

**STOUR AREA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
15 November 2005**

Item No: 7
Subject: Brailes and Winderton Parish Plan
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Beese
Lead Officer: Colin Staves
Contact on 01789 260333

SUMMARY	To consider the assessment of the Brailes and Winderton Parish Plan	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Brailes and Winderton Parish Draft Action Plan Survey	
CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN		
CONSULTEE	✓	DETAILS AND DATE OF CONSULTATION
WARD MEMBERS	✓	Councillor P Seccombe on 14/10/05 – supports recommendation of adoption.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN	✓	Councillor Roache on 14/10/05 – impressed by the hard work which has resulted in a valuable document to inform local decisions.
PORTFOLIO HOLDER	✓	Councillor Beese on 14/10/05 Councillor Giblin (Shadow) on 14/10/05
LEGAL SERVICES	✓	Peter Cruden on 14/10/05
FINANCIAL SERVICES	✓	Richard Burrell on 14/10/05
PERSONNEL SERVICES		
OTHER	✓	Paul Ogden, Head of Leisure and Business Services on 28/9/05 Warwickshire County Council (WCC) on 28/9/05 Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC) on 28/9/05
CORPORATE STRATEGY/EMAS	✓	Paul Chapman, Policy and Public Relations on 28/9/05
Summary of RECOMMENDATION		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Parish Plan is adopted as a local information source. 2. That the Parish Plan is adopted as a material consideration. 3. That the Parish Plan steering group, Parish Council and the residents of Brailes and Winderton be commended and encouraged to implement their Action Plan.
FINAL DECISION SOUGHT ?	Yes	

1. Introduction and Purpose of this Report

1.1 This report sets out the assessment of the Brailes and Winderton Parish Plan, which has been endorsed by Brailes Parish Council, subject to any amendments required by the Area Community Committee.

2. Background Information

2.1 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.

2.2 The momentum for Parish Plans is continually increasing with half of the communities in the District having completed or in the process of undertaking detailed Parish Plan or Appraisals with associated recommendations and Action Plans. Further background information on the process is included in Appendix B.

3. Submitted Parish Plan – Brailes and Winderton

3.1 Background

3.1.1 The process started in summer 2004 when following an open meeting in the village hall, attended by Linda Ridgley of Warwickshire Rural Community Council, a steering group of volunteers was formed. The steering group sought to gather the views of as many local people as possible and set up their first event at Brailes Show in August. Two sessions were set up in local pubs for people with businesses and a suggestion boxes were placed in local shops.

3.1.2 The feedback gathered from the local community formed the basis for a questionnaire survey which was distributed to all households and businesses in April 2005. There was a general household survey as well as special surveys for businesses and children. 58% of the surveys were returned and the results were presented at an open meeting to villagers and Parish Councillors in July 2005.

3.1.3 The Parish Plan presents a clear picture of the needs and issues facing the community. It provides a draft Action Plan to address these and the Parish Council are committed to the implementation of the action plan.

3.2 Parish Plan findings

3.2.1 The findings of the Parish Plan, which have informed the Action Plan cover:

- Who we are
- Parish Life and Activities
- Parish facilities
- Parish housing and business development
- Transportation and our Roads
- Going for a 'Greener' Parish
- Children's Survey

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

3.2.3 Suggested Response: Endorse – That the above be endorsed as a true representation of the topics addressed by the Parish Plan.

3.3 Action Plan

3.3.1 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 Brailes Parish Draft Action Points.

3.3.2 Overall the action plan is comprehensive in its scope and based on sound and valid information collected through the Parish Plan process. The recommended responses are entirely supportive of the actions proposed by the Parish. It should

be noted that the Action Plan identifies the District Council as a partner in tackling a number of matters. These actions have been brought to the attention of the relevant services within the Council through consultation on this report.

- 3.3.3 Transport related matters and other actions requiring the involvement of the County Council have been brought to the attention of the County's Stratford Area Team and the Rural Transport Officer through consultation in the preparation of this report.

4. Corporate Strategy/Environmental/Financial/Legal Implications

- 4.1 The following general observations on the Parish Plan are based on responses from internal consultation with the Directorates within the District Council.
- 4.2 The Parish Plan is a useful source of information about the local community perception of their locality. The Community Plan and Corporate Strategy for the District support the range of topic areas and policies in the Action Plan. The Parish Plan also complements and helps to move the District Council's Local Agenda 21 Strategy forward and provides some sustainability indicators.
- 4.3 Projects developed through this Parish Plan may require funding to take them forward, and the recommendations within this report should be contained within existing budgets. The District Council operates an Appraisal Capital grants scheme, aimed at funding these types of project. It is hoped that the Parish Council and local residents will consider and pursue funding in order to develop the relevant identified action points.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Parish Plan steering group, the Parish Council and residents of the Parishes of Brailes and Winderton should be commended and congratulated for completing their Parish Plan and are encouraged by Stratford-on-Avon District Council to implement and periodically review the Action Plan.
- 5.2 The Brailes and Winderton Parish Plan is a good example of how a rural community can prepare a Parish 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.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (1) That the Stour Area Community Committee adopts the Brailes and Winderton Parish Plan, as a local information source to offer advice to the relevant Departments of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.**
- (2) That the Stour Area Community Committee adopt the Brailes and Winderton Parish Plan as a material consideration in processing planning applications, in accordance with Policy ENV22 of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan and Policy COM1 of the Local Plan Review.**
- (3) That the Parish Plan steering committee, Parish Council and residents of the Parishes of Brailes and Winderton be commended for preparing their Parish Plan and they are encouraged to implement and review the Action Plan.**

