



Chaddleworth Community Plan 2025

Note: For approval Chaddleworth Parish Council

Note: For approval by West Berkshire Council

Date: 25th February 2026

Version: DRAFT

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1. Acknowledgements

- The 80% of Chaddleworth households who completed the survey, providing invaluable insight into our community's needs and aspirations
- The Chaddleworth Community Plan Steering Group (CCP) members who volunteered their time throughout 2025-2026: Lee Allen, Kevin Brady, Philip Cole, Mike Griffiths, Karen Hoar, Gill Hunter, David Jennings, Piers King (Chairman), Martyn Lisby, Sue Ridgeway, David Young.
- The additional door-to-door volunteers who ensured maximum participation across all areas of the parish including Kathryn Stockwell and Jackie Wilburn Wilde.
- The IbeX Inn, Chaddleworth Village Hall and CCP team for supporting survey collection.
- West Berkshire Council, particularly Rhys and the Community Planning team, for guidance and support at the beginning of the process.
- Local organisations and stakeholders who contributed feedback during the consultation phase.
- Chaddleworth Parish Council for administrative support, funding and coordination.
- Nikkie at The Alpha Xperience for helping with design and print of our surveys, envelopes, posters and flyers, often at short timescales.

2. Background

Chaddleworth last produced a Community Plan over 10 years ago. It is updating its Community Plan in 2025/26 to create a comprehensive vision for the parish over the next five years. This plan provides a framework for community-led improvements and gives the parish a stronger voice in discussions with West Berkshire Council and other agencies.

What is a Community Plan?

A Community Plan is a 5-year vision or blueprint of what residents want to see delivered in their area. This could include anything from improved footpath connections, better communication channels, enhanced village facilities, or new community activities and events.

The types of issues typically covered include village services and amenities, traffic management, environmental improvements, community activities, communications, and support for local businesses and residents of all ages.

Why Chaddleworth Needs a Community Plan

The benefits of having an adopted Community Plan include:

- Giving residents the opportunity to express their views and take control over how they want to see their community develop
- Providing clear published evidence of community needs and priorities which can be referred to as a formal record
- Creating a real sense of community spirit - increased volunteering often follows the adoption of a Community Plan
- Helping West Berkshire Council determine more accurately how local services are delivered in our area
- Securing grant funding both via West Berkshire's Community Plan Grant Fund and other funding opportunities
- Better partnership working with local groups, stakeholders and agencies on specified projects
- Stronger links between the community and Chaddleworth Parish Council, encouraging cooperation and understanding

The Chaddleworth Context

Chaddleworth is a rural parish in West Berkshire, characterised by its peaceful countryside setting, strong community spirit, and dispersed settlement pattern. The parish includes several distinct areas including Upper End, Botmoor, Main Street and Nodmore and more remote areas such as Oak Ash, Glenn Miller Close as well as a number of farms and isolated dwellings.

With The IbeX Inn and Chaddleworth Village Hall providing space for activities and events, with St Andrew's Church, Chaddleworth School, The IbeX Inn, Chaddleworth Cricket Club and the active Chaddleworth Parish Council, to name only some, the village has a foundation of community infrastructure to build upon. However, like many rural communities, Chaddleworth faces challenges around rural poverty, connectivity, access to services, and ensuring all residents feel engaged and informed.

3. The Community Plan Process

Chaddleworth Parish Council established a Community Plan Steering Group in early 2025 to lead the process of creating an updated Community Plan. The project was designed to achieve maximum community participation and gather comprehensive feedback on priorities for the parish.

Launch and Initial Engagement (April-May 2025)

The project was formally launched with communications in the Chaddleworth News in February 2025, introducing the concept and inviting volunteers to participate. Initial feedback sessions were held in April and May 2025, including events at the Easter Egg Hunt (20th April), Rockaoke at The Ibex Inn (2nd May), and the VE Day Beacon (8th May). A feedback wall in the church allowed residents to share ideas between events.

These early sessions generated valuable themes including:

- Strong desire for a village shop or café
- Concerns about speeding traffic, particularly on Main Street and School Hill
- Need for better footpath connections between key village locations
- Interest in community green spaces and enhanced village hall facilities
- Desire for improved communication about village activities and services

Stakeholder Consultation (May-June 2025)

During May and June 2025, the Steering Group conducted structured conversations with key stakeholders including:

- Local businesses (e.g. The Ibex Inn)
- Community organisations (e.g. Chaddleworth Village Hall, Chaddleworth Entertainments, Chaddleworth Cricket Club)
- St Andrew's Church (West Downland Benefice)
- Educational institutions (e.g. Chaddleworth and Shefford Schools)
- Local charities (Downland Volunteer Group, Bakers Trust)
- Landowners and other key interested parties

These consultations provided valuable insights into organisational needs, opportunities for collaboration, and practical considerations for implementation.

Survey Development (June-August 2025)

Based on the feedback received, the Steering Group developed a comprehensive 40 question survey organised into seven themed sections:

- Safer (safety, traffic, crime concerns)
- Communications (how information is shared and received)
- Prosperous (local economy, services, employment, connectivity)
- Healthy (wellbeing, activities, transport, facilities)
- Greener (environment, sustainability, conservation)
- Community (facilities, events, volunteering, community spirit)
- Demographics

The survey, consisting of a combination of 'quantitative' specific responses and 'qualitative' open responses, was designed to be completed per household and to take about 25 minutes.

Survey Distribution and Collection (September-October 2025)

The survey was distributed to all households in Chaddleworth through a dedicated door-to-door volunteer campaign. Volunteers visited properties across 16 designated groups to ensure comprehensive coverage. Surveys were available in paper format only as this was seen as the most inclusive and easiest method to control the distribution and responses.

The survey ran for 4 weeks during September and October 2025, with volunteers making multiple visits to ensure everyone had the opportunity to participate. Residents had the option of posting completed surveys in dedicated post boxes within the village or handing to a member of the volunteer team, who also offered to collect at agreed times.

Outstanding Response Rate

The community's response exceeded expectations. Out of approximately 189 households in the parish, 147 completed surveys were returned, representing an 80% household participation rate. This exceptional response significantly exceeded the original 75% target set to demonstrate strong community mandate.

This high participation rate means the results genuinely represent the views of the Chaddleworth community and provide the credibility needed when approaching West Berkshire Council for support and when applying for grant funding.

Survey Results and Commentary

The survey included an open-ended final question asking residents for any additional comments or suggestions for improving Chaddleworth. Capturing important themes and specific suggestions that didn't fit neatly into the other thematic areas but deserve attention, these responses are incorporated.

Appreciation for Community Planning Process

Many respondents took the opportunity to express appreciation:

- Thanks to volunteers for organising the survey and community plan process
- Recognition of the excellent work of the Parish Council
- Appreciation for those who organise village events and activities
- General expression that Chaddleworth is a wonderful place to live
- Several comments touched on preserving Chaddleworth's identity, with concern about any development that might change village feel

Analysis and Action Planning (October 2025-January 2026)

The Steering Group analysed the survey results, identifying clear priorities and areas for action. The findings were organised according to the West Berkshire Community Plan framework covering the seven thematic areas. An Action Matrix was developed identifying specific actions, timescales, lead partners, measures of success and community impact and this is incorporated into this report.

Throughout the process, the Steering Group maintained regular communication with West Berkshire Council's Community Planning team to ensure alignment with council priorities and to understand what support would be available for implementation.

