

# Sodbury Parish Plan- Action Plan



*“Love the community spirit, feels like home after only 4 years”*



Parishes across the country are encouraged to consult with residents about what they would like improved in their locality. This plan has been developed from the comments and thoughts of the 726 households that replied to our questionnaire.

96% of those residents enjoy living in the parish.

This project has been conducted by a volunteer group not the Parish Council.

## **Description and Location**

The Medieval market town of Chipping Sodbury and the village of Old Sodbury make up the main settlements of Sodbury Parish.

Sodbury Common, Kingrove Common and Colts Green Common are a significant part of the rural countryside. A few small to medium sized farms are interspersed with individually owned fields given over to horses, alpacas and poultry.

The quarry to the north of Chipping Sodbury is large, with part of it still in operation.

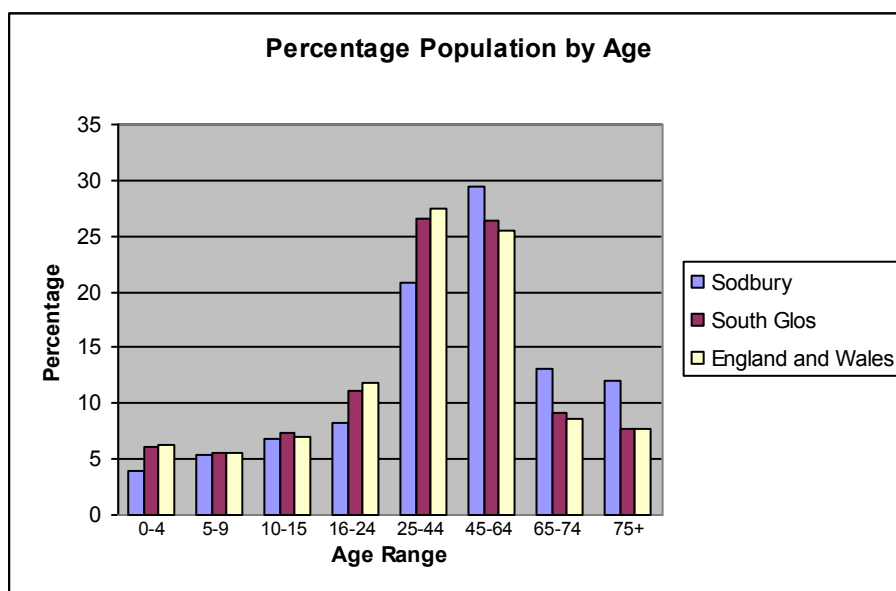
The parish lies 12 miles north-east of Bristol and 10 miles north of Bath. The much larger town of Yate is 1 mile to the west. The majority of the parish is in the Vale with the scarp slope and plateau of The Cotswolds forming the remainder.

Sodbury is close to junction 18 of the M4 and within 10 miles of the M5 and Bristol Ring Road. The town itself is well served by ten bus routes. From Old Sodbury buses run to Chipping Sodbury, Yate and Bath.

There are trains hourly from Yate railway station to Bristol, Bath, Gloucester and beyond.

The population recorded in the 2011 census was 5,045.

Compared to South Gloucestershire as a whole, the proportion of children 0-15 years was fairly similar. Between the ages of 16-64 the proportions were lower, but from age 45 ratios increased. The proportion of the population over 75 years was 4% higher (see graph below). 4,100 people described their health as good or very good.



**The Governance of the Parish** is complex for historical reasons:

Sodbury Town Council As part of its role the Council works with the following bodies in support of the community:

The Town Trust administers The Ridings recreation area, The War Memorial and part of The Clock Tower.

The Town Lands Charity administers The Town Hall and The Old Grammar School, part is let at a peppercorn rent to the Library, run by South Gloucestershire Council. It also owns the Youth Centre and gives grants in support of education and to community groups.

The Commons Conservators administer Sodbury and Kingrove Commons and smaller areas like Colts Green.

Badminton Estate (The Somerset Trust) administers allotments and has other interests within the parish including farm ownership.

