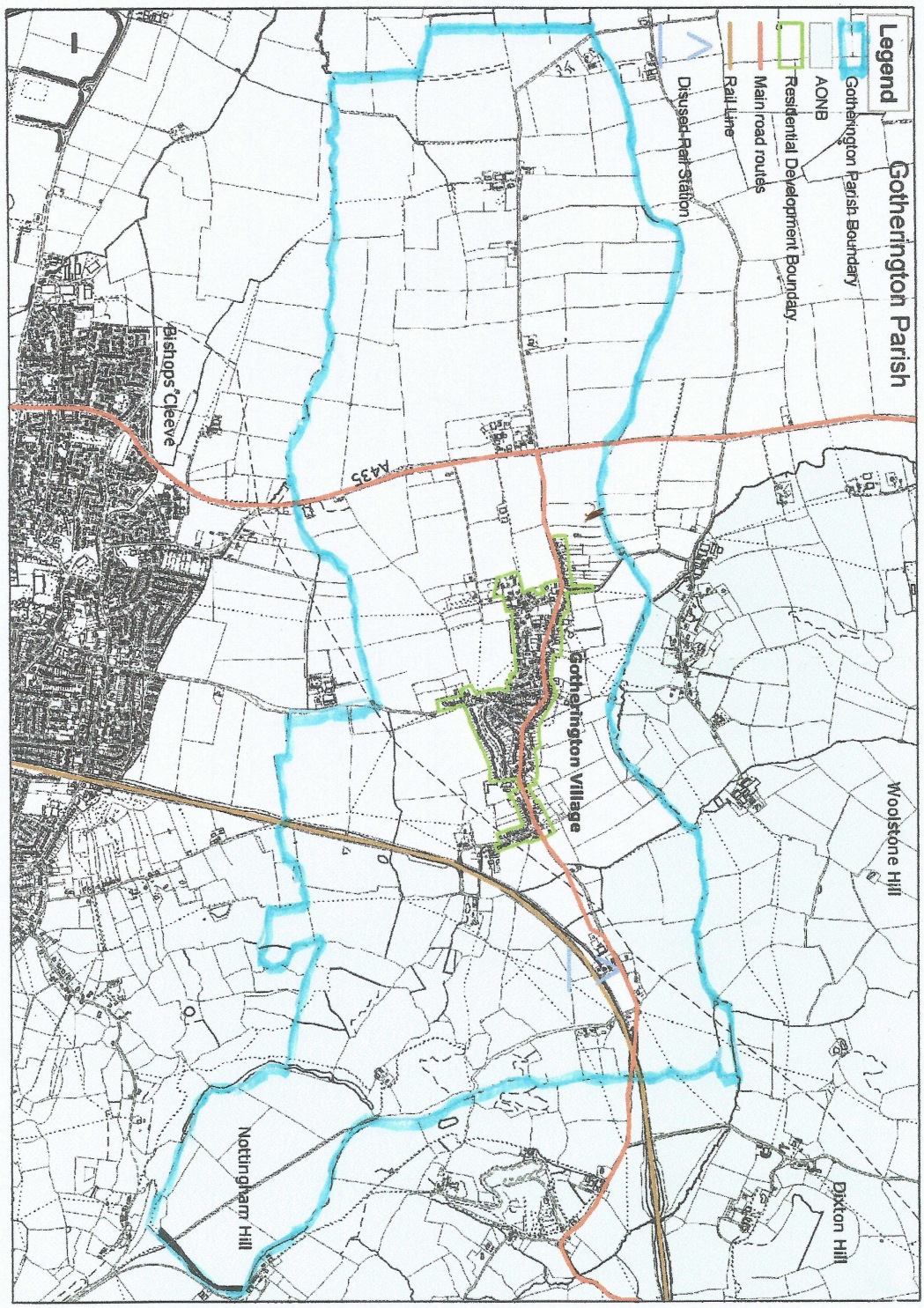
Gotherington Parish Plan

2014

INDEX

	Page
Map of Gotherington Parish	*3*
Introduction	*4*
Background Information	*5*
Facilities, Leisure & Community Life	*7*
Housing and Development	*9*
Map of Covenanted Land	*10*
Traffic	*11*
Transport	*13*
Environment	*14*
Communications	*15*
Crime and Antisocial Behaviour	*16*
Aerial View of Gotherington Village	*17*
Addenda	*18*

Map of Gotherington Parish



INTRODUCTION

The 2014 Gotherington Parish Plan has involved many groups and individuals from within the village, working through a long and rigorous process to produce this final publication of the Gotherington Parish Plan. The aim has been to produce a document that will provide planners and developers as well as village organisations and individuals with the information that tells them what Gotherington residents want. It will also support the community when applying for funding for future projects. The Parish Council is committed to constantly reviewing this plan.

