

Review Date – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007

## Parish Plan Monitoring: Short Term Actions Completed By End of April 2007

Vision	Action	Lead	Comments On Progress
<b>A: HEALTH, POLICE &amp; FIRE SERVICES</b>			
A safer environment, and information on services available	Collect and distribute information on Mobile Police Station services and give non-urgent contact telephone number.	Each Ward	<i>Bisley:</i> Completed – Included in Bisley News, with 6 monthly updates/reviews. <i>Eastcombe:</i> Completed – Displayed on Notice Board & PC Website. <i>Oakridge:</i> Completed - Regularly up-dated in What's On and on Notices.
Readily accessible health services for all	Collect and distribute information on what health services are available, and how to gain access to them.	Parish Council	Information collated: see attached Report A1. Information to be put on the Website and in Welcome Packs.
Quicker response times for the emergency services	Check quality of maps currently held by the emergency services	Each Ward (with Peter Thorp overall lead?)	Completed: See attached Report A2 (April 07 Village Newsletter entry).
	If necessary, assist in improving/updating maps	Each Ward	Completed: See attached Report A2 (April 07 Village Newsletter entry).
	Work with emergency services to identify constraints (eg, access problems, shortage of hydrants)	Each Ward	Completed: See attached Report A2 (April 07 Village Newsletter entry).
	Encourage residents to ensure that their house names/numbers are clearly marked.	Each Ward	<i>Bisley:</i> Completed - Item included in Bisley News (Dec 06). <i>Eastcombe:</i> Completed – Item in March 07 Eastcombe Newsletter. <i>Oakridge:</i> Completed – Item in What's On Aug/Sep 06.
Greater home safety awareness	Invite Fire Service to come to villages to talk about fire safety in the home	Each Ward	Completed: Contact Details for free Home Fire Safety Checks given in April 07 Village Newsletters. <i>Also note:</i> <i>Bisley: Spring/Summer 07, Tuesday Club &amp; WI.</i>

			<i>Eastcombe: WI interested in inviting the Fire Service. Oakridge: Consider inviting to Village Show</i>
<b>B: EDUCATION &amp; SCHOOLS</b>			
Free bus transport for all children	Lobby the local education authority to change rules to give free bus travel for journeys less than 3 miles.	Parish Council	Completed; see attached Report B1. For new actions arising, see "New Recommendations Section"
<b>C: SOCIAL &amp; CULTURAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Produce regular events digest to insert in village newsletters.	Accept Bisley resident's offer (Sue Bradley) to compile and deliver	Bisley	Completed: "What's On" section created on the PC Web site.
Produce a 'Welcome Pack' for each parish	Parish Councils to research, agree funds for, put together and deliver as appropriate.	Each Ward	<i>Bisley: Still under research – Moved to the Medium Term Action List. Eastcombe: Completed – Already available; administered by WI. Oakridge: Completed – Already available in village.</i>
Coordinate the production of an annual events calendar for the parishes	Investigate how this can be done	Parish Council	Completed: Covered by the "What's On" section of the PC Web site.
<b>D: RECREATION &amp; SPORTS</b>			
Adequate recreation areas in each village for young people	Lobby for traffic reduction/slowing schemes so young people can reach existing recreation areas without danger	Bisley	Increased police presence occurring; awaiting response from GCC Highways to extensive proposals. Bisley to pursue. Note: Action transferred to Medium Term Action List.
Maintain and where possible revitalise the allotments	Ensure accessible information about availability of allotments	Each Ward	<i>Bisley: Completed - Continuously promoted through the Bisley News and by the Allotment Committee members. Eastcombe: Completed – Eastcombe allotments over subscribed. Oakridge: Completed - covered in What's On.</i>
<b>E: TRANSPORT</b>			
All residents to have access to information about the various modes of transport available to them	Publicise information on all possible transport options for parishioners without a car (eg, young and elderly, for visiting health services, shopping, etc)	Parish Council	Completed: Transport details produced for the Parish Council website, with links to the Gloucestershire County Council website which has information on current timetables. Details of the availability of this information provided for the May 07 Village Newsletters. (See attached Report E1).

