



BASILDON

PARISH PLAN

www.basildon-berks.net

This Parish Plan belongs to you, the residents of Basildon. It describes what is valued by the residents and what the residents would like to change. It is the result of detailed presentations and feed-back which involved some 80% of households in the parish.

More importantly, this Action Plan requires the on-going support and involvement of you, the residents, not only to protect those aspects of village life that you value but also to bring about change and development where it is needed.

When you have read the document and looked at **The Basildon Action Plan**, which you can find on pages 21 – 23, please ask yourself how you can help to achieve its objectives.

You will not need to join a committee to help! By making a small contribution in whatever capacity best suits you, you will help to ensure that the objectives of the Plan are met and that the future of Basildon is shaped by its residents.

Important

This document is also available on the village website at www.basildon-berks.net. If you would prefer to re-cycle this hard copy then please give it to any of the people mentioned on page 2 or leave it at St Stephen's Church Centre or the Village Hall; otherwise please keep this document safely for future reference.



BASILDON PARISH PLAN

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THE PARISH PLAN TEAM

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Parish Plan Steering Committee would like to thank everyone who responded to the questionnaire, offered opinion at the Parish Plan events, or who helped in any way with the production of this document.

In particular, we are very grateful for the support and help offered by the following:

- Clive Williams, for his contribution on Basildon's history;
- Contributors to the Village Design Statement 2001, extracts from which have been used in this document;
- Photographs: Michael Betts; Pauline Hall; Fotolia.com; Peter Twitchett; Michael Warren; West Berkshire Council (p5 & p11);
- The Country Neighbour team and other volunteers who distributed and collected questionnaires;
- Sarah Ward and Community Action West Berkshire;
- Greenham Common Trust for its help with the preparation of the questionnaire, its analysis, and Teresa Newson for the initial draft document;
- Jeremy Davy, West Berkshire Council, for provision of the maps;
- Basildon Parish Council.

A Message from Nick Carter

Chief Executive West Berkshire Council

Parish planning as we know it today has its roots in the Rural White Paper, which was published in April 2004. This is not to say that parish planning, or community planning as it is sometimes known, is new. The premise that local people should be able to shape their own communities has existed for many years, and is the basis on which local government has developed over the centuries.

Since emerging five years ago, West Berkshire has sought to fully embrace parish planning, recognising it as a means for enabling local people to identify what is important to them. The Council and its partners have actually supported the development of parish plans and more importantly helped identify resources so that the plans can be delivered on the ground. There is now a growing list of projects that parish plans have identified and local people have delivered to the benefit of many communities across West Berkshire. Perhaps most importantly we are beginning to see a growing confidence at the 'grass roots' level that these plans can make a real difference.

I am delighted that a significant amount of hard work has now culminated in publication of the Plan for Basildon. Publication is in itself a major achievement, but delivering the Plan is what it is all about and I look forward to working with the Parish Council and the residents of Basildon in making that happen.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Carter', written in a cursive style.

Nick Carter
Chief Executive
West Berkshire Council

A Message from Sarah Ward

Community Action West Berkshire

Community Action West Berkshire congratulates Basildon on completing its Parish Plan. You are now ready to develop the projects within the action plan and I hope that the whole community will get involved, take up the many opportunities available and make a real difference.

The value of the Parish Plan is in providing the evidence needed to influence future policies and also to enable additional funding to be obtained for community projects.

May I wish you the best of luck in achieving your aims and aspirations for the future.



Sarah Ward

Sarah Ward
Parish Planning Development Worker
Community Action West Berkshire

INTRODUCTION

What is a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans aim to capture residents' feelings of what is valued and what should be changed in a village community.

Formal Parish Planning is strongly encouraged by central government, and forms a key component of West Berkshire Council's planning process.

The Basildon Parish Plan

In May 2005, Basildon Parish Council held an open meeting to promote a Parish Plan. A steering group was formed from a cross-section of volunteers in the Parish.

To date, residents' views have been captured through presentations and feedback at the Basildon Shows, a series of focus groups held with different representatives of the village and, most importantly, a questionnaire delivered to every household in Upper and Lower Basildon during April 2006. Results from the questionnaire were fed back to the community at the Parish Plan Launch Event held in November 2007. Residents were given the opportunity to join Action Groups and formulate plans to address the issues and concerns that had been raised.

The Basildon Parish Plan is based principally on the results from the questionnaire, and from this identifies an initial Action Plan. The Action Plan will be progressively developed and refined over coming years in conjunction with Basildon Parish and West Berkshire Councils, and regularly updated on our village website, www.basildon-berks.net.

The Basildon Parish Plan was formally adopted by Basildon Parish Council on 20th March 2008, and by West Berkshire Council on 23rd April 2008.

PARISH PLANS HELP PROVIDE:

- a way to influence local decisions, particularly in relation to planning and community strategies;
- a basis for action by people in the Parish;
- a point of reference in bidding for grants available to local communities.



BASILDON'S ENVIRONMENT

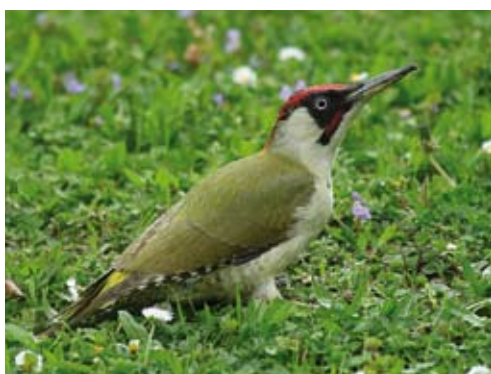
The Parish of **Basildon**, located in the North Wessex Downs **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), rises from the banks of the River Thames at Lower Basildon to its highest point near Old Stocks Court in Upper Basildon.

Farmland and large areas of deciduous woodland, predominantly Beech and Oak, surround the Parish. This coupled with the often large, well-hedged and tree-filled gardens provides an excellent habitat for many species of wildlife. A recently established village conservation group is beginning to tackle some neglected areas, mainly alongside parish footpaths.

Recent wildlife recording revealed a total of 880 species (mostly insects) in Basildon. This includes 3 species listed in the U.K. 'Red Data Book' of rare and threatened species and a further 22 that are classified as 'Nationally Scarce'. Thirty-five species are listed for conservation in the U.K. Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which is the main driving force behind current government conservation work. Despite continued development and intense pressure from modern farming, the essential character of this region has remained unchanged with an interesting and varied local habitat.



Birds



All three species of woodpecker and many common garden birds can be found as well as woodland species such as Goldcrest and Nuthatch. Nationally declining species such as the Bullfinch and Song Thrush seem to do well in Upper Basildon; at least one pair of the (now rare) spotted flycatchers regularly nest in one of the larger gardens. Altogether, 68 different bird species have been recorded here during recent years including many common migrants.

Larger birds are also common, with Buzzards having established a breeding territory in Hook End Lane, and there are also rookeries in Upper Basildon. A major success story is the large number of Red Kites that are now seen. These have bred in the Parish and surrounding areas in the last few years.



Riparian species including grebes, heron, kingfishers, moorhen, geese and swans are frequently to be seen by the Thames. There is also an abundance of game birds reflecting the presence of neighbouring sporting estates.

Flora

A varied range of plants typical of Berkshire chalk downland are found in Basildon, though these are less prolific than in former times when farming was less intensive. Toadflax, Marjoram, Basil and several species of the St. John's Wort and Mullein families may be found in some numbers at undisturbed field edges and along the narrower lanes. Both Mead Lane and Hook End Lane appear to be quite ancient. Analysis of the species of hedges (including Spindle and Buckthorn) suggests their age to be at least 300 years. During the summer there is a fine display of Cowslips.

Within the woods, the widespread abundance of 'indicator' species such as Bluebell and Dog's Mercury testify to the woods' considerable age.

At Church Farm it is claimed that some 80 flowering species are to be found in the hay meadows. Trees have also been planted here with a view to eventual coppicing.



Insects

Butterflies such as Holly Blue, Comma, Orange-Tip and Brimstone are frequently seen, while dragonfly species such as the Emperor, Broad-Bodied Chaser and Red Darter come to hawk over ponds and wet areas.

Indeed more than 20 butterfly species have consistently been recorded. A survey at a site in Bethesda Street in 2006 found 170 species of moths, the most notable being Striped Lychnis (nationally scarce) and Small Mottled Willow (a migrant).

Mammals

Muntjac and Roe deer are probably the most frequently seen mammals, both in woodland, fields and gardens. Others include the badger (with many established setts), foxes, hedgehogs, bats (including Pipistrelle and Noctules) and a variety of voles and mice.



BASILDON THEN

Man has been present in Basildon for about 500,000 years, as witness the flint axes that have been found, but the earliest physical remains are two sections of the Bronze Age “Grim’s Ditch” (circa 2,400 BC). The Romans also left their mark, building a road through Basildon running from Silchester to Dorchester-on-Thames. A wealthy Roman or Romano-British citizen also built a villa and farm beside the Roman road, but it was destroyed by Brunel’s navvies in 1838, when building the Great Western Railway.

On the frontier between Wessex and Mercia, Basildon was attacked and destroyed twice by the Mercians and Danes in the 9th and early 11th centuries. It was destroyed again by the Norman army in 1066, when the bulk of the army crossed the Thames at Streatley after the Battle of Hastings. In the 12th century it was caught up in the Civil War between Stephen and Matilda, whilst in 1346 the population was decimated by the Black Death.

Thereafter the Parish remained relatively undisturbed and slowly grew prosperous. By the 17th century it was the seat of the Fane family, who subsequently built the Grotto near the Thames in Lower Basildon. It was also the birthplace and last resting place in 1741 of Jethro Tull, the agriculturist. In 1770 Francis Sykes, who had made his fortune in India, acquired the Basildon Estate and built the House, which stands today. His grandson dissipated his fortune and so mistreated his wife that he ended up caricatured as Bill Sikes in Charles Dickens’s *Oliver Twist*.