Next Stages

This report was made available to the community for 4 weeks before being finalised and then presented to Chaddleworth Parish Council for approval in March 2026. Following the Parish Council endorsement, the plan will be submitted to West Berkshire Council for formal adoption, which is expected by April 2026. WBC

adoption provides official recognition of the community's priorities and strengthens our position when seeking grant funding and support for implementation.

About Enablement and Governance

The success of this Community Plan depends on effective coordination and volunteer engagement. New groups will need to be established to own and drive the action plans forward

Chaddleworth Parish Council have also identified a small seed fund to help start-up some of the projects and activities that have been requested and where volunteers are seeking to own actions.

Community Plan Steering Group - The steering group will continue to meet quarterly to monitor overall progress, coordinate between working groups, and maintain communication with West Berkshire Council. This group will review the action plan annually and update priorities as actions are completed or circumstances change.

Thematic Working Groups - Dedicated working groups will be established for key action areas identified in the plan

Funding Strategy

Implementing this ambitious action plan will require funding beyond Parish Council resources. The strategy includes:

West Berkshire Parish Plan Grant Fund - Following WBC adoption of the plan, applications will be made for grant funding to support key capital projects such as footpath improvements, recreation facilities, Village Hall enhancements, and environmental projects.

Grant Sources – Working groups will be supported to identify and apply for grants from bodies such as:

- National Lottery Community Fund
- The Greenham Trust
- Sport England (for recreation facilities)
- Woodland Trust and environmental funds (for tree planting and green spaces)
- Rural Community Energy Fund (for energy efficiency initiatives)
- LEADER funding through North Wessex Downs AONB
- Section 106 developer contributions where applicable

Community Fundraising - Some projects will be supported through community fundraising events and campaigns, building on the strong community spirit demonstrated throughout this process

Communication and Monitoring

Keeping the Community Informed - Regular updates on Community Plan implementation will be provided through:

- Chaddleworth News
- Updates on parish website and social media
- Annual Community Plan progress report presented at the Parish Meeting
- Working group updates through new communication channels being established

Annual Review - The action plan will be reviewed annually to monitor progress, celebrate completed actions, update priorities and timescales, identify and address any barriers to delivery, and add new actions as community needs evolve

Your Continued Involvement

This Community Plan belongs to everyone in Chaddleworth. Its success depends on continued community involvement beyond completing the survey. We encourage you to:

- Join a working group in an area that interests you
- Volunteer for specific activities or events that match your skills and available time
- Stay informed about progress through village communications
- Attend community events and provide feedback
- Support community initiatives even if you can't actively participate
- Welcome new residents and help them become part of our community
- Share ideas and suggestions as the plan evolves

The 80% household participation in this survey demonstrates Chaddleworth's remarkable community spirit. By maintaining that engagement through implementation, we can achieve the vision set out in this plan and make Chaddleworth an even better place for everyone who lives here

4. Vision for the Future

The views expressed through the community consultation process paint a clear picture of what Chaddleworth residents value and what they hope to achieve over the next five years.

What Residents Value About Chaddleworth

Through the survey and consultation events, residents consistently highlighted what makes Chaddleworth special:

- Community Spirit – The friendly, supportive nature of village life and the sense of belonging
- Rural Character – The peaceful, quiet environment and beautiful countryside setting
- Local Amenities – The Ibex Inn as a community hub, St Andrew's Church, and the Village Hall
- Natural Environment – Access to footpaths, open spaces, and the surrounding landscape
- Village Events – Seasonal celebrations, the Village Fete, and community gatherings organised by volunteers

Key Themes for Improvement

Five main areas emerged as priorities for future action:

4.1 Enhanced Communications

Residents desire better, more coordinated communication about parish activities, events, and important information. There is strong support for maintaining and improving existing channels (Chaddleworth News, parish website, Facebook) to ensure everyone can stay informed.

4.2 Community Activities and Facilities

There is clear demand for more community events that bring people together, improved Village Hall facilities to support activities, and opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in village life. Residents value existing events highly and want to build on this foundation. New benches to sit and enjoy public spaces and views are requested, as are additional locations for dog poo bins.

4.3 Safer Movement Through the Village

Traffic speed, particularly on Main Street, School Hill, and at village approaches/exits, remains a significant concern. There is very strong support (73% of respondents) for introducing a 20mph speed limit within the village, alongside improvements to footpaths and walking routes for safer pedestrian movement. Children's road awareness was raised as a key concern.

4.4 Environmental Sustainability

Residents want Chaddleworth to be a greener community, with support for tree planting, wildflower areas, community green spaces, better recycling facilities, and energy efficiency initiatives. The environment and sustainability are important to the majority of respondents.

4.5 Better Connectivity

While Chaddleworth's rural character is highly valued, residents want improved digital connectivity (better broadband and mobile phone coverage), better physical connections (footpath links between key locations), and continued access to local services and amenities.

The Vision Statement

Based on these findings, the vision for Chaddleworth's future is:

Chaddleworth will remain a thriving rural community that conserves its peaceful character while embracing improvements that enhance quality of life for all residents. The parish will be a place where:

- *All residents, regardless of location within the parish, feel equally connected to village life*
- *Everyone feels informed, included, and able to participate in community life*
- *People can move safely through the village on foot or by bicycle*
- *The natural environment is protected and enhanced for future generations*
- *The balance between rural character and modern amenities is carefully maintained*
- *Community facilities and activities bring people together across all age groups*
- *Creative ideas from residents can be explored and potentially implemented*
- *Modern connectivity supports those who live and work in the parish*
- *Volunteers and community groups are supported to deliver positive change*

This vision respects Chaddleworth's essential rural character while recognising that thoughtful improvements and strong community engagement can make the parish an even better place to live, work, and raise families.

Delivery Through Partnership

Achieving this vision requires partnership working between:

- Chaddleworth Parish Council
- West Berkshire Council
- Community volunteers and working groups
- Local businesses and organisations
- Individual residents contributing time, ideas, and energy

The Report that follows identifies specific, achievable objectives with supporting ideas which realise the vision, and an initial outline for stakeholders, timescales and measures is included.

5. A Safer Community

Survey Results and Commentary

Safety in Chaddleworth section generated significant feedback, with traffic speed being the predominant concern. The overwhelming majority of respondents (92%) feel safe in Chaddleworth overall, but speeding vehicles are seen as the main threat to this sense of safety.

Traffic Speed Concerns

When asked which areas are potentially dangerous because of fast-moving traffic, respondents identified:

- Main Street (most frequently mentioned)
- Village approaches/exits
- Church area (Upper End, Botmoor Way)
- School Hill area
- Pub area

73% of respondents strongly support or support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit within the village, with only 11% opposing this measure.

Verges and Visibility

Overgrown verges and hedges affecting visibility and pedestrian safety were identified as a moderate to major problem by 72% of respondents. Only 8% felt this was not a problem. This connects to concerns about safe pedestrian movement through the village.

Children's Safety

The main concerns about children's safety were:

- Road awareness (most frequently cited)
- Not enough activities to do in the parish

Anti-social behaviour is not seen as a significant concern, with 77% of respondents indicating they are not very concerned or not concerned at all.