My thanks go to GRCC who assisted with the design of the questionnaire and the analysis of the resulting data, and also to the Parish Council for their support.

My particular thanks go to the members of the Parish Plan committee, which comprised: Iain Angus, Phil Aplin, Edward Catchpole, Caroline Meller, Caroline Ryman, Howard Samuels, Sylvia Stokes, John Stroud, and David Ward (chairman).

Finally, we are grateful to Edmund Barfield for his objective approach in typesetting this publication, and to Philip Watson for supplying the photographs.

David Hearn, Chairman of Gotherington Parish Council
January 2014

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2013 the Parish Council agreed to update the Parish Plan in order to obtain residents' feedback on a number of important issues; in particular, views on current facilities and services in Gotherington and to ensure that the requirements of the village as a whole are identified.

The Parish Plan Committee developed the questionnaire and asked GRCC to produce the final version. Residents were invited to complete the questionnaire and 238 were completed, 21 of these being completed online. This represented about 60% of households in the parish.

The original Parish Plan was completed in 2004. Most issues highlighted in the original survey have been resolved and new challenges and problems have emerged which the village will need to address in the next few years.

Timeline for the Parish Plan

Design preliminary questionnaire and leave copies in shop, Village Hall and The Shutters	*30th March 2013*
Analyse results of preliminary questionnaire	*15th April*
Parish Meeting	*1st May*
Design questionnaire	*End of June*
Print and issue questionnaire	*Mid July*
Collation of results from questionnaire	*Mid August*
Day for Ideas	*Sept / Oct*
Collate/Analyse information from Day for Ideas	*End Nov*
Produce draft of PP Update and discuss with TBC	*End Dec*
Finalise, publish and circulate the Updated Parish Plan	*1st Qtr of 2014*

It is important to ensure that this 2014 Parish Plan reflects the wishes of the people of Gotherington, in terms of all aspects of village life.

It may be necessary in the future to create a Neighbourhood Plan, which would involve holding a parish referendum, but would result in a statutory document.

Over the hundreds of years of its history Gotherington has developed into a thriving community which offers an excellent quality of life to its residents. If this is to be maintained in the face of the challenges ahead, we need to take steps to plan for our own future. This is what the Parish Plan aims to do. Incorporated in this Parish Plan are associated Action Plans, which set out what is to be done, where, when and by whom.

The Parish Plan also refers to the Village Design Statement (VDS) adopted by Tewkesbury Borough Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 2006.

There are addenda accompanying this Plan, available on the Gotherington web site (www.Gotherington.org.uk).

Gotherington Parish Council would like to thank all those who contributed to the formation of this plan.

Please note, the key for abbreviations used including in Actions & Responsibilities is

Short term	=	*Within 1 year*
Medium term	=	*2 to 5 years*
Long term	=	*Over 5 years*
PC	=	*Gotherington Parish Council*
NW	=	*Neighbourhood Watch*
PCSO	=	*Police Community Support Officer*
RC	=	*Recreational Club*
TBC	=	*Tewkesbury Borough Council*
RRB	=	*Rex Rhodes Building*
GOWNS	=	*Gotherington, Oxenton and Woolstone Neighbourhood Scheme*

FACILITIES, LEISURE & COMMUNITY LIFE

Background

Gotherington residents have a strong sense of community and well-being. Among the features admired most in the village are the "Community Spirit", traditional lifestyle and being part of a rural community. The open views of the countryside, peace and quiet, and country walks, combined with good access to Cheltenham are valued as is the wide range of facilities and services available. Gotherington benefits from an excellent school and the school life that goes with it. The village is mostly crime free and is perceived as caring about its environment.

Respondents to the questionnaire and those that attended the Day of Ideas were generally aware of the amenities and services available and were happy with life in the village. Gotherington Stores and The Shutters are regarded as particularly valuable amenities and there is general satisfaction with the Village Hall and the Rex Rhodes Building, although there are some suggestions for improvement. Scope was identified for more activities and facilities for young people, particularly teenagers.

Parish Plan Objectives

To identify and prioritise achievable improvements to the existing range of services and activities, provided in the village and add new ones as appropriate.

