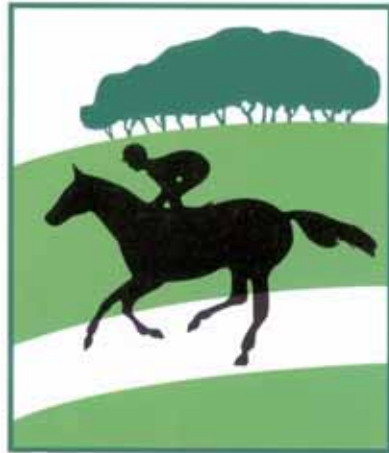


LAMBOURN



VALLEY OF THE RACEHORSE

Lambourn Parish Plan

*Planning the future of a community in the heart of the valley of
the racehorse*

Version 1.1 (Final)

7 October 2005

**Lambourn Parish Council
Memorial Hall
Oxford Street
Lambourn
Berkshire**

Lambourn Parish Plan

A rural community at the heart of the valley of the racehorse

Revision Information

This document will be updated and revised from time to time. Minor revisions will be made and the version number will remain the same and the revision number incremented. For instance version 2.2 will become version 2.3. These changes will typically include the correction of errors, clarification of points which have been shown to be ambiguous and the inclusion of new material where it does not materially change the direction or sentiment of the original plan. These changes will not be presented to the parish council for endorsement. More significant changes will be marked by a new version number and will be presented to the Parish Council for endorsement.

Version	Changes	Date
1.0	Final version approved by Lambourn Parish Council	22 Sept 2005
1.1	Minor layout corrections	7 October 2005

The current version of this document is always available from the Lambourn Parish Council. It is also posted on the Lambourn Website at www.lambourn.info. If you are in any doubt as to the currency of the version you are reading please check with the Parish Clerk.

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Acknowledgements

This document has been written and compiled by many members of the community who have given their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. It is not possible to list the names of those individuals who have contributed, not only as authors, but also as subject matter experts, because of the sheer number of contributors involved. However without their hard work and dedication it would not have been possible to create this parish plan. Our thanks also go to Community Action West Berkshire¹, West Berkshire District Council and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) management team for their guidance, advice and assistance in compiling this plan.

Editor's Note

This plan applies to the Parish of Lambourn including the villages of Lambourn and Eastbury, along with the hamlets of Upper Lambourn, Lambourn Woodlands and Woodlands St Mary. References to Lambourn should be read in context and will often refer to the entire parish including the 4 villages, outlying farms and houses.

Disclaimer

It must be emphasised that neither the objectives nor the recommendations and action plan items form a legal obligation on any party, organisation or individual to deliver or produce the outcomes described. The plan is a statement of intent and is subject to continuous change.

Residents, prospective residents, developers and commercial operations should under no circumstances use the plan as the basis for making decisions of a commercial nature.

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1. Introduction

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a vision of how the community would like its town or village to be. For many communities, it's also the foundation for other applications for funding or local action. It aims to help rural communities to have a greater say in their own affairs. It is an opportunity for the people living in the community to set down their vision for the future of their town or village.

A Parish Plan can cover everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the parish, from social housing to places for children to play. It should address the needs of the entire community, including local businesses. Everyone should have an opportunity to contribute to its preparation.

Fundamentally it is about proactively managing change in a planned manner. The Parish Plan and Action Plan set a direction and create targets for actions to achieve the desired outcomes.

The approach to writing the Lambourn Parish Plan

The Lambourn Parish Council agreed to create a Parish Plan some years ago. Beset by initial difficulties in developing the plan, the group which was appointed to create the plan set to work in earnest towards the end of 2003. Public consultation is considered key in the development of a Parish Plan. This plan has been based on a large number of inputs from the community which have been collected through surveys, on-line discussion forums, individual discussions and by seeking the input of organisations and groups in the parish who in turn represent many of the key stakeholders in the parish plan.

Whilst some plans focus on recording detailed statistics about the parish and its residents, often to a very detailed level, it was felt that the Lambourn Parish Plan should focus more on where the parish would like to be in five to ten years time. Thus much of the effort of research and opinion seeking has been focused on the desires and ambitions of the residents rather than the detailed recording of the attributes of the parish as it is today.

The plan is an expression of what is important to the residents of the parish, what is valued both physically and socially and how the parish should develop in the future in order to preserve and enhance these features. The plan is by its very nature a living document and will be updated over time as significant changes in attitudes or desires of the residents of the parish are noted.

The plan has three main components:

Objectives – These are set out in a number of areas such as The Environment, Traffic Management, Trade, Community etc and set out in broad terms where the parish would like to be in five to ten years time.

Recommendations – Statements of direction which can be taken in order to progress from the situation today to the desired objective

Action Plan – very specific actions which are the steps planned to achieve the recommendations and move the parish forward towards the objectives. Action plan items have the following documented:

- **Reference Number** – so that actions can be tracked
- **Category** – a reference which associates the action with the main parish plan recommendations
- **Description** – a clear description of what the action is.
- **An owner** – the person or organisation who is going to carry out the action
- **Partners** – a list of individuals or organisations who will be approached to assist in the completion of the action.

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- **Date** – the date by which the action is planned to be complete
- **Resource Implications** – a description of the estimated costs and resources associated with completing the action.
- **Progress** – text describing the progress achieved to date.

It is anticipated that the Parish Council will establish a number of working groups to address the items in the action plan and thus be able to draw upon the experience and expertise of non-elected individuals.

Communication of progress

The Parish Plan and the action plan will naturally continue to evolve. Regular updates will be available to the residents of the parish through a number of different means:

- Open meetings (Annual Forum) of the Parish Council
- Parish Council meeting minutes – available from the Council or from www.lambourn.info
- Parish Plan pages on www.lambourn.info
- Specific updates posted in local newsletters such as Village Views
- Printed copies of the Parish Plan which will be available from the Lambourn Library, the Council offices and the Lambourn Centre

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to actively communicate progress made with the actions which underpin the Parish Plan (**Action Plan Topic: Parish Plan Management**)

Village Design Statement

Whilst the Parish Plan covers all aspects of the parish from community infrastructure to transport, economy, social issues and tourism, a separate document called a **Village Design Statement** will cover all aspects of planning and development as far as buildings and structures are concerned.

The Village Design Statement will help developers understand how the community wishes the buildings and structures to look, what sizes are appropriate for different areas and what materials would be considered suitable. It forms additional guidance for both the planners and developers considering the development of buildings and structures in the parish of Lambourn.

For more information see Appendix C.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to work with residents, businesses and local organisations to draft and adopt a Village Design Statement. Close Liaison with West Berkshire District Council will be required since the Village Design Statement is an extension of Planning Guidance used when considering new developments or applications to modify existing structures. (**Action Plan Topic: Planning**)

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2. Executive Summary



Lambourn is a vibrant parish which has fought hard to maintain a quality of life lost in many other rural communities.

The parish of Lambourn has embraced significant changes both physically and in the make up of the community over the years. The parish recognises that further change is inevitable and intends to manage the changes in a way which preserve the aspects of life valued by residents, whilst taking advantage of new developments.

Residents talk about a sense of pride and a feeling of belonging which, whilst difficult to describe and

harder still to measure, are the bonds that unite the community and their parish.

The parish is located in the largest area of protected countryside in the South of England – the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty². The beauty and unspoilt nature of the countryside is probably the most striking feature of the parish and its preservation and management form a core part of this plan.

Also in the minds of the residents is the need to preserve the character of Lambourn as a working village and parish which has its own micro economy. It is a parish where shops and local industry can thrive, making local employment a reality, where children are educated within the parish and where recreation and leisure facilities are available without having to leave the area. The training of racehorses has long been a focal point for the parish. The racing industry is the single largest commercial activity in the parish with 700 people³ directly employed and many more working in ancillary trades. The parish is known as *The Valley of the Racehorse*.

The population of the village has grown over time and many residents now work outside the parish. However this does not mean that the sense of community is eroding. Much of the plan is focused on nurturing and supporting activities which create the community spirit which is so much part of the parish.

The plan is ambitious. It sets out what the parish could look like in five to ten years time. These are the objectives which are fully explained and backed up by recommendations and actions in the detail of the plan:

- the Parish will be recognised and acknowledged as leading in the protection and improvement of **environmental resources** in our region.
- the residents and businesses in the parish of Lambourn will have been positively encouraged to make **efficient use of all energy** and to appreciate the importance of achieving a sustainable energy balance.
- the **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** in and around the Parish of Lambourn will have been conserved and enhanced whilst enabling sustainable development and increased access.
- the Parish Council will have worked closely with West Berkshire District Council to ensure that the District Council meets all of its obligations to repair and **maintain highways** and pavements and has restored the roads and pavements in Lambourn to a condition where residents are satisfied.
- the publicly owned **open spaces** have not declined in number or area and that access rights to the spaces has been maintained.

² Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a conservation designation in the United Kingdom. The North Wessex Downs AONB was designated in 1972.

³ Estimate provided by The Lambourn Trainers Association May 2005.

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- the availability of **allotment plots** has increased in line with demand and that they are well managed and actively used by residents of the parish to grow flowers and vegetables.
- **Water Noise and Light Pollution** has not significantly increased
- the **management of waste** originating from residential and commercial properties in the Lambourn valley is at or better than the national standards and targets set.
- the use of **composting** as a waste management technique has increased.
- **litter and fly tipping** are at levels which are considered acceptable and that the amount of littering has decreased through education and awareness.
- no **natural hazards** will impede residential, leisure and commercial activities from being undertaken in the parish.
- development of houses and structures will have been carried out in a **sustainable manner**, taking into account both national and local factors and targets.
- the **transport** infrastructure of the parish will be such that residents will be satisfied that the availability and mix of different modes of transport is adequate and economically and environmentally sustainable. Focus on the provision of local facilities within the parish will help to reduce the need for residents to travel outside of the parish.
- a **sustainable balance** has been achieved between the needs to transport goods and people and the needs of residents who feel that the vehicles cause nuisance and, at times, a danger to themselves.
- **cycling** will have increased as a means of transport and a healthy leisure activity.
- **public transport** in the Lambourn valley will have improved in terms of availability, frequency of service and reliability.
- the publicly funded **school bus** service should at least continue at the current levels.
- **crime** and the fear of crime in the parish will have been reduced and residents will be satisfied that crime, antisocial behaviour and drug abuse will be at levels which are not detrimental to the enjoyment of village life.
- the Parish of Lambourn will continue to retain a thriving **primary school** and related facilities.
- will continue to have the current **primary care facilities** available and that new services will have been introduced.
- the quality of the land and air emergency **ambulance** service will have at least been maintained and preferably increased in terms of response time and treatment effectiveness.
- there will be plans in place for the provision of **residential care** for the elderly within the parish.
- the level of service provided by the Royal Berkshire **Fire and rescue Service** has not decreased and that local employment opportunities continue to exist for firemen living in the parish.
- the **Public library** will provide additional services which will maintain its position as a key source of information for residents of the parish.
- the **village halls** in the Parish will continue to be well used and accessible to all.
- the **sense of belonging and pride** felt by the residents of the Parish will have been maintained and nurtured. People moving to the parish will feel welcome and will enjoy a sense of community.
- more facilities will be available which the **young residents** of the parish use and value.

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- more information about the history and **heritage** of the Lambourn Valley will be available to the general public.
- the parish of Lambourn will have a proactive **life long education** programme, valued by the residents, supportive of the local economy and reducing social exclusion.
- the **economy** of the Parish has continued to strengthen and grow. Local employment should increase and local shops and businesses catering for the needs of local residents should be thriving.
- more **shops** and other retail and services companies will be operating in Lambourn to serve the needs of the local community.
- the parish of Lambourn will have increased **tourist activity** which generates income and wealth for the parish.
- the **training of racehorses** will continue to be a vibrant and key part of life in Lambourn. Supported by the community, chosen by owners as a centre of excellence and provide employment to individuals who live and work locally.
- **equine activities** and businesses continue to develop successfully alongside the horse racing industry.

