

Barford Parish Plan

Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan

Introduction

The Action Plan arising from the Barford Parish Plan was adopted by the Joint Parish Council on 17 January 2006. The Council has appointed a Working Party, consisting of all Barford Parish Councillors, to consider how the Action Plan might be implemented, making recommendations to the full Council where necessary.

The Council has approved the steps to be taken to implement the various recommendations in the Action Plan. This Report shows the progress on each of the Actions. Some Actions have been completed or abandoned and previously reported to the Council; for the sake of brevity, these have been omitted from this Report, hence the breaks in the sequence of numbers. The Council is invited to approve this Report for transmission to the Parish Plan Committee.

Information

1. Arrange for a Village Directory to be published

Action agreed by JPC: attempt at the Barford Parish Meeting in April to form a group of volunteers to compile, review and distribute a Village Directory, recommending a budget and timetable to the JPC.

Progress: the Group has completed and distributed a Directory, funded from the Rural Outreach Fund. The Directory will, of course, need periodically to be up-dated.

Police and Crime

3. Ensure regular, visible Police presence in the Village and swifter investigation of offences, especially speeding.

Action agreed by JPC: Cllr. Worrall to raise these issues as the JPC's representative on the Panel for the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative.

Progress: although there appears to have been a slightly increased level of patrolling in the village under the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative and a mobile Police Station occasionally visits the village, the Working Party continues to be concerned at the lack of responsiveness, lack of resources for the new Neighbourhood Team and lack of effective consultation via the Panel. The Working Party **recommends** that the JPC approach other Parish Councils within the Warwick Rural West area and propose that jointly we review the operation of the new policing system and write to the MP, County Councillors and the local press to state our views.

4. Restart the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Action agreed by JPC: seek a Co-ordinator of the scheme at the Barford Parish Meeting and attempt to recruit volunteers for the scheme at that meeting.

Progress: the organisation has been established and now appears to be operating in most areas of the village. The Smartwater scheme for marking and tracing property which might be stolen needs to be progressed by Neighbourhood Watch.

Village Shop

5. Initiate a campaign to reinstate a General Store/Post Office and encourage other retail services.

Action agreed by JPC: a part-time Post Office to be opened in the village hall and the Shop Group to build a new wing onto the village hall for a shop

Progress: the village Sub-Post Office has been re-opened, though will be subject to the general review of Post Offices. Monthly village markets for local residents to sell produce etc. are being held. The Shop Group has succeeded in raising sufficient funds to complete phase 1 of the building, which it is hoped will be completed in January, and has submitted plans to the District Council for permission under the Building Regulations. However, building work cannot start until the issue of the covenant restricting use of the village green has been resolved. Legal opinion is being sought on whether the covenant prevents operation of a community-owned shop and if so what would be the likely cost and outcome of an approach to the Lands Tribunal to remove the covenant.

Recreation

6. Expand the provision of recreational and sporting facilities in the village, e.g. tennis, bowls, badminton etc.

Action agreed by JPC: to enquire at the Barford Parish Meeting whether groups can be formed to promote facilities for each sport or recreational activity.

Progress: there has been no change since the Working Party's last report, in March: the Group which researched this issue has had little support from residents and it must be concluded that no progress on this Action is possible in the immediate future. In the long term, if the proposals for the development of the former Barford House lands were to come forward again, then at that stage it might be possible to incorporate sport and recreation facilities as part of an agreement on planning gains.

Internet

7. Provide access to computers for all villagers who need it.

Action agreed by JPC: contact the Head Teacher of the village school to enquire of the possibility of out-of-hours use of the school's equipment. If the shop re-opens, then discussions could be held with a new tenant about using this as an Internet Café.

Progress: the Shop Group is planning to provide space for an internet café, possibly utilising the Post Office's broadband connection. A pc would need to be purchased.

Allotments

8. Investigate cost of provision of mains water supply to the allotments.

Action agreed by JPC: agree with the PCC and the Scout Group for the laying of a water supply, obtain costings and let a contract for the work.

