

PARISH PLAN

NEWSLETTER FOR HEREFORDSHIRE



FROM COMMUNITY FIRST

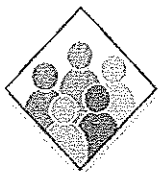


The Community Planning team at Community First would like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year! And what a new Year it's going to be. Already two newly formed Parish Plan steering groups one in Dorstone and the other in Ashperton have set dates in January to launch the beginning of their Parish Plan process, these events will offer an opportunity to find out what it's all about, how the steering groups will be taking things forward, how long the process is likely to take and how the community as a whole can be involved. What a great way to start the New Year by discussing ideas for your community!

Our Newsletter this time has no particular theme, instead it is full of articles about things that have been happening across the County with Parish Plan groups and other projects, so why not put your feet up with a cup of coffee and a mince pie, forget about the Christmas shopping, and enjoy.

Pauline Striplin

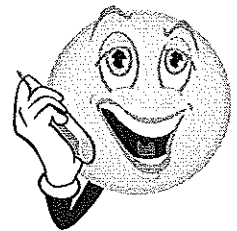
Development Officer - Parish Planning



Community First
Building better communities

Do we need to talk?

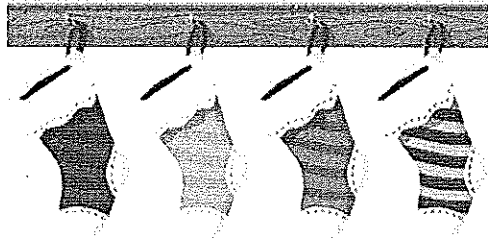
In the ever increasing world of e-mails and text messaging, it is good to know that Parish Plan groups across the county still like to talk to one another.



The recently formed Dorstone steering group wanted to hear first hand what it had been like for neighbouring Peterchurch to put together their Parish Plan. They invited Brendan Treanor, who led the Peterchurch Parish Plan Steering Group between 2003 and 2005 to speak to the group. Brendan talked about some of the ways in which Peterchurch had worked on their Parish Plan. There was lots of interest and questions to Brendan and everyone agreed that it had been really useful. Brendan gave an excellent example of one of the ways Peterchurch tried to involve as many people as possible in their community consultation. Once the group had begun to identify major areas of interest and concern within their community they ran a number of key meetings to discuss these topics. At each meeting there was an 'expert speaker' to lead the discussion, usually a service provider. Seven of these meetings were held over a 12 month period and were well attended, especially those that were concerned with planning and children's issues. This is a good example of a group 'thinking outside the box' and looking at how best to get their community actively involved in the Parish Plan process. On a very positive note, Brendan also told the group that Peterchurch had achieved almost all of the actions that were set out in their Parish Plan – so well done to them!

Here is a list of Parishes who are currently working on producing a Parish/Town Plan

Ashperton
 Bartestree & Lugwardine
 Bromyard Town
 Clifford
 Dormington and Mordiford
 Dorstone
 Kingstone/Thurxton
 Ledbury Town
 Llangrove Village Voice
 Longtown Group
 Putley
 Ross-on-Wye Town
 Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group
 Wyeside Group



Village Wardens Herefordshire British Red Cross

On the 31st October the British Red Cross held a showcase event for the Village Warden scheme in Herefordshire. This was an opportunity to hear and learn about the scheme and how successful it has been so far. While some people feel that they can call on their neighbours in a crisis others do not, and this is the focus of the Village Warden scheme. Its uniqueness is that the Village Wardens live in the community they work in. The wardens work with older people in their own communities by helping them in a variety of ways, this can be from running errands, popping in for a cup of tea and a chat, helping to visit friends, attend medical appointments and encourage involvement in local activities. Information was taken from several completed Herefordshire Parish Plans that matched criteria set by the British Red Cross identifying a need for this type of service for older people and the pilot rolled out in these areas.

The scheme has so far been an outstanding success benefiting those in most need within areas where Village Wardens now operate. It is also very encouraging to know that Parish Plans helped provide an evidence of need. It is hoped that this scheme will not only continue once the initial pilot period is over, but will also be extended further a field. If you are interested in finding out more about it, please contact 01432 272522

Dormington and Mordiford get into Action Mode

60 residents packed into Mordiford Primary School Hall for a public meeting to discuss the Dormington and Mordiford Parish Plan. Parish Council Chairman Barry Durkin gave the meeting an update on the Parish Plan and invited attendees to get involved in the next steps. A lively debate ensued about a range of local issues including; speeding, public transport, footpaths, play areas and recycling. Barry Durkin commented that "It was really heartening to have so many local residents turning out for an evening meeting and wanting to contribute." Chris Gooding, Herefordshire Partnership's Parish Plan Implementation Officer, who attended the meeting as an observer said, "The turn-out was really heartening. It shows that this is healthy and vibrant community, and the local Parish Planning steering group can be proud of the level of interest they have generated. The most successful Parish Plans are those where the steering group are able to recruit local residents to help with specific issues and actions, such as speeding or recycling.

With close on 10% of the population turning out, I feel confident that the parish planning process can have a real impact on this community."

