

INTRODUCTION

Shepton Beauchamp Parish Plan

This Parish Plan represents a completely new approach to planning.

Our mission has been to enable everyone within our community of Shepton Beauchamp to have a say on how our Parish should develop, and to produce a Parish Plan from these views which seeks to preserve, enhance and develop the Parish, aiming for a better quality of life for all.

The first stage was the well attended village meetings and the Parish Plan Tea Party. Over 200 of us came and provided the leads needed to put together the village Questionnaire.

The second stage was the questionnaire itself, which went to every household. The response rate of 75% was extraordinary. A booklet was then distributed to every household which summarised the questionnaire findings, and the full results were made available on a website (xposition.co.uk/parishplan). The results were also presented to over a hundred of us at the fun 'Bingo' sessions.

The third stage was the creation of several 'Action Groups' to come up with specific plans for different areas of interest.

This booklet represents the fourth and final stage - the pulling together of all that you have told us to create our 'Parish Plan', for adoption by the Parish Council and presentation to external bodies for future funding etc.

It is very clear that we all feel Shepton Beauchamp has a great deal going for it and our overriding wish is to preserve what we have. There are areas where important improvements can be made, but overall we do not want to see significant change.

Suggested extra wording.....on page opposite introduction

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

In this booklet, you will find our plans for each of eight areas of interest:

- Leisure, education and culture
- Communications
- Community safety
- Health and age concerns
- Transport and traffic
- Housing
- Youth activities
- Local environment

We set out the objectives, actions and timescales for each of these areas, based on the consultations with everyone in our Community and the work done by the various Action Groups. We believe this Plan reflects the needs and wishes of our Community and will help us all to preserve all that is good in Shepton Beauchamp and provide a blueprint for future developments.

The Parish Plan Steering Group

(list of our names as in results booklet back page should be somewhere in this publication, possibly inside back page – not to draw attention to ourselves, but to give ownership)

LEISURE, EDUCATION and CULTURE

Picture.....various such as people at events etc.

CONSULTATION RESULTS

“Retain Shepton’s special character”

“Without the post office, village life would suffer”

“I always use the local shops when I can”

“What I like most about Shepton is the pub”

“We need a suitable sports hall”

“The village hall is over-used”

- The Parish Plan questionnaire showed that, with the exception of people who have always lived here, there is no over-riding reason why people came to live in Shepton Beauchamp, which illustrates the many attractions of our village.
- The shops and pub are all well supported. Over a third of the population visit the Post Office/village store on a daily basis
- 90% feel the village school and playgroup are very important to the community
- 1 in 3 people already belong to one of the village clubs and there is considerable interest also for other groups and events to be set up
- 45% believe the current sports and leisure facilities are inadequate
- 39% of the village think there is a need for adult education, preferably in the evening.
- The village hall is fully utilised and has no room for new classes. It is unsuitable for sports activities.

OBJECTIVES

- To maintain the existing facilities in the village and retain the culture of the village by promoting local groups and by creating awareness of what is already here.
- To provide people with space to perform additional activities.

- To promote the MUGA (multi use games area) and the existing sports groups in the village and set up new clubs such as tennis and basketball
- To determine the feasibility of building a new sports facility and function room, with adequate parking facilities at an approved location within the village. This sports facility would complement the existing village hall situated in the heart of the village
- To develop more sports, leisure and educational activities and support local businesses within the village by organizing events such as:
 - an annual Village Event such as a fun run/street party/barn dance
 - a quarterly Village Produce and Craft Markets
 - a Village Festival, once every two years, with events to encompass all the village clubs and societies, shops, pub, school and playgroup.
 - an annual Bonfire Party
 - Bingo evenings and theatre trips
 - short educational courses such as flower arranging, computing, cake decorating, health and fitness and yoga (subjects from questionnaire results)
 - children's/youth discos

QUICK WINS

As a result of what you told us, we have already:

- Installed new lighting at the recreation field
- Installed a new pathway at the recreation field.
- Put on a Shepton Bonfire Party (November 2004)
- Held a Shepton Christmas Produce and Craft Market (December 2004)

