

# Quedgeley Parish Plan 2005-2010



# Quedgeley Parish Plan 2005-2010

**Aim:** This plan, based on the views of local people living in Quedgeley, aims to:  
*Improve the quality of life enjoyed in Quedgeley.*

**Introduction:** In 2004/5 a comprehensive survey was undertaken in Quedgeley to identify the needs and aspirations of the local residents. The survey was backed-up by a number of focus groups working with younger people, older people, health professionals and parents. Two open public meetings were held in February to reveal the results of the survey and discuss the priorities for the future. Over 190 local people and interested parties attended the two events. Over 3,500 people in total have been involved in defining what the key issues for Quedgeley are.

This document is Quedgeley's Parish Action Plan formed as a direct result of the survey undertaken and the priorities identified. The Plan reflects the needs of the local community and identifies the actions required to meet the needs. Three top priorities are identified which are supporting younger people, providing more leisure facilities and increasing the extent to which local people feel that they have an influence on the local decisions that affect them.

Comments are always welcome on the issues experienced by the Quedgeley community. Copies of the Quedgeley Survey are available from the Quedgeley Parish Council offices:



**Parish Clerk** 9C The Old School House, School Lane, Quedgeley, Glos GL2 4PJ

**Telephone/Fax:** 01452 721552

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Copies of the Quedgeley Survey and Plan are also available online at:

[www.gloscha.co.uk](http://www.gloscha.co.uk), or from the local library.

Volunteers to help achieve the actions identified are also welcome so please contact the Parish Council. You can also contact Quedgeley's local councillors whose details are available by calling the Parish Council.

The Parish Survey and Action Plan have been developed by Quedgeley Parish Council, Gloucester City Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Housing Association, West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust, Quedgeley Trust, Police, Equals and local volunteers. These organisations are committed to working together to improve the quality of life enjoyed in Quedgeley.

# What is Quedgeley?



Quedgeley is located 3 miles south-west of Gloucester City centre in the centre of the county of Gloucestershire. Quedgeley has grown substantially over the last 15 to 20 years, from a village comprising cottages and several farms, to an area with over 5,400 houses and a population of nearly 12,000 people. The area has a high proportion of the 25-44 age group and a low unemployment rate, reflecting the popularity of Quedgeley as an ideal commuter location with its good links to the M5 and nearby cities. Quedgeley has a variety of services for its residents: primary schools; a secondary school; doctors surgeries; a shopping area with a large supermarket, clothes stores and several smaller shops; post office; food takeaway outlets; pubs; restaurants; and a gym. There are also a large number of local businesses based in the parish.

## What is a Parish Plan?

The concept of parish plans or community action plans developed from the Rural White Paper published in November 2000. It is one of the ways in which the Government hopes to give rural communities a chance to run their own affairs, to set out what the parish should look like, and guide its future development. A parish plan is a comprehensive action plan covering social, economic and environmental issues. It sets out a vision for the community's future and identifies the action needed to tackle local problems and areas of concern. The plan includes everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community, from facilities for young people to traffic issues.

## Why develop a Parish Plan?

Producing a plan will:

- Allow local people to determine the future of the parish.
- Develop confidence within the parish, district and county council that members are accurately reflecting local views.
- Help co-ordinate action between local organisations, community groups and authorities.
- Ensure a plan is available to feed into district and county policies, plans and strategies.
- Provide evidence of need for funding applications.

## Parish Plan format:

The Parish Plan contains a set of objectives, each with an action plan detailing the specifics of how the objective will be delivered. Local stakeholders, including organisations and volunteers, will be working together to deliver the action plans identified. Three key 'priorities for change' are also identified. These are the most urgent local priorities that require attention. Where possible, the Parish Plan contains timescales by which the organisations mentioned earlier wish to deliver.



## 'Priorities for change':

Based on the views of local people, the following three issues are those deemed to be the most important in improving the quality of life enjoyed by local people now.

### 1. More activities and support should be provided for Quedgeley's children and young people.

*60% of households think that young people hanging around in groups is a problem. 55% of households would like to see improved sports facilities for young people & a Youth Café.*

This will be achieved by:

- Providing a SAFE (youth facility) for young people, and more evening time activities (by 2006)
- Developing a youth café (by 2005/06)
- Providing more computer/ internet activities (by 2005)
- Improving the range of summer holiday activities (by 2005)
- Dealing with anti-social behaviour quickly and effectively.

### 2. There should be more leisure facilities available in Quedgeley.

*50% of households said they would like a swimming pool. Other popular answers included more parks & play areas & bowling.*

This will be achieved by:

- Testing the feasibility of a private-sector swimming pool in Quedgeley (by 2006)
- Supporting and increasing the use of existing sports/ leisure facilities, e.g. Beaufort Sports Centre (PR Plan 2005)
- Increasing the provision of organised sports/social activities

### 3. Local people should feel that they have a greater influence on the decisions that affect them.

*77% of households believe that local people have little or no influence over decisions made by councils and other public bodies. 89% of households would like the parish council to publicise information in Quedgeley News.*

This will be achieved by:

- Having an effective working relationship with the Planning Authority to ensure the needs identified in this plan are considered when planning applications are assessed.
- Providing monthly updates on the Parish Plan in the Quedgeley News and on Parish Notice boards.
- Increasing the access to information about local services and providing one place to go for information about the work of local councils including IT access points in Quedgeley (by 2006)
- Increasing the electoral turnout each time by 6% to reach the national averages.
- Reducing the amount of people who think they have little or no influence over decisions that affect them from 77% to 50% (by 2008)



# Objective 1:

To improve the sustainability of the transport network serving Quedgeley.

