



**COMMUNITY LED PLANNING IN THE ROYAL
WOOTTON BASSETT AND CRICKLADE
COMMUNITY AREA**

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER



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1. Background

A couple of years ago, a number of the towns and parishes in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area started on an important journey to produce community led plans for each of their areas, supported by Wiltshire Council through the Area Board. A huge amount of volunteer time and effort has gone into producing these documents. It is therefore important that they are used - to evidence, influence and act as a catalyst to all sorts of exciting and interesting projects across the Community Area.

It was always the intention to hold an event at the end of the project to give everyone the opportunity to draw out and share information from the plans. This was seen as an opportunity to find out what other groups have been doing and learn from each other. It was a chance to pull out and discuss common themes, understand differences, look at what these plans tell us about priorities for action across the community area.

It was also an important opportunity to look at how the information that each community has collected could be used to help inform and influence strategic plans for the community area – in particular, the review of the Community Area Plan. It was a chance to identify any opportunities for collaboration or information sharing. It was a chance to identify actions that might need some Area Board or other support.

2. Attendance

The workshop was open to all towns and parishes in the Community Area, whether or not they had undertaken a plan. The invitations were targeted at community led plan groups as well as town and parish councils. Representatives from five of the twelve towns and parishes attended – Royal Wootton Bassett, Lyneham and Bradenstoke, Clyffe Pypard, Tockenham and Broad Town.

3. Shared issues

Prior to the meeting, Community First's EnAct team carried out an analysis of all town and parish plans in the Community Area to try to draw out the issues that they had identified. Where a plan had not been completed, the latest findings from local consultations and action planning work were used. The results were summarised in a matrix (Appendix A) and series of themed issue maps (Appendix B).



The analysis shows the wide range of issues identified. However, there were a number of common themes. These included:

Footpaths and cycle ways/access to the countryside (9 plans)

Maintaining and improving access to the countryside was mentioned in nearly all plans, with concerns about lack of maintenance of rights of way and, in some cases, the need for new footpaths and cycle ways high on the agenda. Where new footpaths and cycle ways were felt to be needed, reasons included:

- Enabling access to the countryside
- Promoting road safety
- Encouraging people to ditch the car
- Joining up dispersed/separated parts of communities

Two of the deterrents to cycle use were seen to be the state of the roads and the amount and speed of traffic.

Speeding (9 plans)

One of the biggest responses by far was around traffic and speeding. Whilst road safety was a significant concern, Latton's plan in particular also highlighted the negative impact that noise, vibration and air pollution from traffic was having on the wellbeing of some sections of their community. HGVs were seen as exacerbating traffic problems (7 plans). In most but not all cases, the source was relatively local – gravel extraction or waste sites, local industrial areas, bus routes, or agricultural vehicles. Whilst some respondents sought physical traffic calming measures, in many cases equal emphasis was placed on the need for speed limits and enforcement.

Affordable/low cost housing (8)

Most plans identified a need for affordable housing. A number of forms of affordable housing were mentioned including social rental, housing association, shared ownership as well as open market small starter homes.

Housing for older people (7)

Many plans discussed the trend towards aging communities and the potential future needs of their older residents. Whilst the underlying objective was to enable older people to continue to live within their communities, the solutions were varied and included open market, smaller housing units suitable for older people, bungalows, adapted housing, warden controlled, sheltered housing, day and residential care.

Lack of maintenance of roads and pavements (7)

Issues included potholes and poor surfacing, lack of maintenance of drainage gullies, overhanging vegetation and lack of gritting.

Parking issues (7)

Many plans identified issues with a lack of parking. In most cases, this was specific to certain locations such as shopping areas, doctors' surgeries, churches, recreation fields and schools.

Better broadband/IT/mobile phone connections (7)

Poor broadband connections and speeds were highlighted in 7 plans. In many areas, lack of mobile phone connectivity was also an issue – although this varied across networks. A number of plans reported that their local business community felt that poor communications had an impact on their ability to operate effectively.

Lack of/loss of shops and other services (7)

Loss of/lack of shops was an issue that many shared. In smaller communities this could simply be that they were unviable, others mentioned competition from nearby larger settlements (particularly near Swindon). For Lyneham, the loss of RAF was felt to have had a significant impact on business. Some of the plans highlighted the role of such retail facilities as hubs for the community – places to meet, to find out information etc.

Need for improvements to important community facilities (7)

Many of the plans talked about the importance, and in some cases difficulty of, maintaining those important community facilities that remained – local schools, halls, libraries, heritage centres etc. The cost of bringing them up to modern standards, making them accessible, finding funding and volunteers were all mentioned.

4. Specific concerns

The Community Area is by no means homogenous and so it is perhaps unsurprising that some issues had more prominence in certain places or in particular communities of interest. These are just a few examples:

Proximity to Swindon

Pressure from developers and the need to prevent coalescence with Swindon were particular issues for those around the urban fringe. Loss of facilities and services was often linked to competition from the nearby town. Where residents had to go out of the parish to find their activities and services it was felt by some that this had an impact on the sense of community and presented specific difficulties for those without access to a car.

Impact of military changes

The impact of the closure of RAF Lyneham was reflected in some of the comments from residents in Lyneham and Bradenstoke. Issues included the loss of the Little Alberts nursery, the military police, and a feeling that the community had lost a social hub or centre – somewhere for people to meet. The plan reported the impact on local business and a demand from the business community for better communication about the changes proposed.

Access to healthcare

Although problems accessing NHS dentists was a fairly common issue, as were long waiting times for doctor's appointments, there were particular difficulties reported in the Lyneham and Royal Wootton Bassett area around lack of capacity in local health services and health centres not taking on patients from the Lyneham area.

Those relying on public transport

There were particular challenges for those without access to a car, including young people and those with mobility problems or other disabilities. Issues included:

- lack of buses,
- confusion about operators and timetables,
- a demand for more frequent services, for later services, and more direct routes to places of work, key shopping areas, entertainment and leisure centres and hospitals.
- Some people talked about the difficulty of accessing buses with a mobility problem or if pushing a buggy.
- Those that used community transport were, in the main, happy with the service although some were obviously unaware of the services on offer.

Young people

Only a couple of towns and parishes appeared to have undertaken specific work with the young people in their area, although a number of the household surveys included questions about the needs of the younger members of their community. These identified a demand for more activities for young people, in particular teenagers. More leisure and sports facilities were high on the list as well as better play facilities and equipment – but for many young people it was as much about having a safe, warm and dry place to hang out, meet friends etc.

In the Lyneham survey, some of the young people talked about being cut off from school friends and from leisure activities. They relied on their parents or on public transport to get to where they wanted to go.

