

BASCHURCH PARISH PLAN



2008



Baschurch Parish Plan

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Origins of the Baschurch Parish Plan

Baschurch Parish Council recognised that the people who made up the Parish wanted a say in what happens in their community. They regarded the Parish Plan as a route to enable everyone to input to, and influence, the future of the Parish.

An initial attempt was made by Baschurch Parish Council to canvass for volunteers to co-ordinate the Parish Plan. However, it was not until a second public meeting on 12th June 2006, that a number of interested individuals stepped forward. The Steering Group that was formed from this meeting has been a fluid body, with time restraints causing some people to reduce their involvement, whilst others became able to offer a greater level of commitment. The purpose and drive of the group have remained consistent throughout and have resulted in this document.

The aim was to set out a vision of how the communities within the Parish want to develop, individually and together, over the short and long term. This Parish Plan has been guided by the public consultation co-ordinated by the Steering Group and not by the Councils or other organisations. This is why the document is so important to the Parish, as it can, and will, be used to show local Councils what the parishioners want.

The Parish Plan Steering Group originally consisted of:

Chris Baker	Jane Barker	Valerie Fisher
Gwyn Harris	Arthur Harvey	Elaine Hickman
Anne Howls	John Lloyd	Margaret Lokier
Rita Markell	Sue Pugh	Steph Sales
Linda Slater	Edwina Smart	

The following joined the Steering Group when we needed new skills:

Cathy Hollis	Val Hussein	Andy White
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Our special thanks go to the following supporters:

Anne Samples	Patricia Budgen	Michael Randall
Reverend Maureen Hobbs	Bill Hughes	Dr David Lowdon
The Corbet School Technology College for reprographics and support		
Jo Menhenick for her permission to include the line drawings		

Without this help the tasks faced by the Steering Group would have been much more difficult and time consuming.

Support and guidance were also received from Caroline Oakes, Gemma Robinson and, initially, Charlene Sussums, from the Community Council of Shropshire. They provided guidance notes, expertise and access to other local Parish Plans that all proved excellent sources of information.

Financial contributions towards the production of the Parish Plan came from a donation from Baschurch Parish Council and a grant from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, that was administered by the Community Council of Shropshire.



The Wharf in Springtime

Parish Plan Report

Reporting back on the findings of the public consultation is arguably the most important part of the Parish Plan process. Baschurch Parish Plan Steering Group decided to compile a questionnaire that would identify the needs of residents and highlight organisations that could help Baschurch achieve what it sets out in this Plan. The topics tackled have been grouped into the following headings for the purpose of reporting the findings:

1. Facilities and Services
2. Roads and Transport
3. Communication
4. Community
5. Housing
6. Health
7. Youth
8. Environment
9. Employment, Business and Tourism

The main body of the report reflects the various consultation exercises and the integrated action plan.



The Pool, Stanwardine
(*photograph by courtesy of Carol Finney*)

The Parish Then and Now

The first inhabitants appeared during the Bronze Age. Although records are sparse, informed opinion suggests that sheep were grazed on enclosed land around 1250, and that wheat and oats were grown in the following centuries.

Times then became hard, with waves of the Black Death sweeping across Shropshire and border clashes with the Welsh.

By the mid 16th century, cattle were being raised as well as sheep. Original woodlands were destroyed only to be replaced at a later date.

Many of the field patterns seen today gradually evolved over hundreds of years, providing an interesting landscape as boundaries and paths twist and turn.

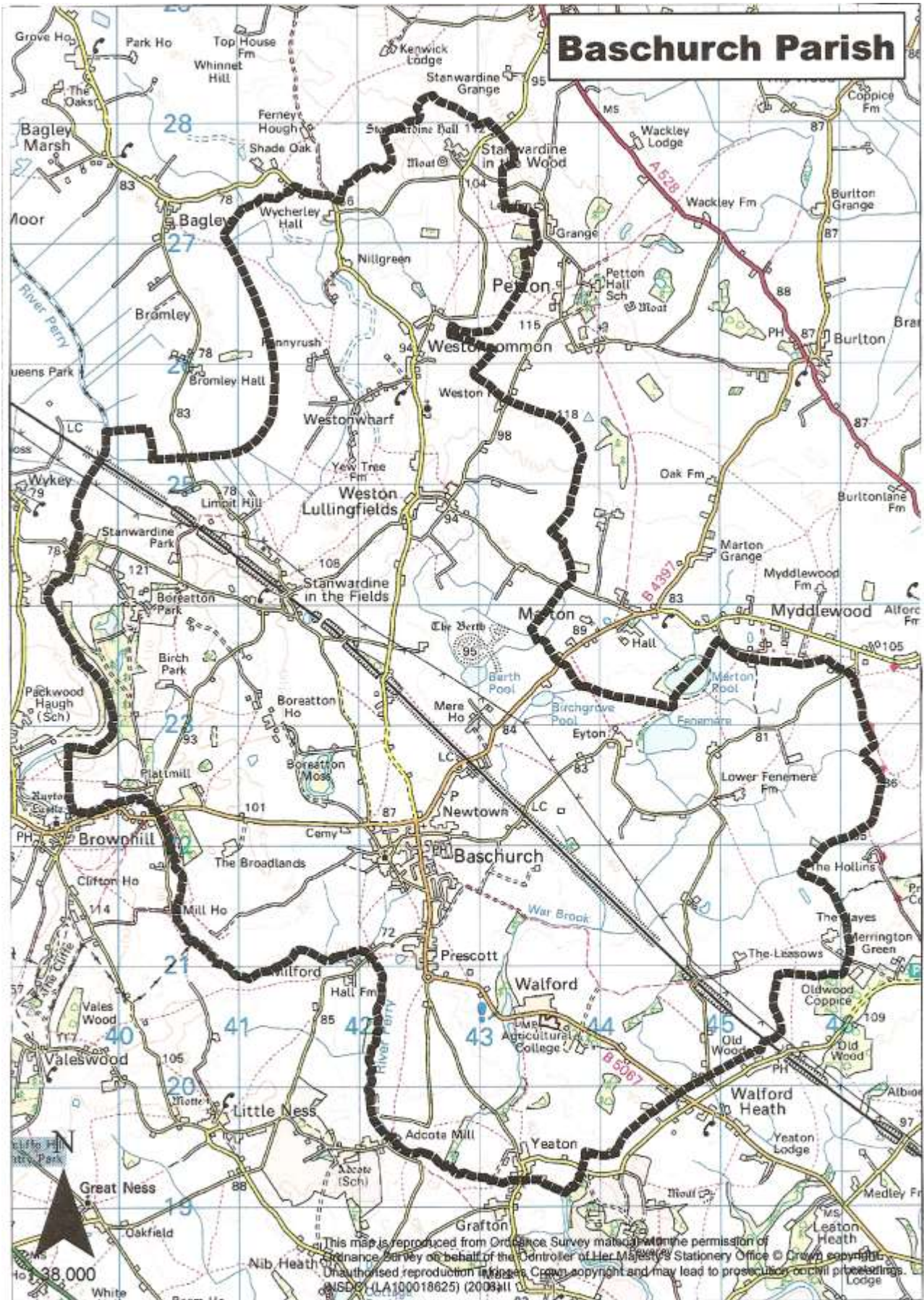
Prior to setting up the Civil Parish of Baschurch, the area had another perspective as noted in the National Gazetteer of 1868, namely; a broad group of townships and hamlets around the Parish of Baschurch, covering a far larger area. These included Little Ness, Adcote and Birch.

