

EAST JOINT COMMITTEE**17 JUNE 2008**

Subject: Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan
Lead Officer: Karen Johnstone
Contact on 01789 260332
**Lead Member/
 Portfolio Holder:** Stratford District Councillor S Beese

Summary

This report sets out the assessment of the Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan. Bishop's Itchington Parish Council adopted the Plan on 3 March 2008.

Recommendation

- (1) That the Parish Plan is adopted as a local information source to offer advice to the relevant departments of Stratford District Council.**
 - (2) That the Parish Plan is adopted as a material consideration in processing planning applications, in accordance with Policy COM.1 of the Local Plan Review.**
 - (3) That the Parish Plan steering group, Parish Council and the residents of Bishop's Itchington Parish be commended for preparing their Parish Plan and that they are encouraged to implement and review their Action Plan.**
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1 Background/Information

- 1.1 Parish Plans are community-led projects identifying and surveying the assets, needs, opportunities, problems and solutions of a community. Through 'capacity' and 'consensus building', Parish Plans provide communities with a framework to take stock of the present and to plan for the future.
 - 1.2 The momentum for Parish Plans is continually increasing, with many of the communities in the district having completed or in the process of undertaking detailed Parish Plans or Appraisals with associated recommendations and Action Plans. Further background information on the process is included in Appendix B.
 - 1.3 **Background to the submitted Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan**
 - 1.3.1 In October 2005 the Parish Council organised a public open meeting to launch the Parish Plan, and a Parish Plan Steering Group was formed as a result. The Plan was funded by a community grant from the Dasset Area Community Committee of Stratford District Council, funding from
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the Parish Council, and contributions in kind from many volunteers. Throughout the process 'Scene' (the village magazine delivered free to every household), public events, and posters in local clubs and pubs, were used to advertise events and report back on progress.

- 1.3.2 A series of focus groups were held with various organisations and age groups within Bishop's Itchington. Once the issues from each of the groups were known, this information was used to devise separate sets of questionnaire for adults, young people, and children. The Steering Group employed an independent company to formulate the questionnaires and analyse the results. In July 2006, the questionnaires were delivered to each household (approximately 900) in the parish. 376 households completed the questionnaire, giving a response rate of almost 42% which is statistically sound. Prima Services analysed the results and produced a full report which is available on the Bishop's Itchington Parish website. The initial findings were presented at a well-attended Open Meeting where local residents endorsed the findings.
- 1.3.3 The steering group drafted the Parish Plan and Action Plan informed by the findings, and consulted main partners involved in actioning the Plan. A further Open Meeting was held to obtain residents' approval, and minor modifications to the action plan were made as a result.
- 1.3.4 The Parish Council adopted the Parish Plan 3 March 2008 and will oversee its implementation. The Parish Council is due to hold a special meeting to agree how the actions will be taken forward; it is likely that small working parties will be formed to taken forward different aspects and report back to the Parish Council on a regular basis. Some of the actions have already been completed or partially completed.

1.4 **Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan findings**

- 1.4.1 The findings of the Parish Plan, which have informed the Action Plan, cover:
 - The Environment
 - Planning and Housing
 - Transport and Highways
 - Village Amenities
 - Education and Training.

The Parish Plan has been prepared employing a range of community participation techniques including questionnaire surveys, public forums and a transparent process of reporting back to the community on progress. The process has generated a range of statistical and qualitative data that has informed the Action Plan and is a useful information source.

- 1.4.2 Suggested response: Endorse – that the findings of the Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan be endorsed as a true representation of the topics addressed by the Parish Plan questionnaire.

1.5 **Bishop's Itchington Action Plan**

- 1.5.1 Analysis and responses to the Action Plan are provided in Appendix C, and the following analysis and comments should be read in conjunction with the Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan Action Plan.

- 1.5.2 The policy position of the Local Plan Review is supportive of the Action Plan points relating to planning, the environment and land use. Many of the actions identified can be undertaken entirely by the village itself. Stratford District Council can offer advice and support in undertaking some actions, and offer help in locating funding. Progress has already been made in taking forward actions. Stratford District Council Housing Team and Warwickshire Rural Community Council welcome the action proposing ongoing work on local housing needs and can provide help in this area.
- 1.5.3 In addition to the action to provide PC and internet access, the Parish Council is encouraged to consider further actions that could meet the identified need for young people's facilities.

2 Options available to the Committee

- 2.1 A) Adopt the Parish Plan fully: This is a good, well-prepared Parish Plan that would be a valuable local information source and material consideration.
- 2.2 B) Adopt parts of the Parish Plan: If there are any concerns with certain aspects of the Parish Plan, this option would allow Stratford District Council to use selected aspects of the Plan in its decision making and as a local information source. No reasons have so far been identified to make this option necessary.
- 2.3 C) Not adopt the Parish Plan: Stratford District Council would miss the opportunity to adopt a useful source of local information, and a material consideration to aid planning decision-making.

3 Members' Comments

- 3.1 Stratford District Council Ward Member Cllr Patrick gave the following comment: "The people of Bishop's Itchington are to be congratulated on their hard work in producing a fine, robust Parish Plan, which I hope the Area Committee will be happy to endorse."

4 Implications of the proposal

4.1 *Legal/Human Rights Implications*

- 4.1.1 If adopted, the Parish Plan will become a material consideration to be taken into account when determining planning applications. The Plan does not conflict with Stratford District Council's policies.

4.2 *Financial*

- 4.2.1 Projects developed through this Parish Plan may need funding to take them forward and the recommendations contained in this report should be contained within existing budgets. Stratford District Council operates a Community Grants Scheme aimed at funding these types of projects, and the Community Grants team may be able to help search for appropriate funding sources. It is hoped that the Parish Council and local residents will consider and pursue funding in order to develop their identified action points.

4.3 *Environmental*

- 4.3.1 Many of the actions within this Parish Plan aim to increase the sustainability of life within the village by reducing the need to travel to

access activities and services and improving the environment for pedestrians.

4.4 **Corporate Strategy**

4.4.1 The Parish Plan is a useful source of information about local community perception of their locality. The Stratford District Community Plan and Stratford District Council Corporate Strategy support the range of topic areas and policies in the Action Plan. The Parish Plan also complements and helps move forward Stratford District Council's Agenda 21.

4.5 **Equality Impact Assessment**

4.5.1 The consultation for the Plan provided everyone within the community with an opportunity to comment.

5 **Risk assessment**

5.1 The actions recommended within this report are to commend those involved in the preparation of the Parish Plan, adopt the Parish Plan as a local information source and adopt it as a material consideration. There are no identified major risks associated with these actions.

