

Great Haseley Neighbourhood Priority Statement

April 29th

Introduction: What is a Neighbourhood Priority Statement?

- Introduced by Central Government to allow local communities a voice in the policies adopted by the planning authorities
- Not a formal set of policies in itself – but a statement of the things we as a community feel strongest about, and want the council to take into account when they consider planning applications
- Can be the first step to a Neighbourhood Plan: stronger document, but more work required

Our process so far

- Steering group established: agreed a set of priorities to consult on
- Area covered is the parish but concentrating on Great and Little Haseley
- Consultation in January set out 4 “themes”:
 - Protection of significant views and green spaces
 - Sustaining the character of the villages
 - Access to Community facilities
 - Physical connections of the village to other villages / towns
- In consultation with SODC, agreed to combine the latter 2 themes

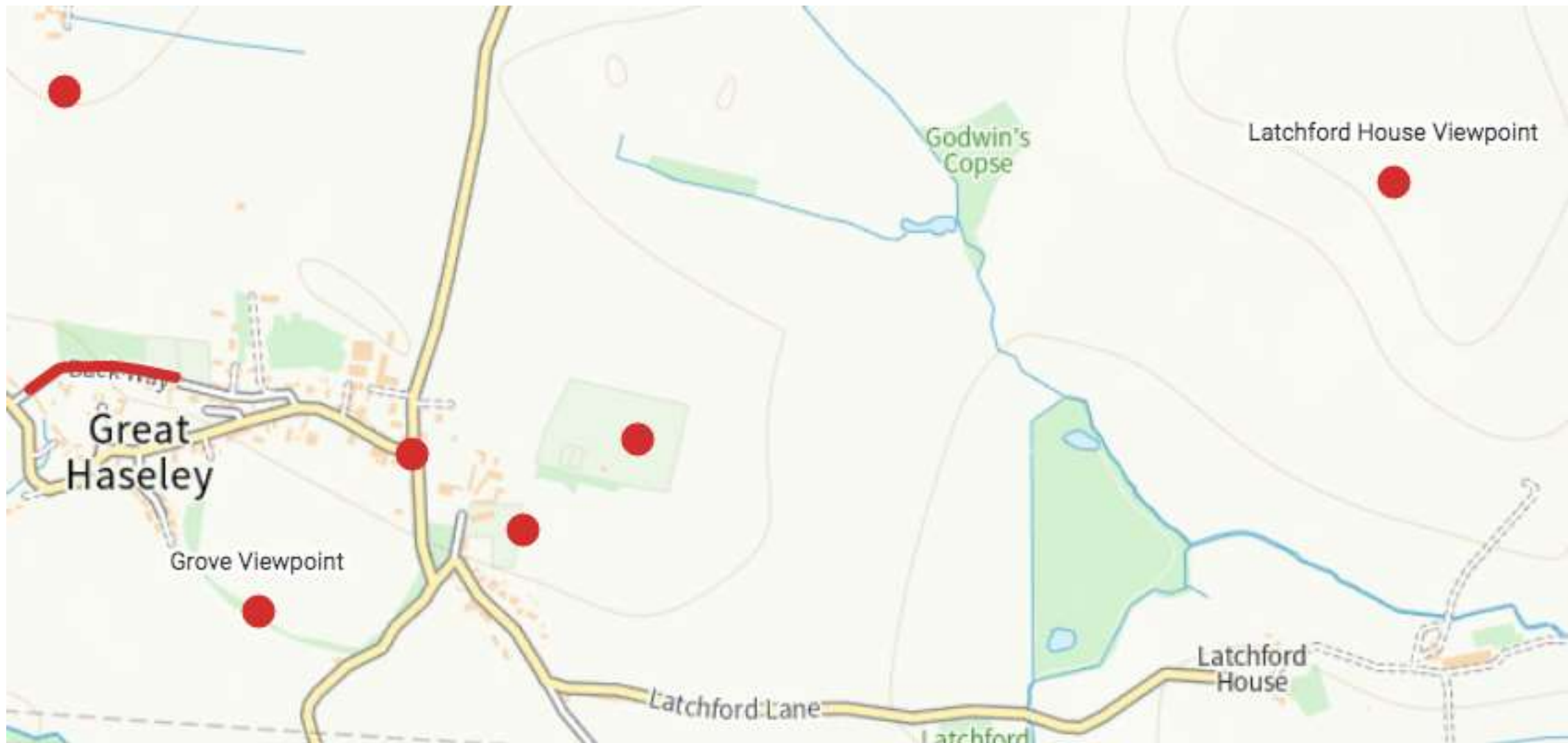
What do we want from you today?

