



LOTTERY FUNDED

Shotteswell Parish Plan

May 2018

*“Your Village
Your Say”*

Published by
Shotteswell Parish Plan Steering Committee

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The Steering Committee

Our Consultants- Allman Horrocks

Residents who contributed to the questionnaire content

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Simon Jackson: former Councillor Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC)

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WCC Rights of Way Team - Elaine Bettger

Our Photographers - Jack Pearson, Martha Pearson and Jemima Swain

Other photographs from various village collections

Purpose of a Parish Plan

Parish Plans are an initiative by Government to give villages the opportunity to define the needs of their community, now and for the future. It reflects the needs and desires of all sections of the community and aims to:

- ✓ Identify the features of the village that people value and wish to preserve
- ✓ Identify the key facilities that people want to maintain and improve
- ✓ Enable the people in the parish to identify local problems and issues to be resolved
- ✓ Define how people want the village to develop in the future
- ✓ Provide a framework to help the Parish Council understand what the community want them to focus on
- ✓ Create and implement an Action Plan to achieve this vision



The countryside around Shotteswell



This Parish Plan is also designed to help Shotteswell Parish Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC), Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and other local and national bodies to take account of the views of Shotteswell residents when considering:

- Planning or development proposals affecting our parish
- Support and funding for local projects and
- Other issues affecting Shotteswell such as provision of local services

Executive Summary

Overview

This final version of the Parish Plan was endorsed by the Parish Council in October 2015. Following some amendments requested by the Parish Council, the Plan was sent to Stratford District Council (SDC) for review by SDC Departments and Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC). In January 2016 they responded with comments and suggested some minor changes, which were made to the Plan. These changes were submitted to the Parish Council in March 2016 and they responded with a request for further changes in July 2016, September 2017 and January 2018. These changes have been made, as well as other changes to bring the Plan up to date by rewriting aspects of the Plan and revising the **Objectives and Action Plan**.

Executive Summary January 2018

The Shotteswell Parish Plan Project has given the Village the opportunity to express their views and concerns and we thank all 146 residents who responded, for their contribution.

It is thought that the process has been beneficial and that the Actions we have proposed will enable the Village to address the issues raised and provide ways in which the community can move forward.

In the major part of the Plan, “Survey Outcomes and Action Groups”, we set out how we approached the issues that were revealed in the Survey and how we suggested action was taken and developments monitored. We show action that has already taken place to resolve some issues and suggestions as to how other issues could be resolved.

In the implementation of the Parish Plan we have worked with village groups and especially the Parish Council. We aimed to avoid conflict, improve communications and understanding between us all.

We will build upon what has been achieved in the past by those who have given their time to contribute to many areas of community life.

We have shown how we can address the development of communications within the village and between us, contribute to continuing community cohesion.

Traffic, road safety and related issues continue to be addressed and we will seek ways to make improvements.

As many people identified the pleasant rural aspect of our village we identified our verges and roadside vegetation as areas for continued monitoring.

We included a section on Village Development, which simply recorded the views of respondents, made reference to the SDC Core Strategy and proposed a series of actions for the Parish Council to consider for the future. More recently the PC has considered the merits of a Housing Needs Survey and their response is given on page 27 and in appendix 3.

Some Action Proposals have been achieved, but they remain on the **Action Plan** as evidence of achievement. Other Action Proposals continue to be pursued.

This Parish Plan has been endorsed by the Shotteswell Parish Council and it now needs to be submitted by the Parish Council to Stratford District Council for approval and adoption.

Background

In December 2012 a proposal was put forward to undertake a Parish Plan (PP) for the village. Following an Open meeting in Spring 2013 when the purpose of the Plan was discussed and residents' views were sought, it was decided to begin the process as a majority of residents indicated that they would support the project. We also had the support of our former District Councillor, Simon Jackson and our County Councillor, Chris Williams.

A Steering Group was formed and a constitution developed to provide a framework for the activities that would direct the process. The Steering Group became the Shotteswell Parish Plan Steering Committee (SPPSC) and officers were appointed.

We sought the advice of neighbouring villages who had undertaken Parish Plans and the Planning Dept at Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC), Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC).

Support was given to the Parish Plan project by SDC, WCC and WRCC. Shotteswell Parish Council after some reservations gave their support and a Parish Councillor joined the Steering Committee.

The SPPSC appointed Brian Noble as Chairman, John Crocker as Treasurer, Tammy Barker as Secretary with Anne Omer, Paul Allitt, Godfrey Boulton, David Holman, Harriet Jordan, Ray Atkins, Frances Heppell, Sue Clark, and Cllr Michael Pearson forming the remainder of the Committee.

In addition we created a Volunteer Support Group that consisted of Linda Clark, Charlie Upton, Helen Smithson, George Nell, Elizabeth Gilchrist, and Beryl Page, whose role was to support the activities of the Steering Committee.

During the Summer of 2013 village groups and individual residents were consulted on the issues they felt needed to be addressed in the Parish Plan.

In the Autumn of 2013 the Steering Committee began to construct a Questionnaire that would be used to survey the views of residents.

It was agreed with the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Committee that the Questionnaire would include questions that the two organisations would use to seek the views of residents on specific aspects and future developments of their organisations.

The Steering Committee issued regular Bulletins on the progress of the PP and also ran two events linked to "getting to know your village" and had a stall at the 2013 Village Fete to publicise the Parish Plan.

At the same time the Steering Committee addressed the need for funding to finance the Parish Plan and a number of residents made donations to establish funds. Two events also raised funds. On the advice of WRCC we made an application to the National Lottery Awards for All scheme and we were successful in getting a Grant of £1500 for development of the Questionnaire and for follow up feasibility studies which we anticipated would be necessary after the analysis of the completed Questionnaires.

We were helped by a local consultancy Allman Horrocks in the development and analysis of the Questionnaire who offered to provide this support without charge. This generous gesture enabled us, with the agreement of the Lottery Fund to use the surplus funds in the development of our community website, www.shotteswell.com and for the printing of the Shotteswell Parish Plan document.

In Spring 2014 we issued the Questionnaire to all residents of Shotteswell over the age of 16 years- a total of between 190-200 people (exact figures could not be determined as some residents were absent or in the process of moving).

We received 146 completed responses, over 70% of eligible residents, which was an above average response for SDC parishes that had completed Parish Plans.

It was agreed that this significant return was justification for the PP project and the responses truly indicative of the views of a substantial proportion of the village population.

The findings of the Questionnaires were published in a Summary Survey in June 2014 and the Steering Committee set out a series of Actions that the survey showed needed to be addressed covering current issues and concerns and for the future development of the community.

Action Groups were set up in the Autumn of 2014 to review the main issues and where possible, suggest how they could be addressed and resolved.

In discussions with the Parish Council it was proposed that we should form a sub group to consider some of the community issues raised in the Survey. To achieve this two Councillors, Jan Burgess and George Nell joined the SPPSC and a sub group was formed with Anne Omer and Brian Noble as representatives of the SPPSC.

