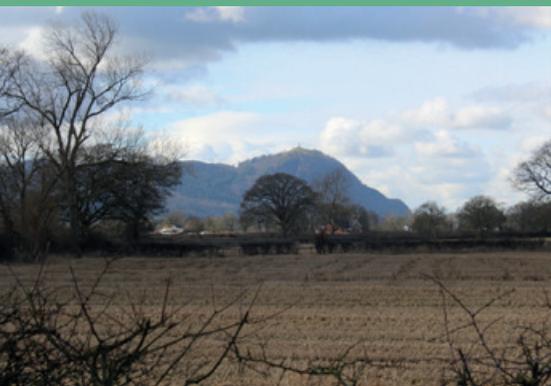
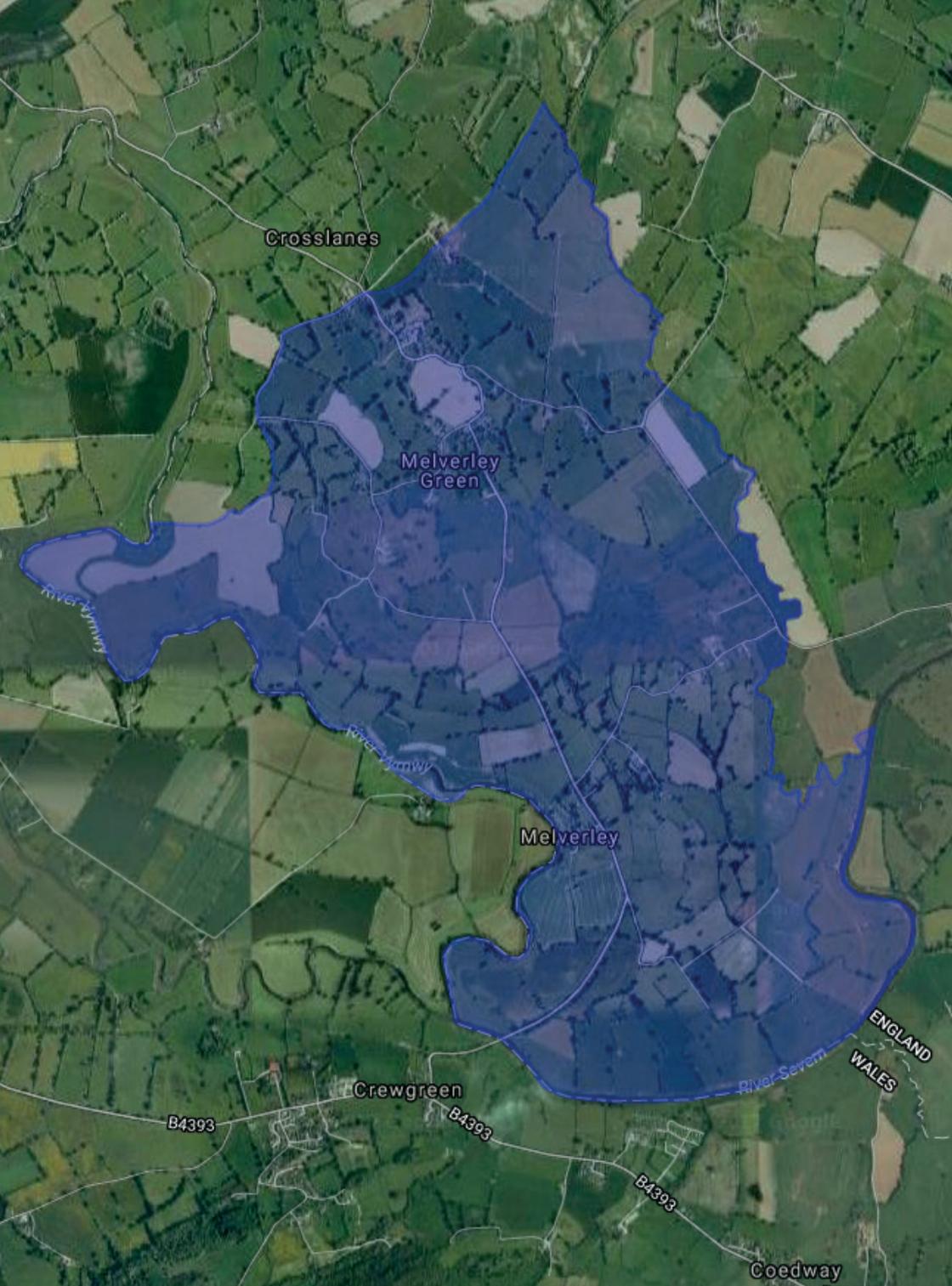


Melverley Parish Plan

2017



A vision for the next 5 years



Background

Melverley Civil Parish is a small community in Shropshire situated on the River Severn and the River Vyrnwy, near to the Powys (Welsh) border. At the time of the 2011 census the population of the Parish was 156.

