

**Minutes of Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting  
Held in the hall of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School  
On Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Present**

Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Mrs Susan Bannister, Oswyn Murray (Chairman), Alan Parkin and Mrs Gilian Soden. Peter Hardman (Clerk).  
County & District Cllr George Reynolds.  
Twenty one Local Residents.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Thames Valley Police Matters**

Although an invitation had been extended, a member of the Thames Valley Police Team did not attend.

**Matters Arising**

Certain matters arose with regard to car parking and road conditions and these were referred to later in the Meeting under 'Any Other Business'. Mr Fred Inns regretted that Cherwell District Council had paid little attention to residents' feelings with regard to the extension of the Conservation Area. The chairman referred to the importance of the Conservation Area in respect of the recent Public Inquiry.

**Highway & Footpath Matters**

Apologies were received from Oxfordshire Highways to the effect that no one was available to attend the Meeting.

A local resident, present at the Meeting, raised considerable concern about the danger to drivers coming from Bonds End Lane into Main Street created by cars parked in the road at that junction and thus obscuring drivers' views. After some discussion, the Chairman said that contact would be made with Oxfordshire Highways and Thames Valley Police with a view to arranging a site meeting with residents who are concerned.

Other comments were made about problems caused by on-road parking in certain places.

**Chairman's Report**

The Chairman spoke on the following subjects:-

Planning matters: the chairman reported on two recent Public Inquiries about Bishop's End, and the representations of the Parish Council at these. A straw vote was taken on the willingness of the village to support a buyout of the former public house should it come on the market: the meeting was unanimously in favour, and the chairman was invited to contact Sibford Ferris Parish Council with a view to joint action.

The Village Pond

Allotments

Sibford Churchyard

Response to Cherwell Strategy Plan

Co-ordination between local Parish Councils

**Please see Appx A for the full Report.**

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**Clerk's & Financial Report**

The Clerk reported on the number of Parish Council Meetings during the past year and the current financial position. The accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 are ready for submission to the External Auditor and he expressed thanks to Mr David Soden for acting as Independent Examiner. He thanked the Parish Councillors for their support of him in carrying out his duties.

**Please see Appx B for the full Report.**

**Report by The Town Estate Charity**

Mr Fred Inns gave the following report:-

There have been two ordinary meetings and many electronic conversations during the year.

Heath Farm continues to occupy much time with the constant need for repairs, a recent chimney fire insurance claim and the need to oversee the farming activity is in accordance with the farm agreement.

A stone barn in a field off the B4035 is not now required by the tenant and rather than allow this to fall into disrepair it has been sold with planning permission. Clauses have been written into the sales agreement to ensure that this is not developed in a way which is not sympathetic to the area.

The Charity continues to fund chiropody services, personal alarms and half the cost for outings arranged by the Friendship Club. The Village Hall required maintenance work on the heating system and the Charity has agreed to pay a large part of this. One individual has received a grant.

In accordance with the Charity rules, income for this year has been distributed as follows:-

Relief in Need £2,485, General Benefit £600, School £3,500.

The Chairman thanked Mr Inns for the Report.

**Report by The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

Mrs Mollie Mulley presented the following Report:-

North Oxfordshire and West Oxfordshire Thames Valley Police have merged and with the new Police Commissioner in place there has been no change so far with Neighbourhood Watch.

Deborah Hextal the Neighbourhood Watch Manager who is based at Banbury Police Station continues to help and support us. The Neighbourhood Watch Police Team for the Banbury Area comprises Sgt Richard Miller, PC Jean Culley, PCSO Angie Alford, PCSO Lana Smith and PCSO Tom Bailey.

We have had the same Neighbourhood Watch Team this year covering Sibford Gower and Burdrop. They receive information concerning the Banbury Rural Area from the Thames Valley Messaging Service by E-mail, which they pass on to residents to help keep them informed and aware. We have many messages regarding thefts, bogus callers, scams etc in local villages. Sadly, the Sibfords have also been targeted. New residents are also visited.

We wish to thank Adrian Lamb for compiling the 'Scene' and for including Neighbourhood Watch.