A number of issues that were raised in the Questionnaire and subsequent Survey Summary have been addressed by actions that were in progress by the Parish and County Councils and events elsewhere. These included:

- Some repairs to roads, improvements to verges and the installation of passing places on Mollington Road
- Information that the introduction of improved broadband services would happen in 2015
- Through the very process of compiling the Parish Plan, we increased engagement and participation within the village
- Improvements started on the community website, www.shotteswell.com with the agreement of the Big Lottery fund to use surplus funding for the development of the website as a contribution to improved communication throughout the village

The Parish of Shotteswell

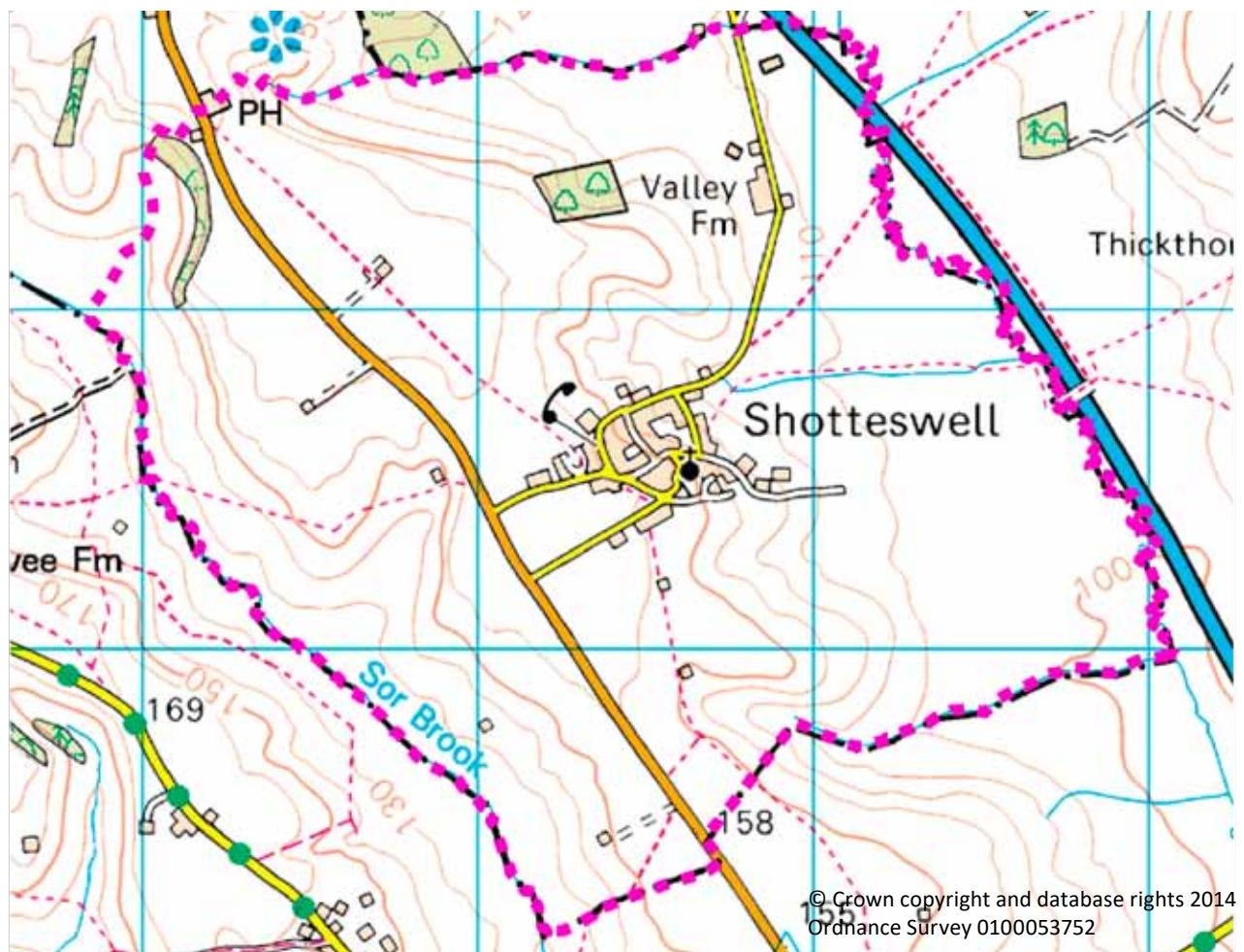
Shotteswell is a small parish of some 1300 acres, situated in the south of the County of Warwickshire and is within the Stratford District Council administrative area. Its closest commercial centre, Banbury, is in Oxfordshire, 4 miles away. Stratford-on-Avon lies 18 miles to the North West, with Warwick and Leamington Spa at similar distances to the North.

Shotteswell is close to the villages of Warmington (2 miles north), Mollington (2 miles east), and Hanwell (2 miles south) - the latter two are in Oxfordshire - and also the M40 (opened 1991) which links to the cities of Oxford, London and Birmingham. On three sides, Shotteswell shares the county boundary of Oxfordshire.

The edge of the Cotswolds AONB lies two miles to the north of the village and the National Trust properties at Farnborough Hall and Upton House are close by.

The village, surrounded by farmland, is served by the B4100 (formerly the A41) which links Banbury and Warwick/Leamington Spa. The M40 can be accessed at Gaydon, (junction 12) 7 miles to the north and Banbury (Junction 11) 4 miles to the South of the parish.

Shotteswell village is situated on the steep east facing slope of the Warmington Valley,* part of



a small range of hills that run north from Banbury. This hillside position provides a picturesque location and offers attractive views across the valley towards the villages of Mollington and Great Bourton and Farnborough Hall.

*"Warmington Valley" as described by the Motorway Archive Trust

The village is linked to the B4100 at the top of the village by two roads: First Turn to the north and Second Turn to the south. Joined together by Coronation Lane, these lead to the network of lanes that provide access through the village.

Scattered throughout the village are the five old farmsteads - Redlands Farm (The Old Farmhouse), Bury Court Farm, Church Farm, College Farm and Laurel Farm - around which



The countryside around Shotteswell

stand traditional cottages interspersed with late 20th Century properties and farm building conversions. At the northern end of the village lies the Manor complex, while on the slope below the Church is the Vicarage and opposite the Church to the east, The Mount. The heart of the village is relatively compact as the new dwellings intermingle amongst the older properties. On the higher ground of the northwest corner of the village in 'New Road', an area of terraced mid 20th century housing set around a small green.

The traditional building material is the local Hornton ironstone. Some of the older cottages are still thatched, but the majority are roofed with tile or slate. On the 'Mollington Road' at the bottom of the valley, beyond the main part of the village, is a complex of barns currently used as garage businesses, and beyond, Valley Farm, which is run as an equestrian centre. A substantial part of the village is a Conservation area and there are a number of Grade 2 listed buildings.

St Laurence Church, dating back to Saxon times, stands on the southern edge of the village, its spire forming a notable landmark. The Church completed major repairs in 2015, to the stonework of the tower and to the windows. These have been paid for with the help of village donations, fund raising activities, National Churches Trust, English Heritage, Wolfson Foundation and from other sources. Funds have also been raised through the "Sponsor a Window" initiative. Many residents give of their time to support the on-going upkeep of the Church and surrounding graveyard.