The Parish comprises Melverley and Melverley Green as village settlements but it is overall a very rural setting. The surrounding countryside is a controlled flood area (water is allowed to flood the fields and naturally recedes when water levels in the rivers fall). Because of this, scope for housing development is minimal compared to other local areas.

In terms of facilities, there is a small but well equipped village hall (converted

from the original village school) where annual community events are held throughout the year. The Parish has a beautiful 13th century timber-framed church. Unfortunately the Parish no longer has a Methodist Chapel or pub but the Royal Hill in Edgerley is the nearest of several pubs/restaurants not far away, just over the Parish border.

The landscape is predominantly used for agriculture, but it also has a number of tourism related businesses and two wildlife areas.

The Parish has a close link to Kinnerley in terms of provision for young people, where the nearest primary school is also located. The nearest doctor's surgery is in Knockin.



Introduction

In May 2015 Melverley Parish Council decided they would like to support the production of a Parish Plan for the community and they embarked on the process of initial fact finding and formation of a steering group to take this further on their behalf.

A Parish Plan is a document which sets out a shared vision of how a community wants their Parish to develop over the next five to ten years. It will set out the aims and aspirations of residents within the Parish and will identify strengths and weaknesses through community consultation. Parish Plans have been used both locally in Shropshire, and by communities countrywide to:

- **Highlight action which can be taken**
- **Pool knowledge, skills and experience**
- **Identify aspects of the community which need to be preserved and improved**
- **Influence decisions by external stakeholders**

With help from a small grant from Shropshire Council, the steering group

which formed following the initial community event, analysed the initial feedback and undertook a programme of consultation to establish the views of local residents. This comprised a resident's questionnaire and a youth survey.

The survey data was independently analysed by staff from Shropshire Rural Communities Charity and a number of issues were highlighted. A draft Action Plan was written and presented back to the community on 9th October 2016. Following this event, and incorporating further feedback, the final Action Plan was written. This Action Plan has now been adopted by the Parish Council who will take on the responsibility to facilitate and monitor (and report back to the community) the actions to see that they are carried out, thus achieving the aspirations of the community.

Thanks go to the residents of Melverley Parish who took the time to share their views and members of the steering group who gave up their time to undertake the process. Further thanks go to Shropshire Rural Communities Charity and Shropshire Council for their advice and guidance and financial support provided.



Action Plan

Issue	Partners	Date
Community Identity and Family Life	Parish Plan Steering Group	Summer 2017 *
Community Identity and Family Life	Church and Village Hall committees, Melverley PC	2017 *
Community Identity and Family Life	Shropshire Council, Melverley PC	2017
Communication	Telescope Editorial Group, Melverley PC	2017 *
Communication	Molverley PC	2017 *
Roads and Transport	Molverley PC, Shropshire Council	2017
Roads and Transport	Molverley PC, Shropshire Council	2017
Appearance	Molverley PC, Shropshire Council	Autumn 2017 *
Appearance	Volunteer led, Shropshire Council	Autumn 2017
Appearance	Molverley PC, Shropshire Council	2017 *

Action	Outcome
Contact the residents who left their details and expressed the wish to get more involved in the community.	Volunteers matched with suitable projects.
Notify and Invite Committees for additional annual Parish event(s) possibly incorporating some joint fund raising.	Additional Annual Community Event held. Joint fundraising activities achieved.
Lobby Shropshire Council on behalf of the residents.	Better broadband provision.
Promote the Telescope to residents. Invite Telescope to advertise themselves to residents, flyer and posters.	A raised awareness of the Telescope among residents.
Communicate whereabouts of notice boards and advertise details of the PC.	Improved noticeboard communication
Investigate and arrange for depth gauges to be installed on the Cilloe (Clewy).	Depth gauges on the Cilloe (Clewy).
Investigate and put in place new speed, weight restrictions, narrow road and sharp bend signage.	Provision of road safety measures.
Organise a litter picking and sign cleaning event.	Community Litter Pick / Sign Cleaning event held.
Research current schemes for tree planning and inform residents.	Information regarding tree planting schemes made available.
Promote and improve the methods for reporting fly tipping. Provide information about how to report fly tipping to Shropshire Council.	An increase in the reporting and subsequent speedy removal of fly tipping.