South Gloucestershire Council is the planning and highway authority. It has other legal and administrative responsibilities towards the parish.



## Amenities and Facilities

Chipping Sodbury has a selection of independent shops and the parish has a wide range of restaurants and eating places. Old Sodbury being much smaller has no shops after the Post Office closed 5 years ago.

There are 9 major events taking place through the year in Chipping Sodbury with drama productions taking place several times a year.

## Questionnaire Responses

Almost all the facilities asked about received at least 70% support as either very or fairly important:

- The independent shops, Post Office and restaurants/cafes.
- The Old Grammar School facilities were less well known than the Town Hall.
- The Police Station was considered important to a large number of households.
- The Library and its facilities were highly valued.
- Old Sodbury Village Hall was very well supported by Old Sodbury villagers.

These were your responses to suggested improvements:

- Significant numbers wanted more seating in the Town Centre.
- Pedestrianising Broad Street was not popular. 124 were very in favour, 129 were fairly in favour and 415 were against the idea.
- The idea of a museum/heritage centre was fairly popular.



*“Post office is important. Independent shops give the high street charm.”*



*“Good small-town atmosphere, lots of clubs/activities, Festival Week, Jazz and Victorian Day.”*

- Festival Week, Victorian Evening and the Food Festival were the most popular events.
- Whilst a clear majority were happy with the current arrangements for the Mop Fair, there were a significant number of comments criticising various aspects of it.
- Some people felt the Farmers Market needs enlarging.
- The Jazz and Beer festivals and the Mop Fair were of lesser importance to residents, but this may reflect the more specific nature of the events, with people attending from a wider area.
- Over 540 households felt that public toilets were either fairly or very important, worth noting at a time when public toilets are being closed down.
- Few people considered that an Art Gallery was very important, but over a third rated it fairly important. This could be considered in conjunction with a Heritage Centre.

## Updates

- Since the questionnaire went out, Waitrose store opened on October 2013. It is apparent that people from outside the immediate area are coming to shop there. A new footbridge now links the car park to the High Street, via Hatheralls Yard, and people use it regularly. Small shops are planned to open along the Yard in June 2014.
- The Big Lunch, begun in Jubilee Year 2012, is becoming an annual fixture for the community.

Facilities and Events		Action	Potential partners	Progress - regular monitoring	Timescale
No	Issue				
1.1	Safeguard and encourage facilities and events that are valued by residents	Disseminate information/comments from questionnaire to the various event's organisers	Festival Committee Lions Rotary Club Chamber of Commerce S.T.C. S.Y.B.A.		1 year
1.2	Ensure that Chipping Sodbury library remains viable	Survey current use Survey suggestions for future use Explore viability of increased opening hours Seek to increase the range of facilities and activities	S.G.C: Library Dept. Library Users Group T.I.C. Schools Pre-schools		1 years
1.3	Increase seating in the town	Explore places suitable for seats Seek permission Seek sponsorship	Parish Plan S.T.C. Chamber of Commerce Town Lands Charity		2 years
1.4	Desire for a Museum/heritage centre	Explore the possibility of establishing a centre (perhaps to also include the tourist information centre) Gather information on location of historic artefacts relating to the parish	Sodbury Historical Society S.T.C. Town Lands Charity Town Trust U3A History Group S.G.C: Community and Cultural Services Heritage Yate Heritage Centre S.G.C: Strategic Economic Development S.G.C.: Grants and Funding C.V.S.		5 years
1.5	Access to healthcare for residents	Explore the feasibility of having a doctors surgery in Chipping Sodbury Facilitate improved access to health facilities	N. Bristol Healthcare Trust Age UK, Mobility scheme S.G.C: Health and Wellbeing. Healthwatch Integrated Transport Services -		3 years
1.6	Farmer's market needs expanding	Survey public demand, and current stall holders regarding expansion Explore options to increase the size of the market	Chamber of Commerce, S.T.C. Markets Committee		1 years

# Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing

A very high percentage of households completed this section and many ideas came out in the free text responses regarding sports facilities on The Ridings and the future use of Barnhill Quarry. There was a varied response to the question on local Churches and their role in the community. A few were negative, but mostly people made positive suggestions which will be offered to each Church.



