



Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan

2002 - 2007

The future doesn't just happen – ACTIV8 it!

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Further copies, summary version and larger print version available. Refer to the ACTIV8 contacts in Chapter 10 for details.

Published by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council on behalf of the ACTIV8 Partnership.
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Welcome

This is Hinckley and Bosworth's first ever Community Plan.

The Plan is part of the ACTIV8 project, which brings together the local agencies who provide public services with voluntary organisations, businesses, community groups and residents. The aim is to plan and carry out a joint programme for improving local quality of life. It's the first time that this joint approach has been attempted in Hinckley and Bosworth.

The aims and actions in this Plan have been put together in response to public views and suggestions which were invited in the spring of 2000, and further comments made in the summer of 2001. Perhaps you or your organisation was one of the many hundreds who contributed.

Now comes the difficult bit: putting the Community Plan into action. This will only be possible if everyone is prepared to get involved. Many important local organisations have already committed themselves to playing their part. Are you prepared to do your bit too?

Please read on.

The future doesn't just happen

Wherever in the Borough you live or work, you're living in a world that's changing. New technology is transforming the way we communicate. Social attitudes and lifestyles are shifting. Businesses are having to respond to new challenges, and we are struggling to understand the impact of all this on our environment. What will the future bring? We could be forgiven for thinking that there's nothing we can do to influence the quality of our lives in the face of this changing world.

However, the starting point for ACTIV8 is that we **can** do something.

The future isn't something which just happens to us. We all help to create the future – through our day-to-day actions, by our attitudes and by the decisions we make. By discussing the kind of future we all want, and acting together, we can in fact help to bring about the kind of local improvements we'd all like to see.

The Community Plan sets out the improvements we all want and outlines some of the actions which will form the first steps towards them.

So if you care about your community and what it will be like in the future, please take the trouble to look through the Plan and consider what you could do to help make it a reality. There are some suggestions in Chapter 9: How Can I Get Involved?

..... ACTIV8 it!

The ACTIV8 Partnership:

- **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council** – represented by Councillor David Bill
- **Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group** – represented by Colin Blackler

- **Hinckley and District Economic Partnership** – represented by Jim Darlaston
- **Leicestershire Constabulary** – represented by Superintendent Alistair Helm
- **Leicestershire County Council** – represented by Councillor Ivan Ould
- **Local ACTIV8 groups** – represented by Mike Jordan from Barwell ACTIV8 Group
- **Parish Councils** – represented by Councillor David Read from Hinckley and Bosworth Branch of Leicestershire Association of Parish Councils
- **Voluntary organisations** – represented by Judy Handford from Hinckley and Bosworth Area Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)

Our Thanks

The ACTIV8 Partnership would like to thank the following organisations and groups who have helped to create this Community Plan:

Age Concern, Earl Shilton	Cyclists' Touring Club
Arriva Fox	Desford Village Appraisal Group
Ashby Canal Association	Diocese of Leicester
Bagworth Forward Group	Disability Action Group, Hinckley
Barlestone Parish Council	Earl Shilton Shopkeepers' Association
Barlestone Youth Club	The Environment Agency, Trent Region
Barwell ACTIV8 Group	Friends of the Earth, Nuneaton, Hinckley and District
BG Transco	Government Office for the East Midlands
Bosworth Community College	Groby Community College
Brook Vale High School	Higham-on-the-Hill Appraisal Group
Burbage Matters	Higham-on-the-Hill Community Association
Burbage Parish Council	Hinckley APPLE
Burbage Youth Project	Hinckley Art Centre
Care and Repair, West Leicestershire	Hinckley and Bosworth Area Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)
Carlton Parish Appraisal Team	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Citizens Advice Bureau, Hinckley	Hinckley and Bosworth Community Transport
Concordia Theatre, Hinckley	Hinckley and Bosworth Early Years Forum
Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE), Hinckley and Bosworth	Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group
CVS Community Partnerships	Hinckley Boys Club

Hinckley Chamber of Trade
Hinckley Crisis Pregnancy Centre
Hinckley and District Economic Partnership
Hinckley and District Natural History Society
Hinckley Homeless Group
Hinckley Ministers' Fraternal
Hinckley Museum
Hinckley and North Warwickshire College
Hinckley Youth Offending Team
Home Start, Earl Shilton
Home Start, Hinckley
IRPC Group Ltd
John Cleveland Community College
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health Promotion Agency
Leicestershire Constabulary
Leicestershire County Council
Leicestershire Health Authority
Leicestershire and Rutland Bridleways Association
Leicestershire and Rutland Healthcare NHS Trust
Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
Market Bosworth High School and Community College
Mount Grace High School, Hinckley
MS Society
Muslim Community Association, Hinckley
The National Forest Company
Newbold Heath Residents' Association
Orbit Housing
Pelcombe Training
Rural Community Council, Leicestershire and Rutland
St Francis Community Centre, Hinckley
St Mary's Youth Club

Severn Trent Water
Shackerstone Residents' Association
Sport England, East Midland Region
Stanton-under-Bardon Primary School
Stoke Golding Village Appraisal Group
Stoke Golding Youth Club
Stute, Earl Shilton
Transport 2000, Leicestershire
VOICE (a network of local voluntary and community organisations)
The Wednesday Club, Barlestone
Westfield Community Centre
William Bradford Community College
Women's Institute, Burbage
Women's Institute, Newbold Verdon
Work Link
YMCA, Hinckley
Youth Theatre, Earl Shilton

Thanks also to the 1,381 people who sent in their views as part of the questionnaire survey in 2000, and to the 125 people whose comments on the draft Community Plan in 2001 helped to produce the finished document.

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1. About the Community Plan

Up and down the country plans of this kind are being developed, through partnerships between the providers of public services and the wider community. The Government requires local councils to make sure that such partnerships are successfully up and running and that each area will have its own community plan or strategy. These plans must aim to improve the quality of life for people by tackling local issues which they have highlighted.

The ACTIV8 process

In Hinckley and Bosworth the Community Plan has been developed through the ACTIV8 initiative. A steering group called the ACTIV8 Partnership co-ordinated the process and will ensure that the priorities identified in the Community Plan are taken up by the providers of local services when they come to plan and improve those services. Many examples of actions by the service providers are included in this Plan, and more will be needed in the future. The organisations involved in the ACTIV8 Partnership are listed on pages 3-4.

The development of the Community Plan began in January 2000 when a Borough-wide programme of public consultation was launched. Over a period of three months, nearly 2000 people put forward their views and ideas through questionnaires, discussion sessions with community groups, an arts project with youth groups and meetings with businesses. Details of what people said are included in chapters 2 - 7. The consultation led to a 'Future Vision Conference' in April 2000 where representatives of the different groups that had taken part got together to look at the findings and to highlight the main points people had raised.

Based on these main sets of issues, seven Task Groups were set up in September 2000 to develop the aims and action plans that you will see later in this Plan. Six of the Task Groups created chapters for the Plan, while the seventh – the Social Inclusion Task Group – cast a critical eye over the proposals from the other groups to make sure that the Plan would respond to the varying needs of all the different sections of the community.

Before publishing the Community Plan the ACTIV8 Partnership wanted to be sure that the Task Groups had got it right. So a draft version of the Plan was published in July 2001 for public consultation during August. Based on the comments received, the Task Groups made some changes to their proposals and these were approved by the organisations on the ACTIV8 Partnership before the finished Community Plan was launched in early 2002.

All of this process is summarised in the diagram below:

(NB Diagram to be provided in the designed and printed version.)

From plan to action

All of the organisations involved in ACTIV8 are determined that the Community Plan will make a real difference to people's lives. Each is committed to playing their part in translating the Plan into action. They have already made some firm commitments, and many of these are presented in the action plans which are part of the following chapters. However, the Plan sets long term aims which go beyond these first steps. If the Plan is to have a lasting impact, these long term aims must have an effect on the way that local services are planned in the future and the way that local policies are set.

Each organisation will have its own system for doing this. For example, in the case of the Borough Council, the Community Plan will be used by managers to help them put together their annual Service Plans and to help them review the effectiveness of their services as part of the Government's Best Value scheme.

In drawing up their proposals, the Task Groups have made links between the Community Plan and other, more detailed plans and strategies which have aims in common with it. Some of these are listed in Chapter 10: "Signposts to Further Information." The Plan will, in turn, complement a community strategy for tackling issues of county-wide importance. In this and other ways ACTIV8 is intended to help pool the resources and expertise of different organisations to make local services more efficient and effective.

However, the Plan won't succeed on the basis of action by the service providers alone. Local residents, community groups and businesses all hold a piece of the jigsaw too. So at the grassroots level, the ACTIV8 Partnership is supporting the formation of a network of local ACTIV8 groups – led by residents themselves. The first of these groups was set up in Barwell in November 2000. Refer to Chapter 9: How Can I Get Involved? for details of how to find out what's going on in your area.

Beyond the borough boundaries

While the Community Plan will focus on action that can be taken locally, it's important that it takes account of wider national and global issues too. We all have a responsibility to help tackle world-wide problems through our local action and to think of the effect our actions will have on future generations. For example, in Chapter 5: "Protecting Our Environment" there are proposals for doing our bit to help prevent global warming.

The Community Plan attempts to link social and economic proposals with safeguards to protect both the local and world-wide environment – the 'life support system' on which we and future generations will depend. This approach is known as *sustainable development*.

Many will remember the United Nations 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, where Britain and 175 other nations signed up to the Agenda 21 plan for sustainable development. Hinckley and Bosworth's Community Plan will also be our contribution towards Agenda 21 – our **local Agenda 21**.

So as the Community Plan is put into action, care will need to be taken to make sure that each new project brings the best possible combination of improvements for both people and planet.

Tackling 'social exclusion'

The Community Plan aims to improve the quality of life for *everyone* in the Borough. To do this it must respond to the 'big issues' which are common to many communities across the Borough, and also the more specific needs of different sections of the community.

One particular group it aims to help are those who face a combination of different problems which can prevent them from achieving a decent quality of life. This has been described as 'social exclusion'.

Since social exclusion is caused by a *combination* of interlinked problems, there is no single chapter of this Community Plan which could tackle social exclusion on its own. Instead, each of the chapters contains proposals which may help.

Below, some important principles are set out which will need to underlie the implementation of the Community Plan if it is to be effective in tackling social exclusion.

- **Improving access** – There are many factors which can hinder someone's access to a service or facility. Physical factors include disability and geographical isolation. There are also factors to do with communication and cultural barriers. So as the Community Plan is put into action the different access needs of different sections of the community will be an important consideration in every decision.
- **Improving co-ordination between different services** – Since social exclusion involves a combination of different problems, it can only be tackled by the providers of different services working together.
- **Helping communities to help themselves** – Social exclusion is more likely to become a problem where people don't have the strong support of family or friends. So the Community Plan is not just about providing better local services. Its implementation must also involve strengthening communities so that the individuals in them have the support they need to make the most of opportunities.