In 1838 Sykes sold the Estate to a self-made man, James Morrison, and the Morrison family held the Estate until 1929. The Morrison family had many interests including art collecting. The remains of their valuable collection hang at Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire, where their descendants live. The artist JMW Turner is known to have stayed at Basildon Park and in 1844 he painted “*Rain, Steam and Speed*”,

showing the GWR and Basildon Railway Bridge, which stands in the valley below the House. Major Morrison, who owned the Estate from 1910-1929, is believed to have coined the name “*Basildon Bond*” for the well-known writing paper.

In 1929 the Estate was sold to Sir Edward (later Lord) Iliffe, who then auctioned it off. Some of the contents of Basildon Park ended up in the Waldorf Astoria in New York, in what is now the “Basildon Room”. Fortunately the second Lord Iliffe bought the House after the Second World War, when it was in a ruinous condition. He and Lady Iliffe carefully restored it and eventually donated it to the National Trust in 1978.



Brick making was a very old Basildon activity, resulting from the high quality, salt free clay existing in the Parish. However, the clay was worked out by the start of the Second World War and the brickworks became first a wartime and then a peacetime factory, making extruded plastic components – at Tenaplas. In the late 1990s the site was developed residentially and is now known as Old Stocks Court.

Basildon is remarkable for such a small Parish in having five Basildonians entered in the Dictionary of National Biography. These are Jethro Tull, Sir Francis Sykes, James Morrison and his elder son Charles, and Captain Allen Gardiner, the missionary, who founded the City of Durban in South Africa.

BASILDON NOW

Today, Basildon is best characterised by its very narrow winding lanes. Hedgerows and trees, rather than fences, usually mark the boundaries to properties. With few pavements and minimal street lighting, the rural feel of the Parish has been maintained.

The village has a wealth of properties of architectural and historical interest. The **Village Design Statement** recorded 27 listed properties in the village, noting examples of Palladian, Queen Anne and Gothic styles of architecture. A number of substantial farmhouses stand as testimony to the Parish's agricultural heritage.

This diversity has been carried through the centuries and, as noted in the **Village Design Statement**, it is this individuality of style that is the most striking feature of Basildon.

The majority of properties are detached and are usually sited centrally on generous plots of land. This often allows views across the open countryside which surrounds the Parish, giving the overall impression of spaciousness.

Examples of terraced cottages and semi-detached properties, often originally built for agricultural workers, also exist.

Amenities

The village enjoys a number of public buildings and spaces. These include:

- The Village Hall which was rebuilt in 2004
- The Church Centre – St. Stephen's Church
- The School
- The Recreation Ground — Bethesda Street
- The Children's Playground — Wakemans
- The Village Green — Upper Basildon

Local attractions include:

- Basildon House, owned by the National Trust
- Beale Wildlife Park
- Royal Berkshire Shooting School
- Various equestrian activities



The Parish has two churches. St. Bartholomew's in Lower Basildon dates from the 13th Century and is now maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. St. Stephen's in Upper Basildon was built in 1965. This replaced the temporary place of worship, located on the corner of Bethesda Street and Blandy's Lane, which was built in 1895.



The Parish also has three public houses. In Upper Basildon, the Red Lion and the Beehive each offer fine pub food in addition to local beers. The Tamarind Tree in Lower Basildon specialises in Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine.



Basildon Primary School, founded in 1875, is located in Upper Basildon and provides education for about 140 children. Secondary education is provided primarily by Theale Green School, although an increasing number of parents are choosing the local independent schools.



Economy

The majority earn their livings outside the village. However, the village has retained elements of its agricultural heritage with both arable and livestock farming in existence.



There remains an important emphasis on tourism and leisure within the Parish. Basildon House and Beale Wildlife Park continue to attract numerous visitors, while ISPAL, the institute for sports, parks and leisure professionals, has its headquarters at the Grotto in Lower Basildon. Equestrian activities and the Royal Berkshire Shooting School are also very popular.



The petrol station in Lower Basildon houses a convenience store providing some goods and services to the local community while the Post Office in Upper Basildon also sells gifts and stationery items.

Many smaller businesses, often home based, can be found throughout the Parish.

SURVEY RESULTS

Who took part

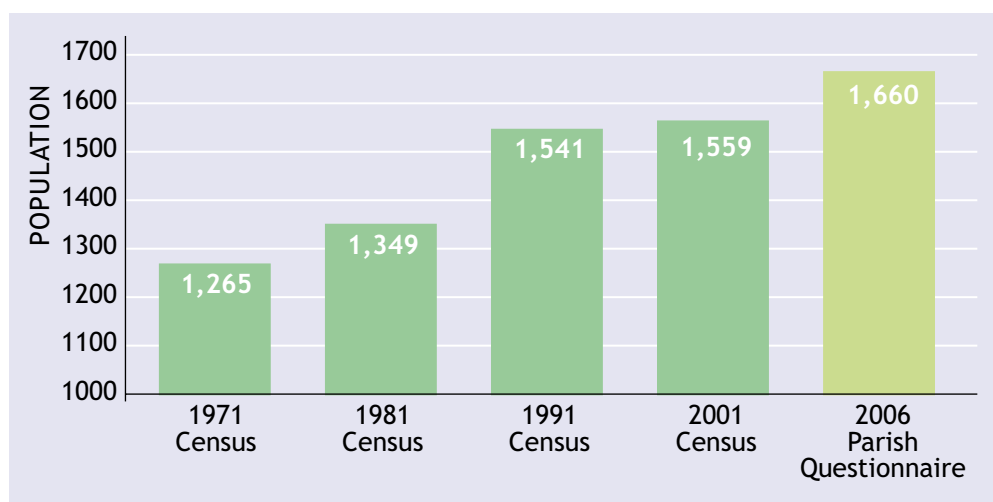
The Parish Plan Questionnaire was delivered to every property in the Parish during April 2006. All residents aged 11 and over were asked to contribute their views.

Approximately 80% of occupied properties returned their questionnaires, providing us with the views of 1,058 residents within the Parish.



Population

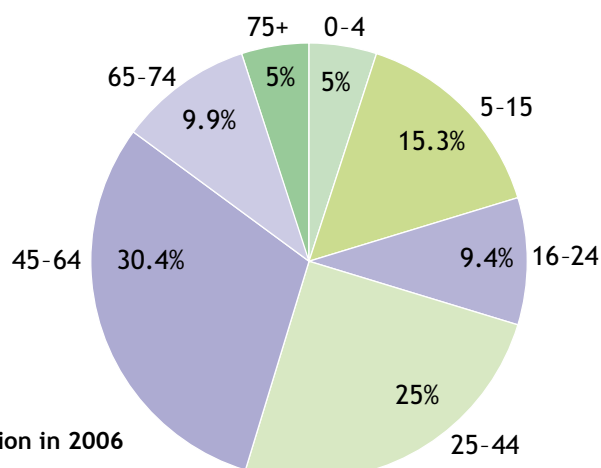
In the five year period to 2006, the total Parish population grew by over 6% to approximately 1,660.



Population growth of Basildon

The 2001 census recorded a total of 607 residential properties. In 2006 it was estimated that there were nearly 670 properties, including those currently under development or unoccupied – an increase of 10% in the five years. 98% of homes are primary residences.

All age groups are represented in the village.

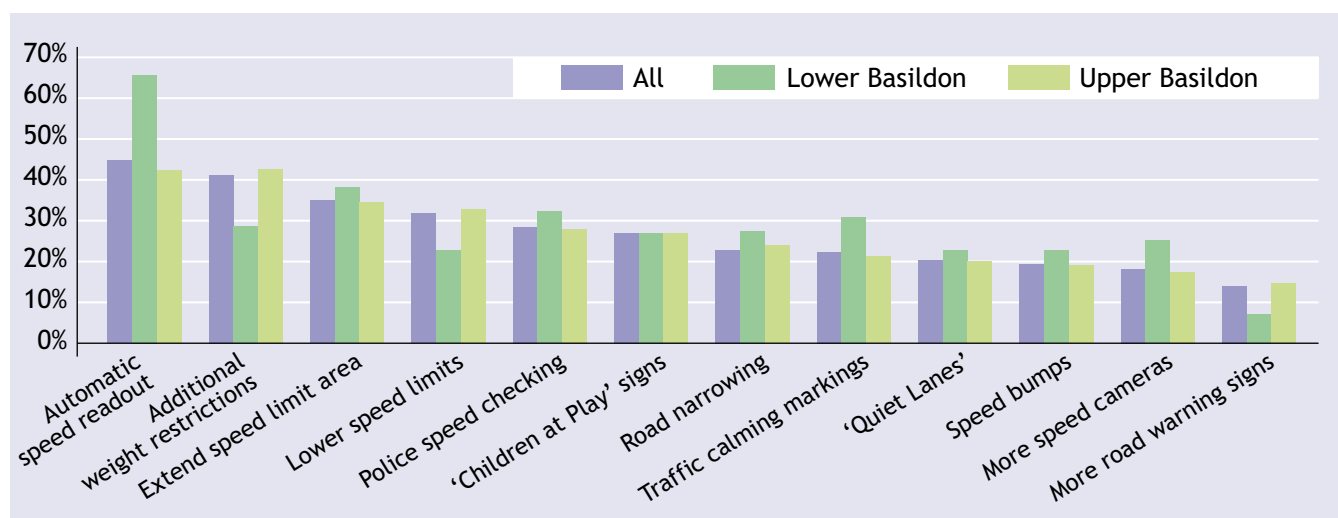


Age distribution in 2006

Getting Around

There is an average of 2.1 roadworthy motor vehicles per household in the village and approximately 230 bicycles are used at least once a week in the village.