However, the Parish Plan focuses on the Civil Parish of Baschurch, which came into being following the passing of the Local Government Act in 1894 and established Civil Parishes in rural areas. The aim was to encourage the involvement of local inhabitants in the running of their own affairs through the setting up of a Parish Meeting and a democratically elected Parish Council.

The Parish of Baschurch is situated approximately 8 miles from Shrewsbury, 9 miles from Wem and 10 miles from Oswestry. The nearest trunk road is the A5, which is a busy route between North Wales and the West Midlands. Northwest is the main Ellesmere to Shrewsbury road and to the Southeast are the North and West suburbs of Shrewsbury.

The Parish numbers approximately 888 households and some 1639 people aged 18 and over, according to the electoral register of 2001.

The Parish has the benefit of a retained Fire Station, based in Station Road, which is staffed by volunteers who are on call from their own work.



Map of Civil Parish of Baschurch

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Policing of the area is administered from Ellesmere. Baschurch Parish is covered by a Police Constable and a Community Support Officer.

Education in the Parish is provided by Bojangles Nursery, Baschurch Pre-School, Baschurch and Weston C of E Primary Schools, The Corbet School Technology College and Walford & North Shropshire College. PGL Adventure Holidays is also based in the Parish. There are two riding establishments, Prescott Equestrian Centre and Perry Riding for the Disabled, and several livery stables.

Baschurch Village has a number of shops: Clementines Post Office/grocery store, Patel's newsagent/convenience store, Byway DIY/garden supplies and The Hair Station hairdresser. There is also Moor Farm Shop, three pubs: the New Inn, the Boreatton Arms (including The China Garden) and the Admiral Duncan, all serve food as do Lloyds Fish and Chip Shop and the Wong Lee Chinese takeaway. There are three garages: Church Road, Newtown and Harpers Garages. The Parish has two village halls, one in Baschurch and the other in Weston Lullingfields. These are used by local clubs and associations and can be hired out for meetings, as can All Saints' Church, the Methodist Chapel and Millington Close Community Hall.

The Parish of Baschurch has nine identified areas; Baschurch, Weston Lullingfields, Boreatton, Eyton and Fenemere, Stanwardine in the Fields, Stanwardine on the Hill, Walford, Walford Heath and Yeaton.



Shops in Baschurch

Consultation

The consultation undertaken for this Parish Plan was co-ordinated by the Steering Group of local volunteers. The main method of consultation was a questionnaire that was prepared by the Steering Group, and sent out to every household.

However, prior to this questionnaire, residents were given other opportunities to have their say about the future of Baschurch Parish. These included a formal meeting, feedback opportunity through the newsletter, a suggestion box at the Post Office and stalls at both Baschurch and Weston Church Fetes.

The responses from these events were used to produce a spreadsheet of issues and key concerns. From these, topics for the questionnaires began to form. These early comments and discussion were the foundation of the three types of questionnaire which were distributed.

Devising the Household, Business and Youth questionnaires was a large task and a number of examples from other parishes were reviewed to help ensure that Baschurch Parish questions were open and encouraging.

Prior to the questionnaires being distributed, they were piloted and revised in line with recommendations. The Steering Group and supporters delivered the questionnaires to every household. These were either collected personally or returned to the Post Office or The Corbet School Technology College, where boxes were provided.

Cash prizes were offered as an incentive to return the Household and Youth questionnaires. The prize draws took place at Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfields, and Baschurch Youth Club respectively.

The Household questionnaire was targeted at everyone over the age of 18. Although 356 households responded to it, this represented a far greater number of people because of multiple occupancy in some households. The responses consisted of households from all parts of the Parish. The variety in respondents and the approximate 40% response rate were very encouraging. The Baschurch Parish Plan Steering Group is confident that the consultation has involved a representative sample of the Parish and that the needs and aspirations written in this document, reflect those of the parishioners as a whole.

The Business questionnaire was sent out to 78 businesses, of which 17 responded. The businesses that returned the questionnaire varied greatly from those that have over 40 full time employees to those with no full time staff, and from recently established businesses to those that have been operating in the Parish for over 11 years.

Youth questionnaires were distributed to households as well as through The Corbet School Technology College and the Youth Club, to give the 11 to 18 year olds of the Parish a unique opportunity to express their views. Although other parishes have had a low response rate to youth questionnaires, the Baschurch Parish Plan Steering Group was pleased by the 64 responses received. Every age range was represented, however, 52% of responses were from 12-14 year olds so this was taken into account when actions regarding youth issues were decided upon.

Baschurch Parish Plan



Household Questionnaire

Please fill in the questionnaire in black ink.
Please put a tick in the boxes unless asked for letters.

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION
Please put one member of the household
fill in Questions 1-10. The next section
allows for individual responses.

Q1 Which area of the Parish do you live in?

Baschurch Village	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bonefont	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eyton & Fensmore	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stamwaine in the Parish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stamwaine in the Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weston Common/West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weston Luttrells	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeaston	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outlying areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other please state	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2 How long have you lived in the Parish?

Less than 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
11-20 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over 20 years	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 Please TICK the number of MALES in your household.

	1	2	3
0-4 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12-16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26-35	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36-45	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46-55	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
56-79	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
80 plus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 Please TICK the number of FEMALES in your household.

0-4 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12-16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26-35	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36-45	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46-55	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
56-79	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
80 plus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5 If you have children aged 4-16, where are they educated?

Baschurch Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weston Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbet School	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other please state	<input type="checkbox"/>

HOUSING

Q6 Will your whole household, or anyone in your household, within the next five years, need to change the type of housing which is presently occupied?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7 Does anyone in your family, within the next five years, wish to return to live in the Parish?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Post-Questionnaire Activity

The questionnaires were independently analysed by the Community Council of Shropshire (CCS). A report was submitted to the Baschurch Parish Plan Steering Group, which compiled a work plan. The Steering Group members discussed suggestions with: the local educational and youth representatives, local Police representatives, Prescott Surgery Management, the Anglican Rector, Leader of the Methodist Chapel, Baschurch Parish Council, North Shropshire District Council and Shropshire County Council.

A copy of the complete analysis of feedback from the questionnaire has been sent to each of the above Councils for their consideration of issues raised.

Facilities and Services

In recent years the Parish has seen significant housing development which is still continuing in line with the North Shropshire Local Plan that covers the area. The effect of the influx of new residents puts greater pressure on existing facilities and leads to requirements for additional ones. Future developments within the Parish should contribute towards up-grading existing facilities and introducing new ones where appropriate. The results from the Parish Plan questionnaire can be a useful resource in establishing this need.

It is important to note that a significant proportion of respondents to the Household questionnaire are retired, and this should be an incentive to the various Councils to ensure that amenities and facilities are expanded to take this age group into consideration.

Library: 183 people reported that they used Shrewsbury Library and 155 the mobile library. Oswestry Library was also used by some parishioners. 59 people reported that they would use the mobile library more if the visiting times were more convenient and 172 said they would use an extended library facility in the Parish.



ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Lack of library facilities	Publicise mobile library times and venues in the newsletter, on Parish website, local shops and Welcome Pack.	BPP Steering Group Shropshire County Council Library Services	Accepted
	Investigate possibility of using local resource as a library/public internet venue.	BPP Steering Group Corbet/Walford College and community facilities	Accepted Feasibility study to be undertaken.
	Liaise with Library Services to extend mobile library times.	BPP Steering Group Shropshire County Council Library Services	Accepted

Internet: 600 people reported that they had access to the internet, whether at home, work, school, or in a library. This explains why 480 said that they would not use a public internet facility within the Parish. However, 110 respondents stated that they would use a Parish based internet facility, and, although they are a minority, they nevertheless constitute a significant part of the population that should not be overlooked.

When questioned on the type of facilities which would be good for young people in the Parish, popular options were an internet café and a permanent library with computers.

Cycling: 278 people felt that cycling facilities in the Parish were reasonable, however, 179 felt that cycling facilities were poor. Some suggestions for improvement included: better road markings, designated cycle paths, bicycle racks at the shops and cemetery, improved road surfaces and a cycling club. Alongside these suggestions, people expressed concern about safety for cyclists on the roads in the Parish due to speed of the traffic and width of the roads. Conversely, some replies identified the conflict between cyclists and pedestrians. 262 felt that the roads in the Parish could not accommodate cycle lanes.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Lack of bicycle parking facilities	Discuss the feasibility of providing cycle racks	Baschurch Parish Council Shropshire County Council	Accepted
Lack of cycle club	Advertise in Newsletter for volunteers	BPP Steering Group Local community Shropshire Cycle Group	Completed Awaiting interested responses to the advertisement to feed to Shropshire Cycle Group
Lack of safe cycle routes	Advice on identifying the potential of safe cycling routes	Local schools Local community Shropshire Cycle Group	

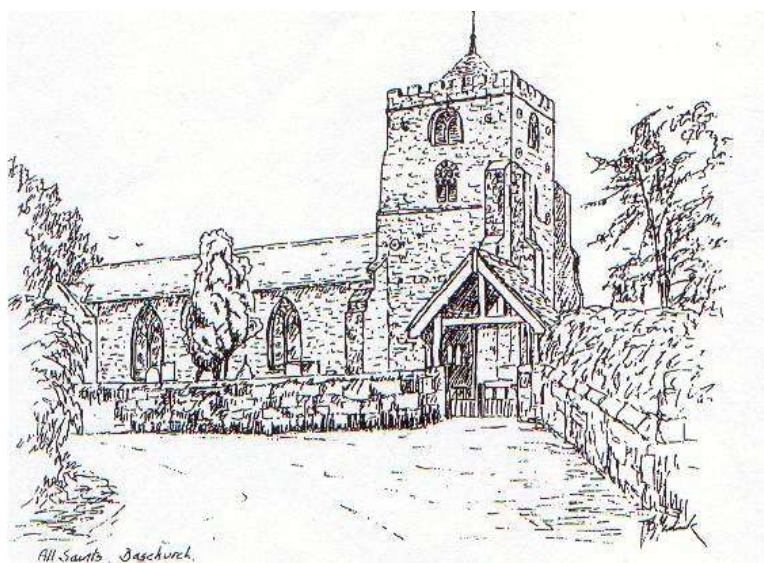
Churches and Chapels: There are three places of worship in the Parish: All Saints Parish Church, Holy Trinity Parish Church and the Methodist Chapel. These are used by nearly 50% of the people who replied to the questions. There was a call for improved parking and toilet facilities as well as shorter services and children's services. There were also a number of suggestions calling for concerts, choirs or exhibitions to be held at the Church/Chapel facilities to increase the use of the buildings by the community at large. The Parish Plan Steering Group has fed back the results of the questionnaire to each place of worship in the Parish to act on as they wish. Since the questionnaires were sent out, Holy Trinity Church has started work on raising money for improvements.



The Methodist Chapel, Baschurch



Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields



All Saints' Church, Baschurch

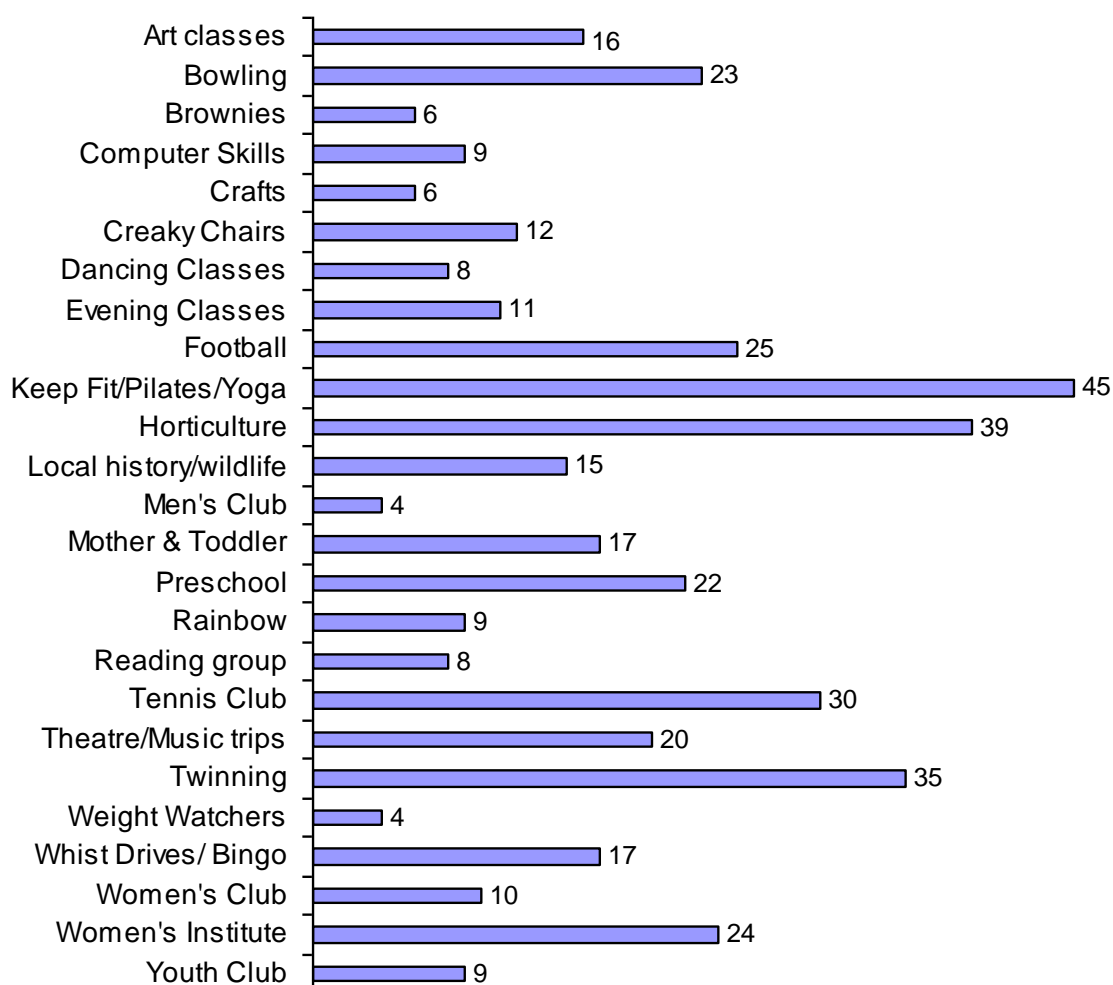
ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
The majority of replies wanted toilets (or improvements to those already available) and parking closely followed by disabled access.	All suggestions for the Parochial Church Council and the Methodist Chapel to consider.	Church Wardens and Chapel Stewards	Accepted

Police and Crime: The majority of people felt that the police presence in the Parish was poor. The main concerns in the Parish were shown to be vandalism, burglary, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Of those that had been victims of crime, a majority related to vandalism of communal areas and only a minority to crimes targeting a particular property or person.