2. Supporting Cultural Life

The Current Situation

There is a wide range of cultural activity throughout Hinckley and Bosworth within the commercial, voluntary and public sectors. The range includes parks and open spaces, countryside sites, arts, media and new technology, museums, libraries, sport, community facilities, play and youth provision. The providers are equally diverse and include:

- **Leicestershire County Council** - through the *Youth and Community Education* service the County Council supports a wide range of cultural activity via schools and Community Colleges. It also manages countryside sites and rights of way. *The Museums, Arts and Records Service* cares for heritage and makes it available for display and local research, through the Record Office, the Open Museum and local community projects and displays. The library service plays a significant role beyond its traditional book lending responsibilities by increasing access to information technology, supporting reading and by providing information about cultural events.
- **Voluntary organisations** are the lynchpin of supporting an incredible range of activities. Examples include the Concordia Theatre, local sports clubs, Bosworth in Bloom, environmental volunteers, arts groups and independent museums.
- **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Parish Councils** also offer a range of services including community centres, countryside sites and of course, parks and open spaces. The Borough Council maintains 137 hectares of parks, open spaces and woodlands while the parish councils are responsible for a further 105 hectares. The National Playing

Fields Association standards for the area of playing fields needed are met by all parishes except for Burbage, Barwell and Groby.

The Borough Council, although a major contributor, has perhaps a wider remit - one of co-ordinating the efforts of all the other agencies involved in cultural provision within the borough.

- **Private companies** provide a large number of leisure and cultural facilities across the Borough, and will be an essential part of any efforts to improve what is available.

There are a number of outstanding examples of good practice in the Borough, some often taken for granted. They include: Concordia Theatre, the Community Colleges, Hollycroft Park, Bosworth Park, Bosworth Battlefield, Markfield Community Centre, the National Forest, Hinckley Library, Hinckley and District Museum and the many schools who, in often difficult circumstances, can inspire and develop a love of a particular cultural pursuit that will enrich lives for ever.

With regard to **artistic activity** there are 186 organisations and individuals listed in the recently published *Arts Directory* in addition to County Council, Borough Council and Parish Council provision.

The arts make a significant contribution not only to the well being of the individual, but help support community development by bringing people together - further improving health, community safety and economic activity.

The publication of the **Sports Development Strategy** for the Borough covers the period 1998-2002. A number of the recommendations contained within it have been carried out. The

major providers of sporting opportunity with the Borough are: Hinckley Leisure Centre, four Community Colleges, schools such as Bosworth High School, Hinckley Football Club, Hinckley Rugby Club, Hinckley Gymnastics Club, Earl Shilton Hockey Club along with a significant further provision at parish level.

The Strategic Sports Development Officer along with colleagues at County Council, clubs and schools, supports an extensive development programme – the training of coaches being a good example.

The countryside is managed and maintained by farmers, private landowners, local authorities, Severn Trent, British Waterways, the National Forest Company and voluntary groups. All are influenced by the economic climate, environmental factors and agencies such as the Countryside Commission.

The Borough is well served by libraries, with a main facility in Hinckley along with nine other branches. Smaller communities are served by mobile libraries. Services offered include loan of books, video cassettes, DVDs, CDs, cassettes, Infolinx, a comprehensive information system covering countywide services along with an expanding internet access – a vital future provision particularly within rural locations.

The Government has recently published ***Culture and Creativity : The Next Ten Years***. This document points out that the nurturing of creative talent will be crucial to the successful economy of the future. It proposes initiatives such as *Creative Partnerships* - the joining together of schools and cultural institutions, *Freeing Excellence* - providing new support for artists and *Free Access* - to national galleries and museums. In addition, it has laid down new standards for libraries with particular emphasis on increasing their opportunities for internet access.

What Needs to Improve?

There is much to improve upon. The ACTIV8 public consultation results highlighted the lack of **entertainment** and other **leisure** facilities - with teenage provision a top priority. A cinema was seen as being the greatest need for young people along with better park facilities and places to meet.

The **open space** category received the highest number of responses to the 'Best Things about Hinckley and Bosworth', vying with countryside as the priority issue. The highest number of comments regarding open space issues related to **countryside** with reference made to the wider picture including the advantage of living near open countryside together with more detailed observations relating to enjoyment of specific sites.

The **parks** and recreation grounds are for many people perceived as being unsafe havens for anti-social activity. Every effort must be made to reverse this view by securing adequate resources in order to refurbish and develop in line with the wishes of those who live around them. They offer opportunities for addressing many of the issues raised by ACTIV8, particularly in meeting the expectations of young people, engendering community spirit and, equally important, providing substantial environmental benefits through extensive planting of trees and shrubs.

The close working relationship between East Midlands Arts, the County Council and the Borough is a particular strength and is already showing signs of bringing in greater **arts provision** both short term and beyond. There is a need for an Arts Forum to support organisations and individuals together with an improvement to existing facilities and provision of new ones including a gallery, entertainment centre and cinema.

Sport is and will continue to be a major player in tackling many of the issues and problems at both a local and national level. Considerable funding has been given to Sport England to co-

ordinate sporting activity that ensures a smooth progression from school to club together with maximising potential. Everyone involved in sport within Leicestershire must work together to ensure the Districts attract appropriate funding.

The County Council is an active partner in the county-wide Sports Strategy and makes a contribution through the Community Colleges. Currently, the Colleges' facilities are showing signs of wear. There is a need to look at how their facilities can be refurbished and improved and their role developed as outlined within the County and Borough Sports Strategies and taking account of the needs of the whole county. Hinckley Leisure Centre will also be coming to the end of its useful life in ten to fifteen years' time. What form the replacement facility should take will also need to be investigated.

Countryside communities are undergoing great changes. Already reeling from the terrible consequences of BSE and Foot and Mouth such communities are also having to come to terms with increasing crime, the disappearance of facilities and the subsequent loss of sense of community. Social exclusion is a further problem particularly for the young and those on low incomes. The access to leisure venues and programmes remains a challenge as does providing opportunities for diversification into other areas in order to provide employment such as in leisure, tourism and alternative land use.

The cultural sector, in all its forms, will continue to play a crucial role in tackling social exclusion, contributing to regeneration, promoting safer communities, encouraging healthier lifestyles, providing opportunities for voluntary and community activity and stimulating lifelong learning.

Long Term Aims

Over the next 10-15 years, everyone involved in ACTIV8 will work towards

Long Term Aims	Indicators of Success	Milestones
<p>1. Parks and Open Spaces</p> <p>Better parks and open spaces throughout the Borough providing varied leisure opportunities for all age groups in a high quality landscape.</p>	<p>A year on year increase in the use of parks.</p> <p>Increasing satisfaction of parks users (based on a regular user survey).</p>	To be set.
<p>2. Children's Play</p> <p>Providing safe, clean, interesting play areas within reasonable distance of every child's home.</p>	<p>Year on year increase in the number of play areas and the proportion of homes within 'reasonable' distance (to be defined).</p>	All play areas meet Health and Safety standards.
<p>3. Leisure, Heritage and Tourism</p> <p>Increasing leisure and tourism activities which are sensitive to local communities, reflect local heritage and benefit the local economy.</p>	<p>Increasing value of tourism/leisure within the local economy (a method of measuring this needs to be developed).</p> <p>Increasing numbers of visitors to a defined range of different attractions.</p> <p>An indicator of access to heritage sites and information to be investigated.</p>	To be set.
<p>4. The Arts and Entertainment</p> <p>More opportunities for people to enjoy and take part in the arts and entertainment.</p>	<p>Expanding audiences for a range of types of entertainment.</p> <p>More people taking part in arts activities, including current non-users.</p>	To be set.
<p>5. Libraries</p> <p>Supporting reading and improving access to information by developing libraries as 'gateways' to information for the whole community.</p>	<p>Increasing use of libraries.</p> <p>Increasing levels of satisfaction of library users.</p>	To be set.
<p>6. Sport</p> <p>Increasing participation in sport and physical recreation</p>	<p>More people taking part in sport and physical recreation.</p> <p>(Refer also to health indicators)</p>	To be set.

Refer to Chapter 6 – Improving Transport, in which the long term aims for cycling and walking both have the potential to lead to improved pedestrian and cycle access into the countryside. Refer also to the long term aims for young people, community safety and health – some of which link with the cultural aims above.

Action Plan – Next Steps Towards the Aims

Long Term Aims	Actions	Expected Results	Who Will Be Involved
<p>Parks and Open Spaces</p> <p>Better parks and open spaces throughout the borough providing varied leisure opportunities for all age groups in a high quality landscape.</p>	<p>An audit of parks and open spaces will be carried out and a parks hierarchy will be established based on: Principal Parks, Community Parks and Open Space Areas.</p>	<p>The audit will identify wherever there is a shortfall in open space and the hierarchy will help in creating a strategy for future parks and open spaces provision.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work with Parish Councils Leicestershire County Council and the National Forest Company.</p>
	<p>A programme of improvements to Community Parks will be carried out, starting with Queens Park in Hinckley as a pilot scheme.</p>	<p>Details of the improvements to each park will vary according to what the users would like, but all schemes are expected to lead to an increase in use.</p>	<p>The programme will be co-ordinated by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, with improvements chosen in consultation with users of each park.</p> <p>Hinckley College, Leicestershire County Council and the Football Foundation will all be involved in the scheme for Queens Park.</p>
	<p>Events/performance areas will be created as part of parks improvements.</p>	<p>These areas will enable more outdoor community based performances and entertainment to take place.</p>	<p>The Borough Council will work in consultation with residents and potential funders.</p>
	<p>Where there is support from parks users, 'Friends of' groups will be formed to help improve and maintain parks by, for example, putting forward ideas and reporting problems.</p>	<p>Several groups will be formed over the next few years. One expected result is that problems will be reported and dealt with more quickly.</p>	<p>Users of parks will be invited to form groups, with support from the Borough Council.</p>
	<p>A maximum 48 hour response time to reported problems such as vandalism will be adopted.</p>	<p>This consistent response to problems will help to maintain public confidence and deter vandals.</p>	<p>The Borough Council will work with 'Friends of' groups, Parish Councils and the Police.</p>
<p>Children's Play</p> <p>Providing safe, clean, interesting play areas within reasonable distance of every child's home.</p>	<p>An audit of play areas will be carried out, looking at both the number, location and quality.</p>	<p>The audit will identify where new play areas or improvements to existing areas are needed.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work with Leicestershire County Council and Parish Councils.</p>