- Our statement will only be accepted if we can demonstrate that it has local support
- That can come via surveys / consumer research; active engagement in developing the statement; consultation exercises
- We have already started well, with a high response rate to our first consultation
- Today we want to test our emerging ideas and see if there are other ideas you want us to include

Theme 1: Protected Views and Green Spaces

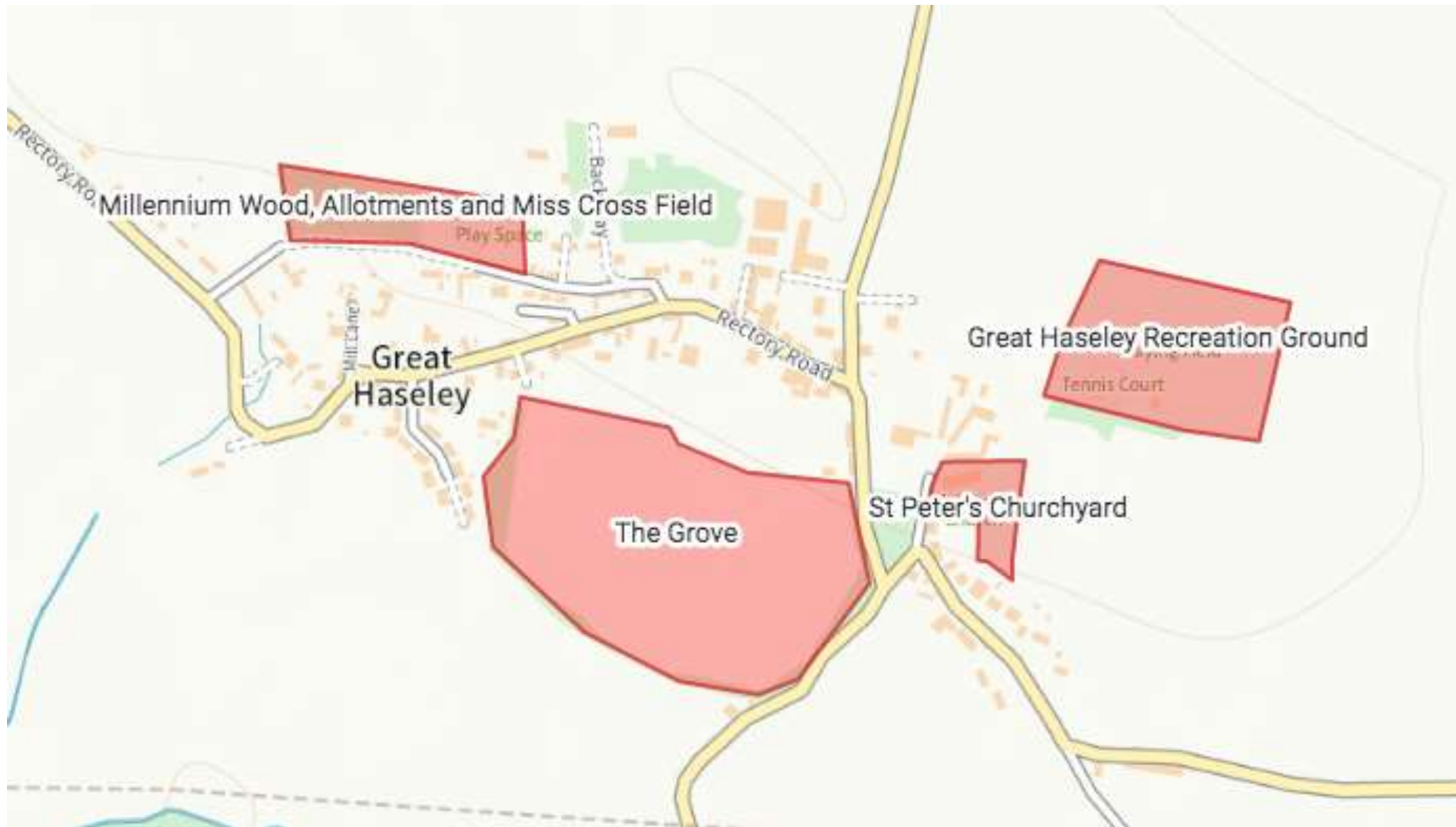
- Purpose: to identify a small number of key views which are important to us as a community and to the nature of the villages – which will be taken into account by SODC in any planning decisions they make
- SODC advice is that we need to be specific rather than general: the statement needs to include maps with specific vectors showing the view itself