Whilst the objectives may seem ambitious in places, they stem from the comments and views of the community and the drive towards achieving the objectives has to come from the community under the leadership of organisations such as the parish council.

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3. The Parish of Lambourn

Location



The Parish of Lambourn is situated at the most westerly end of the royal county of Berkshire. The Parish borders to the North with Oxfordshire and to the West with Wiltshire. It lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty⁴.

Comprising the villages of Lambourn and Eastbury, along with the hamlets of Upper Lambourn, Lambourn Woodlands and Woodlands St Mary, the Parish covers some 14,000 acres, with a population of less than 4000⁵. The population density of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is 72 per square km compared to 205 for the whole of West Berkshire.

Grid reference: SU326788 X: 432600m Y: 178900m

Lat: 51:30:29N (51.508) Lon: 1:31:53W (-1.5315)

History

Whilst the modern Parish has only been in existence since 1894, its boundaries are based on ancient administrative divisions dating back a thousand years. Still earlier, people were living and working in the area. Stone Age remains have been found locally which date back over 5000 years and there is evidence to indicate that the Downs were farmed in Roman times.

The first known written record of Lambourn itself is in the will of King Alfred. In 899 AD Ealswith, Alfred's wife was left the 'estate' of Lambourn.

The distinctive oval pattern of Saxon settlements still dictates the street pattern, the circuit being formed by Market Place, Oxford Street, The Broadway, Big Lane and Parsonage Lane, with the church on the southern edge.

Today's spelling of 'Lambourn' results from a 19th century General Post Office decision to rationalise all variations of 'bourn', 'bourne' and 'borne'. The original name 'Lamburna' is Saxon, the Old English 'burna' being combined with 'lamb' to indicate a place where the lambs were washed.

The village was known as 'Chipping Lamborne' when it was granted a market and 2 sheep fairs a year in 1227. Like the sheep fair 'Chipping' was lost at the beginning of the last century.

The River Lambourn rises from springs to the Northwest of Lambourn in Lynch Wood and flows through the valley to Eastbury and beyond, finally joining the River Kennet near Newbury.



⁴ Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a conservation designation in the United Kingdom. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are areas of England, Wales and Northern Ireland so designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949). There are 41 AONBs in total, selected because of their flora, fauna, historical and cultural associations and scenic views. The North Wessex Downs AONB was designated in 1972.

⁵ As at 2003

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The river has the unusual characteristic of drying up in the late autumn and starting to flow again in early spring. It is fed from underground aquifers in the chalk downs.

The parish has retained many interesting features and buildings, which include:

- St Michael and All Angels Church at Lambourn, dating from Norman times, the Lynch Gate and Market Cross in Lambourn
- The 17th century Eastbury Manor
- The octagonal dovecote in Eastbury built of flint with nesting holes for 1000 birds
- The Iron Age 'Membury Fort' at Lambourn Woodlands
- Seven Barrows – an ancient burial site
- The Isbury Almshouses founded in 1502
- Cruck Cottage in Upper Lambourn

Many of the interesting and significant buildings have disappeared over the years, but by studying the buildings that still exist, you can plot the history of the Parish. Probably almost every form and style of architecture can be seen somewhere in the Parish.

Character

The Parish of Lambourn was always dependent on agriculture and its prosperity changed accordingly. Throughout history there have been times of great wealth and serious decline. After the Napoleonic wars agriculture declined and Lambourn suffered more than most due to its geographical isolation.

The introduction of the racehorse industry in the Mid 19th century went some way to balancing the reliance on agriculture, but it was not until the railway was built in 1898 that real prosperity started to return. The Railway closed in the mid 1960's when motor transport had taken over.

In the mid 1970s the M4 was opened and this meant that the parish was under pressure for housing for commuters which resulted in a rapid increase in building rates and house prices.

In 1972 the countryside surrounding Lambourn was designated the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This conservation designation created the largest protected area of countryside in the South of England and ensures a high level of protection and conservation.

Lambourn has always been a working village and since its introduction to Lambourn, racing has been a significant influence on the day-to-day life of the village. Today, approaching 700 people are involved directly and indirectly in businesses relating to the racing industry.

The industrial areas at Membury, Lowesdown Works and the M4 service area, provide accessible local employment within the Parish. Significant numbers of people travel to Newbury, Swindon and other local towns for work. A number of people commute considerable distances to work along the M4 and other main routes.

The number of people living and working locally does mean that the shops and services in Lambourn are well used and the centre of the village is busy and vibrant for most of the day.

Parliamentary Representation

The Parish of Lambourn is part of the Parliamentary Constituency of West Berkshire. The current Member of Parliament for the Constituency is Richard Benyon⁶, Conservative.



⁶ Elected 2005

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Local Government



West Berkshire Council, a unitary authority, is responsible for the provision of the major local government services to the residents and businesses in the Parish of Lambourn. These services include Education, Social Services, Highways, Development Control and Leisure and Recreation.

Two elected councillors currently represent the Parish of Lambourn.

Parish Council

Lambourn Parish Council was formed in 1894 and has represented the interests of the parishioners since that time. The Council⁷ is made up of 15 elected or co-opted members: 9 for Lambourn village; 2 for Upper Lambourn; 2 for Eastbury; and 2 for Lambourn Woodlands.

The Council is supported by 2 part-time Clerks working from the office at the front of the Memorial Hall.

The full Council meets twice monthly, with one of these meetings being dedicated to planning matters.

The Council has a number of sub-committees that deal with the management of the different areas of responsibility. They are: Burials and Open Spaces, Hall and Streets, Finance and Racing. These committees each meet on a regular basis.

The work of the Parish Council is funded by a Parish precept, set annually by the Parish Council and collected by West Berkshire as part of the Council Tax bill.

The North Wessex Downs Council of Partners

This Partnership was formed in July 2001 to oversee the future of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural beauty. It includes not only the constituent local authorities of the North Wessex Downs but also representatives of the local communities, the farming and rural business community, and those representing nature conservation, heritage and landscape, and recreation interests, including members of government and voluntary agencies. Thus the Partnership truly is a partnership between all levels of government and those who live and work in the area.

⁷ Current as at May 2005

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4. Land and Environment

Protecting and Improving the Environment

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the Parish will be recognised and acknowledged as leading in the protection and improvement of environmental resources in our region.



Living and working in a manner which is ecologically sound is recognised as important and key to the overall sustainability of the environment locally, nationally and globally.

Whilst as a Parish, Lambourn may not be able to directly influence the national or global agenda, there is much the parish can do to encourage activities that use natural resources wisely. The vision for the parish in the future is simple: an environment where everyone is aware of sustainability issues and directly or indirectly supports the sustainability agenda through positive personal actions.

An action plan for the 21st century – Local Agenda 21

There is much the parish of Lambourn and its parish council can do to encourage local activities that use the resources of the planet wisely. Local agenda 21 is an internationally recognised guiding principle.

Local Agenda 21 is the international plan for 'sustainable development', which means meeting everyone's needs today and tomorrow while protecting the environment. It was agreed by the United Nations at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and its watchword is 'act locally think globally'. Local communities around the world are now taking down-to-earth actions to achieve sustainable development.

The parish can engage in the sustainability agenda by developing a sound understanding of environmental and sustainability issues. By developing a point of view in relation to the major issues, the parish can encourage residents and industry to adopt a stance which will encourage the consideration of sustainability as a factor in every day life.

Much has already been achieved. There are outstanding examples of sustainable farming in the parish whilst water management and waste management have been improved considerably over the years. However more can still be achieved and often an initial lack of awareness of the issues and the relatively simple actions which can be taken to contribute to a sustainable environment is a significant inhibitor.

Unless dictated by legislation it is generally up to individuals and organisations to embrace sustainability as a result of personal conviction relating to issues of sustainability. The parish can assist in three ways:

- by providing information and guidance so that residents and industry can make an informed choices relating to these critical issues.
- by creating an environment where, for instance, reducing the use of the car use is made easier because local facilities are at hand and a good public transport system is in place.
- by establishing policies, or influencing others to establish policies, which encourage sustainability, thus building in sustainability considerations in future issues governed by the policies. Planning Policies are a good example of this.

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Recommendation:

- Ensuring policies and strategies the Parish Council develops and publishes are assessed against the themes of a sustainable society. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Encouraging the sale of locally produced food which reduces the road miles travelled not only by the products but also by the consumer. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Meeting needs of the residents locally whenever possible, thus reducing travel and consequently fossil fuel use. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Protecting water resources and reduce water wastage. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Promoting awareness of issues relating to sustainability and specifically how they relate to the Parish of Lambourn **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Proactively seeking advice from experts in matters relating to sustainable development **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Parish Council together with local organisations to develop a strategy which will address sustainability issues and drive actions which in turn will allow Lambourn to meet or better the sustainability targets as set out by the government. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

Energy conservation and sustainable energy sources

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the residents and businesses in the parish of Lambourn will have been positively encouraged to make efficient use of all energy and to appreciate the importance of achieving a sustainable energy balance.

The buildings in Lambourn and the surrounding area will account for the consumption of more than half of its energy use. Through better design and operation, energy consumption could be dramatically cut, saving residents and businesses money, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main cause of climate change.

The reduction in the use of fossil fuels can be aided by the incorporation of renewable energy technologies into both new designs and existing buildings and other applications. There are many tried and tested technologies available such as Combined Heat and Power(CHP), Solar Thermal, Solar Photovoltaic. The inclusion of further measures to maximise energy efficiency of buildings such as highly specified insulation, the incorporation of passive solar⁸, coupled with the appropriate orientation of any new development will give Lambourn every possibility to design new developments to be 'Zero Carbon' emitters. This also provides the opportunity for existing buildings, both residential and commercial, to come close to being 'Carbon Neutral'.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to proactively make residents aware of issues relating to energy efficiency and alternative energy sources **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Parish Council to encourage awareness of grants and related schemes which will assist residents in the conservation of energy or the implementation of alternative energy sources. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

⁸ Passive solar design refers to the use of the sun's energy for the heating and cooling of living spaces. In this approach, the building itself or some element of it takes advantage of natural energy characteristics in materials and air created by exposure to the sun. Passive systems are simple, have few moving parts, and require minimal maintenance and require no mechanical systems.

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The Countryside

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in and around the Parish of Lambourn will have been conserved and enhanced whilst enabling sustainable development and increased access.

Lambourn and its surrounding countryside is designated as the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There are many issues which place pressure upon the need to extend the built environment and erode the countryside. The majority of the countryside is managed farm land, primarily dedicated to arable crops. The fields are intersected by gallops and training areas for racehorses. Some woodland exists although this is in small pockets rather than large continuous plantations. The Landscape Character Assessment for the North Wessex Downs places the parish in two character areas: Character Area 1B the Lambourn Downs and 2C Lambourn Wooded Downs.



The following is a quotation from the current policies of the Parish Council:

- The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty around the village should be preserved.
- The appearance of agricultural buildings should be sympathetic to the surroundings.
- Landscaping and screening should be effective and appropriate.
- An increased use of local materials should be encouraged.

Conservation and enhancement of the countryside of the Parish is critical – it makes the Parish what it is today.

The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has established a governance structure which brings together local councils, interested parties and national bodies with the single aim of preserving and enhancing the area of outstanding natural beauty. In March 2004 the AONB published The Management Plan⁹. This identifies the issues affecting the management of the area and then sets out how we can work together to address them. It offers a vision for the future of the area that everyone can work towards and very practical actions that we can take to achieve it. The plan is the basis for a lot of action in the next few years. It will identify priorities and responsibilities, not just for the AONB team, but for all of our partners. This document is a plan for the future of the North Wessex Downs.