<p>Leisure, Heritage and Tourism</p> <p>Increasing leisure and tourism activities which are sensitive to local communities, reflect local heritage and benefit the local economy.</p>	<p>A survey of tourism sites, including what they offer and their level of use, will be carried out, with a view to identifying how tourism can be developed – perhaps through some form of ‘tourism partnership’. Examples include: Ashby Canal, Bosworth Battlefield, Twycross Zoo and Hinckley and other local museums.</p>	<p>The survey will help with efforts to promote tourism, and give a starting point for identifying how tourism could be better supported.</p>	<p>The Borough Council will work with the County Council, local archaeological groups and the owners or managers of tourist facilities – such as the National Forest Company.</p>
	<p>Support available for farm diversification will be promoted.</p>	<p>Through diversification, farmers may be able to improve the economic security of their business.</p>	<p>The Borough Council will make information available and encourage others to do the same.</p>
	<p>A programme of community outreach activities will be developed e.g. Heritage and Archaeological Wardens.</p>	<p>These activities are expected to increase community involvement in local heritage.</p>	<p>The County Council’s Museums, Arts and Records Service will co-ordinate the programme.</p>
<p>The Arts and Entertainment</p> <p>More opportunities for people to enjoy and take part in the arts and entertainment.</p>	<p>Concordia Theatre will be supported to improve its access for disabled people (as will be required by the Disability Discrimination Act).</p>	<p>Disabled people will find it easier to use the Theatre.</p>	<p>Concordia Theatre will work with East Midlands Arts and the Borough Council.</p>
	<p>An Arts Forum will be established.</p>	<p>The Forum will improve support for the arts, leading to more activity, involvement and quality.</p>	<p>Local arts organisations and individuals, supported by the Borough and County Councils and East Midlands Arts.</p>
	<p>A digital arts training network will be set up in the Community Colleges and Hinckley and North Warwickshire College.</p>	<p>The network will be set up by 2004, and will allow more people to have access to digital arts equipment training.</p>	<p>The County Council’s Libraries and Education Services, the Borough Council, Hinckley and North Warks College and private businesses.</p>
	<p>One or more gallery spaces will be created to display the work of local artists and touring exhibitions.</p>	<p>The gallery spaces will provide the first venues specifically for art exhibitions in the borough, and should help to give art a higher profile.</p>	<p>The Borough and County Council will pursue opportunities to find suitable locations and apply for funding.</p>
	<p>A programme of improvements to arts facilities will be developed with schools, Community Colleges and parishes.</p>	<p>Improved facilities should lead to an increase in participation.</p>	<p>The County, Borough and Parish Councils, along with East Midlands Arts.</p>
<p>Libraries</p> <p>Supporting reading and improving access to information by developing libraries as networks</p>	<p>All libraries will offer free public access to computers for word processing and internet access (including information about local services) by April 2003.</p>	<p>This should help to reduce the ‘digital divide’ between those with their own computer equipment and those without.</p>	<p>Leicestershire County Council – Libraries Service.</p>

<p>developing libraries as ‘gateways’ to information for the whole community.</p>	<p>All libraries will consider increasing their opening hours at weekends where this would make them accessible to more people.</p>	<p>Greater flexibility for libraries about weekend opening should contribute to an increase in their use.</p>	<p>Leicestershire County Council – Libraries Service.</p>
<p>Sport</p> <p>Increasing participation in sport and physical recreation.</p>	<p>Plans will be drawn up to replace the facilities at Hinckley Leisure Centre when the Centre reaches the end of its lifetime.</p>	<p>Forward planning will prevent any gap before new facilities come on stream, and ensure that they are based on public views.</p>	<p>The Borough Council, working with Leisure Centre users and Sport England.</p>
	<p>An Active Sport programme will be in place by 2002.</p>	<p>The programme will provide access and coaching for all young people to: netball, basketball, girls football, hockey, swimming, athletics, tennis, rugby and cricket.</p>	<p>The Borough Council and Sport England will work with schools through the County-wide Sports Forum.</p>
	<p>A programme of improvements to sports facilities will be developed with schools, Community Colleges and Parish facilities, in the context of the county-wide Sports Strategy.</p>	<p>Improved facilities should lead to an increase in participation.</p>	<p>The County, Borough and Parish Councils, along with Sport England.</p>

3. Young People

The Current Situation

Young people are a key part of every community. Their energy, creativity and enthusiasm can make a vital contribution to the development and sustainability of communities.

However, as the next section of this chapter will describe, many young people feel restricted by a lack of access to recreational and social facilities in a society which is largely planned and run by adults. This feeling of restriction can affect young people from all backgrounds, and serves to fuel tensions between the generations. The failure to harness the energy and abilities of young people not only limits individuals – it also weakens our communities.

Over 19% of the population in the UK is under 15 – the second highest in Europe, and in Hinckley and Bosworth this figure is 20.2%. Despite the problems mentioned above, it is important to acknowledge that throughout the borough, individuals and organisations are involved on a daily basis in helping to improve the quality of life for young people:

- **Leicestershire County Council** is the *Education Authority* for the area with responsibility for schools and community colleges. It provides a range of educational and related youth services for young people between the ages of 11 and 25 through its *Youth and Community Education Service*. These services are mainly based around the Community Colleges: Groby, Bosworth, John Cleveland, Market Bosworth and William Bradford which provide both education services and many other support and recreation activities. In addition, outreach projects such as the Drugs Outreach Programme aim to work with young people outside the

mainstream education and support system, and libraries support their leisure and learning needs in a range of ways.

Other County Council services such as the co-ordination of public transport and the provision of social services also have an impact on some young people.

- **Voluntary organisations** play a key role too – providing a wide range of projects and services for different target groups. Examples include the *Young People's Information Centre (YPIC)* in Hinckley and the *Burbage Youth Project*. Local **community groups** run by volunteers also continue to play a vital role, with countless groups offering activities for young people of different age groups. The *Voluntary Sector Strategy* highlights some of this activity and underlines the key role of the sector in youth issues.
- **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council** provides a range of local services for the community as a whole which are important for young people. These include leisure facilities, parks and open spaces and support for sports and arts activities within local communities.

At the national level, a UK Youth Parliament has been set up which will give young people a voice at a national and local level on issues that concern them. The Parliament aims to give young people between the ages of 11 and 18 opportunities to pursue their concerns through the creation of a Youth Manifesto which will be presented to the Government.

Through the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan, it is hoped that young people can be fully involved in the process of improving quality of life for themselves and other age groups locally.

What Needs to Improve?

Young people were well represented in the ACTIV8 consultation exercise which marked the first stage in developing this Community Plan. It was encouraging to see an approach which young people could relate to, take part in and understand. From the consultation it was clear that there are major areas that need to be addressed:

LEISURE FACILITIES AND THINGS TO DO - Young people highlighted the importance of existing youth facilities and activities. But, there is a clear need for provision of a greater number of things for young people to do. It was not just the young people themselves who recognised this need. The wider community clearly recognised it too. The need for more leisure facilities, especially a cinema, was highlighted.

THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT - Provision of green open spaces is important for the whole community. They serve as places for young people to congregate and meet. Younger age groups wished that play facilities in parks could be repaired or replaced more quickly when damaged. More covered areas to make meeting for older young people more comfortable during the winter and on evenings was seen as important. The loss of open spaces to, so-called, development was seen as a threat.

Young people expressed concern about the state of their local areas, particularly with regards to dog mess, vandalism and litter.

COMMUNITIES - As with adults there is distrust between different groups of young people. Many in the younger age group felt intimidated and 'bullied' by older kids.

There is also an apparent distrust between young people and adults. It will be important to dispel this as the community works towards its future aspiration to have a "good community spirit".

Young people wanted to feel safe in their community and some wanted to see a stronger visible police presence.

The general feeling of a distant council is particularly strong for some young people and needs to be addressed. The Council will need to listen, genuinely care and act in response to their needs.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS - Every group saw the need to improve public transport. This problem can be viewed as a 'double whammy' by young people when coupled with limited or expensive leisure facilities. There is a clear need, particularly in rural areas, to have better access to the existing leisure facilities. Young people would like to meet up with friends from other villages and towns by using affordable public transport.

Young people saw traffic as a danger. They also wanted to see a reduction in dangerous driving.

In response to these issues, a **Youth Task Group** was created in September 2000 to draw up Community Plan proposals to meet the needs of young people. The group has met several times over the past year and has involved: the Borough and County Councils including the Community Colleges, Westfield Community Centre, the YMCA, St Francis Community Centre, Burbage Youth Project, Hinckley Homeless Group, Hinckley Boys Club, the Police and the Health Promotion Agency. There are a number of the issues highlighted above that the group is already working on.

The Task Group has created the following Manifesto which will form the basis of its future work:

"Young people are part of our community and should be encouraged to have a positive role within that community. We see young people as having some of the solutions, not just being the problem. Young people are a wide and varied group with different needs, ideas, ways of relating, being human.

The Task Group will facilitate:

- *PROCESSES where young people are consulted and involved at all levels.*

- *ACTION based on real needs.*
- *PARTICIPATION by young people in improving their lives and the communities they live in - becoming good citizens and not just consumers.*
- *ADVOCACY, amongst young people, across generations, to fund-holders and the powerful of our communities.*
- *PARTNERSHIP where young people and adults work for the good of young people and wider communities.*
- *EMPOWERMENT of young people to participate in the infrastructure and systems of our communities.”*

Long Term Aims

Over the next 10-15 years, everyone involved in ACTIV8 will work towards:

Long Term Aims	Indicators of Success	Milestones
1. Greater involvement of young people in decision making which affects them.	An increasing number of existing decision-making processes involving young people. A increasing number and range of young people actively involved in both decision-making and the development of projects and activities to improve local quality of life.	The successful creation of a Young People's Council.
2. Increasing support for young people in their own communities to create opportunities for themselves.	An increasing number of neighbourhoods in the borough where youth workers are employed to support young people in a 'community development' capacity. A reducing average distance that young people have to travel to get access to key services.	Covering all areas of the Borough.
3. More leisure facilities for young people.	Increasing use of key leisure facilities by young people. Reducing average distance that young people have to travel to get access to key leisure facilities.	To improve both the range and accessibility of facilities.

The long term aims in the other Community Plan chapters will also affect young people, and in several cases are specifically focused on young people. For example:

Improving Transport refers to creating better public transport services – to make facilities more accessible for those without a car.

A Healthier Community aims to improve young people's health.

Supporting Cultural Life contains proposals to improve leisure facilities and access to sports and arts activities for all age groups.

Action Plan – Next Steps Towards the Aims

Long Term Aims	Actions	Expected Results	Who Will Be Involved?
1. Greater involvement of young people in decision making which affects them.	The Youth Task Group will seek support and funding to set up a Young People's Council for Hinckley and Bosworth to represent young people's views and interests in local decision-making processes.	The formation of a Young People's Council should help to keep a high profile for issues of concern to young people, as well as providing a clear channel for young people to get involved in the democratic process.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and the Community Colleges.
2. Increasing the support for young people in their own communities to create opportunities for themselves.	The Youth Task Group will support local communities to bid for funding for youth projects which respond to local needs – particularly where these will support the employment of youth workers and are actively involving young people in their development.	As well as improving the immediate quality of life for young people in different parts of the borough through improved facilities, projects of this kind should provide a direct way for young people to take an active role in highlighting what is needed.	The Youth Task Group will encourage local community groups and voluntary organisations to come forward with ideas.
3. Improving the range and accessibility of leisure facilities for young people.	The Youth Task Group will support efforts to set up skateboard parks where there is a need. E.g. in the Burbage/Hinckley area.	Such a facility will directly improve things for a number of young people.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will co-ordinate efforts to create the facility, working with skaters themselves, potential funders and so on.
	The Youth Task Group will approach the operators of leisure facilities including Hinckley Leisure Centre to discuss the idea of a 'youth pass' or similar scheme to make leisure facilities more affordable.	Such a scheme would be expected to make a wider range of leisure facilities affordable for all young people on a regular basis.	The Youth Task Group will approach the operators of leisure facilities, including the Borough Council.
	A publicity project to promote 'what's on for young people' will be set up to make more young people aware of what is already available.	The format of the project will depend on what is felt to be the best way to get information across to young people. E.g. A newsletter, a website or other option.	The Youth Task Group will look for youth groups and organisations to work with and for young people to come forward to get involved.

4. A Healthier Community

The Current Situation

Figures collected by the health services show that the Hinckley and Bosworth area has similar health problems to many other parts of Leicestershire and the UK.

The national plan to tackle poor health: “*Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation*” focuses on the main killers: **cancer, coronary heart disease and stroke, accidents and mental illness**. It sets targets for their reduction - aiming to improve the health of everyone and the health of the worst off in particular.