**Walking** - People were divided as to whether there was enough information about walks but were satisfied with the signing and maintenance of paths.

**Cycling** - A significant number would use designated paths to Yate, Old Sodbury and Wickwar.

## **Sports Facilities -**

- Most people felt facilities were good or average.
- There was strong support for sports facilities at Chipping Sodbury School to be more available and better publicised.
- There were suggestions for a wider range of sports on The Ridings e.g. bowls and netball.
- Suggestions were also made to replace some rather unsightly buildings on The Ridings with one purpose built sports centre.
- 70% thought that the old Barnhill Quarry could be used as a mixed leisure facility, including water sports.

*“The Ridings changing areas buildings are poor. Need to improve facilities by centralising into a larger new multiuse building.”*

*“Bowls, trim trail, informal area for basketball net/goal for older children as Lilliput Park are what we want on The Ridings”*



## Updates

- This area of life is evolving. An all weather path on The Ridings opened in February 2014, and on the same day it was used by the first Park Run attracting 200 runners.
- Plans are being developed to build a Multipurpose Sports Centre to enhance the facilities on The Ridings. Parish Plan findings may well be useful in bids for funding.
- A wildlife walking leaflet has been funded by a late resident of Chipping Sodbury.

2	Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing				Timescale
No.	Issue	Action	Potential partners	Progress – to be regularly monitored by action groups	
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate provision of walking leaflets.</li> <li>Need to promote walking locally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify no-stile routes and other walks</li> <li>Produce more printed walking leaflets</li> <li>Ensure TIC can produce walks leaflets for visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Trust</li> <li>U3A walking group</li> <li>T.I.C.</li> <li>Local Ramblers groups</li> <li>S.G.C: Community Sports and Leisure (in relation to walking routes)</li> <li>S.G.C: Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>Healthwatch</li> </ul>		2 years
2.2	Potential use of the quarry for leisure and recreation purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore possibility with the quarry management</li> <li>Share Parish Plan data with quarry management and consider possible options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarry Liaison Group,</li> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>S.G.C: Planning dept</li> <li>Sport England</li> </ul>		5 years
2.3	Encourage cycling locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey the current provision of cycle paths and extend the range where possible</li> <li>Survey options to lock bikes in main street and explore opportunities to increase them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.G.C: Communities Support – Activity Travel Officer</li> <li>Sustrans</li> <li>Cycling Liaison Group</li> <li>U3A cycling group (Bob Keen)</li> </ul>		3 years
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve facilities and maximise sports and leisure use on The Ridings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with individual sports clubs not at present on The Ridings</li> <li>Aim for increased and more diverse sports, leisure and events usage.</li> <li>Consult and prepare business plan for a Sports Centre building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Trust</li> <li>Ridings Sports Association</li> <li>S.G.C: Community Sports and Leisure</li> <li>S.G.C: Planning</li> <li>S.G.C: Open Spaces</li> </ul>		5 years
2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports facilities in the parish are not sufficiently publicised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey current provision and publicity.</li> <li>Promote and publicise the sports facilities available to the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local schools, Town Trust</li> <li>S.G.C. Community Sports and Leisure</li> <li>T.I.C.</li> </ul>		2 years

## Transport and Traffic Management

Given that traffic, speed and parking are endless topics of conversation and views to many residents and traders, it was no surprise that this section of the questionnaire had many and varied responses.

From consultation events and other responses it is evident that there are gaps in the transport provision available for people with mobility impairment.

*“The whole street sometimes looks like an over-crowded parking lot.”*

- 58% travel to work, school or college by car, but 22% walk.
- 19% travel beyond South Gloucestershire, Bristol or Bath.
- 366 households supported a 20 m.p.h. speed limit in Sodbury main street.
- There was significant support for a crossing on the A432 in Old Sodbury.