77% of respondents supported measures to reduce the speed or size of traffic through the village, with support for a range of initiatives.



Percentage of respondents in support of various traffic control measures. (71% response)

73.5% of respondents use their car as their main form of transport. Less than 5% car share and only a further 5% would be prepared to.

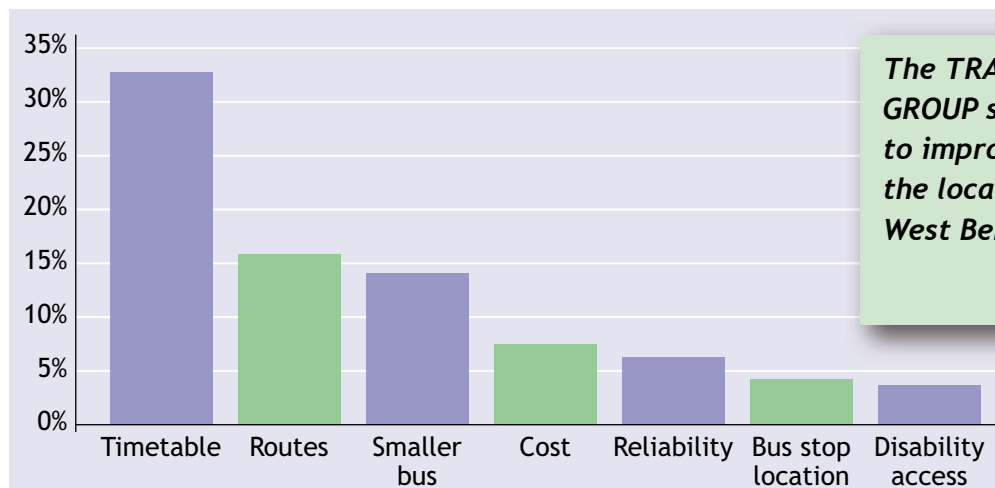


The TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP should explore practical steps to reduce the speed, volume and size of traffic through the village.

The public bus service is the main form of daily transport for just 0.8% of respondents. However, 12.3% of respondents use the service at least once per month.

Whilst the bus service is used by only a small proportion of residents, over 47% of residents expressed an opinion as to how it could be improved. In particular the timetable was cited as needing attention.





The TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP should explore options to improve the service with the local bus company and West Berkshire Council.

Percentage of respondents wanting improvements in various aspects of the bus service. (79% response)



Localised issues were also noted from the survey. These include:

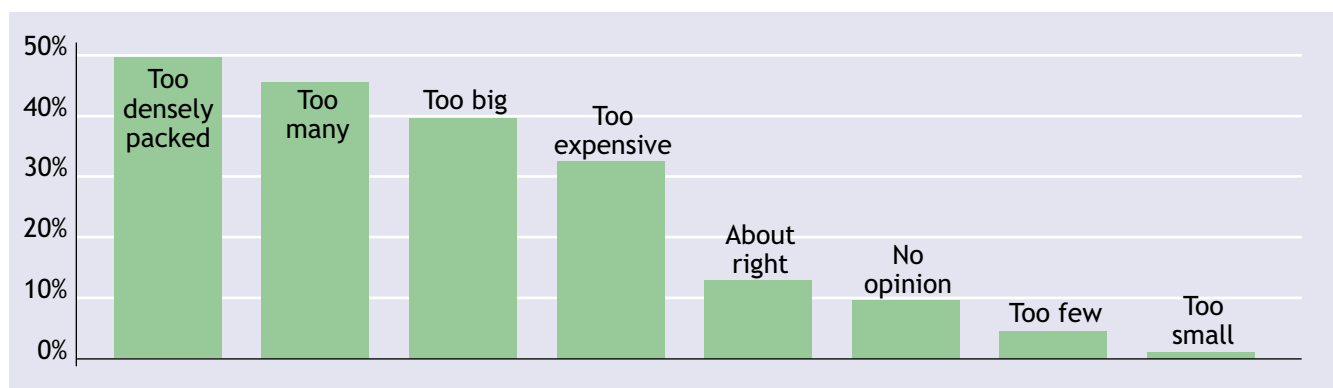
- parking and access in Beckfords and School Lane
- lack of street lighting in Wakemans and along Pangbourne Road
- pavement access to Wakemans

The TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP should consider these localised issues in their discussions with West Berkshire Council.

Planning and Development

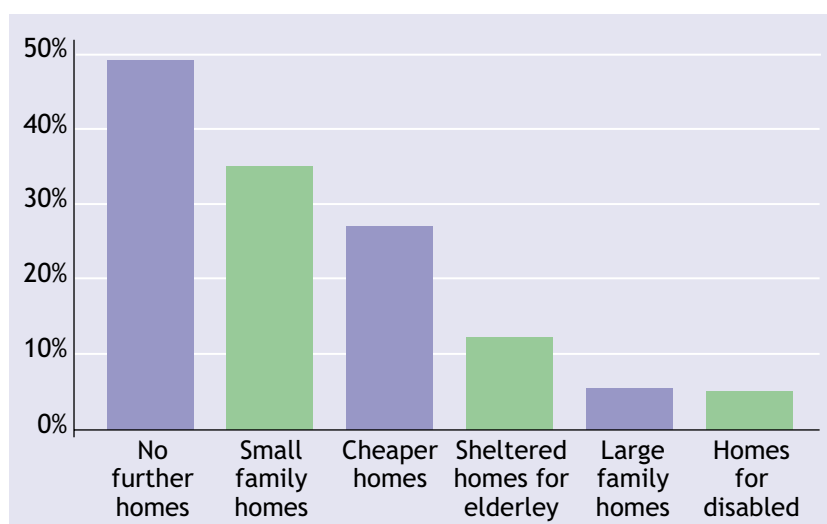
Basildon has seen significant new developments in recent years. In the five years to 2006, planning applications for 70 new houses were granted, representing a growth of 12%.

The planning process and building development in Basildon generated some of the highest response rates to the questionnaire. Over 77% of respondents are dissatisfied with the quantity, type or scale of development in the Parish. There was a clear mandate to maintain the spacious nature of Basildon and to resist creeping urbanisation.



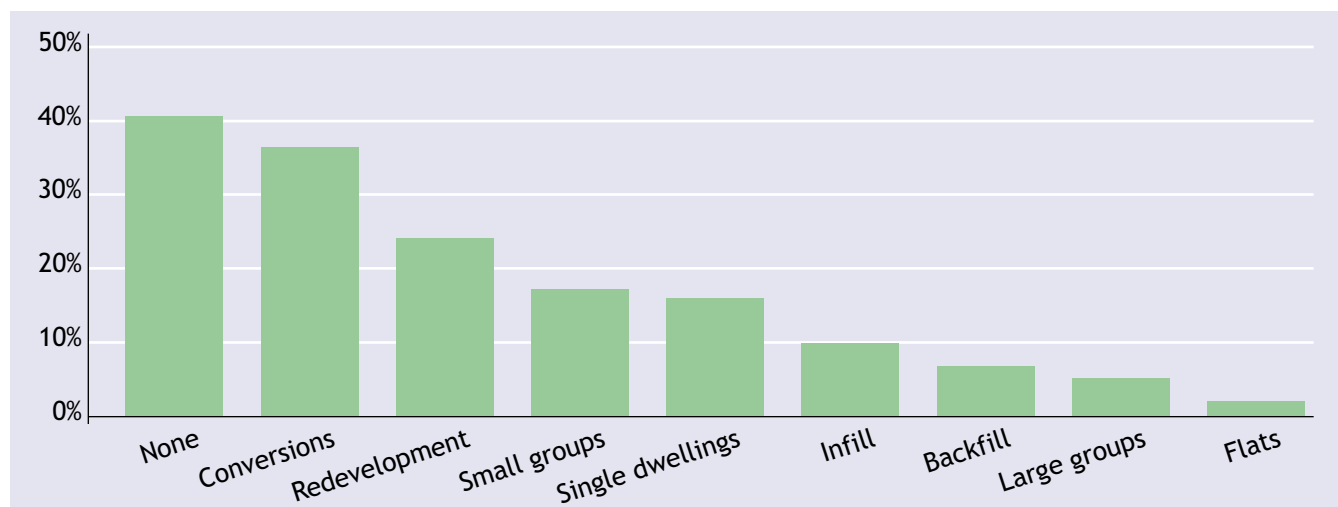
Respondents opinions regarding the number of houses built in Basildon over the last 10 years

Opinion is divided between those who want no more development and those who want smaller or more affordable homes. A few residents would like specific accommodation for the elderly with a small minority wanting larger homes.