Reduced traffic through the villages	Publicise public transport timetables	Parish Council	Completed: See action above for details.
<b>F: HOUSING</b>			
Constant awareness of local housing needs	Liaise with Stroud District Council to obtain information on local housing requirements. Make information available to parishioners.	Parish Council	To be covered in the Village Design Statement.
<b>G: ECONOMY</b>			
A diverse range of successful local businesses generating wealth and providing local employment	Encourage their use by publicising details in the village newsletters, and in the Parish Directory on the parish council website	Each Ward, plus PC for Web	<i>Bisley:</i> Completed - Included in Bisley News (Feb 07). <i>Eastcombe:</i> Completed – Advertised on the PC Website. <i>Oakridge:</i> See if can re-issue local village directory – Moved to Medium Term Action List
The continued existence of viable and successful village shops and post offices	Make parishioners aware of local shops by publicising details and opening hours in the village newsletters, and in the Parish Directory on the parish council website.	Each Ward, plus PC for Web	<i>Bisley:</i> Completed - Always promoted in Bisley News (Parish Web site to be advertised). <i>Eastcombe:</i> Completed – On the PC Website, and opening times displayed on shops. <i>Oakridge:</i> Completed – Only one shop, and opening times displayed.
Practical support for local businesses	Investigate the availability of funding for training and business development	Parish Council	Completed: PC Clerk has a pack on Grant Information. Village Newsletters advised Parishioners of this.
<b>H: LANDSCAPE &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>			
A beautiful landscape for working, recreation and wildlife	Publicise availability of grants.	Parish Council	Completed: See action above. Details of DEFRA, AONB & SDC Websites added to the PC Clerk's pack of information on Grant Information.
Our villages to maintain their unique character and size with minimal new build	Consider producing a Village Design Statement to document the characteristics of each settlement, which should be considered by Stroud District Council in their Local development Plan.	Parish Council	Completed: Parish Council setting up Village Design Statement Working Group in Jan/Feb 07. Report to be produced by August 2008.

## **Parish Plan: Short Term Actions**

### **New Recommendations Arising (Added to Medium Term Action List)**

1. Eastcombe Ward Councillors and Miserden Parish Councillors explore the issues of Free Bus Transport in more depth with their schools to see where and in what respect Parish Council support would be helpful to their concerns. Bisley Ward addresses the issues of safety at bus stops as part of their transport work (it is already doing this)
2. The Parish Council encourages all schools and parents to take advantage of the work that the Schools Travel Plan section of the County Council undertakes,
3. Through newsletters and other local publicity, the PC ensures that all parents are aware of the health and environmental impact of transporting children to school by car encouraging them to reduce travel to school by car

## Report A1

### MAIN HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR PARISHIONERS

#### **NHS Direct (0845-4647):**

24 hour advice and information

#### **Accident & Emergency Services (24 hour):**

- Stroud Hospital (01453-562200)
- Cirencester Hospital (01285-655711)

#### **General Practice:**

Frithwood Surgery in Bussage is the most local practice for the Parish. Details of other surgeries can be found in the telephone directory.

#### **Frithwood Surgery – (08444-778617):**

(8 - 12.30, 13.30 - 18.30; Monday – Friday)

- General Practitioners
- Nurse for over 75s
- District Nurses
- Health Visitor
- Midwife
- Physiotherapist
- Massage Therapist
- Counsellor
- Practice Nurse; Clinics include
  - Ante & Post-natal care
  - Baby immunisation
  - Diabetes
  - Asthma
  - Travel
  - Coronary Heart Disease
  - Weight Loss
  - Well-woman
  - Well-man
  - Minor operations
- **Out Of Hours Service: 08454 220220**

**Chiropody:** Beeches Green Health Centre

#### **Transport schemes to help patients without cars include the following:**

1. Frithwood Surgery has a list of volunteer drivers. They are all patients at the surgery and are happy to take other patients to and from appointments at the surgery.
2. The Stroud Volunteer Bureau operate a Volunteer Car Service for people who cannot use public transport. They can be contacted on 01453 759005.
3. There is a new minibus service, Service 295, run by Gloucestershire County Council, and passengers must book in advance for travel on this service – 01452 423598 – for personal pick up and drop off times.