*77% of respondents indicated that traffic congestion is a problem. 26% of households are dissatisfied with the general state of the cycle-paths & footpaths.*

Suggestions	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
<b>Smother speed bumps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of all current speed bumps</li> <li>Provide information to show areas of highest priority</li> <li>Publicise response</li> </ul>	<p>Parish Plan Action Group working with Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire County Council</p>	2006
<b>Cycle path completed between Hardwicke, Quedgeley and canal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assert current situation and future plans</li> </ul>	Parish Plan Steering Group to write to Gloucestershire County Council	Now
<b>Improvements to canal paths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further improvements proposed as part of Gloucester South West bypass</li> <li>Organise a volunteer day to audit canal paths and identify problem areas</li> <li>Write to home and land owners to encourage them to take action</li> </ul>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Parish Plan Action Group including volunteers</p> <p>Volunteers and owners to do improvements</p>	2007

Many other suggestions were put forward in this section, divided into three categories - actions for bus service providers (e.g. more frequent buses, family tickets, and free buses for pensioners), speed issues (e.g. flashing speed awareness signs, lower speed limits), and greater publicity and awareness (e.g. more advertising of bus services, signs giving waiting times at bus stops). All of these suggestions will be investigated further by the Parish Plan Action Group, and the results of their investigations will be reported as part of the ongoing parish plan process.



# Objective 2:

To increase the provision of leisure, retail and social activities for all ages in appropriate locations.

*25% of households said they would like a D.I.Y store. 60% of households indicated that they would like more local shops or markets selling fresh foods.*

Top three suggestions	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
<b>Swimming pool</b>	• Testing the feasibility of provision	Quedgeley Parish Council	2006
	• Increase and publicise opening hours and transport links to Beaufort Pool.	The Three Bridges Partnership	2005-2006
	• Keep the community informed of activity and encourage volunteers to assist		
<b>Internet café</b>	• Find out what is wanted, and what can be provided	Mosaic Young People's Group and Youth Parish Council	2006
	• Promote free internet use at library	Parish Plan group to work with library service.	
<b>Retail including farmer's market and DIY store</b>	• Farmer's Market to be provided in Quedgeley	Project Team working with Village Hall Committee	2006
	• DIY operators will be contacted to encourage a local shop.	Quedgeley Parish Council	2005

The other suggestions for this topic broadly covered investigating land / sites for new activities for young people (e.g. teen shelter, other youth meeting place, skate park) and encouraging the use and accessibility of existing facilities (e.g. tennis courts, football pitches, and bowling alleys).

Another issue was improving the provision of public toilets, particularly around the retails areas. The Parish Plan action group will work with others to investigate these suggestions.



# Objective 3:

To improve the health of local residents and access to health services.

*44% of households have a problem getting an appointment when they need one. A quarter of households were concerned about the lack of NHS dentists.*

Top three suggestions	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
<b>More availability of doctors/another surgery</b>	• Patient lists opening for new registrations.	West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust	2005
	• Review of provision to help accommodate new development pressures.		2005
<b>More NHS dentistry</b>	• An additional 1,400 NHS registrations between April and September 2005.	West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust	2005
<b>Schools to work on issues of obesity</b>	• Partnership between Schools and Healthcare professionals to be formed. Schools-based projects and policy guidance to be developed.	West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust and local schools.	2005/2006

The other suggestions for this topic included improvements to services at the doctor's surgeries such as longer opening hours, a better appointment system, better waiting rooms, improvements to the car parking and 'walk-in' appointments. The results from the survey have been given to the surgery who are making improvements where possible.

The Project Team working with the Primary Care Trust will be doing work to help local people give up smoking and live more healthy lifestyles, including a better diet. Access to affordable health/ leisure provision is also an issue to be addressed.



# Objective 4:

To reduce the level of crime and the fear of crime.

*75% of households would like to see more police patrolling on foot. 81% of respondents would like to see the opening hours extended at Quedgeley police station.*

Top three suggestions	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
<b>More police patrolling on foot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Additional Police Community Safety Officers provided in Quedgeley.</li></ul>	Police	2005/2006
<b>Effective action to deal with anti-social behaviour quickly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A new city wide Anti-Social Behaviour Unit established to deal with poor behaviour.</li></ul>	Police, Gloucester City Council and local landlords	2005/2006
<b>Extend police office opening hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Request being submitted to Police Authority.</li></ul>	Police	2005

The majority of feedback on crime was either to improve the responsiveness and provision of the Police or to deal with anti-social behaviour effectively. The anti-social behaviour of younger people was a big issue and this is being addressed through the priority objective identified earlier through more youth activities. The Police, working in partnership with other agencies, will increase the confidence of local people to report crime quickly.