5.2 Choosing to not adopt the Parish Plan would risk losing the chance to adopt a valuable source of local information and a useful material consideration to aid planning decision-making.

6 **Conclusion**

6.1 The Parish Plan Steering Group, the Parish Council and residents of Bishop's Itchington should be commended and congratulated on completing their Parish Plan, and are encouraged by Stratford District Council to implement and periodically review the Action Plan.

6.2 The Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan is a good example of how a community can prepare a Plan that is both a good source of local information and provides a sound basis through the Action Plan to address the needs and aspirations of the community.

Pat Reid

HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

Background papers:

Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan 2008

Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan Survey: Final Report 2006

Stratford District Community Plan; the future to 2015

Stratford-on-Avon Local Plan Review 2006

Stratford-on-Avon District Council draft Corporate Strategy 2008-12

Officers Consulted

Head of Service:02/06 /2008

Appendix A - Guidance for the Assessment of Parish/Town Plans

- 1.1 In assessing Parish Plans, the following considerations should be taken into account:

Evidence and extent of research work to justify conclusions.

Evidence and extent of analysis related to conclusions.

Public involvement and endorsement at local level.

Level of implementation available to Stratford District Council services, (e.g. Stratford District Council Planning Authority, Leisure and Arts etc.).

Conformity with Stratford District Council's policies, (e.g. Planning policies etc.).

- 1.2 The above five criteria will enable the production of recommendations regarding the acceptance of each of the Parish Plan's detailed conclusions and Action Points.

- 1.3 A response to each of the detailed conclusions and Action Points will be one of the following:

(A) ENDORSE

The specific recommendation will be accepted and taken into account on the decision making of Stratford District Council. (For example, "Small scale development with a 'craft' emphasis should be looked at sympathetically").

(B) ACTION

The specific recommendation will be accepted in principle and, subject to financial, procedural and legal constraints, implemented by or with the support of Stratford District Council. (For example, "A social housing scheme of ten units on land next to the Green should be provided").

(C) INVESTIGATE

Further information to be obtained by the Parish/Town Council or other agency may be required in order that Stratford District Council may establish if the specific recommendation can be supported. (For example, "An existing Conservation Area should be extended").

(D) SUPPORT

The specific recommendation relates to a matter which is not the responsibility of Stratford District Council. However, the proposal is supported and will be forwarded to the appropriate authority. (For example, "Traffic calming measures are required and the County Highway Authority should prepare a scheme").

(E) NOT SUPPORTED

The specific recommendation relates to a matter which is in contrary to the policy of Stratford District Council or is beyond the powers of the authority or that insufficient and/or unsatisfactory information has been submitted to substantiate their commendation. (For example, "No development of any kind should take place within the settlement").

Appendix B – Further Background Information

- 2.1. Communities produce Parish Plans for a number of reasons:
 - To increase the awareness of community issues, foster community spirit and encourage a sense of pride;
 - To act as a strong basis for local action (the Action Plan);
 - To collectively represent the views of residents, to positively influence others to the benefit of the community.
- 2.2. In the 1980s the concept and practice of Village Appraisals first emanated nationally from the Rural Development Commission in conjunction with the Countryside Commission.
- 2.3. Nationally, Parish Plans have a role to play within the 'modernising Local Government' agenda, for example, shaping local services, public participation, decision-making and greater democratic legitimacy.
- 2.4. One of the aims within Chapter 12 of the Rural White Paper (Our Countryside: the future – A fair deal for rural England) includes involving people living in rural areas in developing their community, safeguarding its valued features and shaping the decisions that affect them – developing a vision for the future. Parish Plans are a recognised method of achieving this aim.
- 2.5. In line with guidance from the Countryside Agency issued in August 2000 ('Planning tomorrow's countryside', advice to local planning authorities, government and developers on how the planning system should operate and evolve), Parish Plans are a recognised community planning method to help achieve key objectives. In March 2003 the Countryside Agency produced detailed guidance for parish and town councils on the preparation of Parish and Town Plans.
- 2.6. Policy RA3 in the Warwickshire Structure Plan 1996-2011 encourages local planning authorities to use 'Appraisals' when establishing the views of local communities and when identifying local housing and industrial development need.
- 2.7. Stratford District Council is committed to the encouragement of Parish Plans as a means of identifying local issues and will respond to them positively. Much faith has been placed by the Government, the County Council and the District Council on local appraisals and their role in assisting the formulation of strategic policy.
- 2.8. Parish Plans can now play a broader role within the production of the statutory Community Plan for Stratford District.
- 2.9. The recommendations and Action Plans can both inform and help deliver the Rural Strategy for the Stratford-on-Avon District.
- 2.10. Policy COM.1 of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan Review 2006 states:

"The views of the local community as expressed preferably in a Parish Plan (or equivalent) or in its absence an alternative source of reliable evidence, will be fully taken into account in the planning process. In particular they will be used:

 - To help assess the merits of schemes promoted by communities to meet needs which they have identified;

- As a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and to assist in identifying the scope and nature of associated planning obligations which might be sought; and
- To identify opportunities for environmental and other forms of enhancement.

In the case of Main Rural Centres and Local Centre Villages only, as defined in Policy STR1, small scale schemes which meet housing (particularly affordable housing) and employment needs will be encouraged in this way..."

- 2.11. Nationally, Parish Plans are broad, holistic documents addressing local issues at a local level. Whilst in this District 'appraisals' have had a close association with planning, they are no longer 'planning-led'. Parish Plans address both planning and non-planning related matters and this is reflected in their assessment at Committee.
- 2.12. Parish Plans can and do act as a tool to assist in giving many of the services provided by Stratford District Council greater community focus. Vice versa, many of the services provided by Stratford District Council can and do feed into the Parish Plan process creating more informed Action Plans.