ACTION PLAN

- Liaise with the Local Educational Authority and identify and contact tutors to run short-term courses from September 2005
- Determine interest for a Fun Run Summer 2005
- Contact the Parish Council and local councils to determine the feasibility of and location for a BMX track and skateboard park
- Liaise with the Lethbridge Trust with regard to setting up new sports groups and facilities at the recreation field.
- Set up a committee to oversee the funds and fund allocation of monies raised from all events. Local groups could apply to this committee for grants for specific needs. Money could also go towards the cost of the proposed new building at the recreation field
- Contact producers and organize the quarterly markets
- Contact village groups and societies about participation in a Village Festival Summer 2006 and contact external bodies for funding

TIMESCALES

Action	Timescale
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact LEA and prospective tutors	June 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine interest for a Fun Run in August 2005	May 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan for new sports groups and events such as Bingo, produce markets, Bonfire Party	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact local groups and funding bodies about a Village Festival in Summer 2006	September 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate the possibility of constructing a new sports facility in the parish within the next 10 years	December 2005

COMMUNICATIONS

Picture???

CONSULTATION RESULTS

Need quotes.....

- Most people in the village (64%) feel reasonably well informed about what is going on in Shepton.
- Shepton Stores window (36%), word of mouth (23%), and The Web magazine (20%) are the most useful sources of information
- 15% of residents however, feel badly informed
- 69% of people support the idea of a Shepton Beauchamp newsletter
- 54% of residents have access to the Internet at home, and an email address
- 48% of residents want a Shepton website, whilst 22% do not
- 38% of residents would like to be made aware of local activities by email, and 60 residents volunteered their email addresses

OBJECTIVES

- To further improve communication within the village.
- To retain traditional methods (paper through letterboxes), whilst introducing the use of internet/email.

QUICK WINS

As a result, we have already:

- Bought a banner for publicising village events
- Introduced a Shepton newsletter
- Issued the first local directory/what's on guide

ACTION PLAN

- Publish a Shepton newsletter, (up to 4 sides of A4), with 1 or 2 issues each year. In part a report by the Parish Council on their management of village affairs, the newsletter would seek to celebrate achievements, identify and discuss problems and describe plans. Presentation and appearance will be important.

- Publish a local directory/what's on guide, (single A4 folded sheet), issued once a year. Designed to be 'pinned up' at home, this would include lists of emergency phone numbers (police, schools, doctors, dentists, water, electricity etc.) and other useful information such as recycling centres, shop opening hours etc. together with the dates of major village events during the year
- Establish a village email database, starting with the addresses volunteered in the returned Parish Plan questionnaires. Devise an on-going means of recruiting others. A database comprising the officers/committee members etc of the Parish Council, village societies, clubs and organisations (The 'Shepton Stars') would also be established as a primary contact group within the village
- Develop the role and content of the Shepton website. The Parish Council minutes and agenda are already included. Success will come when relevant villagers add more content, for example fixture lists, results, reports and photos of village events etc.
- Form a communications volunteer group to undertake this Action Plan.
- Find a sustainable means of funding the action plan.

TIMESCALES

Action	Timescale
• Publish a Shepton Newsletter	Ongoing/once or twice a year
• Publish a Local Directory	Annually/January
• Establish the village email database	February 2005
• Develop the role of the Shepton Website	Ongoing 2005
• Form a volunteer group to undertake the work	March 2005
• Agree a sustainable funding plan	Ongoing 2005

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Picture of NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH sign

CONSULTATION RESULTS

‘Re-introduce the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme’

‘We never see a policeman – we need more police visits’

- 7 out of 10 people think police coverage in Shepton Beauchamp is poor
- 27% of people are worried by theft within the village, 18% are worried about vandalism and 13% are concerned about car crime
- 36% say their home is within a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, but surprisingly 45% didn’t know whether their home was covered
- 1 in 5 people already belong to a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and a further 45% would like to do so

OBJECTIVES

- To improve community safety within the Parish.

ACTION PLAN

- Rejuvenate Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, to improve community safety and community spirit.
- Publicise ‘local bobby’s’ details and timetable for ‘Bobby Van’ visits, to establish a local police contact due to the lack of frequent patrols within the Parish.