So where should our efforts to improve health begin in Hinckley and Bosworth?

It has been estimated that over 90% of the factors that affect our health are outside the control of the healthcare services. Some, such as genetic factors, cannot be changed, but others can be influenced. For example, personal behaviour has the potential to promote or damage health. Many of the ‘risk factors’ such as smoking, lack of physical activity and poor diet are well known. Similarly, many of the barriers to a healthy lifestyle such as lack of money or job prospects, poor housing or access to services are becoming understood. The relationships people have with their family, friends and neighbours is also important. Where this social support is lacking, isolation can lead to poor health.

So if we are to improve the health of people in Hinckley and Bosworth, and those in poorest health in particular, then we need to look beyond the healthcare services and towards organisations working together to influence the factors which affect health.

Over recent years the Government has made a lot of changes to the way local healthcare services are organised, and more changes will be introduced as a result of the Government’s *NHS Plan*. This is what the situation looks like at the moment:

- **Leicestershire Health Authority** is responsible for co-ordinating healthcare services across the County. It brings together local organisations to put together a 4-year *Health Improvement Programme (HImP)* for the County. The HImP reviews local needs and proposes changes and improvements to health services. It is updated each year and is submitted to the Government as part of Leicestershire’s bid for health funding.
- **Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group (PCG)** brings together GPs’ practices, dentists, pharmacies and ophthalmic services in the Hinckley and Bosworth area and is responsible for allocating the health budget for the area. There are similar arrangements in all the other parts of Leicestershire. As well as providing these ‘primary’ healthcare services, the PCG is also responsible for buying ‘secondary’ healthcare services for the local population from hospitals and other healthcare providers.
Hinckley and Bosworth PCG sets out each year how it will be developing its services through the *Primary Care Investment Plan (PCIP)*. The Plan combines national priorities from the Government’s health strategy: “*Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation*” with the county-wide priorities in the Leicestershire HImP and local health needs specific to Hinckley and Bosworth.
- Local **healthcare trusts** provide many of the ‘secondary’ health services needed in the area, as well as ‘acute’ services (such as Accident and Emergency services) and community healthcare services such as health visitors. As well as at Hinckley Hospital itself, many local patients are treated outside the borough – at Leicester Royal Infirmary, the George Eliot Hospital in Nuneaton or the Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry.
- **Leicestershire County Council** provides social services for the area – working closely with the Borough Council, the PCG, Leicestershire Health, other healthcare organisations and the private and voluntary sectors to make sure that they are well

integrated with other health and care services. For example, the recently published joint Leicestershire Charter for *Better Care, Higher Standards* for people who require long term care sets jointly agreed standards for quality service delivery for social services, health and housing services in the county.

Other County Council services including trading standards, transport, education, libraries and rights of way contribute to health too. Health is promoted through the school curriculum and school meals, as well as through initiatives such as Healthy Schools and the anti-drugs strategy.

- **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council** contributes to health through several of its services, including: housing, leisure and sports services, environmental health and building control.
- **Voluntary organisations** play an important part in health issues, through a wide range of local support groups, care services, advice, information and campaigns. Some are organised at the

What Needs to Improve?

On the whole, local people and groups that took part in the **ACTIV8 community consultation** did not highlight health issues as strongly as some other subjects. However, it is clear from debate at the national level that people do in fact feel very strongly about it. The low level of comment locally might be due to people feeling that it's only national government that can influence healthcare, or not realising that the Community Plan can cover health and other 'social' issues.

Amongst those comments that were made, there was a lot of praise for the existing health services in the area, including Hinckley Hospital. Mothers specifically praised the care services available for them and their children. Some people wanted to see Hinckley Hospital developed to offer a greater range of services – particularly an Accident and Emergency Department. Other people called for greater local availability of services ranging from postnatal care to alcohol and drugs counselling.

county level, while others are local to Hinckley and Bosworth. It is now widely recognised that voluntary groups can, in some cases, offer the best way to provide certain health support services. Several such groups are funded by healthcare agencies to do this.

- **Private healthcare organisations** have long been involved in providing private nursing and care services. In recent years, companies have increasingly become involved in offering hospital-based services too – as an alternative to NHS hospitals.

Many of these organisations come together through forums and networks to share information and jointly plan future work. In particular, the **Hinckley and Bosworth Health Forum** was set up in 1999, and involves healthcare organisations, the Borough and County Councils and voluntary organisations. There is also a **Hinckley Mental Health Network** and a group of organisations which plans activities for the annual **World Mental Health Day**.

The *Hinckley and Bosworth Health Forum* was asked to put together proposals for action on health issues for this Community Plan, based on the consultation findings described above and on other consultation about health issues.

To add to the information gained from the community consultation the Forum contacted a wide range of relevant groups and organisations, asking what they felt the local priorities should be for improving health. Detailed discussions were then held leading to an agreed set of priorities for the Health Forum to tackle through this Community Plan. These priorities are described below in the Long Term Aims and Action Plan.

While the Forum has tried as far as possible to respond to the ideas put forward by the public, the proposals don't include the creation of an Accident and Emergency Department at Hinckley Hospital. This is because the Forum believes that the creation of an A&E department at Hinckley would not lead to a better service for people in the area – even taking account of the shorter travelling time. Its view is that the best service can be offered by focusing on developing *existing* A&E

departments elsewhere, and on developing Hinckley Hospital as a Community Hospital offering high quality respite care.

Long Term Aims

Over the next 10-15 years, everyone involved in ACTIV8 will work towards:

Long Term Aims	Indicators of Success	Milestones
Reducing coronary heart disease.	A reducing death rate from coronary heart disease. Fewer hospital admissions resulting from coronary heart disease.	To reduce deaths amongst people under 75 by at least 40% from 1996 levels by 2010. (<i>National target from "Our Healthier Nation"</i>)
Improving young people's health.	Reducing rates of teenage conception. Reducing cases of sexually transmitted diseases amongst young people.	A 15% reduction in conception rates amongst girls under 18 by 2004 and a 45% reduction by 2010 based on 1995-97 average rates. (Leicestershire target set by Department of Health's Teenage Pregnancy Unit.
Improving people's geographical access to services which can contribute to their health.	An indicator needs to be developed which will tell us the number of households that have decent access to local health services – which don't require a car. (Refer also to public transport indicators within the transport chapter.)	Refer to the chapter on "Improving Transport".
Improving the health of homeless people through increased provision and support.	Life expectancy of homeless people increases towards that for the rest of the population. More homeless people becoming registered with a GP.	All homeless people to have access to a GP or Health Visitor by 2004 (Local target proposed by Hinckley and Bosworth Health Forum)
Ensuring that all people are adequately housed in well maintained dwellings that meet their needs.		
Reducing health inequality caused by low income and factors linked to it.	Life expectancy of low income households increasing towards the average for all households. More households claiming the benefits that they are entitled to.	Benefits advice or information will be available to all through local advice centres, including GP surgeries, by 2004 (Local target proposed by Hinckley and Bosworth Health Forum).
Helping parents to provide a healthy home environment for their children to grow up in.	Fewer children injured or killed in incidents at home. Fewer children needing to be taken into care. Fewer incidents of domestic violence.	
Improving access to counselling services.	Fewer suicides.	To reduce the death rate from suicide and undetermined

	Reducing rates of prescription of anti-depressants by GPs as a result of better availability of counselling.	injury by at least 20% by 2010. (<i>"Our Healthier Nation" target</i>).
Reducing accidents.	Reducing numbers of accidents in the home, workplace and on the roads – across all age groups.	A 20% reduction in deaths from accidents by 2010, based on 1996 levels. (<i>National target from "Our Healthier Nation"</i>) 10% reduction in "serious accidental injury" by 2010, based on 1996 levels. (<i>National target "Our Healthier Nation".</i>)

Action Plan – Next Steps Towards the Aims

The table below shows a selection of the projects that ACTIV8 participants will carry out in the next few years to help work towards the long term aims. However, many of the aims and milestones are very ambitious and can only be reached if there is action from right across the community.

Long Term Aims	Actions	Expected Results	Who Will Be Involved?
1. Reducing coronary heart disease.	An 'exercise referral' scheme will be set up in 2001, in which local GPs will be able to refer patients at risk from heart disease and other health problems to a course of exercise at local leisure facilities.	As well as helping to prevent heart disease or reduce its impact, such a scheme is likely to improve mental health by offering new opportunities for friendships and social support.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will provide courses at its leisure facilities, and GPs from Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group will refer patients to the scheme.
	The Health Forum will encourage the development of a 'walking for health' programme involving guided walks and a promotional campaign.	As above.	The Health Forum will encourage organisations to come forward to set up such a scheme.
	The Health Forum will encourage projects to reduce smoking and its impact, which are consistent with the Tobacco Control Strategy for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. These could include: creation of more smoke-free public places, proof of age schemes and support for people wanting to quit.	A reduction in smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke would help to reduce heart disease, lung cancer and other health problems.	The Health Forum will encourage organisations to come forward to set up such schemes.

2. Improving young people's health.	<p>The Health Forum will work with the newly appointed Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator for Leicestershire Health Promotion Agency to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sex and relationships education in schools and youth settings ▪ Young people's access to advice and information ▪ Local contraceptive services for young people <p>as set out in the county-wide strategy for tackling teenage pregnancy.</p>	<p>All of this work will be designed to reduce the number of teenage conceptions by keeping young people better informed, and to minimise the health problems that can accompany teenage pregnancy and parenthood.</p>	<p>The Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator at Leicestershire Health Promotion Agency will co-ordinate this work, involving healthcare and advice organisations, schools, youth workers and others through a local teenage pregnancy forum.</p>
	<p>A directory of sexual health and pregnancy services for young people in Hinckley and Bosworth will be produced.</p>	<p>The directory is expected to increase young people's use of advice services, and ultimately to contribute to reducing the number of teenage conceptions.</p>	<p>Leicestershire Health Promotion Agency will lead this project.</p>
3. Improving people's geographical access to services which can contribute to their health.	<p>The Health Forum will talk to the main local service providers to find out whether services could be made more accessible by setting up a network of 'one-stop-shops' offering advice and information about a wide range of services across the borough.</p>	<p>By offering a range of services under one roof, people might find it easier to make use of them.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire Constabulary and others.</p>
	<p>Plans will be drawn up and funding sought to provide community transport to non-urgent healthcare appointments, for those whose needs are not met by ambulance services or public transport.</p>	<p>Such a service might reduce the stress and anxiety of healthcare appointments.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Community Transport, in consultation with funders, other transport providers and Health Forum members.</p>
4. Improving the health of homeless people through increased provision and support.	<p>A new health worker will be appointed to help homeless people get access to the healthcare services they need.</p>	<p>It is expected that the health of homeless people as a whole will improve.</p>	<p>The new worker will be provided by Leicestershire and Rutland Healthcare Trust, funded by Leicestershire Health.</p>
	<p>Subject to funding being approved, to create a Domestic Violence Refuge.</p>	<p>The refuge will provide new emergency accommodation for victims of domestic violence.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work with a housing association and the voluntary sector.</p>