*“Living in Old Sodbury, on the Badminton Rd, I'm horrified when I see children trying to cross the road from school or going to the park. A 40 mph speed limit is way too fast. It is a residential area and should be 30 mph.”*

- 258 households wanted a lower speed limit on Cotswold Road.
- Over 50% wanted pedestrian crossings in Wickwar Road, High Street and Horse Street.
- Parking is a major issue and the subject of an ongoing debate. Unlike many towns, parking in Chipping Sodbury is free of charge and mostly not time limited.
- 420 support a time limit for free parking in the main street.
- 601 were in favour of a designated area within walking distance for all day parking.
- Only one in four people would be willing to pay for all day parking.

Significant numbers of people would like improvements to public transport :

- A direct bus service to Bristol and The Mall.
- 432 households wanted a direct bus service to the new Southmead Hospital.
- Re-opening of Chipping Sodbury station.



*“Commute to Bristol by bus has deteriorated in last year - takes 30 minutes to get to Yate.”*



## Updates

- Since the questionnaire a consultation has taken place in Chipping Sodbury to review speed of traffic through the town, access problems in Hatters Lane and parking problems. A reduction in speed limits on Cotswold Road and Badminton Road is due to be carried out with traffic calming also on Cotswold Road. Parish Plan analysis and comments have fed into these consultations.
- The need for a direct bus service to the new Southmead Hospital has led to petitions and intervention by our M.P. Steve Webb. Discussions are ongoing and while progress has been made, there is no desired result yet for Chipping Sodbury.



3	Transport		Action	Potential partners	Progress- to be regularly monitored by action groups	Timescale
No	Issue					
3.1	Concerns about speed and pedestrian safety		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress discussions with various transport authorities of the community's wishes regarding pedestrian safety, traffic management and parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.G.C. Streetcare</li> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>Safer Stronger Group</li> <li>Police</li> </ul>		1 year
3.2	Current parking arrangements in the town do not meet the needs of the parish		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey current use and time span</li> <li>Ensure that relevant parties resolve parking issues, including time limit, adequate long term parking and illegal parking.</li> <li>Survey disability parking to see if it meets current needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.T.C</li> <li>Badminton Estate</li> <li>S. G. C. Streetcare</li> <li>Safer Stronger Group</li> <li>Chamber of Commerce,</li> <li>Police</li> </ul>		3 years
3.3	Bus service does not meet public needs. Seek to establish a direct bus service to Southmead Hospital.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore improved bus timetabling</li> <li>Explore improved services to Yate/Yate Station, Bristol and Southmead Hospital.</li> <li>Produce an integrated bus timetable for buses serving Chipping Sodbury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S. G.C. Transport Services - Integrated Transport</li> <li>Public Transport Users Group</li> </ul>		2 years
3.4	Access for people with mobility issues including access to buses.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and address areas where the highway and footpath layout, and entrances are inadequate for people with mobility problems.</li> <li>Identify ways in which community transport can be improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>Chamber of Commerce,</li> <li>S.Y.B.A.</li> <li>Age UK</li> <li>S.G.C. Street Care</li> <li>Bus Companies</li> </ul>		2 years
3.5	Re-opening of Sodbury Railway Station		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey local demand and the potential to re-open the station</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>Network Rail</li> <li>Public Transport Users Group</li> </ul>		10 years

# Environment

From the answers to the first question it is evident that on the whole people enjoy living here. Regarding matters like tidiness, litter and upkeep of green spaces at least 60% of those who responded felt that there were few problems.

Problems highlighted mainly related to specific areas e.g. noise pollution from a local business.

The whole subject of allotment provision and ownership of most by Badminton Estate is unsatisfactory. Waiting times are several years and un-used allotments become very difficult to bring back into cultivation. Boundaries are not maintained and often the whole appearance is untidy or unsightly.

Shared garden schemes are a relatively new concept and may work for some people

- Most felt litter wasn't a big problem in residential areas and bin provision is adequate.
- Verges, parks and pavements were thought to be in good condition.
- Specific problems caused by vehicles parked on, or overlapping, pavements were highlighted.
- Walking routes were considered safe.
- Specific dog fouling areas were highlighted.
- 353 would like to see specific dog walking areas.
- 70% were unconcerned about street lights being turned off at night.
- 208 people felt there are insufficient allotments.