Appendix C

Summary of key action points

Abbreviations

SDC= Stratford District Council

WCC= Warwickshire County Council

WRCC= Warwickshire Rural Community Council

Parish Plan action	SDC Proposed Response
Transport and Highways	
Reduction of speed on B4451: request LPA purchase more portable cameras, Present traffic survey results to WCC for action.	Support – the Community Plan seeks to reduce the number of road traffic accidents in the district. BIPC is aware that WCC cannot currently offer financial support.
Weight restrictions: continue discussions with Road Haulage Association to keep BI off the Advisory Lorry Route.	Support – the action to maintain dialogue with the Road Haulage Association can be supported.
Support local groups seeking weight restrictions on B4451 and challenge WCC's opposition to weight restrictions.	Not support – WCC consider that the B4451 is part of the strategic road network and its role is therefore to take traffic including larger vehicles. They will continue to avoid signposting Southam from J12 of the M40 to reduce through traffic.
Children feeling safe: Investigate methods of protecting pedestrians e.g. bollards to prevent curb mounting.	Support – the Community Plan seeks to reduce the number of road traffic accidents in the district.
Improved public transport: promote setting up of an Action Group to investigate the possibilities of improving public transport.	Support and action - Residents may be interested in the Community Links and Volunteer Centre's Medical Journeys schemes which help people with transport needs. SDC is a partner in these schemes and we have supplied BIPC with an article advertising the schemes for inclusion in the parish newsletter. For further information phone Clarissa Roberts on 01789 262886. The Community Plan aims to support individuals by increasing the number of people using tailored transport schemes.
Parking: undertake a review of parking within the village	Support – this action point can be supported.
Crime and Disorder	
Policing levels: work with local constabulary to improve situation particularly at night.	Support – the Community Plan seeks to reduce fear of crime in the district.

Parish Plan action	SDC Proposed Response
Anti-social behaviour: encourage increase in Neighbourhood Watch scheme.	Support – the Community Plan seeks to reduce fear of crime in the district.
Illegal/ inconsiderate parking: encourage residents to park correctly and to report consistent problems to the police.	Support – this action point can be supported.
Housing and Planning	
Provision of adequate housing: ongoing review	Endorse and action - The Parish Council has undertaken a Housing Needs Survey and is working with the Rural Housing Enabler to organise a 'Planning for Real' event to start the process of addressing the need identified. Stratford District Council is keen to support the Parish Council and Rural Housing Enabler in their work. Policy COM.1 of the Stratford District Local Plan allows for the provision of local occupancy housing on the basis of an identified need.
Environment	
Village centre area around British Legion to Memorial Hall: Parish Council to form an action group to address needs for environmental improvements.	Endorse - Policy COM.1 of the District Local Plan seeks to take into account the views of the community as expressed in a Parish Plan to identify opportunities for environmental enhancement. A project to improve the environment of this area would also be supported by Local Plan policies on good design and layout.
Road surfaces and pavements: Parish Council to pressure WCC to take action.	Support – WCC advise that the state of the roads is continually surveyed and monitored and repairs are undertaken as necessary and according to priority order. However, this action point can be supported as it may provide further information to inform authorities when making difficult decisions about how to allocate resources.
Verges, hedgerows, benches: trees to be planted in appropriate areas and additional locations considered for benches.	Support – the Community Plan hopes to preserve an attractive environment in the district.
Dog fouling/litter: Parish Council to promote awareness and ensure sufficient Litter Wardens are employed by Parish	Action and Support – SDC's Dog Warden and Environmental Health team may be able to provide advice and support (phone 01789 260835 to discuss).

Parish Plan action	SDC Proposed Response
Street lighting: Parish Council to undertake detailed survey to assess need for any improvements to street lighting, and review need for lighting throughout the night, while still considering the village environment.	Support – this action can be supported.
Central Focal Point: Parish Council to form an action group to address need for environmental improvements.	Endorse - Policy COM.1 of the District Local Plan seeks to take into account the views of the community as expressed in a Parish Plan to identify opportunities for environmental enhancement. A project to improve the environment of this area would also be supported by Local Plan policies on good design and layout.
<p>Green spaces and footpaths: preserve the valued green spaces/fields and farmlands in and around the village.</p> <p>Changes to village: Parish Council to seek to preserve the existing environment.</p>	<p>Endorse - The Parish Plan and the community views expressed within it will be used as a material consideration when determining planning applications, as laid out in Policy COM.1 of the Local Plan Review.</p> <p>The community could do a project themselves, such as a Village Design Statement, to define what is special about the character of the area. This could be used in determining planning applications, in accordance with Policy PR.1 of the Local Plan Review.</p> <p>Warwickshire Rural Community Council may be able to offer their support if the community decides to produce a Village Design Statement. Such a statement should be prepared with community involvement and address all aspects of the village environment.</p>
Village Amenities	
Insufficient shops: Parish Council to encourage setting up of improved facilities.	Endorse – Local Plan policy COM.3 supports the provision of new shops and services which meet the needs of local communities, within settlements or re-using buildings which are located close to existing residential areas.
Post office, surgery and pharmacy: should be retained.	Endorse – Local Plan policy COM.2 seeks to protect existing shops and services which meet the needs of local communities by applying rigorous criteria to planning applications for the properties' change of use.

Parish Plan action	SDC Proposed Response
Access to shops: WCC to work with retailers to remove steps and provide ramps.	Support – WCC seek to support local businesses and improve access to village facilities. WRCC will be contacting Bishops Itchington Parish Council to discuss opportunities, including possible funding.
Improve surgery with new building.	Endorse - Local Plan policy COM.3 supports the provision of new shops and services which meet the needs of local communities within settlements.
Church building: retain current church building, possibly resourcing through additional uses for the building.	Support – the Community Plan seeks to maximise the use of existing community buildings.
Education and Training	
School: School Governors to work with WEA to retain school.	Endorse – Local Plan policy COM.2 seeks to protect existing shops and services which meet the needs of local communities by applying rigorous criteria to planning applications for the properties' change of use.
School buildings: seek to use building for more uses by village organisations.	Support – the Community Plan seeks to maximise the use of existing community buildings.
Information and Communication	
Permanent Library: Parish Council to investigate opportunities to incorporate internet access and other facilities with the plans to provide a Parish office. Parish Council to also investigate opportunity of partnerships with local businesses.	Support/ Action – The Community Plan aims to increase access to key facilities. The Stratford District Council Community Grants team offer help locating funding, and can advise if these projects may be eligible for the Council's Community Grants scheme.
Employment and Business	
Employment: encourage small businesses as skilled, unskilled and professional jobs required, both full and part time.	Endorse – Local Plan policies support certain forms of employment development within rural areas and village such as Bishop's Itchington including small-scale schemes supported by the community to provide local jobs in accordance with Policy COM.1, and conversion of rural buildings in accordance with Policy CTY.2.
Need for Community Centre: Parish Council to consider use of other buildings within the village or consider building new.	Support and Action – The Community Plan seeks to maximise the use of existing facilities for community use, and support