Young people dislike many of the things that we do - vandalism – particularly when it was to their play facilities – dog fouling, litter, traffic and speeding. They wanted to feel safe – some of them talked about bullying, young girls in the Royal Wootton Bassett survey disliked the way men responded to them. Other young people were concerned about the possibility of attack or abduction.

Teenage girls in Royal Wootton Bassett reported that they don't always feel positive about how they look. Some of the young people in Lyneham felt that adult's perceptions of young people were incorrect and unfair.

5. Priority issues

Each town or parish represented at the workshop was asked to identify their *top 5 issues* (represented by a star on the matrix at Appendix A). They were also given orange dots with which to identify 5 other issues that may not be top priorities at present but are still important issues that they would like to work with others on. The themes receiving the most "votes" were:

- **Transport**
- **Your community**

Although the remainder were relatively evenly spread, **Environment** was chosen as the third topic to discuss in more detail.



6. Priorities for action

The participants split into three groups. Each took one of the above themes and shared with each other what residents from their communities had said about that topic. The group focusing on the *Your community* theme also chose to include broadband/mobile phone issues in their discussions on village communications.

Each group was asked to:

- agree on priorities for action under the three themes
- identify what, if any, assistance they might need from the Area Board or others to help them address those actions.



You can see a summary of their results below in section 8.

7. Follow up work

As a number of towns and parishes were unable to attend the meeting, we contacted them all afterwards and asked them to identify their top 5 issues, any issues on which they saw benefits to working together with other parishes in the area, priorities for action and what support, if any, they would like from the Area Board or others to help deliver those priorities.

We received responses from a further 5 towns and parishes – Cricklade, Latton, Purton, Lydiard Millicent and Marston Meysey. 2 parishes who had attended the meeting (Lyneham & Bradenstoke and Clyffe Pypard) also sent further comments. Their responses have been added both to the matrix at Appendix A and summarised in the table below.

Three groups commented on the ranking process. Clyffe Pypard CLP group highlighted that there were other priority issues that didn't make the top 5 – but were still important for their community. (We have tried to ensure that these are covered in the table below). Royal Wootton Bassett CLP

group had prioritised by theme rather than by individual issues and so chose to place their stars on the matrix on the theme headings rather than against individual rows.

Cricklade CLP group reported that respondents were not asked to rank issues so felt that drawing reliable inferences was difficult, particularly as some issues affect only a small number of people but the impact on those people may be significant. However, the group was able to list five themes that appeared to be most significant. Again, their actions had not been prioritised; rather they have been split into two. All those relating to housing, open space and land use have been picked up by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. All of the other issues have been listed and essentially fall into two categories, either they are within the power or influence of the Town Council or not. Those in the former category are being dealt with by the Town Council at the time felt most appropriate. Progress is being monitored by an informal group of the respective committee chairmen. It is proposed to prepare a formal report at the end of the year which will be circulated to residents.

8. Results

TRANSPORT			
Issues	Priorities for action	Identified by	Support needed from
Priorities for action raised at the workshop			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding • Variable speeds • Need for reduction/consistency of speed limit through villages • Transport links to towns and facilities • Lack of footpaths • Road safety • Condition of roads • Physical/visual gateways needed 	Community Area wide campaign to alert people to the effect of speeding/need to drive to road conditions	Workshop group	Area Board
	Monitor average speed/speed watch from end to end of busy routes		Police
	Help local groups understand what is possible and what needs to change.		CATG/Area Board
	Share research on what works (mapping of actual issues).		Area Board
	Better consultation on diversion routes		Wiltshire Council
	Coordination needed across communities in the area		All
Additional priorities for action raised post meeting:			
Traffic volume, speeding and road noise	Seek 20mph limit near school	Purton	CATG/Area Board Highways Police Support needed for traffic mitigation and funding for measures to manage speed/improve road safety etc.
	Tackle speeding and road noise from A417	Latton	
	Seek weight limit on The Street	Latton	
	Use of Speedwatch.	Latton and Lydiard Millicent	
	Enforcement of existing speed limits	Latton	
	Use of Lorry Watch	Lydiard Millicent	
	Gateway enhancements at approaches to village.	Lydiard Millicent	
	Tackle speeding, particularly in view of the failure of the 20mph limit to have much of an impact	Cricklade	
Tackle the volume of HGV traffic through the town centre	Cricklade		
Road safety	Alterations to road junctions needed, in particular Lower Square	Purton	CATG/Area Board Highways

	Construction of footpaths to promote road safety. Prioritisation/funding assistance needed.	Lydiard Millicent	
	Installation of dropped kerbs to facilitate access	Lyneham & Bradenstoke	Area Board
Lack of maintenance of roads/street scene	Seek improvements to maintenance of roads, verges etc.	Latton Marston Meysey Lyneham & Bradenstoke	Wiltshire Council
	Is it possible for the Area Board to co-ordinate communication from Wiltshire Council re: road maintenance programme so residents can see where parishes are on the "to do"list?	Lyneham & Bradenstoke	Area Board
Lack of parking	Installation of a new parking area adjacent Parish Hall, helping to reduce congestion at school run times	Lydiard Millicent	

YOUR COMMUNITY

Issues discussed	Priorities for action	Identified by	Support needed from
Priorities for action discussed at the workshop			
Difficulties in attracting wider community engagement	Communities need to encourage wider community engagement in plan implementation	Workshop group	Assistance from Community First
Communication	Ensure that effective communication supports community involvement in plan implementation		
Village hall as a community hub – central meeting point – find more ways to use it.	A community survey to identify what activities residents would like to see in the village hall. (Tockenham?)		
Poor broadband	Clarify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timetable for broadband roll out project. • any areas not covered. • options/alternative provision 		Wiltshire Council/ Area Board <i>CLlr Bucknell also directed the group to:</i> www.wiltshireonline.org
Loss of services	Look into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential for community shop or a mobile shop covering several communities • potential for corporate support • seek funding 	Lyneham and Bradenstoke	Advice from Community First Sainsburys Area Board

Need for local first aid facilities – defibrillator	Training in use of defibrillators	Tockenham	Ambulance Service
Helping to promote local businesses and services	Develop a business and services directory	Lyneham and Bradenstoke and Tockenham	
Additional priorities for action on this topic raised post meeting:			
Need for local first aid facilities	First aid training e.g. installation and training on use of defibrillators	Clyffe Pypard	Ambulance Service
Lack of a village hub	Assess potential for improvements to village hall to meet community needs	Latton	Community First Village Hall Adviser/Area Board
Difficulties in attracting community volunteers	Find ways of attracting more volunteers to support plan implementation	Latton	Area Board
	Ensure that local people understand that the completion of the community led plan is just the starting point and further work (and support) will be needed in its implementation	Clyffe Pypard	
Broadband speed (lack of)	Seek improvements. Cross boundary discussions needed as exchange is in Kempford, Gloucestershire	Marston Meysey	Wiltshire Council/Area Board

