Yarpole Group Parish Plan No. 2 2012/13

A Community Led Plan on behalf of YARPOLE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

incorporating the communities of.....

BICTON



CROFT



COCKGATE



BIRCHER



BIRCHER COMMON



LUCTON



YARPOLE



THIS IS OUR VISION FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

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OCTOBER 2013

INTRODUCTION

Our first Parish Plan was published in 2005 after a three year consultation process. It was one of the first Parish Plans to be produced in Herefordshire, and was funded by The Countryside Agency and Yarpole Group Parish Council. The plan's overall objective was to 'enrich, protect and make more vibrant our day-to-day quality of life, fulfilling the diverse needs both of individuals and of our community'.

Many of the objectives listed in the original Parish Plan have been achieved, most notably the creation of the Community Shop and Gallery Café. We are also fortunate to have retained the Post Office, and St Leonard's Church is now an outstanding venue for community events, along with our thriving Parish Hall. Access to footpaths has been improved, with many stiles being replaced by kissing gates or pedestrian and dog gates. Other smaller achievements include extra litter bins around the parish and free parking for residents at Croft Castle. Some items are continuous and ongoing, for example improvements to road safety, and to this date we still have no community outdoor space.

In November 2011 the government passed The Localism Act, which set out a series of measures including new flexibilities for local government, new rights for communities and individuals, and reforms to make the planning system more effective and ensure that housing decisions are taken locally. The act's stated aim was to help people and their locally elected representatives achieve their own ambitions. In response to the act Yarpole Group Parish Council tested interest in a new Parish Plan, so that by the time the original plan expired we would be ready with updated objectives and goals to which we could apply any new powers.

It has been made clear through the consultation process for this, our second Parish Plan, that the community is once again ready to embrace ideas and actions to improve, protect and energise our community.

Aims & Objectives.

Our aim was to enable all parishioners to voice their hopes and preferences for the next ten years. Through the 'Planning for Real' events, and the household questionnaires, we endeavored to stimulate ideas, encourage debate and help people identify their priority topics. Project teams will now pursue the priority areas and create action plans to influence future provision of services, with the aim of preserving the best aspects of our lives and improving aspects that at present fall short.

The Parish Council will help monitor and facilitate progress throughout the next ten years, but the aim is that the whole community moves the process along to ensure that as many as possible of the identified projects are carried out.

Description of the Parish.

Yarpole Group Parish combines the parish of Croft and Yarpole with that of Lucton. It extends approximately 4½ miles eastwards from Mortimer's Cross and about 2½ miles north to south. The Parish is situated 4½ miles north west of the market town of Leominster and approximately 8 miles south west of the Shropshire town of Ludlow. It includes the villages of Lucton and Yarpole (both largely conservation areas) and the smaller settlements of Bircher, Bircher Common, Bicton, Cockgate and Croft.

The Iron Age fort of Croft Ambrey is the parish's oldest settlement, from where it is possible to see 14 of the old counties. Yarpole is recorded in The Domesday Book.

Many tourists visit the parish every year and most visitors stay in self catering accommodation or at the Bircher caravan and campsite. The parish is laced with footpaths and the countryside offers many great walks, and stunning views from the Black Mountains in the west to the Malvern Hills in the east.

The parish has many clubs and societies including The Birchpole Singers, The Living History Group, Parish The Thought theatre group, a walking group, a bowls club, Tai Chi, Yoga, reading and sewing groups and the See You in The Bell on Friday Evening Club. Flicks In The Sticks also present monthly performances between September and April each year.

Yarpole Group Parish is part of Bircher Ward (Yarpole Group, Kingsland, Richards Castle, Orleton, and soon to include Luston) and the Ward Councillor is Sebastian Bowen.

Yarpole

The Parish Church of St Leonard has the oldest detached bell tower in the country still in regular use, dating from the 13th C. The award winning Community Shop, the Post Office and the Gallery Café are all housed within the church. The Bell Inn dates from the 15th C and the Parish Hall was opened in 1987. Most community events take place in these locations. Other significant buildings are the Manor House dating from the 16th C and the Gatehouse which dates from the 14th C. The house at Church House Farm dates from the 17th C and the Methodist Chapel in the centre of the village dates from the late 1880s. There was substantial residential growth in the 1970s with the developments of Green Lane Crescent and Croft Crescent.

Lucton

Lucton is situated on the western boundary of the parish and the most prominent building is Lucton School, founded by John Pierrepoint over 300 years ago. It is an independent school for boarding and day pupils from nursery age to 19 years. The Church of St Peter's was consecrated in about 1850 and used as a place of worship until the mid 1970s. Mortimer's Cross Mill on the River Lugg is on the edge of the parish boundary and was operated by the Kevill-Davies family from 1786 to 1923. It made paper until 1830 when it was converted into a grain mill. It fell out of use in the 1940s and is now a private residence open to visitors on Sundays between April & September and on bank holidays. Lucton Court, originally built as a farmhouse in the early 17th C, was restored in the late 20th C.

Bircher

Bircher is a roadside settlement on the eastern side of the parish. Notable properties include Bircher Hall, a late 18th C property formerly the home of Lord & Lady Cawley, whose family estate was Berrington Hall (National Trust). The Knoll is a handsome mid 18th C residence on the outskirts of Bircher. Old Home Farmhouse and Gatehouse Farm sit opposite each other, both at least 400 years old. At one time there was prolific cider production in Bircher, which still houses 5 cider mills within 400 yards of each other.

Bircher Common

The common is an area of lowland heath now owned by The National Trust. Currently the land is grazed for livestock, but during WWII it was ploughed for crops. Most of the residential properties are situated on the southern edge of the common, from Croft Wood in the west to Leys Lane in the east.

Bicton

Bicton is situated just a couple of fields distance from the centre of Yarpole and is known locally as The Greater Bicton Metropolitan Area (GBMA).

Cockgate

Cockgate is on the B4362 at the entrance to Croft Castle. The victorian Cockgate School is now a private residence.

Croft

Croft Castle and estate has been home to the Croft family for nearly 1000 years and includes the church of St Michael and All Angels. Now owned by The National Trust, the estate includes 1500 acres of Parkland and ancient woodland.

Executive Summary

The key priorities of our 10 year plan can be accurately identified as:

Built Environment.
Traffic & Road Safety.
Transport.
Environment & Carbon Footprint.
Social Services & Health.
Police & Crime Issues
Business Enterprise, Communication & Tourism.
Parish Hall.
Needs of Young People.

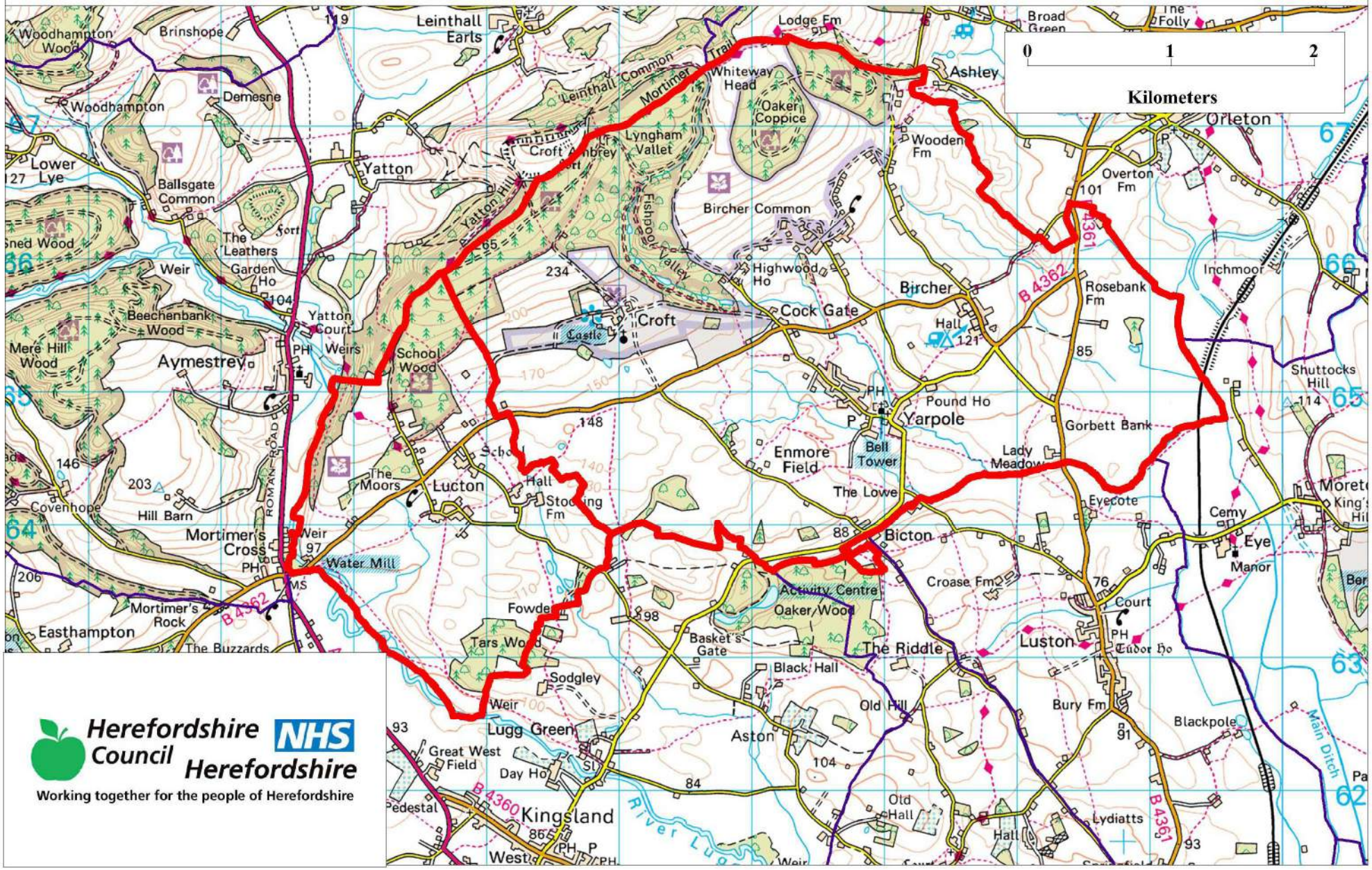
During the consultation process steering groups were established to progress the eight different areas identified. It is intended that these steering groups will now turn into action based project groups to pursue tasks, identify funding and establish relationships with service providers and/or other relevant parties. Everyone can make their contributions to these tasks.