Reassuringly, two-thirds of people who had been victims of crime had reported it to the police; a figure that, with the introduction of Community Support Officers into local policing, will hopefully increase. Only a small minority of people reported feeling unsafe in any particular part of the Parish, or that fear of crime prevented them from doing anything, and the areas mentioned in comments have been highlighted to the Parish Council.

Parish groups: were shown to be well supported with Keep Fit, Horticulture, Twinning, Tennis, Football, Bowling, Women's Institute and Pre-school shown as very popular Parish activities.

117 people also wanted to know more about a variety of the activities in the questionnaire. This will be addressed by the Parish groups concerned through better advertising and publicity.



ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
More information on Parish groups required	Publicise Parish activity in the Newsletter, on website, posters and Welcome Pack	BPP Steering Group Parish Groups	Letter to be sent requesting information
Need additional activities or classes	Investigate opportunities for evening classes	Walford & North Shropshire College	Article to be put in Newsletter inviting suggestions from the community and responses to be relayed to Walford

Parking: Additional parking provision was identified as necessary at the Post Office and shops, followed closely by Prescott Surgery which will be discussed in the health section of this report. A number of comments on the questionnaire referred to the need to encourage people to walk, partly because there is limited space in these areas, partly for the environment, and partly for fear of encouraging more cars by creating extra parking.



Early morning traffic through Baschurch

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Inadequate parking at Post Office, shops, surgery, primary schools, Corbet School and churches	Investigate possibility of improving parking provision	Baschurch Parish Council Shropshire County Council	Accepted
Fear of crime in the Parish	Local community to attend PACT meetings to feedback their fears to the police	Police	West Mercia Police advised that promoting community safety and dealing with anti-social behaviour were identified as priorities for 2008 and beyond. In support of this they have stressed the need for information sharing and action on a multi-agency basis.
Frequent illegal parking on pavements	Police to be made aware of hotspot areas	Baschurch Parish Council Local community	
Speeding traffic in the parish	Lobby local police for increased speed enforcement Baschurch Parish Council has a speed visor and is looking into the results of its use for any further actions.	Baschurch Parish Council	

Public play areas: were identified as being used by 178 families, with 43 of them claiming to use them frequently.



Play area in Baschurch

Roads and Transport

Buses: As would be expected in a rural parish, the main modes of travel were personally owned vehicles and walking. The majority of people stated that they never used the local bus service and only 28 parishioners said they used it frequently. Those who use the bus services said that the main areas for improvement were frequency (107), and a later service (90). Non-users felt that increased frequency (155), a cheaper (101) and later service (76) would encourage them to start using the bus. Various comments were made as to possible locations of additional bus stops that would improve the use of the local bus service.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Bus service not meeting parishioners need	Start discussions regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Later bus service • Direct bus to Telford • Direct bus to Harlescott • More frequent services • Cheaper fares 	Baschurch Parish Council Shropshire County Council Arriva	A detailed reply has been received from Shropshire County Council. and will be published in the Newsletter.
Lack of affordable transport to sports centres/facilities	Later bus service Concessions for young people: i.e. sports passport type pass	Arriva Shropshire County Council Youth Service Baschurch Youth Club Secretary	

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Lack of bus shelters	Consider options of bus shelters at Wheatlands, etc, within the Parish	Baschurch Parish Council Shropshire County Council.	Accepted

Community Car Scheme: The Parish is lucky to have the benefit of a Community Car Scheme. 19 people reported that they used the scheme and a further 46 wanted more information. Figures supplied to Baschurch Parish Council by the Volunteer Drivers' Co-ordinator show that, in fact, this scheme is very well used and is urgently in need of additional drivers. The Parish Plan questionnaire also identified 2 further people willing to become volunteer drivers and this is being taken forward by the Co-ordinator.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Lack of awareness of Community Car Scheme	Increase publicity of Community Car Scheme Encourage more car drivers to volunteer.	Shropshire County Council Volunteer Drivers Co-ordinator	Newsletter articles on the benefits and incentives

Taxis: When asked if the taxi services which cover the Parish meet the needs of the residents, it was revealed that this was not a pressing issue. Comments did indicate that a list of taxi services and possible fare information may be of value to the community.

Traffic issues: A number of traffic issues were raised in the replies, the most prominent of which were the speed of traffic through the Parish (430) and the number of large lorries and coaches (338). Comments were also made regarding the heavy business traffic in the Parish and these have been fed back to PC Loveridge and the Parish Council to discuss with the businesses involved.



Heavy traffic along country roads

The issues of traffic speed and quantity were highlighted at the early stages of the Parish Plan consultations. The area defined as most needing more pedestrian safety measures was around Baschurch Primary School with 222 replies. A large number of reasons for additional safety measures were given by local residents as well as some suggestions. Baschurch Parish Council has obtained a speed warning sign to be located at random at five sites in the Parish.

Trains: A majority of people said they would use the train service occasionally should the station in Baschurch be reopened, with only 11% (66) saying that they would not. This was an issue that came up frequently during the consultation exercises. However, opinion was divided as to whether integrating the train service with the bus service would increase how much the former was used.

This has been investigated in a recent evaluation by independent consultants for the Chester-Wrexham-Shrewsbury Rail Study (May 2007). It was found that there is no economic or business benefit to reopening Baschurch station as it would delay train journeys, involve enormous cost in bringing the platform and facilities up to current railway standards and there would be insufficient guaranteed income to justify the outlay. This does not preclude further evaluation should the numbers wishing to use the facility in passenger terms, or more particularly freight, provide a financial incentive for a review.

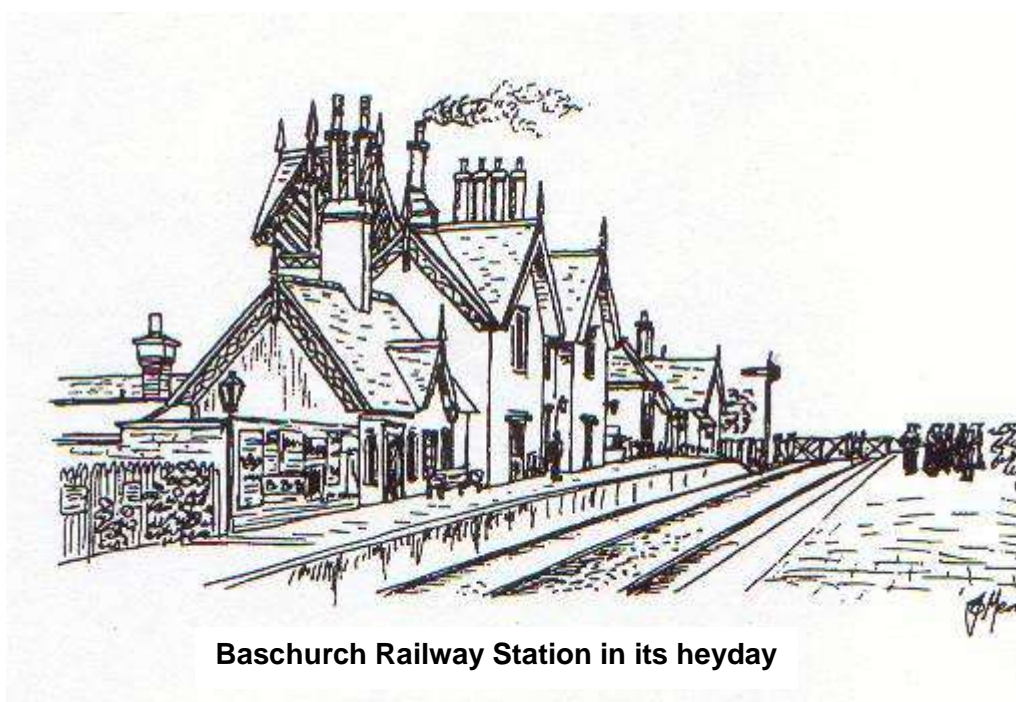


Level Crossing, Station Road, Baschurch

Car Sharing: 32 people said that they would be interested in joining a car sharing scheme, however, only four left their contact details. Where details were provided, people were consulted and put in touch with each other to work out compatibility of route/time.