Additional Safety Concerns highlighted by responses

- Changing some existing traffic signs from 'Give Way' to 'Stop'
- Need for safe walking routes, particularly between the Village Hall, Church, and Ibex
- Concerns about speeding through Upper End
- Maintenance of footpaths and rights of way
- Drainage and Flooding concerns including blocked drains and ditches, surface water management and need for regular clearing of drainage systems
- In the School Hill area, safety concerns due to narrow road and speeding, school parking and drop-off issues, need for pedestrian improvements
- In the Upper End/Botmoor Way area, traffic speed concerns on Botmoor Way, limited footpath connections to rest of village
- In regard to road maintenance, about potholes requiring attention, road surface quality, verge maintenance
- In regard to connectivity, limited footpath access to village centre from remote areas and lack of cycling routes to nearby towns

Vision for the Future

The vision that emerged is that Chaddleworth should become a place where:

- *Traffic moves at safe speeds appropriate for a rural village with pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders*
- *Children can move safely between home, school, play areas, and village facilities*
- *Footpaths and walkways provide safe alternatives to walking on roads*
- *Verges and hedges are maintained to ensure visibility at junctions and along roads*
- *Practical infrastructure issues are addressed promptly and systematically*
- *Small details (benches, drainage, road repairs) are attended to alongside bigger projects*

Community Action Plan

5.1 Objective: Reduce speeding through the village

5.1.1 Idea: Campaign for introduction of 20mph speed limit through the village centre (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC with community support
- Partners: WBC Highways, Thames Valley Police
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Speed limit implementation, community awareness
- Use of Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs) in problem areas to be discussed further with CPC
- Community Impact: Reduction in vehicular speed in the main village centre for improved safety

5.1.2 Idea: Explore traffic calming measures for Main Street and School Hill (Medium Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC Highways
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Feasibility study, community consultation, implementation if viable
- Community Impact: Reduce vehicular speed as it enters the village centre for improved safety

5.2 Objective: Improve pedestrian safety and accessibility

5.2.1 Idea: Work with WBC and landowners to address overgrown verges and hedges affecting visibility on junctions (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC Highways, landowners
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Regular monitoring and clearance schedule
- Community Impact: Increase road safety for all users at road junctions

5.2.2 Idea: Improve footpath connections between key village locations (High Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC, WBC Rights of Way team, landowners
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Priority routes identified and improved (see also Healthy Community section)
- Community Impact: Provides options to reduce the amount of time walkers spend on the roads with vehicles

5.2.3 Idea: Run a Road Safety event in Chaddleworth attended by parents and children pedestrian, users of the highway not in a vehicle

- Lead: WBC Schools
- Partners: Local Spokes Cycle Group & WBC Highways
- Start: Q4 2026
- Community Impact: Children are road savvy, local road users see they are aware and safe.

5.2.4 Idea: Clear Roadsides of debris on and overhanging highway

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC Highways, local landowners
- Start: Q4 2026
- Community Impact: All road users are safer

5.3 Objective: Address Practical Infrastructure Maintenance

5.3.1 Idea: Establish systematic reporting and monitoring of infrastructure issues (drainage, potholes, street furniture) (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC, community reporting
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Clear reporting system publicised, issues logged and tracked, regular updates on progress

5.3.2 Idea: Work with WBC to address drainage and flood risk management (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC, Environmental Agency, landowners
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Drainage systems regularly cleared, flooding incidents reduced

5.3.3 Idea: Regular road maintenance schedule with WBC (Ongoing)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC Highways
- Measures: Issues reported, repairs scheduled and completed, road condition improved

6. Communications

The Survey Results and Commentary

Effective communication emerged as a critical issue for Chaddleworth residents. The ability to stay informed about village activities, Parish Council decisions, and community events directly impacts residents' sense of inclusion and ability to participate in village life.

Overall Satisfaction

- 78% are satisfied or very satisfied with current communications
- 19% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 3% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

Main Communication Issues Identified

- Information is scattered across too many places (7% of respondents)
- Information is not up to date (7%)
- Don't know where to find information (6%)
- Information is not complete (2%)
- Accessibility concerns (5%)
- 74% reported no major problems

Information Channels Currently Used

The survey revealed how residents currently receive information:

Well-used channels:

- Word of mouth (most cited)
- Chaddleworth News printed version (high satisfaction)
- Facebook: Chaddleworth Village group (widely used)
- Email (used by many but with concerns about completeness)

Channels needing improvement:

- Many were not aware or want improvements to the Parish Website (newly www.ChaddleworthParish.gov.uk, previously www.Chaddleworth.net)
- Noticeboards – limited coverage, particularly in Nodmore and Glenn Miller Close
- Flyers/leaflets – are appreciated by many and could be used more often

Interest in New Channels:

- 12% expressed interest in WhatsApp groups by location/interest
- 9% interested in a mobile app
- 7% suggested additional noticeboards in new areas

Information Interests and Gaps

Residents indicated they were "interested and could be better informed" about:

High interest areas needing better communication:

- Parish Council updates, finances and information (29% want better information)
- Activities and events in neighbouring parishes (42%)
- Local news such as road closures (46%)
- Village Hall events and bookings (22%)
- Information about Chaddleworth history, footpaths, useful contacts (45%)

Well-communicated areas:

- The Ixex Inn calendar of events
- Village Fete and Chaddleworth Entertainments events
- Church news and events
- School and PTFA information

Some respondents were not aware of the two local charities, namely the Bakers Trust (37%) and the Saunders, Wynn and Coventry Educational Foundation (22%).

Specific Improvement Requests

- Single Centralised source of village information
- Forward-planning calendar of all village events
- More frequent updates (Chaddleworth News is published 6 times annually)
- Better email distribution lists for urgent information
- Improved website with current, comprehensive information
- More notice boards, particularly in outlying areas
- Directory of local businesses and services

Additional general comments linked to Communications

- In Nodmore, Glen Miller and other remotes areas: feeling disconnected from village centre, desire for better integration with rest of community, need for better communication (noticeboards, newsletter delivery), concerns about being overlooked in village planning
- In regard to Parish Council functioning, desire for better communication of PC decisions, better explanation of precept spending
- Concern of elderly residents feeling isolated
- In regard to Village Website and Digital Presence, more comprehensive information, easier navigation, mobile-friendly design, integration with social media, online booking for Village Hall, historical information and photos, what's On section kept very current

Vision for the Future

The vision that emerged is that Chaddleworth should become a place where:

- *Residents know where to find information about our parish's and neighbouring parishes' activities, services, and important updates*
- *The Parish Council's work is visible and understood by all residents*
- *Communications are timely, coordinated, and accessible through multiple channels to suit different preferences*
- *No one feels isolated or uninformed due to communication gaps*
- *All village organisations work together to share information effectively*

Community Action Plan

6.1 Objective: Ensure Inclusion of All Parish Areas

6.1.1 Idea: Ensure remote areas (Nodmore, Glenn Miller Close, etc.) are included in all communication improvements (High Priority)

- Lead: Community communications group/CPC
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Noticeboards installed in these areas, newsletter delivery confirmed, residents report feeling better connected

6.2 Objective: Create Coordinated, Multi-Channel Communications

6.2.1 Idea: Establish email distribution lists for urgent parish information and updates (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC (Parish Clerk to manage)
- Partners: Community volunteers to help build and maintain lists
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Email lists established with opt-in system compliant with Data Protection Act (e.g. Mailchimp), regular use for appropriate communications
- Community Impact: Provides a regular source of information that will tie back to the parish website

6.2.2 Idea: Redesign and update parish website to be comprehensive, current information hub (High Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC, all village organisations
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: New website design launched, regular updates maintained, increased usage metrics
- Community Impact: provides a central source of information that all groups can be encouraged to use

6.2.3 Idea: Create forward-planning calendar of all village events and activities (High Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: All event organisers, CPC, local area groups
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Centralised calendar system, published online and in Chaddleworth News, fewer "missed event" complaints
- Community Impact: One place to find out what's going on, available through multiple channels