The plan's overall objective is that there will be a continuous development and progress of issues identified in the plan, which will enrich the quality of life of everyone living in, and visiting, our parish.

Yarpole Group Parish

NORTH

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ACTION PLAN

YOUNG PEOPLE.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scales	Communications	Progress
Provide access to local Tennis Courts. **67% positive response in questionnaire.**	Talk to Lucton School, to see if their courts could be made available. Research to see if there are any other private courts in the parish that could be used.	Youth Club leaders, with Parish Council	Parish Council. Lucton School	TBA	High	Before summer 2014	Through Parishioner & Website	
Adventure / Children's playground. **65% positive response in questionnaire.**	Add to plans for development of Community Field in Yarpole. Seek out any suitable plot that could be made available in Lucton.	Parish Council Lucton residents.	Parish Council Hereford Council.	TBA	Medium	Ongoing	Through Parishioner & Website	
Football Pitch. **42% positive response in questionnaire.**	Add to plans for development of Community Field in Yarpole. Seek out any suitable plot that could be made available in Lucton.	Parish Council Lucton residents.	Parish Council Hereford Council.	TBA	Medium	Ongoing	Through Parishioner & Website	
Skateboard Park. **Positive response to justify further investigation.**	Liase with other parishes to see if a joint venture would be feasable.	Parish Council	Parish Council	TBA	Medium	Ongoing	Through Parishioner & Website	
Mountain Bike Trail. **59% positive response in questionnaire.**	Liaise with National Trust to see if anything can be done in the woods at Croft Castle.	Parish Council.	Parish Council. National Trust.	TBA	Medium	Ongoing	Through Parishioner & Website	
Campsite **Enough positive response to justify further investigation.**	Liaise with National Trust to see if anything can be done in the woods at Croft Castle.	Parish Council.	Parish Council. National Trust.	TBA	Medium	Ongoing	Through Parishioner & Website	
Children's Summer Club, Disco, Cricket for boys & girls. **Enough positive response to justify further investigation.**	Liaise with Youth Club leaders and ask for further adult support from within the community.	Youth Club Parish Council.	Parish Council.	Nil	High	Before Summer 2014	Through Parishioner & Website	
Junior Choir. **20 children said they would be interested in joining a choir.**	Liaise with Birchpole Singers to see if a Junior section would be viable. Ask in the community if anyone is willing to help.	Steering Group	Birchpole Singers	Nil	Medium	Ongoing	Through Parishioner & Website	

Built Environment.

Objectives & Justification	Locations	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Incentives	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scales	Communications	Progress
20-30 start-up/low cost homes 54 % respondents in questionnaire	Inside and outside development area Suggest on disused commercial / agricultural sites.	Dedicated development action group in association with the Parish Council	Local developers. Local landowners Herefordshire Planning dept. Local Housing Associations	Change of use guaranteed No community fees incurred Increased land value	TBA	Medium to long term	By 2023	Parishioner and Website	
Encourage development of existing sites in line with Parish Plan 77% respondents in questionnaire	Green Lane Cottage site Lower House Farm site Potential single dwelling sites	Dedicated development action group in association with the Parish Council	Local landowners. Local Builders. Parish Council. Herefordshire Planning dept. Local Housing Associations	Village co-operation with development Guaranteed feelings of well-being	N/A	Medium to long term	Within 5 years	Parishioner and Website	
Assess need for Sheltered Housing. 136 (32%) respondents think there is a requirement	Yarpole Lucton	Dedicated development action group in association with the Parish Council	Local landowners. Local Builders. Parish Council. Herefordshire Planning dept. Local Housing Associations	Incorporate into any future development plans.	TBA	Medium to long term	By 2023	Parishioner and Website	
Assess demand for light industrial/ workshop 56 % respondents in questionnaire	Parish wide	Dedicated development action group in association with the Parish Council	Parish Council. Herefordshire Planning dept.	Provision of services to community Provision of working spaces	TBA	N/A	N/A	Directly with owners of redundant farm buildings and brownfield sites.	
Building Development within strict limits. 77% positive response to questionnaire.	Remove permitted development rights within conservation areas. Extend conservation area. Preserve and enhance the existing appeal of the residential centres. Subject to statutory notices etc	Parish Councillor Herefordshire Council conservation department (Article 4.1 powers)			TBA	Medium to long term	On going		

Traffic and Transport.

Objectives & Justification	Actions	Who will do it	Partners / dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time Scale	Communications	Progress
To improve safety on the B4362 at the Cock Gate junction with Green Lane. 271 people, 63% of respondents thought the junction dangerous. School children crossing unsupervised.	Additional speed restrictions on the B4362 Additional signage Discussion as to the merits of the following: Traffic lights at this junction Traffic mirror Vehicle activated warning sign Vegetation clipped regularly	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways Department	Parish Council Traffic Working Group Herefordshire Council Highways Dept. Police Traffic division.	TBA	High	Immediate	Parishioner Website	
40mph speed limit from Mortimers Cross to Bircher. Overwhelming local support.	Consult with Herefordshire Council Highways dept. Highways Agency. Police	Parish Council.	Parish Council Traffic Working Group Herefordshire Council Highways Agency Police	TBA	High	Immediate	Parishioner Website	
B4362 Lucton War Memorial to Lucton School 123 people concerned about speed of traffic and sight line from junctions. Concern about children crossing the road for school bus.	Reduction in speed limit Discussion as to the merits of the following: Vehicle actuated warning signs Traffic calming Additional warning signs Road marking/tarmac colour Traffic mirrors at junctions	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept. Traffic Working Group.	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept. Traffic Working Group.	TBA	High	Immediate	Parishioner Website	
B4362 Bircher Turn Road markings worn out. No definitive right of way.	Additional warning signs/chevrons Tarmac colour change Improved sightlines Consideration for a mini- roundabout	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept. Traffic Working Group.	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept. Traffic Working Group.	TBA	High	Immediate	Parishioner Website	
B4362 Bircher Village	30mph speed limit This is now in force.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
B4362 Bircher Village Additional safety measures	30mph warnings 200m before restriction, repeater signs. Thankyou signs when leaving.	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	Parish Council Herefordshire Council	TBA	Medium	During 2014	Parishioner Website	