The Village Hall stands at the top of the village, towards its southern side. Built as the village school in 1867, it was acquired for its present role in 1971. Close by, occupying the 'U' formed by First Turn, Coronation Lane and Second Turn, is the Village Playing Field. This dates from the beginning of 2000 when the Parish Council agreed a lease with the land owner Brasenose College and has since been equipped with the help of grants and a generous bequest. It is also the annual home of our popular Village Fete.



Photos by the Pearson family

Village Pump



Village Fete on the Playing Field, July 2013



A farming village - at the Fete

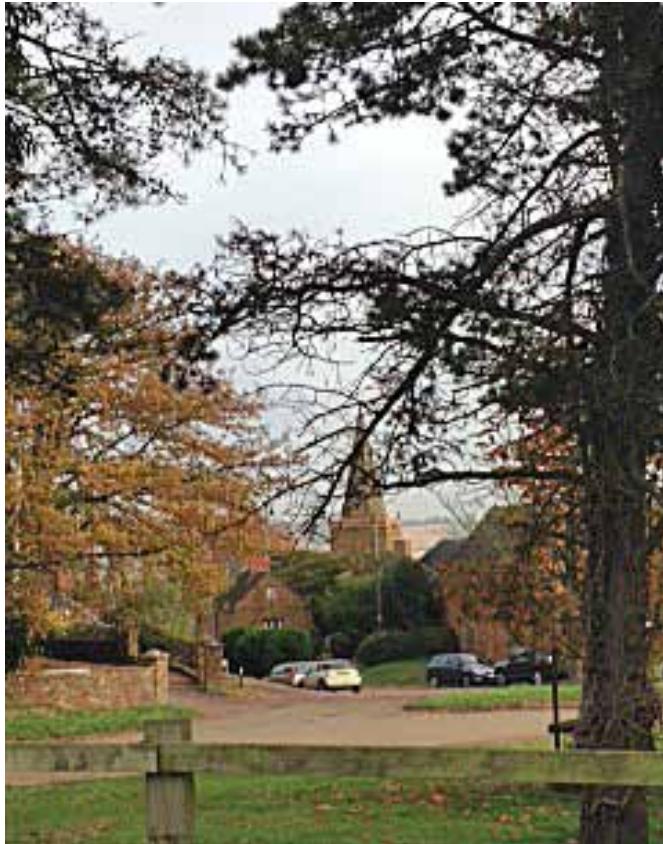


Photo by Jack Pearson



Jack's friend



Defibrillator at Village Hall

Our survey showed that over 90% of respondents feel that the village met their expectations as a place to live, citing rural location with good major road links as a reason for this.

Our population profile is like many other small villages in the area with 42% of the population over 61 years; and over 46% between 31 and 60 years. More than 40% of respondents have lived in the village for over 20 years



Photo by Jemima Swain

Shotteswell History

The primary purpose of this Parish Plan is to record the present, and to identify issues that will affect the future of the village. In the process of compiling the Plan, however, it has become clear that, while considerable work has been done on researching the village history, there is certainly more to discover. In particular, the wealth of existing material and accounts would benefit from drawing together into a comprehensive document. This offers an exciting opportunity for those keen on history to come together in a historical society or group to undertake such a task.



Survey Outcomes

The full Combined Survey report containing the detailed responses to the Questionnaire can be found on the community website www.shotteswell.com. Comments from the individual responses are not included, but a summary of respondents' views was made and used along with statistical results, to help in the setting up of Action Groups prior to the publication of this Parish Plan.

(In the following two sections we have included a few extracts from comments in the Survey responses to provide a flavour of respondents' views.)

As a small village we have limited facilities, with no school, shop or village pub and almost no public transport services. We benefit from a limited Post Office service, one morning per week, a BT telephone box and a defibrillator.

Most respondents were aware of the available services and facilities in the village and rated their value to them, with the post box, playing field, public footpaths, Neighbourhood Watch and provision of salt and grit bins, being seen as of greatest value.



When asked what other facilities the village should consider, improvement to the broadband service was considered the most important, followed by better public transport, a snow clearing plan, community bar or social centre and buying groups for major services such as oil, logs and electricity services.

Residents felt that most public services were satisfactory, especially the emergency services, although there was some concern over police response times.

Rating by survey respondents, of how well various organisations currently serve Shotteswell

	1 - Poor	2	3	4 - Excellent	Don't know	Total	Average Rating
Parish Council	22.38% 32.00	11.19% 16.00	34.97% 50.00	23.08% 33.00	8.39% 12.00	143	2.64
Stratford District Council	9.79% 14.00	23.08% 33.00	41.26% 59.00	8.39% 12.00	17.48% 25.00	143	2.58
Warwickshire County Council	9.09% 13.00	25.17% 36.00	32.17% 46.00	9.09% 13.00	24.48% 35.00	143	2.55
Emergency service - Police	16.31% 23.00	18.44% 26.00	26.95% 38.00	10.64% 15.00	27.66% 39.00	141	2.44
Ambulance service	2.84% 4.00	13.48% 19.00	29.79% 42.00	24.82% 35.00	28.08% 41.00	141	3.08
Fire service	2.13% 3.00	7.80% 11.00	23.40% 33.00	24.11% 34.00	42.55% 60.00	141	3.21
Electricity provider	4.29% 6.00	15.00% 21.00	52.14% 73.00	23.57% 33.00	5.00% 7.00	140	3.00
Water provider	8.57% 12.00	10.00% 14.00	50.71% 71.00	25.00% 35.00	5.71% 8.00	140	2.98
Waste disposal / recycling services	4.17% 6.00	6.25% 9.00	42.38% 61.00	45.83% 66.00	1.39% 2.00	144	3.32
Telephone - landline	9.29% 13.00	15.00% 21.00	47.86% 67.00	24.29% 34.00	3.57% 5.00	140	2.90
Telephone - mobiles	22.79% 31.00	34.56% 47.00	27.94% 38.00	7.35% 10.00	7.35% 10.00	136	2.21
Broadband service	55.80% 77.00	22.46% 31.00	13.77% 19.00	2.90% 4.00	5.07% 7.00	138	1.62

Action Groups

Following publication of the Survey, five Action Groups were set up to address the main issues:

1. **Communications and Information**, to include: Broadband, Website, Mobile Phones, Notice Boards
2. **Communications (2)** This was a Group formed with two Parish Councillors and two members of the Parish Plan Steering Committee to consider communication needs between PC and residents.
3. **Neighbourhood watch**, co-ordination and to re-establish links
4. **Traffic, roads and verges**, to include: traffic survey and related actions, passing places on Mollington road, parking within the village, winter weather planning.
5. **Community**, to include: community pub and social centre, other social activities, support networks, buying networks, commercial services.

OUTCOMES FROM ACTION GROUPS, ISSUES RESOLVED AND FUTURE PROPOSALS

A Parish Plan should be a “live” document and a blue print for the future. We have thus prepared the Shotteswell Parish Plan in a manner that will make it easy to update the Plan as we go forward, to show how issues raised from the original Questionnaire have progressed, and to encompass new subjects should they arise.