Questionnaire Evidence

Rating the importance of facilities and aspects of Gotherington life, the top five were;

- *83% Gotherington Stores*
- *80% Rural location*
- *76% Friendly community*
- *74% Walks and footpaths*
- *61% Village Hall*

Although the majority of households stated that they never use the GOWNS for assistance they are aware of it while 8% indicated they occasionally use the service.

- *35% of households stated there are adequate facilities for children aged 12 and under in Gotherington, 3% stated there are not.*
- *9% of households stated there are adequate facilities for teenagers in Gotherington; 23% stated there are not.*
- *16% of households saw no need for additional facilities for children and teenagers in Gotherington.*
- *However, it should be noted that only 21% of households contain at least one person aged 17 and under.*

- *41% of households stated that they use the VH or RRB either (at least) once a week or once a month*
- *52% of households stated that these facilities should be left as they are.*

The top five village facilities, rated by frequency of use are;

- *Gotherington Stores - 74% of households use it at least weekly*
- *Post Office counter - 46% of households use it at least weekly*
- *Gotherington Nurseries (garden centre) - 41% of households use it at least monthly*
- *The Shutters - 35% of households use it at least monthly*
- *Gotherington Cross Garage – 31% of households use it at least monthly*

Actions	***Responsibility***	***Timescale***
Continue to promote GOWNS throughout the village	*GOWNS*	*Ongoing*
Maintain a continuing dialogue with the village shop to generate promotional and business / service ideas to keep it at the heart of the community	*PC*	*Ongoing*
Install a cycle rack by Freeman Field / RRB	*PC*	*Short term*
Provide a ball hoop suitable for netball or basketball	*PC*	*Medium term*
Investigate the provision of small ramps for bike jumps	*PC*	*Medium term*
Erect larger 'flat' swings outside the children's play area (for older children)	*PC*	*Medium term*
Provide outdoor gym equipment at Freeman Field	*PC*	*Medium term*
Resurrect the Recreational Club (see note below)	*PC*	*Medium term*
Run a cinema in the Village Hall	*PC/RecClub in future*	*Short term*
Run an annual event on Freeman Field	*PC/RecClub in future*	*Short term*
Liaise with Gotherington School to jointly sponsor and share facilities such as a Multiuse Games Area (MUGA), the assembly hall etc	*PC*	*Ongoing*

Note. The Recreational Club would be a team of vibrant villagers committed to supporting village life, children and adults by running a range of village activities to include the bonfire, annual show, children's clubs, and the cinema.

HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

Background

Gotherington is a self-contained village near Bishop's Cleeve with an ageing demographic. In the recent past, development has been through infill and "garden grabbing" within the residential development boundary [RDB]. The last Parish Plan published in 2004 indicated that priority should be given to affordable housing for the young and warden-controlled housing for the elderly. Tewkesbury Borough Council is in the process of formulating its Joint Core Strategy [JCS] with Cheltenham and Gloucester. As part of that strategy, Gotherington has been designated as a Rural Service Village along with 14 others. These Rural Service Villages will be expected to absorb 880 houses over the next 18 years if or when the JCS is implemented.

Parish Plan Objective

To determine how pressures for development in and around Gotherington should be managed to reflect the current views of village residents.

Questionnaire Evidence

A majority of respondents (53%) were against any further development in the village.

When offered a range of housing types that could be included in the Parish over the next ten years

- *28% continued to reject further development*
- *47% favoured sheltered or supported living for the elderly*
- *26% wanted to see new 1-3 bedroom bungalows.*