Objectives & Justification	Actions	Who will do it	Partners / dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time Scale	Communications	Progress
Weight restriction for HGVs through Lower Yarpole From Pound House to Bicton. Possible damage to cottages and ancient bridge.	Consult with authorities to get HGV weight restriction enforced	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	TBA	Medium	During 2014	Parishioner Website	
B4362 Welshman's Lane / Red Oak Lane Junction Poor sightline and traffic approaching along B4362 at up to 60mph	Additional Speed Restrictions Additional Warning Signs Improve sightlines	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	TBA	High	Immediate	Parishioner Website	
Introduce traffic calming measures in Green Lane, Yarpole. Road is narrow in places and restricted by parked vehicles.	Investigate traffic calming measures. Reduction in current 30 mph speed limit outside church to 20mph.	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	TBA	Medium	During 2014	Parishioner Website	
Introduce speed limit and traffic calming in Welshman's Lane, from war memorial to cattle grid. Traffic going too fast.	Investigate traffic calming measures Speed restriction to 20 mph HGV limit except for access	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	TBA	Medium	During 2014	Parishioner Website	
Introduce 20mph speed restriction and "Children Playing" warning signs to Lucton Village Centre. Restrict HGVs except for access. Currently no speed limit in place, narrow street and blind corners.	Impose speed restriction with 20mph warnings 200m before restriction, repeater signs. Thankyou signs when leaving. Impose HGV limit	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	TBA	High	Immediate	Parishioner Website	
General Road Safety improvements throughout the parish.	Survey to see where warning signs could be strategically placed around parish relating to Cyclists Horse-riders and Pedestrians	Traffic Working Group. Parish Council	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Highways dept.	TBA	Medium to long	During 2014	Parishioner Website	

Public Transport.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time Scale	Communications	Progress
Reroute 492 bus service through Yarpole. Increase frequency of existing bus services (489) **Up to 44% of respondents said they wanted increased frequency. 35% were in favour of route 492 being rerouted through the village.**	Seek advice from HC's Project Development Team, Ref PC's powers/means of influencing LVB. Co. Also find out from them if any other PC's have modified there bus routes. Try to establish what objections Lugg Valley Bus Co have for not running the 492 through the village or for not increasing the 489 service. Establish what cost implications there are to these objections. Establish if any funds or subsidies are available to overcome objections	Parish Plan team lead by transport sub group	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Lugg Valley Bus Co Central Government	TBA	Medium to long	During 2014	Parishioner Website	
Provision of a community bus **34% of respondents said they wanted a community bus for Yarpole.** **This idea was rejected for 2 reasons the burden for running this would fall onto the PC & an improvement in the bus service may reduce the need.** **The sub committee however felt that a car club should be encouraged as a more practical alternative.**	Place article in the Parishioner to gauge level of interest. Seek advice from existing car clubs (Colwall, Barteste & Ludlow) Establish what cost implications there are to this idea. Establish if any funds or subsidies are available.	Parish Plan team lead by transport sub group	Parish Council Interested villages. This might include surrounding villages	Some cost to PC	Medium to long	Summer 2014	Parishioner Website	
Some people said they wanted a bus shelter installed at the Bircher turn location **Because 32% of respondents requested this it has been included but it will be considered after the results of bus service improvements have been completely explored as it is likely that if the service is improved the need for a shelter at the above location might be reduced.**	Seek advice from HC's Project Development Team, Ref PC's powers/means of influencing HCC / LVB Co. Also find out from them which other PC's have had bus shelters installed on their bus routes. Establish what cost implications this would have. Establish if any funds or subsidies are available to implement this proposal.	Parish Plan team lead by transport sub group	Parish Council Herefordshire Council Lugg Valley Bus Co Central Government	TBA	Long	2014 to 2015	Parishioner Website	

Better provision for cyclists.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time Scale	Communications	Progress
47% of respondents were in favour, this increased to 74% of the under 17's. Suggestions included cycle ways off the roads, warning signs. Designated cycle routes between different areas. Cycle rack at the church.	For this question combine with the Road Safety sub committee, mainly in relation to cycling safety (reduction of speed limit through the centre of the village.) Research precedents elsewhere in the UK. (Norfolk CC) Seek agreement from Herefordshire Council for speed limit modification & funds for cycling provisions, Cycle racks, signage & safety equipment, especially for the u17's.	Parish plan Steering Committee Parish Council	Parish Council, Herefordshire Council National road safety organisations	Nil to users Limited costs to councils	High	Summer 2014	Parishioner Website	

Health & Social Care.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scales	Communications	Progress
Improving provision of health services in parish **Improving health and social care in parish through better information, linking and brokerage** **Sustaining and developing informal social care in parish** **Results of questionnaire, meetings and discussions show importance of expanding informal and formal care and support for life of parish.**	1. Establish steering group. 2. Meet with HVOSS for advice and assistance in sourcing financial and other support 3. Identify interested parties re health care and explore possibilities with them 4. Produce leaflets and page(s) on village website with information about local resources and contacts 5. Set up system (and roles) to link people offering support and people seeking this	Steering group (R and H)	The Parish Council, PPC HVOSS				Parishioner Website	First mtg. Mid-Nov 2013 First draft of leaflet done.

Police & Crime Issues.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scale	Communications	Progress
Tackle problem of speeding traffic. Overwhelming concern from respondents.	Liaise with Road Safety Group. Pass on the findings.	Road Safety Group	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Alay fears about burglary & theft. Significant number of people had some concerns about this.	List Neighbourhood Watch coordinators in Parishioner and on website. Publicise CSO surgeries, held in Gallery Cafe. Obtain Crime prevention leaflets from police.	Steering Committee	Police Neighbourhood Watch team	Nil	High	Immediate	Parishioner Website	
Reassure people about lack of police presence. About 1/3rd of respondents had concerns about this and wondered what any response time might be.	Place item in Parishioner stating that area is regularly covered by vehicle patrols. Also publicise police surgeries.	Neighbourhood Watch team	Neighbourhood Watch team Police	Nil	Medium	Early 2014	Parishioner Website	
Anti Social Behavior & vandalism. Main complaints related to dog fouling and dogs running loose.	Report any incidents of dog fouling. Dogs running loose currently under investigation by Parish Council.	General Public Parish Council	 Parish Council Dog Warden	Nil Nil	High High	Immediate Ongoing	Parishioner Website	
Personal Safety in bad weather 32% of people had concerns. Mainly about icy pavements.	Check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours. Make sure they have food and warmth. Use salt bins provided by Hereford Council.	General Public	N/A	Nil	High	This winter	Parishioner Website	

Environment & Carbon Footprint.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scale	Communications	Progress
Investigate viability of Community Oil Purchase Scheme. 109 household showed interest in joining a scheme and it was therefore deemed viable.	Research other schemes that are already up and running. It was found that Community First offered the best option,	Steering Committee	Community First	£20 per household per year.	N/A	Up and running	Parishioner & Website	Over 40 households joined as at November 2013
Investigate viability of Community LPG Purchase Scheme. Too few households to run a viable scheme. Limited number of suppliers, who are not interested in participating.	No further action at this time.							
Investigate possibility of adding further official car parks on Bircher Common. Majority in favour. Will help to stop indiscriminate parking.	Consult with National Trust	Steering Group Parish Council	National Trust Parish Council	TBA	Medium	During 2014	Parishioner Website	

Protection of the Environment.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scales	Communications	Progress
To assess general feeling about the environment of the parish.	Pass findings to Built Environment Group, so they can take into consideration when implementing their part of the plan.	Built Environment Group	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Make sure footpaths & bridleways are safe and accessible	Pass on volunteer list to Footpaths Officer. Report any damage or access problems.	Steering Group Footpaths Officer, walkers and riders.	Parish Council Local landowners National Trust Herefordshire Council	TBA	Medium to long term	Ongoing	Parishioner Website	

Solar Panels on the Church.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scales	Communications	Progress
To reduce energy costs at the church. **Reduce Carbon footprint of building. Majority verdict in favour of panels.**	Consult with Church authorities, English heritage, PCC, Herefordshire Council. Carry out a feasibility study.	PCC	PCC, Church authorities, English Heritage Herefordshire Council	TBA	Medium	During 2014	Parishioner Website	

Business Tourism & Communication.

Parish Website

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scale	Communications	Progress
Ensure Parish Website provides up-to-date information that meets users' needs. **Between 50 and 71% of users identified subjects that were useful or very useful to see on the site.**	1 Establish website management team (a webmaster) to manage and update structure of site and establish protocols for updating information. 2 Establish structure for village organisations to be represented on site and to have ownership of their information. 3 Identify training needs to achieve above. 4 Identify set-up and ongoing costs. 5 Identify sources of funding.	The Parish Plan team Website management team ditto ditto ditto	Parish Council and all organisations interested in representation on the website.	TBA	High	By end Jan 2014 Feb 2014 Feb 2014 Feb 2014 Mar 2014	Parish Magazine Direct communication to village organisations	Partly achieved but needs formal structure

Mobile phone coverage.

