

Wolverton Parish Plan Update April 2021

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Wolverton Village Plan - THE UPDATE

Why an update?

The first Wolverton Parish Plan was successfully produced in 2014, based on the results of a questionnaire completed and returned by 73% of households.

In 2020 it was felt appropriate to consult parishioners again by means of a similar questionnaire in order to update the plan, with the same aims as before, namely:

- *Give all residents the chance to say what is needed and how this might be met
- *Identify which features and local characteristics people value
- *Identify local problems and solutions
- *Provide the opportunity for people to have a say on how they want the parish to develop

Approx 62.1% of households responded, the lower return rate being partially attributed to the onset of Covid 19.

Timeline

In March 2020 the questionnaire was delivered by hand to all households in the parish and despite the focus on home working, home schooling and safeguarding one's health due to Covid 19, Councillors were able to collect and follow up many questionnaires as planned, and achieved a response rate of 62.1%.

The results of the questionnaire were collated and analysed over the following two months by Parish Councillor Tracey Phillips and a comprehensive analysis published on the website in August 2020.

A consultation working group (Wolverton Plan Working Group – WPWG), consisting of two parish councillors and three volunteers, was created in September 2020 to formalise the plan, define the priorities, propose actions and responsibilities, and finally to document the final Plan and give all parishioners the opportunity to review and give feedback.

The Way Forward

The Wolverton Plan Working Group was formed consisting of

Sue Murphy (Chair)
Paul Anthony
David Wilton
Barbara Harland
Sue Whitehouse

the results divided into five categories, as follows:

Infrastructure
Services
Environmental
Community
Other

A live working document was produced and task forces for each category, consisting of volunteers from the parish, enthusiastically set to work with the aim of producing a final plan by end Feb 2021.

SUMMARY

It is clear that the residents of Wolverton Parish are still largely appreciative of the many aspects of rural life in this small Warwickshire village, consisting of 103 dwellings, ideally located to enjoy the peace and quiet whilst being convenient for commuting, with access to good schools, yet still retaining the characteristics of a caring and close community.

These latter characteristics were evident during the pandemic in 2020, when the Wolverton Neighbours WhatsApp group was created ensuring residents were connected 24/7 and to identify those in need, reminiscent of a 'wartime' spirit!

However, there are still concerns, some of which originally arose in 2014, and some new which reflect how times have changed with the advance of technology and with the recognition of climate change and its effect on the environment.

For the sake of completeness some of the results from 2014 and those of 2021 have been amalgamated to give a snapshot of what is important today, analysed and identified by means of colour coding, and show the actions taken and the progress made.

WOLVERTON PARISH PLAN -PARISH PLAN 2014

WOLVERTON ACTION PLAN PROGRESS - FEB 2021

Progress key

GREEN Action completed **Amber** Work in progress **Red** Not achieved

Planned action 2014	How it will be tackled	Action taken 2014	Responsibility	Overall progress 2021 to date
INFRASTRUCTURE				
Road maintenance Pot Holes Gritting	Encourage reporting to WCC	Links shared on website/Whats app	Parish Council/Working Group	Show links to WCC dept on website/whats app
Speeding	Liaise with Warwickshire Police Speed gun checks	Speeding checks carried out Volunteers lost enthusiasm, new volunteers needed	Parish Council	Parish Council to track the situation. Volunteers needed
Hedges/Verges	Encourage reporting to WCC Identify land and approach owners to maintain	Landowners approached and WCC responded	Parish Council	Show links to WCC dept on website/whats app.
Flooding	Encourage reporting to WCC Speak to local farmers re ditch clearing	Local flood monitor in village	Parish Council/ Working Group	Farmers being consulted. Show links to WCC highways dept
Footpaths and pavements	Encourage reporting to WCC Produce Footpath map Liaise with farmers	Footpath map produced WCC rights of way officer identified	Parish Council/ Working Group	Working group established. Footpath map on website Signposts on website
Parking	Urge school to control parking PCC to formulate a plan to limit on road parking	Letter to school	Parish Council	Monitor
SERVICES				
Mobile phone signal	Discuss with providers	Working group established and suppliers contacted.	Working Group	Reception patchy. Survey proposed post pandemic
Broadband	Discuss with providers	Microwave broadband brought into village, now superceded by Fibre.	Working Group	FTTP available
Bus service	Publicise service			No action proposed as little apparent demand

ENVIRONMENTAL				
Light pollution			Parish Council	Woolly Park Farm approached
Dog fouling			Parish Council	Assess need for additional dog poo bin
Energy initiatives Recycling			Working Group	Working group established Communication via parish mag/website. Encourage discussion on WhatsApp
Green Task Force Recycling Flora and Fauna Litter picking			Working group	Working group established Communication via parish mag/website. Encourage discussion on WhatsApp Monthly updates
COMMUNITY				
Police	Possibility of police surgery		Working Group/Task Force	Renew contact with Warwickshire Police. Explore Smartwater project Encourage signing up to Warwickshire Rural Watch
Cybercrime			Working Group/Task Force	Investigate funding for seminars giving advice
Neighbourhood Watch	Explore possibility of NW scheme	Invite volunteers	Working Group/Task Force	Assess possibility of joint scheme with NL
Defibrillator training		Defibrillator installed and training provided	Working Group	More training Post Covid
OTHER				
Saddlebow Lane		Discuss with WCC Councillor John Horner	Working Group	JH raised concerns with WCC. Their reply awaited.
Local History/Custodian			Working Group	TBA
Social Secretary			Working Group	Propose strengthening Church Hall committee.
Planting	Propose planters at the Xroads Borders at the Village Hall		Working Group	Funding required

THE FUTURE (INITIATIVES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIONS)

Initiatives and responsibilities

The Wolverton Plan Working Group established several task forces to take projects forward, and to provide a point of contact for other volunteers.

1. Environmental - Barbara Harland
2. Community
Police liaison - Sue Whitehouse
3. Mobile and Broadband - Paul Anthony and David Wilton
4. Footpaths - Graham Lewis

The responsibility of the task forces is to action points agreed with the Wolverton Plan Working Group and progress the projects by investigating the options available and reporting back to the Working Group.

Actions

So parishioners can see what progress is being made (and hopefully appreciate the hard work of all the volunteers!), regular updates will be available on the website and in the parish magazine.

Funding of projects

Where there is a call for funds, we hope the task forces will prepare a project proposal which can be submitted firstly to the Parish Council. The Parish Council and the Wolverton Plan Working Group will endeavour to source grants/funds on behalf of the task forces for approved projects. In some cases community appeals might be made as well, so that we can self fund.

Conclusion

The summary table is a working document and will be regularly updated to reflect the ongoing determination of the Parish Council, together with the help of the Wolverton Plan Working Group and the task forces to identify what it is important to the residents of Wolverton Parish and deliver improvements.