



THE PARISH OF CHURCH PULVERBATCH

PARISH PLAN 2012

WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?

Parish plans emanated from the 2000 “Rural White Paper” which set out the government’s plans for the countryside. In Shropshire, more than half the county’s parishes have now produced such a plan.

“There should not be an idea that the village should always be as it is today. It should be able to evolve with time to suit whatever requirements are necessary.”

A parish plan is a statement of how the community perceives itself evolving over the next few years. Its objective is to:-

- ⊕ reflect the views of all sections of the community
- ⊕ identify local problems and opportunities
- ⊕ identify if and how residents want the community to develop in the future
- ⊕ prepare a plan of action to achieve this vision



HOW WAS THE PLAN PRODUCED?

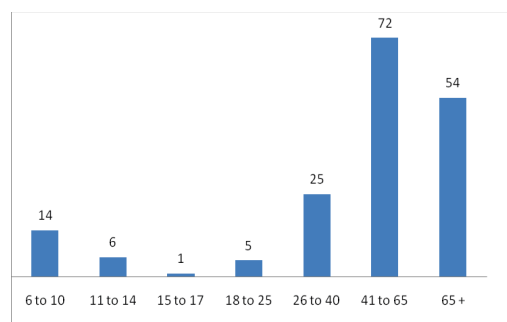
Whilst it was the Parish Council who commissioned the plan following a parish meeting in 2010, the Parish Council has not been involved in its production. A group of volunteers made up the steering committee. The response of the questionnaire provides the basis of this document which will help the Parish Council and others to reflect and promote the views of community.



In order to deliver a true community project, the steering group have been working with, but not for, the Parish Council. This is your plan for the future of the Parish of Church Pulverbatch.

The steering group has acted as a conduit to ensure that the wishes of the community have been truly reflected in the resulting parish plan. They took care over each question within the questionnaire to ensure they were clear, fair and relevant. The steering group has been guided through all this with the not inconsiderable help of the Shropshire RCC and Councillor Tim Barker.

The questionnaire asked a total of 68 questions. It was delivered by hand in April 2012 to 285 adults in 125 households. 158 were completed and returned with a further 21 children's questionnaires returned. This is a return rate of over 55% as compared to the recent local government elections which only asked one question and averaged 33%. The analysis of the data reflects the opinions of the people who responded to the questions and the percentages illustrate the proportion of those 158 people.



WHAT WILL IT BE USED FOR?

Parish plans should help to ensure the views of those in the village are taken into account by influencing not only others in the community, but also a wide range of organisations whose actions affect the lives of those who live in the Parish of Church Pulverbatch.

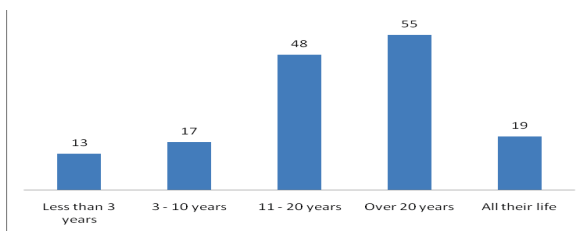
The views reflected in the plan should complement and help deliver local planning policies, land management strategies, local services, community activities and more.

The plan will be available to view on-line. The raw data from the questionnaire will be available on request from the Parish Council.