ENVIRONMENT

Issues discussed	Priorities for action	Identified by	Support needed from
Priorities for action discussed at the workshop			
Wildlife conservation and enhancement	Join up green spaces	Royal Wootton Bassett	Funding, advice, partnership, influence all needed: Wiltshire Council, Braydon Forest and landowners
	Create woodland walks	Lyneham & Bradenstoke	
Access to the countryside	Provide better information about local footpaths etc.	Workshop group	
Better communications e.g. on A3102, flooding	Promote a more effective 2 way flow of information <i>(Author's note: this group felt that information, help and advice was readily available to address many of the issues raised – not just under the environment theme. They felt however that it was important that people knew where to access this assistance)</i>		
Additional priorities for action raised on this topic post meeting:			
Flooding	Tackle existing flooding hotspots	Marston Meysey	Area Board

		Lyneham & Bradenstoke	
	Improve maintenance of ditches and address inadequate drainage	Marston Meysey Lyneham & Bradenstoke	
	Increased potential for flooding with the surrounding counties' Mineral Extraction Plans	Marston Meysey	
Planning for Mineral extraction	An opportunity to work with neighbouring parishes on this issue	Marston Meysey	Neighbouring parishes Assistance from Wiltshire Council
Dog fouling	Education campaign needed	Purton	Funding already set aside by Area Board to help address this issue
	Educational programme about dog fouling (could do the same with litter), involving school children and young people as well as wider community	Lyneham & Bradenstoke	
	A Community Area campaign (for those that wish to participate) will attract wider publicity and also access to extra resources.	Cricklade	
Litter	Access to litter picking equipment	Purton	Wiltshire Council
	Support from Parish Steward to tackle roadside litter	Purton	

A number of other priorities for action under other themes were identified by individual towns and parishes after the meeting:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE			
Issues discussed	Priorities for action	Identified by	Support needed from
Facilities for young people	A better youth centre. Somewhere for young people to meet socially	Purton	Support needed from Area Board in securing new facilities.
Youth Service review	Clarity needed on future of youth programmes	Purton	Area Board

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Issues discussed	Priorities for action	Identified by:	Support needed from:
Petty crime i.e. outbuildings etc.	Resurrect Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Latton	Police
	Assistance needed to set up and Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Lyneham & Bradenstoke	Area Board Police

ECONOMY

Issues discussed	Priorities for action	Identified by	Support needed from
New local job opportunities needed. Limited scope for new, small business units	Issue has been taken forward to Neighbourhood Plan	Purton	New V Plan group
Assisting people into work	Investigate potential to set up a job club in the library, perhaps jointly with the job centre	Lyneham & Bradenstoke	Area Board
State and vibrancy of the town centre	Expand the retail offer	Cricklade	

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Issues discussed	Priorities for action	Identified by	Support needed from
Concern about future of the Cedars Care Home	Seek an update from Wiltshire Council on plans for this facility	Purton	Wiltshire Council
Access to healthcare – difficulties in particular in accessing Malmesbury Hospital by public transport	Lack of direct bus to hospital. Investigate whether an alternative could be provided via the Link service	Latton	LINK/Community First
Access to healthcare	Lack of provision of NHS Dentist	Cricklade	

HOUSING

Issues discussed	Priorities for action	Identified by	Support needed from
More burial land needed	Seek assistance from Wiltshire Council to investigate potential sites	Purton	
Provision of housing for older	New small development of affordable housing and small	Lydiard Millicent	Working with New-V

residents & young residents (starter homes)	dwellings		Neighbourhood Plan group on this Landowners – need to identify (affordable) land Support from Wiltshire Council against any large developments
	More affordable housing and also additional housing provision for older people	Cricklade	These issues have been picked up by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party
New housing	Maintaining the character of the town by allowing only a modest increase in housing numbers and resisting coalescence with Swindon	Cricklade	As above

LEISURE

Issues discussed	Priorities for action	Identified by	Support needed from
Inadequate leisure facilities	Perceived inadequate youth provision	Cricklade	
	Inadequate and outdated play equipment	Lyneham & Bradenstoke	Assistance from Area Board on accessing funding and with planning processes

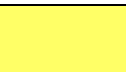
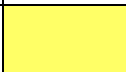
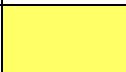
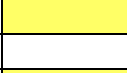
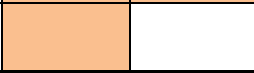
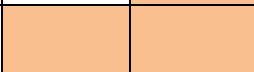
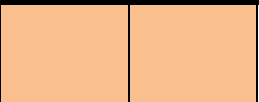
APPENDIX A: Issues identified by Community Led Plans in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area

★ = top 5 priorities ● = may not be a priority at present but still important issues that would like to work with others on

Royal Wootton Bassett grouped their issues under themed headings and so chose to place their stars/circles on those themes, rather than on individual issues. Communities indicated by * have not undertaken a community led plan. Their responses are based on discussions with their local council.

THEME/ISSUE	Braydon*	Broad Town	Clyffe Pypard	Cricklade	Latton	Lydiard Millicent	Lydiard Tregose*	Lyneham	Marston Meysey*	Purton	Tockenham	Royal Wootton Bassett
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE				●								★
Lack of activities for young people								★				
Need a place for young people to hang out										★		
Isolation – from friends, leisure activities etc.												
Dislike anti-social behaviour – vandalism, litter, dog fouling, speeding												
Want to feel safe – bullying, possibility of attack, unwanted attention from men (girls)												
Teenage girls don't feel positive about how they look												
Adult perceptions of young people unfair												
Lack of job opportunities												
COMMUNITY SAFETY												●
Petty vandalism and anti-social behaviour												
Policing – visibility, response to issues etc.											●	
Neighbourhood Watch – support for/lack of knowledge of												
CCTV												
Road safety/ safe pedestrian access			★			★						