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scale	Communications	Progress
Maximise satisfaction of mobile phone users with signal availability and quality while in the Parish. **61% of respondents said that their phone signal was poor or non-existent at home.** **48% of respondents would approve of a mobile phone mast being located in the Belltower. 60% would approve of same on a local farm.**	1 Press mobile phone service providers to improve coverage and signal strength in the area. 2 Find out from providers what options are viable for masts in the Parish. 3 Open dialogue with PCC / Diocese on possibility of mast in Belltower. 4 Open dialogue with landowners on possibility of mast on farms/woods.	Parish Council Parish Council Parish Council Parish Council	Mobile Phone companies Mobile phone companies PCC/Hereford Diocese Landowners	Should be nil - mobile providers should fund and recover costs from users.	High	Feb 14 Feb 14 Mar 14 Mar 14	Updates on progress in Parish Newsletter	

Broadband

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scale	Communications	Progress
Ensure the Parish has access to Broadband services that meet the needs and aspirations of its residents and businesses. **76% of respondents rated access to high speed broadband (up to 30 MBPS) as important or very important to them. 49% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with current speeds (max 8MBPS) whereas only 35% are not very or not at all satisfied.** **Other themes (Caring for elderly) have noted that fast broadband speeds will be necessary for health monitoring.**	Request Fastershire project to include Yarpole in fibre upgrades currently under evaluation. Establish whether Yarpole will be within the 90% of Herefordshire households that will be served by high speed broadband by end 2016. If not, seek assurance from Herefordshire Council that funding will be made available for provision.	Parish Council Parish Council	Fastershire project BT Parish Council Herefordshire Council	TBA	Medium	mid 2014	Write to Fastershire project. Updates in Parish Magazine and on website.	Fastershire website indicates that Yarpole exchange is under evaluation

Tourist information

Objectives and Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners / Dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scale	Communication	Progress
Ensure accurate information about the Parish, its facilities and activities are available to visitors. **70% of respondents thought that the Parish website should be used to publish Tourist Information and 75% thought that a free handout about the Parish should be available from The Bell and Yarpole Shop. Only 8% of respondents saw no need for Tourist Information.**	See actions proposed for Parish Website. Ensure structure is available for giving Tourist related enterprises access to website. Seek funding / sponsorship for handout version of Tourist Information. Seek assistance from other websites to display Tourist Information.	Website management team Parish Council Parish Council	All local enterprises	Nil £2K? Nil	High Medium Medium	Mar 2014 Feb 2014 for publishing May 2014 Mar 2014	Website Parish ioner Direct mail to local enterprises.	

Recycling for Community Enterprises

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Time scale	Communications	Progress
Reduce costs of waste disposal and recycling for community enterprises (Shop, Church, Parish Hall) **79% of respondents were in favour of free access to recycling.**	Research precedents elsewhere in the UK. Seek agreement from Herefordshire Council for free access to be made available for these types of enterprise.	Parish Plan team Parish Council	Parish Council, Herefordshire Council	Nil Nil (to users) Council may claim that there is a cost.	Medium Medium	Feb 2014 Feb 2014	Keep community enterprises informed directly	

Business Grants & Workshops

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Timescale	Communications	Progress
Achieve availability of grants for small businesses and ensure appropriate premises available, consistent with Built Environment theme objectives.	Press Herefordshire Council to make grants available and/or to provide conduit to nationally available grants. Press Herefordshire Council to make appropriate provision for small business premises in land use plans.	Parish Council Parish Council	Parish Council Herefordshire Council	TBA	Medium Medium	Consistent with timescale for Local Development Plan	Pass Parish Plan findings to Herefordshire Council and seek response for inclusion in published Parish Plan.	

The Bell

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H M, L	Timescale	Communication	Progress
Ensure The Bell meets the needs of the village and that the village can provide the support required by The Bell to thrive. **84% of respondents visit The Bell less frequently than once a month.** **168 respondents made written comments about The Bell, including factors that might encourage them to visit more frequently.**	Provide survey results, and local demographic information, to The Bell landlords and ask for their response which should be published in The Parishioner. Meet with The Bell landlords to explore what help the community could give.	Parish Plan team Parish Plan team	The Bell landlords	Nil Nil	High High	Immediate Immediate	Results in The Parishioner & on Website	

Cinema

Objectives & Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Timescale	Communication	Progress
Enable Flicks in the Sticks to reach maximum audience. **Only 15% of respondents attend 50% or more of shows.** **Only 23% of respondents were interested in an outdoor cinema**	Provide survey data and demographics to Flicks organisers. NFA thereafter. NFA on this topic	Parish Plan team	Flicks organisers	Nil	Low	During 2014	None	

National Trust (Croft Castle)

Objectives and Justification	The actions	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Cost	Priority H, M, L	Timescale	Communication	Progress
Improve parishioners' satisfaction with communications with National Trust at (Croft Castle) **41% of respondents said NT communicated well or adequately and 40% said Poorly with 19% not knowing.** **80% of respondents want to see NT advertise vacancies within the Parish with The Parishioner being the favourite medium (74%) followed by Parish website (61%) and notice boards (56%)**	Explore further improvements in communication generally with NT Set up formal channel for advertising vacancies, i.e. draw NT's attention to The Parishioner and involve in Website access.	Parish Plan team Parish Plan team	Parish Council The Parishioner editors plus website team	Nil Nil	Medium Medium	Feb 2014 Feb 2014	Report any progress in The Parishioner	

Parish Hall.

The results of the questions relating to the Parish Hall were passed directly to the Parish Hall Management Committee for them to implement as they see fit. The results can be viewed on page 37

Appendix 1

Parish Plan Consultation Process (the building of the plan)

The whole process of constructing the Plan has been very well supported across the parish. 65 - 70 people attended a meeting on 4th March 2012 where Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive of HALC, introduced the idea of the plan to the parish, and helped us identify the main concerns of the area. At this introductory meeting 22 people volunteered to join steering groups and help start the process, addressing and compiling a list of questions and concerns that could be put forward at a Planning for Real Event.

Planning for Real was held in a marquee over the weekend of 8th & 9th September 2012, as part of the Yarpole Autumn Fayre. Residents were invited to express their views by planting flags in large maps and writing comments in note books. The maps were then moved in to the church for the rest of the week for further comments and on Saturday 15th September the event was staged once again in Lucton. A total of 297 people attended the Planning for Real events.

From the information gathered we were able to compile two comprehensive questionnaires, one for adults and one for young people (aged 5 to 17 years), which were distributed during February and March 2013. The data from these forms were then analysed in detail by a research team at Herefordshire Council. There was a total of 428 completed adult questionnaires returned, giving a response rate of 72% based on population of the parish aged 18 years and over using 2011 census figures. There was a total of 70 young people's questionnaires returned, giving a response rate of 40% based on population of the parish aged 5 to 17 years using 2011 census figures. Our return rate was the second highest in the county as at June 2013. Such a positive response gives us a strong working mandate for the Plan.

A public meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Sunday 8th September 2013, where the results of the questionnaires were presented to the residents, with over 60 people in attendance.

The resulting Parish Plan was adopted by the Parish Council on 19th May 2014 and acknowledged by Herefordshire Council in September 2014.

ATTENDANCE AT PLANNING FOR REAL EVENTS IN YARPOLE & LUCTON BETWEEN 8th & 15th SEPTEMBER 2012

AGE GROUP	YARPOLE	LUCTON	BIRCHER COMMON	BIRCHER & CROFT	BICTON
0 – 10	4 MALE 5 FEMALE	3 FEMALE	6 MALE	2 MALE 2 FEMALE	1 MALE 2 FEMALE
11 – 17	3 MALE 1 FEMALE	3 MALE 1 FEMALE	2 MALE 2 FEMALE	2 MALE 6 FEMALE	
18 – 24		1 MALE	1 FEMALE		1 FEMALE
25 – 44	1 MALE 6 FEMALE	6 MALE 3 FEMALE	3 MALE 1 FEMALE	1 MALE 3 FEMALE	1 MALE 2 FEMALE
45 – 64	20 MALE 19 FEMALE	3 MALE 4 FEMALE	7 MALE 5 FEMALE	2 MALE 6 FEMALE	3 MALE 2 FEMALE
65 – 74	17 MALE 21 FEMALE	1 MALE 5 FEMALE	8 MALE 5 FEMALE		1 MALE 2 FEMALE
75 & OVER	10 MALE 13 FEMALE	3 MALE			1 FEMALE
TOTAL	120	33	40	24	16

OUTSIDE VISITOR TOTAL 64 across all age groups **GRAND TOTAL 297**

Appendix 2

POPULATION GROWTH FROM 2001 TO 2011. (Source = Government Census Data)

	2001	2011	INCREASE	% RATE
CROFT & YARPOLE	530	552	22	4%
LUCTON	173	235	62	36%
WHOLE PARISH	703	787	84	12%

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DWELLINGS FROM 2001 TO 2011. (Source = Government Census Data)

	2001	2011	INCREASE	% RATE
CROFT & YARPOLE	252	272	20	8%
LUCTON	61	73	12	18%
WHOLE PARISH	313	345	32	10.2%

According to the current Herefordshire Council Unitary Development Plan, a similar pattern of growth is forecast for the next 10 years.