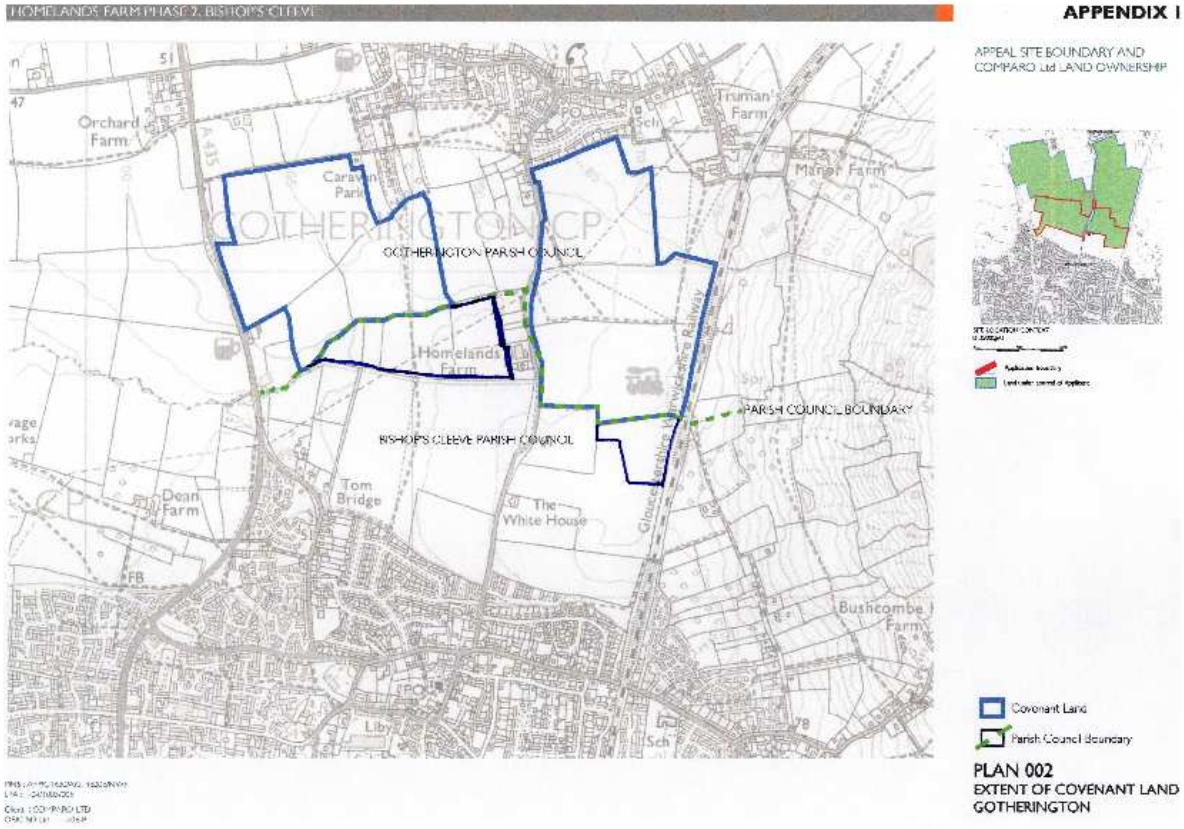
When asked how the village should adapt to the ageing population:-

- *16% preferred to do nothing*
- *47% favoured actively encouraging housing suitable for an ageing population*
- *37% preferred looking at other options that did not include building new housing*

However, discussions at The Day of Ideas indicated that bungalows were much preferred over sheltered housing. There was no real desire for "housing estate" type developments south of the village since this would narrow the gap between Gotherington and Bishop's Cleeve.

Land to the south of Gotherington is largely owned by one landowner - Comparo from whom the Parish Council has obtained a covenant to prevent any further development

A restrictive covenant is a promise by one person to another, (such as a buyer of land and a seller) not to do certain things with the land or property. It binds the land and not an individual owner and it "runs with the land". This means that the restrictive covenant continues over the land or property even when the current owner(s) sells it to another person. Restrictive covenants continue to have effect even though they may have been made many years ago and appear to be obsolete.



.

Actions	*Responsibility*	*Timescale*
Resist any further development in Gotherington, where possible	*TBC*	*On-going*
Ensure that, in the event that development is unavoidable, it is of the type that is most acceptable to the community at the time.	*PC and TBC*	*On-going*
Ensure that the principles of the 2006 Gotherington Village Design Statement are followed in any construction.	*PC and TBC*	*On-going*
Consider modernisation of the four Severn Vale Housing units in the village.	*PC and TBC*	*Short term)*
Ensure that any new developers contribute towards enhancement of village facilities.	*PC and TBC*	*Short term)*
TBC should assist Gotherington PC in the above and adopt the Parish Plan as material guidance in planning matters.	*TBC*	*Short term)*

TRAFFIC

Background

The village centre is formed by the intersection of three roads: Malleson Road, Cleeve Road and Gretton Road each with their own issues.