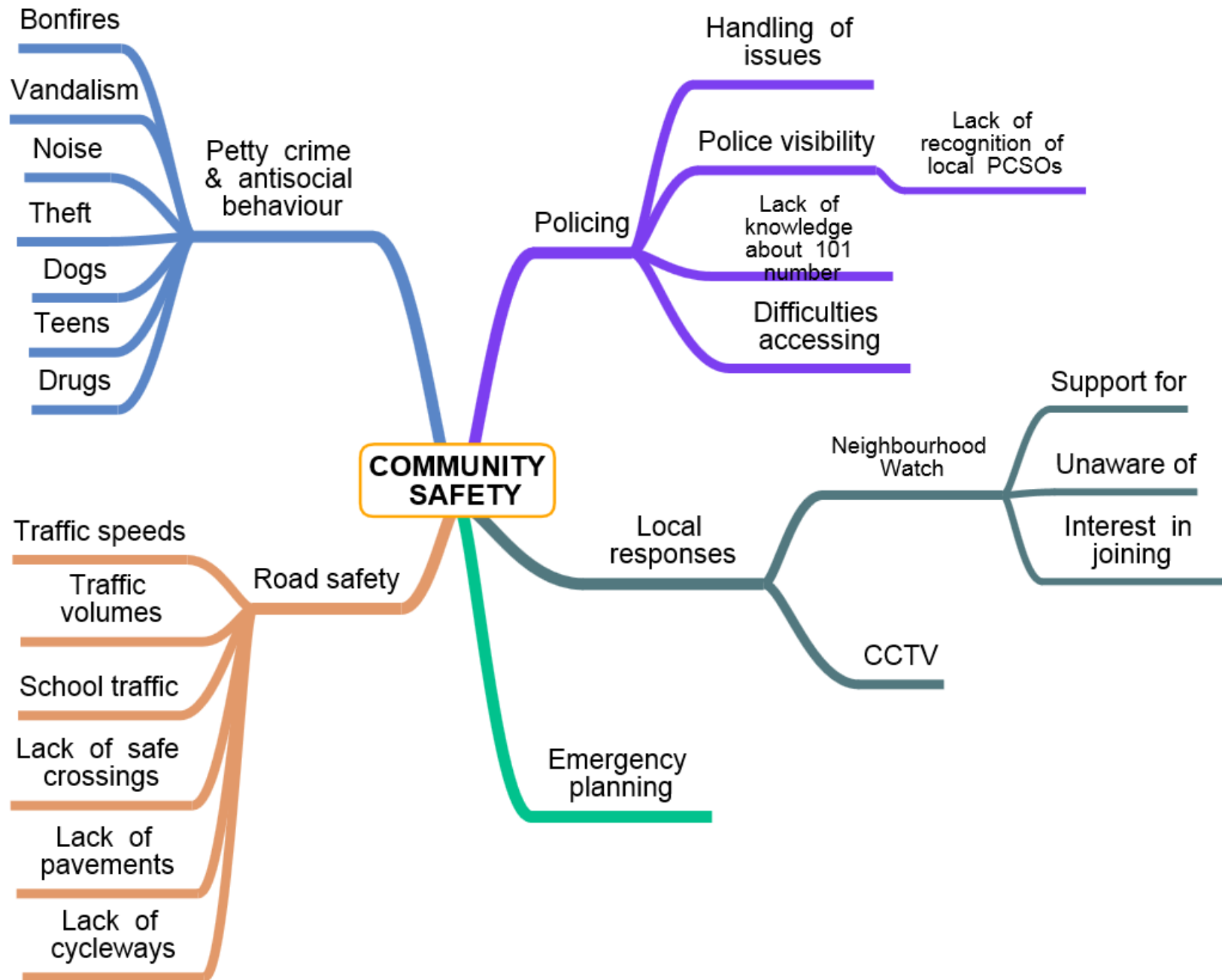
THEME/ISSUE	Braydon*	Broad Town	Clyffe Pypard	Cricklade	Latton	Lydiard Millicent	Lydiard Tregose*	Lyneham	Marston Meysey*	Purton	Tockenham	Royal Wootton Bassett
Support for emergency/resilience planning												
CULTURE												
Finding resources to record, maintain and enhance historic and community assets												
Inefficient/lack of use of existing community buildings												
Need for church to continue to be effective and relevant for future generations												
Demand for more community activities												
Better advertising of local groups, events and activities												
Lack of co-ordination between/support for local groups and clubs												
Support for more adult learning opportunities												
ECONOMY												
Lack of/loss of village shop												
Improve number and variety of retail outlets												
Shopping areas in poor condition												
Loss of RAF and impact on business												
Competition from similar businesses locally and from nearby larger settlements												
Better parking near shops and businesses												
More business space needed												
Improve promotion of local businesses and services												