Highways: 349 people felt that further maintenance was needed on local roads, lanes and paths. Ways in which roads needed maintenance were reported as the unblocking of road drains, more prompt repairs and resurfacing uneven roads.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Volume of school traffic on narrow country lanes	Reintroduce school mini bus in Parish	Weston and Baschurch Primary Schools	Review viability
	Promote walking to school	Shropshire County Council	Accepted
Difficulty crossing the main road through Baschurch	Look at siting a crossing on one side or the other of the Eyton crossroad	Baschurch Parish Council	Accepted
	North Shropshire District Council should seek financial contribution from developers.	Shropshire County Council North Shropshire District Council	
Inadequate condition of pavements	Baschurch Parish Council and County Council Ward Member to raise profile Feedback problem areas as identified by community Make them aware of the strength of feeling about road maintenance	Local community	Accepted
Hedges impeding pavement safety and traffic visibility		Baschurch Parish Council	
Improved road maintenance		Shropshire County Council Highways	
Need for new pavements on specified routes			



Baschurch Railway Station in its heyday

Communication

Baschurch Newsletter: 421 of those that received the Baschurch Newsletter declared that they read it. However, the questionnaire did highlight that 105 parishioners did not receive the Newsletter. The editors reported that they were aware of some gaps in distribution and were keen to recruit more volunteers to deliver the newsletter. People took the opportunity to make suggestions to the editors and, on the whole, feedback was positive. Comments have been fed back to the editors who will act on them accordingly.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Incomplete coverage of newsletter	Distribution network to be re-examined More copies to be made available at various locations Link to Baschurch website to be considered	Editors	Accepted

Parish information: 194 people did not feel there was enough information about what is going on in the Parish and a further 116 were unsure. Some actions to improve information availability have been noted. These include publicising the newly set up Baschurch Parish Website (www.baschurchpc.org.uk) and investigating the possibility of another notice board so that Parish Council issues and community events can have their own boards. This may help improve awareness of planning applications.

The Parish Plan Steering Group also felt that a 'Welcome Pack' for new residents would be of benefit to overcome lack of awareness of activities, groups and Parish Councillors. It would be an integrating factor in showing the range of interests within the Parish.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Lack of awareness of role of Parish Council	Increased publicity of Parish Council work	Baschurch Parish Council	Accepted – article in the newsletter
Insufficient notice boards in outlying areas	Put up new notice boards		Under consideration
Lack of accessible information for newcomers	Create a Welcome Pack	BPP Steering Group	Accepted

PARISH ACTIVITIES

PRE-SCHOOL

RAINBOW

LOCAL HISTORY/WILDLIFE

READING GROUP

DANCING CLASSES

TENNIS CLUB

MEN'S CLUB

THEATRE/MUSIC TRIPS

EVENING CLASSES

COMPUTER SKILLS

CRAFTS

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

KEEP FIT/PILATES/YOGA

CREAKY CHAIRS

FOOTBALL

BOWLING

BROWNIES

TWINNING

WOMEN'S CLUB

ART

YOUTH CLUB

WHIST DRIVES

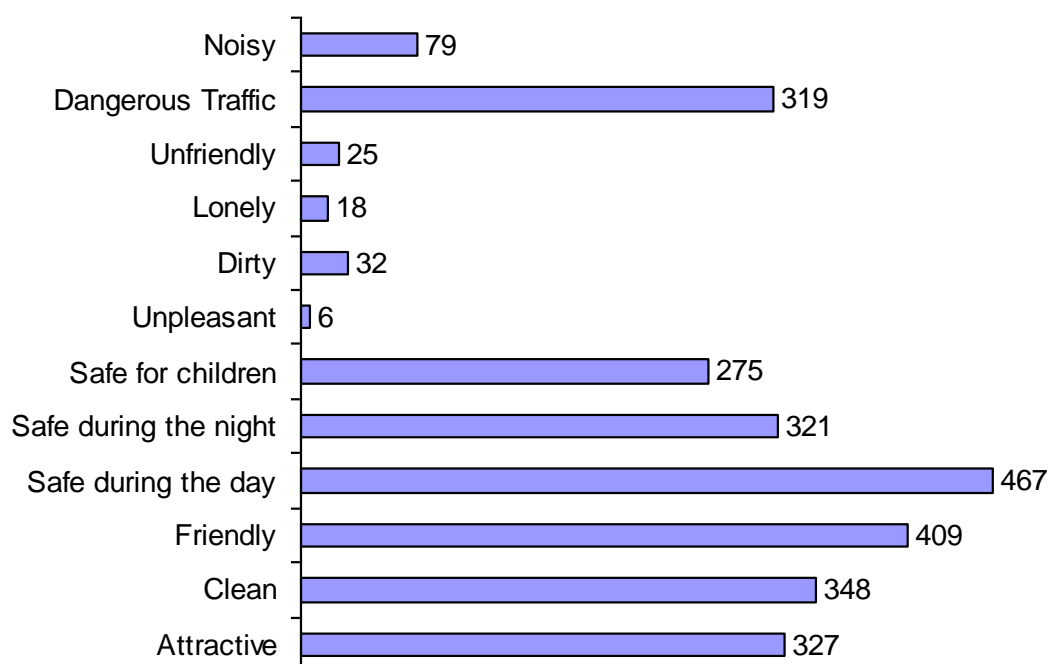
HORTICULTURE

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

WEIGHT WATCHERS

Community

It was clear that more residents identified with the positive aspects of the Parish rather than negative ones. 467 said that it was safe during the day, 348 that it was clean, 327 felt it was attractive and 321 that it was safe during the night. The biggest concern identified was dangerous traffic (319), and other negative feedback included that the Parish is noisy (79), dirty (32) and unfriendly (25). An issue that was raised throughout all consultation was the lack of community spirit in the Parish.



Positive and negative factors of life in the Parish

Despite this, a majority of responses (271) felt that there had been neither a positive nor negative change in the quality of life in the Parish. Those that felt the quality of life had deteriorated named a few factors largely connected with traffic, housing, and facilities for the young, as the reasons. Of those who felt it was better, the people and community were named as the main factors in this.

Although there were a few concerns regarding new members of the community not getting involved enough, the components of the Parish that were liked by most residents included friendly neighbours, peace, quiet, sense of caring, tranquillity, open countryside and the Summer Fetes.