What kind of accommodation do you think Basildon needs? (79% response)

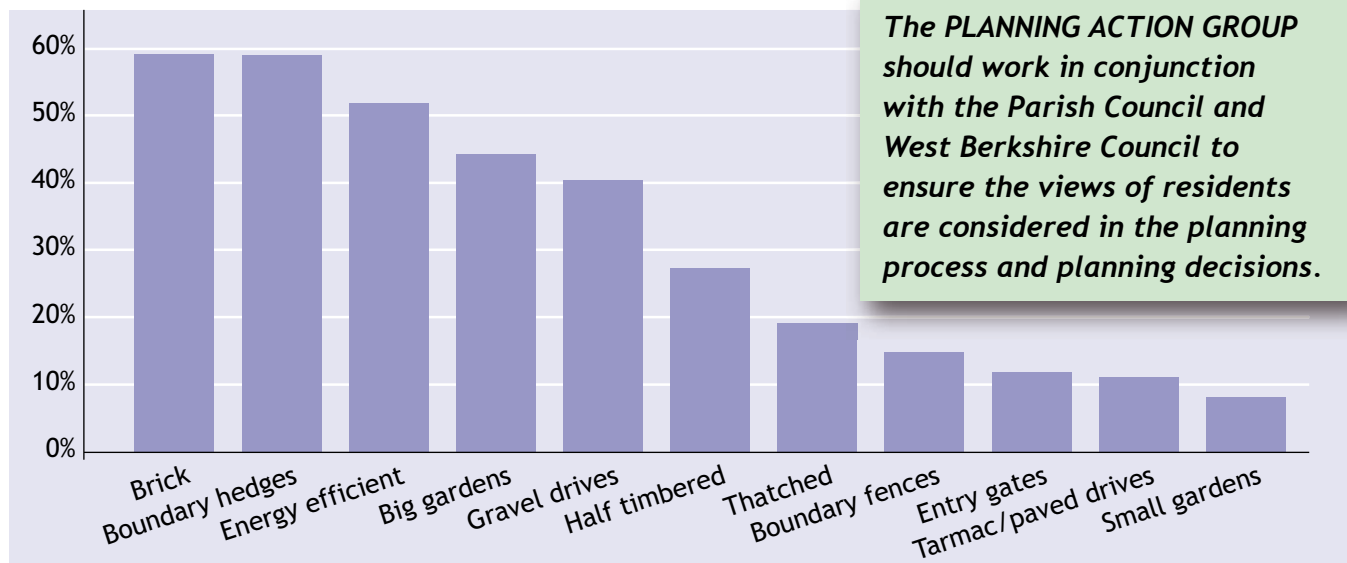
Where development is required, there is a clear preference to convert redundant buildings, or redevelop and extend existing homes. People prefer small developments to large developments. There is minimal support for infill development (replacing one house with 2 or more) and backfill development (creating new houses behind existing houses).



What type(s) of housing development would you like to see in Basildon? (82% response)

Where developments are considered, there is a preference for brick housing over half-timbered, boundary hedges over boundary fences, big gardens (in relation to the house) over small gardens and gravel drives over tarmac drives. Most respondents would like to see energy efficient houses and few support the use of entry gates. Overall this result shows most people support more rural designs for Basildon, reinforcing the recommendations laid out in the **Village Design Statement**.

Of respondents who expressed an opinion, over 89% are against the settlement boundary being extended and nearly 80% felt that the planning process did not work well.



What style of housing development would you like to see in Basildon? (64% response)

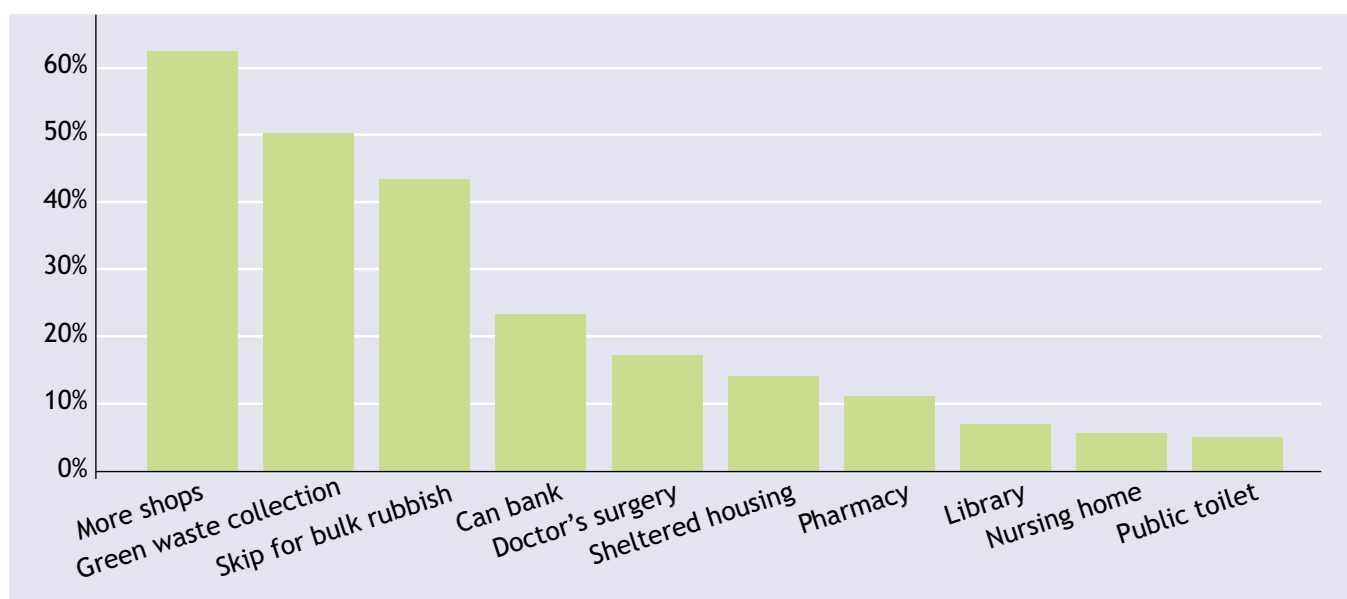
Facilities and Services

The two most frequently used facilities in the Parish are the Post Office, used by 61% of respondents, and the Village Hall which is used by 57% of respondents.

The survey identified two areas where village facilities could be improved. The first was in relation to the lack of village shops, which was identified by 70% of respondents living in Upper Basildon. This was not a concern for respondents in Lower Basildon, which is already served by the shop at the petrol station.

Scope for improvement in the current waste collection facilities was also identified. The need for a green waste kerbside collection was mentioned by 50% of respondents, a skip for bulk rubbish by 44%, and a can bank by 23%.

The SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP should consider the feasibility of a local shop in Upper Basildon.



Which new facilities are required in Basildon? (75% response)

Keeping Active

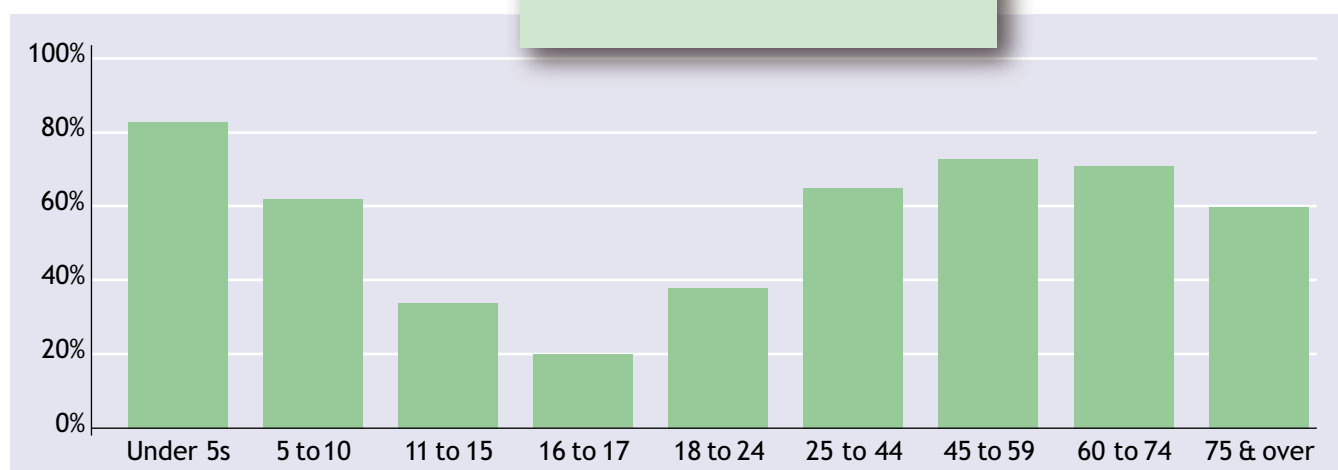
The recreation ground by the village hall is the most heavily used outdoor facility in the Parish. Equally, the playground facilities at the village hall are well used. By contrast, the playground at Wakemans is used by only 5.9% of respondents.



Proportion of respondents using the recreational facilities (88% response)

Social and sports facilities were regarded as good or reasonable for all age groups except for the 11 to 24 age group. In particular, 80% of respondents who expressed an opinion felt that the facilities for the 16 & 17 year olds were poor.

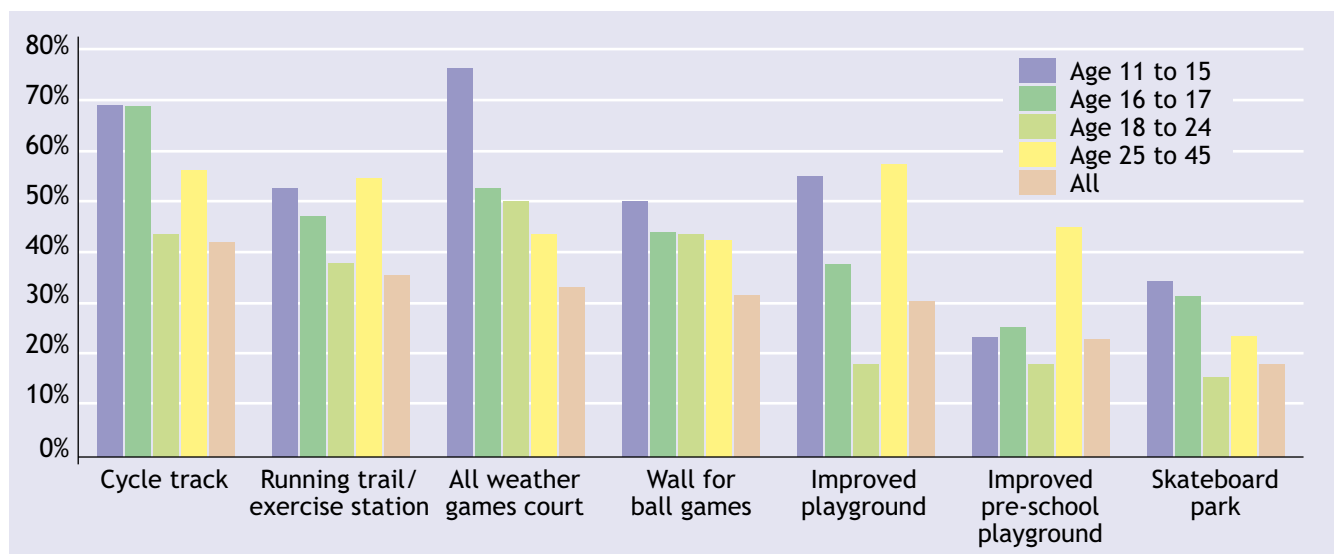
The SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP should look at ways of improving use of all the recreational facilities available to the village.



