



Uffington Parish Council

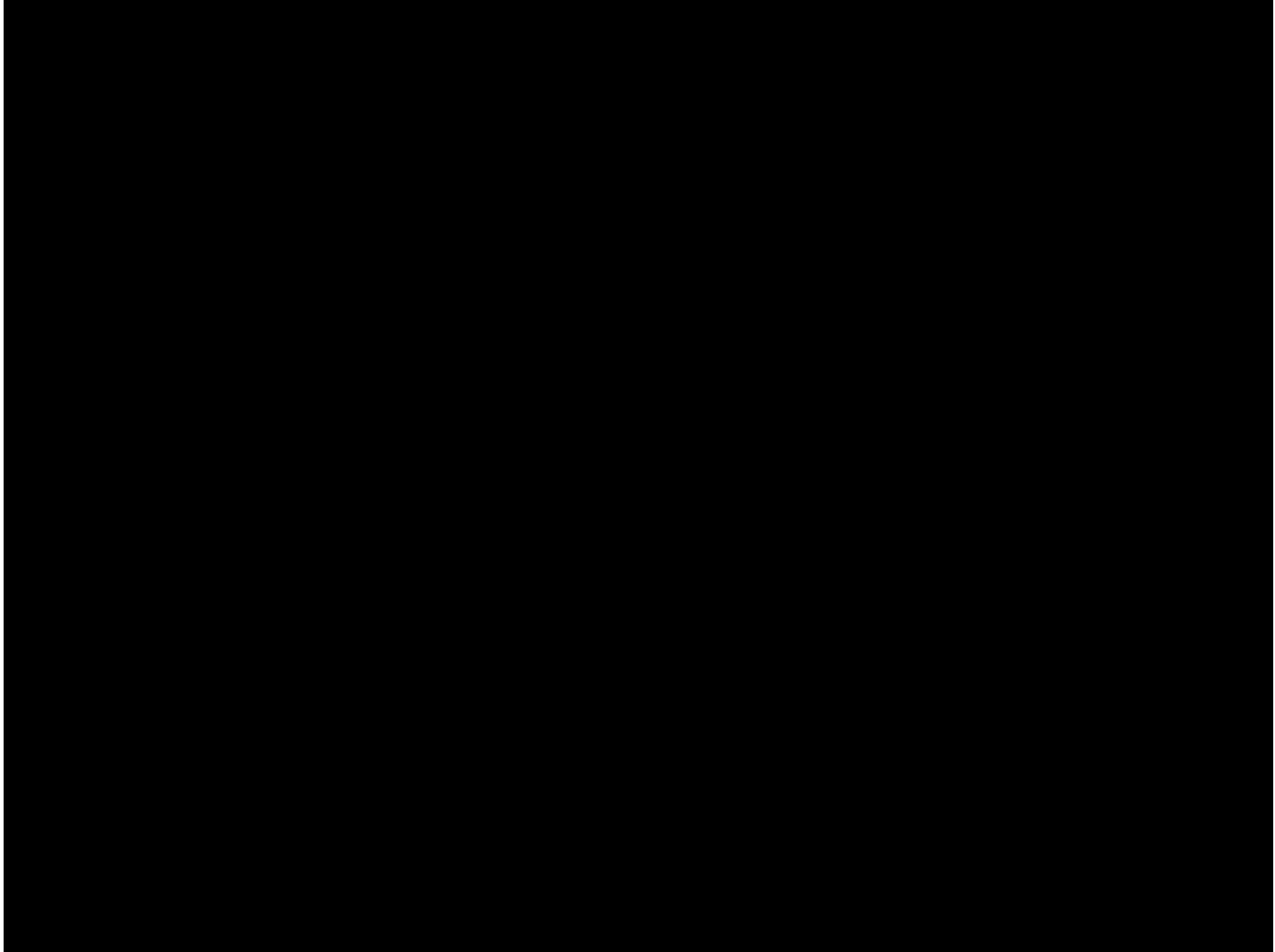
Annual Assembly

17 April 2023

Agenda

Annual Assembly

1. Introduction and 2022/23 report
2. Uffington Gorse – Wilts and Berks Canal Trust
3. Church Clock – Jeremy Moss
4. Chair's Report for 2023/24
5. Coronation 'Big Lunch' 7 May
6. Other projects you'd like to see...
8. Public Forum – All



Chair's Report for 2022-23

Standing objectives

- Stayed within budget and received no adverse audit comments
- Routine maintenance of the village continued, including:
 - 2 Jubilee Field Tidies and road Verge Rubbish Picks
 - Pond part-clearance
 - 5 yearly Tree Survey completed and report actioned
 - Ash trees with advanced die-back removed
 - One poplar being removed
 - Broad Street stream cleared
 - Number of volunteers has diminished, unless we get more then we will need to start paying for some of the tasks previously done by volunteers (and increase the precept)
- We have continued to comment on all planning applications.
 - Comments are generally heeded by the Vale
 - BUT we have been disappointed by the level and scale of development permitted by the Vale at the western end of the village which we believe to be contrary to the intentions and spirit of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Chair's Report

2022-23 Objectives

- Completed a further project to convert stiles to kissing gates – a grant from TOE was received which covered the cost.
- Identified and supported opportunities to improve further road safety in the village.
- Organised a village event on 5th June to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
- Supported, in a small way, the 'Queens Green Canopy' project. A plaque was purchased and trees came from the Council, Gardening Club, Scouts, Beavers and Cubs in a small new copse on the Jubilee Field.
- PLANNED to Protect the Whitehorse Hill landscape:
 - Maintained participation in the White Horse Action Group pending any further planning applications for Britchcombe Farm – none to date
 - Considered but then withdrew from applying for World Heritage status for Whitehorse Hill and surrounding landscape if appropriate.
- FAILED to Coordinate opportunities to improve fibre broadband provision in the village.

Chair's Report for 2022-23

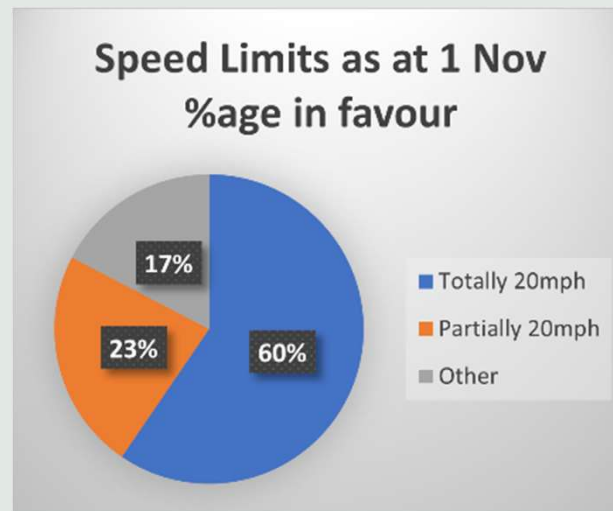
Completed a further project to convert **stiles to kissing gates** – a grant from TOE was received which covered the cost.