	Additional 'move on' accommodation will be provided.	This will free up places in emergency accommodation for people who have become homeless.	Housing Associations, the voluntary sector and the Borough Council will work together.
5. Ensuring that all people are adequately housed in well maintained dwellings that meet their needs.	The Borough Council will continue to pay Home Improvement Grants.	These grants will help to improve the quality of the private housing stock.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.
	Apply for resources to set up an 'Empty Properties Initiative'.	Such an initiative would bring empty properties back into use – reducing the need for new housing and improving the quality of the existing stock.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will seek to work with property owners.
	Apply for resources to encourage landlords to maintain their property to a high standard and, where necessary, take enforcement action.	This would help ensure that well maintained accommodation continues to be available for rent.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will seek to work with landlords wherever possible.
6. Reducing health inequality caused by low income and factors linked to it.	The Health Forum will encourage the development of a joint project to train 'front line' health workers about benefits that are available.	By informing clients about state benefits that are available, health workers could help people on low income.	The Benefits Agency, Primary Care Group and other health and social care providers.
	Training will be provided for healthcare workers in basic energy efficiency.	The training will enable healthcare workers to identify where clients could make their homes warmer through energy efficiency measures.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will organise the training, liaising with the PCG and other health and social care providers.
7. Helping parents to provide a healthy home environment for their children to grow up in.	The Health Forum will encourage organisations to come forward with project proposals to help achieve this aim through: emotional support, help with parenting skills, accident prevention and other means.	Projects of this kind aim to help children grow up to be healthier adults – both physically and mentally, by supporting parents.	The Health Forum will encourage organisations to come forward.
8. Better access to counselling services.	A funding bid has been submitted to the National Lottery to develop a 'Healthy Living Centre' which will offer a range of services to promote good mental health.		Representatives of the Borough Council, the CVS and other members of the Mental Health Forum developed the proposals.
	A review of counselling services will be carried out, to identify whether access to services can be improved and a local 'quality framework' set up.	It is hoped that the review will lead to a clearer system for GPs to refer patients to appropriate counselling services, and ultimately to better care for such patients.	Hinckley and Bosworth PCG will carry this out, in consultation with providers of counselling services and others.

9. Reducing accidents.	The Health Forum will encourage organisations to come forward with proposals for projects which will cut accidents. E.g. loan schemes for home safety equipment, advice services for parents.		The Health Forum will encourage organisations to come forward.
	For actions to cut road accidents, refer to "Improving Transport".		

The actions outlined in the table are only a small selection of what is happening. Details of other existing and potential future work can be found in the *Leicestershire Health Improvement Programme*, the *Primary Care Investment Plan* and other documents. Hinckley and Bosworth Health Forum hopes to be able to encourage organisations and groups to come forward with project ideas of their own which will contribute to the long terms aims for improving health set out in this Community Plan.

5. Protecting Our Environment

The Current Situation

Hinckley and Bosworth borough covers 297 square kilometres - 92% of which is used for agriculture and 8% for village and urban areas. The rural areas contain many villages and over 400 farms. The urban area of Hinckley, Burbage, Barwell and Earl Shilton lies in the southern corner and owes its development to the traditional industries of textile manufacture, hosiery and knitwear.

The borough has a rich and varied natural environment which includes a number of *Sites of Special Scientific Interest* (SSSIs) and *Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation* (SINCs). It has an abundance of parks and other green open spaces such as Burbage Common and Bosworth Park, and a fascinating heritage ranging from the Bosworth Battlefield through to the industrial heritage of Barwell, Earl Shilton, Hinckley and the ex-mining villages such as Bagworth and Desford.

There are several organisations and groups involved in protecting and improving the environment:

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL jointly produces the *Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan* which sets overall policies for land use. As the *Highway and Local Transport Authority* for the area it also manages the road network and purchases extra local bus services from the operators to supplement the commercial bus services. Similarly, it is responsible for the disposal of waste from households and, with its partners produces the *Leicestershire Waste Disposal Strategy* and the *Joint Household Waste Management Strategy*.

The County Council manages the rural footpaths and four parks and open spaces in the Borough, and runs a range of environmental projects aimed at: reclaiming derelict sites, increasing the richness of

wildlife and actively involving local people. It also collates ecological information from sites across Leicestershire.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL manages the parks and some of the other open spaces of the district, such as Burbage Common and Woods. Its practical action centres around a *Countryside Management Strategy*. It also organises the refuse collection and recycling services for households, and is responsible for energy efficiency, housing maintenance services and monitoring of air quality.

The Council produces the *Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan* which sets out in detail where new housing and other developments can be sited, local heritage that will be protected and standards of design that new buildings must meet – all based on the policies in the *Structure Plan*.

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY is responsible for managing and protecting rivers and preventing certain types of pollution to air and land, while **THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY** oversees and supports local efforts to support wildlife and improve the amenity value of the countryside. Similarly **THE NATIONAL FOREST COMPANY** supports the development of the Forest for a mix of amenity, economic and wildlife benefits.

VOLUNTARY GROUPS play a vital role in complementing the work of these other organisations. In particular, the **Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT)** has a role in co-ordinating local action to support wildlife through the *Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan*. This plan describes nature conservation priorities that have been agreed across the area, working to reverse the decline in local wildlife. **Farmers** and **landowners** also make an important contribution to environmental protection.

The Partnership for Environmental Protection involves the Borough Council, County Council, Environment Agency and the LRWT in jointly

collating and making accessible ecological and archaeological information.

As well as all these local considerations there are national and even global dimensions to issues which affect the environment. In particular, the extent of climate change caused by global warming is

What Needs to Improve?

Environmental issues were raised time and again in responses to the ACTIV8 public consultation. Many comments were positive, and it was clear that people value the environment a great deal. For example, 25% of people thought highly of the borough's countryside, parks and other outdoor places to visit. In contrast though, many aspects were also highlighted as needing improvement. 16% commented on the need for action to tackle litter, dog-fouling, over-development and pollution.

The main issues that people highlighted were:

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES – Parks and open spaces were highlighted amongst the best things about the Hinckley and Bosworth area, but a desire to see improvements to the existing parks and new parks created was also commonly stated. A few people commented on the need for improvements to access to the countryside too.

LITTER AND DOG MESS – The level of litter and dog mess in the area is a concern for people. This issue was a common response from all areas of the borough not just the urban areas. People of all ages and from many of the groups expressed this as a problem, and wanted to see more done to tackle it.

NEW DEVELOPMENT – A number of people from different areas of the borough expressed concerns about the increasing pressure on the countryside caused by new housing and other developments around the Burbage and Hinckley area and also the smaller rural villages. Concerns were also expressed about how the new developments

becoming a major concern for the future. This Community Plan must respond to these big national and global issues as well as to more local environmental priorities.

would impact upon local communities and the pace of life – particularly in rural areas.

LOCAL HERITAGE – Hinckley and Bosworth's heritage was mentioned as an important feature by many people. Specific sites were highlighted, and the potential of local heritage to boost the economy and unite the community were underlined.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING SERVICES – Some people mentioned the refuse collection service as a positive feature of the area, while people also asked for an improved recycling service, including house-to-house collections for recyclable materials.

To respond to these issues an **Environment Task Group** has been formed involving:

- Staff and elected Councillors from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.
- Staff from Leicestershire County Council.
- Representatives from local environmental groups: Friends of the Earth, Hinckley Natural History Society, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and Burbage Heritage Watch.
- A representative from Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.
- The group also receives input from Severn Trent Water.

The Environment Task Group has looked at the comments and ideas put forward through the ACTIV8 consultation process and used them to put together the Aims and Action Plan below.

The majority of issues within this section relate directly to the results of the consultation. However a number of the action points relate to national strategies which have a bearing on the regional and local

level. These have been included due to their importance in tackling environmental problems at the regional , national and international level.

Long Term Aims

Over the next 10-15 years, everyone involved in ACTIV8 will work towards:

Long Term Aims	Indicators of Success	Milestones
1. Wildlife Creating a Borough which is richer in wildlife.	Increasing numbers and diversity of farmland birds. More sites and a bigger area of land being managed for wildlife.	To reverse the current decline in farmland birds within 15 years.
2. Heritage Protecting and enhancing the Borough's heritage.	More buildings protected through Listed Building status or within designated Conservation Areas.	
3. New developments Ensuring that new developments are of a high quality and have a low impact on the environment.	Improving levels of energy efficiency in new housing compared with existing housing. An increasing proportion of new development taking place on 'brownfield' sites compared with 'greenfield' sites.	
4. Litter and Dog fouling A reduction in the frequency and levels of littering and dog fouling.	Reducing numbers of complaints to the Borough Council about fly tipping, litter and dog fouling of roads and parks.	Initially, the Borough Council will encourage complaints, to help it identify the problem areas. After 2 years, it will expect a reduction in complaints to start, due to increased public satisfaction.
5. Recycling To minimise the amount of household and commercial waste disposed of by increasing recycling, composting and waste reduction.	Increasing recycling rate (%), year on year.	To recycle or compost 18% of household waste produced in the borough by 2003/04, and 27% by 2005/06. <i>(Borough Council targets.)</i>
6. Environmental awareness Increasing people's understanding of environmental issues.	Increasing public participation in actions to protect the environment. E.g. Recycling, energy efficiency measures at home.	Refer to targets for: recycling, energy efficiency, etc.

<p>7. Energy</p> <p>Using energy more efficiently and cutting down our contribution to global warming.</p>	<p>Use of energy by households becoming more efficient.</p>	<p>A 30% improvement in the energy efficiency of households by 2011, based on 1996 levels. (Target from the <i>Home Energy Conservation Act</i>).</p>
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Refer also to the chapter “Supporting Cultural Life”, which includes proposals for improving parks and for developing the tourism, leisure and educational role of the borough’s heritage.

Action Plan – Next Steps Towards the Aims

The table below shows a selection of the projects that ACTIV8 participants will carry out in the next few years to help work towards the long term aims. Many of the organisations and groups are doing a lot more than can be described here. For more information, each organisation is happy to answer enquiries. Contact details are given later in this Plan.