# Objective 5:

To improve the quality and enjoyment of the local environment.

*Two thirds of households would like to see less litter on recreational spaces.*

*11% of households said that there were too few open spaces or they were too far away.*

Top three suggestions	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
<b>More litter bins</b>	• More litter bins.	Quedgeley Parish Council	2005/2006
	• Work with Tesco and other retail/takeaways to reduce litter in their surrounding area.	Quedgeley Parish Council, Tesco and retailers.	2005
<b>Increase levels of recycling</b>	• Recycling facilities for more materials	Project Team working with Gloucester City Council	2005/2006
	• Incentives for recycling, including more promotion and prizes.		
	• Work with schools to increase awareness of the need to recycle.	Project Team working with local schools	2006
<b>Increase the amount of open space</b>	• Investigate the potential for public open space, e.g at the Coach House, Tesco and Clear Water Drive sites.	Parish Council, Gloucester City Council, Gloucestershire County Council	2006-2010

Other suggestions included a community 'clean up' day with local volunteers and schools improving the open spaces in Quedgeley; working with retailers to use more sustainable packaging; and fines for littering and dog fouling. More maintenance staff was also a big suggestion which is being supported by the Parish Council.



# Objective 6:

To support Quedgeley's parents with younger children and the development of early year childcare provision.

*85% of the households with children under 5 would like to see play facilities improved or provided. Better social activities, a Toy Library, Parenting classes & improved baby changing facilities were also mentioned.*

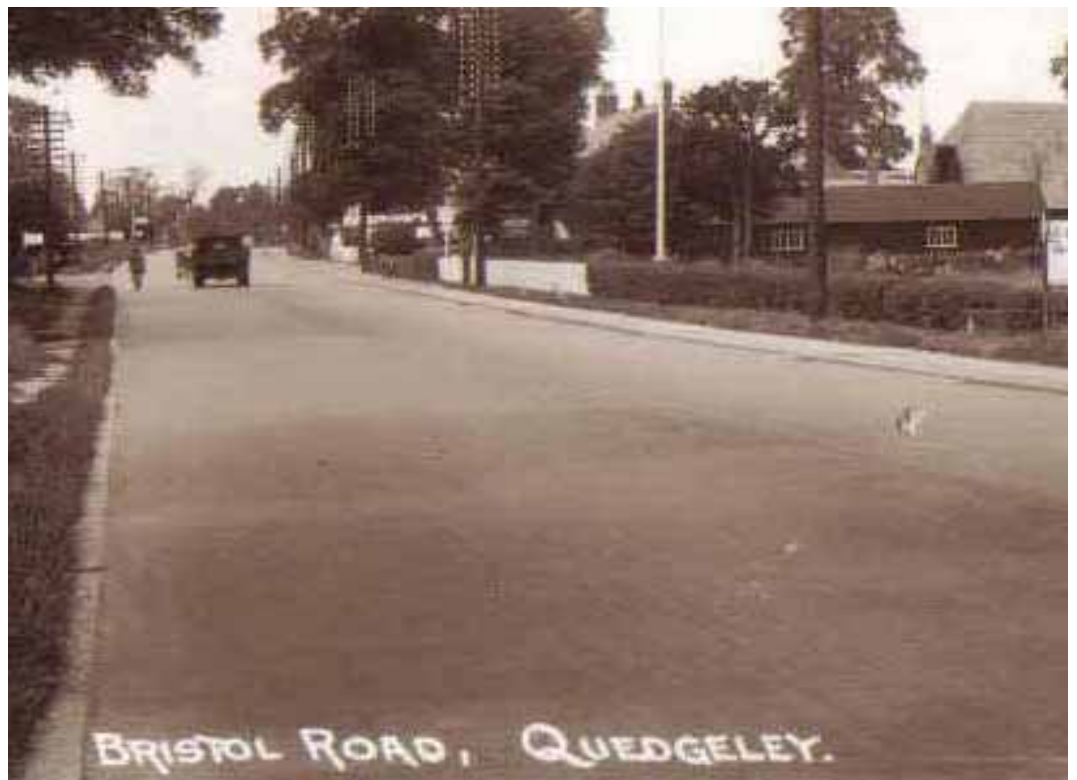
Top three suggestions	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
<b>Affordable childcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide additional affordable childcare spaces</li></ul>	Project Team working with County Council	2006/2007
<b>Play and social activities for under-5's</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving the range of activities for those under 5 years old</li><li>• Develop more toddler groups</li></ul>	Project Team working with County Council	2006
<b>Working with parents to Provide the support they need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop 'parent' social networks</li><li>• Supporting parents to go back to work, e.g. providing training courses.</li></ul>	Project Team working with County Council	2006/2007

Other suggestions included increasing the range of family-orientated activities and outings, providing pre- and post-school nurseries, extending library opening times to enable access for parents in the evening, and providing more baby-changing facilities.



# The following partners have been involved in the development of this plan





## Quedgeley Parish Plan 2005-2010

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