"A Parish Plan can set out a vision for the future of a community. The Action Plan lists what needs to take place"

Tarrington goes Live!

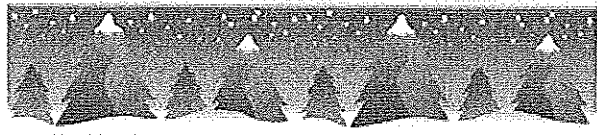
The Tarrington Parish Plan was launched to the community on September 29th 2007 in the Lady Emily Community Hall. There was a good attendance to see the displays and talk with the steering committee members about the proposed actions that have been identified in the Plan. A great deal of interest was expressed in the traffic and transport section as was interest in the planning issues raised.

Work on the Tarrington Parish Plan started in March 2005 and in the last two and a half years the steering committee, ably chaired by Richard Price, has worked hard within the village to produce a realistic action plan for the future. The planning element has been adopted by Herefordshire Council as "Further Planning Guidance", a testament to the detailed consultation carried out across the community. This adoption will enable the Parish Council and the local community to draw to the attention of the local Planning Authority and others to its context whenever it is pertinent to planning decisions within Tarrington Parish.

The launch marks not the end of a process but the beginning of the most important part of this project. The challenge now is to implement the actions, working through the Parish Council and other outside agencies where necessary. Volunteers are now being sought to carry this forward - exciting times indeed!

Anthony Bush
Parish Liaison Officer
Herefordshire Council

Why do a Parish Plan?
A Parish Plan can be useful in identifying and planning action that the local community can undertake itself, such as: producing a community newsletter, or carrying out environmental improvements.



GRANTS!

BBC Breathing Places:

Grassroots organisations across the West Midlands can muck in and transform their local spaces as the Big Lottery Fund announces £5 million worth of green grants available across the UK for the BBC-led Breathing Places campaign. Information about this scheme can be found at:
www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces

Sport Relief—apply today for £2,000!

Sport relief aims to fund work which uses sport and exercise to strengthen communities and provide opportunities for people who are excluded or disadvantaged. This may be through low income, rural or social isolation, age disability, race, sexuality or gender. If you want to use sport as a way to create community spirit this grant could be for you. For advice and further information about the fund, contact: Jo Shayler at Community First on 01684 312757 joannes@comfirst.org.uk

Parish and Community Plan Grant:

This fund is to assist the development and production of a Parish or Community Plan. The maximum grant is £1,500 or 75% of the total cost, whichever is the lesser. For details contact the Delegated Grants and Programmes Team at Herefordshire Council on: **01432 260753**

Green sky thinking:

The guardian and guardian unlimited have teamed up with UnLtd—the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs, to give awards totaling around £100,000 to individuals who want to run innovative environmental projects in their local communities or on a larger scale. To find out more check out:
www.guardian.co.uk/environment/greenlivingawards

What the Parishes are telling us.

Forty Herefordshire communities have now completed parish plans and another 12 are currently under way. This represents over a third of all parishes across the county, with most of the take-up being in the more rural areas. An average of 50% of the local population complete and return their parish plan questionnaires which is an indication of the enthusiasm that parishioners have for this very local form of consultation.

The Herefordshire Partnership team have spent the last year collating all of the 1,500 action points generated by the 40 parish plans to identify themes which they can bring to the attention of the major service providers across Herefordshire. Some of the emerging themes will probably come as no surprise – affordable housing, security and safety, the needs of young people, the environment, transport - all of these feature prominently. But the most common theme has surprised many – it is the issue of community space and facilities. In the more sparsely populated parts of the county the absence of pavement, public open spaces, recreational and cultural facilities, shops, community buildings and activities combine to generate a sense of isolation and frustration, especially for the young, elderly and those on low income.

Armed with this evidence, the Herefordshire Partnership team are currently talking to statutory and voluntary organisations about the implications for future service provision across the county.

Chris Gooding
Parish Plans Implementation Officer
Herefordshire Partnership

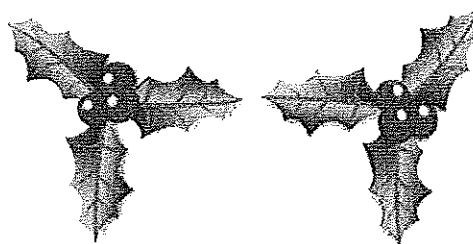
A Helping Hand for Parish Plan Steering Groups

A brand new guidance pack is now available for communities who want to develop a Parish or Community Plan. The full-colour, easy-to-follow Guide, produced by the

Herefordshire Partnership, shows how local people can put a plan together and ensure it will make a difference. Starting with advice on how to form and fund a working group, it plots a course through public meetings, various methods of ensuring every member of the community can have their say, and using the feedback to draw up an effective Action Plan.

Lorna Pearcey who co-ordinated putting the guidance pack together said that "Whilst putting a Community Plan together can be very rewarding, it can also be daunting for the uninitiated, the guidance pack aims to demystify the process by breaking it down into jargon-free, manageable steps, with back-up contact details for experts at every stage."

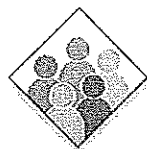
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(01432 267820)



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