## Report A2

### PARISH COUNCIL. Help our 999 Services to help us:

As part of our Parish Plan we have been trying to assist the emergency services by updating any plans/maps they have of our areas. However not all the "blue light" services use the same systems and certainly the ambulance and police service may be sent from further afield than Stroud, therefore maps and local knowledge might not be of a great deal of use.

The ambulance service use the 6 figure Ordnance Survey map details to 'home in' on addresses for example, so if you know what that is then by all means use it when making a 999 call. For the Police and Fire Service then your postcode is the most effective way of identifying your property. Obviously the more details you can provide, house name/number, street/road/lane etc and any local nearby landmark (pubs/churches) will all help.

If you are in a particularly inaccessible place where you suspect an may have difficulty in getting through to, then give the emergency service this information as the Fire and Ambulance Service can make alternative arrangements and respond with smaller vehicles, however it is always worthwhile going down to a main road where possible and guiding the particular service into your property.

Check that your house is easily identifiable from the roadway, look yourself to see if you could read the name or number of your property if you were driving by.

### Free Fire Safety Advice

Did you know that Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service offer a free Home Fire Safety Check Scheme and that you can get free smoke detectors fitted in your home?

To arrange a visit at your convenience call 0800 180 41 40.

P. Thorp.



<b>Report B1</b>
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**PARISH PLAN:  
Analysis of Response from Schools re Free Bus Transport Request**

<b>School</b>	<b>Response</b>
Thomas Keble Secondary School	<p>690 pupils; 40% use bus transport. 246 have bus passes of which 34 are from the Bisley Parish.</p> <p>The % using buses continues to fall because the popularity of the school makes it harder for parents outside the catchments area to gain a place.</p> <p>Head Teacher is keen to support any PC initiative that is in the interests of his pupils</p>
Bisley Bluecoat Primary School	<p>69 pupils; No child uses bus transport.</p> <p>Comment that it is up to parents to arrange with LEA not the school. Also school thinks that it is better for parents to use cars because children would otherwise have to start / end earlier / later which may not be suitable as there is no supervision by school; children would have to have transport to bus stops as many live down country lanes.</p> <p>Comment that bus stops in Bisley should be upgraded / made safer especially for secondary school pupils picked up / dropped off in Cheltenham Road.</p>
Eastcombe Primary School	<p>80 pupils; No child uses bus transport; c45 come by car. HT is attending a training session on school travel plans and hopes to set up a walking bus to encourage more to walk to school</p>
Miserden Primary School	<p>68 pupils; No child has free bus transport although their area has been designated a 'dangerous route'. There is concern amongst parents re school transport</p>

The above is a synopsis of my research. All responded except Oakridge School (3 e-mails).

## POLICY BACKGROUND

Parents make the applications direct to the County Council Education Entitlement Unit as individuals. Their applications are assessed on certain criteria.

The eligibility criteria for Primary School free travel is based on the child attending the nearest school – and for under 8 years old it would be within 2 miles, and for over 8 years it is under 3 miles. Secondary school pupils is under 3 mile unless they move within their GCSE year in which efforts are made not to disrupt their studies by refusing free travel.

The Entitlement Unit then passes the eligible families to the Integrated Transport Unit who then make the travel passes available for either buses (if available) or taxis.

There is a Schools Travel Plan section in the Environment Planning Directorate (01452 583 559). They organise training and planning for schools who wish to draw up travel plans, such as ‘walking buses’ and the like.

## CONCLUSION

The mixed response from schools is notable. Thomas Keble and Miserden Schools have the greatest need and / or concerns. Eastcombe School is taking its travel plan aspirations seriously and working on it without Parish Council involvement. From its response Bisley School does not seem to perceive this area of school attendance as any of its direct responsibility, (or interest) and presumably the same goes for Oakridge, which did not reply at all.

If the Parish Plan is to undertake more work and develop this issue to a further stage then we need to examine where the call for a campaign in the Parish Plan came from - was it just from parents of children attending Eastcombe and Miserden schools?