Chair's Report for 2022-23

Identified and supported opportunities to improve **further road safety** in the village.

Courier Survey



OCC Survey – has taken place and was approved by an OCC Highways Committee on 25 March. Implementation details are awaited

Speedwatch – successfully restarted once ‘gun’ and IT system approved and now in regular operation. The group has conducted 8 sessions since January and 17 cars have been reported for speeding. More volunteers would be much appreciated!

Chair's Report for 2022-23

- Organised a village event on 5th June to **celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.**
- Supported, in a small way, the '**Queens Green Canopy**' project. A plaque was purchased and trees came from the Council, Gardening Club, Scouts, Beavers and Cubs and one private individual and were planted in a small new copse on the west side of the Jubilee Field.



Chair's Report – 2022-23

PLANNED to Protect the Whitehorse Hill landscape:

- Maintained participation in the White Horse Action Group pending any further planning applications for Britchcombe Farm – none to date
- Considered, but then withdrew from, applying from World Heritage status for Whitehorse Hill and surrounding landscape if appropriate.
- We have plans ready to take forward if/when a planning application is lodged for any development of Britchcombe Farm and the surrounding field(s).

Note that the AONB 'Council of Partners' of has recently agreed the following 6 goals for future engagement, which were developed at a number of recent workshops. These, which may effect any application, but priority order not known, include:

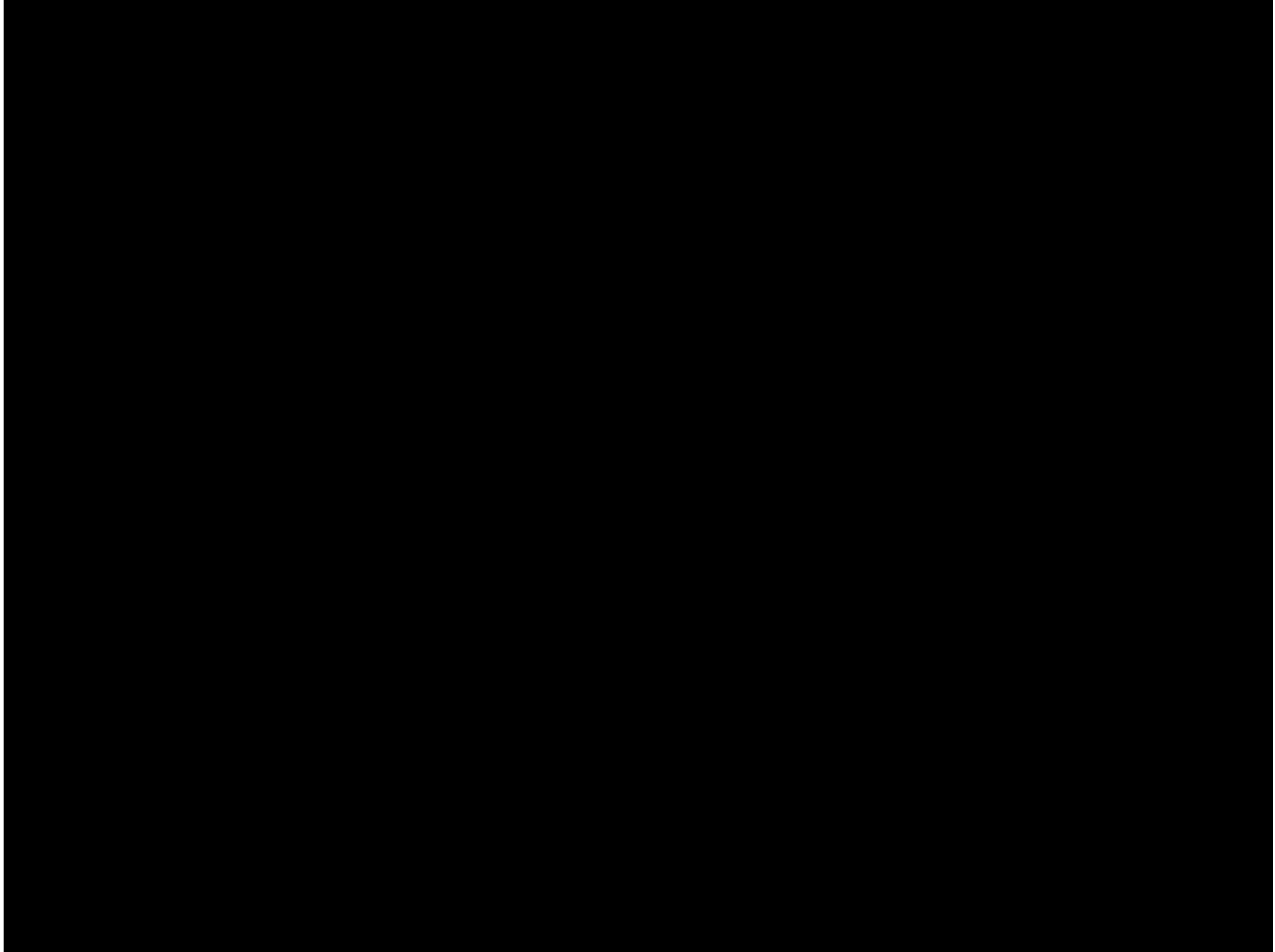
- Supporting the rural economy
- Deliver for nature and climate
- Improve communications and advocacy
- Provide opportunities to improve health and wellbeing
- Improve spatial planning
- Align AONB policy across relevant authorities

Chair's Report – 2022-23

Tried but FAILED to coordinate opportunities to improve fibre broadband provision in the village.



- Airband DO have live fibre to some more remote properties under an OCC scheme for 'Broadband in Rural Oxfordshire (BiRO)
- Airband has installed, at their own risk, fibre in Uffington – but it is not yet available to purchase contracts which use it.
- BT installing in Museum, School and Village Hall
- BUT nothing for more central village properties from either – yet...