Parish Plan action	SDC Proposed Response
	<p>development of new facilities where they are needed. The Local Plan Review encourages the provision of new services to meet the needs of the local community.</p> <p>The Stratford District Council Community Grants team offers help locating funding, and can advise if these projects may be eligible for the Council's Community Grants scheme.</p> <p>WRCC Village Halls Adviser is able to supply guidance and support, and can be contacted on 02476 217 344.</p> <p>WRCC Project Officer may be able to provide advice on supporting local businesses through providing essential facilities, tel 02476 217348.</p>

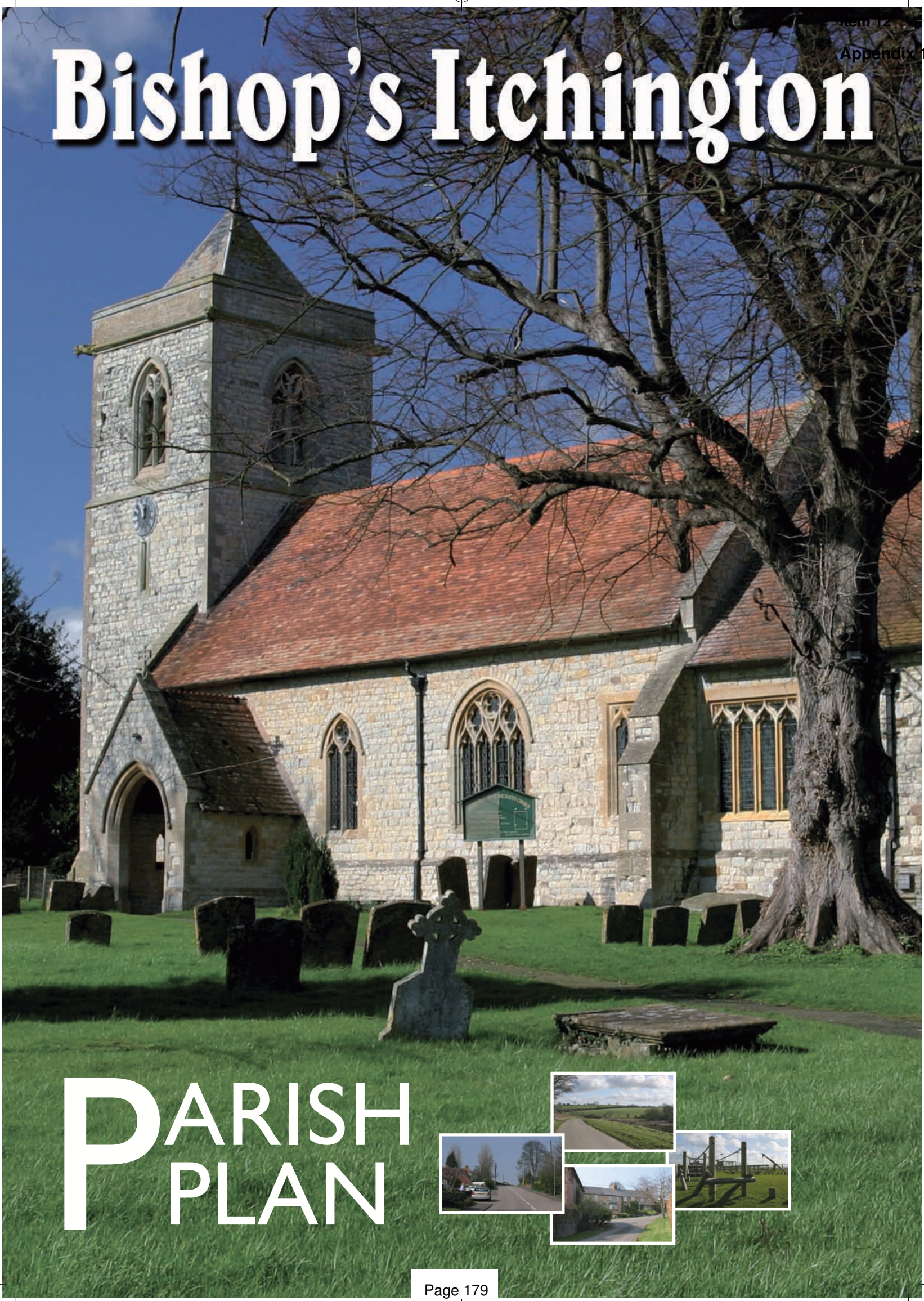
REPORT INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and submit to Committee Services with draft report

Committee/Date	East Area Community Committee – 17 June 2008	
Item No/Title of report	Bishop’s Itchington Parish Plan	
Consultations undertaken		
Consultee	✓	Details / Date of consultation / comments received
Ward Members		Cllr Beverley Mann/ 21 st May 08 Cllr Andrew Patrick/ 21 st May 08
Committee Chairman/ Portfolioholder * <i>*Required</i>		Cllr Stuart Beese/ 21 st May 08 Chairman not yet chosen
Financial Services * <i>*Required</i>		Richard Burrell/ 21 st May 08/ no further comments
Legal Services * <i>*Required</i>		Leenamarie Aantaa-Collier/ 21 st May 08
Other Services		Housing/ 10 th April 08 Policy and PR/ 10 th April 08/ Community Links may meet some needs Community Services/ 10 th April 08
Other organisations		Warwickshire Rural Community Council/ 10 th April 08/ Supportive, suggest more could be done to provide activities for young people Warwickshire County Council/ 10 th April 08/ detailed comments on certain actions reported in the committee report Appendix C
final decision by this Committee or recommendation to another committee/Council ?		Final decision Recommendation to : Executive / Council Committee <i>Delete as appropriate</i>
Does this report contain exempt information? If so, under which paragraph(s) ?		No Yes, Paragraphs : <i>Delete as appropriate</i>
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Executive Forward Plan)		No Yes, Forward Plan item – scheduled for (date) <i>Delete as appropriate</i>

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Bishop's Itchington



PARISH PLAN



Message from the Chairman of the Parish Council . . .

Firstly I would like to thank all those who have taken part in the Parish Plan process which has received wide support throughout the Parish.

This process has produced a very valuable document and it now gives the Parish Council and the local planning authorities clear guidance on parishioners' expectations.