6.3 Objective: Maintain and Enhance Chaddleworth News and other Communications

6.3.1 Idea: Work with Chaddleworth News editorial team to enhance content (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Chaddleworth Communications Team
- Partners: All village organisations contributing content
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: More people involved in content, potentially expanded content topics and groups
- Community Impact: increase in local content should enable more engagement with local activities and support

6.3.2 Idea: Identify and Improve usage of Parish Noticeboards (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Chaddleworth Communications Team
- Partners: All village organisations contributing content
- Start: Q4 2026
- Measures: More people able to know of latest information via notice boards (potentially with more installed and maintained), websites, etc
- Community Impact: Supports the overall communications plan to engage the parish through their preferred route for information and not rely completely on digital sources

6.4 Objective: Enhance Parish Council Transparency and Engagement

6.4.1 Idea: Improve communication about Parish Council decisions, planning responses, and spending (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Regular reports in Chaddleworth News, clear explanations of decisions, website updated with minutes and information

6.4.2 Idea: Make PC meetings more accessible (timing, location, publicity) (Medium Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Meeting times reviewed, better publicity, attendance improved

6.4.3 Idea: Annual presentation to community on parish finances and precept spending (Medium Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Start: Annual Parish Meeting 2026
- Measures: Clear financial information provided, questions answered, residents understand PC budget

7. A Prosperous Community

Survey Results and Commentary

As a rural community, Chaddleworth does not have large employers, but the parish benefits from local businesses, services, and an increasing number of residents who work from home. The survey explored access to local services, digital connectivity for work, and interest in business networking.

Local Businesses and Services

Residents were asked about facilities currently available nearby.

Services rated as "too far away" or where residents "would prefer something more local":

- Local shops (56% want something more local)
- Local Post Office service (48% want something more local)
- Local training/apprenticeship opportunities (29% feel these are too far away)
- Local business employment opportunities (30% feel these are too far away)

A local farm shop or market was the most wanted facility by residents.

There was interest in helping establish new local services:

- 3% would help run a local shop (but 7% think it would not work in the parish)
- 2% would help run a local Post Office service (but 7% think it would not work in the parish)
- 2% would help establish a local craft fair

Digital Connectivity for Work and Business

The importance of reliable telecommunications infrastructure was strongly emphasised.

Broadband and Mobile Services:

- 10% of respondents rated home data/broadband/WiFi as "inadequate"
- 14% rated mobile phone coverage as "inadequate"
- 39% rated mobile data as "good"
- 45% rated traditional home phone as "adequate" or "good" (52% do not use)

Current Employment Patterns:

- 24% work from home (full-time or part-time)
- 8% work locally to Chaddleworth
- 31% are retired

The increasing percentage working from home demonstrates that Chaddleworth is not just a place to live but increasingly a place to work. Reliable connectivity is therefore essential infrastructure for the local economy.

Shared Workspace:

- 19% would use shared local workspace with facilities (WiFi, printing, refreshments, etc.) regularly or occasionally
- 68% said no
- 13% were not sure

While not a majority, this represents 20-30 potential users, suggesting viability if connectivity improves.

Business Networking:

- 10% expressed interest in joining a local business and professional networking group
- 14% were possibly interested
- 63% were not interested

Specific Improvement Requests

- Need for a bus service for Newbury commuters
- Urgent need for better broadband speeds and reliability
- Mobile phone "not spots" throughout the parish
- Desire for a village shop or regular mobile shop service
- Interest in supporting local businesses and tradespeople
- Need for directory of local services and suppliers

Additional general comments linked to a Prosperous Community

- Recurring wishes for services included: more diverse food options, local GP surgery or health service, cash machine/banking service
- Connections to surrounding areas: bus service frequency and routes, links to railway stations (Newbury, Thatcham), challenges of rural location for those without cars

Vision for the Future

The vision that emerged is that Chaddleworth should become a place where:

- *Anyone working from home can access reliable, fast telecommunications services*
- *Anyone working in Newbury town has access to public transport, or other shared transport solutions, for getting to and from their workplace*
- *Local businesses are supported and promoted within the community*
- *The community can easily locate and use local businesses and suppliers*
- *Essential services are accessible, even if requiring travel to nearby towns*
- *The rural economy is sustained through a mix of home working, local employment, and commuting*

Community Action Plan

7.1 Objective: Improve Digital Infrastructure for Work and Business

7.1.1 Idea: Campaign for better broadband and mobile phone coverage across the entire parish (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC with community support
- Partners: WBC, telecommunications providers, local MPs
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Survey of connectivity issues by location, coordinated campaign with data, documented improvements
- Community Impact: will provide more employment opportunities for remote or hybrid working

7.1.2 Idea: Explore feasibility of community WiFi at Village Hall (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Village Hall trustees with CPC
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Cost-benefit analysis, installation if viable, potential for workspace use

- Community Impact: could broaden the types of usage and events that can be supported in the village hall

7.2 Objective: Support and Promote Local Businesses

7.2.1 Idea: Create and maintain directory of local businesses, services, and tradespeople (High Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: Local businesses, CPC
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Directory published on website and available in print, updated regularly, businesses report increased local custom
- Community Impact: increased awareness of local businesses and how to contact them for services

7.2.2 Idea: Publicise and promote local businesses through village communications channels (Ongoing)

- Lead: Community communications group
- Partners: Local businesses, Chaddleworth News
- Measures: Regular features in village communications, increased visibility for local businesses
- Community Impact: increased awareness of local businesses

7.3 Objective: Explore Opportunities for Local Services

7.3.1 Idea: Investigate feasibility of village shop (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group with interested volunteers
- Partners: CPC, potential commercial partners
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Demand confirmed, viability study completed, exploration of options (mobile shop, pop-up shop at events, village shop if viable)
- Community Impact: Fact based review if a village shop is viable or what services are possible

7.3.2 Idea: Explore possibility of occasional craft fairs or farmers markets (Low Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers
- Partners: Village Hall, local producers
- Start: Q4 2026
- Measures: Interest confirmed among vendors and residents, trial event organised
- Community Impact: increased local events

7.4 Objective: Continue to Investigate Long-term Service Provision

7.4.1 Idea: Keep village shop/Post Office service provision under review (Low Priority - long term)

- Lead: CPC with community interest
- Partners: Potential commercial partners
- Ongoing
- Measures: Viability regularly assessed, opportunities pursued if they arise

7.5 Objective: Support Local and Home Workers and the Business Community

7.5.1 Idea: Investigate feasibility of community workspace facility at Village Hall or other location (Low Priority)

- Lead: Village Hall trustees/CPC/community group
- Start: 2026
- Measures: Demand confirmed through survey follow-up, cost analysis completed, decision on viability (dependent on improved connectivity)
- Enhancements: include options for coffee, lunch and sandwiches for home and local workers

7.5.2 Idea: Explore interest in business networking meetings or informal gatherings (Low Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers/interested business owners
- Start: Q4 2026
- Measures: Initial meeting organised if sufficient interest confirmed, ongoing meetings if successful

7.5.3 Idea: Grow travel options which support local working (e.g. car share, bus to/from Newbury) (Medium Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC Highways, landowners
- Start: Q4 2026
- Measures: Initial meeting organised if sufficient interest confirmed, ongoing meetings if successful
- Community Impact: could provide alternative methods to taxis

8. A Healthy Community

Survey Results and Commentary

A Healthy Community encompasses physical and mental wellbeing, access to healthcare, opportunities for exercise and social connection, and facilities that support healthy lifestyles across all age groups.