Wilts and Berks Canal Trust

Shrivenham Canal Park



April 2023

Clare Allen and Kenn Tagg

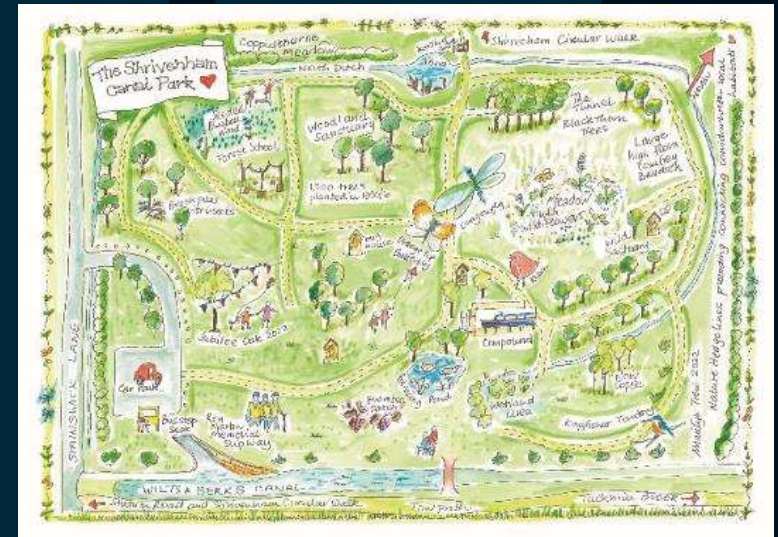
Branch Overview

- Acorn Bridge to Station Road Uffington
- Total length – 11.35km
- Length owned by Trust - 320m
- Land leased by trust – 930m (only half the canal)
- Navigable - 0km



Shrivenham Canal Park

- Recent improvements include
 - new benches
 - bug hotels
 - tree planting,
 - "bus stop" information point
 - wildflower seeding of meadows
 - Habitat information boards
 - Murals
- Shrivenham Circular Walk
 - Part of the 1.5km of towpath we maintain



Uffington Gorse

- This 9 acre woodland is owned by the Woodland Trust but was leased out for 999 years. The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust (WBCT) acquired the lease
- The Wilts and Berks Canal runs close to Uffington and there is a 200m stretch within the woodland, which was our primary reason for buying the lease.
- The canal itself is in a very deep cutting, made even deeper by the spoil that was piled on the eastern bank during its construction in the 1810's.
- Sadly, the canal itself is now full of debris and very overgrown with many fallen and broken trees, the odd telegraph pole and discarded car tyres.



Uffington Gorse

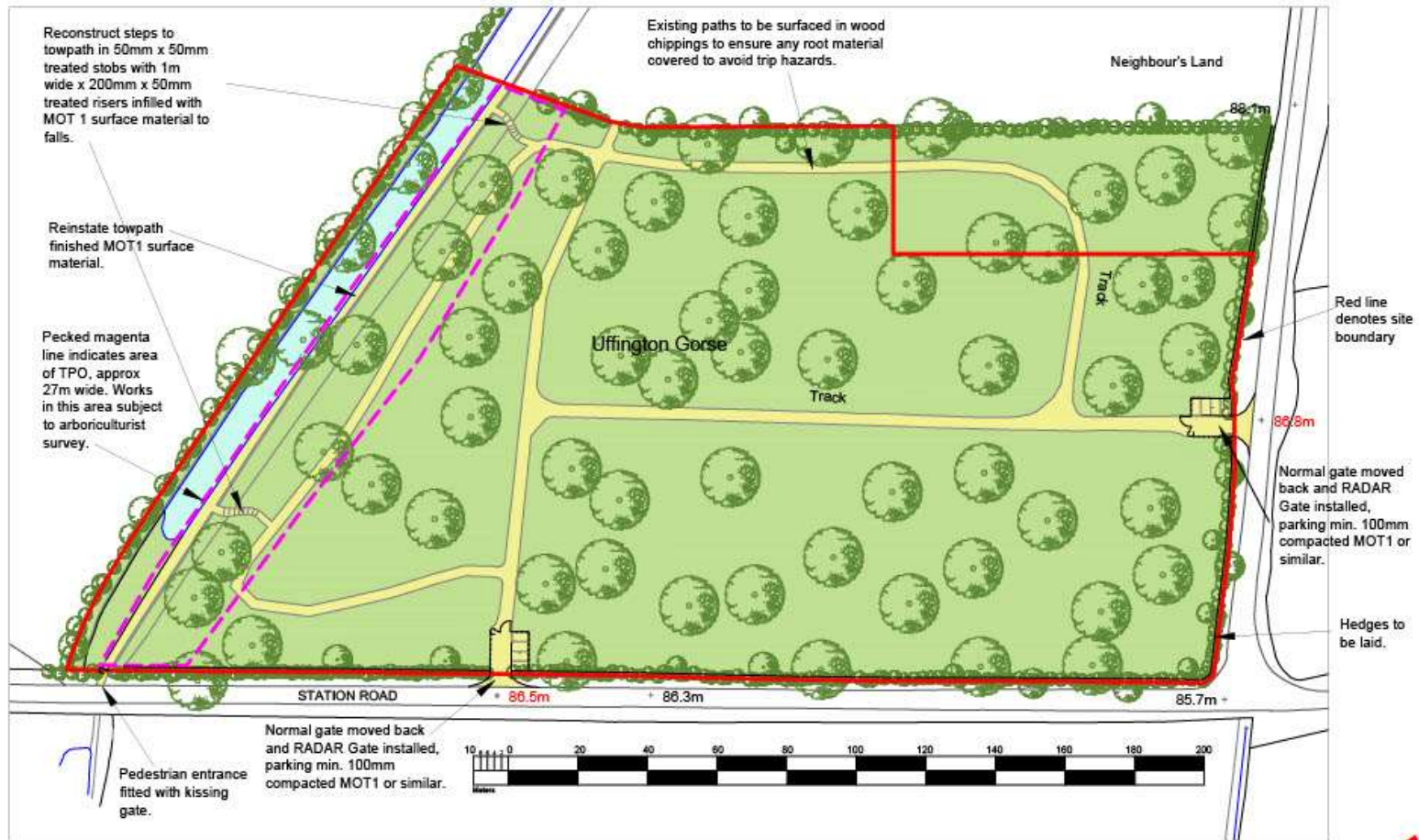
- Our aim is to sympathetically manage the site to compliment, (but not copy), the Canal Park in Shrivvenham
- We are in the process of preparing plans to improve the whole Uffington Gorse site.
- These plans will include:
 - carrying out arboricultural and ecological surveys to establish a short and long-term Woodland Management Plan.
 - improving the access to and within the wood
 - Creating small car parks
 - Applying chippings to the path where required
 - installing signage
 - providing benches
 - Bat, Owl and Dormouse Boxes
 - reinstating the towpath by the canal
 - Restoring canal itself.



