

- YOUR COMMUNITY PLAN - - The Future For Tidworth Community Area - - 2003 - 2013 -

- What is the Community Plan?.....
- Strategy for the Community Area
- The Plan for Tidworth Community Area

Welcome to the Plan for Tidworth Community Area. The plan is divided into three sections which can be accessed using the buttons at the top of the page.

TIDWORTH COMMUNITY AREA THE FUTURE 2003 - 2013



The Plan covers the parishes of:

- Chute • Chute Forest • Collingbourne Ducis •
- Collingbourne Kingston • Everleigh • Ludgershall •
- Tidcombe and Fosbury • Tidworth (including Perham Down) •

The production of this Plan is supported by the regional Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, which is managed by a group comprising the Government Office for the South West, the South West Regional Assembly, the South West Regional Development Agency, the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, the Housing Corporation, South West Area Network of Rural Community Councils and South West Lottery Funders.



Our thanks go to the many people who have contributed to the Plan by attending consultations and meeting, giving their time to ensure that the Plan is inclusive of the whole Community Area.

If you want to know more about the information in this Plan or have ideas on future actions to be included in the next version of the Plan, please contact:

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Tel: 01380 734821 E-mail: val.powley@kennet.gov.uk**


OR

**Steve Lawton, Chair of Market & Coastal Towns Initiative Working
Group, at Tidworth Development Trust, 3 Melksham House, Wylde
Road,
Tidworth, SP9 7QQ.
Tel: 01980 846693 E-mail: steve@tidworthtrust.co.uk**

We want to involve you!

If you want advice on putting together a project around one or more of the themes in this Community Plan, please also contact Val Powley or Steve Lawton on the numbers above.

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The Vision

Over the next 30 years the vision is the continuing improvement of the living and working environment to create a fair and vibrant Community Area and to encourage greater participation of residents in decisions that affect them.

What is the Community Plan?

This Plan deals with the first 10 years of work towards the 30 year vision for the Community Area. We have been given an opportunity to carry out a community planning process, from a range of regional partners including the South West Regional Development Agency, through a fund called the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative. In addition, the Government requires local authorities to undertake community planning to ensure that the services they deliver are responsive to the needs and wishes of the community. It was decided by the local Partnership (Tidworth Community Area Partnership) at Community Area level, that the two things should be combined. Both require the development of a plan that will be used by the public authorities to steer the development of projects that respond to the needs and wishes of the community. This Plan will also be used by the Partnership to attract external funding from the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative and other sources. Opportunities have been and will continue to be taken to encourage and help members of the local community to become involved.

The Plan is the result of intensive activity. Key officers, councillors and others, from Wiltshire County Council, Kennet District Council, health, police, the army and the voluntary and private sectors, plus residents of the Community Area, have been working to put together a plan that will improve the quality of life for the people who live, work or stay in the Community Area.

The Plan is based on views of the public, which have been sought through various means including research panels, People's Voice (18+) and Tomorrow's Voice (13-18) with 300 and 150 members respectively, and also through consultation fora. These included two events held in Tidworth College, the first for organisations, agencies, and individuals when approximately 110 people attended and the second for young people attended by 54. All residents received a copy of the draft Plan and amendments/comments were invited. Other consultation has taken place where further comments have been gathered. All comments have been considered and changes made as appropriate.



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Your Partnership

Tidworth Community Area Partnership

A number of bodies are responsible for delivering the Plan. The Partnership (known locally as TCAP) is made up of agencies and organisations, including the voluntary sector, which are making significant contributions to the delivery of the Plan.

The Partnership generally meets quarterly to ensure that the actions in the Plan are put into place by the organisations responsible.



Keeping You Informed

This Plan is a summary of a more detailed strategy and action plan, which will be updated regularly. The summary plan will be re-issued every 4 years.

The detailed action plan will be available for public scrutiny and any significant changes or additions to this Plan will be communicated to the public through the newspapers and other channels of communication.