Appendix 3

YOUNG PEOPLE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS.

There was a total of 70 young people's questionnaires returned giving a response rate of 40% based on the person aged between 5 and 17 using 2011 census figures. Half the children were primary school age, 36% were between 11 and 14, the remaining 14% were in their mid-teens, aged 15-17 years old. There were 35 male and 35 female respondents across the age range.

68 children said in which village / settlement within the parish they lived. 22 came from Bircher Common, 19 from Yarpole, 16 from Lucton, 10 from Bircher and 1 from Bicton.

Our young people had serious and legitimate concerns that were also mirrored in the adult questionnaire, including poor bus service, road safety (especially for cyclists), poor mobile phone reception and the lack of an open community space. These comments and observations have been noted by the working groups and taken into account when preparing the plan.

Other topics that directly affect young people are looked at here.

School Bus Service.

Do you use a school bus service?
If you ticked yes, what do you think of the bus service?

Twenty-three children used the school bus service Those that used it were invited to say what they thought of it. Twice as many thought it was good (13) or very good (2) as thought it was poor (5) or very poor (3).

Do you use a school bus service?	Number	%
Yes	23	33%
No	47	67%
Total respondents	70	100%

If you ticked yes, what do you think of the bus service?	Number
Very good	2
Good	13
Poor	5
Very poor	3
No opinion	0
Total respondents	23

Note: numbers are too small to calculate percentages.

What do you do in your spare time?

The young people were asked what they did in their spare time; and presented with a list of 16 options to choose as well as a facility to mention other spare time activities.

The findings are shown in the adjacent table, and the following chart. The activities have been reordered in the chart in ascending order of popularity.

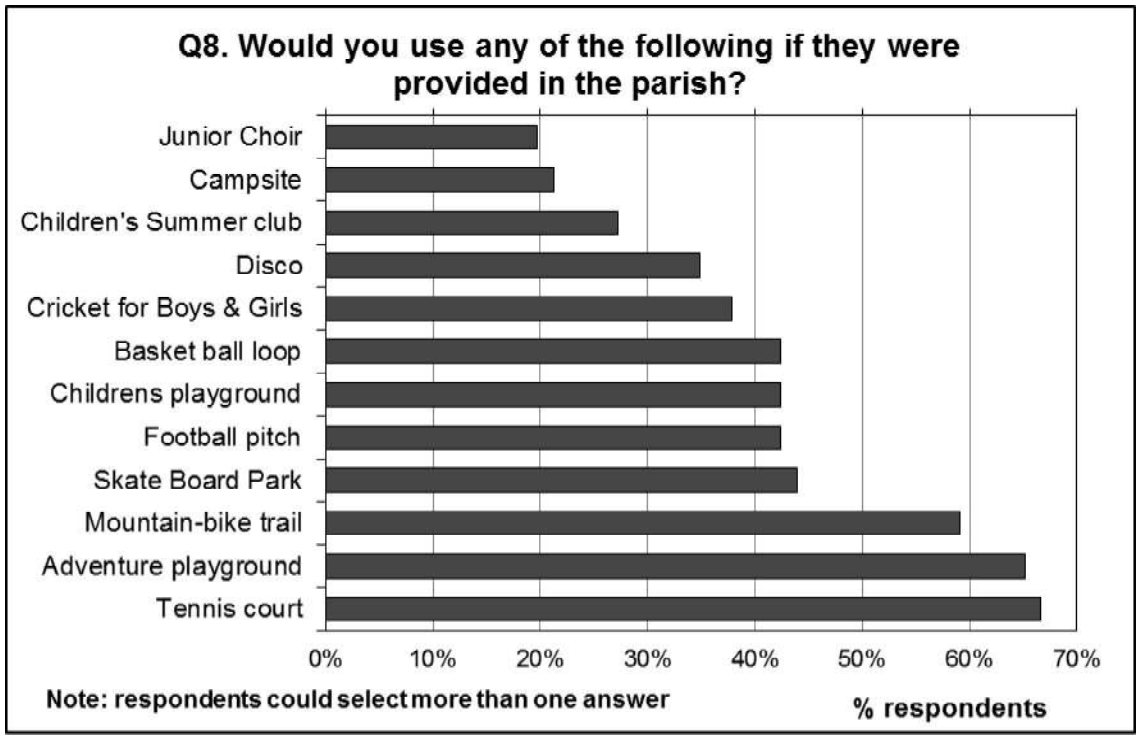
The most popular spare time activities were spending time with friends (90%), watching TV (81%), and playing computer games (74%).

Many were physically active: 74% rode bicycles, 61% took part in sports, 53% went walking, 51% went swimming, 21% did dancing, and 19% went horse riding.

What do you do in your spare time?	Number	%
Spend time with friends	63	90%
Watch TV	57	81%
Ride bicycle	52	74%
Church Activities.	4	6%
Horse Riding	13	19%
Play a musical instrument	39	56%
Shopping	20	29%
Voluntary work	1	1%
Play computer games and use the internet	52	74%
Take part in sports	43	61%
Member of a club	32	46%
Drama	20	29%
Dance.	15	21%
Swimming	36	51%
Walking	37	53%
Part time job	4	6%
Total respondents	70	100%

Note: respondents could select more than one answer

On the questionnaire, young people were presented with a list of 12 facilities and asked which they would use if they were available in the parish. The findings are shown in the table below. It should be borne in mind that viability of some activities and facilities relies on numbers of young people using them, and frequency, rather than percentage of the total.



Of the twelve suggestions the most popular were a tennis court (67%) and an adventure playground (65%).
Other sporting facilities were also popular with 59% (39 children) saying they would use a mountain bike trail, 42% (28 children) saying they would use a basket ball loop, and a similar numbers / proportion choosing the football pitch and children's playground suggestions.
Twenty-five young people (38%) were interested in junior cricket and 23 (35%) in discos.

Although least popular at 20%, 21% and 27% respectively, the numbers interested (13, 14 and 18) may mean that a junior choir, campsite and children's summer club are viable. When asked what else they would like, fourteen usable replies were received .
Their answers included:-
Badminton Courts, Running Track, Footpaths set up throughout the village preferably away from the road. General recreational area. Hockey Pitch, Gym, Spa, Netball Courts, Community space where I could meet friends to play table tennis etc without having to book village hall. Target range air gun club .Pond & wild life house,butterfly house, Music studies.

Appendix 4

LINK TO YOUNG PEOPLE QUESTIONNAIRE. Please go to www.yarpole.com

Appendix 5

RESULTS OF ADULT QUESTIONNAIRE

BUILT ENVIRONMENT.

When asked for their opinion on levels of future building development in the parishes, the overwhelming majority thought there should either be no development (16%) or some development only within strict limits (77%). Over half of the total respondents (54%) perceived a need for start up / low cost homes and 43% saw a need for 2-3 bedroomed homes. Nearly a third (32%) thought there was a need for sheltered housing.

A small majority of respondents was in favour of building commercial premises – 53% of the total respondents to the survey. Looking at the figures from a different aspect, 40% specifically ticked “no commercial development” whilst 7% did not answer the question.

The need for a community open space is still high on the agenda for any proposed development. To this end the Built Environment Working Group together with the Parish Council will continue to pursue all options.

It should also be noted that the Parish Council has started the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan, this document will be legally binding and give the Parish Council far greater powers over any proposed future developments.

TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT & ROAD SAFETY

The major traffic and road safety priorities to come out of the Parish Consultations were: Speed Limits around the Parish, with greatest concerns being on the B4362, and better visibility at certain junctions, such as:

- Cock Gate crossroad on the B4362
- Bircher Turn on the B4362
- Welshman’s Lane/Red Oak crossroad on the B4362
- Bicton crossroad

246 people (60%) were in favour of a 40mph speed limit from Mortimers Cross to Bircher.

The need for restriction of HGV passing through Yarpole whilst travelling to and from the B4362, Bircher Turn, except for access, and of their speed was also of concern.

Respondents were presented with a list of nine locations and asked if they thought there was a serious traffic or road safety problem at any of them, and the majority of respondents indicated that this was the case at one or more of these locations.

Respondents were invited to select from a list of measures which they thought would be the appropriate solution to the traffic and road safety problem at each location. The list included:

- Traffic calming (not necessarily speed humps)
- Additional warning signs/chevrons
- Traffic mirrors at junctions
- Additional kerbing
- Electronic, vehicle activated warning signs or traffic lights
- Improved sightlines
- Additional road markings/Tarmac colour change
- HGV weight limit
- Additional speed restrictions
- Pedestrian crossing

Since the research was completed it has been brought to the attention of the Traffic & Road Safety Group that 3 school buses use the Cockgate junction at around 8am and mid afternoon and several children of varying age have to cross the road, without official supervision, placing them in a vulnerable position. Also, Lucton residents have voiced concerns about the school bus pick up point on the B4362 by the War Memorial.