Things are happening

- Felling trees and branch that were a safety hazard
- Removal of discarded Tyres
- A litter pick
- Installation of bird boxes
- Started clearing the Towpath
- Cutting back some of the hedges
- Marking out neighbours land





WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST

PATRON: The Former Duchess of Cornwall

RESTORING IN PARTNERSHIP THE WILTS & BERKS CANAL THROUGH WILTSHIRE, SWINDON AND OXFORDSHIRE



WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST
Address: UFFINGTON GORSE

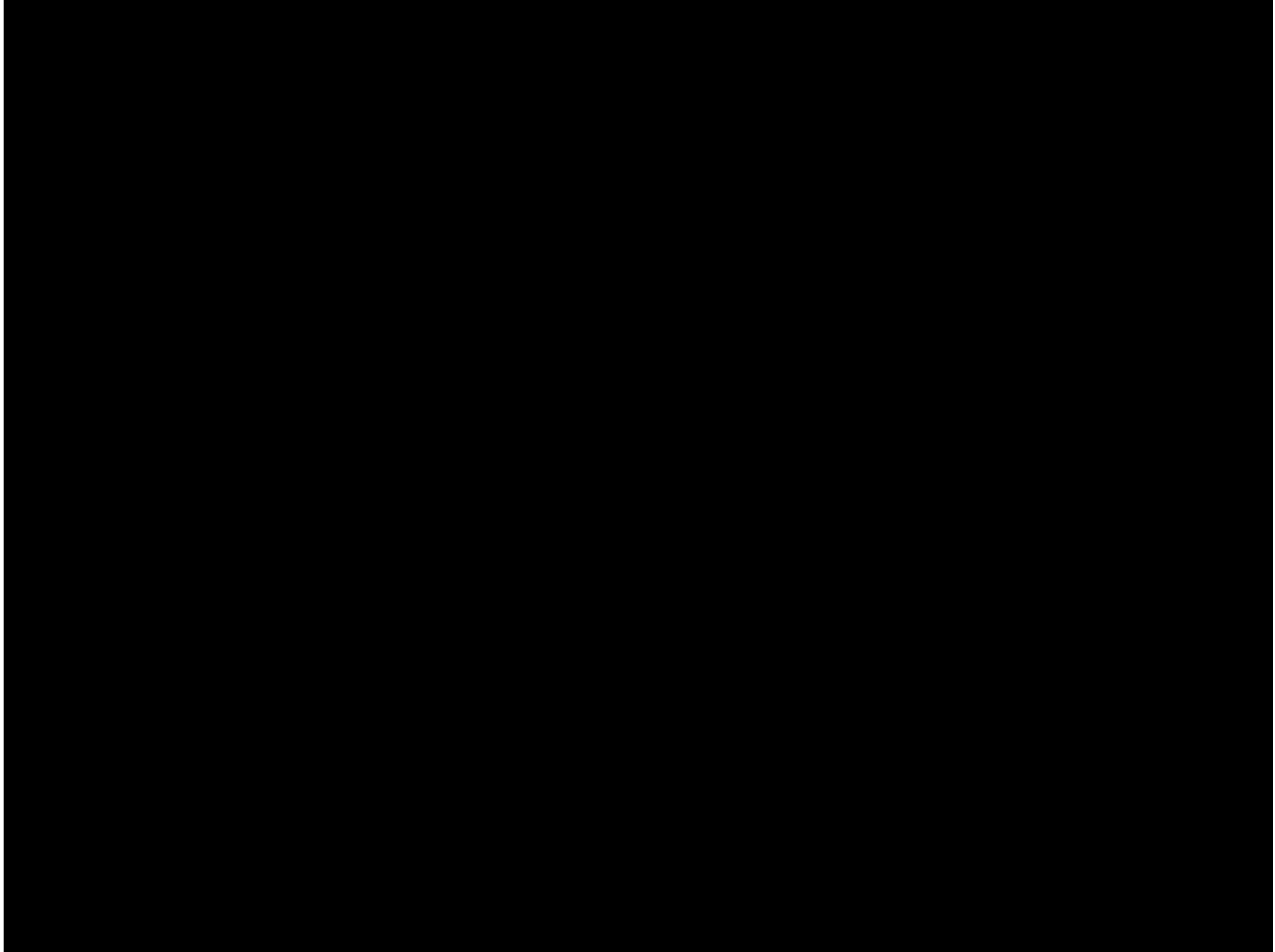
Project: Woodland Management
Site Plan Proposed
Scale: 1:1000
Date: January 2023
Number: 4.08_388:03

DRAFT 5

Want to help?

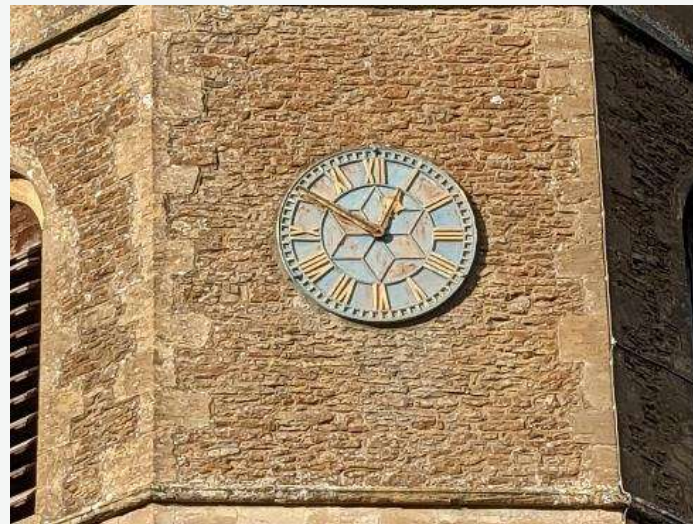
- Volunteer mucky boots or carpet slipper roles available in the branch and the wider Trust
 - Work parties will take place on some Wednesdays and Saturdays at Uffington Gorse
- Join The Wilts and Berks Trust as a member
 - Monthly update notifications
 - Quarterly e-magazine, (hard copies available....)
- Play the White Horse Community lottery
 - <https://www.whitehorselottery.co.uk/support/wilts-and-berks-canal-trust>
- Make a donation!!!
- Contact us on westvale.branch@wbct.org.uk