It is important that we all take responsibility to help look after each other and help make our villages unattractive to unwanted and undesirable visitors. Through writing in the 'Scene' I have tried to support our team, to help keep residents aware, to follow police advice and to report anything suspicious to the Banbury Police (Tel 101 or 999 for emergencies). It is important that we help and support the police so that they can help us.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Mulley for her Report.

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**Sibford Village Hall Report**

The Village Hall Hon Secretary (Muriel Chandler) was unable to be present and her report was presented by Cllr Alan Parkin.

**Please see Appx C for the Report in detail.**

The Chairman instructed the Clerk to convey the Meeting's thanks to Muriel Chandler and her team.

**The Sibford's Community Plan**

The very detailed and informative Report was presented by Mrs Susan Mattinson.

**Please see Appx D for the Report in detail.**

The Chairman expressed his and the Parish Council's thanks for the tremendous work and effort put in by Susan and Richard Hartree and for what they have achieved.

The Chairman reported on the question of closer liaison between the PCs of the two Sibfords. All agenda and minutes are now shared, and the meetings of each body are public. It has not however proved possible to create a joint annual Parish Meeting, since it is a legal requirement that these should be separate.

**Any Other Business**

Mr Fred Inns expressed concern about the Village Pond which he maintained is owned by the Village. The Chairman explained that, in fact, the pond is according to the Land Registry 'ownerless', but steps are being taken for the Parish Council to become the legally registered owners, and Cllr Peter Abbott is in the course of preparing a claim to be submitted to the Land Registry.

Mr Fred Inns raised the subject of the poor condition of the surface of Colony Road and other roads in the Parish were referred to by other residents. Cty Cllr George Reynolds explained the system of the different coloured markings of potholes by Oxfordshire Highways indicating the timings of remedial work. The general feeling of the Meeting was that the results were not all that effective!

**There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and declared the Meeting closed at 9.30pm**

O'Sing - Murray

20th May 2014

## **Appx A**

### **Chairman's report for meeting 29 May 2013**

#### **Report**

There were four meetings last year mostly attended by a handful of loyal members of public who are always asked for and freely give their opinions; and County and District Councillor George Reynolds, whose presence and helpful advice on wider matters make our meetings really productive. We want more people to come, but at least some do on a regular basis.

#### **Issues arising during the year**

**Planning** matters were mostly uncontroversial, apart from one, and I will start my report with that. As everyone knows in the course of the year there have been two public Inquiries concerning the application for change of use of the former public house the Bishop Blaize to residential use. The first took place on 14-16 August 2012, and the Inspector rejected the appeal on 4 October. The Appellants sought a second Inquiry, which was held last week on 22 May; the decision will come in the next few months. Your Parish Council made representations at both Inquiries. In between them the owners sought for and were granted retrospective planning permission for alterations to the former bottle store; this was granted by Cherwell DC despite the objections of the Parish Council and many residents.

In the light of the fact that a formal complaint has been made to Cherwell about the actions of the Parish Council, I think I should make our position clear. Three of the fundamental duties of the PC are involved, which we have sought to carry out to the best of our ability. The first is to uphold the Planning Laws and to report on any breaches to the District Council. The second is to represent and support the views of the community as a whole to the outside world, and especially in any Inquiry. The third is to protect and promote the interests of the community. Apart from this we attempt not to take sides unnecessarily or act in any way to the detriment of individual members of the community.

Now to the Inquiries themselves. We are very grateful for the large and enthusiastic attendance at both Inquiries, and for the input of the BBSG and other residents. Many would have assumed that the first Inquiry would have settled the matter, and that appears to be the case, except in one respect. The appellants claimed that they had been unable to challenge the expert witness for Cherwell on the valuation and viability of the Bishop Blaize, because of lack of time; they submitted a new valuation which in their opinion demonstrated the non-viability of the pub if it were to reopen: it was this single issue that was the subject of the new Inquiry. The Inspector now has to decide on the evidence presented last week whether the pub is actually viable or not in the present economic climate.