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Areas of Work will take Account of these Criteria

Sustainability - the heart of sustainable development is looking for a better quality of life for people today and making sure that it can be handed on to their children and grandchildren. That means economic, social and environmental issues have to be considered together not separately.

Support of Partners - are all the organisations/ agencies who are vital to the success of a project included in discussing, implementing and resourcing it?

Impact - how will the work improve the quality of life for people in the Community Area whether it is economically, socially, environmentally or agriculturally? Will there be any negative effects?

Integration - ensuring that work carried out under the name of the Community Area Partnership complements rather than detracts from the delivery of existing services.

Funding - will there be money available from within the Partnership, or from outside, not only to start the work but also to sustain it over a period of time?

Uniqueness - tailoring actions to the specific need within the Community Area.

Achievability - being able to deliver agreed projects on time and within budget.

Value for Money - will the project be successful enough to justify the money spent on it?

Equality and Diversity - this Strategy and Action Plan complies with the Government's objective to promote equality of opportunity to access all services, working towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination.



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The Community Area Strategy

The community wants to respond to the many changes it faces, by taking action in ways which do not spoil what we have, but rather protect and improve things for the future.

In that context, the aim is to create a stronger community by bringing the civilian and military communities closer together and providing services and facilities within the Community Area to which all have access.

Local needs assessments have suggested that the community should concentrate on the economy, health and transport as key issues. This has been endorsed through community consultation. More local jobs, better shopping opportunities, improved healthcare and integrated transport facilities are requirements at the heart of this strategic Plan.

The Plan will help to support local distinctiveness, building and benefiting from the military presence in the area as an advantage, and enabling both civilian and military populations to benefit from new developments. It is imperative that the rural communities have access to services and facilities through good transport links and/or outreach facilities. The community will develop a greater sense of belonging and pride of place as people do more things at a local level.

The young people of the community will be encouraged to think more about their future locally and what they can do to improve things for themselves and others.

The rest of this document sets out how things might be improved by the community, as a whole, working together to deliver the actions set out in this Plan.



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Your Objectives for the Community Area

Shops, post offices, pubs, churches, school halls, meeting rooms and petrol stations with shops provide places for community interaction. New developments will help to address the imbalance between the military and civilian communities and limit the problems caused by the fluctuating numbers of military personnel and their dependants. Tidworth and Ludgershall, in particular, need to strengthen their roles as service, leisure and shopping centres for the Community Area. These settlements offer the best prospect for attracting more employment and introducing more sustainable modes of transport.

Below are the key objectives we will be working towards:

The Community Area will offer:

- Healthy and vibrant villages for the rural population;
- Good communication and consultation between all its inhabitants;
- A diverse and healthy economy with quality local jobs on offer;
- A place where people, now and in the future, can enjoy the cultural, heritage and wildlife riches of the area;
- A place where leisure and sports are enjoyed by people of all ages;
- Access for young people to good schools, high quality support services and a good range of social activities;
- Access to learning/training for all age groups;
- A safe place in which to live and work;
- A place where a full range of health services continues to be made available;
- An area that has an ever improving and well-supported voluntary sector;
- A place where housing of all types is provided to meet local need;
- Support for improvement of public transport between settlements that is also affordable;
- Attraction of more employment opportunities.

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Where Are We Now?

As identified by the community at various consultation events.

STRENGTHS

- Good partnership working between statutory authorities, residents, the military, voluntary agencies and support networks with commitment for change;
- Tidworth Development Trust with Tempo, 'e-info', Early Years Development, Community Development and Economic Development work;
- Long-term vision and good track record in making things happen;
- Good track record in attracting funding from outside the area to make things happen;
- Good road links and a military rail link;
- Good educational facilities including Tidworth College and schools;
- Good sports and leisure facilities;
- Positive police action and low crime rate;
- Beautiful countryside (Salisbury Plain and the North Wessex Downs - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) with attractive villages.