It is always difficult in a community of Bishop's Itchington's size with its rich diversity of interests to manage all parishioners' expectations. However the message I believe the Parish Plan process has delivered is:

- Bishop's Itchington has a reasonable selection of facilities which should be retained including the School, Surgery, Post Office and Church, but there is room for the improvement of further facilities within the Parish;
- Residents of the Parish do not see the need for any significant change or growth in the village itself and any growth should be limited to meet the needs of Parishioners themselves and the existing open spaces within the Parish should be retained; and
- Having seen the impact of the opening of the M40 and Junction 12 on the Parish, the impact of any future development proposals outside the immediate village should be very carefully managed to ensure that developments are sustainable and do not exceed the capacity of the existing infra structure within the Parish. At the same time efforts must continue to try to mitigate the impact of previous developments on the Parish, in particular, traffic on the B4451.

When reading the Action Plan, it identifies areas for improvement in the Parish and it is critical that all those who wish to see the plan achieved are prepared to volunteer their time to help deliver it.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I look forward to the continuing success of Bishop's Itchington Parish as a community and that it succeeds in delivering the expectations described in the Plan for the benefit of the Parish.



Christopher Kettle
Chairman
Bishop's Itchington Parish Council

September 2007



Then . . .

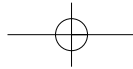


Station Road circa 1900

Now . . .

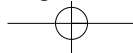


Station Road 2007



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Scenesetter

The village of Bishop's Itchington is located in rural South Warwickshire and has a longstanding association with the surrounding farming community. Its distinctive name derives in part from the nearby River Itchen that flows into the River Leam to the east of Leamington Spa and, secondly, from the historical association with former landowner the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.



- ***Knightcote Grange Estate***

The impact on Bishop's Itchington has been substantial, notably in terms of housing development and traffic. Households recorded in the 2001 Census had increased to 762 with a total population of 2009 whilst HGV and commuting traffic along the B4551 is now substantial. Significant housing development has taken place in recent decades.



- ***The Memorial Hall***

Like many villages, Bishop's Itchington's rural heritage has benefited from and had to contend with a wide range of modern world developments. Notable amongst these have been the industrial impact of limestone quarrying and cement production in the area (that ceased operation in 1970) and the completion of the nearby M40 in 1990 involving junction 12 at the B4551 and associated building of the Welcome Break motorway service stations.

This blend of rural heritage and commercial, industrial and housing development is now delicately balanced, with decisions over coming years likely to have a profound impact on the direction that Bishop's Itchington will take. The Parish Plan is central to how the villagers of Bishop's Itchington want to self-determine this direction.

Bishop's Itchington

This Plan has been generated from a comprehensive survey of the residents of Bishop's Itchington. It represents the consensus of their views and aspirations for the future of the village. The following are the main issues arising from the survey.

Environment

There is scope for improving the village environment and its appearance. Some of the 'public' buildings and open spaces in the central area around the Butchers Arms public house are in need of renovation and improved maintenance. More trees and other planting, both in the centre and village approaches, would be a benefit. There was also a general view amongst a large proportion of adults that more benches should be distributed generally within the village.



• **Hambridge Road**

There is a need to ensure that issues such as litter and dog fouling are controlled. The quality of pavements and state of repair of roads require to be improved. About one third of adults believe the level of street lighting to be inadequate in some areas.

A focal point for the village would be beneficial. The retention of open spaces within and around the village is a high priority. It is important to ensure people feel safe around the village. The majority of adults and children believe anti social behaviour needs to be controlled. It is felt this would be achieved by an improved police presence especially at night but also during the day.



• **Children's Play Area**

Planning and Housing

Most people do not want to see much change or growth in the village. But this view is less strongly held by the younger age groups. There is, however, some support for more "affordable" and social housing.

A small proportion (less than 10 percent) of adult respondents want their own accommodation away from where they are currently living. Almost half are in the 19-35 age range with the remainder spread across the other adult groups. About a quarter of the demand is for flats with a similar requirement for bungalows, predominantly from people in the 60 plus age group.



• **Rupert Kettle Drive**

Just over 50 percent of the demand is for rented accommodation. Less than one in five of those requiring accommodation require sheltered accommodation.



• **Chapel Street**

Since the Parish Plan survey was carried out, a full housing needs survey has also been completed. The results showed that in September 2007 there was a need for 25 affordable homes within the village. We are currently working with the Rural Housing Enabler from WRCC to help identify a suitable location for the provision of these homes. A full copy of the housing survey report can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

Transport and Highways

Traffic was identified by the survey as one of the major issues of concern. A large proportion of adults believe that traffic travels too fast on the main road through the village (B4451). There is a similar strength of feeling about the speed of traffic within the village. In addition, the use of the B4451 by heavy vehicles is felt to be a problem and there is considerable support for a weight restriction on the road.



• **The B4451**

Around 50 percent of children do not feel safe when walking along the B4451 or crossing it.

Three quarters of all adults believe there is a shortage of off road parking for village residents. A similar proportion feel problems are caused by illegal or inconsiderate parking.

Opinions are equally divided on whether public transport facilities are adequate. Those who think they are inadequate are mainly in the middle and youngest adult age groups. They identified a need for more bus routes directly to more destinations to suit the needs of commuters and those wanting to travel home in the late evening/night-time.



• **Station Road**

Older residents would like a village bus and more bus stops in the village.

Village Amenities

Most residents believe that retail facilities are adequate. A significant minority think otherwise, with specific requirements varying according to age groups. But there is almost unanimous support for the retention of the Post Office.



- **The Post Office**

group, believe there are inadequate services to support those with an illness or disability wishing to live at home.

The church community is seen as important by most people but with this view predominantly among adults. There is, however, considerable support for the church building to be retained.



- **The Butchers Arms**

youth club and more sports facilities were among the suggestions made. Better out of school activities are considered a high priority by young people.

Most adults value the Memorial Hall and are in favour of its possible extension. But the hall is less valued by younger age groups except to the extent that it offers facilities for their group activities.

The need for improved options for eating out is identified by all sectors of the community with requirements varying across the various age groups.

About one sixth of adults say that access in and out of shops and other facilities is difficult for them.

There is overwhelming support for the existing doctors' surgery but with some views that it requires improving. There is also felt to be a need for associated pharmacy facilities. A minority (under 25%) of people, and mainly from the upper age

There is a need for a permanent library with PC's and internet access. Support for this is progressively greater towards the younger end of the age groups.