Proportion of respondents who ranked social and sports facilities as good or reasonable for each age group

When asked which facilities required improving, respondents between the ages of 11 and 24 expressed greatest desire for an all weather games court and a cycle track. Those over 25 expressed the strongest preference for improved playground facilities, even though (as noted above) the existing facilities for under 10s were generally regarded as good or reasonable.





What sports facilities does Basildon need? (79% response)

A number of respondents expressed interest in specific organised sports, which are widely believed not to be available in the Parish. In particular, there was sufficient interest to start badminton, youth football, cricket, netball and rugby teams.

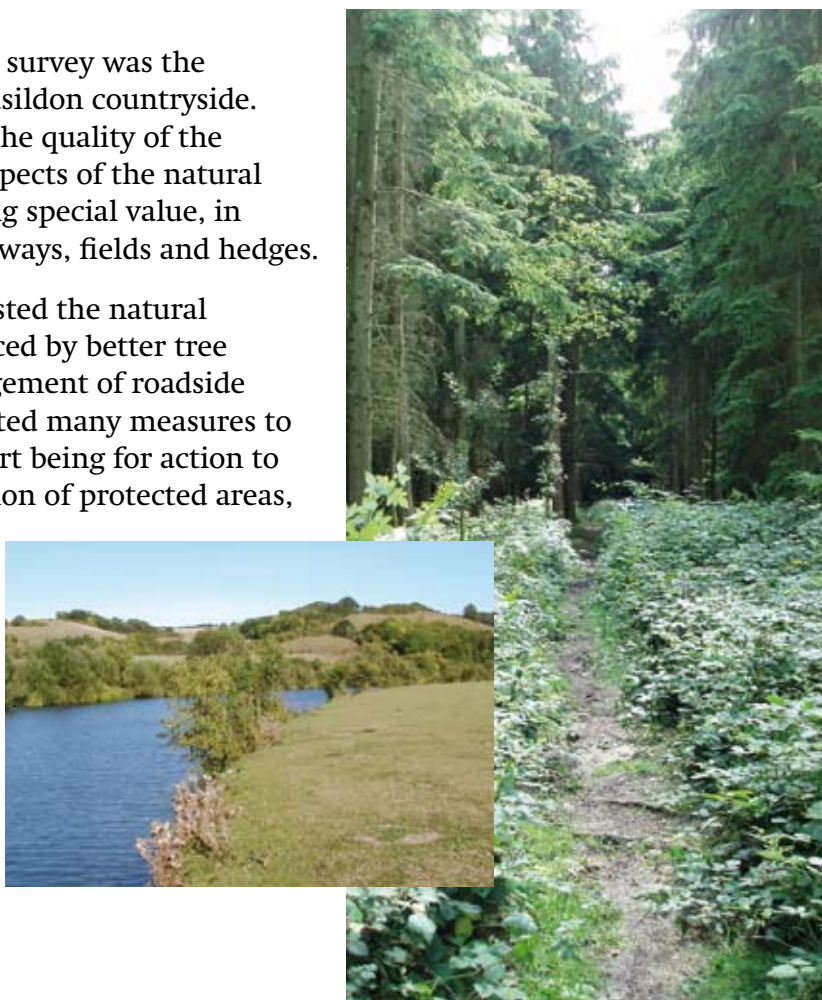
The SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP should consider the views offered on the available sports and recreational facilities, and work in conjunction with the Parish Council to consider ways the facilities could be improved.

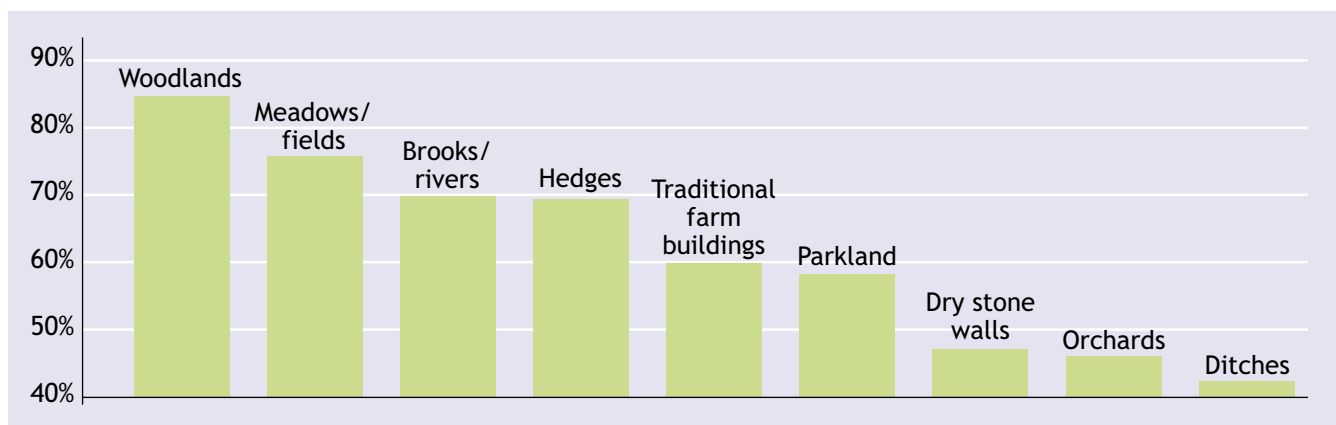
The Natural Environment

Probably the clearest signal from this survey was the importance residents attach to the Basildon countryside. Over 98% of respondents considered the quality of the countryside to be important. Many aspects of the natural environment were identified as having special value, in particular the local woodlands, waterways, fields and hedges.

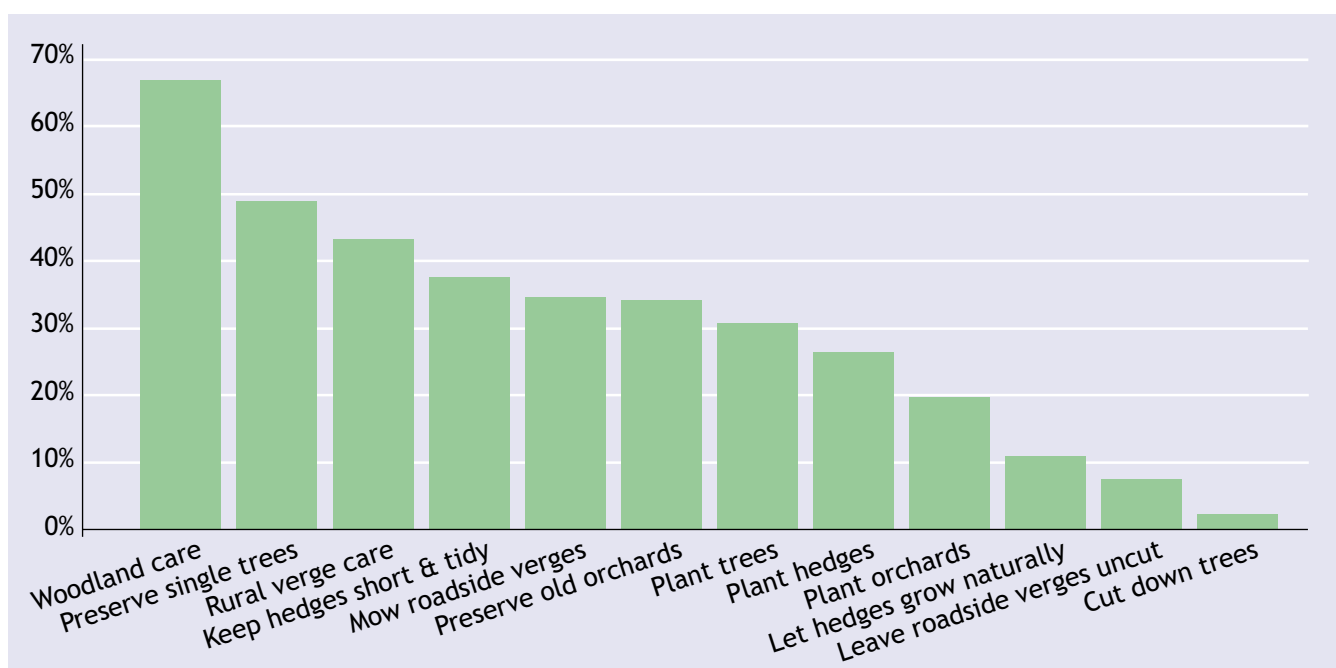
A high number of respondents suggested the natural environment could be further enhanced by better tree and hedge care, and improved management of roadside verges. Similarly, respondents suggested many measures to protect local wildlife; the most support being for action to improve woodland care and designation of protected areas, plus preventative measures such as reducing litter and pollution.

Additional suggestions were to control the removal of hedges and ensure that hedges are planted instead of fence installations in new developments. This again supports the recommendations in the ***Village Design Statement***.