WEAKNESSES

- Lack of private housing including affordable housing;
- Poor external image of Tidworth and Ludgershall;
- Rural/urban divide and predominant military population;
- Lack of facilities for all age groups;
- Low educational attainment;
- Not enough attention paid to rural areas;
- Transport from rural areas to facilities is scarce and expensive;
- Distance from wider retail choice;
- Lack of a family pub and restaurant in Tidworth;
- Lack of secondary and intermediate healthcare provision.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing economic activities and developing more locally-based industries;
- Development potential including Castledown Business Park;
- Attraction of a greater mix of retail outlets;
- Expanding the range of educational services currently available to increase skills levels for all age groups;
- Better Internet and IT connections, including broadband;
- External funding to improve and increase transport links and facilities;
- Making the most of the unique wildlife rich area of Salisbury Plain and North Wessex Downs;
- Improving sports and leisure facilities for all;
- To utilise further the skills and knowledge of local people in developing and sustaining improvements to their community;
- To provide more civilian housing including affordable housing;
- External funding opportunities;
- Increase communication across the Community Area using local radio and newsletters, etc.;
- New military healthcare facility and the redevelopment of both civilian branch surgeries in Tidworth;
- Opening of new Garrison Auditorium raises potential for local film venue.



THREATS

- Limited availability of land for development/housing;
- Difficulty in reconciling different points of view from the community. This could hinder progress in development, housing schemes, etc. potentially resulting in a weaker economy;
- Continued imbalance of civilian population to the military;
- Increased level of military operational deployment away from permanent bases leads directly to trading difficulties for the retail sector.

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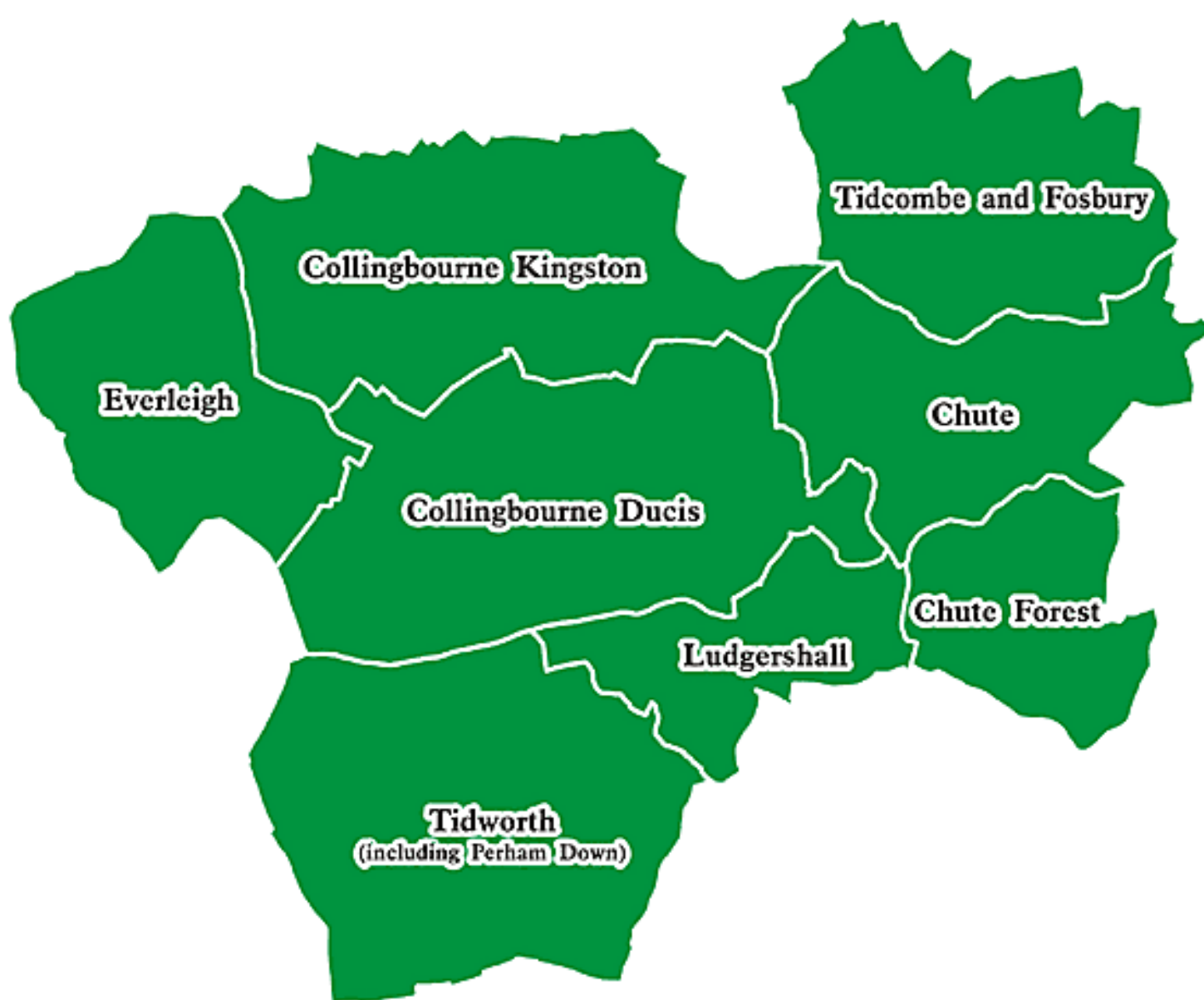
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YOUR COMMUNITY PLAN