Allowing sustainable development to take place in such an environment requires a careful balance to be maintained. Development not only impacts the countryside visually but also places additional demands on the infrastructure such as roads and water resources. Some residents will be positively affected, possibly through the creation of employment or through increased access to the countryside. Inevitably some will consider developments as adversely affecting them. The most significant example in living memory being the construction of the M4 motorway in the 1970's which brought access, trade and jobs but also created a massive disruption to many living nearby. Whilst there are no such significant developments in sight at this point, each development will need to be assessed and the benefits measured against the impact to the countryside and those living in it.

Open access to the countryside is important to the residents of the Parish. It allows walkers, cyclists and riders to enjoy and appreciate the countryside. The countryside rights of way act has not yet significantly affected the parish, however a number of new permissive paths have been opened and it is the aim that more paths and tracks are opened to the public over time.

⁹ The Management Plan is available at www.northwessexdowns.org.uk

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Recommendation:

- The Parish Council should encourage the dissemination of information relating to responsible use of the countryside. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- To work with the North Wessex Downs Council of Partners to conserve and enhance the AONB **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Encourage 'countryside awareness' and an appreciation of the rich diversity of plant and animal habitat located within the parish in conjunction with the North Wessex AONB Management Plan. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Enshrine the sustainability and conservation objectives in the Village Design Statement **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**
- Compile a list of roads where residents feel excessive traffic volumes or speed is causing a concern. On a case by case basis determine if action is required. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Actively encourage access to the countryside for walkers, cyclists and riders **(Action Plan Topic: Leisure)**
- The Parish Council should actively seek to apply pressure to the relevant statutory bodies to maintain and create new rights of way wherever possible, to allow open access to the countryside whilst maintaining a balance with the needs of farmers and the equestrian establishments. **(Action Plan Topic: Leisure)**

Roads and Pavements

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the Parish Council will have worked closely with West Berkshire District Council to ensure that the District Council meets all of its obligations to repair and maintain highways and pavements and has restored the roads and pavements in Lambourn to a condition where residents are satisfied.

The poor state of repair of some roads and pavements is a concern to the residents. Whilst most country lanes are currently in a reasonable state of repair, the condition of the streets and pavements within Lambourn, Eastbury and Upper Lambourn vary greatly. Sizeable potholes are a problem and safety hazard not only for cars but also horses and pedestrians.

Recommendation:

- Work with West Berkshire District Council to ensure that pavements and roads are kept in a good state of repair. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Inform and encourage residents to report damage to pavements and roads. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**

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Public Green Spaces

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the publicly owned open spaces have not declined in number or area and that access rights to the spaces has been maintained.

The parish of Lambourn has a number of public green spaces such as the Old Cricket Field and the Mill Lane play area as well as Eastbury Furze.. There are also small pieces of public land owned by West Berkshire District Council within the Parish. These public spaces are valued by the residents of the parish and should be maintained and potentially enhanced.



Recommendation:

- Parish Council to build an inventory of all the public green spaces as a permanent record of the number, location, size and condition of the public green spaces in the Parish. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Consider options to acquire and maintain additional green space for public use within Lambourn and the villages of the parish. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

Allotments

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the availability of allotment plots has increased in line with demand and that they are well managed and actively used by residents of the parish to grow flowers and vegetables.

An allotment plot is a piece of land, which can be rented for growing fruit and vegetables. The allotments in Lambourn are owned and overseen by the Parish Council and administered by the Allotment Association. In accordance with the current policies of the Council, as stated in the document supplied - *Lambourn Parish Council – Planning Policies – Parish Council Assets*¹⁰

“So long as the use of the land for allotments is viable the Parish should keep the land available for allotments. Should need diminish the land could become a public open space, providing its allotments status was retained so the Parish could reinstate the allotments at any time.”

There are no other plans or policies in relation to the allotment area/s. If they are to survive and remain viable into the future, it is vital that plans are developed by the users and the Parish Council. A plan for the next 5 years will include ‘awareness raising’ of the advantages of allotment holding to encourage the succession of holders to apply, husbanding of resources such as water and composting, security (particularly in respect of tenure of the site), compensating for the effects of climate change in respect of drainage and shading.

Gardening and food production is already the largest pastime in Britain, as evidenced by the growth in commercial nurseries, garden centres, and also the popularity of garden themed TV and radio programmes. The continuance of the allotment scheme is an important part of the policies aimed at creating and maintaining social inclusion. Allotments ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have a piece of space of their own and are often credited with having generated strong communities as holders exchange seeds, produce and skills.

¹⁰ Available from The Lambourn Parish Council or online at www.lambourn.info

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to monitor the demand for allotments and to take appropriate action to identify additional land for allotments should this be required. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

Pollution Prevention

Water Pollution

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 Water Pollution has not significantly increased and natural watercourses and groundwater is clean and free from contamination.

Lambourn relies on water from boreholes located between Upper Lambourn and Ashdown House. The cleanliness of the groundwater is therefore critical not only to the environment and habitats of wildlife but also to the well being of the population as a whole.

Whilst not responsible for water cleanliness, the Parish Council is very interested in maintaining clean water and preventing pollution which could have a detrimental impact on watercourses. It will apply pressure on statutory bodies to maintain and improve water quality.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to monitor, through reports and liaison, issues relating to water quality and water pollution issues. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Parish Council to examine carefully planning applications to ensure that any potential impact on watercourses is minimised. **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**

Noise Pollution

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 Noise Pollution has not significantly increased and that steps have been taken to understand, document and manage current sources of noise pollution.

Noise, in particular from heavy traffic, is becoming a problem, invading the natural tranquillity of the rural setting and causing consequential damage by emissions of noxious gases. Over the next 5 years a Noise Map of the UK is to be compiled by Central Government, who have recognised the health hazard that even constant low level noise has on the surrounding community. We must ensure that areas of the Parish which border the major roads in the area, such as the M4, B4000, and B4001 are adequately represented at the appropriate time.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to work collaboratively with local authorities to support the creation of a noise map of the parish. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

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Light Pollution

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 Light Pollution in the Lambourn valley will not increase significantly.

Light pollution has increased in the last decade as additional homes have been constructed, street lighting installed and industrial and farm units fitted with night time security lighting. Light pollution impacts on the natural environment and should be reduced and avoided within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty wherever possible. This raises sensitive issues of balancing the needs of residents and industry with the need to preserve wildlife habitats. The Parish council will seek to influence planning applications and developments to reduce light pollution wherever possible.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to incorporate statements concerning Light Pollution in the Village Design Statement. **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**

Waste Management

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the management of waste originating from residential and commercial properties in the Lambourn valley is at or better than the national standards and targets set.

Residential and commercial properties generate waste. National targets are now in place to reduce the amount of waste being created, as well as managing the waste more effectively once it has been created. Effective waste management not only improves the environment but can also lead to savings for the residents. Lambourn Parish Council does not have direct responsibility for the management of waste, but will use its powers of influence, education and lobbying to improve the waste management in the parish.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to produce a waste management policy based on the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle and proactively encourage residents and businesses to follow the policy. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Parish Council to engage with the residents and commercial premises and other statutory bodies to encourage a Waste Management Scheme designed to embrace the principles of REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

Composting

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the use of composting as a waste management technique has increased.

Composting should be encouraged throughout the parish to reduce the amount of material sent to landfill sites.

Recommendation:

Parish Council to encourage composting of garden waste wherever possible by increasing awareness of composting schemes, equipment and facilities. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

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Litter and Fly Tipping

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 litter and fly tipping are at levels which are considered acceptable and that the amount of littering has decreased through education and awareness.

Many residents have raised concerns about the amount of litter both in the village of Lambourn and surrounding areas. Whilst efforts have been made to combat the problem they appear to be insufficient to significantly reduce litter to an acceptable level. Litter discarded from cars makes many roadside verges in the Parish of Lambourn look unsightly and uncared for.

Dumping of waste, including abandoned cars in green lanes, field entrances and pathways is considered to be a problem. A number of abandoned cars are reported every year.

The parish sets out to combat the rising tide of litter by introducing tough approach, underpinned by the revised rules introduced giving local authorities more power to tackle what is, in effect, environmental crime, and encourage everyone to think about the environment around them.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to assess and improve as required the street and path clearing through the extended use of existing employees and/or contractors. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**
- Parish Council to work with the police and West Berkshire Council in helping to detect and prosecute litterbugs, fly tippers and anyone who desecrates the village and surrounding area. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Parish Council to work with the police and West Berkshire Council to ensure that waste is promptly removed from gateways, lay-bys and roadside verges. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

Natural Hazards

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 through proactive management; no natural hazards will impede residential, leisure and commercial activities from being undertaken in the parish.

The Parish of Lambourn has been exposed to relatively few natural hazards such as flooding. There are only one or two places where localised flooding of the River Lambourn is known to have been a problem and the parish does not require a natural disaster risk assessment and containment plan.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to monitor natural hazards on a regular basis and to put management plans in place in association with the responsible authorities if a natural hazard is identified. **(Action Plan Topic: Environment)**

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5. The Built Environment



This plan sets the objective that by 2010 development of houses and structures will have been carried out in a sustainable manner, taking into account both national and local factors and targets.

Whilst more detailed aspects of design style and construction are set out in the village design statement, the overarching principles for development are set out here.

The community wish to see more low cost housing built in order to retain young people in the village and allow families to establish their first home in

Lambourn. At present many of the young people leave Lambourn because of the lack of affordable housing, to set up home in Swindon or Newbury.

It is recognised that development of more housing will be driven by central government targets as set out in the policy statements from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Lambourn Parish Council will take a proactive stance to follow national direction whilst preserving the character of the existing village.

Presented to Parliament by the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State - May 2005

".....Through the Sustainable Communities Plan, we are already working to tackle affordability, by achieving a better balance between housing supply and demand. Through the plan, we intend to deliver 1.1m additional homes in London and the wider South East to 2016....."

In general development on brownfield sites or sites, within the village envelope, is preferred to development outside the designated envelope. However, it is recognised that the current definition of the village envelope may require revision.

New developments should take into account a number of guiding principles which are expanded on in documented planning policy:

- *Developments should be within the village envelope*
- *It is the policy of the Parish Council to favour small developments of less than 10 houses. There should be no more major developments.*
- *Developments should have amenity areas and playing facilities.*
- *Future maintenance of all amenity spaces and provisions should be ensured by the developer lodging a bond with the District Council.*
- *Any development should provide a mix of size and type of property. Social housing developments should provide a mix of size, type and tenure.*
- *Social housing should be tied to local need.*
- *All developments should provide sufficient off street parking for every property.*

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to review the village envelope for Lambourn and Eastbury. **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**
- Parish Council to develop the Village Design Statement which documents detailed guidance relating to the physical appearance **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**
- Parish Council to liaise with and encourage West Berkshire District Council and local housing associations to make affordable homes available **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**
- Environmentally sensitive housing should be encouraged. **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**

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6. Transport

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the transport infrastructure of the parish will be such that residents will be satisfied that the availability and mix of different modes of transport is adequate and economically and environmentally sustainable. Focus on the provision of local facilities within the parish will help to reduce the need for residents to travel outside of the parish.

The parish has already created a micro economy where many journeys which may be necessary in other rural locations are not required. This is achieved by having facilities such as schools, shops, pubs, restaurants and healthcare provision which many residents can access on foot or by a relatively short journey. Many residents do however work outside of the parish and rely on private or public transport to take them to their place of work. There has been an increase in home working as the improvements in telephony infrastructure and the installation of broadband have made teleworking a reality.

Rising petrol costs and the need to reduce private car journeys on our rural roads, by encouraging the use of more public transport to bring people into Lambourn to use the facilities, will be an on going challenge for the Lambourn Parish Council and the District Council in the years ahead.