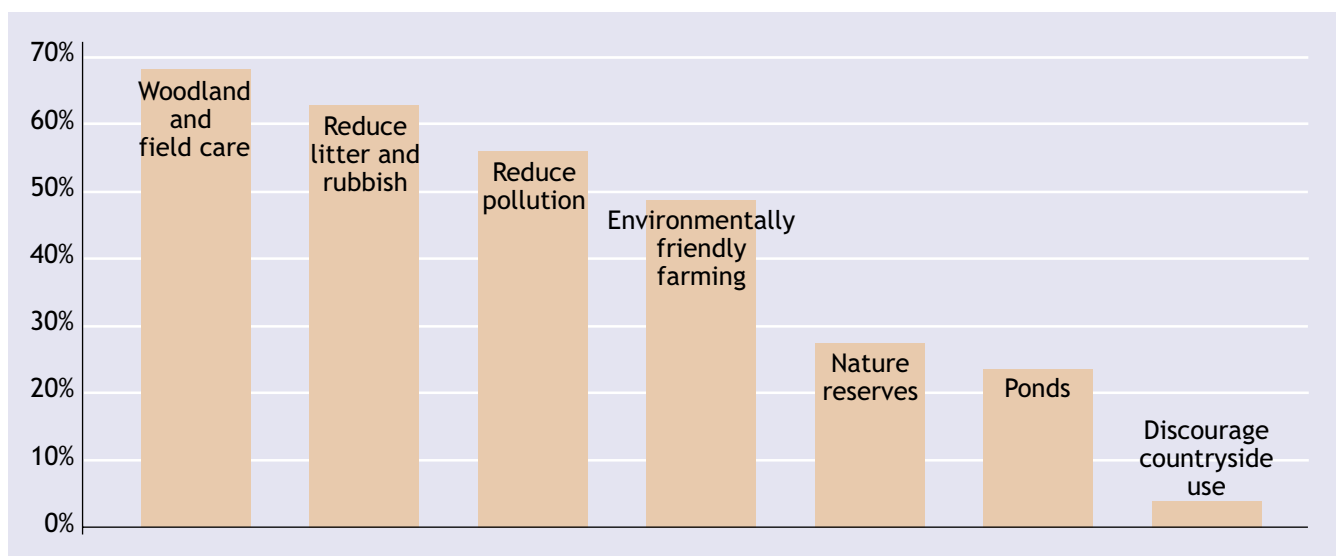




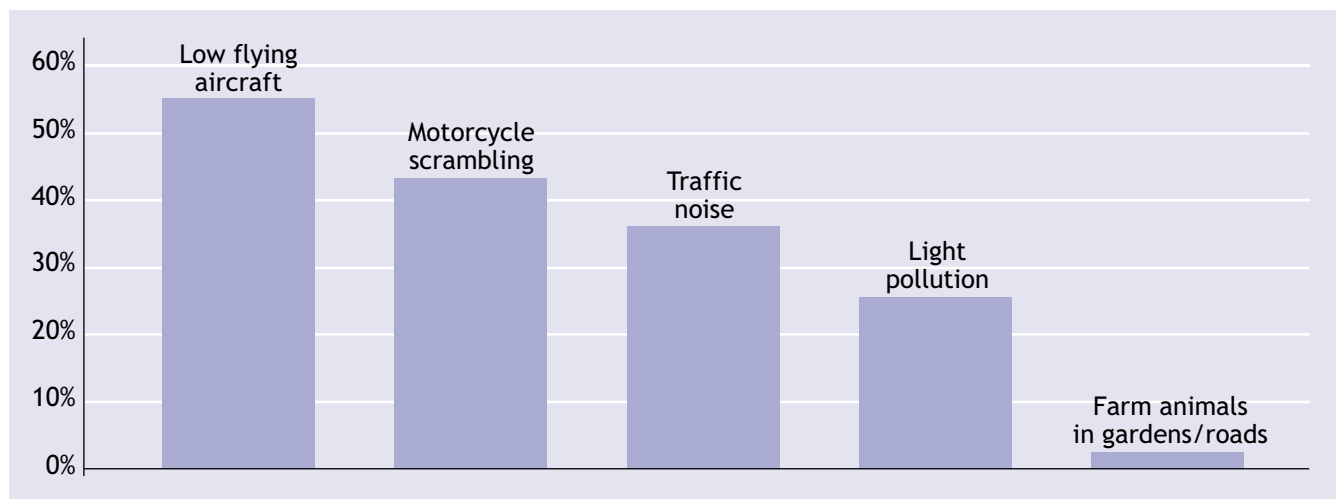
Features of our surrounding countryside rated as important (82% response)



What can be done to protect the local environment? (88% response)



What can be done to protect wildlife? (80% response)



What disturbances are there in Basildon? (42% response)

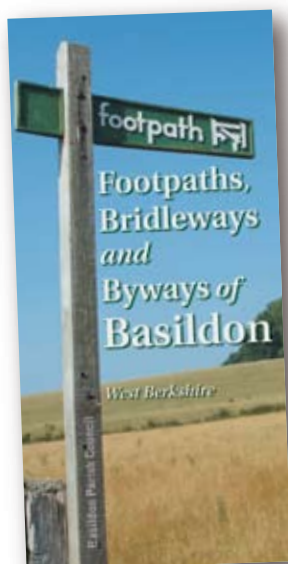
Respondents reported a number of disturbance issues. In particular, problems with noise from low-flying aircraft, motorcycle scrambling and traffic were identified. The concern over light pollution is also reflected in government and CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) initiatives to reduce this nuisance and maintain “dark skies”, especially in the countryside.

In addition over 85% of respondents felt that litter was an issue in the Parish. However, those wanting more litter bins and dog mess bins were matched by those who did not. A large proportion of respondents (over 40%) supported the idea of regular special litter clearance or ‘spring clean’ events.

Basildon’s rights of way are clearly very popular and are used by over 94% of respondents. While the vast majority use them for walking, 24% use them for cycling and 5% for horse riding.

The NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP should consider an integrated approach to protect and enhance the local environment.

The NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP should consider ways to maintain and protect local rights of way.



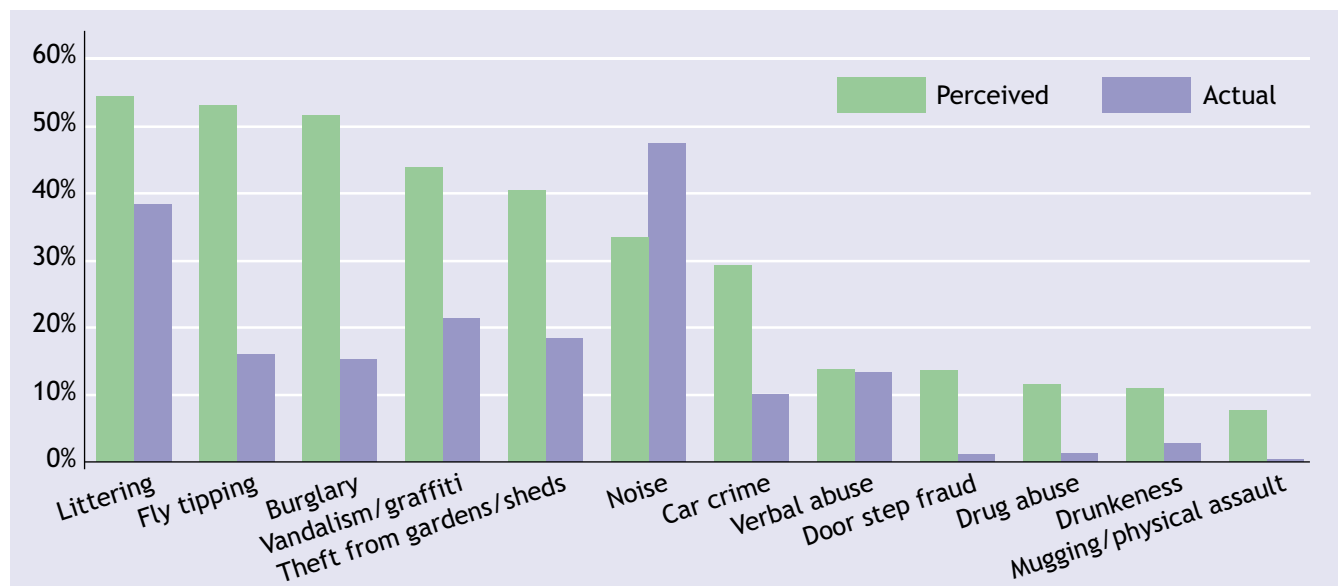
Unfortunately, only 25% of respondents said they could use the rights of way without difficulty. The problems most frequently encountered were muddy, damaged or overgrown paths and dog mess.

Respondents preferred maps and leaflets of local paths and routes to guided walks. A leaflet has recently been made available.



The Social Environment

When asked what concerns respondents had with regard to the social environment, littering, fly-tipping, and burglary were highlighted. The parallel question identifying those who have been victims, placed noise and littering as the most common forms of anti-social behaviour.