The PC rested its submission on the two independent valuations that were presented. We argued that in most respects these were remarkably similar. In particular both valuers agreed that the current market value of the property as a pub was in the region of £250,000, a figure that is well supported by the recent sales of a number of pubs in this area. They also seemed to agree substantially on the costs of renovation, and the turnover and the profits of a reopened pub at approximately £38,580 per annum or more; deducting management costs of £27,000 this would leave a minimum profit on the most pessimistic figures of £11,580. What the two valuers essentially disagreed on was the way of calculating mortgage and loan costs that would be incurred by an operator on an initial expenditure of just under £300,000.

The PC argued to the Inspector that, given these figures, we would promote a village initiative to purchase the pub at a price of around £250,000 with £20-30,000 reopening costs. We took advice from the Plunkett Foundation (based in Woodstock), which supports village by-outs of pubs, shops and other amenities; and we rested our case on a business plan derived from the figures in the two opposed

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valuations. The basic premiss of our offer was that in the case of a village buy-out there would be no loan costs involved, since the money would be raised from the village; and the resulting return on capital invested would therefore be a minimum of approximately 4% per annum, which many villagers would find rather attractive in the present economic climate. To this end we have registered the property with Cherwell DC as an Asset of Community Value under the new Localism Act that came into force in November; this means that if a property goes for sale the community has priority for six months to raise the money and make an offer.

Let's be clear what we have actually let you in for. No money needs to be raised at present, since the property is not on the market, and may well not be for some time. The PC is not intending to own or run the pub (that's not appropriate for a PC to do), but simply to help a group of villagers prepare such a bid. When it comes to raising the money, it will depend on your decision how this is done, but for instance a straightforward commercial company bid (such as has recently been created for the Seven Stars pub at Marsh Baldon) might involve say 50 members of the village investing between £5000 and £10000 each in a company intending to trade at a profit. Alternatively we might all contribute smaller sums to a charitable foundation (as seems to be the case in Great Haseley, where the community has also received a grant from South Oxon DC). On this basis I would like now to ask for a straw vote, as to whether you approve in principle the actions of your PC so far, and are prepared to get involved in due course.

Regardless of the outcome of the present Inquiry, we do not believe that this will be the end of the matter. Both sides are doubtless already preparing their next moves, and we shall keep you informed of these, and continue our investigations over the next year or two.

**The Village pond** continues to occupy a great deal of our time. After a two year period of drought we had 18 months of rain, and the water level has returned to normal. In May the pipe leading from the pond became blocked, and it took Oxfordshire Highways a day to clear it. We are still investigating the possibility of claiming **ownership of the pond** itself. We have not yet resolved the problem of what is causing and who is responsible for the permanent puddle in the lane leading to Rye Hill. We have discussed this with Oxfordshire Highways, who came and mended a quite different crack in the pipe, which we were not aware of. So we must try again.

**Allotments:** land is now available for half a dozen allotments and we are simply waiting for a group to emerge as a result of the Community Plan to create an allotment association to run the allotments. Anyone interested should see the Clerk afterwards.

**Sibford churchyard:** The PCC has given formal notice that the churchyard is full in respect of burials, and has applied to the church authorities to close the churchyard and hand over its maintenance to the civil authorities. This is a legally enforceable duty on the Parish or District Council, for which ratepayers (whatever their religious persuasions) are required to pay; and the designated PC is that in which the churchyard physically rests. We have always claimed that maintenance of the churchyard ought to be shared between the two Sibfords, to whose joint religious Parish it belongs; and as a result we have in recent years paid the PCC half the costs of the churchyard maintenance. Whatever the strict legal interpretation, we believe that it is not right for the ratepayers of Sibford Gower to pay the full cost of maintenance. We shall therefore ask the Sibford Ferris PC whether in future they are willing to pay half the costs; and if we cannot reach agreement, we are minded to decline the duty and hand it over to Cherwell DC. They in turn will impose a levy on the local community, which will be greater than the cost of providing the service locally; but we hope that they will agree with us that the burden should be shared equally by all members of the ecclesiastical parish, not simply by the civil parish in which the churchyard is situated. Whatever the outcome of this discussion, it is likely that the parish precept will increase in future years.