Recommendation:

- Please refer to the section on the rural economy and facilities where recommendations relating to the provision of facilities are documented. See: Economic Affairs on page 41.

The Private Car

According to the report prepared by the Audit Commission following an inspection under Section 10 of the local government Act 1999, West Berkshire has a higher level of car ownership than the south east region with 87% of households owning one or more cars, but due to the buoyant economy and expensive house prices a significant number of workers in West Berkshire commute from outside the district.



The majority of people living in the parish rely on their car as the primary means of transport. Many households now have more than one car as journeys to and from work, school and shopping often require a complex series of arrangements to be made within the household. Some car sharing is in evidence, particularly on regular journeys such as school runs, however many cars are used by just one occupant to undertake a journey.

The increased use of the car has also resulted in additional loading on the local roads, especially at peak times. Car parking spaces are at a premium and many residents leave their cars parked on the public highway.

With the escalating cost of fuel, and the demands to cut emissions to slow global warming, the use of public services in favour of private car journeys will need to be encouraged. Locally, transport arrangements to pick up employees and take them to their place of work are in place in Lambourn for workers at the Membury Service area and Sheepdrove Organic Farm as well as for a number of other local businesses.

Lambourn is fortunate to have an established Volunteers Group who take people who have no transport available to Hospital, and other medical appointments. This service has proven very successful and is much appreciated.

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to support and encourage alternative transport arrangements which reduce the number of private car journeys undertaken.
- Parish Council to support and encourage the volunteer car service and to seek ways to underpin the service should it face operational difficulties in the future. **(Action Plan Topic: Transport)**

Traffic Management

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 a sustainable balance has been achieved between the needs to transport goods and people and the needs of residents who feel that the vehicles cause nuisance and, at times, a danger to themselves.



In Lambourn congestion and speeding traffic pose a concern. The High Street is often congested as parked cars restrict the road width and lorries try to pass. Station Road is the primary access route to the Lambourn Centre, a number of residential estates and also the primary school. It is often congested although this does lead to reduced traffic speed which in the case of the school could be viewed as positive. Speeding traffic on Hungerford Hill and increased traffic volumes on Sheepdrove Road have also been raised as concerns by residents.

Towards the Southern boundary of the parish is the B4000 where residents of Lambourn Woodlands and

Woodlands St Mary are concerned that traffic is not observing the 50mph speed limit and that accidents continue to occur. The Ermin Street Action Group has been formed by local residents to address issues.

In Eastbury, the main road through the village can at times be dangerous because there are no pavements and large lorries and speeding cars pose a safety hazard.

There are no reported traffic problems in Upper Lambourn, however this should be checked.

Large commercial vehicles cause a concern for residents of the parish. This is particularly in evidence in areas close to the industrial estates at Membury.

Recommendation:

- Support and encourage residents' action groups who campaign, through lawful and democratic means, to reduce traffic speed on specific pieces of road. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Parish Council to seek to identify traffic congestion issues and to work with relevant organisations and authorities to alleviate traffic congestion. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Council to monitor traffic speed using the Speed Indication device (SID) to obtain fact based evidence of speeding **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Council to consider how responsible parking in the High Street can be enforced to help ease congestion. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Council to consider if the car parks in Lambourn are adequate for the demand. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**

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Car Parking

Car parking appears to be an issue in Lambourn itself but less so in the other villages in the Parish. The free car parking behind Universal Stores is valued, although concerns have been raised that the car park is full at peak periods because some cars are parked there for the whole day. Short term parking along the High Street is also valued although it is the cause of some traffic congestion. Parking in Northfields is a particular issue since the residential roads are very narrow and few houses have off road parking.



The number of cars owned by each household has increased and many homes do not have facilities for off-street parking. This leads to more cars being parked along the roadside. Whilst generally this is not a specific problem, at times, parked cars can obscure the vision of drivers with serious consequences.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to provide or work with other bodies to encourage the provision of sufficient car parking places in the centre of Lambourn with some all day parking provision for individuals who work in the village. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Parish Council to work with developers and planners to developed sustainable car parking arrangements where the needs of residents and visitors to park cars close to their homes and shopping facilities are balanced with the nuisance and congestion caused by parked vehicles. **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**
- Parish Council to work with the relevant authorities and statutory bodies to identify and address problems cause by cars parked in a way which could pose a hazard to pedestrians or other road users. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Parish Council to encourage the provision of parking places suitable for disabled drivers throughout the Parish. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**

Cycling

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 cycling will have increased as a means of transport and a healthy leisure activity.

In the past the bicycle was one of the most popular means of transport in the Lambourn Valley, however with the increase in popularity of the motor car, cycling has declined. In part this is also due to the fact that there is little provision for cyclists who have to share busy and often narrow main roads with cars and lorries.



There are many bridleways and tracks in the parish which are available for leisure cyclists to use, however some of the key routes between villages are not served by cycle paths. An example of this is the lack of a hard surfaced path between Lambourn and Eastbury.

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to support and encourage cycling and the provision of facilities for cyclists in the Lambourn valley. **(Action Plan Topic: Leisure)**

Public Transport

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 public transport in the Lambourn valley will have improved in terms of availability, frequency of service and reliability.



Whilst the majority of the community have cars or have access to cars, a significant number rely on public transport to travel to and from work, school or to go shopping outside the parish. A reasonable network of buses connects Lambourn with Newbury, Swindon, Hungerford and Wantage. Whilst Lambourn used to have a train service connecting the villages of the Lambourn Valley to Newbury, this ceased to operate in the 1960's and there is no prospect of reinstatement.

For the non-car owning section of the community the bus service is vital, and feedback has concluded a demand for an improved service between Lambourn

and Hungerford, as the majority of secondary school pupils go to the John O'Gaunt School and would welcome a better service between these centres and especially in the evenings / late nights. The 'Call-A-Bus' service was established in 2004, through the Rural Bus Challenge and a central government grant was made. The Post Bus service between Lambourn and Hungerford continues to be used and valued. West Berkshire Council runs service 90 between Upper Lambourn, Lambourn and Hungerford Monday to Saturday, travelling via Eastbury, East Garston and Gt. Shefford and finishing at Hungerford Town Hall. People from Lambourn Woodlands and Membury can call and arrange to be picked up when required.

The first bus is at 6.20am¹¹ and journeys are designed to connect with trains from Hungerford to Newbury, Reading and London Paddington.

West Berkshire Council operates a concessionary scheme to help the elderly and people affected by disability.

Newbury Buses provides a daily service between Lambourn and Newbury and Thamesdown operate their service between Lambourn and Swindon every 2 hours.

The other bus service available is the once a week Wantage Bus which runs between Great Shefford, East Garston, Eastbury, Lambourn and Wantage on Wednesdays. This picks up at 9.30am from Gt.Shefford and returns from Wantage at 11.30am.

Newbury rail links go to Reading / London Paddington and the South West region.

Didcot Parkway is a major Rail crossroads linking to Reading /London, Swindon /Bristol and Wales and also north to Oxford / Birmingham.

National Express Coaches stop at Newbury and connect between London, South Wales and the West Country.

¹¹ Bus times are current as at June 2005

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to support and encourage additional provision of public transport as well as encouraging residents to make best use of public transport facilities. **(Action Plan Topic: Transport)**

School Buses

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the publicly funded school bus service should at least continue at the current levels.

The majority of the children leaving Lambourn Primary school go on to the John O'Gaunt Secondary School in Hungerford. Following recent government initiatives which give parents/guardians more choice, some youngsters now attend St Bartholomew's, Park House and Trinity schools in Newbury. A few cross over the border into Oxfordshire and attend secondary education in Wantage.

The Local Authority funds transport to Hungerford and Wantage, and private mini bus transport is arranged by parents to take their children to and from Newbury.

Youngsters from the village also attend 6th form education at St Bartholomew's Newbury as well as at the recently opened Newbury College.

Public transport always has been and will continue to be absolutely vital for those in the village, especially for the youngsters attending education in Newbury and Hungerford.

A particular need is for transport in the evenings to enable youngsters from the parish to participate in activities arranged in Hungerford, and to enable them to socialise with their school colleagues.

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7. Public Services

Crime and Crime Prevention

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 crime and the fear of crime in the parish will have been reduced and residents will be satisfied that crime, antisocial behaviour and drug abuse will be at levels which are not detrimental to the enjoyment of village life.

Fighting crime and disorder is high on the list of priorities for Lambourn residents: "More police in the village to help with the security and drugs problems" was one comment from the consultation questionnaire. The relative isolation of the village, coupled with its position on a 4 way crossroads of approach roads, has made the village and some outlying properties vulnerable to crime. There have been three robberies of the village shops in two years by criminals threatening violence.

The most recent crime stats reported by the Community Police Officer for Hungerford (Parish Annual Assembly 2002) gave Lambourn 171 reported crimes in 2001, of which 60 took place at Membury Services. It is thought that many minor crimes go unreported due to a perception that the police will not be able to do anything about it.

Thames Valley Police covers the Lambourn Valley; the nearest manned police station is 13 miles away in Newbury. Lambourn does not have a full-time officer appointed, it shares a Community Police Officer with Hungerford. However a police office manned by civilian volunteers has opened in Lambourn in 2005. At present it is open for 3 periods a week. Its hours depend upon the volunteers who staff it. Its aims include providing a service for Lambourn and also a base for police officers in the area. It has been agreed that crimes may be reported to the office, in addition to the services that it provides, such as inspection of vehicle documents, general information gathering etc.



The Parish has had a number of neighbourhood watch schemes in operation in the past. They are largely inactive today and it would be beneficial to encourage both neighbourhood watch, farm watch and equine watch schemes to start.

Serious Crimes

There is thankfully little serious crime in the Parish compared to national averages; however one crime committed is one too many. The community is concerned that theft and burglary are constant threats. The close proximity of the M4 motorway at Junction 14 has at times provided easy access and escape for criminals to operate.

Theft of tools, garden machinery and horse tack is an area of concern which needs to be addressed. Again, anecdotal evidence is that much of this crime goes unreported.

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Recommendation:

- Encourage more neighbourhood and farm watch schemes and revitalize those which are inactive. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Parish Council, in conjunction with Thames Valley Police, local businesses and other local groups to develop an overall crime prevention strategy which will address issues of crime and crime prevention. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Maintain and improve links and liaison between Parish and Police to ensure that TVP understand and can relate to the needs of the parish. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Parish Council to lobby TVP to address the perception by residents that police attendance at incidents is not fast enough partly because of the remote location of Lambourn and partly because of the limited police resources. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**

Drug Abuse

There is a view that there is a significant amount of drug abuse taking place in Lambourn. Whilst the perception is that this is generally limited to class C drugs there is a concern that some class A drugs are in circulation. Drug dealing by members of the community and external dealers has been reported anecdotally and convictions have taken place. This is a significant concern to residents and frequent requests for action have been noted. National and local newspaper reports, citing Lambourn as an example of a village with a drugs problem in a rural environment, have fuelled the perception and have negatively impacted the village's reputation.

Currently there are two organisations, based in Newbury, who deal with drug and alcohol problems in youths. Both Turning Point and The Edge offer outreach worker support and state that their workers will visit on request. There is also a Detached Youth Worker Project, run in conjunction with the Youth Club. The Youth Worker visits Lambourn on a Thursday evening between 7 and 9pm, building links with 7-25 year olds.

The chemist runs a needle exchange which supports those who have drug problems, giving them access to safe disposal for needles, as well as access to free condoms and safe media to cut their drugs with.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to work closely with the Police and local groups and relevant businesses to determine what further actions can be taken to address the issue of drug and substance abuse in the Parish. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Support the Teens Café and other Youth Clubs which aim to provide a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment for the young to socialise. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**

Anti-Social Behaviour

There are some incidents of anti social behaviour. A number of these are fuelled by individuals consuming excess alcohol. Youths hanging around in the Market Square are seen as threatening by some members of the community: "Find something for the kids who always sit in the square to do, they frighten me and I don't like to go out when they are there." (VV Questionnaire). This is a source of concern that is often raised, though many also acknowledge the need for more resources for the young.