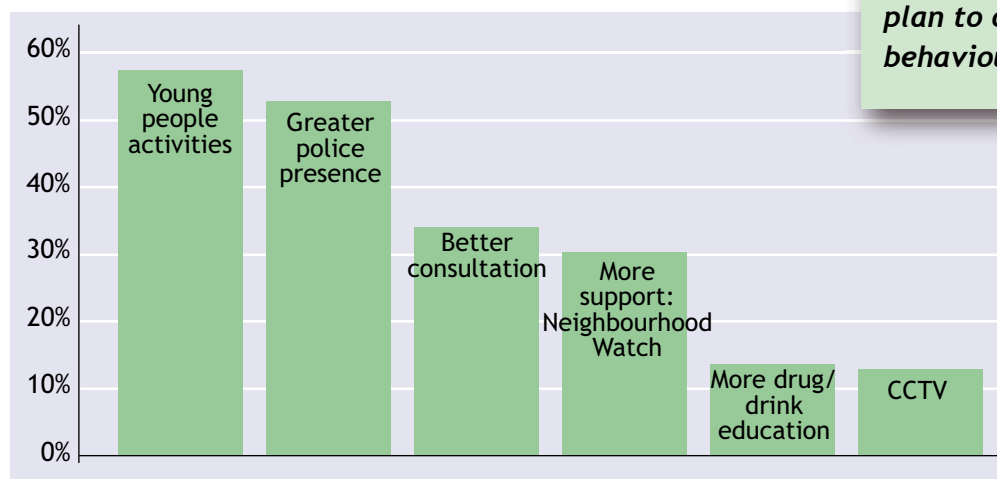


Crimes and anti-social behaviour in the last 3 years (Perceived = 75% response; Actual = 39% response)

The survey went on to demonstrate that a greater police presence and more activities for young people were the most popular measures to counteract the problems, whilst better consultation between police and local people or more neighbourhood watch support were less favoured.

Overall, feelings relating to standards of service from fire, ambulance, police and medical were positive from those who expressed an opinion. However, there were a higher number of respondents (59%) that had concerns over the standard of community policing.

The SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP should work with the Parish Council, West Berkshire Council and local Police to establish an action plan to combat anti-social behaviour.



Measures needed to address anti-social behaviour (69% response)

THE BASILDON ACTION PLAN

Volunteer groups of residents have carefully reviewed all the issues raised in the survey and at the village hall meeting. The following objectives and actions have been identified. Now please consider how you can help to achieve these objectives in whatever capacity suits your skills and interests. Small contributions from many will make real progress. See page 2 for contacts. This Action Plan will be further refined and will evolve with time.

| Topic | Objective | Actions | Responsibility | Timescale | Partners |
|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Village Amenities | Enhance and preserve current and potential amenities in Upper and Lower Basildon | Assess feasibility of a shop in Upper Basildon and assess interest in taking idea forward | Social Environment Action Group | 2008 | BPC, WBC |
| | | Develop strategy for ensuring the future of Post Office and pubs in Upper Basildon | Social Environment Action Group | 2009 | BPC, WBC |
| Leisure Activities | Facilitate more village sports and recreation activities | Establish more clubs to make use of existing facilities (e.g. badminton) | Social Environment Action Group | 2008 | BPC, BVHRG |
| | | Undertake youth consultation exercise to assess requirements, by age group, in Upper and Lower Basildon. Establish how to make better use of existing facilities | Social Environment Action Group | 2008 | BPC, WBC, CAWB |
| | | Establish some allotments if sufficient demand and identify suitable site(s) | Social Environment Action Group | 2008 | BPC, WBC, CAWB |
| Village Community | Support existing village show and develop other community events | Investigate ways to make the organisation of community events less daunting | Social Environment Action Group | 2008 | BPC |
| | Ensure everyone knows what currently goes on in the village. | Produce "Welcome to Basildon" booklet for new residents | Social Environment Action Group | 2008-09 | BPC, Church |
| Law and Order | Maintain a safe, peaceful and low crime community | Increase awareness of actual crime that occurs so that perception matches reality | Social Environment Action Group | 2008 | BPC, TVP |
| | | Determine status of any existing Neighbourhood Watch schemes | Social Environment Action Group | 2008-09 | BPC, TVP |
| Character of the Village | Maintain spacious character of the village and resist creeping 'urbanisation' | Prepare Village Character Portraits (VCPs) to guide the West Berkshire planners. Append to the Village Design Statement (VDS) as Supplementary Planning Guidance | Planning Action Group | 2008-09 | WBC, BPC |

| Topic | Objective | Actions | Responsibility | Timescale | Partners |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------|---|
| Character of the Village | Maintain spacious character of the village and resist creeping 'urbanisation' | Carry out a tree and hedge survey, in consultation with WBC's tree officers, to identify suitable trees/hedges for formal protection | Planning Action Group | 2008-09 | Natural Environment Action Groups, BPC, WBC |
| | Preserve old / notable / listed / significant buildings and any sites of archaeological significance | Compile list of such buildings and sites, and highlight their importance to the character of the area within the VCP | Planning and Natural Environment Action Groups | 2010 | BPC, WBC |
| | Improve environmental sustainability of development and minimise associated risk of flooding | Encourage WBC planners to stipulate the features identified in the VDS and VCP as standard in planning permissions. e.g. boundary hedges preferred to boundary fences / big gardens (in relation to house) preferred to small gardens / gravel drives preferred to tarmac drives | Planning Action Group | 2008-09 / Ongoing | BPC, WBC |
| | | Record and submit to WBC planners the instances of recent flooding (2007). Liaise with WBC over maintenance of blocked ditches and drains | Planning Action Group | 2008-09/ Ongoing | BPC, WBC |
| Affordable Housing | Accommodate some affordable homes / homes for elderly. | Review previous study of requirements for affordable housing and homes for the elderly, with supporting evidence | Planning Action Group/ BPC | 2009 | WBC |
| Sustainability | Promote practices that improve sustainability | Investigate opportunities for encouraging residents to adopt sustainable lifestyles and advising developers on sustainable practices | Social Environment and Planning Action Groups | Ongoing | WBC |
| Enhancing Rights of Way | Improve surfaces of paths which access neighbouring villages. Develop new rights of way to enable safer passage | Confirm need, convince WBC and carry out work | Natural Environment Action Group, BPC | 2009-10 | WBC |
| Village Spring Clean days | Organise regular events incorporating litter picking, flytipping removal, green waste collection and tidying of signposts, noticeboards etc in Upper and Lower Basildon | Set up group to plan and implement | Natural Environment Action Group | May 2008 | BPC, School, local clubs/ groups. |

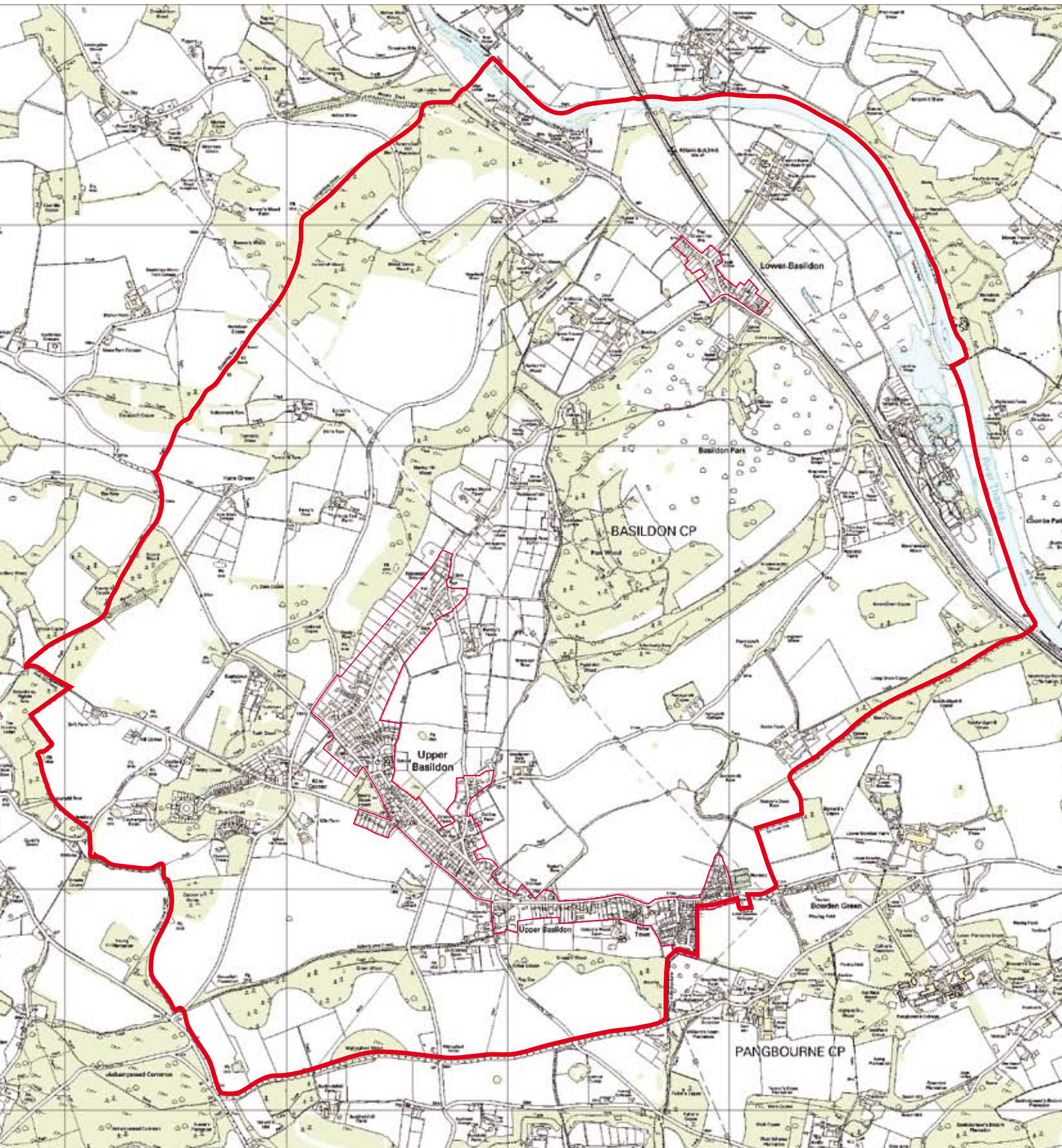
| Topic | Objective | Actions | Responsibility | Timescale | Partners |
|--|--|---|---|-----------|---|
| Work on Trees | Survey parish for ancient trees, sites for planting woodland, trees for new TPOs | Organise action team, plan the work, organise training. Tree walks: carry out survey and action findings | Natural Environment and Planning Action Groups, and BPC | 2010 | Landowners, NT, TPO officer, WBC, local wildlife organisation |
| Traffic Speed and Safety | Reduce traffic speeds and improve junction safety | Review speed limits and 30mph boundaries. Investigate ways to improve sight lines for blind junctions and review junction layouts and priorities | BPC and Transport Action Group | Ongoing | WBC, TVP |
| Volume of traffic | Reduce both local and through traffic using the village lanes | Promote walking and cycling within the village. Consider safer routes or segregation for horses, cyclists and pedestrians. Explore practical ways of reducing volume of traffic generated from outside the village | BPC and Transport Action Group | Ongoing | WBC |
| Large Vehicles | Manage large vehicle routes and deliveries to protect roads and verges | Review large vehicle routes, weight limits and ensure correct signing in local villages and towns. Enforce planning restrictions on deliveries | BPC and Transport Action Group | 2008-09 | WBC |
| Residents Transport in and around Basildon | Reduce traffic and increase mobility for those without access to cars | Review Basildon transport requirements of village residents, and consider appropriate routes | BPC and Transport Action Group | Ongoing | WBC |
| School Transport | Improve transport links to schools outside the village | Review school bus requirements, and consider appropriate routes | BPC and Transport Action Group | Ongoing | WBC |
| Basildon Primary School Traffic | Reduce traffic around Basildon Primary School at pick up and drop off times | Consider alternative, safer and better routes to the school. Consider traffic management, and segregation of traffic and children around school | BPC and Transport Action Group | Ongoing | WBC, Basildon Primary School |