Long Term Aims	Actions	Expected Results	Who Will Be Involved?
<p>Wildlife</p> <p>Creating a Borough which is richer in wildlife.</p>	<p>Priorities for supporting wildlife locally will be identified from the <i>Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland</i> and the <i>National Forest Biodiversity Action Plans</i>.</p>	<p>This will lead to a much clearer programme of action in the borough to support wildlife.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, LRWT, the National Forest Company and Severn Trent Water.</p>
	<p>New wildlife sites will be identified and, where possible, managed to improve their wildlife value.</p> <p>For example, Hill Hole Quarry near Markfield will be managed as a wildlife site and opened for the public to enjoy.</p>	<p>Results will depend on the ownership of sites. Where sites are privately owned, management for wildlife will rely on the support of landowners.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and, in some cases, the National Forest Company and private landowners.</p>
	<p>Management Plans will be carried out to support wildlife on sites and in ‘wildlife corridors’ under the ACTIV8 partners’ control. Where suitable, more sites will be designated as Local Nature Reserves.</p>	<p>During 2001/02, a timetable will be set for putting together Management Plans and reviewing the potential for sites to be designated as Local Nature Reserves.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, LRWT, the National Forest Company and Severn Trent Water.</p>
	<p>A new project will be set up to involve local ornithologists in monitoring farmland birds – an ‘indicator’ of the borough’s ecological health.</p>	<p>Regular, reliable updates about the numbers and range of birds living in the rural areas of the borough.</p>	<p>Hinckley and District Natural History Society, British Trust for Ornithology, Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and LRWT.</p>

	Ecological monitoring of wildlife sites will be started and funding will be sought to increase it.	Results will depend on whether extra resources can be found to increase this work.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and voluntary groups.
	Landowners, Parish Councils and community groups will be encouraged to plant new hedgerows and create new field ponds.	Targets: a 10% increase in hedgerows and 1 new field pond per Parish by 2005 (From Leicestershire Biodiversity Action Plan).	Landowners, Parish Councils, farmers and local groups will be encouraged to get involved – supported by the LRWT, the Borough and County Councils and others.
Heritage Protecting and enhancing the Borough's heritage.	A leaflet will be produced to raise owners' awareness of how to maintain buildings which are important parts of the borough's heritage.	The leaflet is expected to lead to more enquiries from building owners.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.
	Subject to funding being approved by English Heritage, grants will be offered for the improvement of commercial buildings in selected <i>Conservation Areas</i> .	Grants will be offered on a rolling programme starting in Markfield.	Leicestershire County Council has applied for funding from English Heritage. The grants will be promoted and administered by the County Council working in partnership with the Borough Council.
	More areas of the Borough's industrial heritage will be identified and protected – for example by designating further <i>Conservation Areas</i> , and advising on the sensitive refurbishment of key buildings for new uses.	One or two further <i>Conservation Areas</i> are likely to be considered.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will take a lead and encourage the involvement of building owners and developers.
	Promotion of the borough's heritage will continue through the annual Heritage Open Day Weekend.	As in previous years, the Open Day will involve heritage sites and local groups.	The Borough Council will convene an organising group involving local heritage enthusiasts and owners of heritage sites.
New developments Ensuring that new developments are of a high quality and have a low impact on the environment.	Support will be offered to groups that want to develop Village Design Statements which highlight what local people value about their village environment and encourage good design aimed at enhancing local character.	Results will depend on the number of local groups coming forward.	Leicestershire Rural Community Council , Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work with interested Village Appraisal Groups and other community groups.

	<p>Where new housing is needed, the Borough Council will require developers to take account of environmental and social considerations such as transport, open space and affordable housing.</p> <p>It will also look at what else could be done to help developers take account of environmental issues at every stage and to encourage the reuse of vacant land where available.</p>	<p>Planning Briefs will be produced to set detailed criteria for major development sites.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and developers.</p>
<p>Litter and Dog fouling</p> <p>A reduction in the frequency and levels of littering and dog fouling.</p>	<p>Monitoring of litter and dog fouling will be increased</p>	<p>More offenders will be given Fixed Penalty Notices and prosecuted. The resulting publicity will discourage others.</p>	<p>Co-operation between departments within the Borough Council will allow monitoring and prosecution to be increased, in partnership with the Environment Agency.</p>
	<p>The clearance of litter and dog fouling in parks and public open spaces will be continued.</p>	<p>Levels of litter and fouling will be reduced, and fewer complaints will be made.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.</p>
	<p>Responsible dog ownership will be encouraged through promotional campaigns.</p>	<p>The campaigns will be designed to establish responsible dog ownership as the norm.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work with Parish Councils and the County Council.</p>
	<p>More dog waste bins will be provided.</p>	<p>A 10% increase in the number of bins in those areas which are the responsibility of the Borough Council.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will provide more bins in the areas not covered by a Parish Council. Parish Councils will be encouraged to provide more bins in their own areas.</p>
	<p>A full review of the condition and siting of litter bins will be carried out to find out where improvements are needed.</p>	<p>The review will allow the Borough Council to improve its network of bins and respond to vandalism.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.</p>
	<p>A 24-hour litter and dog fouling hotline will be set up.</p>	<p>The hotline will make it easier for the public to make complaints.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.</p>
<p>Recycling</p> <p>To minimise the amount of household and commercial waste disposed of by increasing recycling, composting and waste</p>	<p>The existing 'kerbside' collection service for paper recycling will be consolidated and, where possible, expanded – including potentially other recyclable materials.</p>	<p>An increase in the number of households taking part and in the quantity of materials collected.</p>	<p>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will plan and co-ordinate these services, working with a private contractor (currently Cheshire Recycling) and the County Council. The service depends on the support of householders.</p>

reduction.	The number of recycling collection points (bottle banks, etc.) will be increased – particularly in areas where a kerbside collection service may not be possible.	An increase in the quantity of material collected would be expected.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will rely on the support of residents and sometimes also private landowners (to offer sites).
	A kerbside collection service for compostable 'green waste' will be investigated.	If a scheme is launched, it would be expected to increase the rate of composting in the borough.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work with a contractor and will rely on the support of householders.
Environmental awareness Increasing people's understanding of environmental issues.	Schools will be supported to take part in the Eco Schools award scheme and to carry out environmental projects.	4 schools are already involved in the scheme, and extra support is expected to add to this number.	Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are supporting schools in this work.
	A programme of environmental awareness campaigns, each focusing on a different issue, will provide information to people about what they can do to protect the environment.	At least one campaign will be run each year.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work with Parish Councils and environmental groups, with the help of libraries providing information and display venues.
	Environmental education, volunteering and other projects will be developed at Thornton Reservoir.		Severn Trent Water, working with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and local volunteers.
	Community environmental projects such as heritage and archaeology wardens schemes will be developed in parishes.	These schemes will help to protect the local environment by tapping into the concern and enthusiasm of local people.	Leicestershire County Council's Museums and Records Service will work with the Borough Council and local people.
Energy Using energy more efficiently and cutting down our contribution to global warming.	The Borough Council will continue its existing work to improve energy efficiency in houses, using advice, grants and improvements to Council houses.	This work should contribute to improving people's comfort in their home – and therefore their health whilst also helping to minimise carbon dioxide pollution from energy use.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will work with Leicester Energy Advice Centre, the Energy Savings Trust and local householders.
	A pilot project will be set up with local businesses to improve energy efficiency, waste minimisation and other aspects of their 'environmental performance' (refer also to Transport chapter).	The project will aim to help companies reduce their environmental impact while also helping their business performance.	The Borough Council will seek funders and working partners for the project, including firms willing to take part.
	The Borough Council will create an Energy Policy to meet the Community Plan aim within its own buildings.	The Policy will include a target for reducing energy use and the Council's contribution to global warming.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, and contractors working for the Council.

6. Improving Transport

The Current Situation

Many parts of the Hinckley and Bosworth area benefit from a good road network. In particular, good access to the motorways helps business and brings cities such as Birmingham, Leicester, Coventry and Nottingham within reach for those with a car. However, there is still a lot that could be done to improve our access to the people and places we need to get to, and to reduce the problems caused by travel – such as road accidents and congestion. It is clear from public consultation that many people want to see transport improvements given a high priority within this Community Plan.

Several organisations are involved in managing and improving transport systems in the area:

- **Leicestershire County Council** is the *Local Highways Transport Authority* for the area, and is responsible for managing the road network and buying in extra local bus services from the operators to supplement the commercially viable services. It produces the *Leicestershire Local Transport Plan* which sets out how transport services will be improved in the future. This plan is used by the Government to help it allocate funding for transport improvements in the area.

The County Council also jointly produces the *Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan* which sets the 'broad-brush' policies for land use. This guides where any new roads or transport facilities might be located. It seeks to locate major new development in locations which reduce the need to travel by car.

- **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council** manages the public car parks across the Borough. It also produces the *Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan* which turns the broad-brush policies of the Structure Plan into detailed policies for land use across the Borough.

- **Leicestershire Constabulary** deals with road accidents and with traffic offences such as speeding and illegal parking. It also operates the Traffic Wardens service.
- Several **privately owned bus companies** provide services in the area. Most routes are run as commercial operations. However, the County Council subsidises some routes which are not commercially viable so that more remote areas are not left without any services. The majority of routes are operated by Arriva Fox.
- **The Highways Agency** manages the motorways and trunk road network.
- Voluntary and community-run groups play a small but important part in local transport too. **Hinckley and Bosworth Community Transport** provides a Dial-a-Ride service (funded by the County Council) for those who find it difficult to use public transport. It also runs a wheelchair accessible Community Minibus which provides shopping trips for the elderly and is available for group hire. The **Shopmobility** scheme in Hinckley is now making shopping more accessible for disabled people too.

Many community and voluntary groups also have their own minibuses and provide an important transport link for their members to get to events, activities and days/evenings out.

There are several forums in which these organisations and others meet to discuss and plan for certain aspects of transport. These include: *Hinckley Quality Bus Partnership, Hinckley Cycle Forum, Bosworth Area Cycle Forum, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Road Safety Partnership, Freight Quality Partnership, Leicester and Leicestershire Motorcycle Forum* and, most recently, the *West Leicestershire Rural Transport Partnership*.

It's not just in Hinckley and Bosworth that people see transport as a high priority for improvement. At the national level, the Government

expects all Highway and Local Transport Authorities to improve alternatives to car travel so that traffic levels can be controlled and eventually reduced. This will cut congestion and help towards national targets for cutting air pollution and tackling the threat of global warming. The Community Plan must take account of this national priority.

What Needs to Improve?

As part of the public consultation for ACTIV8 a wide range of people were asked “what would *you* do to improve the quality of life in your area?” Transport issues came out time and again as one of the top priorities. Particular issues that people highlighted were:

PUBLIC TRANSPORT - Concerns with public transport included bus and rail services. They came from people in all parts of the borough, and were particularly strong in the more rural areas. The frequency of services is a problem, especially in the rural villages where there are many examples of poor links with neighbouring villages as well as Hinckley and Coalville. Many people rely on facilities outside their own village and the cost and low frequency of public transport can contribute to rural isolation – especially for those without access to a car.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION, LORRIES AND ROAD SAFETY - Traffic congestion, including the numbers of heavy goods vehicles, is a cause for concern during peak times - with the A5 corridor and Earl Shilton being particular examples of problem areas. During off-peak periods these and many residential routes experience poor safety records because of speeding traffic. Concerns about all these issues were commonly raised.

Transport planners have highlighted that the trend over the last 20 years towards more parents taking their children to school by car has added to congestion and road safety problems at peak times.

CYCLING AND WALKING – A number of people called for improvements for cyclists. An increase in the number of safe cycle routes, on and off road, was a common suggestion. Improvements for

pedestrians were also proposed – with some village residents in particular pointing out the need for more pavements in some places. Many of these comments were linked to concerns about road safety.

CAR PARKING - The consultation highlighted many opinions about car parking. Many people wanted to see greater efforts to prevent illegal or dangerous parking – such as parking on pavements. Others highlighted town centre pay-and-display car parks and felt that there is a shortage of town centre parking at certain times or that it should be cheaper.

To respond to these concerns, a **Transport Task Group** has been formed. The group involves:

- Transport planners and Councillors from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council
- Police representatives
- Representatives of particular transport interest groups: the Cyclists Touring Club, Transport 2000 (campaigns for better public transport), Leicestershire and Rutland Bridleways Association and Leicestershire Pedestrian Association
- Transport providers: Arriva Fox and Hinckley and Bosworth Community Transport.

The Task Group has looked at the comments and ideas put forward during the consultation and used them to put together the Aims and Action Plan below.

In most cases, the concerns of individual residents, local groups and transport specialists are very similar. For example, everyone is agreed that bus services need to be improved. However, there are some issues which are more difficult. In particular, calls for more or cheaper parking are at odds with calls to cut congestion. Transport experts point out that increasing car parking would undermine efforts to reduce traffic by encouraging people to drive into towns.

The proposals below try to get the balance right by improving the *quality* of the existing parking for shoppers and other ‘day visitors’

while encouraging commuters and their employers to look at alternatives to car use by reducing the spaces for them in public car parks.