- Chute • Chute Forest • Collingbourne Ducis • Collingbourne • Kingston • Everleigh • Ludgershall • Tidcombe and Fosbury • Tidworth (including Perham Down) •

(all actions relate to the whole Community Area unless they refer to a specific location)



Communication

Getting information to people at the right time and in the right way, and enabling them to comment, discuss and put forward opinions on local services needs to be more effective. We will be working with the community to ensure that all aspects of communication are improved.

- **Develop and implement a Communication Strategy for the Community Area.**
- **Support moves to offer broadband throughout the Community Area to encourage business relocation and operation.**
- **Develop and integrate provision of IT facilities and computer-based communication in the Community Area in order to improve access to information.**
- **Investigate innovative ways to improve communication throughout the Community Area - could include a radio project and other projects through development of the Communications Strategy.**



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Health and Social Care

In general, the Community Area has excellent primary and community health services. How these services are developed for the future is currently limited by the facilities and infrastructures available. New housing in the area increases the need for adequate, accessible health care. With no secondary or intermediate health care services available in the Community Area, it is essential that developments in technology be exploited to enable more health care services to be provided locally in ways that are appropriate for the population and the 21st Century.

- **Development and improvement of appropriate healthcare facilities and services in the Community Area.**
- **Ensure adequate childcare provision to release parents and carers for employment or training.**
- **Better facilities/access for the disabled.**
- **Supply enough supported housing for vulnerable people.**
- **Better services for older people to encourage independence.**
- **Activities to encourage people with learning disabilities to enjoy independence.**
- **Support and guidance of people recovering from mental illness back into the community.**
- **Supporting families through rurally based services.**
- **Supporting children with additional needs.**
- **Promotion of healthy lifestyles through Tidworth Leisure Centre.**
- **Promotion of complementary therapies locally (where appropriate).**



Housing and the Built Environment

The County Council's Structure Plan requires an additional 7000 houses to be built in the Kennet district between 1991 and 2011. About 4400 of these have already been built or are currently committed. In the Community Area, about 480 houses have already been built or are under construction and about 50 more have outstanding planning permission. A further 280 houses are proposed for development in the Replacement Kennet Local Plan. All new major housing developments will have to provide an equal proportion of Affordable Housing and Open Market Housing. Affordable housing will be provided as either Low Cost Rented Housing, Shared Equity Housing or Low Cost Housing for sale to local people. A significant new employment site, Castledown Business Park, is being developed adjacent to the railway sidings at Ludgershall.