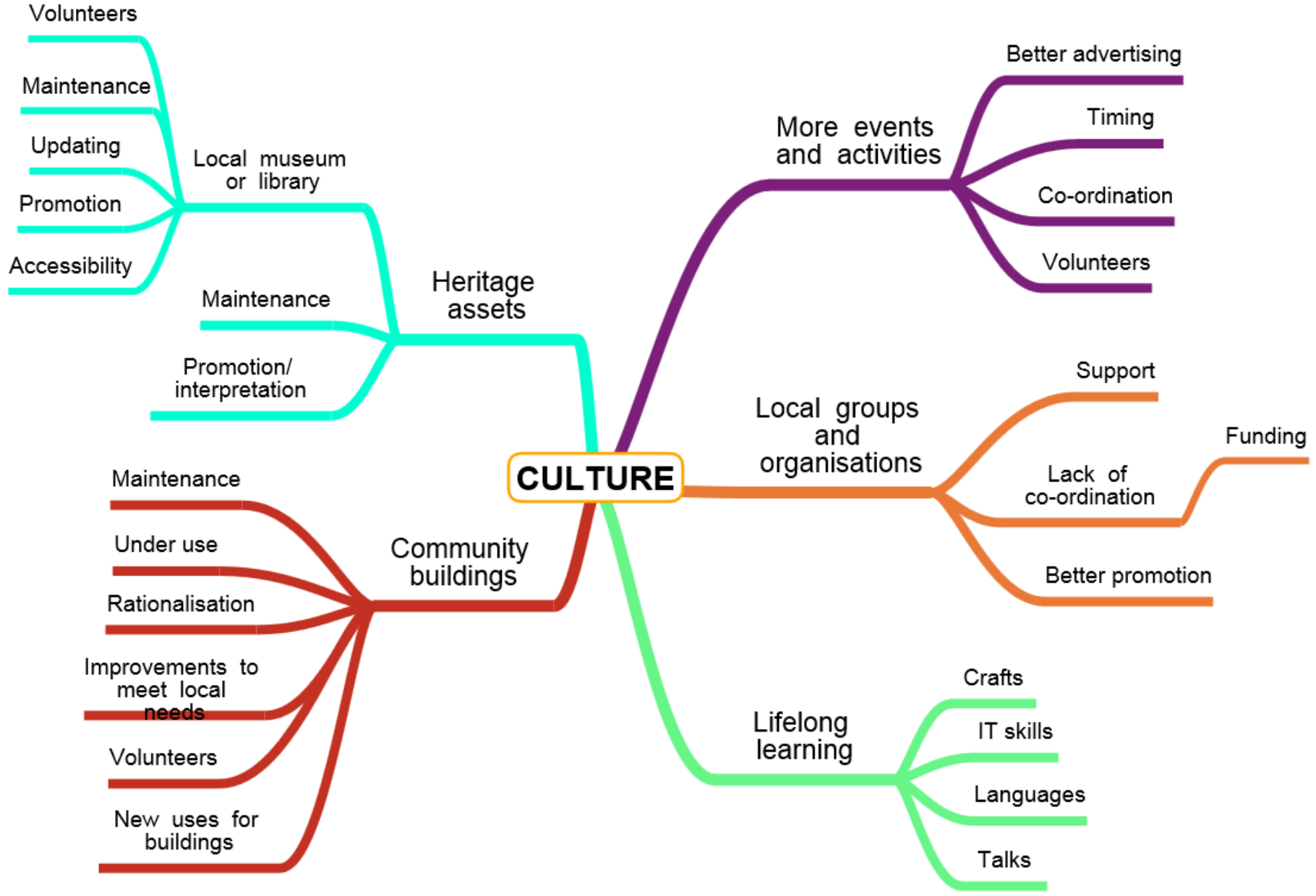


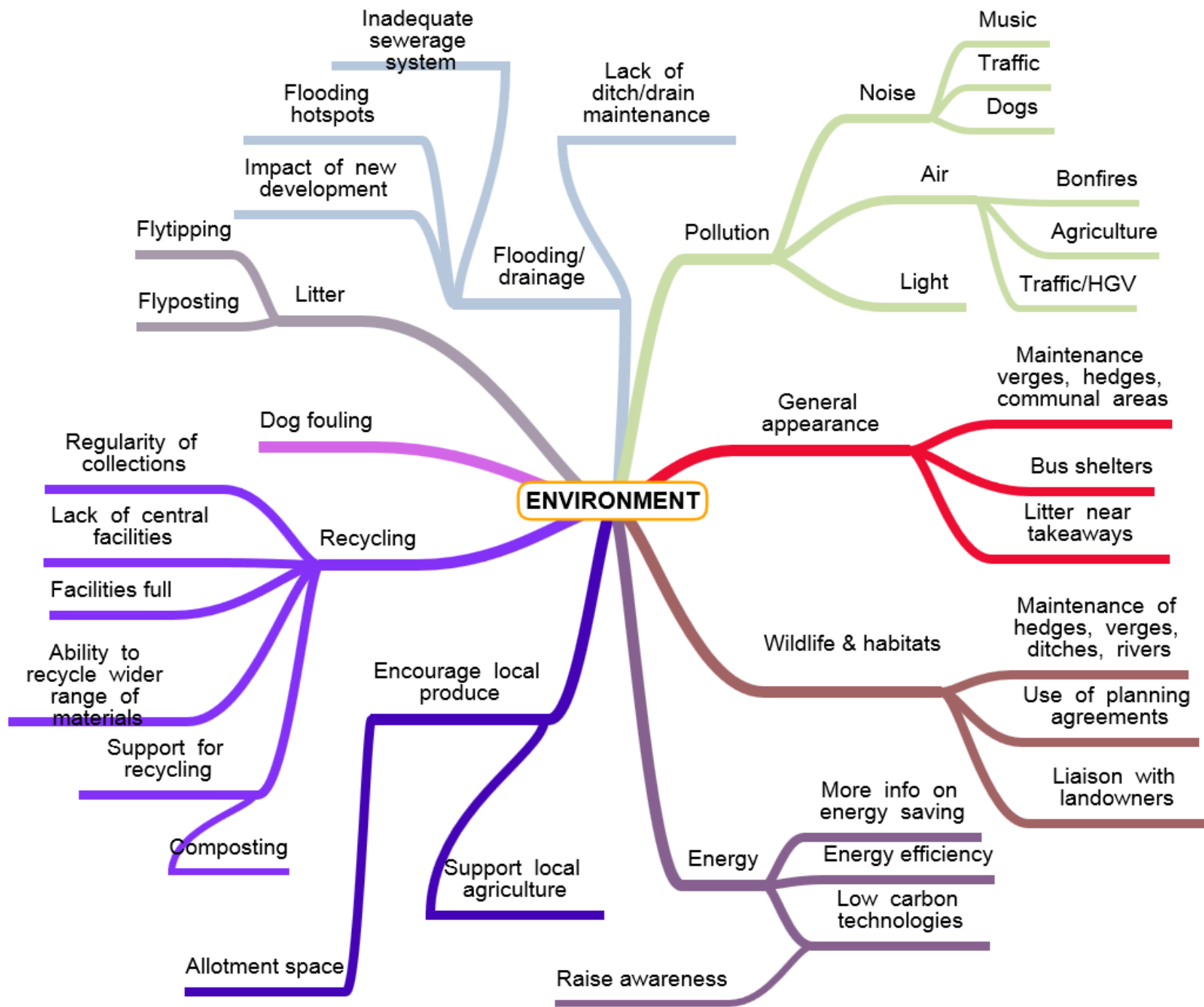
THEME/ISSUE	Braydon*	Broad Town	Clyffe Pypard	Cricklade	Latton	Lydiard Millicent	Lydiard Tregose*	Lynham	Marston Meysey*	Purton	Tockenham	Royal Wootton Bassett
local decision making and activities												
Separation between communities in the same Parish		●										

APPENDIX B: Issue mapping – a summary of issues raised by plans in the Community Area by theme









ENVIRONMENT

Pollution

Noise

- Music
- Traffic
- Dogs

Air

- Bonfires
- Agriculture
- Traffic/HGV

Light

- Traffic/HGV

General appearance

- Maintenance verges, hedges, communal areas
- Bus shelters
- Litter near takeaways

Wildlife & habitats

- Maintenance of hedges, verges, ditches, rivers
- Use of planning agreements
- Liaison with landowners

Energy

- More info on energy saving
- Energy efficiency
- Low carbon technologies

Raise awareness

- Allotment space

Encourage local produce

- Support local agriculture

Recycling

- Regularity of collections
- Lack of central facilities
- Facilities full
- Ability to recycle wider range of materials
- Support for recycling
- Composting