Public Transport.

Respondents to the were invited to consider ways in which the bus service might be improved by implementation of one or more measures listed on the survey form. Three-quarters took the opportunity. Of the suggestions postulated on the questionnaire, a community bus service, re-routing buses, and increasing services were each considered to be desirable improvements by about a third of respondents.

Respondents were less concerned about reducing costs (14%) and there were no comments on fares. A similar proportion (15%) thought more destinations would be an improvement.

Better provision for cyclists.

396 respondents answered the question on whether better provision for cyclists in the parish was necessary. Just under a third expressed no opinion but, amongst the remainder, those believing more provision was necessary outnumbered those who did not by more than 2:1. Thus, just under half of respondents were in favour of better arrangements for cyclists.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE.

Because of their high response rate to the questionnaire, we now have information about the views and experiences of nearly all the older people in the parish on some aspects of health and social care. (According to the 2011 Census, there are 194 people aged 65 and over living in the parish. 168 people (87%) in this age range responded to the questionnaire.)

People were asked if they receive – without paying for it - personal, practical or emotional support, if they provide this, if they thought they were likely to need help with personal care or around the house in the next ten years, and if the availability of support would make it more likely that they would stay here for the rest of their lives.

Table 1: Assistance/support for people aged 65 and over

	Receiving assistance		*Providing assistance*		*Support likely to aid staying in parish*	
	N	*% (Respondents ≥ 65)*	*N*	*% (Respondents ≥ 65)*	*N*	*% (Respondents ≥ 65)*
65-74	15	9	23	14	42	25
≥ 75	29	17	19	11	37	22
	44	26	42	25	79	47

The first two items in Table 1 show how important the informal giving and receiving of support are in the lives of many older people in the parish. Also, nearly half of the people aged 65 and over believe that the availability or otherwise of support for themselves may well make a difference in whether or not they can remain here.

Whilst relatively few people of working age need assistance or support themselves, most help is provided by people under 65 (Table 2). Again a sizeable number here seem to see that they may need support in the future if they are to stay in the parish.

Table 2: Assistance/support for people aged 18-64 (N=235)

	Receiving assistance		*Providing assistance*		*Support likely to aid staying in parish*	
	N	*%*	*N*	*%*	*N*	*%*
18-64	9	4	44	19	67	29

Table 3 brings together responses that reflect people's views and doubts about what they might need in future. Many appear to expect to need help with personal care or around the house in the next ten years. People do not see their situation, or their needs, as static. Thus over half (24/46) of those who think they are likely to need help with personal care are already receiving personal, emotional or practical support. Also, over one in three of all respondents think that support is likely to make a difference to how long they can live here. What is unclear is what to make of the large number of 'don't knows' here. There may be many whose response is a philosophical: 'Anything might happen. You just can't tell.' However, these figures must include people who are in fact apprehensive about their ability to remain independent, or who have reason to feel that this may only be for a limited time.

Table 3: Looking to the future

	Likely to need in next ten years				*Support in home to make staying here more likely*	
	Help with personal care		*Help around the house*			
	N	*%*	*N*	*%*	*N*	*%*
Yes	46	11	70	17	146	36
No	143	34	162	39	71	17
Don't know	227	55	188	45	192	47
	416		420		409	

The Planning for Real exercise in September 2012 produced several suggestions of developments that might benefit people locally. The questionnaire invited people to show which they preferred. Table 4 gives the results.

Table 4: Likely to be of benefit

Suggestion	*N*
1 Yarpole branch surgery	152
2 Information and support for elderly people	112
3. Volunteer support scheme	90
4. Social care information hub	61
5 Warden scheme	46
6 Information on infant/child care	24

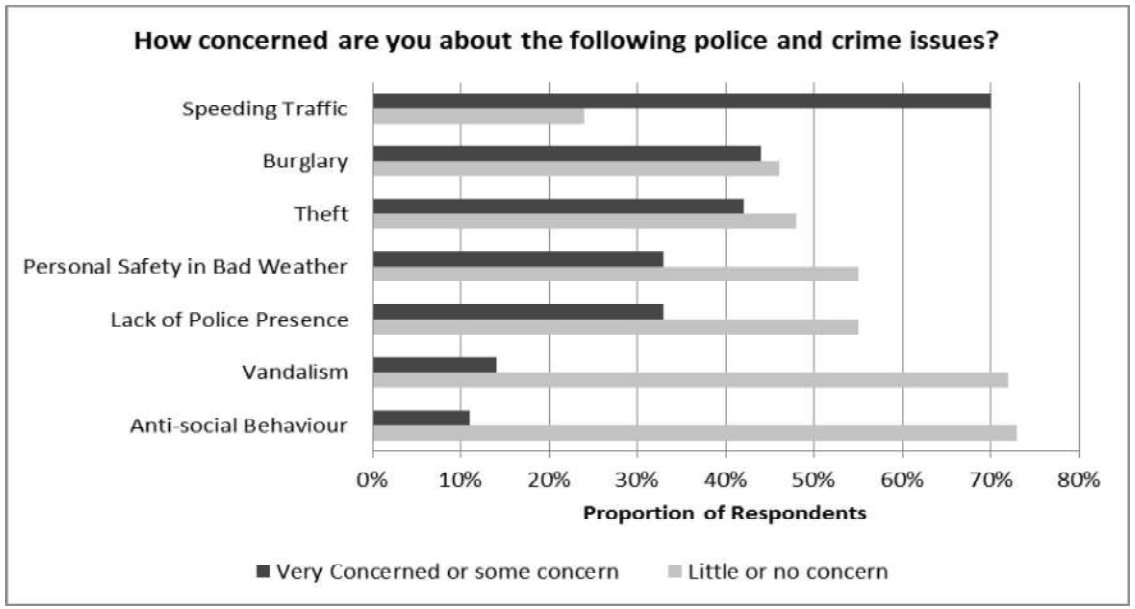
All of these items have a bearing on how supportive the local environment is felt to be. There have been two significant meetings in the parish since the questionnaire. The first of these was a general feedback of all the results. About 70 people came to this. The other meeting, of about 30 people, focussed just on health and social care matters. The answers to the questionnaire indicate some possibilities for community responses to the issues raised. Both these meetings, especially the second, as well as other discussions and conversations, suggest that there are now three main areas for exploration and work. These are set out in more detail in the Action Plan later in this report. They are:

- The provision of services within the parish to improve health (such as, a local GP surgery, chiropody and physiotherapy)
- Developments within the parish to aid care and support (for example, skilled advice, and information and links to care services), and
- Strengthening, expanding and developing further the already considerable volume and quality of neighbourly care and support in the parish.

A steering group has been formed to begin detailed work.

POLICE & CRIME ISSUES.

The parish as a whole is considered to be a safe place to live, as shown in the chart below.



Speeding Traffic:- This was the only area where the majority of people were very concerned or had some concern. 400 (94%) out of a total of 428 responded to this subject, with 298 (70%) saying they were very concerned or had some concern. 102 (24%) had little or no concern.

Burglary & Theft:- These issues were fairly evenly matched. Out of a total of 391 respondents, to this question, 27 (6%) were very concerned about both issues, similarly 57 (13%) had no concern.
164 (38%) had some concern about burglary,143 (33%) had little concern. As for theft 156 (36%) had some concern and 151 (35%) had little concern. For both issues 37 (9%) of people chose not to answer.

Lack of Police Presence:- There is some concern, although not in the majority, about this subject, with a total of 143 out of 379 people being very concerned or having some concern.

Anti Social Behaviour and Vandalism:- Fortunately we do not have a problem with these issues and over 70% of people had little or no concern. However several comments were made about dog fouling and dogs running loose.

Personal Safety in Bad Weather:- 138 (32.5%) out of 428 people had concerns about this.

ENVIRONMENT & CARBON FOOTPRINT.

Community Oil / LPG Purchase Scheme:- It was found that joining a Community Oil Purchase Scheme was viable, but a Community LPG purchase scheme was not viable at this time.

Additional Car Park on Bircher Common:- Half of the 420 respondents to the question would like to see another official car park on Bircher Common in addition to the one at Croft Castle. Nearly a third of respondents (32%) disagreed and 18% had no opinion on the subject.

The responses were analysed by whereabouts respondents lived within the parish. Residents of Bircher Common itself were generally *against* an additional car park on the common, 25 ticking “yes” to the question and 35 ticking “no”. In all other parts of the parish more respondents were in favour of the suggestion than against.