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Recommendation:

- Implement and publicise the ban on drinking in public places in Lambourn, agreed by the Parish Council in 2005 in conjunction with the District Council. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Parish Council to work with Local Licensing Courts to remind and encourage all premises selling alcohol of their legal responsibilities not to serve those who are under age or who have already drunk too much. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Work with the police to encourage the use of community service orders to deter individuals from anti-social behaviour based on using deterrents such as litter picking in the community, which would lose the troublemakers' status with their peers. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Support the Teens Café and other Youth Clubs which aim to provide a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment for the young to socialise. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**
- Encourage initiatives to provide the young people of the village with activities, facilities and access via transport to towns with such facilities as swimming pools, cinemas etc.
- Investigate the benefits of installing CCTV. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**
- Assess if additional street lighting would be beneficial in deterring crime and antisocial behaviour. **(Action Plan Topic: Crime Prevention)**

Schools

Primary School

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the Parish of Lambourn will continue to retain a thriving primary school and related facilities.

Lambourn Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School serves the village and surrounding area (approximately 180 full time children on roll), and is staffed by a Head, Deputy Head, 11 teaching staff, 14 support and administrative staff and 2 site controllers

The Nursery (known as Foundation 1) is attended by approximately 50 children all of whom attend on a part time basis. The school also has a Resource Class which caters for a small number of pupils who have moderate learning difficulties and who are placed there by LEA, often from outside our catchment area.

The school also has a before and after school club known as Grasshoppers, which provides pre and after school care each weekday and has been a welcome innovation to help the working parents of children at the school. This facility is financed in part through grants from the Local Authority and from fees paid by the parents.

The school received a Schools Achievement award in 2001, a Healthy Schools Bronze Award in 2002, a Healthy Schools Silver Award in 2003, Investors in People Status in 2003 and Artsmark in 2004.

As a Church of England school, the school has strong links with the church in the village, and the ministers from all three denominations are involved in visiting the school and help by conducting morning assembly once a week.

The October 2003 Ofsted report carried out under section 10 of the Schools Inspection Act 1996 says "Lambourn Primary is a very effective school of which everyone is justifiably proud. The Head teacher, senior management team and governors have established a very positive ethos in which



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everyone is valued. There is a clear commitment to inclusion and to raising academic standards, alongside ensuring that pupils grow to be well rounded, confident and caring

The school plays an important part in the life of the community and it provides good value for money.

The school stands in a prominent position overlooking the village and the Lambourn Valley. In 2000 the restructured, enlarged and levelled playing field was opened. The school also benefits from the provision of an open air swimming pool which is much enjoyed by the pupils during warm days in the summer.

The school links with other local Primary schools and some of the children, identified as being able, gifted or talented, are involved in workshops with pupils from these schools.

The majority of children transfer to John O'Gaunt in Hungerford and a well developed programme is in place to smooth the pupils move to Secondary education.

The school is well supported by FOLS (Friends of Lambourn School); the School House Trust, Theo Harris Trust, the Trainers Association and the Carnival Committee, as well as other individuals and groups. The financial support has enabled the school to purchase more resources for use by pupils and staff.

The Local Authority is keen to encourage the use of school buildings for Community purposes, and at Lambourn evening and day time classes in recreational subjects and skill learning courses in ICT have been provided. During the school summer holidays the "Play Scheme" events have been provided on the school field and swimming pool in partnership with the Lambourn Centre.

Car parking at the school (Edwards Hill entrance) is restrictive due to the size of the car park, and at peak times in the morning and afternoon the area and its surrounds do get busy and congested, causing some vehicles to overflow into adjacent roads. The school is actively encouraging the children and parents to walk if at all possible.

The long term objective of the Parish Council is to support and encourage the School as much as it can so that the very high standards achieved in recent years are maintained and improved still further, for the benefit of the children of the parish.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to maintain close liaison with the Lambourn School to ensure that the school is aware of key initiatives and that the council is aware of issues and pressures affecting the school. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**

Secondary schools

John O'Gaunt secondary school serves Lambourn although some parents choose to send their children to a number of other schools including ones in Wantage and Newbury. Local Authority funded school transport is only available for pupils travelling to John O'Gaunt secondary school in Hungerford and King Alfred's school in Wantage.

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Primary Healthcare

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 will continue to have the current primary care facilities available and that new services will have been introduced.

Lambourn is currently well served by primary care facilities. An NHS doctors surgery and health centre located on the Bockhampton Road is the base for 5 general practitioners, a practice nurse and several specialist clinics. An NHS dental practice operates from the Market Square serving both private and NHS patients. A chemist on Oxford Street provided dispensing facilities as well as a wide range of healthcare related products.



Recommendation:

- Because of the rural location and the distances to the towns of Newbury and Wantage, the parish should continue to support in whatever way possible the continuation and improvement of primary care facilities.

Ambulance Service

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the quality of the land and air emergency ambulance service will have at least been maintained and preferably increased in terms of response time and treatment effectiveness.

Whilst over 50 years ago Lambourn had its own private ambulance station, this service has long since ceased and the parish is now served by the West Berkshire ambulance trust. Ambulances are despatched typically from Newbury Ambulance station and have to travel 13 miles to reach the centre of Lambourn. Whilst ambulances are mobilised quickly the travel time can lead to deployment delays. These are being addressed through the introduction of car based paramedics.

The Air ambulance service is frequently used when incidents are of a very serious nature or where the patient is not accessible by normal road ambulance such as can happen in some horse riding incidents.

Recommendation:

- The Air Ambulance service is recognised as critical because of the remote location of Lambourn and the nature of some of the incidents arising from horse riding which require deployment away from normal roads. The Parish should do all it can to support and encourage the continuance of the air ambulance service which is a charitable service funded by donations.

Care of the Elderly

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 there will be plans in place for the provision of residential care for the elderly within the parish.

Whilst there are provisions for the care of the elderly in their own homes through home help and nursing assistants, there are no residential care facilities in the parish. This is regretted by many elderly people since it means that they have to move out of the parish if they require residential care.

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to investigate if residential care facilities could be encouraged to be made available in the parish. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**

Veterinary Care

The equine industry trains over 2000 horses in the Lambourn valley and a number of veterinary practices are well established in the parish. Two small animal practices operate from the Lambourn and an equine hospital is located between Lambourn and Upper Lambourn.

Fire Service

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the level of service provided by the Royal Berkshire Fire and rescue Service has not decreased and that local employment opportunities continue to exist for firemen living in the parish.

Lambourn is the most westerly fire station in the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and provides cover 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

Lambourn has a retained fire service based at a purpose built fire station in Newbury Street. The service is mobilised from Berkshire Fire Control Centre and it is manned by retained fire-fighters.



In addition to attending fires the fire-fighters might be called to floods, road accidents or chemical spills. Bearing in mind the relative remoteness of Lambourn within the vast expanses of the Lambourn Downs, including the farms and the racehorse training establishments, the Fire Service is absolutely vital in the protection of lives and property in the area served.

The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service is an equal opportunities employer which gives local people part time employment opportunities. The Service is funded partly by Government grant and in part from the council tax paid by Berkshire householders to their unitary authority. One of the other aims of the Fire Service is to deliver community safety education.

As part of its role in the Community, the Fire Service also participates in the Annual Carnival in August and attends the School Fete in a PR capacity and holds charitable fund raising events.

The Fire and Rescue service is highly valued by the residents of the parish since it not only provides emergency service deployment but also part time employment for a number of local residents.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to liaise with the Fire Service to determine if there are any further steps which can be taken to ensure that the future of the service for the parish is preserved. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**

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Public Library

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the Public library will provide additional services which will maintain its position as a key source of information for residents of the parish.



The Lambourn Public Library is located on the High Street and it is essential that it remains at the heart of the community. The library is operated by West Berkshire District Council and provides a range of services in addition to the lending of books.

The library is valued by the residents of the Lambourn Parish although there is a concern that as the internet continues to grow as a source of information, the library will be less well used in the future unless it adapts and continues to innovate, to bring learning and culture related services to the village. The library is one of the focal points for many members of the community and has already started

to address the above concerns by providing internet access.

Recommendation:

- Work with West Berkshire District Council to understand how the library can continue to innovate in the provision of services to the community. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**
- Consider working with SEMLAC (South East Museum, Library & Archive Council) to promote the use and value of the library to the community.

Village Halls

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the village halls in the Parish will continue to be well used and accessible to all.

Lambourn, Eastbury and Woodlands St Mary have village halls in public ownership. These halls serve as a community focus and in the case of Lambourn form the base for the Parish Council, not only for meetings but also for council administration.

The halls are generally well used and serve a wide spectrum of the community. The charges made for the use of the halls are modest in order to encourage community events. This charging policy should be retained.

There are two other halls in the parish, at Woodlands St Mary and Eastbury, both have individual management committees. In order to ensure their continuing success the Parish Council should encourage the use of the halls and maintain the strategic intent to retain the halls for community use.



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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to Publicise the availability of the village halls as a community resource **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**
- Parish Council to seek ways of enhancing the facilities in the village halls. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**

Public Toilets

Lambourn has a public toilet alongside the Memorial Hall in Oxford Street. Totally rebuilt in 2004, the toilet facilities have shown to be free from vandalism, primarily because they are locked overnight. It is essential that the toilets are kept clean and in good working order to encourage their use. Lambourn is a centre for tourism, walking and cycling on the Berkshire Downs, the availability of the toilets is key to maintaining and growing this part of the economy. This facility is valued by the community and should be maintained.

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8. Social and Community Matters

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the sense of belonging and pride felt by the residents of the Parish will have been maintained and nurtured. People moving to the parish will feel welcome and will enjoy a sense of community.

The parish of Lambourn has a strong sense of community which has become somewhat eroded in recent years. Specifically in Lambourn, when the village was smaller everyone knew everyone and whilst this is largely true today, the community spirit is less than before. This sense of belonging is valued by residents and every effort will continue to be made to maintain, rejuvenate and strengthen pride in the parish. The community focuses around a number of organisations and community activities that act as a catalyst in bringing people with a common purpose together.

The most significant social focus points identified are:

The School

Lambourn School brings together pupils, teachers and parents, all with a unity of purpose. It introduces parents to other parents and forms a bond of community around the education of the younger generation in the Lambourn Parish. This aspect of the school should neither be forgotten nor overlooked when considering its value to the community.

The Racing Industry

The racing industry acts as a major focal point and is an essential bonding process in bringing the parish community together. A significant number who live in the parish work in the racing industry or in occupations of which are involved with the racing industry.

Many families therefore have a "racing connection" which instils a sense of pride in the community despite the naturally strong feeling of rivalry between racing yards as each sets out to train 'the next winner'.

The Churches

There are a number of active church communities within the parish, whose members come together with a common purpose. Whilst generally, in common with national trends, church attendance is declining, the churches within the parish have a sufficiently strong membership to be sustainable.

Lambourn Centre

The Centre is jointly funded by Lambourn Parish Council & West Berkshire Council offering many facilities for all ages ranging from Childcare "Out of School Activities", Exercise Classes, Sauna, Youth Club activities and a Multi Function Sports Hall.

Development of the facility will continue to meet the changing needs of the community and ideas suggestions, proposals and ideas are always welcome to ensure those needs are fulfilled.

The Lambourn Sports Club

Providing members with a wide range of sporting activities, the club offers both outdoor and indoor opportunities for members of the community to both develop their skills and to participate in team and individual sports. The parish should and will support the club in every way possible so that it can continue and prosper.