Malleson Road *goes west to a junction with A435 where regrettably there have been several fatal accidents in recent years. The 50mph speed restriction continues from the main road until the village boundary at which point a 30mph limit is in place. There is no footpath from the village boundary to the main road.*

Cleeve Road *has no footpath from The Lawns past several houses towards Bishops Cleeve and housing developments in Bishop's Cleeve are likely to result in increased traffic.*

Gretton Road *has no footpath for half a mile outside of the main village housing past the Nurseries and a collection of houses. There is no speed restriction from the eastern approach for half a mile within the parish boundary.*

The good reputation of the village school, the provision of nursery facilities at the Village Hall, the Rex Rhodes Building and good sports facilities on the Freeman Field have all contributed to an increase in traffic and parking problems.

Housing Developers at Homelands 1 in Bishop's Cleeve have installed traffic-calming measures on Gotherington Lane which are considered by some residents to be hazardous.

Parish Plan Objective

Improvement of Malleson Road /A435 junction: the Parish Council is in dialogue with Gloucestershire Highways Department concerning traffic lights or a roundabout to reduce traffic speed and assist traffic flow around the junction. The Parish Council is conducting traffic surveys to provide evidence of changes in traffic volumes at the junction. It will continue to put pressure on the Highways Dept. to improve access roads in the Homelands developments to alleviate any increase in traffic through Gotherington.

Reduction of traffic speed: 30mph wheelie bin stickers were distributed in the village in 2012 and village gateways were installed in 2013. It is hoped that when these are complete with new village name signs, they will alert motorists that they are entering a residential area. It is hoped that the speed restriction on Gretton Road will be reduced to 40mph, from the parish boundary at the railway bridge to the 30mph sign by Gorse Green Cottage. Solar powered vehicle activated signs will be considered.

Provision of cycle/footpaths:

Plans for the Homelands 2 development show the provision of a cycleway alongside Gotherington Lane. The installation of this should be pursued and consideration given to links with existing footpaths within the village.

Reduction of inconsiderate parking:
PCSOs have been asked to attend the Village Hall around 9a.m. and the school around 3.30 p.m. and talk to drivers in regard to 'considerate' parking. All organisations should encourage their users to walk to the facility and/or encourage car sharing.

Rapid repair of pot-holes:
All potholes should be reported to Highways Dept and repair pursued.

Improvement to traffic calming measures:
Representations made to the developers of Homelands1 and Gloucestershire Highways Dept. for the removal of at least one of the three chicanes should be pursued.

Questionnaire Evidence
Supporting actions to improve road safety at different locations:

- *Malleson Road/A435 - 77%,*
- *Station Road/Gotherington Lane junction – 56%*
- *Parking outside school – 55% .*

The top five responses for most effective road safety measures:

- *Roundabout or traffic lights at the Malleson Road & A435 junction – 78%*
- *Elimination of potholes on pavements and roads– 65%*
- *Vehicle activated speed signs – 55%*
- *Cycle track from Gotherington to Bishop's Cleeve – 53%*
- *Pavement to the A435 – 42%*

Actions	***Responsibility***	***Timescale***
Improvement of Malleson Road /A435 junction.	*PC/GCC*	*Short term)*
Investigate ways of reducing traffic speed	*PC*	*Short term)*
Consider solar powered vehicle activated signs	*PC*	*Short term)*
Pursue the installation of cycle/footpaths alongside Gotherington Lane, together with links with existing footpaths within the village.	*PC/GCC*	*Short term)*
Encourage all organisations to consider car sharing.	*PC/Residents*	*On-going*
Encourage residents to report all potholes to Highways Department. Ensure the repair is completed.	*PC/Residents*	*On-going*

TRANSPORT

Background

Currently, Pulham bus company provides an hourly service to Cheltenham Monday to Saturday from 7am until 6pm. Subsequently, Stagecoach provides a service to Cheltenham from 8:17pm, half-hourly until 11:27pm Monday to Saturday and from 9:30am until 7:31pm on Sundays. A morning hourly service is provided to Tewkesbury Monday to Saturday.

Parish Plan Objective

To ensure the continuation of current bus services and improved frequency.
Provision of bus shelters

Questionnaire Evidence

- *26% of households use the bus service at least once a week*
- *77% of households use the bus service.*
- *65% of households stated the village bus service is either essential (21%) or important (44%).*
- *To encourage increased use:*
- *40% stated improved frequency, 26% stated improved routes.*

Actions	***Responsibility***	***Timescale***
Arrange discussions with service providers to ensure the continuation of current bus services and improved frequency.	*Parish Council*	*Short term)*
Consider the provision of bus shelters, particularly at the Shutter Island.	*Parish Council*	*Medium term*

ENVIRONMENT

Background

Previous questionnaires showed that the environment was at the very heart of why people chose to live in Gotherington and, indeed, why they stayed. Twenty years ago the focus was on footpaths, the quality and quantity of usage. Ten years ago open space both within and around the village was the priority; concerns already being raised that Gotherington might before too long be engulfed by the housing developments of Bishop's Cleeve. Protecting the views as well as the rural feel of the village formed an important part of the 2004 design statement.