The National Trust already offers free parking to residents of the parish. To obtain a pass, apply directly to the office at Croft Castle.

Picnic areas with tables and litter bins on Bircher Common:- A slight majority (51%) of the 415 people who answered the question thought there should NOT be designated picnic areas on Bircher Common, with benches and litter bins. 32% supported the suggestion whilst 17% did not have an opinion on the matter.
In view of the results it has been decided not to pursue this subject at this time.

Condition of roads and maintenance:- All but seven of the 428 people who returned completed questionnaires also answered the question on the condition and maintenance of road surfaces in the parish. Over a quarter thought that the condition and maintenance was either very good (1%) or fairly good (27%). However the majority rated the condition and maintenance as poor (29%) or very poor (40%).

It should be noted that since the survey was conducted Amey have lost the contract for highway maintenance and a new contract has been awarded to Balfour Beatty. Balfour Beatty have set aside funds to improve all roads over the next 3 years, as from September 2013. The Parish Council is aware of where the major problems are in the parish and will be actively pursuing Balfour Beatty to keep their word.

Maintenance of hedges and verges:- Just under half of the respondents to a question on maintenance of hedges, road verges, ditches and drains rated the maintenance as either very good (3%) or good (49%). However over a third thought it was either poor (25%) or very poor (12%).
Due to the spending cuts by Herefordshire Council, the Parish Council is joining the "Lengthsman" scheme. This means that a local contractor is appointed by the Parish Council to keep verges tidy and drainage ditches clear.

Flooding:- Following the serious floods of July 2012, steps have been taken and measures put in place to help alleviate any future problems. The National Trust has repaired the dams in Fishpool Valley.

Winter Grit Bins:- Just under half (47%) of the 421 respondents to a question on gritting bins thought there was a sufficient number of these about the parish. Disagreement came from 19%, i.e. people who thought there should be more. About a third had no opinion.

If you feel there is a requirement for a bin near to where you live, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Solar panels on the church:- Respondents were asked if they would approve of the installation of solar thermal panels for the provision of hot water and possibly heating, or photo voltaic panels, to generate electricity, being installed on the roof of Yarpole Church.

Just over half of the 428 respondents to the survey (51%) would approve of solar thermal panels, just on half would approve of photo voltaic panels but, slightly less, 47% would approve of either or both.

Over a quarter (27%) would NOT approve of either types of panel being installed; 28% would not approve of solar thermal panels and 28% would not approve of photo voltaic panels.

Would you approve of Solar Thermal Panels, for the provision of hot water and possibly heating, or Photo Voltaic panels, to generate electricity, being installed on the roof of Yarpole church?		
	Number	**%**
Would approve either or both solar thermal panels or photo voltaic panels	200	47%
Would approve solar thermal panels	218	51%
Would approve photo voltaic panels	213	50%
Would NOT approve of either solar thermal panels or photo voltaic panels	114	27%
Would NOT approve of solar thermal panels	121	28%
Would NOT approve of photo voltaic panels	118	28%
No Opinion / Not answered question about either	80	19%
No Opinion / Not answered question about solar thermal panels	89	21%
No Opinion / Not answered question about photo voltaic panels	97	23%
Total Respondents to Survey (base)	428	100%

Note. An energy study was carried out at the Parish Hall in 2011 and concluded that fitting panels to the hall was not feasible, as it would take over 25 years to recover the initial costs.

Protection of local environment and keeping Yarpole Group Parish a predominately rural area:- The overwhelming majority of respondents thought that protection of the local environment was either very important (77%) of fairly important (20%) – making 97% in total. The remaining handful either had no opinion or did not attach importance to protection of the environment.
Results show that similar proportions thought it was important that the Yarpole Group Parish remain a rural area as thought that protection of the environment was important. 77% considered it very important that the area main rural and 18% thought it was fairly important.

Allotments:- A small number of people (9%) would be interested in an allotment, there is a team looking into the matter and also an alternative "Garden share" scheme.

Public footpaths and bridleways:- Nearly a quarter (24%) of the 417 respondents to the question use the public footpaths and bridleways in the daily and another 26% do so weekly. Thus half the respondents could be described as frequent users. Most of the remainder either use the public rights away system monthly (11%) or occasionally (30%). Only 9% said that they never used the footpaths or bridleways.

With regard to public footpaths & bridleways, would you like to see any of the following?	Yes		No		No opinion		Not answered	
Improved suitability for the disabled	149	35%	56	13%	166	39%	57	13%
Better maintenance?	184	43%	60	14%	123	29%	61	14%
Better signs?	193	45%	69	16%	102	24%	64	15%
Stiles with easier dog access?	195	46%	54	13%	127	30%	52	12%
Kissing gates replacing stiles?	224	52%	62	14%	103	24%	39	9%

With regard to improving footpaths and bridleways the chart above shows what people think could be done.

In response to the request for volunteers to help with a working party, 108 people said they would be willing to participate.

Since the survey was taken there have been steady improvements over the summer, including Kissing Gates replacing styles, new signs and repairs to styles, the work is ongoing, but there is still room for improvement. Funding for footpaths is likely to be severely cut back in the foreseeable future, so general maintenance and repairs will probably have to be carried out by volunteers. We have a Parish Footpaths Officer who will assess any improvements that may be required.

BUSINESS, TOURISM & COMMUNICATION.

Parish Website = yarpole.com

The parish website is in need of a permanent webmaster. Julian Stokes has stepped in for the time being, but does not want to take responsibility in the long term. If you think you could share the load, or would like further details, please let Julian know via the shop.

Mobile Phone Coverage:- In common with many rural areas mobile phone reception is generally poor, only 6% of the 376 respondents who gave an assessment of their mobile phone reception at home rated it as “excellent”. Another 13% assessed it as “good” and 15% as “acceptable”. However, 40% thought their mobile phone reception at home was “poor” and another 26% described it as non-existent.

Further analysis showed that the quality of reception varied across the parish but, in none of the settlements, did people report it as consistently good. The worst reception appears to be in Yarpole where 81% of respondents said reception was poor / non-existent and only 12% rated it as excellent / good. The remaining 7% said it was acceptable. The best reception in the parish appears to be in Bircher Common. Here, 35% rated it as good or excellent, 24% as acceptable and 41% as poor or non-existent. Bircher and Lucton came somewhere in between these two extremes but there was insufficient data from the smaller settlements in the parish to calculate meaningful percentages.

In response to the question about the siting of a mobile phone mast the local farm option was more popular, with 60% of respondents to the survey approving, compared with 48% who would approve the Yarpole Bell Tower option. Just over a third (35%) disapproved of putting a mobile phone facility in the Bell Tower, compared with 14% who thought a mast on a local farm was inappropriate. In both cases, 14% had no opinion and small minorities did not answer the question.

Broadband:- Parishioners were asked about home internet usage. 353 accessed the internet at home via broadband and 1 by dial up. This amounted to 86% of the respondents who answered the question.

Over half of the users (58%) were either very satisfied (12%) or satisfied (46%). Nearly a quarter (24%) were not very satisfied and the remaining 18% were not at all satisfied.

Considering different parts of the parish, satisfaction with broadband speed is highest in Yarpole, where 63% are either very satisfied or satisfied and Bircher where 65% are either very satisfied or satisfied. Satisfaction rates are a lot lower elsewhere, e.g. in Bicton and Lucton, the figures are 38% and 37% respectively. Just over half (52%) were satisfied in Bircher Common.

Super High Speed Broadband (up to 30mbs) is being rolled out across Herefordshire and all areas should be connected by 2016. Respondents were asked how important access to high speed broadband was to them. Of the 383 respondents who answered the question, 38% said access to high speed broadband was very important and a similar proportion rated it as fairly important, 9% thought it was not very important and 15% did not think it was important at all.

Tourist Information:- Respondents were presented with a list of possible ways for disseminating tourist information and asked which should be used for the purpose; 403 responded to the question and selected one or more method. Of these, 8% thought there was no need for tourist information. The most popular choice was “Free hand-out available at pub and shop”, ticked by 75% of respondents. A slightly lower proportion, 70%, thought that the parish website was an appropriate tool.

Respondents were asked to suggest other websites or other methods that could be used to publicise tourist information. Most confirm the methods already considered in the question but suggested websites that could be useful were the Herefordshire Tourism sites, e.g. Visit Herefordshire, and any suitable local or national site.

Recycling for Community Enterprises:- On the survey form it was explained that householders pay for recycling through Council Tax and that businesses pay Business Rates and additional charges for refuse collection and recycling. Then the opinion of parishioners on the position of community enterprises vis á vis paying for recycling was tested.