Dog fouling

- Flytipping
- Flyposting

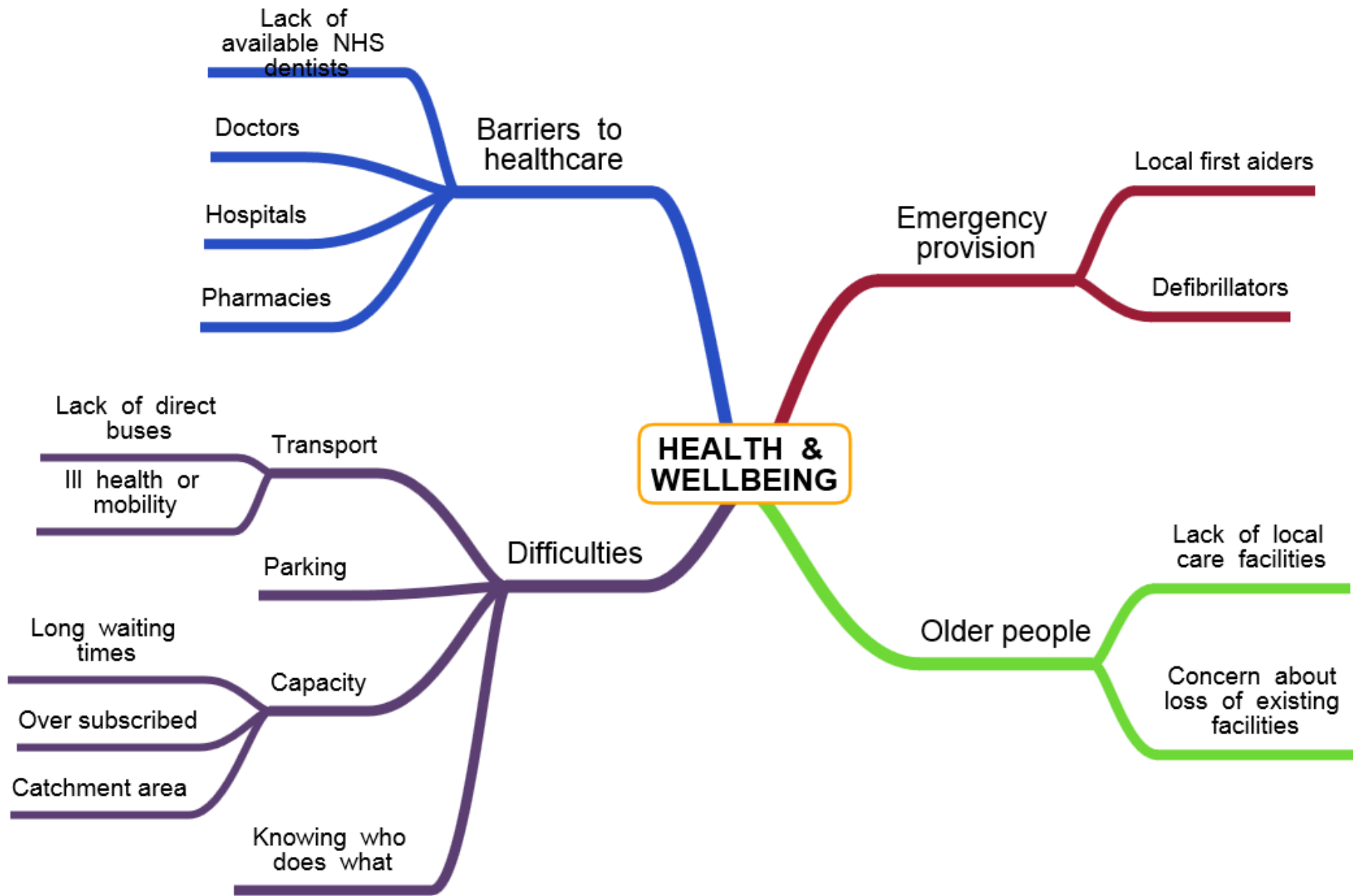
Litter

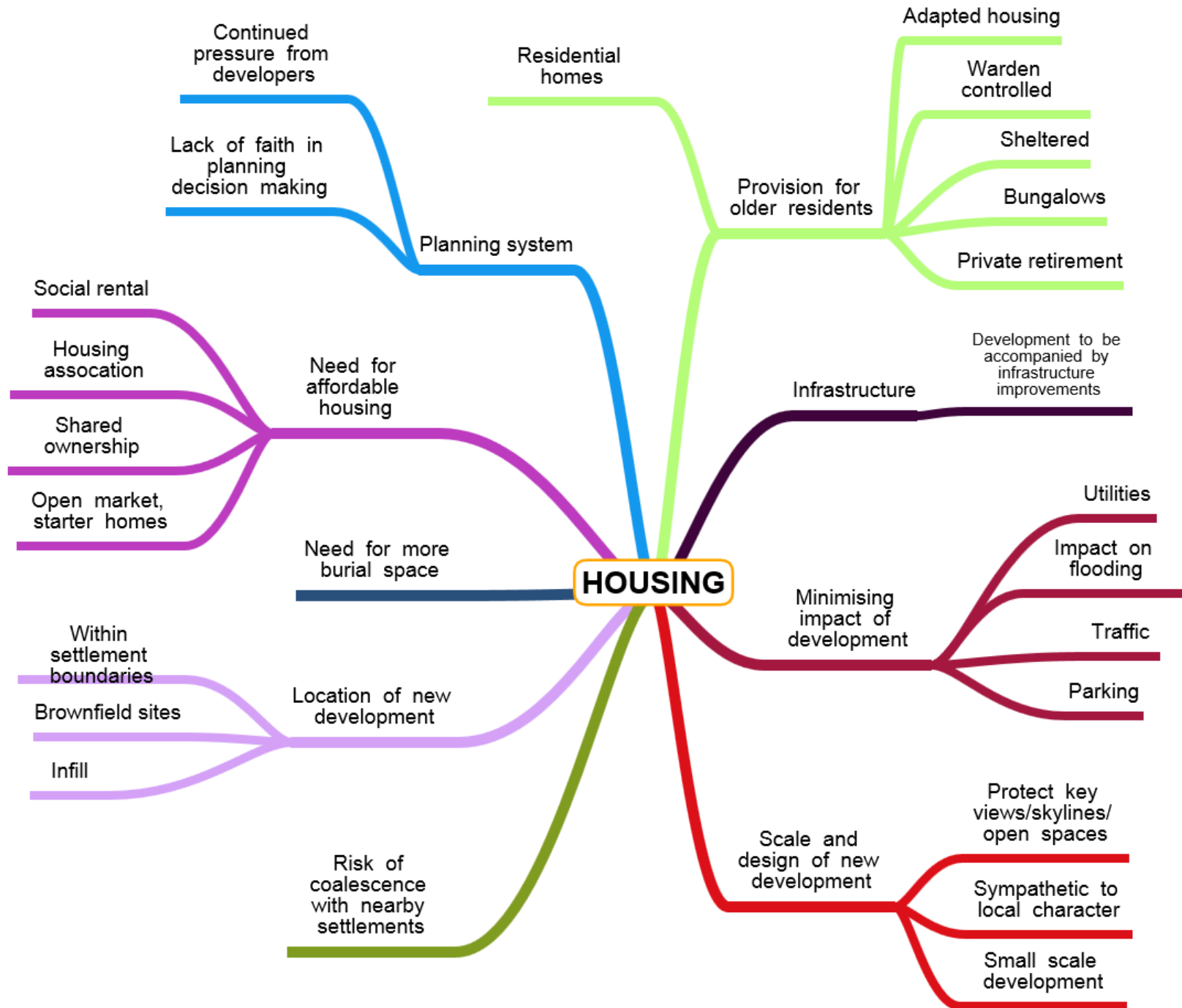
Flooding/drainage

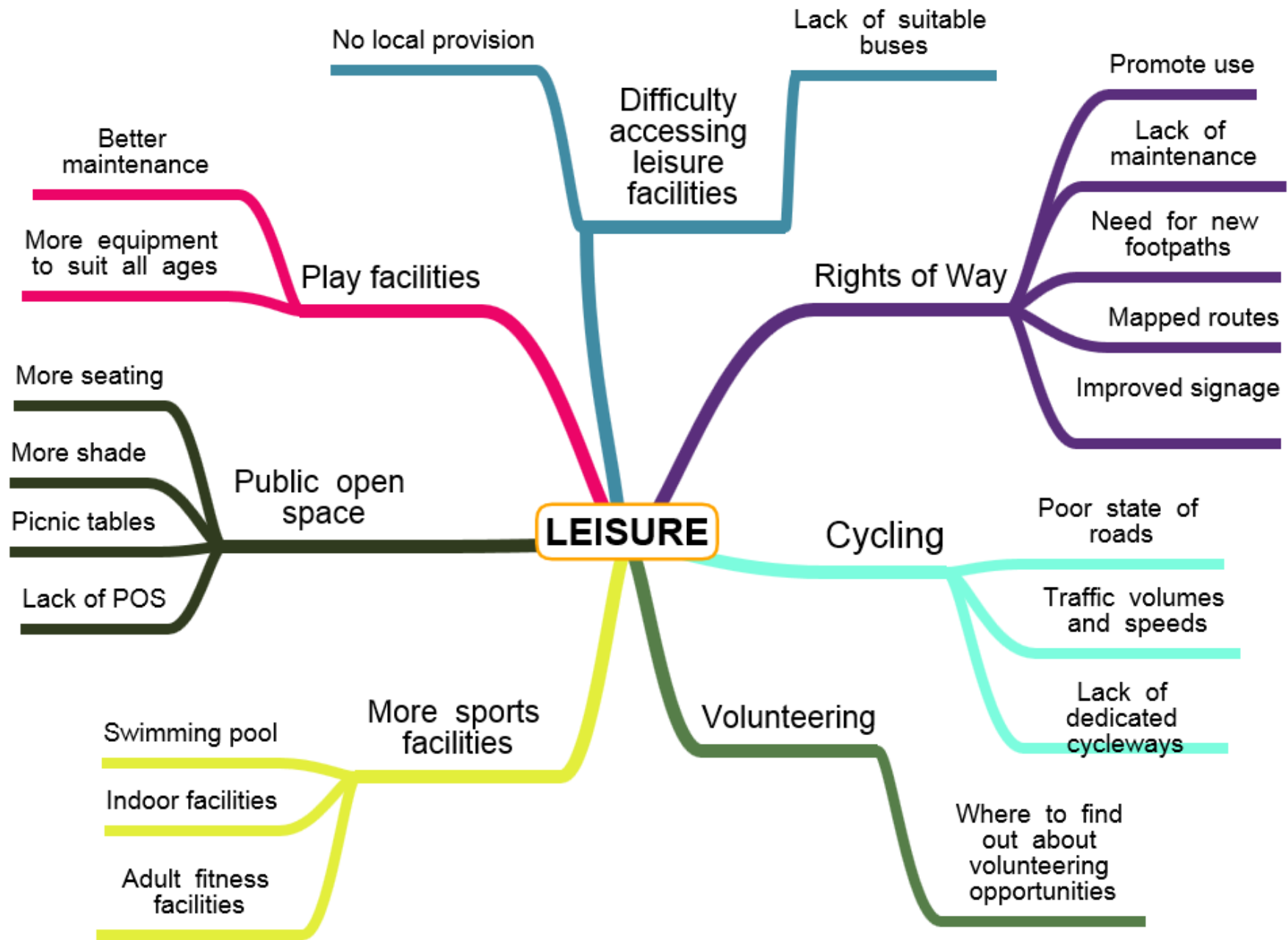
- Impact of new development

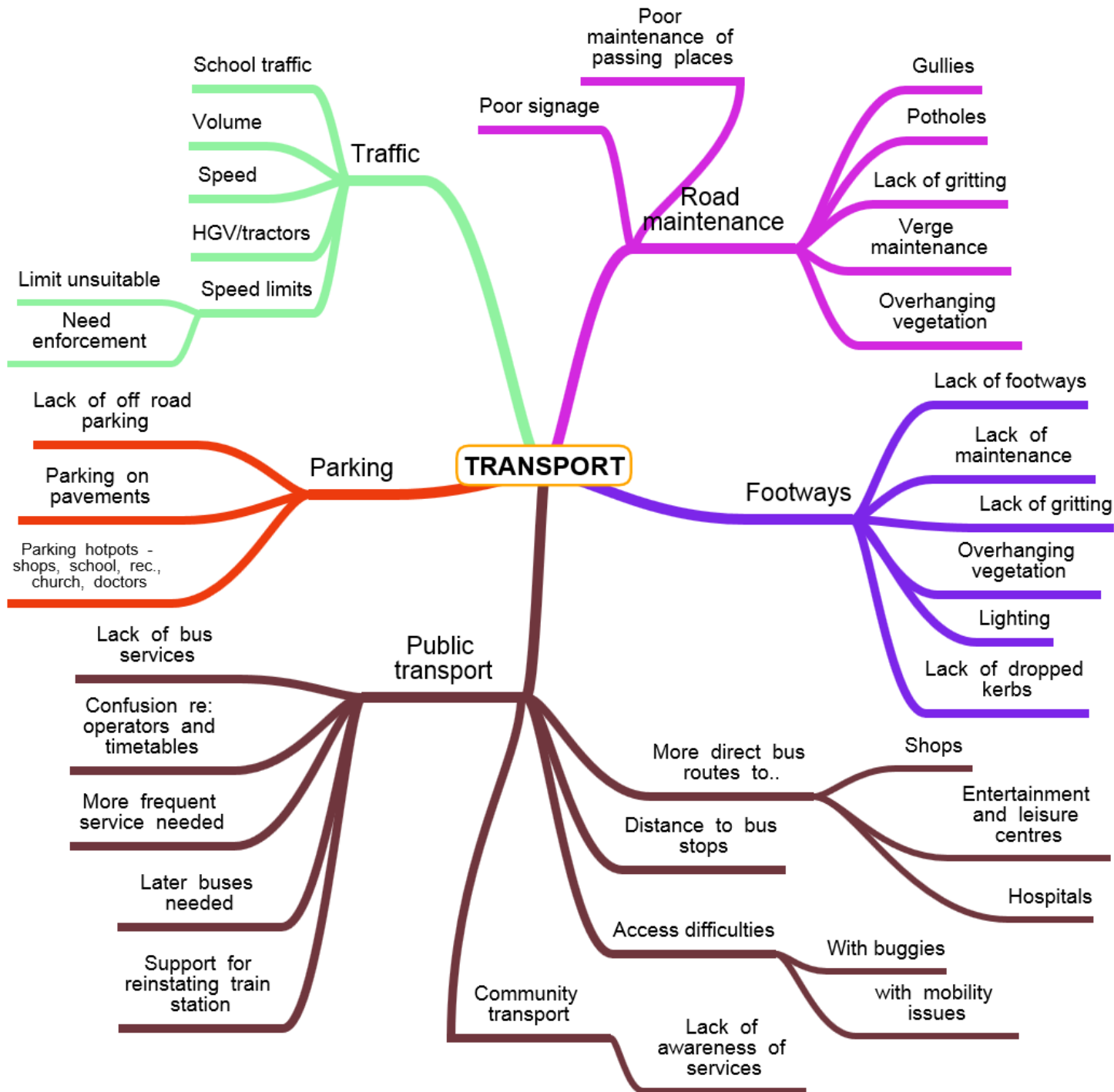
Inadequate sewerage system

- Flooding hotspots









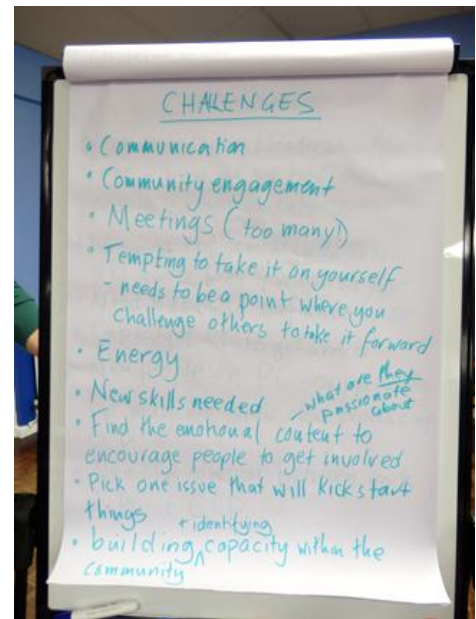


APPENDIX 3: On the Shelf?: A short report

In the lead up to the *Bringing it all Together* event we advertised a series of four workshops entitled *On the Shelf? Converting Plans into Action*. In the months leading up to these events, a number of community led plan groups had identified concerns about how to ensure that their plans would be implemented. The aim of these workshops was to discuss these concerns and to the groups some of the tools that they would need to take their plans forward.

Three of the four workshops went ahead, attended by a total of 24 participants from Cricklade, Lyneham and Bradenstoke, Clyffe Pypard, Royal Wootton Bassett and Tockenham. The participants were a mix of members of community led plan steering groups and representatives from local town and parish councils.

Although we developed a structure for each workshop, it remained flexible, to enable participants to bring their issues and concerns to each session. The participants' main concerns about implementation included:



Converting plans into action

- How do we ensure the plan doesn't sit on the shelf?
- Now that the plan is completed work has stagnated – how do we move it forward?
- How do we maintain impetus?

Putting a structure in place for implementation

- What are others putting in place to support implementation of their plans?
- We probably need to pick one issue to kick start implementation (2 respondents)

Communication

- How do we feed our achievements back to our community?
- Now we have completed the plan we need further communications with the community
- We need to get our communications right in order to engage our community in implementation

Community engagement

- How do we re-engage the community – consultation fatigue!
- Difficulties in getting and keeping volunteers (3)
- Effective communication and engagement (3) – especially young people
- Too many meetings – community fatigue!
