

Berrington • Betton Strange • Brompton Cantlop • Cross Houses • Eaton Mascott

An action plan for the parish of Berrington, presented to the Parish Council in May 2022.

The Parish

Berrington Parish covers almost 1,800 hectares and includes the settlements of Cross Houses, Berrington, Betton, Brompton, Cantlop and Eaton Mascott.

Estimates – according to the 2011 census and taking into account more recent housing development – suggest the population is approximately 1,100 people living in 500 dwellings.

The Community Led Plan process

A community questionnaire was put together by a steering group of local volunteers to establish the views of the whole community on the future of the parish.

Replies could be submitted on paper or online. The total number of replies received was 195. Compared with the 500 surveys distributed, this resulted in a response rate of 39%.

Those views have formed the basis of the Berrington Parish Community Led Plan (CLP) which contains the following action plan to protect, develop and improve the area over the coming years.

The survey responses were independently analysed by local charity Shropshire RCC which has years of experience in this field and has worked with many communities across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

This report contains their independent analysis of the survey responses.

While the questionnaire was drawn up, filled out and returned in 2019, the committee waited until the latter part of 2021 to assess how the Covid-19 pandemic had affected its relevance, and it was decided that the questions and answers stood up to the peak of the pandemic period.

The following suggested actions have been based solely on the weight of responses from the questionnaire and have been considered practicable.

THE ACTION PLAN

Traffic, Transport and Roads

This section prompted the most responses from residents with speeding on the A458 highlighted as a major concern, although there were also concerns about speeding on other roads in the parish. Residents also expressed concerns about the volume of traffic and sizes of vehicles, roadside drainage.

Immediate/short term	Mid-long term	Partners	Notes
Traffic calming measures in Cross Houses, possibly to include gated entrances to the village, rumble strips, vehicle activated signs (VAS) etc.	Fixed speed cameras where appropriate	Berrington Parish Council (PC) and Shropshire Council (SC)	The PC has presented the concerns to SC. A programme of appropriate measures is being considered. Transforming the road between Cross Houses and Atcham into a 'quiet lane' is also being considered.
Speedwatch volunteers' scheme		PC	Ongoing
20mph signs for Betton, Berrington and Cantlop			Completed
Enforcement of current limits	New speed limits through Cross Houses	SC	
Rectify poor road drainage throughout parish, particularly on A458 between Cross Houses and Weeping Cross, and around Brompton and Betton Strange	Continual assessment	PC and SC	
Rectify poor road surface/potholes	Continual assessment	PC and SC	Link via Shropshire Council website for public to identify potholes
Verges, hedges and grass areas to be clipped/mown more frequently to aid visibility	Continual assessment	PC and SC	

Footpaths, Pavements and Bridleways

This also generated a strong response from the parish residents.

Immediate/short term	Mid-long term	Partners	Notes
	Footpath from Cross Houses to Atcham	PC/National Trust	Ambitious but hopefully possible – a fine lasting legacy for current and future walkers
Footpath from Bell to Church Lane along existing verge		PC/SC highways	Considered very achievable
	Cycle path from Cross Houses to Weeping Cross	PC/SC/ landowners	Feasibility report would be necessary
More information on rights of way and routes should be made available		Shropshire Council/ PC	
Footpaths and stiles should be better maintained	Continual assessment	PC/landowners	
Measures to stop vehicles damaging verges	Continual assessment	PC/SC highways	
	Wildflower areas to be created	PC/SC	

The number of respondents believing verges should be mown and kept tidy, and those believing they should be left to grow for wildlife, was split almost exactly equally.

Immediate/short term	Mid-long term	Partners	Notes
	Increase bus services at peak time	SC/Arriva	
Emergency service access improvement in front of Noel Hill Road Community Centre		PC/Severnside Housing	Urgent steps needed to prevent parking in front of the community centre
Notice board in Cross Houses		PC	Quickly achievable. In appropriate location – perhaps on grassed area near zebra crossing?
Increased police presence in Cross Houses			
Dog fouling	Continual assessment	PC	

Immediate/short term	Mid-long term	Partners	Notes
Fly tipping	Continual assessment	PC	
Litter	Continual assessment	PC	Community litter picks
Volunteering for local climate emergency initiatives		Community	There was a very strong level of support for this across a wide range of initiatives. Liaise with Berrington Hall.

Many of the actions require Berrington Parish Council to work with other organisations to deliver them, and while parish councillors will review the plan regularly the PC is not the only group responsible for it.

Many actions fall to Shropshire Council for delivery, and it is important residents report issues to SC so that they can be addressed. The links below show how people can report issues. They will get a reference number which will help officers and the Shropshire Councillor to follow it up on their behalf, if it isn't addressed.

Reporting fly tipping and litter - https://shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/environmental-maintenance/fly-tipping/

Reporting dog fouling - https://shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/environmental-maintenance/dog-fouling/

Reporting a pot hole - https://shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/highways-maintenance/potholes/report-a-pothole/

Report verge maintenance - https://shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/environmental-maintenance/verge-maintenance/

It should be noted that this parish plan is an ongoing project, and should be re-visited in five years to assess the outcomes of the proposed actions.

To ensure total transparency and to illustrate how the committee reached its conclusions, the full analysed report drawn up by Shropshire RCC is available by contacting the Parish Council clerk.

The committee is very grateful to the following for their help during the process: parish residents who took the time to express their views, the Parish Council and its clerk, Matthew Mead from Shropshire Council and Renee Wallace and her colleagues from Shropshire RCC.