TIMESCALES

Action	Timescale
• Reactivate Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	June 2005
• Publish list of police contacts	April 2005

HEALTH and AGE CONCERNS

Picture of? We agreed Buttle Close at our last meeting, who has a photo?

CONSULTATION RESULTS

Need quotes.....

- 30% of the population is over the age of 60
- 26 people in the village are informal carers
- 61 people in the village find pavements and crossings difficult
- 49 people have health issues that affect their daily life

OBJECTIVES

- To determine the feasibility of a local health surgery in the village
- To have prescription collection for local surgeries
- To encourage better interaction between the different ages in the village
- To adopt a good neighbour scheme
- To look at more effective transport
- To investigate the feasibility of sharing the Buttle Close laundry facilities

QUICK WINS

- The playgroup performed its Christmas play at Buttle Close (December 2004)
- The Community room recently hosted a Christening party

ACTION PLAN

- Liaise with Buttle Close and local doctors to determine the feasibility of holding a local surgery in the community room
- Ensure the continuation of prescription collection from the chemist in South Petherton and set up the same for Ilminster surgeries/chemists
- Liaise with all groups in the village (including the playgroup and school) to look at better interaction with Buttle Close residents and at the use of facilities. The residents are keen to host local groups.

- Contact other parishes to determine the feasibility of a introducing a good neighbour scheme
- Look long term at issues such as support for carers
- Look at issues affecting those with health concerns and consider the need for long term supports, such as laundry and bus services

TIMESCALES

Action	Timescale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of local surgery within the next two years 	December 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact local doctors and chemists about prescription collection service, organise rota of volunteers 	April 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact local groups to look at greater interaction with Buttle Close 	June 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a working group to look at good neighbour schemes 	September 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at issues for carers and those with health issues 	Ongoing

TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC

Picture of 30mph sign

CONSULTATION RESULTS

About Traffic Calming and Safety

“Let’s reduce traffic congestion with more off-road parking”

“Speeding cars are dangerous”

“Don’t do anything like the system in Merriott”

- The car is the main mode of transport for 84% of people, although 1 in 10 households do not have a car
- 54% of people think the roads in Shepton Beauchamp are poor
- 71% of car owners park their cars in their own driveways or garage with only 22% parking on the road
- 1 in 5 people have the occasional parking problem
- 32% of residents welcome the idea of more off road parking
- A 20mph speed limit through the village is popular with 1 in 5
- Whilst 53% of people think the pavements are reasonable, 40% think they are poor
- 36% of residents would support a ‘walking bus scheme’ to the school.

About Public Transport

“I don’t know enough about the bus services”

“...you might be able to get to places....coming back is another matter!”

- Only 1 person in 6 ever uses the bus
- Only 5 people rely on it for everyday use
- Only 3.5% of people rated the bus routes as being good.
- Only 2% of people thought that the frequency of the buses was good with only 6% thinking the service reliable.

OBJECTIVES

- To influence Somerset County Council Highway Departments to maintain roads more effectively.
- To lobby Somerset County Council Highway Departments to install appropriate traffic calming measures within Shepton Beauchamp.
- To reduce traffic congestion within the village especially at peak times by providing teachers with off road parking facilities and encouraging the use of the 'Walking Bus Scheme' to the Primary School.
- To continue to lobby Somerset County Council for improvements to pavements, structure and surface maintenance with additional pavement facilities to be provided in Lambrook Road.
- To publicise current public transport availability and to lobby private and public bodies for the improvement of frequency and destination choice to and from the village.
- To lobby South Somerset District Council, Area North's Planning Department and Somerset County Council to apply a planning condition for road improvements and a reduced speed limit to the Shepton Beauchamp link road.