It is important to ensure that the form and type of new housing reflects local housing needs and the Community Area's local historic character. Services and facilities to support new residents should be available as new houses are built. Local people will be involved in the preparation of planning briefs for significant new developments and their views sought when preparing future plans for the provision of community facilities, recreation space, public transport and recycling facilities.

- **Release of land for development.**
- **The statutory authorities to review the legal mechanism to release land at less than market value to achieve the aims of the Community Area Plan.**
- **Provision of a mix of business premises and starter units.**
- **Investigate self-build housing schemes.**
- **Provision of affordable housing in a mix of styles.**
- **Improve energy efficiency of new and existing buildings, particularly for those on low incomes or in poor health.**

- **Energy efficiency-advice surgeries and promotion.**
- **Provide a new multi-purpose Community Resource Centre to house key services to serve the Community Area, based in Tidworth.**
- **Support the existence of multi-use community centres/village halls/meeting places throughout the Community Area.**
- **Explore ways that schools can be used more as a community resource.**
- **Improve the quality of the built environment.**
- **Improve the environment of shopping centres to encourage retailers to move to the area.**



Transport


The community has identified the requirement for an affordable and integrated transport network throughout the community area as a priority. The main areas of concern are conventional bus service provision, extension of the Wiltshire Wiggly Bus network and community/voluntary transport. Safe footpaths and cycleways between and within the various settlements in the area are also considered important to enable people to access services in a sustainable way.

- **Develop a comprehensive Community Area Transport Plan identifying priorities for improvement of services and choice. This should include public transport, footpaths, cycling network and possibly quiet lanes and should address the question of by-passes, taking local views into account.**
- **Support community initiatives dealing with traffic volumes and speeds and highway maintenance, etc., in local neighbourhoods.**
- **Provision of a safe space for taxis to wait for fares in Tidworth.**
- **Investigate use of military railhead at Ludgershall for civilian use, taking local views into account.**



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Crime and Community Protection

This Community Area is within one of the safest counties in the country and has the lowest level of crime and disorder in Wiltshire. We need to maintain these low levels and, where possible, achieve a reduction.

The Kennet Community Safety Partnership, which is a statutory partnership between Kennet District Council, Wiltshire County Council, the police (comprising Wiltshire Constabulary, the Military Police and Ministry of Defence Police) and the Army, is working closely with a wide range of other organisations, including the voluntary sector, to tackle the various issues connected with crime and disorder.

This partnership's work also extends to the wider agenda of community safety linked to issues such as fear of crime and preventative measures (including tackling the social causes of crime) through community-based work and consultation.

A crime and disorder audit carried out in 2001, established that the main concerns of the community are domestic violence, youth issues, drug and alcohol misuse, burglary, vehicle and town centre crime, road safety, anti-social behaviour, and crimes against vulnerable people. In order to address the findings of the audit, this partnership has produced a 3-year strategy for community safety. Crime reduction priorities have been set with regard to 3 inter-related elements of criminal activity - behaviour, people and places.

- **Implement action to tackle vehicle crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour and hate-crime.**
- **Implement action to tackle careless, reckless or dangerous behaviour by road users.**
- **Implement preventative measures against drug and alcohol problems with young people and adults.**
- **Develop measures to support victims of domestic violence and prevent repeat victimisation.**
- **Tackle problems in places where certain crimes are more prevalent ('warm' spots) and in isolated communities.**



The Economy

There is a need for more employment opportunities in the area to provide local jobs for the available labour force without them travelling out of the area. The retention of existing and development of a wider range of retail facilities throughout the area is a high priority. Developments in the major settlements should be linked to the rural areas with good transport facilities, leading to greater cohesion and creating a living and working countryside and villages ensuring a balance between the needs of the economy and the countryside.