In the “Village Edition” of the Parish Plan published in April 2015, we gave details of where an Action has been proposed and then showed how we recommended it should be resolved. Since then we have developed some of these proposals into Action Plans.

The provision of new housing is one of the subjects addressed by Stratford-on-Avon District Council in their Planning Core Strategy and is a matter that the village may need to consider at a future date. In the early stages of the Shotteswell Parish Plan process, there was considerable concern within the village that, in addressing the subject of development, the Plan could wrongly convey the impression that residents were ready to embrace the concept of development. For this reason, a discussion on development was not included as a primary issue in the Questionnaire and subsequent Survey. As a result, the statement on Village Development included here is limited and does not make recommendations, simply observes the views of respondents and asks the Parish Council to continue to monitor the situation and keep residents informed.

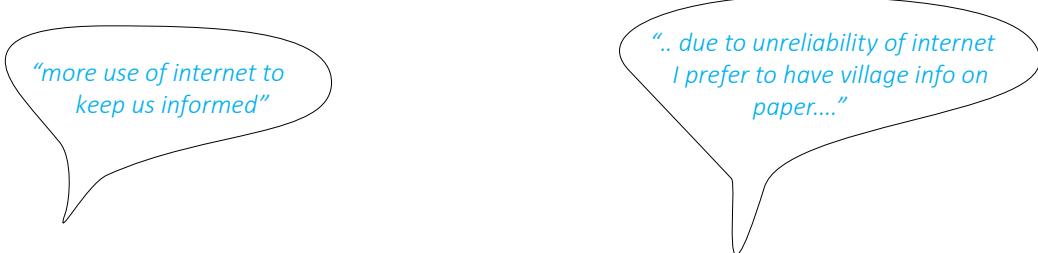
The Parish Council has also responded to a suggestion from SDC that they should undertake a Housing Needs Survey.



Shotteswell in winter

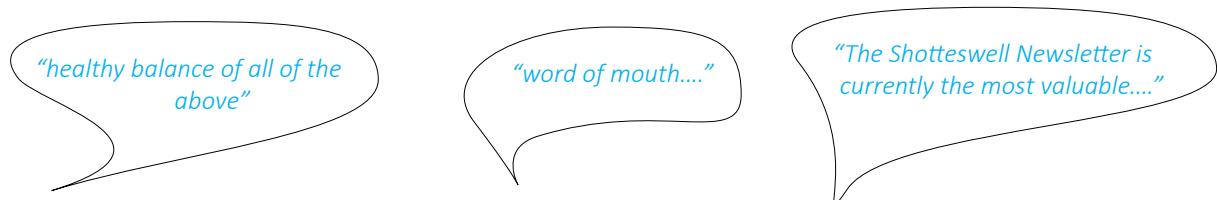
Communications and Information - Action Group 1

Residents were interested in a broad range of information with communication about disruptions, events, crime incidents and planning applications being important to over 70% of respondents.



Over 90% of survey respondents indicated that they had Internet access and nearly 50% wanted to be kept informed on village related announcements via email or the Shotteswell community website.

There was, however, a clear desire for traditional forms of communication, with Shotteswell Newsletter (72% respondents), hand delivered notices (62%) and village notice boards (62%) as preferred means of communication. The Shotteswell Newsletter received the highest quality ratings.



There were concerns about the consistency of communication across the village. Communication methods within the village needed to be reviewed to ensure that information was readily available to all residents.

Community Website

With the growth of internet services and broadband service improvements, an open, and easy to access website was essential to improve communications in and to the village. A website that served the interest of all Village Groups and residents, provided an opportunity for comment and a forum to discuss interests and issues that were important to all of us.

The website format continues to be developed to meet the needs and wishes of all and provide a quick and responsive site. At the same time it has to maintain the democratic management that had been put in place over the past few years. The “editorial group” include representatives of village groups and independent residents.

ACTION PROPOSAL - COMMUNICATIONS

- All village groups to be encouraged to use village notice boards, emails and www.shotteswell.com, to keep residents informed of relevant activities.
- External agencies to be encouraged to use Shotteswell Newsletter which is published in Spring and Autumn each year and on the community website, www.shotteswell.com.

Internet / Broadband

An improved broadband service was seen as a high priority. Since the survey was undertaken, the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership (CSW) indicated that Shotteswell was likely have a fibre optic service in place by Autumn 2015 and this was achieved by December 2015.

We would also like to thank the four village coordinators, David Holman, John Crocker, Malcolm Tuvey and Godfrey Boulton, who supported the Partnership (CSW) in encouraging residents to register their interest in the development plan.



Communications 2- Action Group 2 Parish Council

Residents wished for an open and engaging approach by the Parish Council and for clear, efficient two way communication. The Parish Council produces an Annual Chairman's Report which is circulated to residents and from time to time other notices on topics of interest and current issues, to parishioners.

The "Village Edition" of the Parish Plan put forward a number of suggestions, which had been considered by the Group set up by the Parish Council and the Parish Plan Steering Committee to review communications and procedure. Some of these suggestions are covered by recent legislation, i.e. Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities 2015.

The Action Proposal in the earlier edition of the Parish Plan has been slightly changed, but still includes a request for the Parish Council to respond to issues that are a cause of concern, so an Action Plan has been established to address this area.

The Parish Plan Steering Committee will work with the Parish Council to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

Neighbourhood Watch - Action Group 3

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been re-launched and an Information Sheet detailing the aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Watch delivered to all households.

All residents have been invited to support the scheme and to provide their contact details so that they can be advised via nominated Area Coordinators. There are 5 Area Coordinators who are the contact point for specific areas of the Village, they will supply information to those people who have registered with details of incidents and general security notices by means of e-mails, telephone messages or copies of e-mails.

The Area Coordinators names are given below.

Area 1. David Holman,

Area 2. Ray Adkins,

Area 3. Anne Omer,

Area 4. Emily Pearson,

Area 5. Linda Clark,



Neighbourhood Watch information and updates are available on the Community website, www.shotteswell.com, together with contact information for the five area coordinators shown above.

The parallel scheme Rural Watch information can also be accessed on the website and the Neighbourhood Watch team will consider how the information from both schemes can be linked in the future in order to give the most extensive support in preventing crime in and around our Parish.



Mollington Road Shotteswell

Traffic, Roads and Verges - Action Group 4

Major areas of concern that were identified include, traffic issues, the state of the roads and verges, and winter weather that makes access and road conditions difficult. Traffic speed through the village and the increase in commercial or heavy traffic was of greatest concern, (but the heavy traffic issue has been alleviated by new signage close to the M40, Mollington Road overbridge).

Many also felt that a speed limit was necessary, but were not sure what that limit should be and there could be problems with enforcement.

There was considerable damage to road verges, particularly along Mollington Road, as vehicles drove onto the verges to pass oncoming vehicles but the situation has been improved by the introduction of passing places

There was also concern about hedgerows and overhanging trees in a number of areas in the village, but this has been addressed by PC and WCC in recent months and there is now an annual maintenance plan in place organised by the Parish Council.