Almost all young people feel there are insufficient social or entertainment facilities. Adults in the lower age ranges also believe this to be the case. A community centre,

Education and Training

Adults are virtually unanimous in the view that the primary school is a necessary and valuable asset.

But a large proportion also think that better use should be made of the building for other activities out of school hours.



• ***The Primary School***

Employment and Business

Four out of ten adults believe there is a need for more job opportunities in the village. This relates to full time and part time jobs, mainly skilled and unskilled but to a lesser extent professional also.



• ***Entrance to Weddington Farm off Hambridge Road***

Summary Conclusions

Most residents do not want the village to change or grow significantly although there is a requirement for some limited extra housing. But some improvements are necessary to various aspects of the environment and certain amenities with additional social facilities highlighted. It is important that open space areas are retained.

Anti social behaviour needs to be controlled and people made to feel safe in the village.

The speed and volume of traffic on the B4451 is a major issue. Improvements are needed to the quality of pavements and road repairs. Additional off road parking for village residents is required.

The Church building and Memorial Hall are important features of the village with strong support for retention of the church building.



• *High Street early 1900s*



• *High Street now*

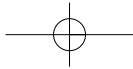
Preparing the Parish Plan

At the request of Bishop's Itchington Parish Council, the Parish Plan initiative was launched at a General Meeting in October 2005. After a presentation of the need for a Parish Plan, volunteers were enlisted to form a Steering Group.

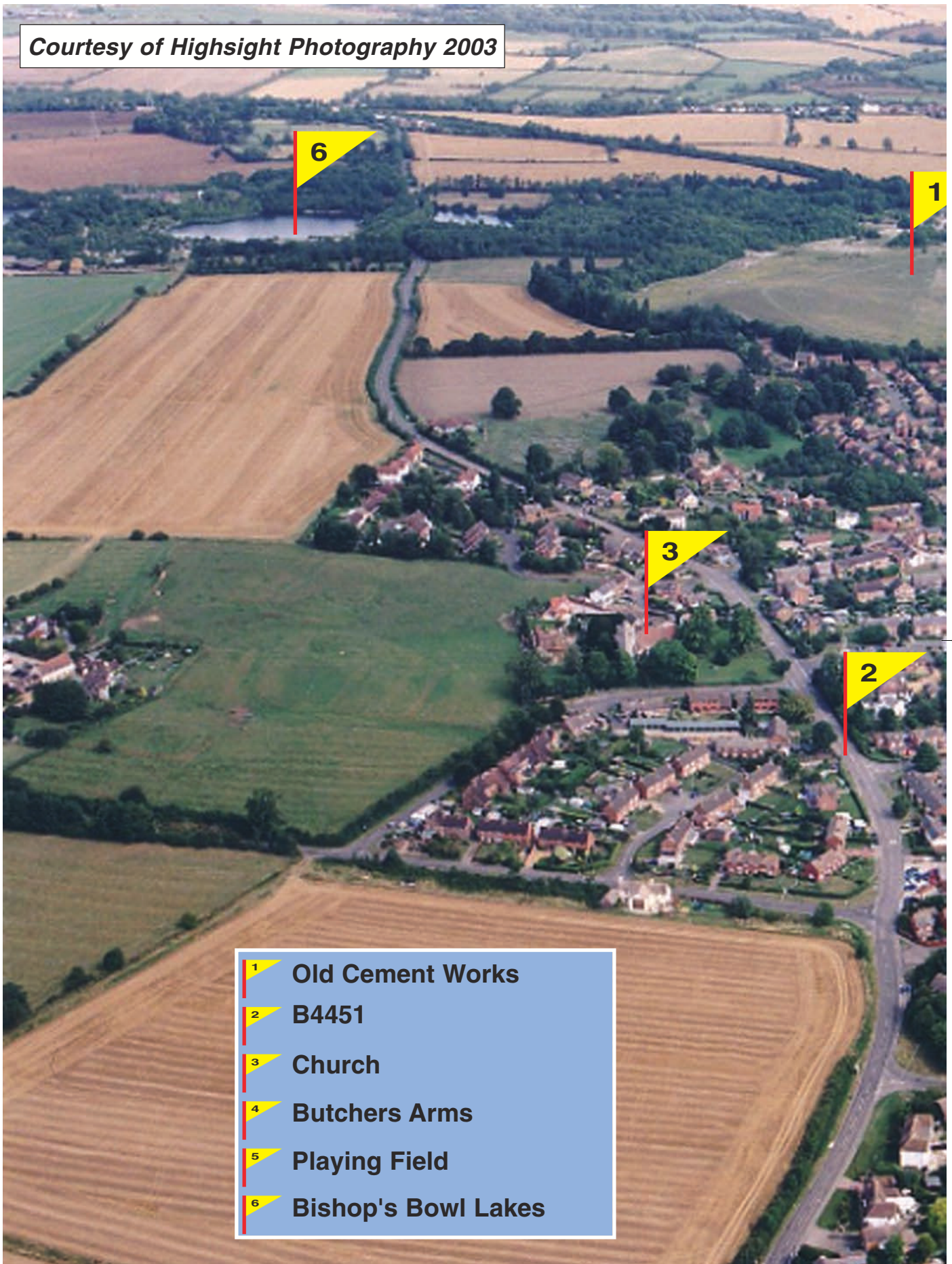
The Steering Group met at regular intervals to lead the preparation of the Plan. The process agreed consisted of the following main stages:

- 1) The major wishes of the residents were determined by means of a Survey of the whole Parish.
- 2) A series of focus groups were held with various organisations and age groups within Bishop's Itchington. Once the issues from each of the groups were known, separate sets of questions were devised for adults, young people and children.
- 3) The Steering Group employed an independent company (Prima Services) to formulate the questionnaires and analyse the results. In July 2006, survey packs with copies of each questionnaire were delivered to all households (approximately 900) in the Parish. 376 households completed their questionnaire, giving a response rate of almost 42%.
- 4) Prima Services analysed the results from each questionnaire and produced a full report (which is available on the Parish website or on request). The initial findings were presented at a well-attended Open Meeting in September 2006 where local residents endorsed the findings.
- 5) The Steering Group then started to draft the Parish Plan and consulted main partners involved in actioning the Plan. The draft Plan was presented to the Parish for formal approval at a public meeting in July 2007 and on agreement sent for printing.
- 6) Copies of the Plan were distributed to the Parish Council and every household in the Parish.