As councillors carrying out the required actions of the Parish Plan I believe we have to take the issue seriously so I recommend that:

1. Eastcombe Ward Councillors and Miserden Parish Councillors explore the issues in more depth with their schools to see where and in what respect Parish Council support would be helpful to their concerns. Bisley Ward addresses the issues of safety at bus stops as part of their transport work (it is already doing this)
2. The Parish Council encourages all schools and parents to take advantage of the work that the Schools Travel Plan section of the County Council undertakes,
3. Through newsletters and other local publicity, the PC ensures that all parents are aware of the health and environmental impact of transporting children to school by car encouraging them to reduce travel to school by car

Lesley Greene  
On behalf of the PP

## Report E1

### Transport:

Vision: All residents to have access to information about the various modes of transport available to them

For many people living in rural areas such as ours getting about can be difficult especially for those without their own means of transport, which usually means a car. This page is intended to provide information on various means of transport which may suit your own particular circumstances, where appropriate we have provided links to other information systems, in particular the Gloucestershire County Council website [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Here you can access the "Transport and Roads" page where the following information is available;

#### "Transport"

On this page you can Search and download Bus Timetables; these are listed by Districts so by clicking on Stroud you can view what may be the most appropriate information for you initially in planning your journey. There is also a link to the Village Link bus services, which provide more journey possibilities than the conventional bus routes. In particular here you can explore the Village Night Bus, which is proving particularly popular for the youngsters who are not yet car owners and for the car owners who just fancy a relaxing social night in Stroud without the consideration of drinking and driving.

Information on Concessionary Fares is also included on this page.

Rail information is also available under "Public Transport – bus and train information" this page also has a link to National Rail website [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) so you can plan your rail journey as well.

"Private Transport" will take you to the "Car Club" link, which is an innovative scheme launched by the Stroud Valleys Car Club where, instead of owning your own car with the associated costs you share a car through a small annual membership fee and only pay further when you actually use it (cost per hour and per mile).

#### "Accessible and Flexible Transport"

Community transport is the provision of transport for those people who would otherwise be stranded. These groups of people include the elderly, those with disabilities and those with no bus service or car. A2Binfo is a one-stop shop for your transport enquiries giving you details about what is available in your village, how you can access it and where you can use it.

#### "Gloucestershire Mini-Bus Scheme"

Perhaps you have a community, youth or school group but cannot afford to own and run your own mini-bus permanently; if so this scheme has been designed to make an existing owned mini-bus available to you for occasional use.

#### "Schools Transport"

Here you will find details of how to obtain bus passes, free home to school information and if in Higher Education what entitlements you have as far as student loans are concerned to cover transport needs



### Cycling:

With growing concerns about our health and the need to take more exercise and quite rightly, concerns about the environment, many more people are considering cycling, be it to work, shopping or just for leisure. On the Private Transport webpage there is information about the Cycle Network routes of Gloucestershire including the 6-mile Stroud Valleys Pedestrian Cycle Trail. For those interested in getting started there is also a list of local cycle shops together with info on cycle hire and holidays.

June 2007 sees the production of the Stroud Cycling map which indicates busyness of roads plus places of interest and is a great source of information including the Pot Holes Hotline 0800 514514 together with a chance to organised local evening and weekend rides (which always include a pub!). Contact Shiela Booth 01453 762233 for a copy of their leaflet "Uphill" and membership details.

### Walking:

Whilst we may seem a little isolated within Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge places such as Stroud are actually not that far away if you have a little more time at your disposal. There are a number of pleasant walks into the town, which do not mean you have to risk life and limb walking along our main roads, for example from Catswood via Swifts Hill and Summer Street you can be in Stroud within 40 mins (a bit longer coming back up, but the exercise will be worth it!). From Eastcombe go through Fennels Farm, down LimeKiln Lane or via the Heavens and eventually to the top of Bisley Road whilst from Oakridge you have a pleasant walk along the canal.

### Horseback:

When the oil finally runs out we might have to go back to horsepower. Many local people already ride for pleasure but as petrol becomes more scarce and expensive we might get out those old traps and gigs out of the barns and onto the roads again!!