Long Term Aims

Over the next 10-15 years, everyone involved in ACTIV8 will work towards:

Long Term Aims	Indicators of Success	Milestones
Public Transport Better bus, train and community transport services which offer good alternatives to car travel for many more journeys.	More passengers using buses, trains and community transport services in the borough. More people using public transport to get to work and fewer using their car.	At least a 5% increase in passenger journeys on bus routes through Hinckley and Bosworth (measured on selected routes) between 2000/01 and 2004/5.
Congestion Stabilising traffic levels.	Fewer people using a car for regular commuting journeys (e.g. To work, school or college.)	There is currently no target set for traffic levels / congestion.
Car Parks Managing public car parks to give greater priority to shoppers, service users and other visitors.	Reducing levels of vehicle crime in public car parks.	A 1% reduction in vehicle crime in 2001/02. (<i>Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Strategy</i>) A 30% reduction in vehicle crime in car parks over 5 years from April 1999. (<i>National Government target.</i>)
Road Accidents Safer roads.	Fewer people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.	A 32% reduction in people killed or seriously injured by 2005/6 and 40% by 2010/11 - based on average numbers between 1994 and 1998. (<i>Leicestershire Local Transport Plan target.</i>)
Cycling Increasing the role of cycling by creating a network of safer routes, both on and off road, and better facilities.	More journeys being made by bike instead of by car.	Targets are being developed as part of a Walking and Cycling Strategy for Leicester and Leicestershire.
Walking	More journeys being made on foot instead of by car.	Targets are being developed as part of a Walking and Cycling Strategy for Leicester and Leicestershire.

Better conditions for pedestrians – leading to more journeys on foot.	More footpath links that are signposted.	To increase the percentage of links that are signposted ,where they leave the road, from 59% in 2000/01 to 70% in 2004/05.
Lorries The most efficient movement of freight on the most suitable routes.	This aim is all about getting a balance between the need for freight to get from A to B, and the need to minimise any disruption to local communities. Problems often need to be tackled on a case-by-case basis. So it is very difficult to find an indicator of whether this is being achieved.	No overall targets have been set for the outcomes of this work. Refer to the Action Plan below.

Action Plan – Next Steps Towards the Aims

The table below shows a selection of the projects that ACTIV8 participants will carry out in the next few years to help work towards the long term aims. However, many of the aims and milestones are very ambitious and can only be reached if there is action from right across the community.

Long Term Aims	Actions	Expected Results	Who Will Be Involved?
1. Better bus, train and community transport services which offer good alternatives to car travel for many more journeys.	Key 'inter-urban' bus routes linking Hinckley with neighbouring urban areas in Leicestershire will be upgraded.	Services between Hinckley and Coalville, Lutterworth and Leicester will be upgraded to have low floor buses providing at least an hourly service.	Leicestershire County Council will fund improvements to services by private bus operators.
	A programme of improvements to rural bus services will be developed – based on consultation and research into local needs.	Details of the improvements and their expected results are yet to be determined.	Leicestershire County Council will fund improvements, working through the West Leicestershire Rural Transport Partnership.
	A programme of improvements to bus service 'infrastructure' (such as bus stops, interchanges and timetable information) will be developed.	The combination of clearer information and better waiting areas is expected to attract more people onto bus services.	The improvements will be developed by the Hinckley Quality Bus Partnership (which includes the County and Borough Councils and bus operators) and funded by the County Council.
	Funding will be sought to continue and increase community transport services which meet the needs of those who are unable to use public transport.	The aim would be to create a secure funding base for existing services (totalling around 90,000 miles each year), and to look at options such as increased Dial-a-Ride and a lift service to hospital.	Hinckley and Bosworth Community Transport will seek funds to expand its services.

2. Stabilising traffic levels.	Help will be provided for schools to develop and introduce Travel Plans aimed at reducing car travel to schools by improving alternatives.	9 schools will be supported initially. Each Travel Plan is expected to give parents more confidence in alternative modes of transport – leading to a 25% reduction in car arrivals at school.	8 schools in the area are currently committed to creating and carrying out an Action Plan – supported by Leicestershire County Council. Each Plan involves parents, pupils, teachers and Council transport staff.
	A pilot travel planning project will be developed with local businesses to find out the scope for reducing car-based commuting and business mileage.	Potential reductions in car travel and economic benefits to the companies to be discovered through the pilot project.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council will look for a group of firms on a business park or industrial estate who are willing to take part.
3. Managing public car parks to give greater priority to shoppers, service users and other visitors.	The Borough Council will continue its programme of improvements to car parks including the installation of: CCTV and other security measures, secure cycle parking, additional lighting and resurfacing.	2 further car parks will be improved during 2001/02, and at least one per year after that.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.
4. Safer roads.	A new system of 'recycling' the income from speeding fines to pay for operation of speed cameras will be introduced – leading to an increase in the enforcement of speed limits.	The increase in enforcement of speed limits will reduce road casualties. The new system is expected to be introduced starting in April 2002.	The scheme will be operated by the Road Safety Partnership, which involves Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council, Leicestershire Constabulary, the Highways Agency and Leicester Magistrates' Court.
5. Increasing the role of cycling by creating a network of safer routes, both on and off road, and better facilities.	A cycle network, using both on and off road routes, will be introduced incorporating employment, leisure and other destinations.	The network is currently being planned and introduced. The speed of its creation will depend on funds.	Leicestershire County Council will work with Sustrans, the Cyclists Touring Club and the National Forest Company.
	Safe cycle routes to schools to be introduced.	These routes are expected to increase cycling levels and reduce accidents.	Leicestershire County Council will work with local schools.
6. Better conditions for pedestrians.	The County Council will bring together interested parties to develop ideas and measures which can contribute to achieving the County Walking and Cycling Strategy.	Over a number of years, any improvements should contribute to more people making short journeys on foot rather than by car, as well as a reduction in accidents.	Leicestershire County Council will work with local groups interested in facilities for pedestrians.
	A new "A-Z Guide to Local Services" will be produced, which will make it more straightforward for the public to report illegal or dangerous parking.	The new guide will be produced in 2003, and made available to all households.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, the Police, Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group and others.

<p>7. The most efficient movement of freight on the most suitable routes.</p>	<p>The Leicestershire Lorry Control Plan to be fully implemented by 2003/04.</p>	<p>The Plan is expected to lead to increase the satisfaction of both businesses with goods to transport and residents affected by freight traffic.</p>	<p>Leicestershire County Council will implement the Plan, working with local haulage firms and residents.</p>
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7. A Safer Community

The Current Situation

In 1998 the Government introduced **The Crime and Disorder Act** in support of their aim to tackle crime and the causes of crime. The Act placed a new duty on local authorities to work in partnership with other agencies to reduce crime and disorder in their immediate area. Details of how this would be done were to be included in a 3 year **Crime and Disorder Strategy**.

Following an audit of crime patterns and a consultation process several issues were identified to be of concern to the people of Hinckley and Bosworth. They are contained within the first Strategy. Details of the main aims within the Strategy are given later in this chapter. The crime audit also revealed details such as the total level of recorded crime per 1000 residents - which is slightly higher in the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth than across the rest of Leicestershire.

In order to respond to the legislation a **Crime and Disorder Partnership** was set up to tackle both locally identified issues and national priorities. National priorities set out by the Government currently include reducing *burglaries*, *violent crime* and *vehicle crime*.

The following agencies are just some of those represented on the Crime and Disorder Partnership, who together are helping to achieve a safer community for all those who live, work and visit the Borough.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council co-ordinates the strategic and operational management of the Crime and Disorder Partnership and ensures that community safety is at the heart of locally delivered services such as housing, planning, leisure services and licensing.

Leicestershire Constabulary is the key agency for law enforcement, detecting crime and disorder and crime prevention.

Leicestershire County Council provides a wide range of services, including transportation, planning, education, regulatory and social services, which can have an impact on community safety – particularly through their effect on the underlying causes of crime and on crime prevention.

Health care providers such as Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group and Health Care Trusts contribute to the general health and well being of the community – which is affected by crime and can contribute to it.

Voluntary organisations such as youth clubs, neighbourhood watch and victims of crime support schemes play a vital role in involving local communities.

Local businesses also have an important part to play in achieving a safer community, through both their individual effort and by coming together through trade bodies and associations

The Probation Service has an important role in crime prevention through its support and intervention for offenders.

What Needs to Improve?

The importance of **feeling safe** was highlighted in the findings of the ACTIV8 consultation and there was an emphasis in people's comments on strong community links helping to make everyone feel safer both in the rural and urban areas.

Many people would like to see an **increased police presence**. While there is debate about whether this would achieve an actual reduction in crime it does contribute to the overall perception of safety and can help reduce fear of crime. **CCTV** was also viewed as a positive measure in helping keep an area safe.

There was a concern over **alcohol related violence** and that rowdiness and drunken behaviour exhibited in the street created fear amongst some. The control of evening entertainment venues are included in the current and future strategies.

Crime and disorder is clearly a major quality of life issue and the people of Hinckley and Bosworth expect to feel safe. Anything that

undermines that feeling of safety should be addressed through tackling the high priority issues in the current Crime and Disorder Strategy and by taking account of the ACTIV8 consultation findings when the Strategy is reviewed and updated. This review should also look at how the public are kept informed about community safety issues, to see whether there is scope to improve public understanding of the real level of risk.

The Crime and Disorder Partnership is carrying out a full review of the current Strategy and will include the ACTIV8 consultation findings within this.

Long Term Aims

The Crime and Disorder Partnership aims to reduce crime and disorder by tackling the root causes of crime, changing the environment to make crime harder to commit and enforcing the law once a crime has occurred.

The current Crime and Disorder Strategy for 1999-2002 includes six primary aims and a range of actions to help towards achieving these aims. These aims are:

Long Term Aims
1. Borough wide emphasis to reduce burglary dwelling offences in line with Ministerial Priorities and Targets.
2. To reduce vehicle crime across the Borough including theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles.
3. To reduce incidents of public disorder and drunkenness particularly in the areas of Barwell, Earl Shilton and Hinckley town centre.
4. To improve support to victims of domestic violence by maximising the information and protection available to victims, whilst taking firm

action against perpetrators with the long-term goal of reducing the incidence of crime across the Borough.
5. To improve support to victims of racial incidents , whilst taking firm action against perpetrators with the long-term goal of reducing the incidence of these crimes across the Borough.
6. To improve road safety across the Borough

The aims of the current *Crime and Disorder Strategy*, as set out above, are the basis on which the work of the Crime and Disorder Partnership is organised. However, the Strategy is being reviewed and updated at the moment. The results of the ACTIV8 consultation, along with more detailed research and public consultation which is currently taking place, will be used to revise the aims and produce a new action plan. These new aims and actions will be used to update this Community Plan.

Action Plan – Next Steps Towards the Aims

The long term aims will be achieved by continuing to develop partnership arrangements with local agencies and groups, through the Hinckley and Bosworth Crime and Disorder Partnership and Community Safety Group. The details are set out in the current Crime and Disorder Strategy 1999-2002.

Examples of action to implement the current Crime and Disorder Strategy include:

EARL SHILTON COMMUNITY HOUSE - Funded mainly by the Home Office, this converted council house provides a local point of access for policing, community safety and other services for local residents. The project was launched in September 2001.