- If we are to get people involved, we need to find out what they are passionate about
- How do we widen engagement to those people that haven't been involved so far? (2)

“It's tempting to take everything on yourself – there needs to be a point at which you challenge others to help take it (the plan) forward”

Resources/capacity

- Lack of resources – time and capacity
- Energy (lack of)
- New skills needed (for implementation stage)
- How do we identify and build capacity in our community?

- Need co-ordination, leadership, driving force – how do we find these people?

Role of the Parish/Town Council

- We need to ensure that our Parish Council gets involved/supports implementation
- What is the role of the Parish Council in helping to take things forward?
- There are new people on our Parish Council. It could be an opportunity, but some may not know about the process of community led planning
- Need for cohesion between the work of the community led plan group and the Parish Council

Adopting the plan

- As a local council we felt that we could not adopt the plan as some of the actions identified were out of our direct control.

Relationship with other plans and activities

- How does the plan fit with other initiatives e.g. our work on the neighbourhood plan?

“Sticky” issues

- How do we tackle actions that are out of our direct control (2)?
- Issues from previous plans still haven't yet been tackled
- How do we deal with those tricky issues (i.e. ongoing issues that don't seem to ever get resolved?) (2)
- We need to understand why something has gone wrong – why it is not happening
- We have concerns about how to take some of our projects forward

Coping with community changes

- Our community is going through lots of changes. How can these be built into a review of the plan?

We shared with the groups some of the structures that communities have put in place to support the implementation of their plans.

Many of the groups recognised that, now that they have published their plans, they needed to re-engage with the wider community to view the results, agree priorities for action and discuss their next steps on implementation. They recognised that new energy and skills may be needed to take projects forward and so they needed to widen involvement and bring in new volunteers.