PAT REID
Head of Planning and Building Control

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 District Council services, (e.g. the District Council Planning Authority, Leisure and Arts etc.).
Conformity with 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 the 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 the 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 the 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 the 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 the District Council or is beyond the powers of the authority or that insufficient and/or unsatisfactory information has been submitted to substantiate the recommendation. (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 Appraisal 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 In Planning Policy Guidance Note 7 *Countryside* (1997), the Government recognises that Parish Plans can inform development plans by identifying a local community's needs and priorities for the future.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 Stratford-on-Avon 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 and the District Council on local appraisals and their role in assisting the formulation of strategic policy.
- 2.9 Parish Plans can now play a broader role within the production of the statutory Community Plan for Stratford District.
- 2.10 The recommendations and Action Plans can both inform and help deliver the Rural Strategy for the Stratford-on-Avon District.
- 2.11 Policy ENV22 of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan states:
- " The District Planning Authority, in determining planning applications and assessing priorities for environmental enhancement will have regard to parish and village appraisals prepared by the Parish/Town Councils or local amenity bodies, which have been endorsed by the District Planning Authority."

"When an appraisal is received by the Council it is carefully considered and assessed against consistent criteria. The assessment of appraisals includes the identification of those issues of appraisals which are planning matters and therefore relevant to development control. It is only when the assessments have been completed and the relevant aspects endorsed by Committee, that appraisals will be afforded the status of a material consideration."

2.12 Policy COM1 of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan Review (Revised Deposit Draft) states:

"The views of local communities reflected in Parish Plans (and their equivalents) adopted by the District Council will be fully assessed 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..."

2.13 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.

2.14 Parish Plans can and do act as a tool to assist in giving many of the services provided by the District Council greater community focus. Vice versa, many of the services provided by the District Council can and do feed into the Parish Plan process creating more informed Action Plans.

Appendix C
Summary of key action points

Recommended Action	SDC Proposed Response
<p>Parish Life and Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult educational classes • Village museum • Activities for children / youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - playing field are - sports clubs for football, cricket and tennis - other activities 	<p>Support / Investigate /Action –</p> <p>The District Council supports the establishment of adult education classes.</p> <p>The development of the village museum merits further investigation and the Council’s Leisure and Business service can provide advice and assistance.</p> <p>Specific projects associated with the development of activities for children and youth may be eligible for funding from the Council’s Capital Grants Scheme.</p>
<p>Parish Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile library – make timings more convenient • Village Hall pavilion – increase use • Childcare facilities • Accessing doctors and NHS dentists • Information about the village 	<p>Support</p> <p>The action points are supported in principle by the District Council and will be brought to the attention of the relevant service providers who can assist the Parish Council with implementation.</p>
<p>Parish Housing and Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help people understand the processes involved in obtaining social housing • Housing needs • Business services in the Parish 	<p>Support / Action</p> <p>The Council’s Housing advice team can assist with this action. Information on how to access social housing is available on the SDC web-site.</p> <p>The District Council will work with the Parish Council to develop a clear picture of local need and recommends that the Rural Housing Enabler at Warwickshire Rural Community Council is also involved. In doing so, the Parish Council are encouraged to seek the views of residents as to the location for new development. It is likely that SWHA could assist the local community to undertake a survey earlier than the period of 18months- 2 years. In view of the needs of businesses there may be scope for the development of ‘live-work’ accommodation.</p> <p>The Councils Leisure and Business service could provide advice on the business actions.</p>
<p>Transportation and Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding • Parking • Transport for the community • Transport for medical needs 	<p>Support/Action All the action points are supported in principle by the District Council, but will require the support of the County Council as the relevant highway and transport authority to implement them. The County Council’s Rural Transport</p>

Recommended Action	SDC Proposed Response
	Officer can provide advice and support to encourage alternative modes of transport to the car and this action point has been brought to their attention.
<p>Environmental improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture the enthusiasm which exists for developing a 'greener' parish. • Recycle more 	<p>Support / Investigate</p> <p>The District Council strongly supports the establishment of a local environment group which supports the objectives of LA21.</p> <p>The action relating to recycling will be brought to the attention of the Council's 'Streetscene' team for investigation.</p>
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication 	<p>Support</p> <p>It is important that this action also extends to ongoing communication regarding the implementation of the action plan, not just the dissemination of the survey results.</p>