When asked if they were in favour of community enterprises such as the village shop, church and parish hall having free access to recycling facilities, 420 responded. A large majority (79%) agreed whilst a small minority of 7% disagreed. The remaining 14% had no opinion on the matter.

Business Grants & Workshops:- People were asked, "Have you ever wanted to start a business, but could not afford the initial costs"? Although only 10% of the 410 respondents said they had wanted to start a business, this represented 39 individuals.

People were then asked whether they searched for available grants and if so, how difficult the application process was.

Although these questions were aimed at individuals who had wanted to start up a business, others may have answered them – possibly because they had some other reason to seek out the information other than for their own business purposes.

Twenty six people had searched for available grants. This included 24 of the individuals who had wanted to set up a business plus two other individuals.

Twenty nine people ticked whether the grant application process was easy, reasonable or difficult. None found it easy, 7 thought it was reasonable but three times as many, 22 thought it was difficult.

These figures are shown in the adjacent table. Please note that numbers are too small to present as percentages

If Yes, how easy was the grant application process?	**Number**
Easy	0
Reasonable	7
Difficult	22
Total respondents	**29**

Apart from personal experience of applying for business grants, parishioners were asked if grants should be available for small business start ups in rural parishes like the Yarpole Group. Nearly two-thirds of the 388 respondents to the question agreed, about a quarter had no opinion, and a minority of 8% disagreed.

The Bell:- Parishioners were asked about their frequency of visits to The Bell, Yarpole. Of the 418 who answered, nearly a quarter (24%) never frequent the pub / restaurant and a further 29% visit less often than once a quarter. Just under a third (31%) go every 1-3 months. The remaining 16% visit at least once a month, half of these at least weekly. Nobody said they were a 6 day week visitor.

Respondents were asked what would encourage them to visit The Bell more frequently; 168 responded, including 4 who made very complimentary remarks about the pub / restaurant, the main points summarised here.

Over twenty people explained that their own personal circumstances; such as child care problems, work and other commitments, living some distance from Yarpole and income constraints, would inhibit more frequent visits.

About the same number would like to see the facility become more of a pub and less of a restaurant, with interesting beers and cider available, music nights, quiz nights, and community and other events that would have local appeal.

At least 16 people felt that the price of the food was too high and the quality not commensurate with the cost of dining there. Two criticised the service. There were suggestions that pensioners' lunches would attract some.

There were several suggestions that more could be done to attract a wider cross-section of the community; possibly by extending the opening hours, making the pub more welcoming to young adults, families, by introducing a children's menu, and ladies only groups.

Cinema:- People were asked how often they attended "Flicks in the Sticks", over half of the 418 residents (53%) who answered the question had never attended Flicks in the Sticks and another 2% were unaware of the film screenings. However, this still left 180 parishioners who had attended the Flicks – 126 had seen fewer than half the shows, 47 had seen half the shows and 17 went to every film. These people represented 30%, 11% and 4%, respectively, of those answering the question. Viability of Flicks in the Sticks depends more on attendance levels rather than proportion of residents turning up which is why, in the analysis of this question, the emphasis has been put on numbers of respondents rather than percentage.

Residents were also asked if they would be support screenings at an outdoor cinema. Of the 403 who answered, 309 (77%) said they were not interested ,so it has been decided not to pursue this any further.

E-mail directory:- This idea was overwhelmingly rejected by residents, so no further action will be taken.

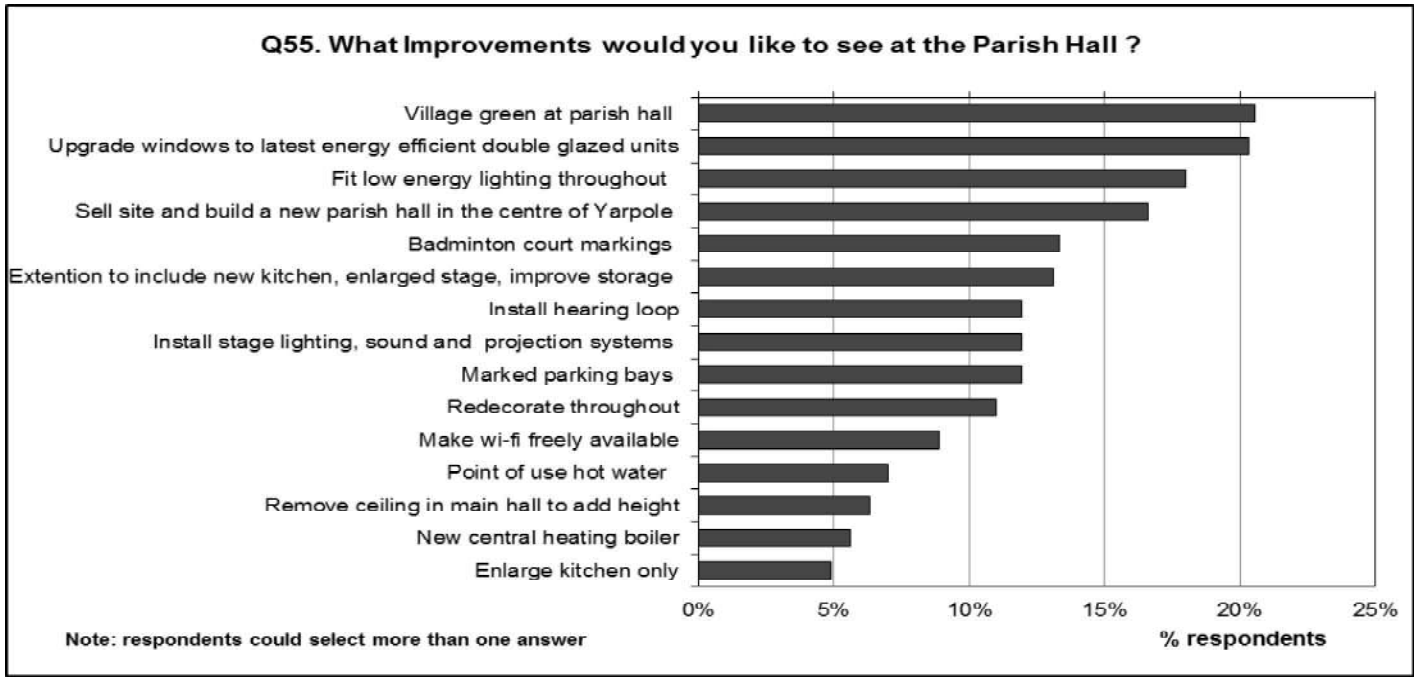
National Trust (Croft Castle):- When asked whether they thought that the National Trust (Croft Castle) communicated well or not with the local residents, 420 gave a response. The proportion believing that the National Trust communicated well, 27 (6%) or adequately 146 (35%) was almost equally balance by the 160 (40%) of respondents who thought it communicated poorly. 81 (19%) did not know.

A very small minority (2%) did not want to see the National Trust advertising vacancies within the parish, 17% did not know, but an overwhelming majority of 80% were in favour of local advertising for local National Trust vacancies.

Respondents were then asked what the best medium for advertising vacancies would be. Of the 325 who answered, 241 (74%) thought that "The Parishioner" was the best means. The Parish website suggestion in the questionnaire was supported by 199 (61%) and Posters on Noticeboards by 182 (56%).

PARISH HALL.

Out of 428 people, 270 responded to this question.



The Parish Hall is in need of an upgrade, several suggestions were posed in the questionnaire and the results have been passed on to the new Parish Hall Committee for them to implement as they think fit. For information the chart above shows what people thought.

Appendix 6

LINK TO ADULT QUESTIONNAIRE. Please visit :- www.yarpole.com to view.

Appendix 7

Original Steering Group Members.

Chairman:- Colin Knight*, **Finance Officer:-** Jo King, (Parish Clerk) **Parish Council Liason:-** Audrey Bott*.

Built Environment:- David Connor, Barrie Morgan, Mark Richards, Andrew Thompson.

Traffic & Road Safety:- Tony & Anne Clarke, Iris Lawson*, Mark Richards, David North.

Transport:- Paul Beeden, Gerry Rogers.

Environment & Carbon Footprint:- Kate Darby, Rolland Munro, Lorraine Ralph.

Social Services & Health:- Pat Boulton, Hily North, Barbara & John Nurse.

Police & Crime Issues:- Colin Knight*.

Business Enterprise, Tourism & Communication:- David Cheshire, David Connor, Warren Alexander.

Young People:- Rachel Voysey

* = Parish Councillor

The Steering Committee is very grateful for the help and support received from:-

Chris Gooding of Herefordshire Council Community Plan Support Team. Sophie Pryce of Community First.

Isobel Gibson, who analysed the results of the questionnaires. Herefordshire Association of Local Councils. (HALC)

Yarpole Group Parish Council. Ward Councillor Sebastian Bowen.

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