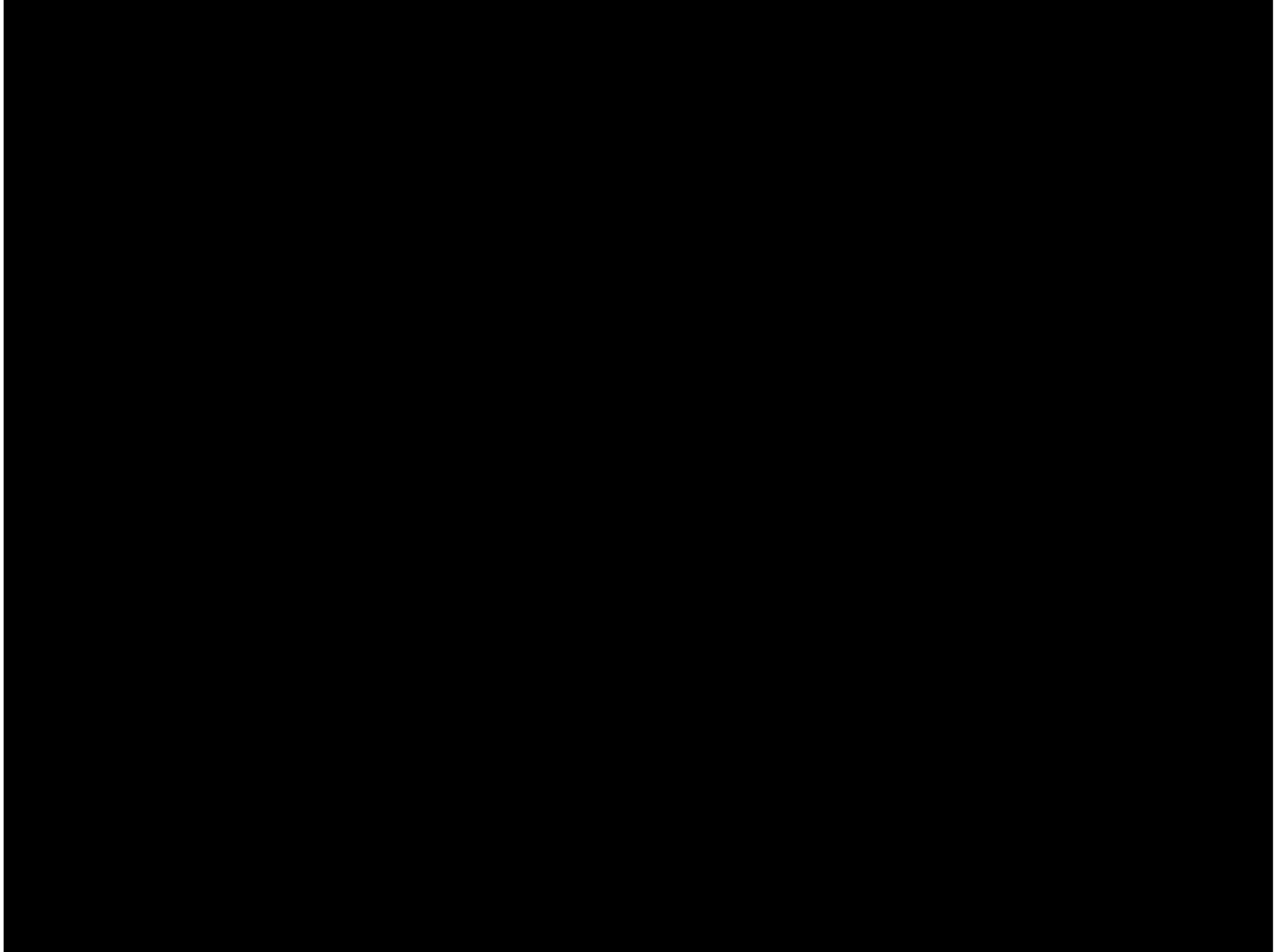




The Church Clock

Jeremy Moss





Chair's Outline for 2023-24

2023 election

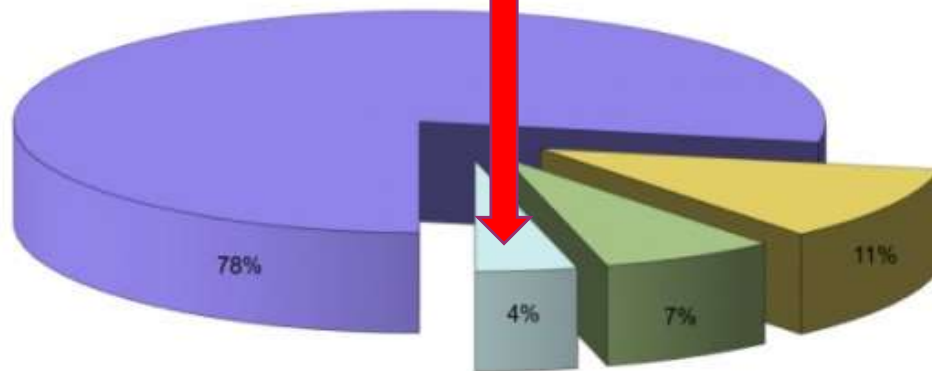
- Only 5 nominations were received from:
 - 3 existing councillors (Simon Jenkins, Fenella Oberman and Mike Oldnall).
 - 2 new councillors – Kat Foxhall and Richard Charles.
- Limited to what we can say about future plans before the new Council takes office on 9 May.

Budget

- Precept has NOT been increased for the 2nd year running.
- Total income/expenditure just over £43,000.