*“Applied for allotments in Sodbury but no response in 4 years. On list for Yate but no allotments in Yate”*



# Updates

- Litter bins are now labelled for litter and dog waste.
- Locations and a map of where people park on pavements have been shown to the police.

4	Environment	Action	Potential partners	Progress –to be regularly monitored by action groups	Time-scale
No.	Issue				
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Insufficient provision of allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish a list of people who want an allotment.</li> <li>● Increase the provision of allotments.</li> <li>● Re-use of derelict allotments.</li> </ul> <p>Discover who would join a shared garden scheme – number of gardens available and potential users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S.T.C.</li> <li>● Commons Conservators</li> <li>● Other Allotment groups</li> <li>● Gardening Clubs</li> </ul> <p>Other Shared Garden Schemes</p>		3 years
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dog fouling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advise dog warden of problem areas and seek solutions to deal with them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S.G.C: Streetcare</li> <li>● S.T.C.</li> </ul> <p>Green Dog Walkers Group</p>		2 years

# Children and Young People

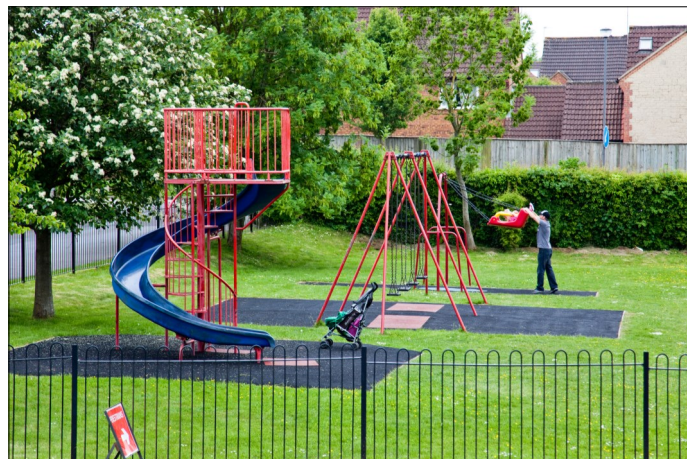
Only 50 to 60 households that answered the questionnaire had children at school and most of those rated the schools as good. This factor means that a limited amount of extra information was elicited regarding children's views on life here.

Some needs and issues have come through the Parish Plan questionnaire and separate consultation, but more consultation needs to take place. There is provision for young people in Yate, but there is evidence that some of our young people do not want to go there.



*“Need somewhere for the young to get together.”*

- The feedback highlighted the lack of informal facilities for children of 8 years and upwards.
- There was overwhelming support for the Youth Centre across all ages.
- 384 households were willing to accept a modest rise in the local rate of Council Tax to help fund the Youth Centre.
- In the comments section, people asked for The Ridings play area to be updated and made more challenging.



*“The Play Area by the scout hut is very limited and unimaginative, nothing for older children. Brandash Park, The Ridings and Kingrove Crescent could have more adventurous play equipment.”*

## Updates

- Sodbury Town Council plan to revamp the children's play ground on The Ridings.
- More surveys of young people's views need to be carried out and more imaginative ways need to be found to engage with them.
- The Youth Centre was saved from closure but will need long term funding and continued volunteer support.