- **Commission and implement an Economic Development Strategy for the Community Area.**
- **Work to retain village shops and post offices and resist pub closures. Find innovative ways of using non-retail outlets to house key facilities where they are under threat of closing.**
- **Attract more shops to the retail centres in Tidworth and Ludgershall, including nationwide High Street names, subject to the Economic Development Strategy.**
- **Develop Castledown Business Park to provide jobs and facilities for local people.**
- **Lobby for release of land for building starter units and other business premises. Re-use of brownfield sites where possible, including under-used agricultural buildings.**
- **Support and promote local food producers and encourage the development of**

links between local suppliers/producers and local consumers.

- **Support the development of local products, tourism and marketing of the area.**
- **Identify potential niche markets and branding for the Community Area.**
- **Seek to support the provision of mobile services e.g. mobile shops, delivery services, post office and library service.**



Education and Life Long Learning

Assess the skills shortage within the area and match this to training programmes, working with existing educational providers. Ensure that the local community has the opportunities to access training to develop their skills to enable them to take a full part in community life particularly people living in social or rural isolation or those who are housebound or disabled.

- **Identify skills needs and gaps in the area and develop and implement an Action Plan to address these.**
- **Work with the primary and secondary schools and other agencies in helping young people develop their full potential, including achievement of qualifications.**
- **Improve access to further education and distance learning and promote IT skills.**
- **Support use of public access computers and regular education activities for all in local libraries.**
- **Lobby to ensure primary and junior school provision is sufficient to meet the demand of additional troops being stationed in Tidworth and Perham Down.**




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Culture and Leisure

A thriving leisure and cultural environment brings the community together. There is a need to improve leisure, sporting, arts and cultural facilities and opportunities to participate throughout the Community Area, making them accessible to all. There is a need for more cultural and arts activities. Ensure that community facilities and events are encouraged in the villages and rural areas. Work will be taken forward within the context of the Kennet Cultural Strategy.

- **Sustain the provision of comprehensive leisure facilities at the Tidworth Leisure Centre.**
- **Provision of fixed and mobile skateboard and BMX facilities for the area.**
- **Provision of a new Garrison Auditorium in Tidworth with the possibility of combining with theatre/cinema facilities, available for civilian use.**
- **Improvement of sports, arts and entertainment facilities across the area.**
- **Encourage a wide range of music and arts events in the area and attract top class events.**
- **Family pub/restaurant/wine bar in Tidworth.**
- **Support and promote existing community events such as Village Carnivals, Blue Light Day, etc.**
- **Promote and encourage existing/new community groups.**
- **Support the work and continuation of youth organisations and groups and sports clubs, including those run on a voluntary basis, and the provision of youth cafés or one-stop shops for young people.**
- **Improve participation by young people in community life and decision making processes, creating opportunities for young people to work together as one, designing and developing their community.**
- **Encourage community involvement and volunteering, particularly among young people.**



Countryside and Land Based

Maintain the locally distinctive environment, which is central to the quality of life, and ensure easy access to it. This includes parts of Salisbury Plain internationally recognised for both richness of wildlife and archaeology. We should acknowledge the contribution of the farming community to the protection of the land.

The whole community, working together, can build on the strengths, tackle the deterioration and celebrate the area's 'wealth'. Sustainability can be improved through reducing waste and increasing energy conservation. Brownfield sites can be restored and used wherever possible for rebuilding instead of greenfield sites.

- **Maintain the distinctive character of the Community Area with non-intrusive access to it where possible.**
- **Respect and support North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.**
- **Enhance the environment of the River Bourne Valley.**
- **More community nature reserves. Manage some public open spaces for wildlife and improve access to them. Encourage community involvement, particularly of young people .**
- **Investigate possibilities for developing a country park.**
- **Ensure that development takes place in a manner that enhances, rather than spoils, the environment.**

- **Improve and promote waste recycling and waste minimisation, providing new facilities where needed.**

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