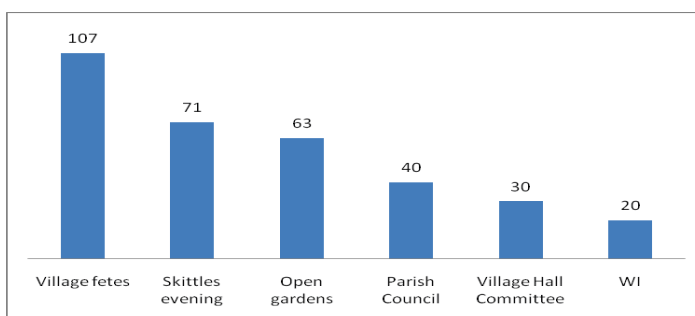


PARISH OF CHURCH PULVERBATCH

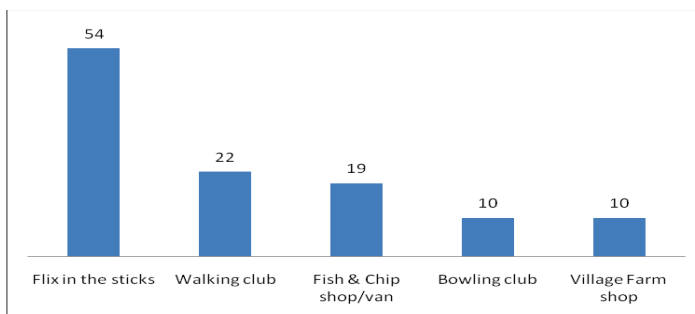
It is a rural area, based 7 miles South West of Shrewsbury, with approximately 300 residents. The Parish covers an area incorporating Church Pulverbatch, Castle Pulverbatch, Wrenthall, and other small outlying communities. Many of the residents in the Parish have lived here for more than 11 years, but in the last 3 years, we have also seen an increase in new residents.



Parishioners were asked about the community activities they were currently involved with and/or would like to become involved with. The graph opposite shows the number of residents who attend or are involved in the following:

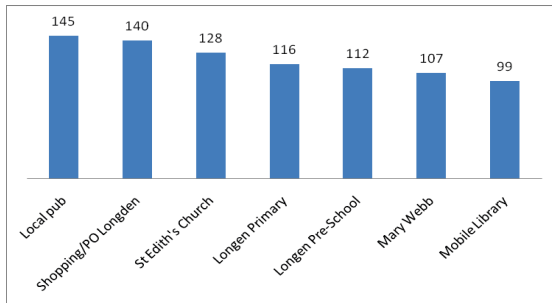


Of the following activities not currently available in the Parish, people would most like to see the following:

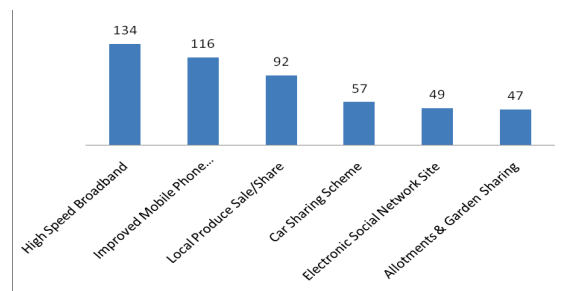


It is worth mentioning that when the Parish Plan questionnaire was designed and circulated, the village no longer had an up and running pub as it had been closed for some time, hence there was some interest in opening a community owned café/shop/pub. Happily the White Horse has now changed hands and re-opened and it has again become a social centre in the village.

Services in Longden are considered to be important to Pulverbatch and parishioners said that Longden Post Office is an important asset to support. This shows the number of people who rated each service as Very Important or Quite Important:



Number of people who considered the following infrastructure measures important:



More than 75% of Parishioners have a Broadband connection at present and are aware of the Village Website. There is a lot of support for high speed broadband services in the area which will also assist local businesses and people working from home.





CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT SERVICES

Of those with young children, 65% would like to see the introduction of toddler groups and 50% need local provision of childcare.

Of the people who responded as parents or carers, 56% travelled to playgrounds or recreational facilities, and 79% would like to see these in the parish. Furthermore 84% would like to see locally organised clubs for children, although only 9% would be able to organise, run or help at a children's club.

Just over 50% of respondents were aware that the church runs two youth groups in Longden, but only 3% attend the group.

EDUCATION

Of the families with children, the majority of primary aged children attend Longden school, within the area whereas by the time children reach secondary school age, the majority are attending an out of the area school.

"Plenty of people my age.

Peaceful, better than living in towns."

An overwhelming majority of the families said the school bus service was a very good service.