Green Spaces – Great Haseley



Green Spaces – Little Haseley



Criteria for protecting Green Spaces

- Proximity to the community
- Demonstrably special by virtue of:
 - Its beauty
 - Historic significance
 - Recreational value (including as a playing field)
 - Tranquillity
 - Richness of wildlife
- Of local character and not extensive

Theme 2: Sustaining Local Character

- What do we (most) value?
 - Historic centre
 - Stone buildings and architectural details
 - No light pollution
 - Mix of use – residential / agricultural / commercial
 - Maintain local distinctiveness by controlling quality of built development – scale, setting and use of local building materials?
 - Protect the sparsely settled character of the landscape and the integrity and character of the local area?
 - Preserve historic features in landscape, maintain rural setting of the villages and conserve/enhance wildlife value and biodiversity of the Parish?
- What are we (most) worried about?
 - Light pollution?
 - Parking?
 - Vehicle speed?
 - Cumulative impact of local solar developments?
 - Renovations/retrofits and new builds being at odds with local character?

Theme 3: Community Facilities and Physical Connectivity

- Great and Little Haseley are small villages with limited community facilities – pub / village hall / playing fields; and little prospect of any more being sustainable
- However, with better non-car physical communication with adjacent villages and towns, we could open up better access to the community facilities there:
 - Advantages for residents of the Haseleys in having better non-car access
 - Advantages for facilities in other villages in widening their pool of users
 - Advantages for the environment in reducing reliance on cars
 - Advantages for safety in providing better access across the A329 for parents with school children / people using the bus to Oxford

Scheme 1: Improved access across the A329

- At the moment, you have to cross the A329 which is increasingly busy, on a stretch of road where the speed limit is 50mph
- The visibility to the south is limited by the bend in the road, making the crossing even more dangerous
- The A329 is likely to become even busier with construction traffic if Chalgrove goes ahead, and is already highly congested
- The provision of a safe pedestrian / cycle crossing would benefit:
 - Users of the local bus service which stops in Gt Milton
 - Customers of the facilities in Gt Milton – pub / village shop / Post Office
 - Parents dropping children at Gt Milton school

Scheme 2: non-car access to Thame

- The pattern of footpaths exists but is difficult:
 - Bridleway through Latchford to Tetsworth is paved road, then cinder track...
 - ... but from Joynters Farm on is a grassy track, increasingly unmarked
- Provision of a clearly marked bridle way suitable cycles would give access, via Tetsworth, to the well maintained path via Moreton to Thame
- Question: are there other routes we should seek to open up / make more accessible? To Wheatley?



Next steps – what do we need?

- Do you agree with these priorities? Is there something more important that we have left out?
- Would you be prepared to get involved with preparation of the final statement?
 - Providing photographs of the views we want protected
 - Developing our thinking about the characteristics of the villages that planners must take into account
 - Providing photographs of walks we could develop to improve our non-car connections with other villages and towns