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**Response to Cherwell Local Plan:** The final version of the Cherwell Local Plan (pp. 171-4) has taken into account many of the points that we made. The two Sibfords however remain jointly grouped as a 'category A' village, along with Cropredy, Hook Norton, Fritwell and Steeple Aston: they are expected to provide 189 houses in total over 20 years. Divided between 5 villages this means 38 houses per village, or an average of 2 houses a year. In Category A the specification of permitted development is for 'minor developments, infilling, conversions'. The allocation of new housing to the Sibfords therefore looks like being minimal, but that will depend partly on the current appeal of Hook Norton against a major proposal to build there, which has been called in to the Minister. We are not unduly alarmed at present, since the likely impact on the Sibfords over the next 20 years looks like being considerably less than the actual new building that has taken place annually since around 1950 in the villages. Thanks to the Community Plan we are now at least fully prepared in terms of possible sites. We shall share in the proposed Rural Exception Site for perhaps 6 houses currently under discussion in Sibford Ferris.

**Co-ordination between local Parish Councils:** earlier this year I suggested to other local councils that there were many points of interest that were common to us all, and that a group should meet regularly to share information. The first meeting was held at the Gate Hangs High on 18<sup>th</sup> March, and was attended by a dozen reps from the two Sibfords, Hook Norton, Epwell, Swalcliffe, Tadmarton, Ratley, Shenington, Wroxton: we have already shared a lot of useful info on things like pub closures, traffic calming, bottle banks, churchyard closures etc. And we intend to meet every six months or so.

**Diamond Jubilee:** The PC made a grant of £500 towards this, and I am sure all wish to express their thanks to Muriel and her team for a very successful event, despite the weather.

That ends my report to you for the current year. Thank you all very much.

## **Appx B**

### **Clerk's & Financial Report**

Since last year's Annual Parish Meeting, Four Parish Council Meetings have taken place and it is always good to see the local residents who have attended and expressed points of view. During the year in question, the Parish Council has lost the services of Roger Alder on his departure from the Village but it has been very pleased to co-opt Mrs Susan Bannister who very kindly offered her services – the vacancy having been duly advertised with no response.

The Council's Financial Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 have been completed and thanks are expressed to Mr David Soden for completing the Internal Examination. They will now be submitted to the External Auditor. The financial year started off with £7,336 in the bank and ended with a balance of £7,324.39. Of this sum, £3,203 relates to the residue of a bequest of £5,000 by the late Miriam Tebbs. She bequeathed this money to the Parish Council to be used for the benefit of the Parish as and when suitable situations arise. There have been no reasons during the course of the year to call on these monies. Also contained within the bank balance is £1,014 held specifically in reserve for expenditure that may occur in connection with the developing Sibfords Community Plan. During the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 Grants were made of £1,250 to Holy Trinity Church towards maintenance of the Churchyard and £350 to Sibford Village Hall. Donations were made of £120 to the Sibford Scene and £100 to Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School

The Precept for the previous financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 was £6,250. The Precept for the coming financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 was agreed by the Parish Council at £6,500.

Reports of all Parish Council Meetings are published in the Sibford Scene and The Banbury Guardian plus the Parish Council's webpage.

All financial information and details are freely available to residents from the Clerk upon request.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Parish Councillors for the support that they give me in my job as Clerk with special reference to my Chairman.

Peter Hardman

## **Appx C – Muriel**

### **ANNUAL VILLAGE HALL REPORT FOR SIBFORD GOWER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 29.5.13:**

DURING THE LAST YEAR SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL CONTINUES TO BE SUPPORTED BY ALL OUR REGULAR GROUPS AND NOW ALSO HAVE ART CLASSES ON A MONDAY WORKING WITH PASTELS AND ON FRIDAYS WITH WATER COLOURS. WE STILL HAVE KARATE CLASSES ON MONDAYS AND SATURDAYS AND NOW HAVE YOGA CLASSES ON TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS.