Overall Health and Wellbeing Opportunities

When asked to rate overall health and wellbeing opportunities in Chaddleworth and ability to access opportunities nearby:

- 34% rated as "Good"
- 41% rated as "Fair"
- 5% rated as "Excellent"
- 17% rated as "Poor"
- 3% rated as "Very poor"

This suggests general satisfaction but with room for improvement, particularly in the "Fair" to "Poor" range (58% combined).

Transport Links to Healthcare Services

Access to healthcare usually requires travel to nearby towns (Chieveley, Newbury, Thatcham, Reading):

- 18% rated transport links as "Adequate"
- 16% rated as "Inadequate"
- 12% rated as "Very inadequate"

Over quarter struggle with access to healthcare services – a significant concern for a rural community, particularly affecting elderly residents and those without cars.

Downland Volunteer Group Awareness

The Downland Volunteer Group provides transport to medical appointments and bespoke community transport:

- 76% are "Aware" of the services
- 24% are "Not aware" which means nearly a quarter of residents are unaware of this valuable service, suggesting better promotion is needed.

Health and Wellbeing Activities

Residents were asked what activities they would like to attend or help establish in Chaddleworth or nearby villages.

Highest interest for attending in Chaddleworth:

- Walking groups (24% would attend in Chaddleworth)
- Exercise classes (41% would attend in Chaddleworth)
- Gardening group (22% would attend in Chaddleworth)
- Racket sports (tennis, pickleball, badminton) – 24% interested

Activities with volunteer interest to setup/help run in Chaddleworth:

- Walking groups (3 people offered to help)
- Gardening group (2 people offered to help)

- Exercise classes (4 people offered to help)
- Youth activities (7 people offered to help)

Lower interest activities:

- Cycling group (8% would attend in Chaddleworth)
- Other sports groups – 4% interested
- Mental health support – 15% would attend
- Spiritual/religious support – adequate existing provision via St Andrew's Church

Improvements to Green Spaces and Routes

Rated as "Important":

- Improving footpath connections (57% = highest priority)
- Better maintenance of current footpaths and bridleways (56%)
- Creating more cycle paths (21%)
- Improved access to green spaces (31%)
- More benches and rest areas (41%)
- Additional playground facilities (25%)

The strong support for improved footpath connections aligns with comments throughout the survey about creating safe walking routes between the Village Hall, Church, Ibex, and other key locations.

Community Recreation Facilities

Interest in new recreation facilities if feasible was asked. Highest interest:

- Tennis court (35% interested in one in Chaddleworth)
- MUGA Court/5-aside/basketball (29% very interested)
- Outdoor gym equipment (33% very interested)
- Outdoor permanent table tennis (26%)

Lower interest:

- Skate Park (14% - though this may reflect adult respondents; youth interest may differ)
- BMX Track (12%)

Activities for Elderly Residents

- 41% believe more activities specifically for elderly residents are "definitely needed" or "would be helpful"
- 8% feel current provision is adequate
- 7% said it's not a priority

Barriers to Healthy Lifestyle

Open-ended responses about barriers to maintaining a healthy lifestyle highlighted:

- Lack of safe walking routes/pavements
- Distance to facilities and services
- Limited public transport
- Time constraints (work/family commitments)
- Cost of facilities and activities
- Lack of local exercise facilities
- Limited group activities to motivate participation
- Dark evenings/lack of lighting for evening walks
- Need for more organised group activities

Additional Safety Concerns highlighted by responses

- Some respondents highlighted inclusion concerns for families with young children wanting more activities
- Concern about young people leaving area due to lack of opportunities
- Support for young families

Vision for the Future

The vision that emerged is that Chaddleworth should become a place where:

- *No one feels excluded due to age, family circumstances, or location*
- *Safe, well-connected footpaths enable residents to walk between key village locations without using roads*
- *Walking groups and other outdoor activities bring people together and encourage active lifestyles*
- *Residents of all ages have access to activities and facilities that support physical and mental wellbeing*
- *Transport to healthcare services is accessible to all, including those without cars*
- *Green spaces are maintained and enhanced with appropriate facilities (benches, routes, recreation areas)*
- *The Village Hall and other community spaces host regular health and wellbeing activities*

Community Action Plan

8.1 Objective: Improve Footpath Connections and Walking Routes

8.1.1 Idea: Identify and prioritise key footpath improvement projects, particularly routes connecting Village Hall, Church, Ibex, and School and potential benches and picnic areas (High Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC, WBC Rights of Way team, landowners
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Priority routes identified, feasibility assessed, improvement plan developed
- Community Impact: A plan that would support discussion with the partners on potential viable options

8.1.2 Idea: Work with landowners and WBC to improve identified priority footpath routes (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC with community working group
- Partners: WBC Rights of Way, landowners
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Agreements reached, improvements delivered, increased footpath usage
- Community Impact: improved methods to traverse the village without going on the roads

8.1.3 Idea: Install additional benches and rest areas along popular walking routes (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers with CPC
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Locations identified with community input, benches installed and maintained, rubbish management plan
- Community Impact: improved social opportunities to enjoy the countryside and local views

8.1.4 Idea: Produce map/guide of walking routes in and around Chaddleworth (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers
- Partners: Local historians for points of interest
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Map produced (print and digital), distributed to residents and available online
- Community Impact: Provide a curated set of routes to encourage residents and visitors to make the most of their environment

8.2 Objective: Establish and Expand Activity Groups

8.2.1 Idea: Continue to monitor and address social isolation, particularly among elderly (Ongoing)

- Lead: Community volunteers
- Partners: CPC, Downland Volunteer Group, church groups
- Measures: Outreach continues, support available, isolated individuals identified and helped

8.2.2 Idea: Establish regular walking and running group(s) with various routes and difficulty levels (High Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers (15 people expressed interest in helping)
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Regular walks scheduled, diverse routes offered, good attendance, new members welcomed
- Community Impact: Provides a social and healthy opportunity to the local and visiting communities

8.2.3 Idea: Establish gardening group/club for those interested in gardening activities (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers (12 people expressed interest)
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Group formed, regular meetings/activities, projects identified (could link to Greener Community initiatives)
- Community Impact: Provides a social opportunity to all ages and skills in the village

8.2.4 Idea: Organise regular exercise classes at Village Hall (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers with qualified instructors
- Partners: Village Hall trustees
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Classes scheduled, instructor secured, regular attendance
- Community Impact: Provides more usage of the village hall as well as social and healthy opportunities

8.3 Objective: Improve Recreation Facilities

8.3.1 Idea: Investigate feasibility of tennis court facility (Medium Priority) and /or MUGA facility

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC, Village Hall trustees, potential funders, youth representatives, landowners
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Site identified, costs assessed, funding sources explored, community interest and decision on viability
- Community Impact: Provides a fact-based assessment of providing and running this facility

8.3.2 Idea: Investigate feasibility of outdoor gym equipment options (Low Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC
- Start: 2026
- Measures: Equipment options researched, suitable location identified, costs assessed
- Community Impact: Provides a fact-based assessment of providing and running this facility

8.4 Objective: Support Elderly Residents and Vulnerable Groups

8.4.1 Idea: Better promote Downland Volunteer Group services to all residents (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC/Community communications group
- Partners: Downland Volunteer Group
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Information in Chaddleworth News, website, noticeboards; increased awareness and usage
- Community Impact: Potentially addresses some of the transport needs identified