Traffic Management -

A meeting was held in January 2015 with the WCC Traffic and Road Safety Officer, to consider the options available to address the concerns of residents.

Ideas discussed included a 30mph speed limit and a One Way system. It was suggested by the WCC that a 30mph speed limit, had several drawbacks: a speed limit tended to act as a "target" speed and this speed was too fast for safety in the village lanes; a speed limit would be difficult and costly to enforce; and additional signage would be required. A One Way system could serve to increase traffic speed as motorists might drive faster in the knowledge that there would be no traffic approaching from the opposite direction. It would also result in an increase in road signage, a feature of the village that was criticised by some in the Survey, detracting from the rural nature of the village that many were anxious to preserve.

The outcome of the discussions was to propose that traffic calming measures were installed at the 3 entrances to the village. These could involve changing the surface colour, "dragon's teeth" markings and new name signs with additional messages and special plantings to highlight a village entrance.

However it was later determined by WCC that the width of the road at village entrances were too narrow for the "dragon's teeth" markings and use of different colour road surfaces was no longer WCC policy. New entrance signs would be costly to install with the Parish Council having to pay 50% of the costs and there remained some uncertainty as to their effectiveness.

To date the lack of funding and concerns about whether certain of the measures proposed can be put in place has stopped any progress in this area, but the problems remain.

ACTION PROPOSAL

- Parish Council to pursue options to resolve this problem and seek support from Warwickshire County Council

ACTION RESOLUTION

- Traffic calmed and safer driving attitudes followed by road users when in the village

Verge and Road Conditions - Village Environment

Independent of the Parish Plan activities, some work has been undertaken by the WCC and there are now five new passing places on the Mollington Road, which were paid for from Parish funds. These in addition to the existing farm gateways provide passing places between the village and Manor Farm buildings

Although larger vehicles cause the greatest damage, all types of vehicles continue to encroach on the verges. The newly installed passing places may not be wide enough for large vehicles and a number of vehicle drivers are often impatient and decide to go “off road” rather than use the passing place option.

In previous winters, verge damage occurred in various areas of the village, mostly again due to large vehicles, but also to car parking and cars manoeuvring. Given the narrowness of most village roads, we need to keep this issue under review.



Mollington Road Shotteswell

We have extensive grass verges, especially in the areas around the village entrances. These are kept in good order throughout the summer by individual residents.

Other village grass, including the playing field and village green, is maintained by contractors employed by the Parish Council or residents who in most areas also maintain hedges that border their properties. In addition there are a number of volunteers who keep St Laurence Church grounds in good order.

The village is helped by a wide group of volunteers who provide time and resources to maintain an attractive environment.

Winter Road Conditions

Winter snow and ice can limit access to, from, and around the village for motorists and pedestrians alike. Snow problems tend to be less frequent, but ice is common. As part of their cold weather gritting programme, WCC grit the ‘U’ of First Turn, Second Turn and Coronation Lane but not the other lanes. The PC currently holds the role of village ‘Snow Warden’ in terms of the WCC network.



Shotteswell in Winter

When we do experience snow, many residents clear the snow and put down salt/grit from the bins, but this response can be patchy. Little local gritting is done when the roads are only icy and not snow-covered. Unfortunately due to legislation and insurance restrictions it is not possible for either the Parish Council or Village Groups to organise work parties to clear the snow. However grit bins are available and villagers are actively encouraged to help clear the snow on roads bordering their houses and to spread grit sparingly in icy weather.

Ice poses a hazard to both pedestrians and vehicles. The situation has been improved by the repair of water and mains drainage at the junction of Mollington Road and Bakehouse Lane, which had reduced the continual presence of surface water at this location. However, local springs and rain showers in winter frequently result in frozen surfaces.

The impact of heavy snowfall also created a parking issue as many villagers, in anticipation of such conditions, moved their vehicles to the relatively flat areas at the top of the village. In the past, this has led to more verge damage and some local congestion.

It would be useful to see whether some “off road” provision for winter parking could be sourced especially to allow safe passage for snow plough and gritting vehicles.

Parish Footpaths

In the Survey, when identifying aspects of the Parish that respondents liked, footpaths were seen as a positive feature, so we have included a short note to provide some background.

Before the M40 was opened in January 1991 the Shotteswell footpaths although being in existence for centuries were in a very poor condition. A survey was carried out of the paths and it was decided to reinstate them by means of clearing the vegetation, hedges etc, erecting signposts, stiles and bridges.

Through and around the Parish we have a mixture of both five public and two permissive footpaths, including one inter county/national route, the d'Arcy Dalton Way. We are fortunate that when the M40 was built and as a consequence some footpaths were cut, we were, through the generosity of two farmers – Jim Page and Roger Peel and the help of the Warwickshire County Council, able to add to our footpaths. This enabled us to construct circular walks so beloved of walkers, who rarely like to retrace their steps!

These are known as the Roger Peel Millennium footpath and the Jim Page Memorial footpath. The paths, stiles, bridges, obstructive vegetation and signposts are maintained or cleared by a small voluntary Village Footpath Team who are supported with materials and tools that are provided by the Warwickshire County Council. Recently the Jim Page Memorial Footpath has become a Public Right of Way thanks to the Page family who owned the land where the path is located.

Most of the village farmers help by following national guidelines governing the width and condition of the paths, especially in summer when crops and grass are in full growth.

The footpaths provide an opportunity for dog owners to exercise their pets, which need to be under close control; more especially in recent years on parts of the paths where they border "environmentally sensitive areas". It is essential that dogs are not allowed onto these areas, which are to encourage ground nesting birds and other wild life.



It should be noted that Permissive Footpaths are constructed with the landowners consent and this can be withdrawn at short notice if we do not obey the rules.

Keep to the footpaths and keep dogs under control at all times.

The countryside around Shotteswell

Community - Action Group 5

The Survey revealed a strong desire to increase the social activities in the Village which could increase social interaction. The creation of a village pub or social centre and more activities for day and evenings to suit all needs was the message received from the Survey respondents.

"...the village does need to improve on its community spirit....."

"a pub would be nice"

Provision of a “village pub” has been tried but has been a difficult task to achieve as a separate activity, so it has been absorbed into the remit of the Village Hall Committee.

The playing field makes an important contribution and provides space to pursue various activities,(NB-Village fete) and provide a recreational outlet for younger village residents

An increase in social activities is more easily achieved if there is sufficient interest and support. The important factor is new support so that those who have continually organised activities in the past are joined by a wider group of villagers.

Currently, many social activities are organised as a part of fund raising programmes for the Church and Village Hall (and recently increased by a regular monthly Lunch event at the Village Hall). Development of more social activities need not be seen as fund raising events, but such initiatives should work with activities organised by other groups.

(see later reports by Village Hall and St Laurence Church)

The Survey supported the idea of buying groups and better information on local commercial service availability, such as produce delivery; an oil buying group is thriving and pharmacy deliveries are now available.

ACTION

- Continue to monitor potential services that may be of interest to the community.
- To encourage residents to support services and other social activities.