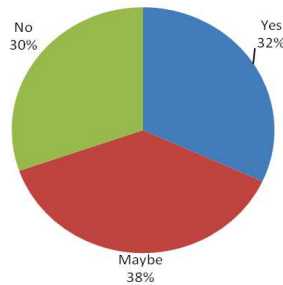


HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

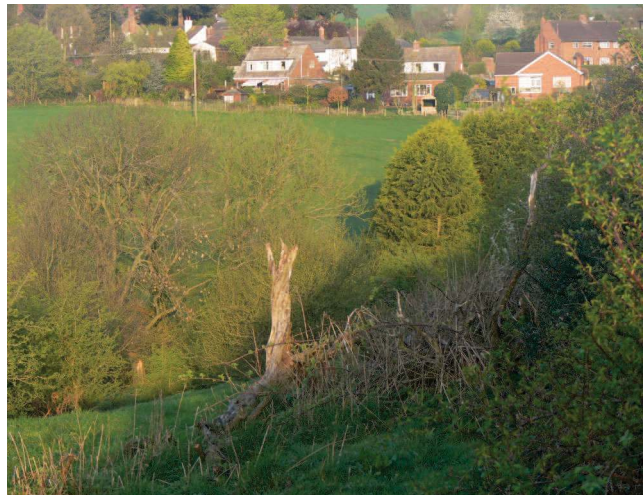
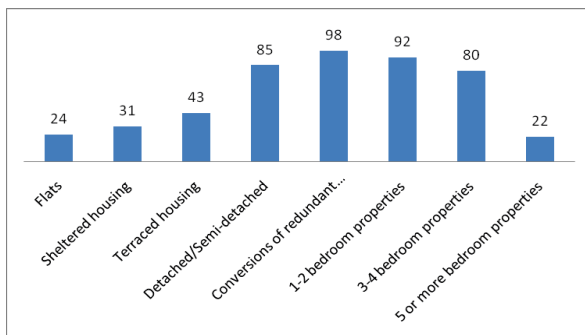
The great majority of the housing in the parish is owner occupied and over 95% of those who responded said their accommodation met their needs.

However 68% said they would like to see some new housing over the next 10 years of which affordable housing for locals was thought to be the most suitable.

The view on whether market housing would be desirable was very evenly split. The percentages of people who would be willing to see some market housing in order to fund affordable housing development is shown.

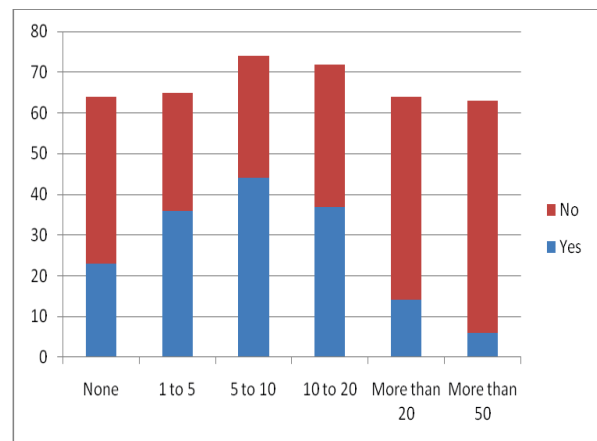


When asked on the type of housing residents felt appropriate, the results were as follows:



It was clear that people are less concerned about the size of the properties but there was strong feeling against large numbers of properties.

Number of houses that might be appropriate over the next 10 years:



New houses as in-fill or on the edge of settlements were supported but elsewhere were not. Conversions of redundant buildings were all supported. New build anywhere was not well supported. 18% of respondents said they owned land that they would be willing to see developed.

ENVIRONMENT

Protection of our Landscape, heritage sites and wildlife promoted the highest responses in the questionnaire. 99% said protecting the environment was important or very important.

Rights of Way use is fairly high; footpaths being used weekly/daily gave a 60% usage, whilst only 6% never used footpaths.



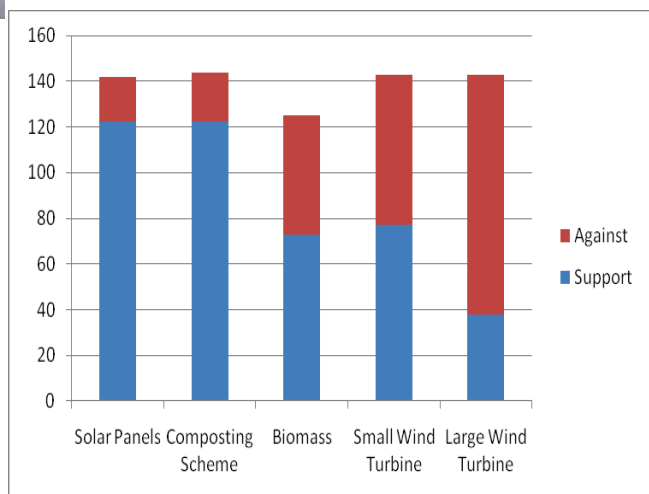
64% of users are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the recycling service in the parish.



The state of Rights of Ways was rated as adequate to good by most users, a small proportion felt the conditions were poor.

As to joining a group to maintain countryside places of interest etc, 25% stated yes, 75% stated no.

How do you feel about the following?