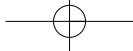


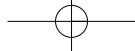
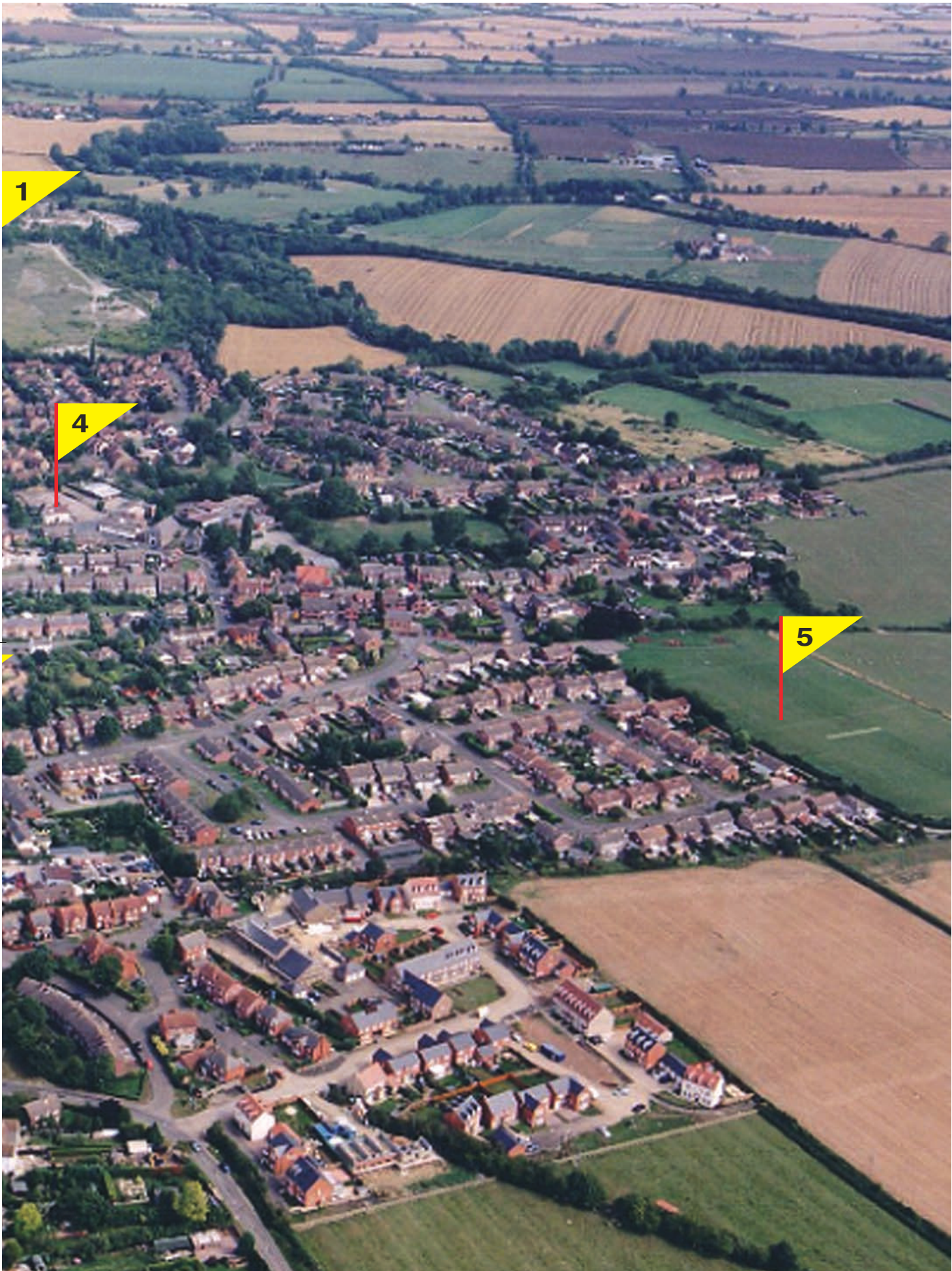
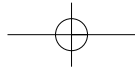


Courtesy of Hightsight Photography 2003



- 1 Old Cement Works
- 2 B4451
- 3 Church
- 4 Butchers Arms
- 5 Playing Field
- 6 Bishop's Bowl Lakes





Action Plan

Ref	Objective	Action	Priority
1	Transport & Highways		
1.1	Reduction of speed on B4451	Speed cameras are not seen by WCC as effective in reducing speed. BIPC must therefore pursue the local Police Authority to purchase more portable cameras. Traffic survey results will be presented to WCC for action.	High
1.2	Weight Restrictions	BIPC will continue discussions with the Road Haulage Association to keep Bishop's Itchington off the Advisory Lorry Route. WCC are opposed to the use of weight restrictions and therefore BIPC will keep challenging WCC and will support local groups in their fight for restrictions on the B4451 and the surrounding area.	High
1.3	Children feeling safe (See also 1.1 & 1.2)	Speed and weight restrictions are considered crucial to achieving this issue but in addition the BIPC will investigate methods of protecting pedestrians whilst on the narrow footpaths, e.g. the use of bollards to prevent curb mounting etc.	High
1.4	Improved Public Transport	BIPC will promote the setting up of an Action Group to investigate the possibilities of improving public transport	Med
1.5	Parking (see also 2.3)	A review of public parking within the village will be held by BIPC	Med/High

Lead	Partners	Resources	Time Scale
BIPC	WCC Warwickshire Police Authority	Funding for any further traffic calming must be from the Parish Council. WCC would not financially support this or the possibility of a by-pass.	2007-2009
BIPC	WCC Highways Dept Road Haulage Association Local Businesses Harbury PC	Surveys Photographic evidence	2007
BIPC	BIPC WCC Highways Dept Road Haulage Association Local Business	Photographic evidence Funding Speed Cameras	2007
Action Group	WCC Transport Dept. Local Bus Companies	Action Group	2007
BIPC	Land Owners e.g. BIPC, WCC, Housing Association	Land Funding	2007

Action Plan

Ref	Objective	Action	Priority
2	Crime & Disorder		
2.1	Policing Levels	BIPC will work with the local constabulary to improve the situation particularly at night.	High
2.2	Anti-Social Behaviour	As 2.1. Also an increase in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be encouraged.	High
2.3	Illegal/Inconsiderate Parking (see also 1.5)	Residents should park correctly. Those who continually cause problems should be reported to the Police.	Med/High
3	Housing & Planning		
3.1	Provision of Adequate Housing	Ongoing review	Low