The feedback from the Plan process is that social activities for older children and teenagers remain largely the responsibility of parents. Some childrens activities are available in nearby villages. Should at some point in the future an interest arise in developing activities for children then it would be welcomed.

Given the age profile of the village, there is a desire for a more structured support network to help those who live alone or are limited by age and health needs. While there are individual residents who provide support as “good neighbours”, there is scope for this to be encouraged in all areas of the village on a more formal basis.

Local Transport Services

The inadequacies of public transport services and the need for such links to local commercial centres has been a problem for a number of residents over past years.

Public funding cutbacks and provision of community based services largely linked to Stratford upon Avon and Southam, has meant that those residents without their own transport are restricted in their ability to freely leave the village and travel to Banbury which is the nearest commercial and retail centre.

There are car services organised by Voluntary Action Stratford-on-Avon District (VASA) to take people to hospitals or doctors surgeries and some social activities. This is a chargeable service but at a lower rate than commercial taxi services.

Recent growth in “home delivery” could partially reduce the need for travel to shop for some, but there is concern that some residents who are transport restricted are also not necessarily in a position to use these types of service.

The Parish Council has provided information on the UBUS service run from Stratford, which provides a service in South Warwickshire on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and also the service provided by Warwickshire Rural Community Council called Back & 4th

Community Transport which could be made available and would provide a service for a group or local organisation at subsidised rates, but this is primarily for excursions and leisure trips for around 15 to 16 people.

More investigation is required to meet individual transport needs, especially to and from our nearest commercial centre, Banbury.



Shotteswell village bus shelter

ACTION PROPOSAL

- The Parish Plan Steering Committee to ascertain the level of need and what type of transport services would meet that need.

ACTION RESOLUTION

- To improve transport services

Village Hall

The current and future use of the Village Hall was a separate section in our Survey and the questions included were drawn up by the Village Hall Committee. Following the Survey, the Village Hall Committee was given the responses of residents for them to consider what actions should be taken.

In response to suggestions on how to enhance the appeal of the venue, the Village Hall committee set up a sub committee to consider internal improvements and to submit proposals for changes in decor and lighting. They applied to the National Lottery Fund and received a grant to meet some of the costs of the proposed changes. Other grants were obtained to complete the refurbishment.

The internal improvements to the decor were completed at the end of 2015.

In the longer term, because of the limitations of the existing building, it has been suggested thought be given to the building of a new purpose-built facility. This would, clearly, amongst other things involve the acquisition of land on a suitable site within the parish, a detailed review of the processes required to dispose of the current building, and the raising of the necessary finance for a new building. A decision of this magnitude would need input from the village as a whole, plus all interested organisations before such a plan could be considered. Some initial investigation into this has been undertaken but at this point in time it was decided that it should not be pursued.

See Appendix 1 for a summary of the Shotteswell Village Hall Trust



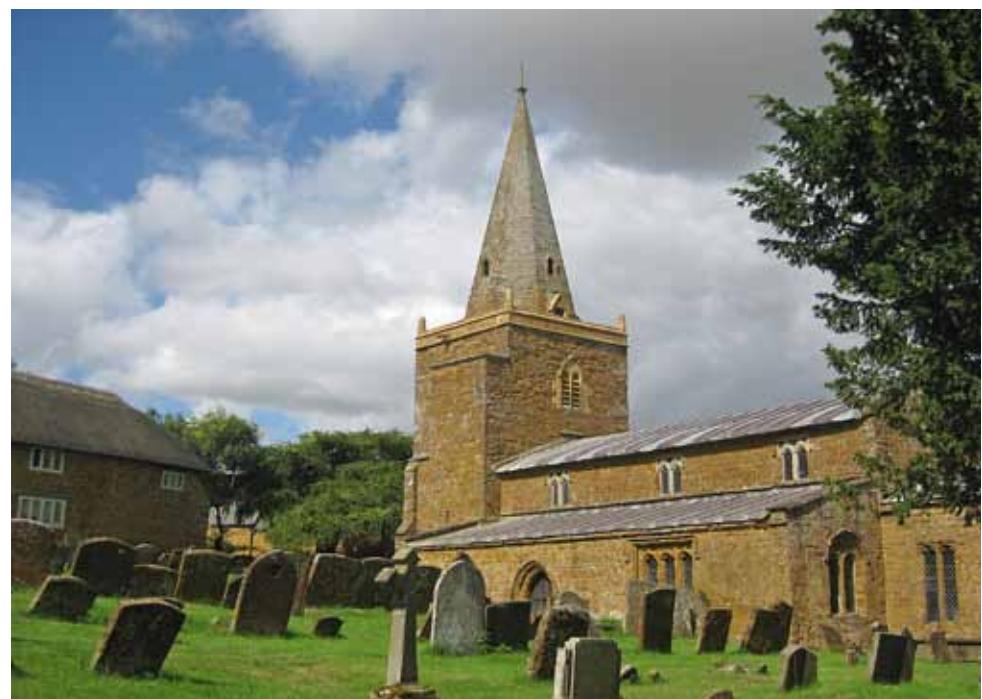
Drawing of the Village Hall by former resident Ann Greenwood

St Laurence Church

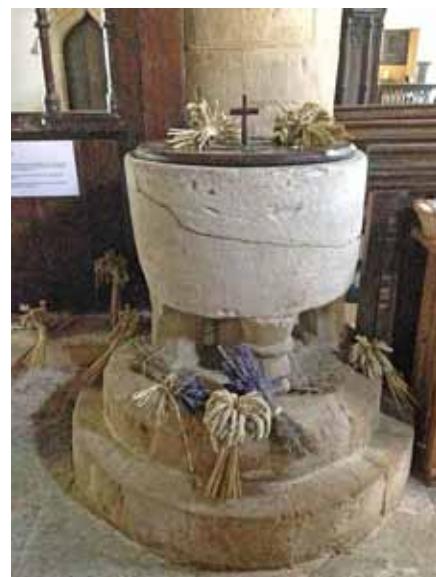
When we started to prepare the Questionnaire we asked a number of village groups for their input and following this decided to treat matters relating to the Church as a separate issue. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) put forward a series of questions on Church-related matters, which they wished to be considered.

The responses to the Survey were passed to the PCC who will use them to help inform future decisions in the organisation, management and development of church matters.

Overall, those who responded felt that communications between church and parishioners were good and although regular attendance at Services was low, 50% of respondents did occasionally attend. Some thought that the Church could be used for a wider range of activities, especially music and special events.



St Laurence Church



Many respondents referred to the position of the Church in the history of Shotteswell and how as a historic building it was recognised as an essential part of the village.

A history of St Laurence church building is provided as Appendix 2.

Village Development

On the subject of village infrastructure and development, most residents did not want to see significant changes, especially by commercial developments, including wind farms. There was a strong desire to maintain the rural image of the village and avoid the development of large scale housing projects that would alter the structure of the village.

A majority of respondents (62%) believed that the village did not want additional housing, but those who (38%) expressed a desire for more houses, identified starter and family homes as the preferred type, but with a proviso that new-build should be proportional and in keeping with the existing style of the village.