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Village Organisations and Clubs

Many organisations thrive within the villages of the parish, some meeting on a regular basis, others at irregular intervals throughout the year. Some are assisted by the community, some have charitable status and some are of a commercial nature. All depend upon voluntary work put in by members of the Lambourn parish and together they combine in fostering community spirit.

Events are held in the parish every year. These cover a broad spectrum of interests and make a valuable contribution to the whole community, in particular by defining life in the villages that are part of the parish. Amongst these events are:

The Lambourn Carnival

The carnival, an annual event, unites residents of all ages, many participating in the many activities and is well supported on the day.

The Lambourn Carnival Horse Show

One of the largest horse shows in the area with typically over 300 competitors in showjumping, dressage and showing classes.

The Lambourn Open Day

The majority of the training yards open their doors to the public with a traditional country fair taking place in the afternoon. Demonstrations of country and equine pursuits combine with entertainment, stalls and a barbecue.

Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society, Country Show and Spring Working

The show attracts many visitors from outside the parish and makes a valuable contribution to the many other country activities of the area whilst the Society fosters the interest in vintage agricultural methods and machines.

Woodlands Cricket Club

A recent addition to the sporting calendar, the club will develop and provide opportunities for budding and experienced cricketers to hone their skills in an active and competitive sport.

Threats to the Sense of Community

All current activities and events are valued by the community and add a sense of purpose and belonging to the residents of the parish.

We can take pride in the sense of community which exists and work towards both maintaining and improving life in the parish ; nevertheless there are **threats** which exist; the main one, apathy, combined with changing lifestyles, more home entertainment and other factors of modern life will, if left unchallenged, slowly destroy our way of life. Our combined efforts will prevent this. Indeed the threats that are apparent can be turned into **opportunities** over the next five years.

We in the Parish of Lambourn intend to work towards developing that spirit of community by combining our efforts and ideas with everyone of like mind.

Recommendation:

- Support, encourage and develop community organisations and activities to add value to the sense of community and belonging (**Action Plan Topic: Community**)

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Facilities and Activities for Young People

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 more facilities will be available which the young residents of the parish use and value.

The general view from the young people in the parish is that there are not enough facilities and activities.



The skateboard park, installed in 2004, on the Old Cricket Field between Lambourn and Upper Lambourn has been well received but may need extending to give youngsters more of a challenge. The Teens Café is a success but again further development will be needed to fully engage with the age group who use the facility.

Discussions with young people of the parish will continue and ideas explored to ensure that any facilities proposed are appropriate to the needs expressed, within budget restraints

The development of activities in the fields of music, theatre, film, art and sport will be actively encouraged and supported.

Recommendation:

- Invite a forum of young people to put forward their ideas for improved activities and pursuits in the parish particularly in the fields of music, theatre, film, art and sport. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**
- Develop the play and activity area on the old cricket field (skate board park) to incorporate more “adventurous” activities in line with the improvements in the Newbury and Wantage parks **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**
- Engage with users of the Teen Café to develop “ownership” and extend its scope. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**

Heritage

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 more information about the history and heritage of the Lambourn Valley will be available to the general public.

Lambourn and the Valley of the Racehorse are steeped in history however the information is not easily available to residents and visitors. A rich archive of material relating to the parish, held in both in private and public collections, is not accessible to general public.

Most documents and objects are not conserved and have not been set in a context where they would be readily understood.

Even the long association Lambourn has with horse racing and equine pursuits is barely recognised by the modest gallery in the Lambourn Centre.

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to make more historic material relating to Lambourn and the parish publicly available (**Action Plan Topic: Heritage**)
- Parish Council to assign a modest budget and actively collect material relating to the history of Lambourn (**Action Plan Topic: Heritage**)
- Parish Council take advice from Newbury Museum with regard to making the best use of parish facilities to display historic material in a contemporary and interesting way. (**Action Plan Topic: Heritage**)
- Parish Council to work with SEMLAC, South East Museum, Library & Archive Council, and the Lambourn library to promote understanding of the heritage of the parish by the residents. (**Action Plan Topic: Heritage**)
- Parish Council to support and promote the Lambourn Website as a means of communicating current and historic information relating to the Parish. (**Action Plan Topic: Community**)
- Parish Council to arrange a rolling programme of speakers to provide a regular insight into our heritage (**Action Plan Topic: Heritage**)
- Parish Council to create a heritage trail through Lambourn to encourage visitors to stop and appreciate and understand the fine buildings and heritage aspects of the village. (**Action Plan Topic: Heritage**)

Life Long Learning

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the parish of Lambourn will have a proactive life long education programme, valued by the residents, supportive of the local economy and reducing social exclusion.

In the past the education received by pupils as part of secondary schooling was considered sufficient to provide a person with the skills for the period of their working life. The relentless march of technology now means that everyone must have the opportunity to update and increase their knowledge and skills base at regular intervals throughout their lives.

Learning for Life is a philosophy aimed at the post 16 age group and is vital to sustain the community. If the community is to remain viable in the face of the advancement of technology then skills must be constantly evaluated, updated and new ones learnt, even old ones abandoned. In today's competitive world markets, a good command of Literacy, Numeracy and ITC (Information Technology and Computing) is essential to ensure employability¹².

Learning enables a community to become stronger through building social capital and embracing inclusiveness amongst its entire population.

For instance, people must be given the opportunity to continue learning after they have left the workforce, in order to encourage an active retirement. This need is supported by a significant body of evidence suggesting that this does lead to a far healthier older population.

Over the next 5 years to 2010 there must be a co-ordinated effort by the community to obtain funding to expand this programme.

This may be achieved by the formation of a central committee (Education Steering Group) supported by a representative body such as the Parish Council bringing together the education institutions such as the WEA (Workers Education Association), schools and the colleges, the community groups, Local Learning and Skills Council (LLSC), Trades Unions and Employers; joint

¹² There are many Government reports and Documents to support this argument a good starting point is on the web-site of the Basic Skills Agency and the Literacy Trust
<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/socialinclusion/adults/skills.html> Accessed 21 June 2005

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action with these groups can release funding from various sources including central government that is not normally available.

Typically, funding could be obtained for a mobile unit to enable learning to be taken to any part of the parish, this unit could be equipped to teach all subjects from the Adult Core Curriculum as well as vocational courses, both within businesses and community venues.

In order to determine the learning and skills need within the Valley, learning surveys will need to be undertaken within the next year 2005/6. After an initial period of evaluation of the results, the Education Steering Group will setup links with the educational organisations and funding bodies to determine the future programme (2007/8). By 2010 the aim is to have created a learning environment within the Valley which will support the local economy and business partnerships; reducing social exclusion at all levels of our society.

Examples of Adult Learning in 2005 in the Lambourn Valley

A number of courses have been run at the Lambourn Primary School to teach the basics of computing to local residents. These courses are always over subscribed as there are only facilities to teach six learners at a time. They have proved to be not only popular, but also beneficial, both in terms of raising self-confidence levels and also developing IT skills.

The large distances involved in getting either to Newbury or Swindon College, where other such courses are available, has been a significant factor in the popularity of these courses. These have been run in co-operation with West Berkshire Adult Community Learning Fund and Newbury College (who provides the tutor). The courses have also been able to offer Internet training, by means of the visiting CLIVE bus, which has access to laptops with wireless internet facilities.

The courses are run by a tutor who lives locally and offers a calm and relaxed way of learning. Without further funding for these types of courses, participation will be impossible for some residents, mainly those over retirement age, who would find it impossible to travel the long distance to reach courses run further away.

The same tutor also offers help with literacy, numeracy and those with specific learning difficulties, such as Dyslexia, with classes being held in the Lambourn Centre. These have proved to be particularly effective especially for employees of the racing industry, who employ workers from the European Community and whose first language may not be English.

Opportunities for further learning in the Lambourn Valley

Further funding should be investigated, in order to set up facilities such as an 'Internet Café'. This would provide facilities for not only teaching computing skills, but could also be the base for 'Family Learning' programmes. Facilities should be encouraged in order to promote E-learning, thus enabling the residents of the Lambourn Valley to access a large number of courses, either from the village, home or their place of employment, with many leading to nationally recognised qualifications.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to research the demand for and encourage the establishment of public internet facilities such as an Internet Café (**Action Plan Topic: Life Long Learning**)
- Encourage and promote local organisations who run courses and training days (**Action Plan Topic: Life Long Learning**)
- Make residents aware of lifelong learning opportunities (**Action Plan Topic: Life Long Learning**)

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9. Economic Affairs

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the economy of the Parish has continued to strengthen and grow. Local employment should increase and local shops and businesses catering for the needs of local residents should be thriving.

A strong economy is vital for Lambourn and the Lambourn Valley. Being relatively isolated with the nearest larger town some 7 miles away, Lambourn has a fully functioning mini economy where many services not normally found in villages the size of Lambourn can be found.

There are many businesses operating in the parish. In fact one of the problems identified is the fact that it is difficult to find out if a particular trade or business activity is available locally.

In order not only to stimulate the local economy but also encourage a community spirit through local commercial relationships, the plan encourages the use of local businesses in preference to out of parish businesses wherever possible and reasonable.

Recommendation:

- Establish a trade directory of local businesses to encourage more use of local businesses by consumers and by other businesses. **(Action Plan Topic: Trade)**

Employment in Lambourn

In the past the majority of the residents of the parish would have been engaged in local employment. This is no longer the case and a significant proportion of households now have a wage earner who works outside the Lambourn parish, often commuting significant distances to their place of work. This has a number of effects on the community infrastructure and a healthy balance should be maintained. Local employment generally is positive and desirable since it decreases commuting costs, time and stress, fuels the local economy and increases a sense of belonging and pride of those living in the community. The 2001 Census provides employment figures for the whole of the Lambourn Valley, including East Garston and Great Shefford. There were 74.0% employed in the area which compared with 71.4% for West Berkshire and 60.6% for England and Wales. Unemployed figures were 1.7% for both the Lambourn Valley and West Berkshire compared to 3.4% for England and Wales. These figures indicate the high level of job availability for residents in the Parish but does not provide any evidence of where the residents work.

In the Parish there is a protected employment area in the Local Plan, 1991–2006, which comprises areas around the M4 Membury Services, whilst there are numerous small businesses in various locations around the parish. It is noted that farming and the horse racing businesses have their own designations but that other equine activities, such as veterinary or farriery are deemed to be industrial.

Over the last few years, the number of local business sites in the centre of the village has decreased with the land being sold for house building. There is current pressure from central government for brown field development in preference to areas outside the settlement areas, which are in the North Downs AONB.

The extensive study by the Rural Research Group of the University of Reading in 1994 reported on the Lambourn Valley Project in November 1994. Recommendations included action by the Newbury District Council [NDC] (now the West Berkshire District Council [WBDC]), Berkshire County Council and the Lambourn Valley Trade and Tourism Association [LVTTA].

It is not evident that WBDC have fully carried out Recommendation 3, which is “That NDC explore the options for ensuring that adequate business premises are available to those Lambourn business wishing to expand and yet remain within the locality”. Recently, the LVTTA have suggested that there should be a facility within the Parish for small business units to be situated.

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Recommendation:

- The Parish Council work with the West Berkshire District Council and the Lambourn Valley Trade & Tourism Association to encourage the creation of small business premises within the Parish. **(Action Plan Topic: Trade)**
- Parish Council to encourage the awareness of local employment opportunities. **(Action Plan Topic: Trade)**

Industrial Parks and development

The Membury Employment area, as reported above, is a mixture of large new Industrial Units adjacent to the M4 on both the North and South sides and the smaller converted airfield units to the North of the M4 in the Lambourn Woodlands area. However, the complete area is a disjointed collection of buildings and there is no direct access to the M4 Motorway. Only the Lambourn

Woodlands site, locally called Lowesden Works, has a list of occupants displayed to the public and the board is situated some 20m from the B4000 road. The buildings on the Lambourn Woodlands site are predominantly hidden from view from the B4000 road. They are all converted World War 2 single story buildings but are generally in a good state of repair and are well presented. They fit in well with the surroundings. Any new facilities built on this site should remain within the single story level.