WE DO APPRECIATE THE ANNUAL DONATIONS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WHICH DOES HELP WITH THE EVER INCREASING COSTS OF RUNNING THE HALL AND KEEPING FACILITIES UP TO DATE BUT AT THE SAME TIME TO BE COMPETITIVE IN THE HIRING CHARGES. WE RECENTLY HAD AN ENERGY AUDIT WHICH ONLY COST THE HALL £160, OBTAINING FUNDING FROM TOE2 FOR THE OTHER £500 AND NOW HAVE THEIR REPORT TO PUT TO THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE TO SEE WHAT WORK WE HAVE TO DO IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO MAKE THE HALL MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT. AGAIN WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO OBTAIN GRANTS TO HELP WITH THIS WORK. WE HAVE A QUOTATION FOR AROUND £1200 TO UPDATE THE EFFICIENCY OF ALL THE RADIATORS IN THE LARGE HALL BUT OUR FIRST GRANT APPLICATION HAS BEEN REFUSED SO WE HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR FUNDING AND OBTAIN OTHER QUOTATIONS FOR THIS WORK.

OUR EASTER EGG HUNT ON GOOD FRIDAY WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL WITH 103 CHILDREN TAKING PART OVER TWO TRAILS AGAIN SET BY JOAN BROADY WITH OUR 'LIVE' EASTER BUNNY KEEPING THE CHILDREN ENTERTAINED AND THANKS GO TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS SUCH A SUCCESS ESPECIALLY THE LAMB FAMILY FROM THE FERRIS.

WE HAVE OUR ANNUAL FAYRE WITH THE DOG SHOW, MANY ENTERTAINMENTS AND BBQ ON SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE THIS YEAR AT THE HALL AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS. UNFORTUNATELY THE VERY POPULAR BAND 'DAMN RIGHT I GOT THE BLUES' ARE NOT ABLE TO COME TO SIBFORD THIS YEAR DUE TO THE TWO LEADING MEMBERS HAVING MANY MORE COMMITMENTS BUT HAVE PROMISED TO DO THEIR BEST TO RETURN IN 2014. THIS IS ONE OF OUR LARGEST FUND RAISING EVENTS SO IS DISAPPOINTING. WE WILL DISCUSS HAVING A DISCO FOR TEENAGERS/FAMILIES AND WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS IF THIS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA. THE VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY GAME WILL SOON BE STARTING WHICH AGAIN HELPS TO BRING IN FUNDS – ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN THE FUN CAN RING 780025. WE WILL ALSO HAVE ANOTHER QUIZ NIGHT LATER IN THE YEAR AND AT THE MOMENT HAVE MONTHLY FILM NIGHTS.

WE HAVE SUFFERED FROM THIS WINTER'S WEATHER CONDITIONS CAUSING EMERGENCY WORK, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT THIS YEAR BOTH CHRISTMAS AND EASTER SEEMED TO LAST FOR A LONGER PERIOD WITH LESS HIRERS USING THE HALL.

ALTHOUGH OUR INCOME FOR THE PERIOD FROM 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL TO 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2012 WAS HIGHER THAN FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THIS WAS CANCELLED OUT BY THE INCREASED EXPENDITURE FOR THE SAME PERIOD. SINCE THE END OF DECEMBER BECAUSE OF THE WINTRY WEATHER CONTINUING, EXPENDITURE WILL HAVE RISEN EVEN FURTHER. I DO NOT HAVE OUR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013 TO HAND AS YET SO CANNOT GIVE YOU A FULL PICTURE. I AM HOWEVER CONFIDENT THAT, WITH THE NEW CLASSES NOW STARTING WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO AN IMPROVED PICTURE IN 2013/14.

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WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD TWO MEMBERS RETIRE FROM THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE BUT WE HAVE BEEN LUCKY IN HAVING THREE NEW MEMBERS RECENTLY COME ON TO THE COMMITTEE. WE ARE NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO REDUCING SOME OF THE WORK FOR THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE COMMITTEE FOR SOME YEARS AND GETTING OTHER MEMBERS TO SHARE THE KEY ROLES.

