



The Sibfords Community Plan and the Future

Following the Presentation of the Final Sibfords Community Plan on November 6th, 2012 the two Parish Councils have reviewed the Plan's findings. Their vision and the principal aims are set out below.

The Vision

What is the vision for the villages? The Community Plan is, of course, the vision since it incorporates all your thoughts on what is best for the future; it is not simply a snapshot of the present. It suggests that you love your villages, and are broadly satisfied and appreciate the villages as they are.

Aims

For a more specific set of aims and future proposals, the Plan points in the following directions:

- The villages should not become either retirement villages, or dormitory villages for the M40 corridor; they should remain active centres of employment and build on our strengths in terms of schools, farms, leisure and recreation centres, and small businesses.
- The Plan accepts a small increase of 10-20 houses over the next 20 years to promote this aim.
- The Plan recommends we actively promote business opportunities and seek to strengthen the 100-strong business community by encouraging networking, and if needed, by establishing a small business park.
- The Plan recommends we pursue superfast broadband options.
- The Plan seeks to publicise the attractions of the villages by publishing a guide.
- The Environment Group will pursue green options with vigour.
- We will seek to foster closer connections between the Parish Councils (including the possibility of amalgamation) and between all other village groups.
- The Plan recommends we survey the footpaths of the area and promote new links.
- The Plan recommends we investigate other concerns such as on-street parking, speeding, recycling and provision of dog bins.
- The Plan recommends we look for more play areas, especially in the Gower.

Without the Community Plan we could not have formulated these aims so clearly, or be able to present them so forcefully to the higher authorities. So, a big thanks to all of you for taking part in the creation of the Plan, and please be willing to come forward as volunteers in the pursuit of these aims.

Oswyn Murray, Chair of Sibford Gower Parish Council

Joanne Connor, Chair of Sibford Ferris Parish Council