21 people said that they would be prepared to visit the elderly or housebound as part of a good neighbour or pastoral team. Of those who said no, a number of comments explained that they did this outside the realms of a scheme already, and others did not have the time.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Isolation felt by some parishioners	Co-ordinate volunteers for visiting the elderly or housebound Improve awareness of Help the Aged lunches	Church/Chapel Help the Aged	Accepted An article in the newsletter as initial approach
Lack of community spirit	Investigate possibility of new community events	Local community groups	Ongoing

Parish Council: The views of residents are intended to be represented by locally elected Parish Councillors. 307 individuals reported that they felt the Parish Council did a good job and only 77 disagreed with this. This was supported by 390 respondents suggesting that they would approach the Parish Council for help to change or do something. However, the answer that revealed most, was that 230 did not know what they thought of the performance of the Parish Council. Literal comments revealed a lack of knowledge of who Parish Councillors are and what responsibilities the Parish Council has. These comments have been fed back to the Parish Council who are looking at ways to show more effectively the work they do.

Community events: When questioned about increasing the number of community events available to parishioners, opinion was divided, with 291 in favour and 188 against. Suggestions made included: ballroom dancing, village shows or fetes (seasonal), annual competitions, social events at Village Hall, BBQ, regular barn dances, social evening (not Bingo), country and western dancing, live music, cinema, carnival, charity events involving all age groups, car boot sales.



Baschurch Village Hall

Housing

The development aspect of housing was identified as having a negative impact on the quality of life in the Parish, i.e. the quantity, standard and design. Concerns included too many dwellings per acre, lack of improvement to the infrastructure, too expensive for young people and insufficient for old people.

215 households were not looking to move within the next five years, but a small number of families (14) were reported as hoping to move back into the Parish in the near future. Of those that would be looking for housing in the Parish, the largest need identified was for two or three bedroom, owner occupier properties. Reassuringly, a large majority of the housing needs identified were reported as being in two to five years, rather than being urgent, giving North Shropshire District Council time to look at the issue and deal with it.



New building in Baschurch

The types of homes that were thought to be of most need in the Parish were starter homes (154), two bedroom homes for elderly people (118), and small family homes (108). Encouragingly, 164 households supported some development to meet housing need, although a significant 154 households wanted as little new development as possible. There was an overwhelming consensus that any new housing development should not include large estates as 427 responses supported groups of five or fewer houses, conversion of redundant buildings and single dwelling plots. It was

clear that there was little support for developers to have free rein over housing design in the Parish, with two-thirds of households feeling that building design should be subject to guidelines, and one-third feeling that there should be a limited number of approved styles or designs.

Some residents clearly would prefer to see new housing anywhere except within the Parish as suggestions such as Telford, Shrewsbury, Ellesmere and Ruyton came forward. However, within the Parish, Baschurch village was identified as the most appropriate location. North Shropshire District Council should be informed that there was an overwhelming desire to see new housing restricted to small scale developments and this should be taken into account when allocating future housing land. In the main, people preferred to see new development consolidating the village around the schools and village facilities.



An open space remaining in the centre of Baschurch

This information can be used to feed into the future Local Development Framework that replaces the Local Plan. However, this will have to await the new Unitary Shropshire Council.

North Shropshire District Council advise that since the Local Plan was adopted in December 2005, any new developments of three or more houses are expected to provide affordable housing or a financial contribution towards its provision.

Following the completion of the questionnaire, the District Council published its proposals for a number of Conservation Areas within Baschurch village. This met with a mixed response but, in February 2008, five Conservation Areas were designated and they came into force on 1st May 2008. All owners of properties within the Conservation Areas are to be notified by the District Council.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Too much and inappropriate new housing	Control development in Parish due to limits on infrastructure and facilities.	North Shropshire District Council Shropshire County Council	Agreed to take into consideration when approving planning submissions
The size of new developments and refurbishments detract from the nature and quality of the Parish.	Consider conservation as a means of identifying traditional design features where these exist, important features within the various settlements that need to have their setting protected and characteristic layouts, etc.	Baschurch Parish Council North Shropshire District Council	Accepted Three Conservation Areas approved and consideration of Weston to follow



The River Perry at Yeaton

Health

557 parishioners are registered at Prescott Surgery, with only 27 people seeking their health services from outside the Parish. 210 people indicated that they had a chronic health condition, hearing impairment, visual impairment, or mobility problems, thus illustrating that the health services available in the Parish have to meet a variety of needs. The two aspects of the surgery's service reported as needing most improvement were ShropDoc, a countywide scheme that Prescott Surgery has little influence over, and appointment waiting times, which were mentioned by 59 people.

Separate to service delivery, the issue of parking at the surgery came across strongly with over 80 written comments on the subject.



Parking outside Baschurch Surgery

Outside of these areas, comments made by respondents indicated a small number of minor issues that can hopefully be rectified by communicating with the surgery; waiting area music, location of disabled parking space and more flexibility.

Residents of the Parish indicated that they had difficulty accessing other health services, particularly dentists and chemists, with chiropodists, doctors and hospital also being a problem. Reasons given for this difficulty were largely lack of availability, parking, time and transport. Wider use of the Community Car Scheme, the proposed Surgery Users Group, the good neighbour scheme and, hopefully, improvements to public transport, should see barriers overcome.

As the comments regarding parking at the surgery were anticipated by the Parish Plan Steering Group, the questionnaire called for suggestions as to where a new surgery could be located and what additional facilities would be of use. Should this proposal go any further, the responses, eg, dentists, optician, chemist, will be fed into the process.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
<p>Lack of support for carers in the community (who relieve the overstretched NHS)</p> <p>Level of support for the elderly, those restricted in ability or health</p> <p>Lack of adequate parking at or near surgery which covers a wide rural area with restricted bus facilities.</p> <p>Inadequate facilities in a growing community including parking and additional facilities.</p> <p>Insufficient funding to provide the extra services locally, reducing travelling/waiting times and increasing facilities as a community asset</p>	<p>Publicise the Surgery Management/User Group to include GP, nurse representative, Practice Manager and community representatives meeting 3 or 4 times a year to review services and patient satisfaction.</p> <p>Does the Surgery participate in green travel scheme?</p> <p>Request meeting with the PCT to influence their decision making.</p>	<p>BPP Steering Group</p> <p>Prescott Surgery Senior Team</p> <p>Primary Care Trust</p>	<p>Members of the Steering Group met the Practice's Dr. Lowden and Practice Manager and put forward issues raised in the questionnaire responses.</p>

Youth

Children aged 4-16 were reported as being educated at a range of local establishments. Primary schools were predominately local; Baschurch C of E, Weston C of E and Ruyton-XI-Towns Primary Schools. Secondary and further education were varied, with 41 households reporting that their children attended The Corbet School Technology College and others attended schools in Shrewsbury or Oswestry. Unexpected responses included children travelling to Hadnall C of E Primary and Adams Grammar School in Newport.

The Youth Questionnaire yielded 64 responses, which is a satisfactory return rate based on other parishes' experiences. 37 were female and 27 male; only 12 were aged 16 to 18 and 54 of the respondents attended school. However, the responses ranged across the youth of the Parish, representing them effectively and providing a valuable insight into their concerns.

When asked what they liked best about the Parish, it was encouraging to find that the respondents to the Youth Questionnaire valued similar things to the adult replies: open spaces, fields, wildlife and the people.