The newer buildings to the south of the M4 have a collective name of Aerial Business Park but there is no visual evidence of this name for the collection of new and old buildings. No surveys were made specifically to the business units and it is not known of their specific requirements. However, all units are occupied and there is a reported waiting list for sites within Lowesden Works.

Following an inspection of the area to the south of the M4, it was noted that there is a significant area of land potentially available for new units. In particular, the area to the east of

the main units on the south side of the M4 which is bounded by the M4 and Cuckoo Copse, would provide an area which would not intrude on the AONB.

In the consultations for this Plan there has been a consistent request from residents in the Lambourn Woodlands and Woodlands St Mary area for a reduction in road traffic, including lorries, using the B4000 to access the industrial areas. This comment has not been repeated by residents in the village of Lambourn and Eastbury and reflects the divergence of opinion across the Parish on this subject.

The M4 services is not included in the Protected Employment Area but does provide a large number of local jobs in the fast food and hotel facilities. In the planning policies adopted by the Parish Council there is policy to not support any unnecessary illuminated signs for the site in order to make the area as unobtrusive as possible.



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Recommendation:

- There should be more employment opportunities in the Parish for local people and Industries which will help the local economy should be encouraged. **(Action Plan Topic: Trade)**
- With all applications the Parish Council will consider the traffic implications from both staff and lorries. **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**

Shopping and Retailing

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 more shops and other retail and services companies will be operating in Lambourn to serve the needs of the local community.

Lambourn has a good selection of retail shops. There are no retail shops in Eastbury, Lambourn Woodlands, Woodland St Mary and Upper Lambourn. The shops provide a vital link in the economy of the Parish by not only providing much needed goods and services but also by providing employment for local people who in turn spend their earnings locally.

There has been some increase in the availability of locally grown products. This should be encouraged further to not only support local producers but also encourage local shopping which fuels the local economy.

Lambourn Universal Stores is a key retail resource for the Parish, supplying a wide selection of hardware and household goods.

Many residents of the parish shop in Lambourn for their daily and top up needs and visit larger stores in Newbury, Wantage or Swindon for a weekly grocery shop.

Internet shopping is increasing in popularity and is in part replacing the grocery shopping trips to Newbury and Swindon. Whilst this service does not bring trade to the local shops it does reduce the number of journeys undertaken for shopping purposes through an aggregated delivery by mini van. This should be encouraged in preference to driving, however the first preference continues to be to encourage local shopping wherever reasonable.

The retail establishments currently trading in Lambourn are listed in appendix B on page 53.



Whilst Lambourn used to have a number of high street banks, these have now closed and some banking facilities are available through the extended range of services available through the Post Office. Lambourn has one public cash dispenser as well as a privately owned one. Many residents have taken advantage of the advent of internet and postal banking although the elderly have been the most impacted by the closure of the high street banks.

The mix of shoppers consists of young singles in shared accommodation, the elderly and mums with young children. A good greengrocer would be welcome and possibly a healthfood shop.

With the recent loss of the garage in Station Road, the village now has no petrol retailing or MOT testing station. This is an example of the gradual erosion of retail and services companies which this plan intends to halt.

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The Market

Lambourn has a weekly market on a Friday. A good selection of stalls set up in the market square and range from greengrocers to children's toys. The market attracts shoppers from Lambourn and the surrounding villages and is greatly valued by the local community.

The market should be encouraged to continue and grow in size since it brings variety and encourages local shopping. Local producers should be encouraged to participate and make their goods available through the market.



Recommendation:

- Parish council to encourage retail establishments setting up in the parish(**Action Plan Topic: Trade**)
- Create a closer link between the business community and the council so that issues and concerns are addressed and the council can play an active part in nurturing businesses(**Action Plan Topic: Trade**)
- Proactively market Lambourn and attract more businesses and more customers to the parish(**Action Plan Topic: Trade**)

Tourism

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the parish of Lambourn will have increased tourist activity which generates income and wealth for the parish.

Lambourn receives a small but steady flow of visitors. The main reasons for visiting Lambourn as a tourist destination are:

- Visiting the racing stables during Open Day (estimated 10,000 people on one day)
- Recreation in the countryside including walking and riding
- Visiting Ashdown House, located just a few miles outside of Lambourn in the county of Oxfordshire.
- Visiting Sheepdrove Organic Farm during the open days

Lambourn does not have a focused tourism strategy at this stage and visitors tend to have to fend for themselves or be drawn to the village for a specific event such as the Lambourn Open Day. Tourism in Lambourn needs to be carefully balanced against the other needs of the community and the businesses operating in it. Specifically the racing industry should be consulted since it on the one hand would benefit from individuals taking an increased interest which may lead to syndicated ownership investments whilst on the other hand too much traffic could be a nuisance.

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council Develop a local Tourism Strategy, which promotes the Lambourn Valley and encourages tourists to visit. This should be carried out in conjunction with local, regional and national organisations. The benefits would include additional sources of revenue for local businesses and some employment opportunities.
(Action Plan Topic: Trade)
- Create a heritage trail through Lambourn to encourage visitors to stop and appreciate and understand the fine buildings and heritage aspects of the village.
(Action Plan Topic: Heritage)

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10. Racing and Equine Industry



This plan sets the objective that by 2010 the training of racehorses will continue to be a vibrant and key part of life in Lambourn. Supported by the community, chosen by owners as a centre of excellence and provide employment to individuals who live and work locally.

Horse racing and equine activities are an integral part of life in the Lambourn Valley. Also called 'the valley of the racehorse', the area is home to around 1500 racehorses in training by some 35 trainers in Lambourn, Upper Lambourn, Eastbury and some located in the countryside at, for instance, Seven

barrows.

Horses have been trained in the Lambourn Valley since the early 18th century when the Earl of Craven organised popular race meetings at the nearby stately home of Ashdown Park. The open countryside and in particular the well drained springy downland turf make the area surrounding Lambourn ideal for the training of world class horses.

The magnificent sight of strings of racehorses heading for the open downland in the misty early morning are a part of daily life in the village.

The racing industry in the Lambourn valley provides employment for some 700 people, with more employed in ancillary trades. This represents a key component of the Lambourn economy since the individuals live and work within the parish and often spend considerable parts of their disposable income in the local shops and retail establishments.

The racing industry also provides Lambourn with a key focal point for the community. Whilst not everybody is employed in racing, most have a great sense of civic pride in the industry. When a Lambourn horse wins a race the heart of the village beats with pride. This uniting force is a key part of what it means to live in the parish and distinguishes Lambourn and the Lambourn valley from many other similar sized villages and parishes.

In order for Lambourn to continue to expand and thrive as a centre for the training of race horses it is crucial that the facilities required for training are maintained and upgraded. Some facilities have already been lost due to development and this inevitably decreases the training capacity. Currently the losses have been balanced by the creation of new stables such as Faringdon Place which now trains nearly 200 horses.

Training Yards

Yards are the very basis of the training industry. They are a key limiting factor which determine how many horses are in training in the Lambourn valley at any one time. The economics of racing means that over the years yards have tended to increase capacity, some now training up to 200 horses.

Smaller yards provide an entry point for new and upcoming trainers and are also used as overflow or isolation yards as required by the larger training yards. In the past a number of the smaller yards have closed and have been converted to other uses and this should be discouraged.

Planning and development guidance should continue to be used to prevent any existing yards being converted for other uses in order to

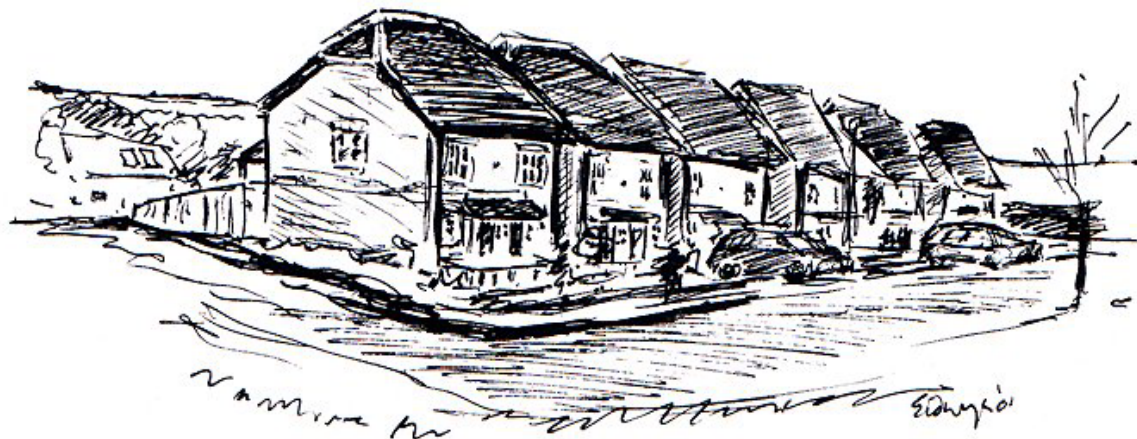


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maintain the capacity to train horses in Lambourn. Planning guidance should also continue to support applications where yards intend to expand or improve their facilities. In some cases houses associated with the training yards have been sold separately leading to a reduced viability of the racing yard. Applications of this nature should generally be resisted.

Accommodation



It is an economic fact that the racing industry does not pay high wages. This creates a challenge for the industry and for Lambourn: the provision of sufficient affordable housing. Many stable lads start in the industry as single men and women, often living in rented or hostel accommodation. More recently workers have been drawn from outside of the UK which presents a great opportunity for the individuals and increases the need for low cost affordable housing of many types within the village.

Generally large hostels for those working in racing have not been a successful solution to housing and this should be considered most carefully after the experiences in Newmarket where similar well meaning accommodation has had to be demolished. Hostels can however be successful if they are of a manageable size and are owned and administered by one individual which prevents inter-yard rivalry. In the past many yards had their own hostel facilities and many of these were extremely well managed and successful. The creation of such hostels should be encouraged.

The Lambourn Valley Housing Trust was formed as a registered charity which raises money to provide homes for both our retired and working stable staff. A few years ago it purchased land in Lambourn, now called Francome Fields, and it has already built 14 houses there with a further 4 due to be completed in late 2005. Houses in the Lambourn Valley are expensive and many of those in Lambourn are lived in by people who are not working in the racing industry. The annual Lambourn Open Day is a key fundraising event for the Housing Trust.

Peter Walwyn, Chairman of the Lambourn Valley Trainers Association said: "There are many reasons for a successful yard and one of the most important is the staff. They are not as richly rewarded as we would like and we are always likely to lose key trained lads and lasses when they have just married. Quite rightly they want a home of their own together, but cannot afford to rent anything suitable.

Sports, Social and Leisure Facilities

Training racehorses demands a high level of commitment and physical fitness from those involved. Lambourn has good facilities including the air conditioned gym at the Lambourn Centre which should be maintained and enhanced as required.

Lambourn has a number of leisure facilities which are popular with the employees of the racing industry and the village as a whole. The development of facilities should be encouraged and special focus given to the creation of facilities which support individuals working in the racing industry. The closure of the Catholic Club, which was a popular venue, is regretted. It would be beneficial for the racing industry to work proactively with organisations in the village to support,

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create and maintain social and leisure facilities for their staff. It should be noted that the Lambourn Sports Club would benefit from further support to ensure its long term survival.

Gallops and Tracks



An extensive network of tracks and gallops exists on the open downland surrounding Lambourn. Any applications for development which reduce the training facilities and track network should be resisted. Applications by trainers to improve existing facilities by, for instance, the installation of all weather tracks, should be received favourably, since it is essential that the facilities available to Lambourn horses are not only maintained but also improved in line with the developments in racehorse training techniques.