In the responses from SDC and WRCC they suggested that the Parish Council undertook a Housing Needs Survey (HNS) to identify whether there was a need for social housing.

The Parish Council decided that they would prefer to conduct their own enquiry. They circulated a letter from the PC Chairman (letter attached at Appendix 3) throughout the village. Following this the PC reported that they did not receive any enquiries. The conclusion being from this response was that there is no need for a formal Housing Needs Survey at this time.

Future development is a sensitive issue in a small village, but with the adoption of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy in July 2016, there is some reassurance in that Shotteswell is not seen as a Local Service Village, where a lot of village development is likely to take place.

To achieve the increases in houses required by the Core Strategy policy in the period 2016-2031, development is largely focussed upon SDC towns and Local Service Villages, large villages where there are more facilities and where the infrastructure is more appropriate for housing development and on two large developments at Gaydon and Long Marston.

Under the Core Strategy development in small villages will be influenced by the following statement in the Core Strategy. Section CS. 15.Paragraph F and G;

"In all other settlements Development is restricted to small-scale community-led schemes which meet a need identified by the local community.

Local Needs Schemes in, within and adjacent to all settlements in this hierarchy, development may include small-scale community-led schemes brought forward to meet a need identified by that community. Dwellings provided through such schemes will contribute to the overall housing requirement for the District".

ACTION

- The Parish Council to keep this under review

Appendix 1

Shotteswell Village Hall Trust

This summary is provided to outline the basis upon which the Shotteswell Village Hall Trust was established and some of the rules that govern the Trust and the responsibilities of the Trustees. It is not a legal interpretation but simply sets out the origins of the building and how the Trust was established together with the way it is run to-day.

The building was originally Shotteswell Church of England School, which closed in 1970. In 1971 the land upon which it sits together with the building was conveyed and a Trust Deed made between the Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance (The Vendor) and Vera Constance Lear Dufor and William John Pearson (the Trustees), both residents of Shotteswell. The sum of £2500 was paid by the Trustees, who were identified as the Trustees of the Shotteswell Village Hall (The Charity).

The property was to be...." held upon trust for the purpose of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Shotteswell..... and was to include use for meetings, lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants".

The Charity is administered by a committee of management (the Committee) who became the Trustees of the Charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 1960. The responsibilities of the Trustees are to ensure that the buildings and property are kept in good repair and insured. They are required to seek professional guidance in all legal, financial and other matters of a specialist nature.

The Committee should consist of five elected members, seven representative members and may not include more than three co-opted members. The seven representative members were to come from established village organisations.

Newly formed organisations could appoint a representative to the Committee, but this had to be approved by two thirds of those present at the meeting where the appointment was to be made. At the last AGM in 2015, the Parish Council appointed a councillor to represent them. In addition, representatives of the Village Pub, Parish Plan Steering Committee, Tuesday Club, Aerobics Group and the Parochial Church Council proposed representatives to become members of the Committee.

The Trust Deed sets out the responsibilities and terms by which the Village Hall shall be administered, the election of officers, frequency of meetings, etc and the strict keeping of accounts in accordance with the rules contained within the Charities Act 1960.

The Charity is required to invest any surplus funds and may with the approval of the Charity Commissioners or Secretary of State obtain funds by mortgage or advances on the Trust property, for maintenance, extending or improving the building. Should the Trustees decide to discontinue the use of the Trust property it will be necessary to call a meeting of all of the Village inhabitants above the age of 18 years and at that meeting 75% of those present would be required to support the proposal. Any funds raised from a sale could be used to obtain another building, but such a decision would have to be supported by the Charity Commissioners.

The Committee have published an additional set of rules, which detail the day to day running of the Village Hall.



Shotteswell Village Hall

Appendix 2

A Brief History of St Laurence Church Shotteswell

St Laurence almost certainly has Saxon origins though nothing of the original structure survives save a single wheatsheaf stone that serves to support the Norman font. The original Saxon structure would have been very small and was probably situated where the existing vestry is now to be found.

The columns and arches on the north side of the aisle are the earliest parts of the structure that can be dated with some certainty. The capitals at the tops of the columns are very early Norman, being built within a few years of 1100. Their decoration with zigzag carving and the large overhang from the pillar at the base of the arches confirms the early date. The tops of the pillars were later built with a less pronounced overhang because of the stress placed on the stones. Evidence of cracking can be seen on the pillar just inside the door on the north side. The exact form of the Norman church at this time is unknown.

During the late 1200s the south arcade was built. The pillars and pointed arches are quite different. At this time the tower was built as was the very narrow chancel arch. There is evidence of a rood loft with the staircase entrance - now blocked - adjacent to the vestry door. The chancel at this time may have been much smaller than the existing structure.

In the 1300s the chancel, spire, clerestory and porch were added and new window openings were made in the north and south aisles. This building completed the structure that you see today and there have been no major alterations in the shape of the building for nearly 700 years. It has been claimed - probably correctly - that poverty has been the salvation of the fabric in its surviving form, though neglect has caused challenges throughout this time.

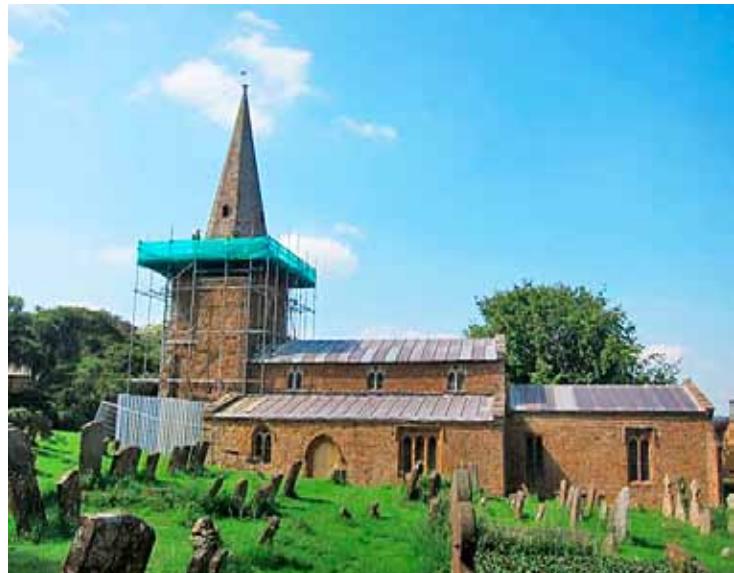
However, changes have been made to the internal furnishings. The church possesses some very fine examples of early wood carving. Some of the seating dates from the 1300s and the pulpit from the 1500s. The screen in the north aisle, called the parclose, probably also dates from around this time. There is fine carving, believed to be Flemish, in the reredos, and this dates from the 1700s. The carved panels were not actually introduced until Victorian times when there was a significant refurbishment undertaken. At that time Lord North, who lived in Wroxton Abbey, commissioned a major restoration of the chapel within the house. His estates at the time included both land and property in Shotteswell and he would have been a patron of the village. The Shotteswell panels have a striking similarity to those used by Lord North in the refurbishment of his chapel and it is compelling to suspect that those in St Laurence were surplus to requirements - though they do form a splendid set in their current location.