Progress: completed – water supply now in place.

Getting Around

12. Demand improved maintenance of pavements, kerbs, roads and designated footpaths.

Action agreed by JPC: submit to the County Council Area Surveyor a monthly “top 10” of highway maintenance issues, to be co-ordinated by Cllrs Murphy and Mulgrue and Kirsty Healey (Chair of the Barford Parish Plan Committee).

Progress: as a result of a further meeting with the Area Surveyor and the first “top 10” some remedial work has been carried out and more is planned.

13. Request Local Authorities to designate Wasperton Lane and Hareway Lane as “Quiet Lanes”.

Action agreed by JPC: following research into the scheme and reports to the JPC by Cllr. Mulgrue, the JPC agreed that that the Quiet Lanes scheme be not pursued at present, though alternative measures to make Hareway and Wasperton Lanes safer still needed to be explored.

Progress: the Chairman will raise this issue with the County Council at a forthcoming meeting.

Footpaths

15. Explore the possibilities of providing further “Designated Footpaths” within the village.

Action agreed by JPC: on the recommendation of the Footpath Development Group to prioritise the re-instatement of a lost path to Bishop's Tachbrook.

Progress: the County Council has refused the JPC's approach to fast track the reinstatement of the lost path before the general review of Rights of Way in Warwick District. The Footpath Development Group has not been able to make any progress so far with landowners for a circular riverbank walk to the west of Barford.

Recycling

17. Request that the current recycling scheme is extended to include plastics and cardboard.

Action agreed by JPC: the Chairman to approach the District Council.

Progress: the District Council is now reviewing recycling arrangements for 2008, including the collection of plastic bottles and card.

Flooding

18. Demand better maintenance of drains and sewers on Wellesbourne Road.

Action agreed by JPC: submit a monthly “top 10” of highway maintenance issues to the County Council’s Area Surveyor. This will include drains and sewers.

Progress: some work on the worst spots has been carried out and more is planned.

Road Safety

23. Provide improved street lighting in High Street and Wasperton Lane.

24. Request parking bays in Wasperton Lane and in the service road at the south end of Wellesbourne Road.

25. Promote the establishment of a 20 m.p.h. speed limit on Church Street & High Street and on Wasperton Lane.

Action agreed by JPC: for all three of the above, the Chairman to contact the District and County Councils to see what might be possible.

Progress: some new lighting has been provided in High Street and for the old people’s flats in Wasperton Lane. Following the negative response received from the County Council on all other matters and reported to the JPC previously, the Chairman has written to the County Council and will raise these issues again at a forthcoming meeting.

Cyclists

26. Request the introduction of cycle ways to Sherbourne Corner (connecting with the existing way to Warwick) and to Wellesbourne.

Action agreed by JPC: a concerted approach should be made to the County Council for a cycle way from Wasperton to Barford and from Barford to Sherbourne.

Progress: the County Council has agreed to a cycleway from Barford to link with an extension to the existing cycleway from Sherbourne to Warwick to be completed in the current financial year.

[Afternote: since the Working Party met the County Council has costed the scheme at £166k. This is more than anticipated and thus it will require additional funding which may mean a delay until the 2008/9 financial year.]

Housing

27. Encourage the provision of affordable housing within the village.

Action agreed by JPC: ensure that people with Barford connections are given priority in the allocation of the affordable houses proposed for the Oldham's site.

Progress: it is expected that the first houses will be ready for occupation this autumn. The JPC, through Cllrs Byerley and Mulgrue, is attempting to ensure maximum take-up by people with local connections. A need remains for bungalows and sheltered housing, particularly for older couples who wish to downsize. These needs perhaps could be met by any development of the Barford House lands.

Youth

33. Take action to provide further recreation facilities for youth and children.

Action agreed by JPC: the Chairman to consult the Pre-School Play Group, the Village School and the County Youth Service on what might be required and then obtain costings.

Progress: the District Council is setting up a "Play Forum", which the JPC Chairman will attend, to investigate what facilities are wanted by younger people.

RGM
29/8/07