ACTION PLAN

- Set up a standalone traffic and roads committee, to enhance Parish Council awareness of relevant issues and to gather information and take forward improvement initiatives.
- Introduce and advertise an updated bus timetable specific to Shepton Beauchamp, to make the parish more aware of the bus availability to encourage their greater use and to improve service.
- Carry out annual 'pavement survey', to obtain an accurate measure of condition of pavements to amplify requests from Parish Council for repairs.
- Carry out and publicise traffic flow and speed survey around school area, to obtain evidence to support reduction in speed limit from school to Shambles.
- Set up walking bus scheme to Primary school, to create a safe and environmentally friendly way of reducing traffic congestion.
- Submit formal letter to SCC Highways and SSDC planning office to insist on S106 agreements with regards to speed restrictions and road improvements on link road to be attached to any further expansion of Branstons. Improvements to be encouraged in stand-alone capacity also to ensure that the flow of traffic to and from the village is managed in a safer manner with road speed having been reduced.

- Create off road parking for school teachers, to improve traffic congestion at peak times around the school area.
- Implement informal speed signage, to raise people's awareness of their speed.

TIMESCALES

Action	Timescale
• Introduce traffic and roads committee	June 2005
• Publish Shepton Beauchamp bus timetable	Annually/4 th quarter
• Establish pavement survey	Annually/November
• Carry out traffic flow survey	November 2005
• Set up Walking Bus Scheme committee	September 2005
• Submit formal letter to SSDC/SCC regarding speed restrictions and improvements to link road	2005/on going
• Create off road parking	September 2005
• Implement informal speed signage	March 2006

HOUSING

Picture of Shepton – suggest with back to pub looking towards school and church (village feel/old cottages etc)

CONSULTATION RESULTS

“Too many houses would cause the village to lose its special feel”

“The village has grown enormously over the past 15 years – it’s big enough”

“Young people can’t afford to stay in the village”

“Wouldn’t mind limited development provided the village infrastructure can take it”

- **Our consultation was in two stages** - the Parish Plan questionnaire, which asked general questions on housing and a Housing Needs Survey undertaken by the Community Council for Somerset, which was designed to identify the need for affordable housing in the village.
- **We know from the 244 completed Parish Plan questionnaires that:**
 - People do not want much more building in the village
 - 80% of villagers own their own homes
 - 50% of the population has lived here more than 10 years
 - 25% of the population has lived here all their lives
 - Whilst 39% of people definitely do not want any more houses to be built, 47% would welcome some *limited* development with an emphasis on accommodation for young people and small family homes
- In addition:
 - Many villagers (57%) would like mains gas to be available
 - 39% would be interested in a bulk purchase scheme for oil
 - 25 homes suffer occasionally from flooding
- **From the 131 completed Housing Needs Surveys, we found that:**
 - The population of Shepton Beauchamp is more aged than the average for South Somerset
 - The majority of housing is suitable for families and there is a good stock of smaller homes, but affordability is clearly a major factor. 86% said they would be in favour of additional

affordable housing being provided within the parish for local people.

- In relation to many of Somerset's villages, the proportion of rented accommodation is relatively high
- There is a small need for affordable housing of about two units

The full Housing Needs Survey report, issued September 2004, states that some of those who completed the "housing need" section of the survey should be able to resolve their housing needs on the open market. Whilst a small need for affordable housing was identified, there is not sufficient need, on a parish basis, to justify a new-build development of social rented/shared ownership accommodation. It should be remembered that the Housing Needs Survey represents a snapshot in time and should be reviewed from time to time.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that Shepton Beauchamp does not get any bigger
- To influence future development so that any building is sympathetic in style and materials
- To balance the needs of further housing with the village infrastructure
- To keep abreast of future needs for affordable housing

ACTION PLAN

- Produce and publish a Village Design Statement that adopts a policy towards new housing in line with the views expressed by parishioners that there should be no substantial development in the Parish. The Design Statement should also give guidelines on conservation and on style and materials that developers, landlords and landowners should follow
- Examine current housing and planning policies to ensure these reflect villagers' views
- Conduct a Housing Needs Survey every five years to ensure needs are regularly monitored
- Initiate a survey of young people (18 – 25 years old) to ascertain future housing needs
- Consult with gas suppliers about bringing gas to the village
- A bulk purchase scheme for oil already exists, no action needed
- Monitor the measures that have been taken to address flooding in the village, to ensure enough has been done

The Parish Council will undertake these activities.

