

Wellington Heath Parish Plan – Progress on Action Points – May 2012

Action	Section	Priority/ Timescale	Progress
<p>1. Adopt a policy to promote the construction of a safe all-weather walking footpath to and from Ledbury, seeking further guidance on the most appropriate route, and enlisting the support of Herefordshire Council in this action.</p>	<p>Roads, Transport and Footpaths; Youth</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>The public footpath across fields/orchards to Knapp Lane has been improved with the recent installation of a new bridge and new kissing gates funded by the Right Of Way Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The road route along Beggars Ash is the only viable “all-weather” route and due to the narrowness of the road and poor visibility is dangerous particularly in the vicinity of Hill Top Farm. A formal application to improve the safety of pedestrians has been made to Highways Dept. of Herefordshire Council (HC) but its priority is listed as 47th out of 49 other cases and it is extremely unlikely funding will be allocated for a very long time, if ever. It is planned to ask HC to carry out a further pedestrian use survey which will hopefully will improve the ranking of this project as the old survey was carried out in November 2007 when the fruit pickers were not active.</p> <p>A meeting of Ledbury and Wellington Heath Councillors, representatives of Herefordshire Council, Withers Farm manager and the landowners was held on 28th January 2011. Proposals for a permissive path parallel with the narrow section of Beggars Ash were dismissed by the landowners and no further progress was made. This action point continues to be “on the agenda” for WHPC and parishioners are encouraged to report any accidents or “near misses” to the police so that a comprehensive record can be maintained to support future action by Herefordshire Council.</p>
<p>2. Consult Herefordshire Council about safe conditions for cycling to Ledbury, including the possibility of combining the route with Action 1 above.</p>	<p>Roads, Transport and Footpaths</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>HC is to advise on measures to improve safety on Beggars Ash in conjunction with Action 1 above. Discussions have taken place with HC Highways Dept. But apart from road signs and road markings at the junction of Horse Road nothing further is likely to be permitted by HC.</p>
<p>3. Encourage local employers to advise their temporary workers on behaviour when within the parish and safe practices and routes for when walking into Ledbury.</p>	<p>Community Safety</p>	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>George Leeds of Withers Farm attended the Parish Council meeting in July 2006 and agreed to brief farm workers accordingly. Discussions are ongoing with George Leeds who advises that all fruit pickers are informed on these matters at the start of each season. Peter Bourne, Withers Farm manager was asked to remind his fruit pickers at the meeting on 28th January 2011.</p>
<p>4. Seek further specialist advice about traffic calming and speed control measures.</p>	<p>Community Safety; Youth</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>A Speed Indicator Device (SID) is now regularly installed for two months of the year between Twinkelow Cottage and Elmtree Cottages on Ledbury Road. The data from the SID indicates speeding is still a problem with a minority of drivers. This topic regularly features in the Parish Newsletter.</p>

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5. Subject to the results in Action Point 44, identify volunteers to man speed control measures and ensure that the volunteer team has the necessary support to acquire kit and set it up in an appropriate location.	Community Safety	Short Term	This practice is no longer recommended by the police and no further action is proposed. See 4. Above.
6. Talk to Herefordshire Council to clarify their position regarding free transport to both secondary and primary school, under safe routes to school.	Education	Immediate	Free transport is provided as follows: Under 8 yrs old and over 2 miles from school: Over 8 yrs old and over 3 miles from school: Of any age if the route contains “exceptional hazards”. School relates to the nearest “catchment school”.
7. Approach Herefordshire Council about the possibility of a smaller school bus to replace the current Newbury coach.	Education	Short Term	The bus company was disinclined to reduce the size of the bus as it collects children from several local villages and a smaller bus would not have sufficient capacity.
8. Talk to the bus companies about visiting Wellington Heath regularly so people are more able to get down to Ledbury.	Youth	Short Term	A regular bus service (675) is now operating on a two hourly basis to Ledbury and Malvern with bus stops at various locations within the village.
9. Investigate action to remedy lack of public transport option for late returning school children.	Roads, Transport and Footpaths	Immediate	See action 8 above. Although the responsibility for late returning children lies with parents schools often arrange with parents the logistics of getting children home.
10. Consider ways of organising a parent rota to help with transport from after school clubs to cut down on individual journeys.	Education	Immediate	Suggested in Newsletters. Little or no interest reported. Informal network of villagers/parents operating “on demand” system.
11. Improve storm water drainage throughout the parish, involving landowners responsible for drainage ditches on rural roads as well as Herefordshire Council.	Roads, Transport and Footpaths	Long Term	Following a meeting with Brian Hall, Gerry Haines and Richard Leppard (HC officers) in October 2007 maps of all the village sewers and storm water drains have been prepared. The Parish Lengthsman is responsible for keeping gullies clear of debris and this is being done on a regular basis. The HC officers are aware of the flooding problems in Hollow Lane and Burtons Lane and are in touch with adjacent landowners to ensure they maintain their ditches properly. The culvert at Pool Piece was cleared in 2008 and 2011 and remains clear.
12. Find ways of encouraging dog owners to clear up after their pets (including looking into the provision of notices).	Roads, Transport and Footpaths	Short Term	Notices have been deployed at various locations around the village. Constant reminders to all residents by way of Parish Newsletter. The problem is still apparent and is a cause for concern to the PC. The Herefordshire Dog Warden has agreed to patrol the village on a regular basis with the hope of securing a prosecution the effect of which it is hoped will deter dog owners from leaving dog mess on the ground.