Many saw challenges in attracting those volunteers – getting beyond the same familiar faces - and reported a lack of capacity, particularly in smaller communities, to take projects forward. We discussed some of the sources of support and lessons learnt from other groups on attracting and keeping volunteers, identifying the skills needed and building capacity within the community.



We discussed the role of the local council, initially as an active partner and champion in the development of the plan. It is then generally asked to adopt the plan once it is completed. As the established, elected body it is often also asked to take on co-ordination and monitoring of the implementation plan, although ideally this is still done in collaboration with the wider community.

Most plans identify actions for the local council, actions for the community and actions that you will need the help of others to achieve. By adopting a community led plan, the local council is not committing to deliver every action itself. It is demonstrating that it has read and understood the views of the community and is committed to work with others on the implementation of the plan.

Action plans should be realistic and achievable. However, they may contain longer term aspirations – things that may not be achievable in the short term. The plan can be used to influence other agencies to undertake action by demonstrating community concerns, evidencing need and showing community support for a particular course of action. In some cases further research and evidence gathering may be needed to understand the underlying issues and strengthen the case for action. In others, alternative solutions may need to be negotiated.

All plans should be subject to monitoring and review. Action plans are living documents and may need to change to reflect changing circumstances. Ideally, changes are made with ongoing community consultation.

Towards the end of each workshop, participants were invited to choose topics to discuss in more detail from:

- community engagement/volunteer recruitment
- understanding issues
- influencing for success
- networks and communication
- community leadership
- collaboration and partnership working

The resources from these sessions will be posted on our website in due course. All CLP groups in the community area will be sent a link to those resources.