“I like all the space you can run around in. Loads of fields you can do stuff in - like play football.”



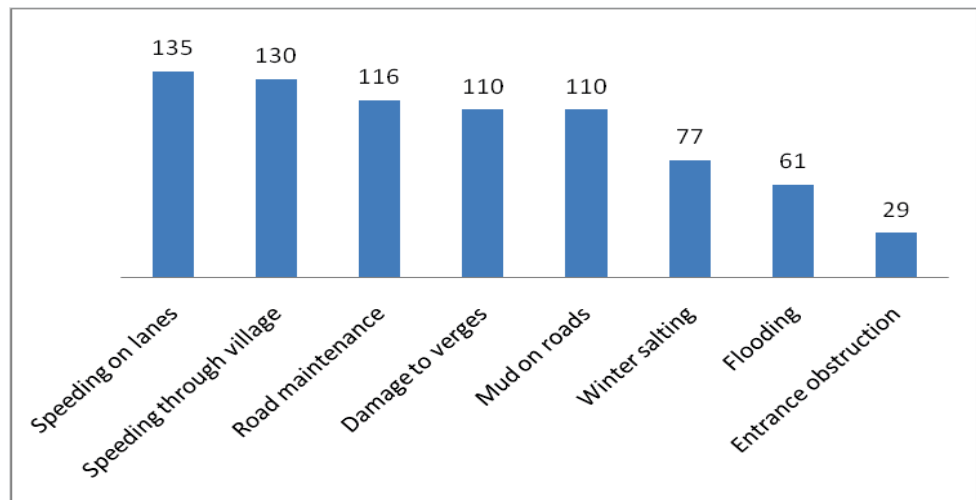
TRANSPORT, TRAVEL & ROADS

Approximately 90% of respondents use a private car or motorbike as their main form of transport.

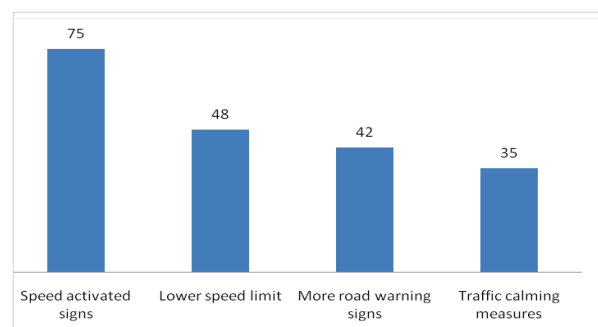
88% travel regularly (at least weekly) to Shrewsbury although only 25% travel to other towns in Shropshire and only 14% travel on a regular basis to major towns outside of Shropshire.

11% of respondents use the bus on at least a weekly basis. 36% use it occasionally.

Traffic issues were considered as follows:



There was support for speed control measures as follows:





BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND TOURISM (BET)

Of the 158 people that responded to the question about their occupational status nearly 32% were retired. There is a large number of self employed people in the area and over 25% of residents are employed in agriculture. 50% of those in employment work from home some or all of the time.

People appear to be in favour of business development in the parish with the majority thinking that business development in farming, hospitality, tourism and home based small businesses would benefit the parish, with a 50:50 split in light industry.

Two thirds of respondents either agreed or maybe agreed that more workshop space, better bus service, better road conditions and more accommodation would promote BET in the parish.

Over 70% of respondents agreed that better broadband and mobile phone provision would best promote BET in the parish.