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13. Conduct a Parish Housing Need Survey in consultation with the Housing Section of Herefordshire Council to establish the actual level of need for affordable homes for local people to rent or buy.	Housing And Development	Immediate	A survey in Wellington Heath was conducted by HC Housing Dept. in March 2008. Following this a meeting was held on 18 th September 2008 in the Memorial Hall to explain the results to residents. The PC voted to endeavour to satisfy the need for up to 6 accommodation units within the parish subject to finding a suitable site. To date a suitable site has not been found. See 14. below.
14. If sufficient need is clearly established by Action 13, work with Herefordshire Council to identify a suitable rural housing 'exception site' for development of affordable homes for local people within the Parish.	Housing And Development	Short Term	On 21 st April 2009 a "village walkabout" was held with the Planning Officer, Landscape Officer and the Affordable Housing Officer but no suitable sites were found. As a result it was agreed that the Wellington Heath affordable housing need would be added to the Ledbury quota.
15. Encourage Herefordshire Council to use available powers under the provisions of the Housing Acts and related legislation to ensure the optimal use of the existing housing stock of the Parish to meet local needs.	Housing And Development	Long Term	No action contemplated at present as no vacant or underused property has been identified in the parish.
16. Request Herefordshire Council to undertake a review of the village of Wellington Heath to determine suitability for consideration of adoption as a Conservation Area.	Housing And Development	Long Term	Not a priority. Initial discussion with local planning officer indicates the criteria for Conservation Area status will not be met.
17. Set up a Working Group with the objective of producing a design guide. This will influence any future development ensuring it is of high design quality and sympathetic to the location and the natural and built environment of the Parish.	Housing And Development	Short Term	A Design Guide has been produced and is available for viewing on the Village Website. The planning committee of the PC have regard to this design guide when considering planning applications and responding to Herefordshire Council Planning Department. Under the Localism Act 2011 a steering group is being formed to consider whether the parish would benefit from producing a Neighbourhood Plan.
18. Request Herefordshire Council to conduct a survey of the Parish to identify trees worthy of protection by the issue of further Tree Preservation Orders.	Housing And Development	Immediate	A new Tree Warden has been appointed who is in consultation with the Parish Council to select important trees within the village worthy of protection.

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19. Seek clarification from Herefordshire Council on both national and local policy designed to control the development of polytunnels.	Housing And Development	Immediate	Following a High Court case, polytunnels now require planning permission. HC are also preparing a Supplementary Planning Guidance document which will set out the planning objectives for the future. Withers Farm has recently been successful in obtaining planning consent for 50 hectares of polytunnels with appropriate conditions relating to infrastructure, drainage, impact on landscape, wildlife, etc.
20. Request Herefordshire Council to formally recognise this Parish Plan as a 'further planning guidance' document.	Housing And Development	Immediate	The current Parish Plan (2006) covered a variety of topics and did not contain sufficient detail on planning matters to justify it being recognised by HC as "further planning guidance". A Neighbourhood Plan, if eventually produced would carry more legal status than a Parish Plan under the Localism Act 2011.
21. Resist any further large-scale development within the parish.	Wildlife and the Environment	Continuing	The UDP has designated Wellington Heath as a "smaller settlement" which restricts development to "infilling" only. Policy H6 of the UDP sets out the criteria for such development. The Design Guide also sets out various constraints on future development within the village. HC are in the process of producing a LDF (Local Development Framework) which will supersede the UDP.
22. Encourage landowners to restrict hedge-cutting and verge-trimming to times of the year when wild flowers and wildlife will not be adversely affected.	Wildlife and the Environment	Continuing	Regular reminders in the Parish Newsletter achieve this.
23. Reinforce the message that when lighting bonfires within the village, consideration should be given to neighbours.	Wildlife and the Environment	Continuing	The Parish Newsletter reminds residents of the need to consider neighbours before lighting bonfires. A garden shredding facility has been tried and could be repeated. Roadside collection of garden waste is offered by HC under the recycling scheme for the county.
24. Consider taking up the offer, made by the Farmers Arms pub, of a parish recycling point in their car park.	Wildlife and the Environment	Long Term	The offer from the Farmers Arms has now been withdrawn. Herefordshire Council now provide a fortnightly roadside recycling collection following the provision of "wheelie bins".
25. Make representation to Herefordshire Council for a roadside collection of recyclable materials and other re-cycling facilities within the parish.	Wildlife and the Environment	Short Term	Roadside collection of recyclables was introduced by HC in the autumn of 2009.
26. Join the Parish Lengthsman scheme in order to maximise benefit to biodiversity.	Wildlife and the Environment	Immediate	This has been achieved. A Parish Lengthsman was appointed in March 2007. A new Lengthsman was appointed in April 2011 and is achieving better value for money within the parish.