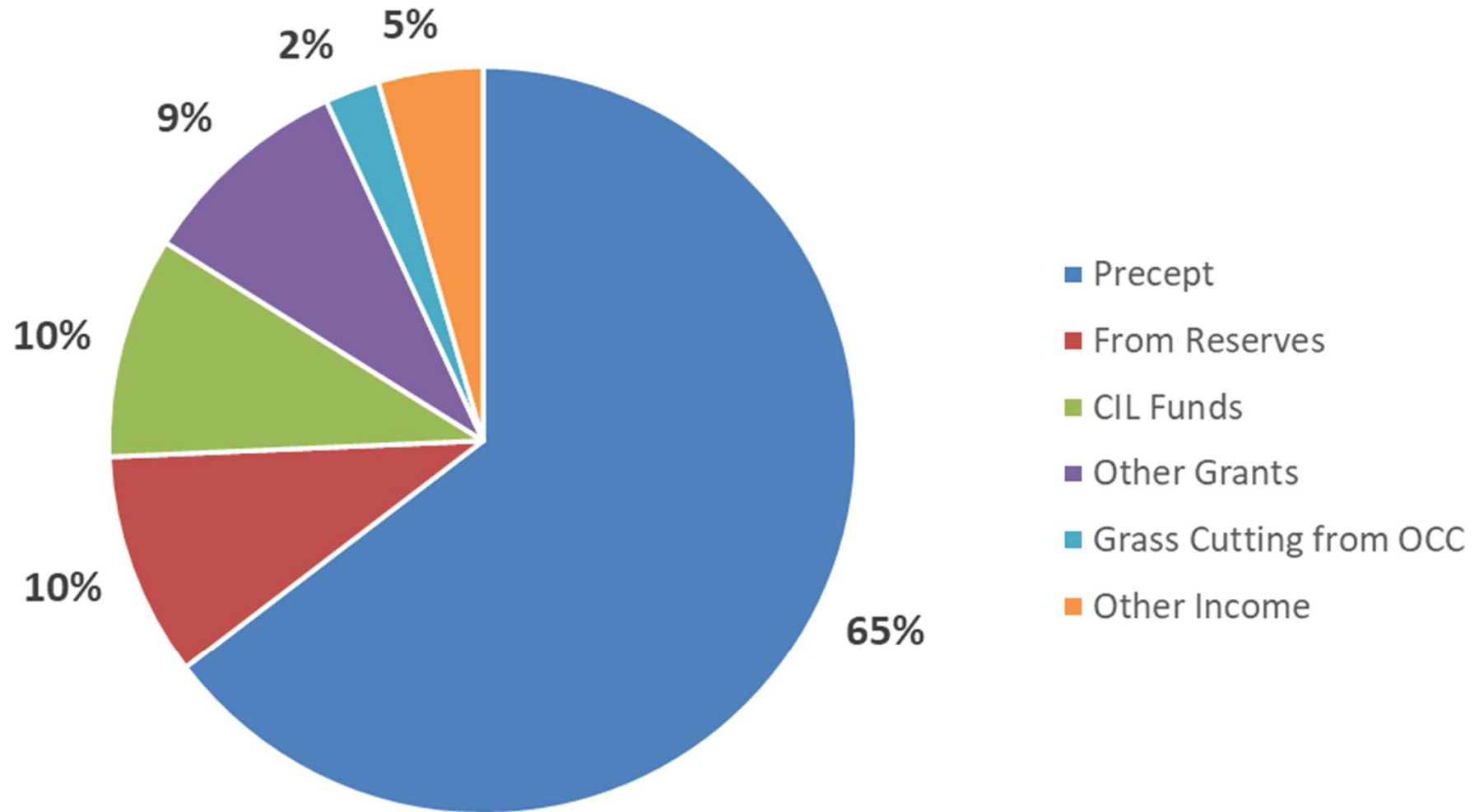
Budgets 2023/24

- No increase in parish precept for 2nd year running
 - The parish element of your council tax is less than 4% (pale blue)
- Increases in your Council tax have come from:
 - County Council – 5% (includes 2% for adult social care)
 - District Council – 3.4%
 - Thames Valley Police – 6.2%

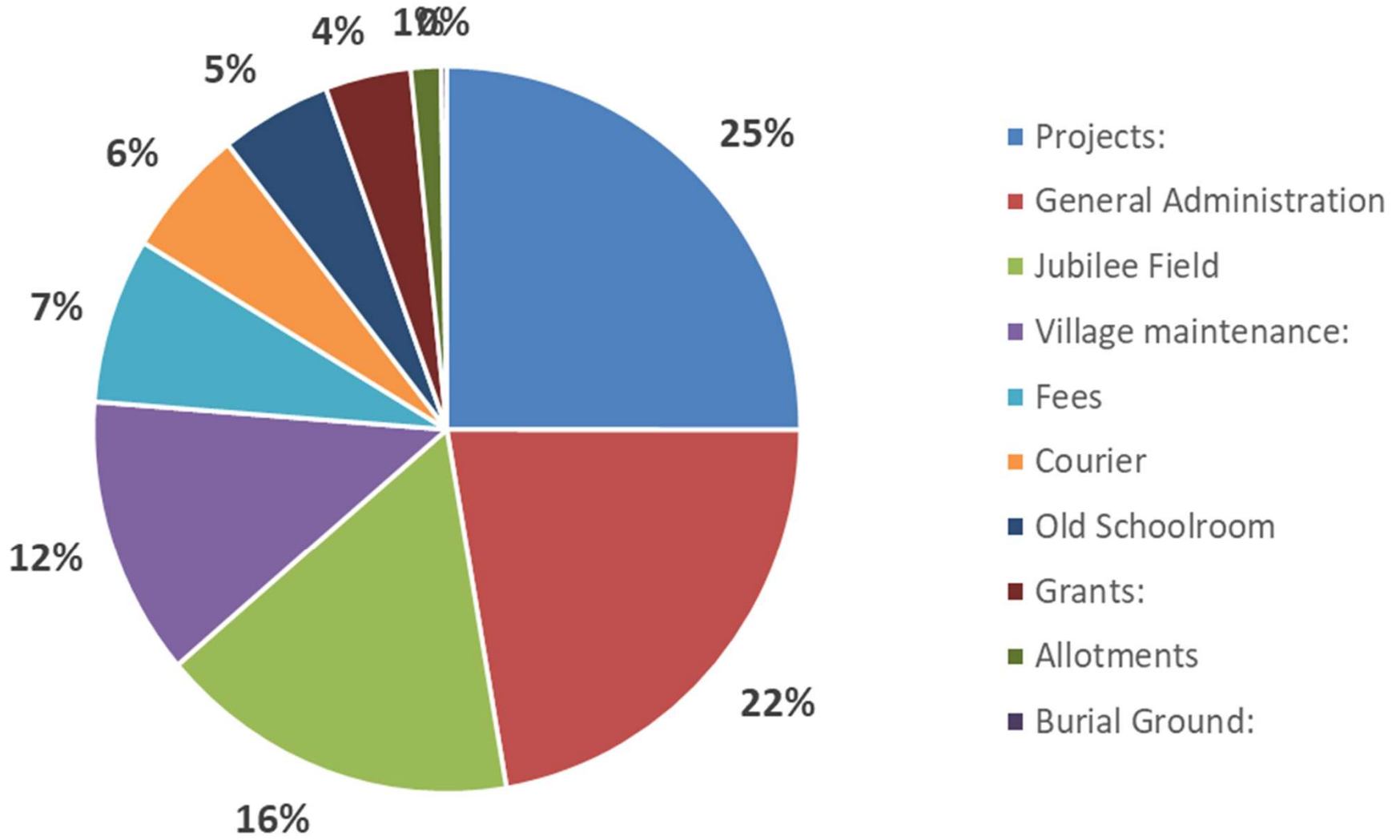


- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ■ Oxfordshire County Council
- roads, social services, education | ■ Thames Valley Police |
| ■ Vale of White Horse District Council
- refuse and recycling, planning, environmental health | □ Town or Parish Council (average) |

Income by Percentage - Total £43,330



Expenditure by Percentage - Total £43,330

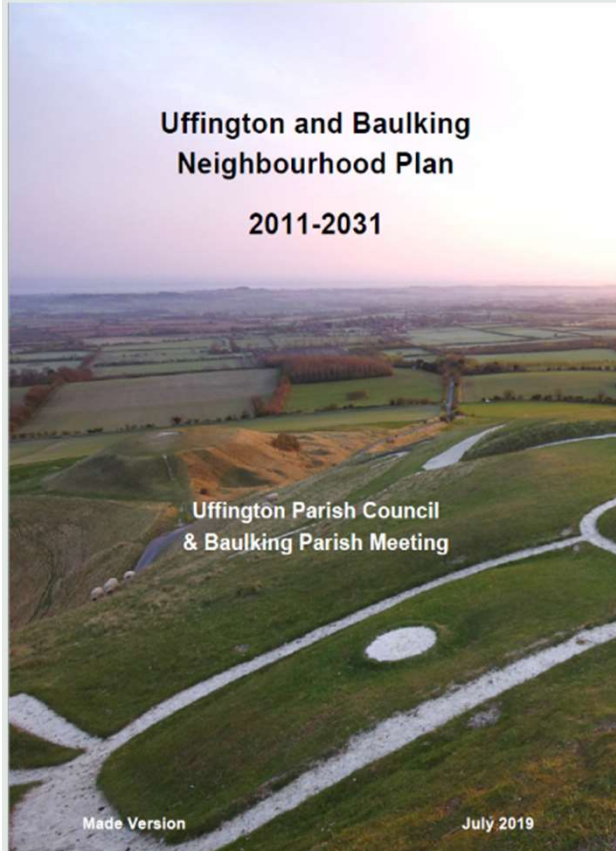


Objectives (2023/24)