8.4.2 Idea: Explore additional activities and support services for elderly residents (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers
- Partners: Existing groups (Monday Club, Local event organisers etc.), CPC
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Consultation with elderly residents, new activities established if demand confirmed (for example, walking football)
- Community Impact: Better engagement with elderly residents with suitable activities, promotes health and social wellbeing

8.4.3 Idea: Maintain and enhance existing support networks (e.g., coffee and lunch clubs) (Ongoing)

- Lead: Community volunteers
- Measures: Regular activities continue, attendance monitored, additional support provided as needed
- Community Impact: Better attendance and usage of the activities already provided

8.5 Objective: Enhance Safety for Outdoor Activities

8.5.1 Idea: Work to improve safety on key walking routes (Medium Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC, local landowners, walking groups
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Make footpaths more accessible with gates (rather than styles), dark spots identified and mitigated (e.g. white line painting, stop signs), 20mph (links to Safer Community actions above)

8.5.2 Idea: Maintain and improve cycle paths and bridleways (Ongoing)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC Rights of Way, community volunteers
- Measures: Regular maintenance schedule, issues reported and addressed

9. A Greener Community

Survey Results and Commentary

Environmental sustainability and conservation emerged as important priorities for Chaddleworth residents, with strong support for initiatives ranging from tree planting and wildflower areas to improved recycling and energy efficiency measures.

Personal Importance of Environment and Sustainability

When asked how important the environment and sustainability are to your household:

- 59% rated as "Extremely important"
- 29% rated as "Somewhat important"
- 11% rated as "Neutral"
- 1% rated as "Not important"

This demonstrates that 88% of residents consider environmental issues important, providing a strong mandate for green initiatives.

Current Environmental Issues

Residents were asked about specific environmental problems in and around Chaddleworth.

Dog Fouling:

- 57% agree or strongly agree it's a significant problem
- 26% neutral
- 17% disagree

Litter:

- 38% agree or strongly agree it's a significant problem
- 29% neutral
- 33% disagree

Anti-social Behaviour:

- Only 8% agree it's a significant problem
- 92% disagree or are neutral

Leaving Verges Uncut to Encourage Wildlife:

- 52% agree or strongly agree with this approach (excluding road junctions for safety)
- 27% disagree

The support for leaving verges uncut shows residents understand the biodiversity benefits, while concerns about dog fouling and litter indicate areas needing community action.

Support for Environmental Improvements

Residents were asked about potential improvements.

Strong support (Agree/Strongly Agree):

- More trees and wildflowers along footpaths and verges (73%)
- Common green space/orchard/picnic area (65%)
- More dog poo bins in specified locations (64%)
- Active participation in community litter picking event (54%)
- Community garden scheme or allotments (31%)

Moderate support:

- Additional footpaths to reduce car use (28%)
- Electric vehicle charging points in specified locations (22%)

The exceptionally high support for tree planting, wildflowers, and green spaces shows residents want to enhance the natural environment while maintaining the rural character.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Interest in various energy and recycling initiatives.

Highest support (Important):

- Efficient double/triple glazed windows (70%)
- Public recycling facilities (69%)
- Insulation (68%)
- Solar photovoltaic panels (25%)

Moderate support:

- Heat pump(s) (28%)
- Oil buying group(s) (30%)

The strong support for renewable energy and efficiency measures aligns with the community's environmental values, though individual adoption depends on property suitability and cost.

Other Environmental Improvements Suggested

Open-ended responses highlighted desires for:

- Better recycling facilities, including Tetrapack/drinks carton recycling
- Community composting scheme
- Reduction in use of pesticides and chemicals
- Protection of hedgerows and mature trees
- Dark skies initiative (reducing light pollution)
- Wildlife corridors and habitat enhancement
- Support for local food production
- Reduction in single-use plastics
- Community education on environmental issues
- Tree planting initiatives
- Maintenance of ditches and drainage systems for flood prevention
- Log buying syndicate
- Car share/lift share scheme

Additional general comments directly or indirectly linked to Greener

- Importance of maintaining rural character
- Desire to avoid "suburbanisation"
- More litter bins in key locations
- Agricultural runoff concerns
- Protection of wildlife habitats

Vision for the Future

The vision that emerged is that Chaddleworth should become a place where:

- *The natural environment is protected and enhanced through tree planting, wildflower areas, and habitat creation*
- *The village actively works to reduce its carbon footprint through renewable energy, efficiency measures, and sustainable practices*
- *Green spaces are created and maintained for community enjoyment and biodiversity*
- *Waste is minimised through better recycling facilities and community initiatives*
- *Residents work together on environmental projects that make a visible difference*
- *The rural character is preserved while embracing sustainable living*
- *Dog poo is no longer a perennial issue*

Community Action Plan

9.1 Objective: Enhance Natural Environment and Biodiversity

9.1.1 Idea: Develop and implement tree planting program along footpaths, verges, and appropriate locations (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC, WBC, landowners, potential funding sources (e.g., Woodland Trust)
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Planting sites identified with landowner agreement, trees planted (native species appropriate to location), ongoing maintenance plan established

9.1.2 Idea: Create wildflower areas along verges and in suitable locations (High Priority)

- Lead: Community working group with CPC
- Partners: WBC Highways (for verge management), landowners
- Start: Q2 2026 (for autumn planting)
- Measures: Sites identified, wildflower seeds/plants sourced (native species), areas established and maintained, increased biodiversity observed

9.1.3 Idea: Establish policy on verge cutting to balance safety with wildlife benefits (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC Highways, community input
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Clear policy established, communicated to residents, implemented consistently

9.1.4 Idea: Investigate feasibility and support for community orchard/common green space/picnic area (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC, landowners, potential funders
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Suitable site identified, community consultation on design and use, feasibility and costs assessed, decision on implementation

9.1.5 Idea: Support protection of hedgerows, mature trees, and wildlife habitats (Ongoing)

- Lead: CPC through planning process
- Partners: Community monitoring and reporting
- Measures: Development impacts on natural features carefully considered, habitat loss minimised

9.2 Objective: Improve Waste Management and Recycling

9.2.1 Idea: Install additional dog waste bins in identified problem locations (High Priority)

- Lead: CPC
- Partners: WBC (waste services), community input on locations
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Locations identified through community feedback, bins installed and regularly emptied, reduction in dog fouling complaints

9.2.2 Idea: Investigate improved recycling facilities (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: WBC waste services
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Options explored (collection point at Village Hall, WBC service expansion), facilities established if viable

9.2.3 Idea: Explore community composting scheme (Low Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers
- Start: 2026
- Measures: Interest and feasibility assessed, scheme established if viable (could link with community garden/allotment initiative)

9.2.4 Idea: Organise regular community litter picking events (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers
- Partners: CPC (equipment and waste disposal), WBC
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Events scheduled (e.g., quarterly), good participation, visible improvements to village appearance

9.3 Objective: Support Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

9.3.1 Idea: Provide information and guidance on renewable energy options (solar panels, heat pumps, etc.) (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: Experts/installers for information sessions
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Information event(s) organised, guidance available on website, increased uptake of renewable energy

9.3.2 Idea: Provide information on insulation and energy efficiency grants and schemes (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community communications group
- Partners: Energy providers, government scheme administrators
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Information regularly shared through village communications, residents aware of available support

9.3.3 Idea: Explore feasibility of oil and/or log buying group for properties with oil heating (Low Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers
- Start: Q4 2026
- Measures: Interest confirmed among oil heating users, group established if viable, cost savings demonstrated