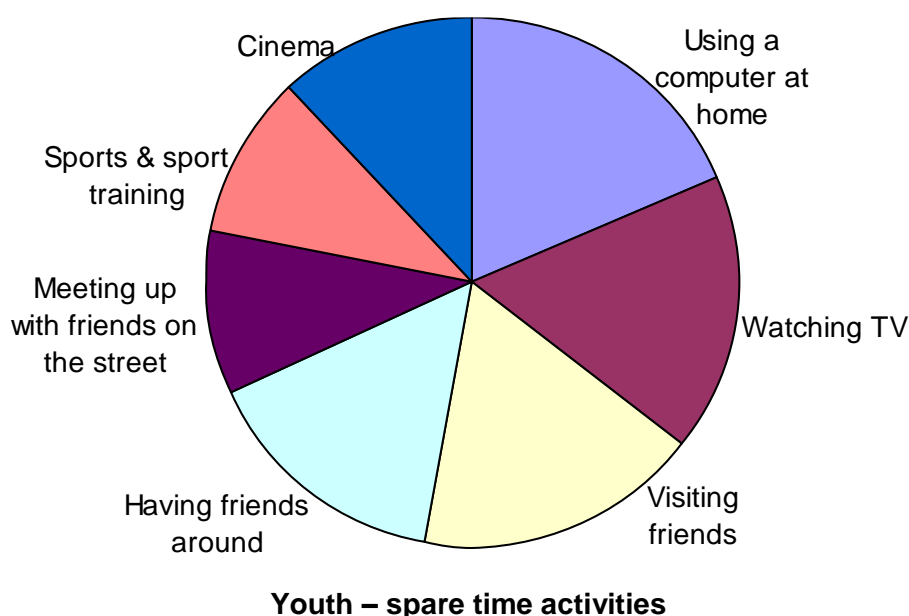


Young people attending a session with the Youth Service

The most popular spare time activity was using a computer at home (53), watching TV (49), visiting friends (49), having friends round (44), cinema (34), sports and sport training (29) and meeting up with friends in the street (28). There also appeared to be support for the youth club, fishing, BMX and bikes, skate boarding, pub/club and Scouts in the Parish.

Young parishioners travelled to leisure activities in Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Welshpool, Telford and Birmingham. However, the main centre was Shrewsbury. Regarding possible new activities within the Parish, there was a general interest in cinema, internet café, art and drama, which could potentially be incorporated into a youth club. The most common barrier stopping young people accessing activities was that the activity was unavailable (36). However, transport (19), time (19) and cost (18), were all shown to be significant barriers.

It was encouraging to find that 42 youths reported walking as a frequent form of travel, although the most reported method of transport was 'lifts from parents' (54). 37 young people also stated that they used buses or coaches and 25 that they cycled. This gives an extra incentive to improve cycling facilities and public transport in the Parish.



The adult replies consolidated the strong support for more activities for young people in the Parish which was shown at formal meetings and open discussions at the onset of the consultation exercises. 217 people suggested that an internet café/social area for young people would be a useful facility in the Parish. A number of comments were also made that this could be used by all generations. This was closely followed by a multi use games area as a popular option. With regard to who should create, own and manage such a facility, 228 people felt that the Parish Council should take on this responsibility. However, there was a communal call for the young, parents and local volunteers to be involved in setting up and running it, to ensure that it is valued by the community.

Despite a strong call for increased facilities and the Parish Council to take ownership of them, there was a clear consensus that Baschurch residents did not want to incur a rise in Council Tax to

accommodate this. A combined approach of Parish fundraising, donations/bequests and Lottery Grants was supported by most residents who replied.

Although the main problem or worry for young people was being bored and having nothing to do (27), the general fear of being hassled/moved on, bullied, or intimidated, was widespread with 58 responses in total indicating these concerns. Additionally, the young people noted the more serious issues of being offered drugs, physical attacks, and possessions (mobile 'phones, etc) being damaged or stolen. These illustrate that the fear of crime in the Parish is shared by the younger members of the community.

The three changes that young people identified which would make the Parish better for them were safe places to meet, better transport to larger towns and an increased say for young people in community decisions. Comments have been fed back to the person(s) responsible for the youth section for discussion with the Baschurch Parish Council, North Shropshire District Council and Shropshire County Council Youth Services.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Nowhere to meet friends in safety	Feasibility study of purpose built shelter Involvement of young person representative	Baschurch Youth Club Secretary Baschurch Parish Council	Initial information being gathered for discussion with youth of the Parish and Baschurch Parish Council
Lack of awareness of the needs of young people	Setting up a youth forum Consultation with young people Youth Club representatives	Shropshire County Council Youth Service	Initial approach made

The young people are keen to establish a Youth Forum through which they can comment on and influence the future development of their community. Arrangements have been made to take this forward.

As part of the North Shropshire Youth Summit in July 2008, a group of local teenagers undertook a project aimed at developing relationships between the younger and older generations of the Parish. Supported by the Baschurch Youth Worker and the Youth Club Secretary, the project involved the young people interviewing a number of senior citizens about their lives, particularly when they were young, and their perception of today's younger generation. The interviews were filmed by members of the youth group and the project, as well as providing an excellent piece of social history, has undoubtedly strengthened community links.

Environment

A majority of respondents to the questionnaire supported moves for additional planting, protecting hedgerows and trees and taking protective action for the ponds and wetland areas in the Parish. A number of areas in need of these actions were highlighted in comments on the questionnaire and the suggestion was made that schools may want to become involved.

The Phase 1 Habitat Survey started in the Parish from Spring 2008 with the first records being logged on Saturday, 19th April.

Cemetery: Numerous suggestions as to what single feature should be included in the redesign of the cemetery indicated the parishioners' desire for more trees. Many people asked for trees to be planted, partly for the environment, and also for the tranquillity and privacy of the cemetery. Baschurch Parish Council reported that the design stage is already in progress but that any suggestions will be considered.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Restoring, maintaining or creating wildlife areas	To help identify and organise opportunities for local groups, particularly children	Local groups Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Liaising with the Conservation and Ranger Team on ways forward.
New tree and hedgerow planting	Identify locations and seek funding, working with S.C.C. and local landowners	Shropshire County Council Countryside Team	
Allotments	Investigate the level of interest and whether there is a local landowner willing to provide an area for this	Baschurch Horticultural Society Baschurch Parish Council	Liaising with Baschurch Horticultural Society to identify a way forward
Improving the cemetery	All suggestions should be forwarded to Baschurch Parish Council by community	Local community Baschurch Parish Council	Already started with suggestions invited from the community

Noise: People reported that the disturbance that most adversely affected their area was traffic noise (174), with noise from young people also being cited by 77 respondents. The noise from traffic directly relates to traffic speed and volume, which is tackled in the Roads and Transport section of the report.

Street Cleaning: 415 people suggested that street cleaning was adequate within the Parish. However, 138 did not agree and some took the opportunity to state where they felt this service was not sufficient. Should these areas not improve, parishioners are encouraged to notify Baschurch Parish Council who can take this matter further.

Litter: Many people (333) felt that litter was a problem in their area of the Parish although 230 said that it was not. According to Baschurch Parish Council more litter bins would be considered if it was felt necessary. A third of those who replied (156) said that they would participate in a Parish Spring Clean Day. Although a minority, numbers were significant, and this was perceived as a positive reaction.

Parish Councillor, Tony Mackey, volunteered to organise a team and a successful Litter Pick took place on 26th April 2008.



Before the Litter Pick

and after!