Subject to new Council agreement

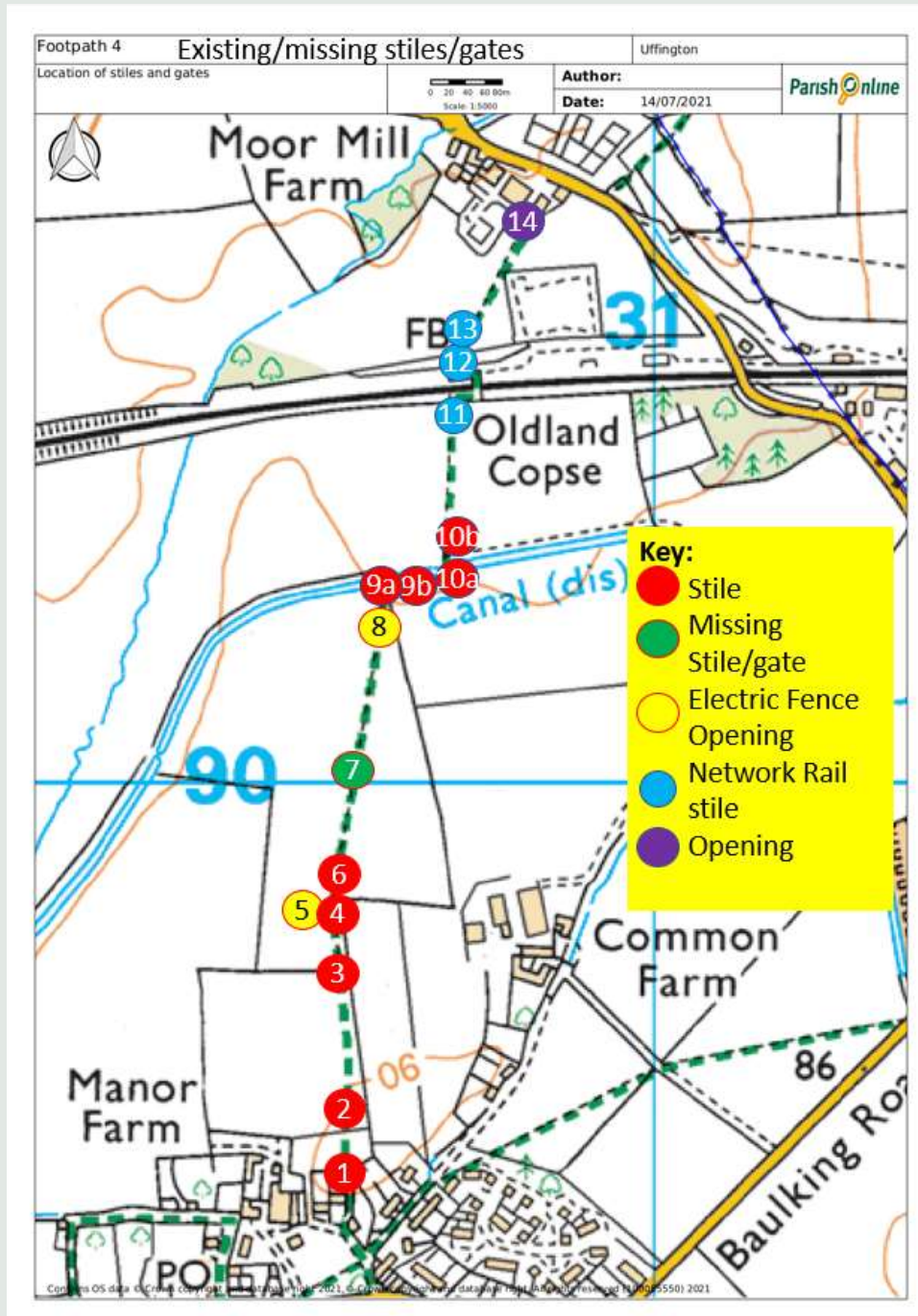
- Carry out an initial review of the 2019 Neighbourhood plan.
- Continue to support improvements to road safety in the village (OCC 20mph scheme).
- Complete delivery of the Footpath 4 kissing gates project.
- Coordinate the Kings Coronation Village Event(s).
- Scope costs for additional playground/Jubilee Field equipment.

Neighbourhood Plan



- The first Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was published in July 2019 covering the period to 2031.
- Review/update/re-write due after 5 years (2024).
- Vale and South District Plan being updated and is in early stages.
 - Adopts a different approach – “good Growth” driven.
 - We need to keep in step and issue our NP after theirs.
 - 2041 Plan is due for issue in Summer 2024.
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is being updated. Key for us are:
 - Changes to way in which housing numbers calculated.
 - Govt has done away with “300,00 new homes” national target.
 - Changes to way AONB (and Green Belt, National Parks etc) is treated/protected.
- Way Ahead – review existing Plan and decide to rewrite or update.

Footpath 4



Key Points:

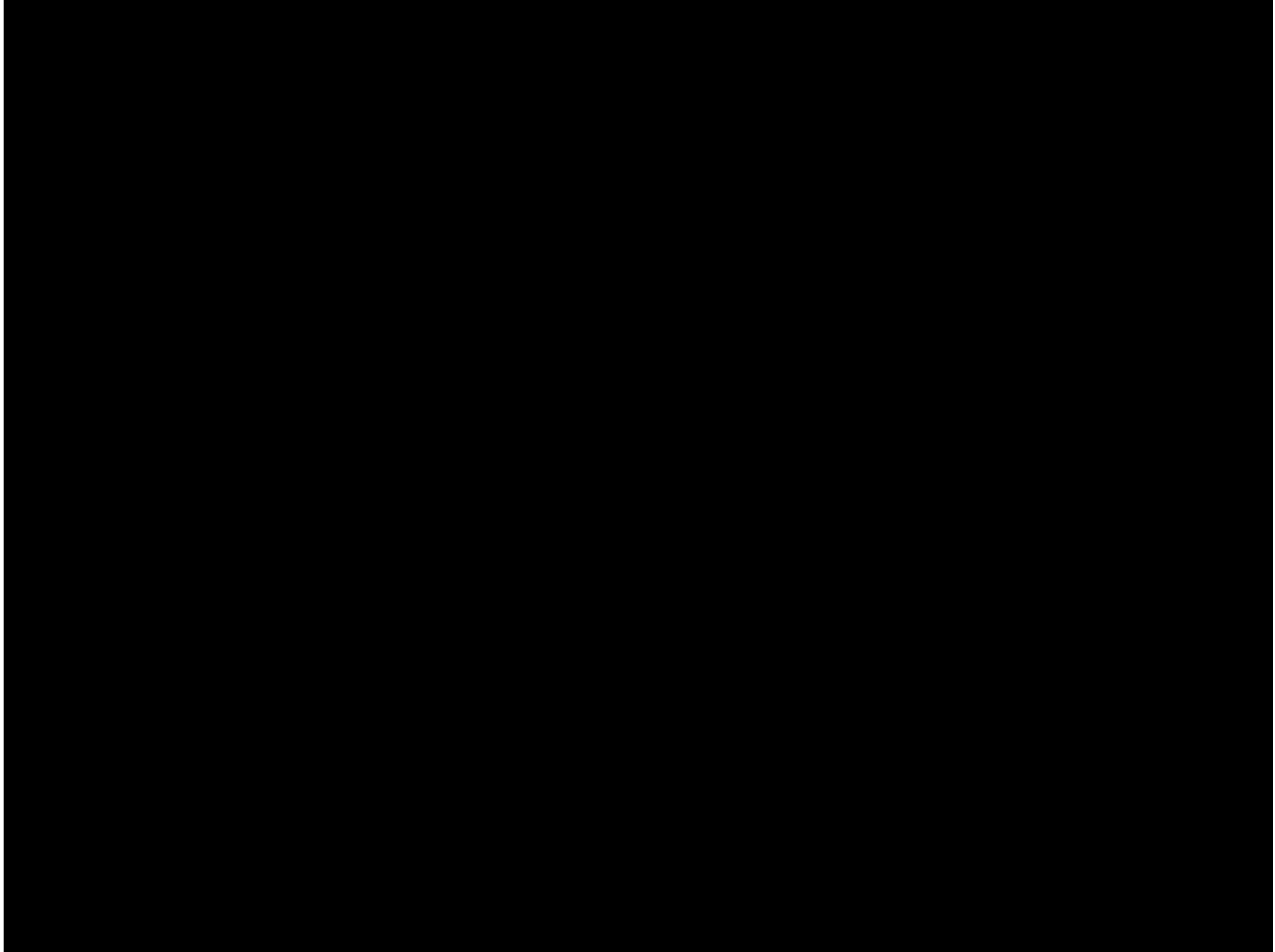
- Well used footpath
- Lots different stiles/gates/bridges
- Some difficult
- Some dangerous
- Lots of landowners – including Network rail