Muriel Chandler

Hon Secretary to Sibford Village Hall Committee

## Appx D



## Sibford Gower Parish Council AGM, 29 May 2013

### SIBFORDS COMMUNITY PLAN Progress Report for 2012 / 2013

#### INTRODUCTION

The preparation of the Sibfords Community PLAN was concluded during the last year. The process was principally undertaken by the **Steering Group** and supported by six **Working Groups** that were established to undertake research, questionnaire analysis and reporting on the main topics identified through consultation with the community. A series of **Newsletters**, delivered by volunteers within the villages, kept the community informed on progress of the PLAN.

#### SIBFORDS COMMUNITY PLAN FINAL REPORT

The **Final Report of the PLAN** was published in **October 2012** and posted on the Sibfords website. Hard copies are also available for borrowing. The Plan includes a range of 'Next Steps', and 'Actions and Initiatives' linked to the principal topics that the Working Groups examined, for implementation by the Parish Councils, together with a separate but complementary range of initiatives for implementation by volunteers and interest groups. The PLAN also includes comprehensive details of contacts and potential funding sources for the various initiatives identified.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE PLAN TO THE COMMUNITY

A meeting was held in the Village Hall on the **6th November 2012** to **present the Final Community PLAN**. Richard Hartee, Chair of the Steering Group, gave an illustrated presentation, explaining the community plan process and principal outcomes of the Plan. Following this, there was an opportunity for people to discuss the outcomes and offer help with taking forward or supporting initiatives by Voluntary and Interest Groups.

**PARISH COUNCIL ADOPTION AND ACTION** As well as formally endorsing and adopting the PLAN, the **Parish Councils are working together on the actions and initiatives that they propose to undertake**. A process also needs to be set up whereby interested members of the community are encouraged or guided in taking forward the various actions and initiatives identified for Volunteer Groups.

**SUMMARY STATEMENT: SIBFORDS COMMUNITY PLAN & THE FUTURE** A **Summary Statement** setting out the vision and key aims and future proposals for the Community PLAN was prepared by Oswyn Murray, Chair of SGPC. This was reviewed by both Parish Councils and following further amendments was published in the Sibford Scene and also posted on the Community Plan page of the Sibfords Website.

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The ORCC intends to prepare a **Case Study leaflet for the Sibfords Community Plan** to provide guidance for other village communities that may be considering the development of their own Plan. The finalisation of the Case Study has been deferred until further progress is made on taking forward the various initiatives and actions.

### POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF THE PLAN

- The Consultation Draft was submitted as a reference document at the Bishop Blaize Inquiry and provided evidence of **a strong and united Sibfords community**.
- **Cherwell District Council will take account of the community's views** and the PLAN's findings on Housing for the emerging Cherwell Local Plan; these findings will have the status of a 'material consideration' in planning matters.
- Sibford Ferris PC has referred to the range of responses received in the Questionnaire on **the use of the land adjacent to the MUGA** to guide them on options for the further development of the land.
- **A Walking Group has been set up**; the Group held its first walk on 17 December 2012 and now meets regularly on Monday mornings. Walks are advertised in the Sibford Scene and the Sibfords website.
- In response to the large number of requests in the Questionnaire for **Glass Recycling Facilities**, these have been provided at the Wykham Arms in Sibford Gower and will also be installed at the lay-by near the crossroads junction by the Elm in Sibford Ferris.
- The Parish Councils will liaise with Oxfordshire County Council to bring matters concerning **Footpaths and Bridleways in the Parishes** to their attention. The Parish Councils have also requested local users to report back to the Sue Bannister, Sibford Gower Parish Councillor with any concerns about the rights of way network, particularly their condition and accessibility.

### FINANCE

From the Plan's inception the **Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council (ORCC)** provided full support for the process and awarded a total grant of **£900.00** for costs incurred in the development of the PLAN. This was spread over three financial years. The Final Account for the PLAN confirmed that the total expenditure was **£996.71**, thus amounting to a total net cost to the two Parish Councils of **£96.71**. These costs have been **shared equally between the two Parish Councils**. The main costs comprised the printing of the Questionnaire and Newsletters and Final Report, and the various Consultation Events held in the Village Hall. The Community PLAN acknowledges the contribution made by Sibford School for the printing of documents at low printing rates. This helped to keep costs to a minimum, so particular thanks are due to Sibford School.