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27. Ask the Memorial Hall Management Committee to consider the list of activities suggested by respondents, to publicise it and seek organisers through the Parish Newsletter.	Facilities and Groups; Youth	Immediate	Done.
28. Publicise the Bosbury "Flicks in the Sticks" programmes in the quarterly Newsletter.	Facilities and Groups	Continuing	This is a regular feature of the Newsletter.
29. Explore all possibilities to find a flat area which could be used for formal and informal activities.	Facilities and Groups; Youth	Long Term	The search for a flat area within easy reach of the village continues. Discussions with the landowner regarding the bottom of Dogberry Field continue as well as the possible improvement of Pool Piece. A feasibility study is being considered for the culverting of part of the Pool Piece brook.
30. Ensure that the progress of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is monitored to ensure that it does not falter again.	Community Safety	Continuing	Scheme revived and flourishing with several co-ordinators.
31. Ask the Police to ensure that their presence is noticed in all areas of the Parish.	Community Safety	Continuing	Regular attendance of local police woman – Deborah Huggins and Community Support Officer – Alison Dore at coffee mornings and other meetings.
32. Assess the feasibility of installing a map with Ordnance Survey map grid references and house names located in a central location, e.g. the Memorial Hall, so that all residents can find out their own grid reference.	Community Safety	Short Term	Large scale map already exists from which grid references can be read.
33. Provide a large map of the Parish with house names, in a location where it can be easily referenced.	Communications	Long Term	Map showing house names no longer felt appropriate for security reasons.
34. Consider the possibility of a map showing all houses in the village to be made available to on call doctors and emergency services.	Health	Short Term	Emergency services generally have satellite navigation systems to direct them to the correct postcode. Improved village signing (eg. The Swallow).

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<p>35. Expand the Parish Website to include a section dedicated to the Memorial Hall with information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular events, with host name and contact details • meeting agendas • meeting minutes • can you help/volunteers required... (requests section). 	Communications	Immediate/Continuing	Website set up and delivering this information. The Website has recently been vastly improved (2011).
<p>36. Expand the Parish Website to include a section dedicated to the Parish Council with information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notices / information / your views • meeting agendas • meeting minutes • links to other Government bodies/representatives 	Communications	Immediate/Continuing	Website set up and delivering this information. The Website has recently been vastly improved (2011).
<p>37. Facilitate direct email communication through the creation and maintenance of email addresses for the Parish Council and Memorial Hall Committee, rather than using individual member emails.</p>	Communications	Immediate	The Memorial Hall has its own own email address: whmhall@hotmail.co.uk The Parish Council can be contacted by way of the clerk: marym.abarnett@btinternet.com
<p>38. File hard copies of Parish Council and Hall Committee meeting minutes in a Ring Bind Folder, to be accessible in the Hall.</p>	Communications	Immediate	Binder available and regularly updated. – arrangements to view to be made to the Parish Clerk, Mary Barnett.
<p>39. Provide a further large ‘Events’ notice board outside the Memorial Hall to enable the clear display of all regular and one-off events.</p>	Communications	Long Term	A larger notice board has been installed which provides for a lockable section for the parish council.

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40. Ensure that Newsletter includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quarterly events diary (and is distributed two weeks before beginning of quarter) • contact information for regular and one-off events and/or details such as whether pre-booking or membership is required; • expanded information on Council and Hall meetings to be informative and clarify their 'welcome to all' style. 	Communications	Continuing	Newsletter generally meets these objectives.
41. Use "Village News" to highlight key issues discussed at Parish Council Meetings and Hall meetings, with a reminder that copies can be found in the Memorial Hall and on the website.	Communications	Continuing	Village News now expanded to cover PC and all other meetings available to residents.
42. Consider a notice board inside the Hall, or some other sort of directory, to publicise services provided by parish businesses which might be useful to residents.	Businesses	Short Term	A large notice board exists and already displays local businesses.
43. Talk to Herefordshire Council to discuss reasons why Ledbury and not Bosbury is the catchment primary school for Wellington Heath.	Education	Short Term	The allocation of Ledbury as the catchment primary school for Wellington Heath is historic and had regard to the physical capacity in local schools at the time, not necessarily distance from the village. However it is the current policy of HC to provide parents with a choice of 2 primary schools (in order of preference) in the locality at the time of first admission.
44. Ask the Memorial Hall Committee to look into ways of improving Memorial Hall provision for the hearing impaired.	Health	Short Term	Hearing loop installed and recently improved.
45. Talk to the Primary Care Trust about the feasibility of occasional local health clinics.	Health	Immediate	Bus service available. Once in Ledbury mobility aspects can be taken care of. Delivery of prescriptions can be arranged and hearing/sight tests are available at home. "Age Concern" booklet lists all services available. "British Red Cross" looking into the provision of "community wardens".
46. Contact Herefordshire Council to see if any help is available to transport less able residents into Ledbury for shopping or medical appointments.	Health	Immediate	Much improved bus service now exists.