	Lead	Partners	Resources	Time Scale
	BIPC	Warwickshire Police Force Southam Police	Warwickshire Police Constabulary	2008
	BIPC	Warwickshire Police Force Southam Police Local Residents	Local Police Volunteers Funding	2007
	Residents	Local Residents Police Retailers School	N/A	Continuous
	BIPC	SDC Housing Associations	Planning Permission Funding	N/A

Action Plan

Ref	Objective	Action	Priority
4	Environment		
4.1	Area around British Legion/Chip Shop/Greaves Club/Butchers Arms/Memorial Hall	Improvements need to be made and BIPC will take responsibility for the formation of an Action Group to resolve the issue	Med
4.2	Road Surfaces & Pavements	BIPC to bring pressure on WCC to take action	Med
4.3	Verges & Hedgerows	Trees will be planted in appropriate areas	Med
4.4	Gardens	State of gardens is a Resident's responsibility	Med
4.5	Dog Fouling/Litter	BIPC to promote awareness and ensure sufficient Litter Wardens employed by the Parish	High
4.6	Street Lighting	A more detailed survey will be undertaken by BIPC to assess the need for any improvements in street lighting whilst still considering the 'Village' environment. The need for street lighting throughout the night will also be reviewed.	Med/Low
4.7	Central Focal Point	As 4.2	Med
4.8	Benches	Additional locations will be considered	Med
4.9	Green Spaces & Footpaths	The ability to retain existing green spaces/fields/farmland in and around the Village is a major issue and every effort must be made by BIPC to retain the current status	Very High
4.10	Changes to Village	No dramatic changes are wanted. BIPC to preserve the existing environment.	High

Lead	Partners	Resources	Time Scale
BIPC	Land Owners Property Owners BIPC	Funding Volunteers Public Spirit Local Builders	2008
BIPC	WCC Transport Dept BIPC		Continuous
BIPC	BIPC Residents	More employees Public Spirit Funding	Continuous
Residents	BIPC	Public Spirit Volunteers	Continuous
BIPC/Residents	BIPC	Funding Public Spirit/Responsibility	Continuous
BIPC	BIPC	Funding	2007
BIPC	Land Owners Property Owners BIPC	Funding Volunteers Public Spirit Local Builders	2007
BIPC	Sponsors	Funding Champion	2008
BIPC	BIPC SDC Land Owners	N/A	Continuous
BIPC	SDC WCC	N/A	Continuous

Action Plan

Ref	Objective	Action	Priority
5	Village Amenities		
5.1	Insufficient Shops	Whilst BIPC can encourage the setting up of improved facilities in the area, this is a commercial issue, and not considered by the BIPC as their responsibility	Low
5.2	Post Office	Must retain	Very High
5.3	Access to Shops	Improve access by removal of steps etc. or provide ramps	Low
5.4	Retain Surgery & Pharmacy	Must retain	Very High
5.5	Improve the Surgery	New Building	Med
5.6	Church Building	Keep the current Church Building	High
6	Education & Training		
6.1	The School	Essential to retain	High
6.2	School Buildings	Additional usage	High
7	Information & Communication		
7.1	Permanent Library	Children in particular require PC's with Internet access. BIPC to investigate any opportunities to incorporate these facilities with the plans to provide a Parish Office. Also BIPC to investigate the opportunity of partnerships with local business.	High
8	Employment & Business		
8.1	Employment	Full & part time jobs required for both skilled, unskilled and professional	Low
8.2	Need for Community Centre	Consider use of other buildings within the Village or build new	Med

Lead	Partners	Resources	Time Scale
BIPC	Retailers	Interested Parties Planning Permission	N/A
Residents	The Post Office P.O. Proprietors Residents	Public Support	Continuous
WCC	Retailers SDC	Private Funding	2009
Warwickshire Primary Health Trust	BIPC Local Practice	Investment by Local Practice	Continuous
Local Medical Practice	Warwickshire Primary Care Trust BIPC	Local Practice Funding	2012
Parochial Church Council	Church Commissioners (Coventry Diocese) Local Community BIPC	Consider additional use for the buildings (see 12 below)	Continuous
School Governors	Warwickshire Education Authority	Funding from Educational Authority	Continuous
WCC	Village organisations	N/A	Continuous
BIPC	BIPC	Grants Sponsorship from local businesses Partners e.g. Post Office	2008
SDC	Local Businesses BIPC	Encourage small businesses (Considering 4.6 & 5.1)	Continuous
BIPC	Parochial Church Council Memorial Hall Committee	Funding Grants Sponsors	2012

Acknowledgements

As Chairman for the Steering Group I would wish to thank all those members of the Steering Group that have given their time and commitment to produce this Parish Plan.

It has taken nearly 2 years to complete this work and has led to many hours of debate to ensure that this final document reflects the wishes of the Parish residents.

I would hope that those reading this document will appreciate that these volunteers have done their best for the benefit of the whole Parish and now we all need to make our contribution in turning this Plan into reality.



• ***The Playing Field***

A. D. Heatley

Chairman of the Parish Plan
Steering Group

The Story of Bishop's Itchington ... so far

THE FIRST 500 YEARS

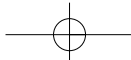
- 1043** *Priory of Coventry receives the manor of Itchington from Saxon Earl Leofric.*
- 1086** *Itchington is recorded in the Domesday Book as property of Church of Coventry.*
- 1247** *Earliest reference to Bishop's Itchington.*
- 1547** *Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield sells the village to Thomas Fisher, ending church ownership.
Bishop's Itchington becomes Fisher's Itchington ... for a while.*

THE LAND ENCLOSURE YEARS

- 1547** *Fisher embarks on land enclosures resulting in depopulation.*
- 1700s** *The Willes family gain national prominence with Sir John Willes becoming Lord Chief Justice. He and his father (vicar of the Parish) are buried in the village church.*
- 1774** *Enclosure of 400 acres eliminates the village's common land.*

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT YEARS

- 1851/2** *Completion of railway and (turnpike) road encourages large scale quarrying and cement production.*
- 1872/3** *Saint Michael's Church is rebuilt on the site of a medieval chapel. Church opened in 1873.*
- 1927** *Prehistoric marine reptile skeleton is found in quarry.*
- 1970** *The Cement Works ceases manufacturing.*
- 1986** *Population exceeds 2000 - more than double the 1951 total.*
- 1990s** *M40 and service stations open. Future use of Cement Works land becomes a village issue.*



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Winter 2007/2008