9.3.4 Idea: Investigate installing electric vehicle charging points in appropriate locations (Medium Priority)

- Lead: CPC with community input
- Partners: WBC, EV charging providers
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Suitable locations identified (e.g., Village Hall car park), costs and funding explored, decision on installation

9.4 Objective: Create and Maintain Community Green Spaces

9.4.1 Idea: Investigate feasibility of community garden scheme or allotments (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC, landowners
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Suitable land identified, interest confirmed, establishment plan developed if viable

9.4.2 Idea: Ensure existing green spaces (churchyard, areas around Village Hall, etc.) are maintained for community benefit and wildlife (Ongoing)

- Lead: CPC, Church, Village Hall trustees
- Partners: Community volunteers
- Measures: Maintenance schedules maintained, wildlife-friendly management practices adopted where appropriate

9.5 Objective: Raise Environmental Awareness and Support Behaviour Change

9.5.1 Idea: Organise environmental awareness events and activities (Low Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Start: Q4 2026
- Measures: Events organised (e.g., wildlife walks, dark skies observation, environmental talks), good attendance, increased environmental awareness

9.5.2 Idea: Promote "green" behaviours through village communications (Ongoing)

- Lead: Community communications group
- Measures: Regular tips and information in Chaddleworth News, website, and other channels; behaviour change observed

10. A Stronger Community

Survey Results and Commentary

Building a strong, connected community where residents feel a sense of belonging and can participate in activities and events emerged as a high priority. The survey explored current community facilities and activities, what residents value, and what they would like to see enhanced or developed.

Sense of Community in Chaddleworth

When asked to rate the sense of community in Chaddleworth:

- 13% rated as "Excellent"
- 58% rated as "Good"
- 27% rated as "Fair"
- 1% rated as "Poor"
- <1% rated as "Very poor"

This shows 70% rate the community spirit positively, but nearly 30% feel there's room for improvement – suggesting some residents feel less connected than others.

Use and Value of Community Facilities and Events

Residents were asked which facilities, clubs, spaces, and events they use and/or value.

Highest "Use and Value" ratings:

- The Ixex Inn (92%)
- Village Fete (92%)
- Chaddleworth Village Hall (94%)
- Seasonal celebrations (Seniors' Xmas Lunch, Xmas Fayre, Carols, Harvest Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, etc.) (90%)
- St Andrew's Church and Churchyard (84%)

Also valued:

- Village Events (Terrier Race, Open Gardens, etc.) (85%)
- National celebrations (e.g. VE Day) (90%)
- Village Activities (Monday Club, Macmillan coffee mornings, etc.) (82%)
- Seasonal celebrations (90%)
- Chaddleworth and Shefford Schools (relevant to families) (56%)

Lower usage but still valued:

- Chaddleworth Cricket Club (66%)
- Playground (71%)
- Sports field (73%)

The high values placed on The Ixex Inn, Village Fete, and Village Hall demonstrate these are seen as central to community life. Seasonal celebrations and church events are also highly valued, showing the importance of traditional community gatherings.

Willingness to Volunteer

When asked if they would be willing to volunteer for community activities:

- 29% said "Yes, occasionally"
- 6% said "Yes, regularly"
- 38% said "Maybe, for specific projects"
- 27% said "No"

This means 73% of residents are willing to volunteer to some degree – a very positive indication of community engagement potential. The challenge is effectively mobilising this goodwill.

Interest in New Facilities and Events

Residents were asked if they would use various facilities and events if available (subject to feasibility and sufficient funding/volunteers).

Highest interest (would "Use" or "Help to organise"):

- Pop-Up food & experiences (72%)
- Educational/entertaining talks/classes (54%)
- Village annual events (e.g., BBQ, Photo, football game, etc.) (77%)
- Seasonal celebrations (79%)
- Book club (32%)

Moderate interest:

- Children's activities (19% - though this reflects adult respondents, parent interest likely higher)
- Playgroup (under 5's) (12%)
- Scouts/Guides etc. (13%)

Village Hall Improvements

Residents were asked what improvements would encourage more use of Chaddleworth Village Hall.

Highest priorities:

- More regular events and activities to join (52%)
- Better heating/insulation (6%)
- Improved kitchen facilities (5%)
- Broadband and WiFi access (14%)
- Updated equipment (projector, speakers, lighting, etc.) (14%)
- 47% said no improvements are needed.

Also mentioned:

- Improved accessibility (2%)
- Better parking (5%)

The strong desire for more activities suggests the physical space is acceptable but the programming needs enhancement. However, heating/insulation and kitchen improvements would make the hall more comfortable and practical.

Collaboration with Neighbouring Villages

When asked about supporting closer collaboration with neighbouring villages (Leckhampstead, Brightwalton, etc.) on events and projects:

- 48% would "Yes, support"
- 16% would "Yes, proactively support"
- 28% were "Neutral"
- 7% said "No, we prefer we remain independent"

This 64% support for collaboration suggests openness to partnership working while maintaining Chaddleworth's distinct identity.

What Would Strengthen Community Spirit:

- More social events bringing different age groups together
- Better communication about what's happening
- More opportunities to meet neighbours informally
- Family-friendly events
- Activities for different interests (not just traditional village events)
- Welcome pack for newcomers
- Village directory so people know who their neighbours are
- Support for volunteers and recognition of their contributions
- More use of Village Hall with varied activities
- Events that don't always revolve around alcohol (family/child-friendly)
- Addressing issues that divide the community (e.g., traffic, parking disputes)
- Creating more shared spaces where people naturally meet
- Supporting existing groups and helping them connect
- Reinvigorating village institutions and clubs, such as open gardens events, film/cinema nights and the 100 Club.

Additional general comments directly or indirectly linked to Stronger Community

- In Nodmore, Glenn Miller Close and other remoter areas, feeling disconnected from village centre, limited footpath access to main village, concerns about being overlooked in village planning, desire for better integration with rest of community
- Several comments touched on preserving Chaddleworth's identity, maintaining balance between improvements and keeping village atmosphere, taking pride in Chaddleworth's history and heritage
- Some respondents highlighted inclusion issues: Singles/couples without children wanting relevant activities, different interests not always catered for in traditional village events, cost barriers to participating in some activities
- Additional comments about young people included: need for activities for teenagers specifically, desire for youth club or dedicated space, after-school activities needed
- Creative ideas suggested by respondents included: Community choir, film club/cinema nights, art exhibition, historical society, repair café, tool library/sharing scheme, community transport scheme, skill-sharing events, village show/produce show, christmas lights/decorations, annual village photo, time capsule project

Vision for the Future

The vision that emerged is that Chaddleworth should become a place where:

- *Community facilities, particularly the Village Hall, are well-used hubs of activity for all age groups*
- *A diverse program of events and activities brings residents together regularly*
- *Everyone feels welcome to participate and contribute to community life*
- *Volunteers are supported, coordinated, and appreciated*
- *The Village Fete and seasonal celebrations continue as highlights of the community calendar*
- *New residents are welcomed and quickly feel part of the community*
- *Collaboration with neighbouring villages strengthens what can be offered locally*
- *Communication ensures everyone knows about opportunities to get involved*
- *The strong community spirit continues to grow and include everyone*

Community Action Plan

10.1 Objective: Enhance Community Activities and Events

10.1.1 Idea: Establish Community Events Coordination Group to plan and deliver enhanced program of activities (High Priority)

- Lead: Community volunteers (working with existing event organisers)
- Partners: CPC, Village Hall trustees, Chaddleworth Entertainments, other groups
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Coordination group formed, calendar of events planned, regular activities established, increased participation