DON'T BOTHER – A campaign to reduce vehicle crime developed by the Vehicle Crime Action Group of the Crime and Disorder Partnership.

HINCKLEY ANTI-THEFT GROUP RADIO LINK – This scheme involves shops taking part in a radio based early warning system to prevent theft.

SCHEME TO PREVENT 'DISTRACTION BURGLARIES' OF THE ELDERLY – The scheme provides alarms for elderly people to call for assistance in the case of a suspected distraction burglary.

CONTROL OF ALCOHOL SALES TO YOUNG PEOPLE – To prevent problems of anti-social behaviour resulting from young people drinking in the streets, this project involves Off Licenses in stopping sales of alcohol to under 21s.

An updated action plan to achieve the revised aims will be developed over the coming months and will form part of the future Crime and Disorder Strategy from 2002-2005. It will also be used to update this Community Plan.

8. Next Steps

Turning the Plan into action

Implementing the Community Plan will involve a combination of:

- Improvements to existing local services
- New projects and services developed in partnership between public agencies, voluntary organisations, businesses and community groups.
- Support for community groups to develop their own projects which contribute to the Plan's aims.
- Providing information and opportunities for households to take action.
- New initiatives to involve businesses.

A network of **local ACTIV8 groups** will be set up, offering a way for all local residents to get practically involved. More details are provided in the next chapter "How can I get involved?"

Keeping track of progress

Each year the Task Groups will meet to look at the progress that has been made in implementing the actions set out in Chapters 2 – 7. Each group will draw up a progress report for the ACTIV8 Partnership. As progress is made, the action plans will be expanded and updated. Where problems occur in carrying out any of the actions, the Task Groups will help to sort out these problems.

Based on the annual reports of the Task Groups, progress will be reported to all ACTIV8 Participants, and also to the wider community. 'Indicators' of progress will be included to give people an overall idea of the impact that the Plan is having.

Updating the Plan

While the aims of the Plan span the coming 10 – 15 years, it will be updated more regularly than this – every 5 years. So after 5 years, any changes highlighted by the indicators will be examined. An assessment of progress will be made and reported back to the community as part of further public consultation. In this way the Plan will be adapted to changing circumstances: successes and failures in its implementation, changing community priorities and regional, national or global trends affecting the Borough.

9. How Can I Get Involved?

The success of ACTIV8 will depend on its ability to persuade and inspire people to get involved. Individuals and organisations must be attracted to play their part. There will be several ways to get involved:

Local ACTIV8 Groups

Local residents are invited to help set up local ACTIV8 groups in each part of the Borough as a way of taking practical action to improve their community. These groups are offered funding and practical support from the ACTIV8 Partnership to help them get started and to cover their running costs. The groups are led by residents themselves and will tackle issues of specific local importance as well as contributing to the wider aims of the Community Plan.

For those people who are already involved in a local group which is trying to improve their area, these existing groups are also being encouraged to get involved, and support will be available for existing groups too (further details below).

CASE STUDY: BARWELL ACTIV8 GROUP

Barwell ACTIV8 Group was set up as the pilot local ACTIV8 group at the start of 2001. The group was the test bed to see how successfully the ACTIV8 concept could work at a very direct and practical grassroots level within the community. After two initial public meetings promoted and run by the ACTIV8 Partnership to gauge interest and encourage local commitment, a residents **Steering Group** was formed to take the lead in running and developing the group.

Barwell ACTIV8 Community Project (as it has become known) has a deliberately informal structure which aims to encourage both flexibility of response and breadth of local participation towards the ever widening range of issues that our community wants to address - be they big or small. The group holds bi-monthly **public meetings** (the average attendance to date has been 50 people) to focus debate on particular topics (e.g.: youth issues, community safety, parks) with guest speakers and open debate. We have a growing mailing list of 200+ supporters who we keep informed of developments at meetings and in between.

Each Steering Group member is responsible for a chosen issue of local concern (e.g.: local environment, crime and disorder, health and welfare). They are free to work on relevant matters within their 'brief' in conjunction with other concerned local groups and individuals in any way and at a pace that suits those involved. The Steering Group meet /communicate as frequently as they wish to progress Barwell ACTIV8 work, supporting each other as required, sharing views and reaching joint decisions where needed.

The group receives a limited amount of financial support from the Borough Council (on behalf of the ACTIV8 Partnership) to cover some of its running costs, and the Council also provides practical help with such things as printing and publicity. Representatives from the Borough and County Councils, the Police, the CVS and other organisations involved in the ACTIV8 Partnership attend the public meetings and act as points of contact for partnership working with the group.

Over its first six months Barwell ACTIV8 Group set up a wide range of community projects including:

- Taking on responsibility for **monitoring local footpaths** during the Foot and Mouth crisis;
- Launching new **Neighbourhood Watch** Schemes;
- Helping to set up the **Barwell Business Association**;
- Helping to set up the **Friends of Kirkby Road Park**, to work with the Borough Council to develop plans for improvements to the park;
- Formed the **Cedars Community Development Trust**, an independent group to develop proposals to take on the running of The Cedars as a base for youth projects and other community activities.

Other projects in the pipeline include: a Community Information Centre, a Youth Forum and a united Barwell Neighbourhood Watch Association.

All of these new activities within the community have brought in different people to take 'ownership' of a given project, thus widening the involvement of Barwell residents of all ages and backgrounds in chosen aspects of ACTIV8 locally.

A contact for the Barwell ACTIV8 Group can be found in Chapter 10.

Funding and support for community-led and voluntary sector projects

Between them, several of the ACTIV8 partners contribute to funding for local projects by community or voluntary sector groups which will improve quality of life in the Borough. Advice and practical support is also provided by the Hinckley and Bosworth Area Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

So an important aspect of translating the Community Plan into action is to help groups develop projects which will contribute to one or more of the Plan's aims. The Borough Council, for example, will in future ask applicants for funding to think about how their project could contribute to the Community Plan and to describe this in their application.

Working with businesses

The pressures facing businesses can make it difficult for them to take part in meetings and discussions. So although business involvement in the local ACTIV8 groups and the Task Groups is welcomed, it is likely that for most local firms these opportunities won't be convenient or appropriate for them.

From 2002, the ACTIV8 partners will aim to set up new opportunities for business involvement – tailored closely to their needs.

10. Signposts to Further Information

ACTIV8 contacts

All enquiries about the Community Plan and the ACTIV8 initiative, including contacts for local ACTIV8 groups, can be directed in the first instance to the ACTIV8 co-ordinator:

Duncan Bell
Corporate Planning Officer
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Council Offices
Argents Mead
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 1BZ

Telephone: 01455 238 141

E-mail: duncan.bell@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

The local ACTIV8 group in Barwell can be contacted at:

Barwell ACTIV8 Community Project
c/o 78 Shilton Road
Barwell
Leicestershire
LE9 8BN

Telephone: 01455 845903

Fax: 01455 440225

E-mail: barwell_activ8@hotmail.com

Community groups and voluntary organisations wanting help or advice about: funding, setting up a new group, forming a committee or constitution, recruiting new members or any other issues should contact Hinckley and Bosworth Area CVS:

Hinckley and Bosworth Area CVS
14a Rugby Road
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 0QD

Telephone: 01455 633 002

Documents referred to in this Plan

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT			
Source of Information	Contact Details for Enquiries	Available at Libraries?	Available on the Internet?
Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan – Includes the overall policies for land use across the county and sets targets for land allocation in each district.	Department of Planning and Transportation, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA	Yes	http://www.leics.gov.uk
Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan – Sets the detailed policies for land use in the borough.	Planning Department, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Argents Mead, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1BZ Telephone: 01455 238141	Yes	Not at present.
Biodiversity Challenge: An Action Plan for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland – The 'biodiversity action plan' which sets out the priorities for protecting wildlife and increasing its richness.	Hugh Firman, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Longfellow Road, Knighton Fields, Leicester LE2 6BT. Telephone: 0116 270 2999	No	Not at present
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan – Sets out how transport across the county will be improved.	Transport Strategy Group, Department of Planning and Transportation, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RJ Telephone: 0116 265 7183 e-mail: tps@leics.gov.uk	Yes	http://www.leics.gov.uk
Local Environment Agency Plan (LEAP) for the River Soar Catchment – An action plan for improving the environmental quality of the river and its catchment.	Environment Agency, Trentside, Scarrington Road, West Bridgeford, Nottingham NG2 5FA Telephone: 0115 945 5722 e-mail: james.freeborough@environment - agency.gov.uk	No	
The National Forest Strategy – Sets out how the National Forest area will be developed to bring a combination of amenity, economic and environmental benefits through woodland creation and other initiatives.	The National Forest Company, Enterprise Glade, Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 6BD Telephone: 01283 551 211 e-mail: enquiries@nationalforest.org	No	www.nationalforest.org

HEALTH			
Source of Information	Contact Details for Enquiries	Available at Libraries?	Available on the Internet?
Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation – Government health strategy setting out national priorities and targets which local healthcare services must address.	Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group, c/o Heath Lane Surgery, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire LE9 7PB.	Yes	http://www.ohn.gov.uk
Leicestershire Health Improvement Programme – Sets out joint plans of public healthcare agencies in the county to develop their services.	Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group, c/o Heath Lane Surgery, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire LE9 7PB.	Yes	http://www.leics-ha.org.uk
Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Investment Plan – Reviews 'primary' healthcare needs and details how services will be developed to meet them.	Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Group, c/o Heath Lane Surgery, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire LE9 7PB.	Yes	Not yet.
Better Care Higher Standards, A Local Charter for Leicestershire - Sets out a joint set of standards for social services, health and housing services.	Housing Department, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Council Offices, Argents Mead, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1BZ.	Yes	http://www.leics.gov.uk

CULTURE			
Source of Information	Contact Details for Enquiries	Available at Libraries?	Available on the Internet?
Hinckley and Bosworth Sports Development Strategy	Sports Development Officer, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Council Offices, Argents Mead, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1BZ.		Not at present.
Hinckley and Bosworth Arts Directory	Arts Development Officer, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Council Offices, Argents Mead, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1BZ.		Not at present.

SAFER COMMUNITY			
Source of Information	Contact Details for Enquiries	Available at Libraries?	Available on the Internet?
Hinckley and Bosworth Crime and Disorder Strategy – Sets out joint strategy for action to reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, in partnership between the Police, local authorities and others.	Community Development Officer, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Council Offices, Argents Mead, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1BZ. Telephone: 01455 238141.	No	No

GENERAL

Source of Information	Contact Details for Enquiries	Available at Libraries?	Available on the Internet?
<i>A Three-Year Strategy for the Voluntary Sector in Hinckley and Bosworth</i> – Outlines the role of the voluntary sector in a range of issues including services for young people and sets out an Action Plan.	Hinckley and Bosworth Area CVS, 14A Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 0QD. Telephone: 01455 633002.		
<i>Leicestershire Rural Strategy</i> – A joint strategy and action plan for improving quality of life in Leicestershire's rural areas. Developed by the Leicestershire Rural Partnership, which includes the local authorities, voluntary sector, businesses and others.	Rural Officer, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RJ. Telephone: 0116 265 6977. e-mail: nrickard@leics.gov.uk		
<i>England's East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy</i> – The Sustainable Development Framework for the East Midlands.	East Midlands Regional Assembly, The Belvoir Suite, Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 0UL Telephone: 01664 502 563 e-mail: assembly@emrlaga.clara.net	No	www.eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk