the A1307, and on the Pampisford Road.

The major safety issue concerned the absence of an adequate police presence in view of the vandalism, antisocial behaviour, disturbance around the Institute and bus shelters and drug dealing.

The children's play area has recently been upgraded but a small number of items need further attention and these are being addressed.



Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
TRANSPORT						
Re-route 13/13A bus through Linton and Abington at least once mid-morning and mid-afternoon	Press Stagecoach	High	CCC	Ongoing	Parish Councils	None
Introduce bus service to Sawston	Press Stagecoach	Medium	CCC	Ongoing	Parish Councils	None
Stage bus fares so that journeys to Addenbrookes, for example, cost less than to Cambridge	Press Stagecoach	Medium	CCC	Ongoing	Parish Councils	None
TRAFFIC						
Reduce vehicle speed in village between bridge and Magna Close	Introduce 20mph limit Bid submitted for jointly funded minor improvements scheme for 2005/6	High	CCC and SCDC	6-12 months	Great Abington Parish Council	£1 per elector
Reduce parking in village centre	Extend double yellow lines around bend near Institute (already approved in principle). Note: no potential for additional parking elsewhere	High	CCC	Ongoing	Parish Councils	Minimal
Reduce speed of egress from Magna Close	Introduce more severe speed bumps and trim hedges	Medium	CCC	12 months	GAPC	Unknown

Improve safety of cyclists	Extend cycleway to link Hildersham/Cambridge cycleway	Medium	CCC	2 years	Parish Councils	Unknown
Enforce speed limit on A1307	Introduce interactive signs on 40mph stretch of road	High	CCC	6 months	LAPC	Unknown
Reduce speed on Pampisford Road	Include bends at each end of restricted area in 40mph area	High	CCC	6 months	GAPC	Unknown
Reduce speed on Pampisford Road	Introduce traffic calming measures	Medium	CCC	12 months	GAPC	Unknown
SAFETY						
Greater police presence	More police or Community Support Officers	Medium	Police Authority	Ongoing	Parish Councils	Unknown
Neighbourhood Watch	Encourage extension throughout village	High	Neighbourhood Watch	Ongoing	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator	Unknown
Improve safety for pedestrians	Provide dropped kerbs between High Street and Church Lane and between Church Lane and West Field	Medium	CCC	12 months	LAPC	Unknown
Improve safety for pedestrians	Review condition of existing pavements	High	CCC	Ongoing	Parish Councils	Minimal
Improve safety for pedestrians	Provide footway along Pampisford Road between High Street and Granta Park	Medium	CCC	12-24 months	GAPC	Unknown

Improve safety for pedestrians	Cut back trees between 54 High Street and bridge	High	SCDC	6 months	LAPC	Unknown
Improve safety for pedestrians	Improve lighting in Magna Close	Medium	SCDC	12-18 months	GAPC	Unknown
Maintain play equipment	Retain service agreement	Immediate	Recreation Ground Committee	Ongoing	Recreation Ground Committee	None
Maintain play equipment	Cut grass regularly	Immediate	Recreation Ground Committee	Ongoing	Recreation Ground Committee	None
Maintain play equipment	Repair fence and fasten gate	Immediate	Recreation Ground Committee	Ongoing	Recreation Ground Committee	Minimal
Play Area – improve visibility from road	Some clearing of trees and shrubs done, ongoing work needed annually	High	Recreation Ground Committee & Cricket Club	Annually	Recreation Ground Committee	Low
Improve safety for pedestrians	Cut back hedge alongside cricket meadow	Immediate	Cricket Club	Ongoing	GAPC	None
MISCELLANEOUS						
Address naming of former LSA	Change of description from 'Former LSA Estate' to new name	Medium	Residents of Estate	6 months	GAPC	None

Leisure and Education

The questionnaire identifies the need for an increase in social activities within the community.

These include such diverse activities as:

- Allotments
- Walking group
- Tennis
- Swimming (at Linton)
- Outdoor concerts
- Concerts and drama productions
- Café
- Use of the three church buildings



There is also an identified need for new group activities in the Village Institute in order to make good use of the building following the refurbishment and extensions.

These include:

- Art
- Craft
- Languages
- Music
- Drama
- Scrabble
- Bridge
- Bingo
- Keep fit



Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Provide Allotments	Identify positive interest, sites, investigate management and legal issues	Medium	Parish Councils	Within 2 years	Parish Councils	Unknown
Create a walking group	Group has been formed at public meeting and will be autonomous	Medium	None	Ongoing	Walking group	None
Provide tennis court	Make existing equipment available and advertise	Medium	Recreation Ground Committee	Ongoing	Recreation Ground Committee	Unknown

Support Linton Village College swimming pool project	Indicate positive support and liaise with project at Linton	Medium	LVC swimming pool project	Ongoing	Parish Councils	Unknown
Organise outdoor summer concerts	Liaise with SCDC Arts Officer, Granta Park, The Temple	Medium	SCDC	Within 2 years	Institute Management, Youth Club, Parish Councils	Unknown
Encourage concert or drama productions in the Institute	Investigate possibilities	Medium	SCDC	Within 1 year	Institute Management Committee	Unknown
Set up café with papers and magazines in the Institute	Investigate setting up when Institute refurbishment complete	Low	Institute Management Committee	Unknown at present	Institute Management Committee	Unknown
Install internet and ICT facilities in the Institute	Investigate setting up when Institute refurbishment complete	Low	Institute Management Committee	Unknown at present	Institute Management Committee	Unknown
Encourage art, craft, languages, music, drama, scrabble, bridge, bingo, keep fit groups in the Institute	Villagers expressed interest and group leaders appointed in Sept 2004	High	Institute Management Committee	Established and ongoing	Individual group when and if formed	Low
Encourage line dancing, yoga, pilates groups in the Institute	Establish numbers of people interested in the future	Low	Institute Management Committee	Within 2 years	Group leaders when and if formed	Unknown
Use church buildings for appropriate events	Liaise with Parochial Church Council and United Reformed Church Elders	Medium	Churches	Within 2 years	Promoter of event	Unknown

Youth issues

Currently there are no organised activities specifically aimed at the youth of Abington. The nearest youth club is at Linton, which is three miles away. The village plan questionnaire indicated that there was a wish from respondents for organised youth activities. There were a few people who said that they would be interested in organising such activities.

One of the issues is the lack of anywhere to meet in the village.

A youth shelter has been provided as part of the upgrading of the Recreation Ground play equipment.

Activities outside the village are not easily accessible in the evenings as public transport is limited at these times.



Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Investigate the possibility of organising activities for the youth of the village	Two public meetings have been held where interested parties have discussed starting a youth club in Abington.	Med/High	Cambridge County Council Existing/New youth co-ordinators	Mid 2005	Individual volunteer youth leaders.	Grants are available from Cambridge County Council Partly self - financing

Housing

The questionnaire responses to housing needs in The Abingtons identified the need for low cost housing for Abington people. Many people favoured the conversion of redundant buildings and in-fill dwellings. Many people feel that more new houses would spoil the 'village atmosphere' and lead to more overcrowding of the roads.

South Cambridgeshire District Council have themselves recently conducted an in-depth Housing Needs Survey of both villages and will in due course make their findings known. SCDC will receive the housing needs information contained within this document.



Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Resource implications
Communicate results of housing requirements to Parish Councils Councils to liaise/discuss findings with SCDC	Forward housing data from Questionnaire to Parish Councils for their action (see below)	High	Parish Councils SCDC	By first quarter of 2005	Parish Councils	None for Parish Councils