Coronation Picnic – 7th May

Base on formula used for Jubilee last year. Whilst the details are still being finalised, the following activities are currently in planning:

- Family picnics on Jubilee Field with Village Hall open
- Food and Drink
 - Teas – Church
 - BBQ – PTA
 - Bar – Sports Club
- Children's Games - various
- Music - Alex
- Climbing Wall - Scouts
- Tug-of-war - Dibbles
- Evening Screening of Coronation Concert – TBC

More ideas please!

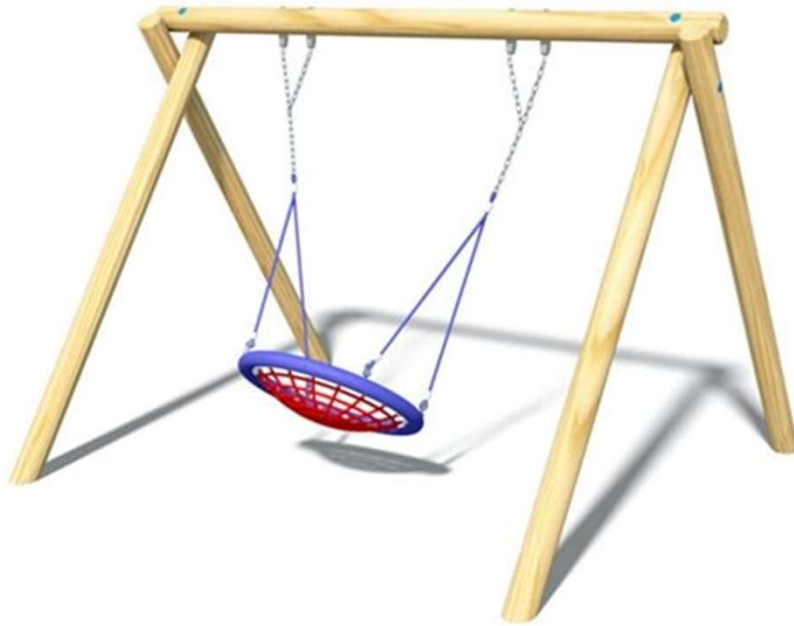


Public Forum

Some ideas to start people off:

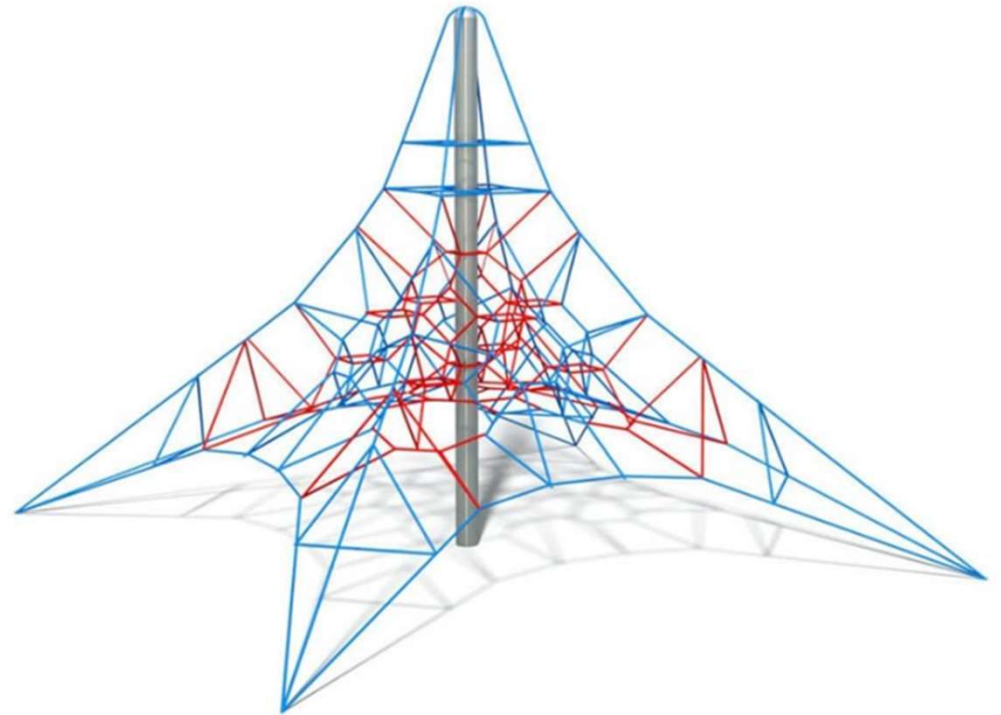
- Additional event suggestions for the 7th May Coronation picnic.
 - Electric car charging point on the Hall car park?
 - Other footpaths which could have stiles converted to kissing gates?
 - Improve pond area as a wildlife habitat?
 - Play equipment – what, where, for which age group?
-
- Anything else people would like to see in the village or would like to discuss?

Additional Play Equipment?



Something like this?
£6k plus.....

Or this?
£20k ish...



NB – costs very approximate

Thank you