TIMESCALES

Action

Timescale

• Produce Village Design statement	December 2005
• Examine current housing/planning policies	June 2005
• Conduct Housing Needs Survey	Every 5 years
• Conduct survey of young people's housing needs	January 2006
• Consult with gas suppliers	July 2005
• Monitor flooding	Ongoing

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Picture??????????????

CONSULTATION

Quotes needed.....

Our consultation was in two stages - in addition to the Parish Plan questionnaire, which went to every household, a separate youth questionnaire was given to all the young people of the village. The Parish Plan questionnaire shows that:

- More activities are needed for the youth of the village
- An astounding 86 people want a mountain bike/BMX track in the village
- 43 people would like to have a skateboard park located in the village.

The youth questionnaire highlighted:

- An urgent need for somewhere that young people could meet with their friends on a regular basis

As a result, January 2004 saw the inauguration of our own Youth Group (The Drop In Centre), which meets on Tuesday evenings at the old Pavilion at the recreation field.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a range of youth activities to meet the needs of our young people
- To investigate the feasibility of building a BMX track and a skateboard park at suitable locations in the village.
- To further promote the Youth Group and encourage new members
- To encourage more volunteers to assist in the running of the Youth Group
- To improve the facilities and provide more equipment for the children of the community

QUICK WINS

- January 2004 saw the inauguration of our own Youth Group (The Drop In Centre), which meets on Tuesday evenings at the old Pavilion at the recreation field.
- The children of the village rallied together and enthusiastically helped to clean and paint the building themselves
- Residents donated money (£378) and equipment for use at the premises
- 53 children now attend regularly
- The club is self-financing club. In addition, the Youth Group has raised a further £334 throughout the year.

ACTION PLAN

- Investigate with local authorities the feasibility of building a BMX track and a skateboard park at suitable locations in the village.
- Publicise activities, promote the Youth Group and encourage new members
- Recruit more volunteers to assist in the running of the Youth Group
- Organise a Youth Dance/Disco and other activities.
- Endeavour to improve the facilities and provide more equipment for the children of the community in their meeting place

TIMESCALES

Action	Timescales
• Investigate feasibility of BMX track and skateboard park	Spring 2006
• Organise Youth Disco and other activities	Ongoing
• Promote the Youth Group, encourage new members and more volunteers	Ongoing
• Improve facilities and provide additional equipment and better facilities	Ongoing

The countryside ;V Environment

Consultation results:

Encouraging and preserving wildlife.

We found from the results that 60%, that is 3 out of 5 people felt that more could be done to encourage and preserve wildlife.

We need a group to tackle local issues;"

How often do you use the footpaths?

28% of people use the footpaths on a daily basis; a further 20% use them weekly, and said they need to be more accesible.

Make footpaths easier for the elderly;"

Creating bridle paths around Shepton Beauchamp.

Nearly half of the village (48%) think that creating bridle paths is a good idea.

Keep the green belt round our village;"

The countryside ;V Environment

Objectives:

Encouraging and preserving wildlife.

Turn whats known as the water field into a nature reserve. We will have guidance from South Somerset District council; s conservation team and the Somerset Wildlife trust. To use as many traditional land management skills as possible, to enhance any natural habitats that already exist.

It will also provide a quiet space for people.

Produce a draft plan of the reserve and ask the village for thoughts and ideas to be implemented into the final plan.

We also want to create a sensory and educational garden that the playgroup could use as well as children whith dissabilities and special needs.

How often do you use the footpaths?

To assist the local council in maintaining footpaths for accessibility and preservation.

Establish regular contact with local councils regarding the footpaths condition. This will allow maintenance to be carried out when required.

The countryside - Environment

Objectives:

Creating bridle paths around Shepton Beauchamp.

Aim to explore ways of creating bridle paths for the future of the village.

Other areas:

To introduce planting at the Shepton Beauchamp name signs.

To invite guest speakers to give presentations for education on how to become actively involved in our environment.

To promote the Environment group to encourage volunteers.

Aim to involve all other groups and organisations within the village.