PULVERBATCH PARISH ACTION PLAN

<i>Type of action</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Organisations involved</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Importance: Critical, priority, or key</i>
Community Services & Activities	Maintenance of the Churchyard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parochial Church Council • Volunteers 	Ongoing	Key
	Maintenance of the Village Hall and grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village-Hall committee • Volunteers 	Ongoing	Key
Education	Encourage and support shopping facilities and Post Office in Longden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Community • Longden Parish Council 	Ongoing	Key
	Facilitation of ICT/Broadband technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Shropshire Council • Telecom providers 	Short term	Key
	Improve mobile phone coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecom providers 	Short term	Key
	Improve facilities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Shropshire Council • Volunteers 	Medium term	Key
	Provision of Community notice-boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council 	Ongoing	Critical
	Arts and Heritage Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Hall Committee • Volunteers 	Short term	Key
	Establish and support new activities such as Flix In The Sticks or walking club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Hall Committee • Volunteers 	Short term	Key
	Support the local Pub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers 	Ongoing	Key
	Retention and support of Longden School and Longden Pre-School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Shropshire Council • Church • Governors & Staff • Whole Community 	Medium to long term	Priority
Travel & Transport	Highway safety improvements and traffic speed enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Shropshire Council • Police 	Ongoing	Critical
	Review provision of bus services at key times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Shropshire Council • Arriva 	Ongoing	Priority
	Drinking water, water drainage and flood measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Severn Trent Water • Highway authority 	Ongoing	Priority
	Maintenance of local roads inc. potholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Highway authority 	Medium to long term	Priority
Housing & Development	Provision of affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Shropshire Council • House builders 	Medium to long term	Priority
	Some new housing in the village, particularly for locals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Shropshire Council 	Medium to long term	Priority
Business, Employment & Tourism	In order to encourage Business, Employment & Tourism, lobby government for better Broadband provision and Mobile Phone coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parochial Church Council • Shropshire Council • Individuals 	Long term	Priority
Environment	Provision of amenity green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Landowners 	Medium to long term	Priority
	Conservation and protection of the environment, landscape, tranquillity and scenic beauty of the Parish. Build on the enthusiasm of the existing Landscape Maintenance Group and get together individuals interested in forming an environmental group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parochial Church Council • Volunteer group • Shropshire Hills AONB 	Long term	Priority

CHURCH PULVERBATCH PARISH PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose a parish plan is to establish how a community sees itself evolving over the next few years. The views of a parish plan will help complement and help deliver local planning policies, land management strategies, local services and community activities.

Pulverbatch Parish Plan evolved from a 68 question questionnaire to 285 adults living in 125 households in the Parish, with a further 21 children's questionnaires returned, in April 2012.

Parishioners were asked questions on the following topics - community activities, parish services, children/young adult services, education, housing/development, environment, transport and business.

Over 4/5 of respondents had lived in the Parish for 11 years or longer. Over 2/3 of respondents had attended some community activity (such as the village fete), and there seemed to be a desire for more activities such as Flix in the Sticks. People regarded local services such as St Edith's Church, Longden Primary school, Longden Pre-School, Longden Post Office and the Local Pub as important. Unsurprisingly, a desire for better broadband and mobile phone service featured highly, 70% of respondents thought better provision would promote business more.

There was a strong desire for toddler groups, local provision of childcare, locally organised children's clubs and some kind of children's recreational facility in the parish. Of those families with children, the vast majority of primary aged children attended Longden School.

When questioned about housing, 68% of respondents said that they would like to see some new housing over the next 10 years, with conversions of redundant buildings and detached or semi-detached 1-4 bedroom houses being those most favoured. Larger 5 bedroom houses were not favoured.

99% of respondents said protecting the local environment was important or very important. Rights of way usage was fairly high, and people seemed in favour of green energy such as solar panels or small wind turbines, but large wind turbines were not supported.

In transport travel and roads, 90% of respondents used a car or motorbike as a primary form of transport, and 47% of respondents used the bus service either weekly or occasionally. Speeding on roads in the Parish was a big concern with strong support for speed control measures. Mud on the roads, damaged verges and road maintenance were all issues heavily commented on.

32% of respondents were retired, and a large number were self employed or employed in agriculture. The majority of respondents thought that business development in farming, hospitality, tourism and home based small businesses would benefit the Parish.

From the responses of the questionnaires an Action Plan has been drawn up that is in direct response to what has been learned. Timescales have been put on the Action Plan, along with those who might help to deliver the actions.

You will find a full copy of the Church Pulverbatch Parish Plan on the Village Website. Also there are copies available for your perusal placed at:-

Pulverbatch Village Hall

St Edith's Church

The White Horse Inn

Longden School

Longden Pre-School

The Church Pulverbatch Parish Plan Steering Group wish to sincerely thank all Parishioners who completed the questionnaire and contributed essential information towards the production of the Church Pulverbatch Parish Plan.

Yours sincerely

Church Pulverbatch Parish Plan Steering Group:-

Andrew Wood – Chairman

Dan Morris – Vice Chairman

Tim Perkins – Treasurer

Mandi Perkins – Secretary

Pauline Dawson – Vice Secretary

Dave Taylor

Theresa Wood

Linda Russell

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With Guidance from:-

Rachel Johnson - Community Action Officer

Sarah Roberts - Community & Rural Development Officer

Tim Barker Shropshire Councillor