5	Children and Young People	Action	Potential partners	Progress –to be regularly monitored by action groups	Time-scale
No.	Issue				
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to understand leisure preferences and current facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify current information available.</li> <li>Identify gaps in provision and seek to increase facilities.</li> </ul> <p>Survey groups split between 8-13 year olds and 14-18 year olds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Club</li> <li>Local Schools</li> <li>S.G.C: Children, Adults and Health</li> <li>S.G.C: Community Sports and Leisure</li> <li>Young peoples organisations</li> </ul>		2 years
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued provision of the Youth Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the management committee to increase funding and promote the Youth Club.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.G.C: Community Sports and Leisure</li> <li>S.G.C: Grants and Funding</li> <li>CVS – Funding</li> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>Town Lands Charity</li> </ul>		10 years
5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play area for under 8 year olds is out of date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey families in the decision making for the play equipment.</li> <li>Select and provide the new play equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>Town Trust,</li> <li>S.G.C: Community Sports and Leisure</li> </ul>		2 years
5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No play area for over 8 year olds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to understand needs and provide an area with more challenging play equipment.</li> <li>Identify potential sites.</li> <li>Seek funding for appropriate equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.G.C: Community Sports and Leisure</li> <li>S. G. C. Open Spaces</li> <li>Town Trust, S.T.C.</li> </ul>		4 years
5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities for young people to cycle.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review after results of item 5.1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools, Youth Club</li> <li>Cycling groups</li> </ul>		5 years
5.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of somewhere for young people to ‘chill out’</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review after results of item 5.1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As item 5.1</li> </ul>		5 years

## Older People

Older people may be isolated and lonely for various reasons:

- Moving here to be near family they may know no one else.
- Becoming too frail to go out independently may lead to missing companionship.
- Outliving friends and contemporaries may also contribute to isolation and loneliness.

It is not so easy for older people to start socialising, even when opportunities exist. Opportunities for gentle exercise are more likely to be held in Yate.

There are some difficulties in Community Transport provision which may add to the isolation of elderly dependant people and volunteer transport is limited by the number of people available to be drivers.



- About half of the respondents considered the opportunity to socialise were good or reasonable.
- There was interest in the following: short walks, drop in sessions, luncheon clubs and volunteer help with the garden.
- There was support for indoor and outdoor bowling.
- Mobility issues across the High St between parked cars were highlighted as were entrances into shops and facilities.
- The need to retain the Public Toilets in a good condition was stressed.

## Updates

- The local University of the Third Age (U3A) is still expanding and has over 900 members.
- Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church has asked for the Parish Plan findings relating to support of the community and including the elderly. Their Church buildings are being redeveloped with improved kitchen facilities and an infrastructure designed for the needs of the community.

6	Older People	Action	Potential partners	Progress –to be regularly monitored by action groups	Timescale
No.	Issue				
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some older people feel isolated and lonely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify needs. Improve existing facilities/activities and identify a better way of communicating with the elderly regarding the activities available and the needs of older people.</li> <li>Identify ways in which community transport can be improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age UK</li> <li>U3A</li> <li>Local Churches</li> <li>S.G.C: Children, Adults and Health – Planning and Partnerships Team</li> <li>Abbeyfield</li> <li>Cotswold Court</li> <li>Merlin Housing</li> <li>Community Transport</li> </ul>		5 years
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty in maintaining the garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish need for help.</li> <li>Establish how a Garden Help Scheme might be set up and run.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other garden help schemes,</li> <li>Age UK</li> <li>U3A</li> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>Merlin Housing</li> </ul>		4 years

## Housing

Opinions were divided about whether to allow small developments of housing in the parish, say of up to 30 homes, but the majority said yes. From comments received, people did not want to see housing east of St. Johns Way, either for personal reasons or because they did not want the possibility of Chipping Sodbury being joined to Old Sodbury.

A significant number of people did not complete this section.

- If more housing is needed, 398 households were in favour of allowing small developments of less than 30 houses.
- 381 households felt that 1 or 2 bedroom houses are needed.
- There was general support for affordable homes to meet local need.
- Less people felt that 4 bed and larger homes were required.
- Only a minority felt that more business and retail units were needed, but many people had no opinion on this section.
- People were in favour of more development for community use.



## Update

- South Gloucestershire Council are developing Supplementary Planning Advice on Housing as part of the Core Strategy, so it should be possible for the results of the questionnaire to influence the planning advice for the parish.



7	Housing			Progress-to be regularly monitored by action groups	Timescale
No.	Issue	Action	Potential partners		
7.1	Ensure any future housing development plans take into account the priorities of parish residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback comments</li> <li>• Ensure that possible sites for development are fed into Sites and Policies Supplementary Document</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S.G.C: Planning</li> <li>• S.T.C.</li> </ul>		1 year

## Communication

Responses were very positive about all the suggestions in this section of the questionnaire. A number of people commented that there is no central means of advertising events in the parish. There are existing publications that are widely available but they are essentially business productions and so not solely committed to the promotion of parish events and news.