In order to reach the gallops and training areas many horses have to make use of, or cross, public highways. Support should be given to make the coexistence of horses and cars as safe as possible by the creation of dedicated tracks wherever possible and the provision of safe crossing points.

A horse track network exists, however it needs to be extended to make it safer. There is an urgent need for safe horse tracks along the Baydon Road and potentially a link between Lambourn and Eastbury. Where tracks exist already, great emphasis should be placed on preserving and enhancing them such as the track along the Wantage Road out of Lambourn towards Mile End.

Strings of horses have to cross main roads in a number of places. Whilst some improvements have been made to road markings, there is still more that could be done to reduce the possibility of serious accidents. Crossing points by Drain Hill and Upper Lambourn are desirable.



Community Liaison

Maintaining close links with the growing population of the village is important for the racing industry. Whilst many people work in, or have associations with, horses or horse racing, the majority live alongside the industry. As with any other dominant industry, maintaining good relations with the community in which it operates is essential. Much has been done in this area, however there are opportunities to continue to build further links and understanding between racing and the broader village population.

The Lambourn Open Day is a good opportunity for the community to view the racing yards and meet some of the people involved in the industry. The Open Day is also an excellent example of how the racing industry works with the village, funds raised not only support charitable racing related activities but also the local school. The day provides a significant and much appreciated boost to local shops, pubs and related trades

Many jockeys have been introduced to the industry through positive experiences with horses in their early years. Often starting as stable staff, many have moved on to become amateur and then eventually professional jockeys.

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Ancillary Trades

The racing industry not only creates direct employment but also creates jobs in businesses which support racing. A large number of Lambourn businesses such as farriers, saddlers, racehorse transport and veterinary practices are closely linked to the racing industry. With the globalisation of markets the racing industry should be encouraged to use local sources of supply for goods and services and local businesses should be encouraged to meet the demands of the racing industry.



Lambourn is the home of the Lambourn Racehorse Transport Company. LRT lorries can be seen throughout the UK and Europe, transporting valuable race horses to and from race meetings. LRT provides not only a further equine related focus but also valuable employment in the village.



Lambourn has an equine hospital and associated veterinary practice which is able to provide specialist treatment for horses, many of whom are brought a considerable distance to be treated in Lambourn.

A number of specialist facilities also exist within some yards. Lambourn has two licensed equine swimming pools and a unique equine water treadmill for the rehabilitation of horses following injury. These facilities, whilst located at specific yards, are available to the wider training and equine community.

The large number of specialist facilities and supporting trades all enhance and promote

Lambourn as a centre of racing excellence.

Marketing

As the centre for the training of racehorses in the south of England, Lambourn has the ability to continue to build up its reputation and status by communicating and marketing itself well to the community and wider population of the UK.

Lambourn has a Hall of Fame in the Lambourn Centre which has memorabilia and artefacts relating to racing and the Lambourn Valley. This could be publicised more extensively.

Many people visit the Lambourn valley as part of organised coach excursions where, by prior arrangement, racing yards open their doors to visitors. The Lambourn Trainers Association is often instrumental in setting up such arrangements which should be encouraged since they bring more members of the general public in contact with racing outside the context of the racecourse.



A heritage trail, explaining and documenting the training activities, famous trainers and horses as well as the buildings and facilities around Lambourn and Upper Lambourn would provide a focal point and activity for visitors to the Lambourn Valley.

The training establishments generally operate as individual businesses; however rely on the image, reputation and infrastructure of the collective whole to operate effectively. The Lambourn Trainers Association acts as a unifying body which brings together the interests of the trainers and related businesses to support and encourage the industry. This should be encouraged and ways sought to

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further promote the village and its facilities, to build a virtuous circle of investment interest in Lambourn as a centre of excellence for the training of racehorses.

Lambourn Trainers Association

Much has been done to unite the 35 trainers operating in the Lambourn valley. Peter Walwyn, champion trainer, formed the Lambourn Trainers Association (LTA) in 1989 which has not only trainers as members but also individuals and companies from equine related trades. It is important for the racing industry in Lambourn to be able to speak with one voice and the Lambourn Trainers Association should be encouraged.

Recommendation:

- Parish Council to work with the LTA and other bodies to expand and maintain the track network surrounding Lambourn and separate horse and vehicle movements wherever possible. **(Action Plan Topic: Equine)**
- Parish Council to support affordable housing schemes for stable staff as well as encouraging organisations with a similar aim.
- Parish Council and LTA to lobby statutory bodies for crossing lights and appropriate safety measures where there are road crossings. **(Action Plan Topic: Traffic Management)**
- Parish Council to encourage local businesses and the racing industry to collaborate in the provision of goods, services and facilities in order to maintain and encourage more local trading and employment. **(Action Plan Topic: Trade)**
- Parish Council to encourage proactive liaison between the racing industry and the wider community, including youth liaison through schools. **(Action Plan Topic: Community)**
- Parish Council to support the creation of a heritage trail focusing specifically on the equine and racing aspects through Lambourn and Upper Lambourn. **(Action Plan Topic: Heritage)**
- LTA and Parish Council to consider ways of further promoting Lambourn as a centre of excellence for racehorse training with the aim of further developing the wider awareness of Lambourn and attracting owners and trainers to the valley of the racehorse. **(Action Plan Topic: Heritage)**
- Parish Council to work with West Berkshire District Council in maintaining the aims of Econ 8 & 9 which specifically focus on and promote the racing industry. (extract in Appendix C)

The wider equine industry

This plan sets the objective that by 2010 equine activities and businesses continue to develop successfully alongside the horse racing industry.

Whilst the racing industry is undoubtedly the largest equine activity in the parish, there are several other equine businesses and facilities. Several livery yards operate, providing stabling for horses which are generally ridden for competition or leisure. The range of livery services varies from full livery to a number of establishments and farms who provide do-it-yourself facilities. This aspect of the equine industry works alongside the racing industry and equally supports other local businesses such as farriers, feed merchants, saddlers and veterinary services.

A number of individuals have joined the horse racing industry in Lambourn, having developed their love of horses through leisure riding and learning to care for horses in their youth.

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Recommendation:

- Parish Council to seek to preserve and expand the network of tracks and bridleways available for leisure riding. **(Action Plan Topic: Leisure)**
- Parish Council to support and encourage equine businesses and facilities in addition to those of the racing industry. **(Action Plan Topic: Trade)**
- Parish Council to consider positively the wider equine industry in matters of development and planning. **(Action Plan Topic: Planning)**

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11. Appendices

Appendix A: References and further reading

Further Reading:

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2. Our Common Future, The World Commission on Environment and Development (The Brundtland Report) OUP, Oxford.
3. This Land is Our Land, Marion Shoard, 1997 Gaia, London.
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6. Energy Systems and Sustainability power for a sustainable future. 2003, OUP, Oxford.
7. Genetic Engineering, Food, and our Environment, Luke Anderson, 1999, Green Books, Dartington.
8. The Discovery of Global Warming, Spencer.R.Weart, 2003, HUP, Cambridge.

Reports & Consultative Documents:

1. Sustainable Communities and Sustainable Development
a review of the sustainable communities plan, Professor Anne Power, 2004
2. The North Wessex Downs, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Management Plan. 2004.
3. West Berkshire Council, Statement of Community Involvement draft consultation. April 2005.
4. West Berkshire Council, Local Agenda 21.
5. West Berkshire Council, Community Plan.
6. Environment Agency, State of the Environment, 2005
7. Local Quality of Life Counts, DETR, July 2000.
8. Met Office, Exeter, UK 1-3 Feb 2005. Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change Conference .
9. Acts of Parliament.
10. South East Renewable Energy Conference, 2004.

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Appendix B: Retail Shops and facilities

As at July 2005 there are:

- 2 mini-marts
- 1 hardware store
- 1 butcher
- 1 chemist
- 1 hairdresser / Barber
- 1 travel Agent
- 1 gift shop
- 1 saddler
- 1 conference centre (Kindersley Centre)
- 1 bakery/tearoom
- Post office (with restricted banking facilities) – within the Co-op Store.
- Cash point machine
- 1 Dry cleaner
- 1 launderette
- 1 sandwich shop
- Indian restaurant/takeaway
- Chinese takeaway
- Fish and chip shop with kebabs and Indian takeaway
- 3 pubs in Lambourn
- 1 Wine bar
- 1 pub in Eastbury
- 1 pub in Upper Lambourn
- 1 restaurant/pub in Lambourn Woodlands

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Appendix C: West Berkshire District Council – Local Plan 1991 to 2006 (extract)

POLICY ECON.8

The Council will refuse proposals for change of use or redevelopment of existing and suitably located racehorse training and breeding establishments

POLICY ECON.9

The Council will permit proposals for the development of racehorse training and breeding establishments and facilities including new yards where such development, in the opinion of the Council:

- a) would not result in material damage to the rural character of the area, areas of special landscape quality, nature conservation, or archaeological importance; and
- b) when taken by itself or together with other race horse establishments is well related to settlements, including the built up area of Upper Lambourn, would not significantly harm the character or amenities of such settlements, road safety or the amenities of local residents; and
- (c) would maintain and enhance the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or designated Conservation Area affected by the proposal; and
- d) make adequate provision for:
 - (i) the accommodation of personnel where there is a proven need for such accommodation, and
 - (ii) satisfactory and safe provision for access to the gallops and training facilities and for vehicular and pedestrian access to the site; and
- (e) would safeguard the existing network of public rights of way.

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Appendix D: An Introduction to Village Design Statements



¹³ Many people feel that they have no say over what development takes place in their community; but Village Design Statements (VDSs) offer a constructive solution to this dilemma.

Local communities have a unique appreciation and understanding of their own place, and a VDS is based on this knowledge. It describes the qualities that residents value in their village and its surroundings. Around

200 English communities have completed Design Statements to date.

A Village Design Statement sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development in a village, based on its character. It is an advisory document produced by the village community, not by the planning authority. It will not stop change from happening, but it can help effect how any new building fits in to the village. VDSs are intended to influence the operation of the statutory planning system, so that new development is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the immediate environment.

What does a VDS cover?

- It describes the distinctive character of a village and its surrounding countryside;
- It shows how character can be identified at three levels:
 - the landscape setting of the village,
 - the shape of the settlement,
 - the nature of the buildings themselves;
- A VDS sets down design principles based on the distinctive local character;
- Production of a Statement fosters working in partnership with the local authority, engenders understanding of current planning policies, and offers the chance to influence future policies.

Design Statements have been completed by villages in all parts of England - from Cumbria to Cornwall, and from Shropshire to Suffolk. They are of value to residents, planners, designers and developers. There should be broad involvement of local interests so that the finished design statement is a representative document, and one that presents ideas for stimulating and sustaining community involvement in planning issues. It is important that the parish council, plus planning authority councillors and officers are drawn in to the VDS process. Preparing a Village Design Statement doesn't demand design or planning knowledge - the only requirement is an interest in the future well-being of your village. But it will need time, energy, imagination and determination! An effective Village Design Statement:

- is developed, researched, written and edited by local people;
- reflects the representative views of a community;
- involves a wide cross-section of residents in its production;
- describes the visual character of the village;
- demonstrates how local character and distinctiveness can be protected and enhanced in new development;
- is compatible with the statutory planning system and its local application;
- should be accepted as supplementary planning guidance (and thereby influence developers and decisions on individual planning applications);
- is relevant to all forms and scale of development, and
- is about managing change in the village, not preventing it.

A Village Design Statement is unlike any other planning document. It gives planning advice directly applicable to the statutory planning system and is entirely community based. ³³

¹³ Text extracted from Countryside Agency Website August 2005