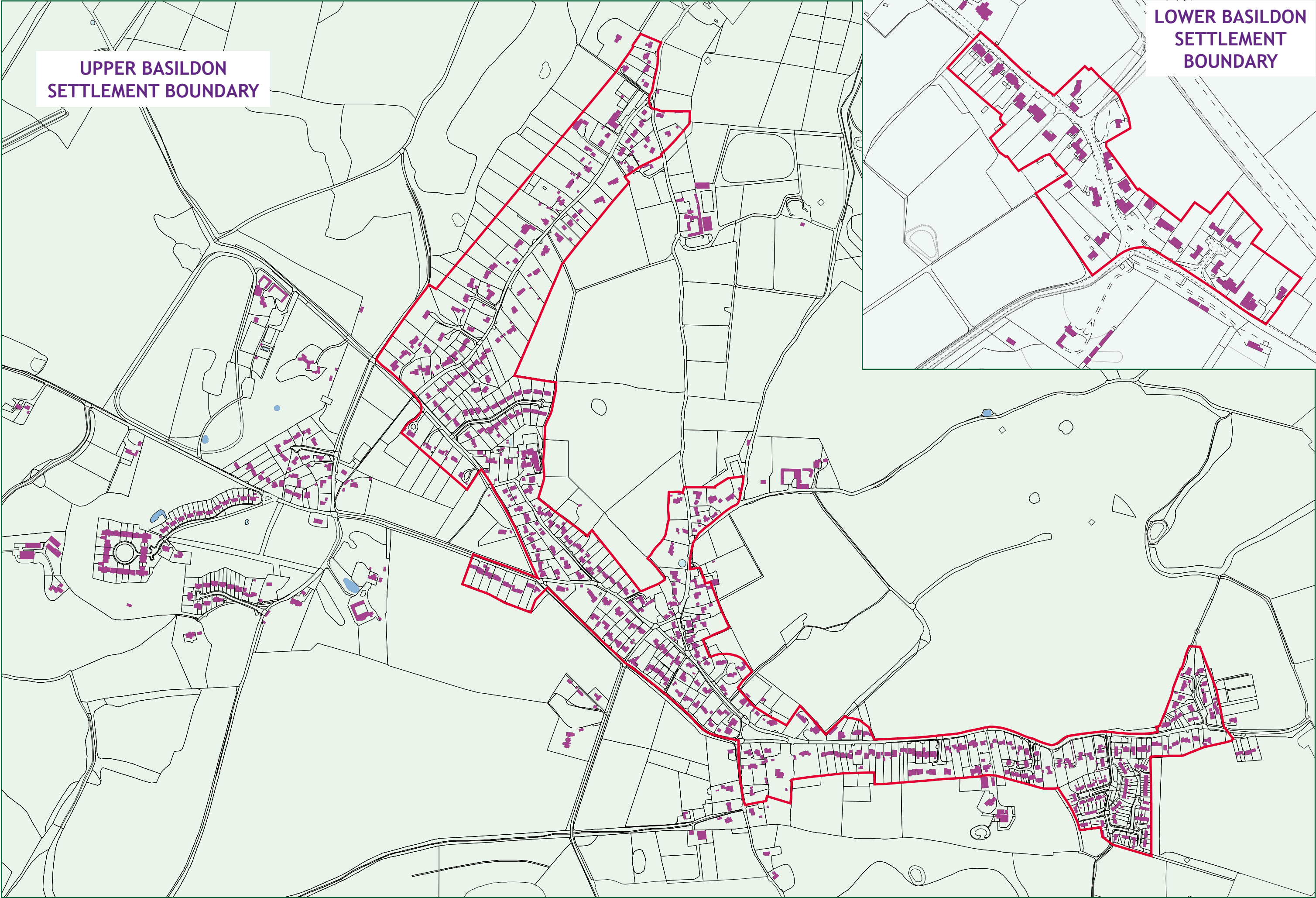
KEY

BPC Basildon Parish Council
 BVHRG Basildon Village Hall & Recreation Ground
 CAWB Community Action West Berkshire
 NT National Trust
 TPO Tree Preservation Order

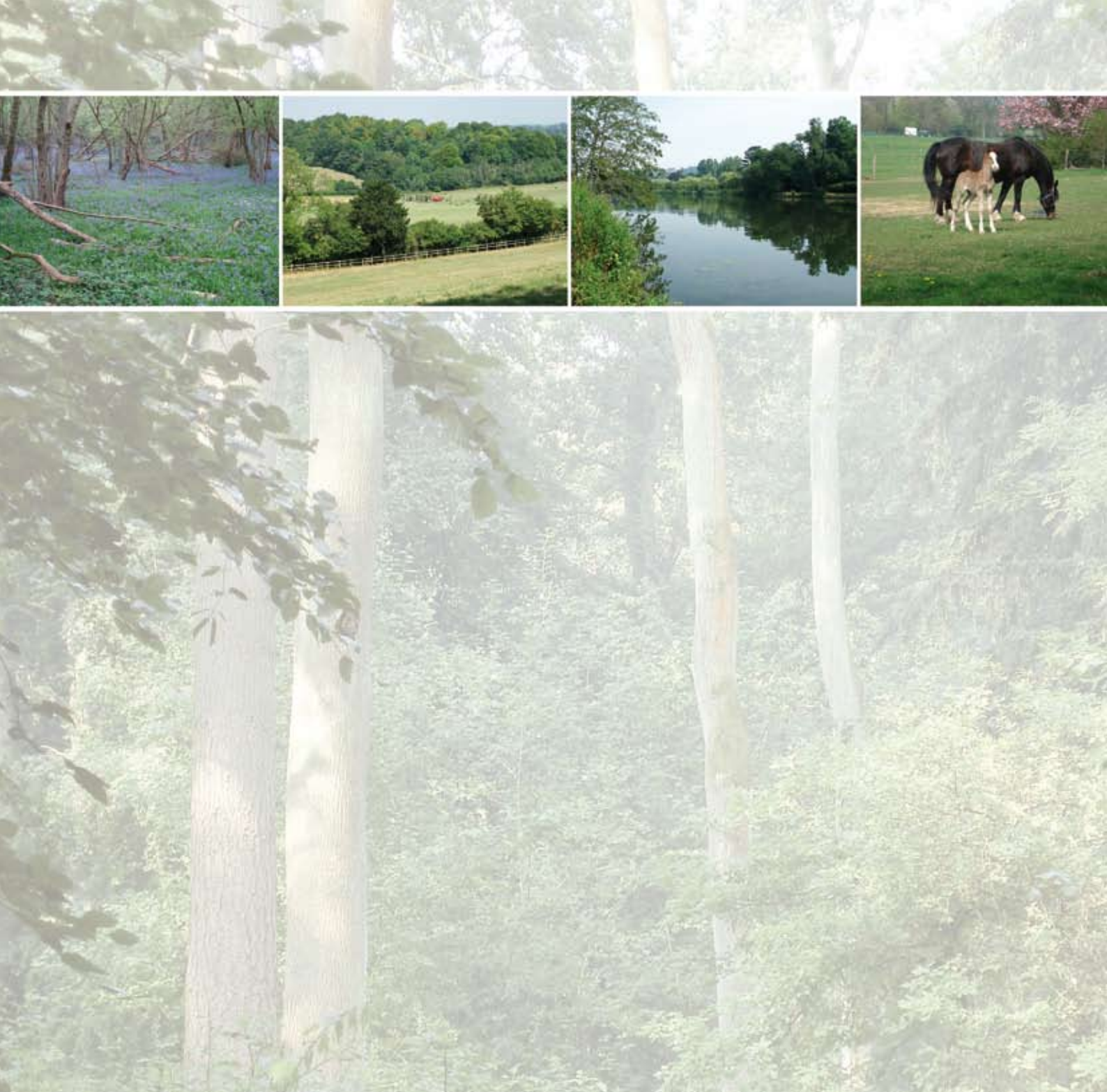
TVP Thames Valley Police
 VCP Village Character Portrait
 VDS Village Design Statement
 WBC West Berkshire Council

BASILDON PARISH BOUNDARY





Note: Upper Basildon and Lower Basildon Settlement Boundaries are not at the same scale.



Supported by