Internet facilities are not routinely available at the Tourist Information Centre.

There is much that could be done to improve communications in the parish but it may need an enthusiastic group of people skilled in Information Technology to get things moving.

- The questionnaire responses highlighted throughout the lack of information about facilities and activities within the parish.
- 72% were in favour of a Chipping Sodbury newsletter.
- There were suggestions that the Tourist Information Centre needed to be open all weekend and all year round.
- Setting up a parish website scored highly.
- There was similar support for an information pack for new residents.
- A community help and advice centre was also well supported.

*“Advertising / marketing to visitors/ tourists is key in benefitting the area.”*



## Updates

- Since the questionnaire the Tourist Information Centre has remained open all winter.
- Communication technology is a fast evolving way of life, for instance The Old Sodbury Times is now produced in colour at little extra cost. It has been viewed from Australia on the mysodbury website by people wanting to move to the village.
- The Sodbury Town Council have put up a new notice board in Old Sodbury.

8	Communication	Action	Potential partners	Progress –to be regularly monitored by action groups	Timescale
No.	Issue	Action	Potential partners	Progress –to be regularly monitored by action groups	Timescale
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage groups to develop a co-ordinated approach to improve communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore how groups might share and publicise information about their organisation and events being held</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T.I.C.</li> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>S.Y.B.A.</li> </ul>		2 years
8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better promotion of Sodbury to visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve ways of providing information/ communicating and encouraging/promoting more tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T.I.C.</li> <li>Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>S.Y.B.A.</li> </ul>		2 years
8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of information about Chipping Sodbury for new residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design, publish, fund and disseminate an information pack for new residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T.I.C.</li> <li>Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>Estate Agents</li> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>S.Y.B.A.</li> </ul>		1 year
8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to provide signage indicating facilities in the town</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive review of information signage required.</li> <li>Improve signage and information around the town</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.T.C.</li> <li>T.I.C.,</li> <li>Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>S.Y.B.A.</li> <li>Waitrose</li> </ul>		2 years

## **The Development of This Plan**

A committee of volunteers began the process in 2012. We had a stall at 2 Farmers Markets on the main street, an event in the Town Hall and various informal consultations with young people, the elderly living in a complex, coffee mornings, O/S Village Day and C/S Festival. Based on findings from these contacts, a questionnaire was compiled and delivered by hand to all households in February 2013.

After analysis of tick boxes and text comments, a summary was compiled and again distributed to all households in the autumn. A spreadsheet was made of over 3,000 comments which can be used as evidence and support of the wishes of the residents.

A meeting of many organisations in the parish was then held in November 2013 to further discuss issues that were apparent from the results of the questionnaire. From the results and these consultations this Action Plan has been developed.

## **Next Steps**

The Parish Plan Group will continue to gather information, encourage and help generate and monitor action to make Sodbury an even better place in which to live, play and work.

# But most of all we need your help.

## **TO GET INVOLVED CONTACT**

**Jane Lund Tel: 01454 311180**



### **Parish Plan Group**

Jane Lund - (Chair), Stephen Kirk - (Treasurer), Pauline Wilson - (Secretary), Julia Bernau - (Minutes Sec.), John Allard and Iain Campbell (Sodbury Town Council), Linda Banister (The Sodbury and Yate Business Association), Sally Crook, David George, Penny Ruzicka, Dick Whittington (West of England Rural Network), Richard Wilson.

### **Contributors**

Sodbury Town Council - grant, use of meeting room and other help.  
South Gloucestershire Council - grant.  
Chipping Sodbury Town Lands Charity - grant.  
Rich McDonough - photographs.  
Mark Lloyd - Chamber of Commerce.  
Members of the public who delivered the questionnaires.

**And above all 'THANK YOU' to everyone in Sodbury Parish who participated and contributed to SODBURY PARISH PLAN**