Parish Plan Objectives

To ascertain what residents considered to be in need of safeguarding
To quantify whether the Borough Council was perceived as providing an acceptable level of support to residents during periods of ice and snow
To determine whether the Borough Council provides an acceptable level of ongoing maintenance to verges, kerbsides, hedges, pavements and footpaths within the parish boundaries

Questionnaire Evidence

Most residents reported that they had not experienced problems with either noise, flooding or other nuisances. However, it was still felt that the maintenance of drains and gutters should be viewed as a priority. The majority of people felt that there was an acceptable standard of maintenance provided by the Borough Council given the challenging economic situation faced by all.

Actions	***Responsibility***	***Timescale***
Bi-annual spring clean and weed-free kerbsides	*PC*	*April & Oct*
Ensure that the role of Snow Warden is designated to a local resident	*PC*	*Short term*

COMMUNICATIONS

Background

Since the last Parish Plan of 2004 there has been dramatic expansion in the type and speed of personal communication. Ten years ago it wasn't even deemed important enough to warrant any reference at all in the Parish Plan and yet today communication via mobile phones and the Internet are widely recognised as an essential asset to everyday life.

Parish Plan Objectives

To assess which is the most used form of communication already established within the village community
To ascertain whether residents are satisfied with the speed of the broadband service
To ascertain whether residents have access to consistent mobile phone reception
To establish whether residents desire a free Wi-Fi hotspot at the Village Hall

Questionnaire Evidence

The questionnaire highlighted the value which residents place on receiving a copy of 'Topics', the village newsletter published quarterly. Other methods such as information through the letterbox, word of mouth, and the Gotherington Stores were also highly rated.
Broadband speed at this present time is deemed far too slow or inconsistent by 60% of respondents. A comparable percentage of 61% stated that their mobile phone reception was likewise inconsistent. The linear nature of the village footprint reflects this pattern with reception in lower Gotherington being far stronger than in the upper area of the village. Residents did not feel that a free Wi-Fi hotspot at the Village Hall would necessarily enhance their ability to communicate locally, nationally or indeed globally.

Actions	***Responsibility***	***Timescale***
Investigate improvement to the broadband service	*PC*	*Medium term*
Investigate installation of a mobile phone mast within the village	*PC*	*Medium term*
Investigate the use of Facebook and Twitter to improve communications.	*PC*	*Short term*

CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Background

Gotherington is within the Tewkesbury local policing area. The village is a low crime area but does suffer some vandalism and petty crime. Local residents can meet and discuss issues with PCSOs each month in Gotherington Stores.

Residents complained about dog fouling being highly offensive and this is consistently raised as a public concern.

Complaints about parking in the village are also covered in greater detail in the Traffic and Transport Section but it was felt that it does cause problems and can be very inconsiderate.

Parish Plan Objective

To increase awareness of The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

To ensure that residents are aware of the information that is available to them including contacts and telephone numbers.

Remind the minority of dog owners to clean up after their animals.

Questionnaire Evidence

66% of household respondents stated they have not experienced any crimes/antisocial behaviour, although 15% have been affected by burglary and 12% by antisocial behaviour. No drug related problems were reported.

53% stated that police presence and response is sufficient and 58% stated that Neighbourhood Watch publicity is sufficient.

70% of residents feel that the elimination of dog fouling would safeguard the environment of the village.

Actions	***Responsibility***	***Timescale***
To raise awareness of The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the local PCSO's. Crime reports to be circulated via the village Web Site.	*NW & PCSO*	*Short term*
Parish Council to continue to take positive action by writing letters to deter offending dog owners from re-offending.	*PC*	*Short term*

AERIAL VIEW OF GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE

ADDENDA

Addenda can be found on the village website www.gotherington.org.uk. Here you will find full details of the questionnaire results, comprising counts, percentages, notes and a summary. Also, there is an addendum based on the comments and notes made at the Day of Ideas.

I hope you have found this 2014 Parish Plan useful, and have read the addenda which support this Parish Plan with all the data collected

David Ward
Chairman of the Parish Plan committee