People highlighted measures, including clearing up hedge trimmings, getting rid of cars parked on footpaths and locating new footpaths, that could be taken to improve local footpaths, Rights of Way and pavements. However, the issue that came across most strongly was the desire to enforce dog fouling laws strictly. This information has been fed to Baschurch Parish Council and North Shropshire District Council.

The comments relating to the Rights of Way were to become an issue of increased importance when the number of people who used them was taken into consideration. 198 people reported that they used Rights of Way within the Parish frequently, 140 infrequently and 59 occasionally. There were a number of suggestions for improvement but only 59 people considered the condition of existing footpaths in the Parish to be poor. There was overwhelming support for well signposted Rights of Way and route maps to be made available, a suggestion made during the earlier consultation exercises.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Lack of information on walking in the Parish	Publicise walks Availability of maps Signposts for Rights of Way More information on circular walks and using permissive footpaths	Local walking group Baschurch Parish Council Shropshire County Council Countryside Team	Details of walks in Newsletter. Put walks on website and either set up for download or consider publishing.



Grow your own – get an allotment?

When asked their views on alternative energy sources, 441 residents indicated that they would support solar power heat, 316 below ground heat pumps, and 254 domestic wind generated power in their locality. This shows that parishioners are aware of the current environmental debate and are willing to make changes within the Parish.

This is further supported by the fact that 549 respondents said that they doorstep recycle, as well as 354 using the Battlefield recycling facility. Over 200 responses showed that the bottle bank and monthly skip are valued resources in the Parish. Parishioners did not indicate that the skip would be used significantly more if it was moved to a different location. The results also showed an overwhelming support for a plastic bottle bank if it were available and that a small number of people already support elderly or disabled neighbours with their recycling. According to the Baschurch Parish Council a scheme involving the recycling of plastic bottles is in the pipe line.



Parishioners are keen to have more recycling facilities

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Litter	Provision of more litter bins Methods of building community pride to tackle litter	Baschurch Parish Council	Baschurch Parish Council will support requests provided the community express a need in sufficient numbers to justify the costs
Lack of knowledge of how the individual in the community can contribute to energy saving	Invite EEAC to talk to the Parish about domestic energy saving or promote their website, etc.	Baschurch Parish Council Energy Efficiency Advice Centre	Initial approach made – information being fed to the Baschurch Parish Council.
Lack of plastic recycling	Provide plastic bottle recycling locations or discuss options	Baschurch Parish Council Shropshire Waste Partnership	Baschurch Parish Council are working with Shropshire Waste Partnership

Employment, Business and Tourism

A Business questionnaire was distributed to every business in the Parish and this section is compiled from both these results and parts of the Household questionnaire.

The Business questionnaire was returned by 17 very different businesses - some newly formed, others long established, some with a majority of full time staff and others not employing staff. All of the employers that replied to the questionnaire said that they had been based at the same establishment for as long as the firm had been running and, for a majority of the businesses, it was a suitable venue with only three reporting that their premises were too small. Reassuringly, the one business that was looking for larger premises, wished to remain within the Parish.

Of the full time staff employed by the 17 businesses, 39% were from the Parish and 41% of their part time staff were also local residents.

A majority of these enterprises reported that the number of staff they employed currently was the same as the previous year. Four businesses reported an increase, compared to only two stating that they employed less staff.



Onions' Stores is now Byway

Five businesses reported that they hoped to expand in size in the next five years, five stated that they were looking to remain the same size and four reported that they would downscale over that period.

It was pleasing to note that, of the businesses where training, apprenticeships and first jobs for young people were appropriate, all but one had received relevant advice and support. Where advice is available this will be sent to firms to encourage increased opportunities.

Ten businesses offered work experience opportunities to local pupils. The employers that did not offer this opportunity explained that red tape, confidentiality and size of the business are all barriers to doing so. Information and guidance on the process will be made available to assist the businesses to extend the opportunities for local children.

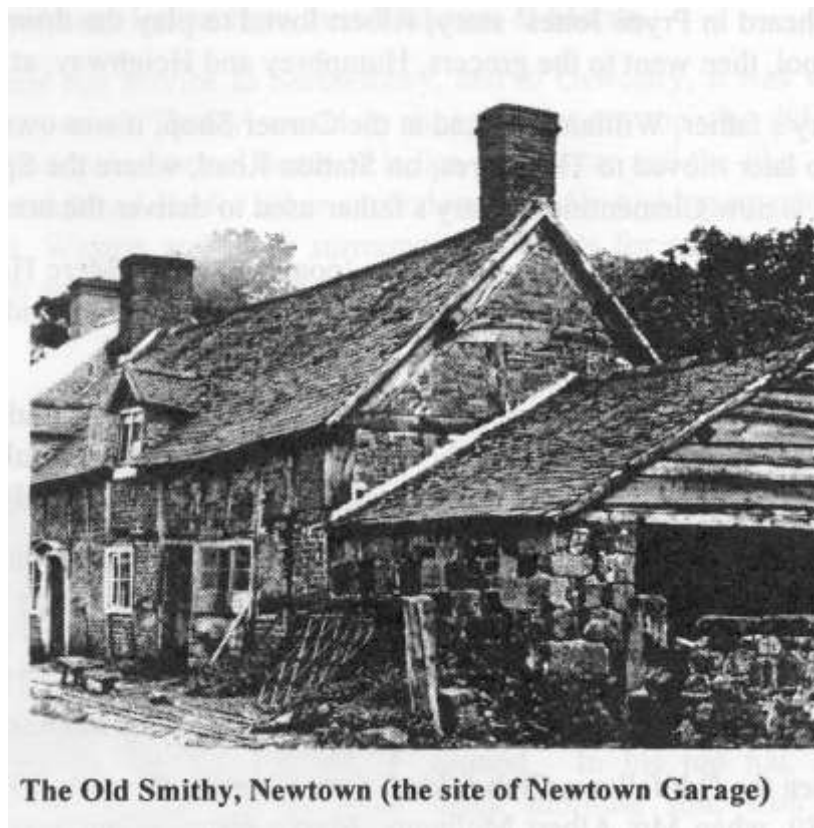
Only one business had a redundant building that could be used for either residential or commercial purposes and they reported that they may look into renovating it for residential use.

Possible future ventures of the businesses were varied, including self-catering and/or B & B accommodation, caravan parks, attraction (gallery, specialty, retail) and eating establishments.

Seven businesses reported having a website, however, only two offered the option of purchasing goods online. Other firms were interested in offering this opportunity and said that an entry on the Parish Website would be a suitable starting point. Additionally, information could be incorporated into the Welcome Pack to encourage use of local businesses. However, it should be noted that entries in the Welcome Pack or on the Parish Website would not denote recommendation of a business.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Promoting their business to residents	Invite all businesses to provide an insert/link to the Parish of Baschurch Website and an entry for the Welcome Pack	BPP Steering Group Baschurch Parish Council	Draft letters being prepared
Additional support to encourage work experience and job opportunities for young people in the Parish	Obtain and distribute information/guidance on employing young people and offering work experience	BPP Steering Group Education Business Partnership	On order for distribution to interested businesses
Lack of job opportunities in the Parish	Encourage local businesses to promote jobs in the Parish as a priority	BPP Steering Group	Draft letters being prepared

Front cover – Baschurch Village Green



We have tried to be as thorough as possible in our research but apologise if we have omitted to mention any local organisation.

A special acknowledgement for those friends who are no longer with us.