* = Single action

Action Plan

Issue	Partners	Date
Community Safety and Security	Melverley PC, Police and Community Safety Officer(s)	Spring 2017 *
Community Safety and Security	Melverley PC, Shropshire Council	Spring 2017
Community Safety and Security	Melverley PC, Local Neighbourhood Watch group	Spring 2017 *
Environment	Volunteer led, Local wildlife organisations	Spring 2017
Environment	Volunteer led, Melverley PC, Shropshire Council	Spring / Summer 2017 *
Environment	Melverley PC, Shropshire Council	2017 *
Local awareness of Parish Council matters	Melverley PC	2017 *
Young people	Volunteer led group, Melverley PC support	2017
Heritage and History	Volunteer led	ongoing
Heritage and History	Melverley PC, Shropshire Council	2017

Action	Outcome
Investigate a Community Safety event to allow residents to meet their Community Safety Officer(s).	Residents will know their Community Safety Officer(s).
Lobby Shropshire Council to install kissing gates instead of stiles between Melverley and Bontain	Current stiles are a safety hazard in flood situations
Publicise and promote the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.	A raise in awareness amongst residents of how to join the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
Contact and hold discussions with local wild life groups on promotion of the local facilities/ assets.	A raised knowledge of the Wildlife Reserves in the Parish.
Contact and hold discussions with Shropshire Council Outdoor Team in order to ascertain the viability of a Parish Paths Partnership or other suitable mechanism to achieve improved access to the countryside.	Improved Right of Way and access to the countryside.
Investigate and lobby Shropshire Council on expansion of current recycling opportunities in the Parish.	Further recycling options available in the Parish.
Better information sharing on who is on the Parish Council, when and where they meet and how residents can get involved.	Residents familiar with members, process and calendar of the Parish Council.
Further investigation of youth issues and appropriate action thereof. This should include feasibility of a play area at the village hall and a 'regular' event for young people be that an annual event or a regular youth club.	Better youth provision for the young people of the Parish.
Recording and preserving the history and heritage of the parish.	A collation of photographs and memories; a shared history project/ archive.
Lobby Shropshire for funds to preserve Parish Village Hall and Church for community use.	Kitchen for Village hall and internal / external repairs to VH and Church

* = Single action

Survey Results

Community Consultation

A total of 120 residents' questionnaires were sent out (every adult over 18 years of age) with a Freepost reply envelope and 80 were received back giving a 66.7% response rate. A separate Young People's survey was distributed and 21 were received back.

Important issues

All issues put forward in the survey ('transport and road safety', 'community identity, history and heritage', 'appearance of the Parish' and 'community safety') are important to the residents with housing being the topic where opinion appears most divided.

Improving quality of life

When asked what would improve quality of life in the Parish, not surprisingly 'access and egress during flooding' was highlighted as an important issue. Also important is the 'general state of the roads and verges'. Opinion was a little more divided regarding traffic speeds but 87.2% of respondents agreed that depth gauges on the Cilloe (Clewy) would be an improvement.

Community Identity & Communication

There appears to be good interest in an annual Parish event. As there are already a number of these e.g the Summer BBQ, perhaps this needs more investigation as to what residents would like to see.

There was some interest in a newsletter just for Meverley but as Meverley has coverage in the wider 'Telescope' publication, perhaps more can be made of this both in terms of utilisation and promotion. There appears to be scope for some improvements of the notice board but knowledge about its location and use is good.

Family life

The majority (74.7%) agree that speed and weight restrictions on through traffic would improve road safety. 65.3% of respondents would like to see a regular event for young people. Broadband is an important issue and improvement is needed. Nearly 60% of respondents thought collaboration in fundraising activities between the church and the village hall was a good thing.

Appearance

All topics mentioned in the survey get good support ('improved signs and signs cleaned more regularly', 'reduction of litter', 'planting of trees, plants and wild flowers', reduction in fly tipping'). The community clearly cares about their area.

Community Safety & Security

Just a small minority don't feel safe walking about the roads or are concerned for their personal safety and possessions. There is already a Neighbourhood Watch (NP) Scheme in the area and many respondents indicated that they would join this scheme. Opinion is divided about police presence but many would like to meet their Community Safety Officer (many don't know who they are).

Environment

There was good interest in wildlife protection (77.2%) but quite a few respondents don't know where the reserves are. There was also good interest (64.1%) in improvements to rights of way. Respondents appear to be happy with the frequency of waste collection but have expressed interest in further recycling options.

General Community Aspects

There was some interest in further (affordable) housing, commercial development and tourism in the area. Whilst the Parish Council can be supportive, it is up to individual residents to take these aspects forward. Respondents showed some interest in history and heritage.

Local Awareness

There is scope for better information sharing on the membership of the Parish Council and when and where their meetings are.

Young people

It appears that the youngsters of the Parish appreciate the peace and quiet of the area as much as the older residents do. The interests of those who responded lie in country pursuits and they generally feel safe living in the Parish. However, they too indicated that road safety is an issue. General consensus was that there isn't enough to do and they would like more facilities and activities for them. Only one of them thinks they will move away when they become an adult, the rest would consider staying in the area if it was possible.



Melverley Parish Plan

Further information about the Parish Plan can be obtained from the clerk to Melverley Parish Council:

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