10.1.2 Idea: Develop annual calendar of community events with mix of traditional and new activities (High Priority)

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group
- Partners: All village organisations
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Annual calendar published (online and in print), events well-attended, positive feedback

10.1.3 Idea: Organise new types of events based on survey feedback (High Priority):

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group, Chaddleworth Entertainments with volunteers
- Start: Q2 2026 onwards
- Community Impact: new Pop-up food and experience events; Educational and entertaining talks/classes; New village annual events (e.g., summer BBQ, village photo day); good attendance, community feedback positive

10.1.4 Idea: Establish new activity groups based on interest (Medium Priority):

- Lead: Community groups and volunteers
- Start: Q3 2026
- Community Impact: Book club; Gardening group, Other interest groups; Groups established and meeting regularly, membership growing

10.1.5 Idea: Ensure events cater to different age groups and interests, including more family-friendly activities (Ongoing)

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group
- Measures: Events calendar shows diversity; feedback indicates all feel included

10.2 Objective: Improve Village Hall Facilities and Usage

10.2.1 Idea: Prioritise Village Hall improvements based on survey feedback (High Priority)

- Lead: Village Hall trustees
- Partners: CPC, potential funders, community fundraising
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Improvement plan developed, funding secured, improvements delivered
- Specific improvements to address:
 - Better heating/insulation (top physical improvement needed)
 - Improved kitchen facilities
 - Install broadband and WiFi
 - Update equipment (projector, speakers, lighting)
 - Address accessibility issues
 - Consider parking improvements if feasible
- Lead: Village Hall trustees
- Start: Q2 2026 (priorities may be phased based on funding)
- Measures: Improvements completed, increased hall usage, user satisfaction improved

10.2.2 Idea: Increase promotion and booking of Village Hall for community activities (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Village Hall trustees with community communications group, CPC seed fund to enable trials
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Booking information clear and accessible, increased bookings, broader range of activities

10.3 Objective: Support and Coordinate Volunteers

10.3.1 Idea: Create volunteer coordination system to match volunteers with opportunities (High Priority)

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group or CPC
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Volunteer database established (Data Protection Act compliant), volunteers matched to opportunities, projects delivered

10.3.2 Idea: Recognise and appreciate volunteer contributions (Ongoing)

- Lead: CPC/Community Events Coordination Group
- Measures: Regular acknowledgment in Chaddleworth News, annual volunteer recognition event considered, volunteers feel valued

10.3.3 Idea: Provide support and resources for volunteer-led initiatives (Ongoing)

- Lead: CPC/Community Events Coordination Group
- Measures: Clear process for supporting new initiatives, seed funding available if needed, volunteers feel supported

10.4 Objective: Welcome and Integrate New Residents

10.4.1 Idea: Create welcome pack for new residents with village information and contacts (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC
- Start: Q1 2026
- Measures: Welcome pack created (print and digital), distribution system established, new residents feel welcomed

10.4.2 Idea: Consider village directory or map showing community facilities and contacts (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Start: Q4 2026
- Measures: Directory created and distributed, residents find it useful

10.4.3 Idea: Encourage social events that help new residents meet established community members (Ongoing)

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group, Chaddleworth Entertainments
- Measures: Events designed to be welcoming, new residents attending and connecting

10.5 Objective: Maintain and Enhance Valued Community Assets

10.5.1 Idea: Continue to support The IbeX Inn as community hub (Ongoing)

- Lead: The IbeX Inn, Community
- Enhancements: include options for coffee, lunch and sandwiches for home and local workers.
- Measures: Regular patronage, participation in pub events, sustainable business

10.5.2 Idea: Continue to support and enhance Village Fete as annual highlight (Ongoing)

- Lead: Chaddleworth Entertainments
- Partners: Community volunteers, all village organisations
- Measures: Successful annual event, continued or growing attendance, increasing volunteers to help organise

10.5.3 Idea: Support seasonal celebrations and traditional community events (Ongoing)

- Lead: Various organisers (Church, Entertainments, volunteers)
- Measures: Events continue and thrive, high participation

10.5.4 Idea: Maintain and improve playground and sports facilities as community assets (Medium Priority)

- Lead: CPC/Community working group
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Facilities well-maintained, usage levels good, improvements identified and implemented as feasible

10.6 Objective: Foster Collaboration and Partnership

10.6.1 Idea: Explore opportunities for collaboration with neighbouring villages on events and projects (Medium Priority)

- Lead: CPC with Community Events Coordination Group, Chaddleworth Entertainments
- Partners: Leckhampstead, Brightwalton, other nearby parishes
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Collaborative opportunities identified, joint projects developed, benefits to all communities

10.6.2 Idea: Strengthen coordination among village organisations and groups (High Priority)

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group/CPC
- Start: Q2 2026
- Measures: Regular coordination meetings, shared calendar, reduced duplication, enhanced joint working

10.7 Objective: Ensure Inclusion of All Parish Areas

10.7.1 Idea: Investigate footpath and cycle route improvements connecting remote areas to village centre (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community working group
- Partners: CPC, landowners
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Routes identified, feasibility assessed, improvements made where viable

10.8 Objective: Explore Creative Community Projects

10.8.1 Idea: Create mechanism for residents to propose and develop new community initiatives (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group/CPC
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Clear process established, proposals received and evaluated, viable projects supported

10.8.2 Idea: Investigate feasibility of ideas with strong interest (Low Priority):

- Community choir
- Film club
- Historical society
- Repair café
- Village show
- Other projects as volunteers come forward
- Lead: Community volunteers with coordination support
- Start: Q4 2026 onwards
- Measures: Interest groups formed, projects developed based on viability and volunteer commitment

10.9 Objective: Support Specific Groups with Particular Needs

10.9.1 Idea: Ensure events and activities cater to diverse groups (singles, couples without children, different age groups, varied interests) (Ongoing)

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group
- Measures: Calendar shows diversity, feedback from different groups positive

10.9.2 Idea: Address cost barriers where possible (subsidised events, free activities, grant support) (Medium Priority)

- Lead: Community Events Coordination Group with CPC
- Start: Q3 2026
- Measures: Cost-free activities available, subsidies considered for key events, participation not limited by cost

11. Demographics and Village Profile

Chaddleworth comprises approximately 190 households with a stable, balanced community. 62% of residents have lived in the parish for over 11 years, providing continuity and deep knowledge of village character, while 20% have arrived in the last five years, bringing fresh perspectives and energy. The exceptional 80% household response rate to the survey demonstrates strong community engagement and ensures the findings genuinely represent the entire parish across all areas from the village centre to more remote locations like Glenn Miller Close.

The age profile shows Chaddleworth as a community with representation across all life stages. 20% of household members are under 18, demonstrating significant family presence, while 51% are aged 46 or over, including 27% aged 61+. The working-age population (18-60 years, representing 55%) is the most represented. This broad age distribution creates a vibrant, multigenerational community but also means services and activities must cater to diverse needs from young families to elderly residents.

The diverse employment patterns reveal Chaddleworth's is a place where people also increasingly live and work. 12% of respondents work from home at least some of the time, 4% work locally and 18% are retired or do not work. The proportion of home workers emphasises the critical importance of reliable digital infrastructure identified throughout the survey. This demographic mix – combining families, working professionals, home-based workers, commuters and retirees – creates both opportunities and challenges for community planning, requiring flexible approaches that engage residents with different time availabilities, interests, and priorities.