In the early 1800s there are records suggesting the church was in a very dilapidated condition and that demolition of the spire was approved. In the event it was rebuilt and there is evidence of other restoration. Glaziers and plumbers (working on the lead roofs) scratched their names with dates in the panes of some of the windows. The window at the west end of the north aisle has the best preserved examples.

More recent work on the structure has involved repairs to the spire, the top 10ft being rebuilt in 1990. Most of the lead roofs have also been replaced during the 1900s, the exceptions being the porch and the vestry. The very wide rolls of lead give a clue to their age and they would be exceedingly heavy. The risk of the removal of lead by thieves has necessitated the installation of a state of the art alarm system.

The bells were re-hung on a new bell frame in 1995 and the original five bells were augmented to six by the inclusion of a bell from a redundant church. The oldest bell is the original tenor which was cast locally in 1625.

Recent major work has just been completed. Most of the windows have been removed and the old glass re-used within new lead frames. The old lead was badly corroded and the glass was in danger of being lost. The parapet and leadwork at the base of the spire was also renewed and the opportunity



Photos by Jemima Swain

taken to replace the short pinnacles on the corners of the tower which were probably lost when the spire was rebuilt.

Appendix 3

Housing Needs Letter

Shotteswell Parish Council
Valley Farm
Shotteswell
Banbury
Oxon

Dear Resident

As you may be aware, the question has again been raised as to whether there is a requirement or *not to undertake a Housing Needs Survey (HNS)* at this time.

Given the sensitivity of the subject it is for this reason that we are trying to identify if anyone is in need before exploring this further. You may remember that when the Parish Plan was mooted originally, many residents asked at that time that the question of housing not be included.

What is involved in an HNS? The proposed HNS would ask for everyone (even if you do not have a housing need) to complete profiling, details of age groups, household size, no of bedrooms, property tenure and housing circumstances etc would be sought.

Information would also be sought as to whether any member of the household has left the parish to find affordable or suitable accommodation, and whether or not respondents would be in favour of a small scheme of new homes to meet local identified housing needs.

It would then expand to specifics of anyone who felt that they had a housing need to supply further details of the household in need together with sensitive information such as financial details. Were a survey to become necessary this information would not be passed on to the Parish Council but would be required by a third party.

The survey asks for people to suggest/identify suitable sites for affordable housing, 'Affordable housing' is defined as homes available from a housing association either to rent or at a low (subsidised) rent or available on a shared ownership basis. Shared ownership is a middle ground between renting a property and full ownership whereby a 'shared owner' buys a share of the property, typically 50% initially, and pays rent on the remaining share.

At least five properties would be required to make the project feasible and be dependent on land being made available to facilitate this. The land in question would need to be sold at a lower than market rate to make the project viable.

We have concluded that rather than initiate a formal HNS, we would prefer to first approach residents to see if there is any housing need before making a decision as to whether or not to formalise the process. We will not be seeking any personal details as listed above at this stage. Any respondent's identity will not be divulged this is an exercise only for guidance to the Parish Council, to see if a survey is deemed necessary.

May we ask if anyone considers they have a preceived housing need, to contact the Parish Clerk by 5th August 2017, please?

Clerk's details: The Old Post Office, Shotteswell, OX17 1HU, Tel no 01295 730203
The Clerk will also be available to explain in greater detail if required

Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

L. Faulkner
Chairman of Shotteswell Parish Council



LOTTERY FUNDED

Objectives and Action Plans

"Your Village

Your Say"

Achieved

Category	Lead Responsibility	Comments	Proposed Action	Partners	Priority	Time
Broadband improvements <i>Page 16 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Godfrey Boulton and John Crocker</i>	<i>Fibre optic cables are installed and the cabinet is enabled. Orders can now be placed with an ISP. NB: This may not solve all broadband speed issues in the long term.</i>		<i>Internet service Providers, BT, Coventry-Solihull-Warwickshire Superfast Broadband</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>
Community Website <i>Page 15 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Godfrey Boulton and Editorial group.</i>	<i>Need for an interactive site to enable contribution from residents</i>	<i>Continued development. Regular feedback on website needs from village groups and residents. Consider relationships and links to other websites.</i>	<i>Village groups</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>
Parish Council Communications policy <i>Page 17 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Parish Plan Steering Committee</i>	<i>Continue to build on improvements already achieved</i>	<i>Continue to monitor areas of concern and communicate to Parish Council.</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>
Neighbourhood Watch <i>Page 18 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators</i>	<i>Need to ensure all "watch" related information is coordinated</i>	<i>Continue to develop current information sources and availability to ensure latest information is available</i>	<i>Councils and local police</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>
Roadside verges <i>Page 20 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Now considered as achieved</i>		<i>Warwickshire County Council</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>
Village Hall Short term considerations <i>Page 25 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Village Hall Committee</i>	<i>Work completed November 2015</i>	<i>Now Achieved</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>

Ongoing

Category	Lead Responsibility	Comments	Proposed Action	Partners	Priority	Time
Village Traffic entry proposals <i>Page 19 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Cost may restrict introduction of new measures</i>	<i>Parish Council to consider all possible options and potential funding sources to address this ongoing issue</i>	<i>Warwickshire County Council</i>	<i>HIGH</i>	<i>2018</i>
Community Social Programme <i>Page 23 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Village Group</i>	<i>Regular communication with parishioners</i>	<i>Encourage residents to support local commercial services and other social activities</i>	<i>Residents</i>	<i>MEDIUM</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
“Village Pub” <i>Page 23 Parish Plan</i>		<i>Merge with the community social programme</i>	<i>Maintain levels of interest.</i>	<i>Residents</i>	<i>See above</i>	
Community support activities <i>Page 22 and 24 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Parish Plan Steering Committee</i>	<i>Need to determine levels of interest. Some needs met by ‘good neighbours’.</i>	<i>Continue to monitor and inform residents of local services.</i>	<i>Residents</i>	<i>LOW</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Village Hall Long term considerations <i>Page 25 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Village Hall Committee</i>	<i>To keep under review the options for a new Village Hall</i>	<i>To evaluate the costs and benefits on a regular basis</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>LOW</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
St Laurence Church <i>Page 26 Parish Plan</i>	<i>Parochial Church Council</i>	<i>Additional uses suggested in the Questionnaire responses</i>	<i>Parochial Church Council to consider other activities that would be appropriate for the church on a regular basis</i>	<i>Village residents</i>	<i>LOW</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

Index	Explanation
✓	<i>Action completed</i>
Ongoing	<i>Issue remains unresolved; action continues but no completion date identified</i>
LOW	<i>No Urgency</i>
MEDIUM	<i>Desirable to keep action in place</i>
HIGH	<i>Urgent need for action to continue</i>

WALKS IN AND AROUND THE VILLAGE OF SHOTTESWELL



Shotteswell Parish Plan Steering Committee

Chairman & Secretary - Brian Noble

Treasurer – Harriet Jordan

Vice Chairman – Godfrey Boulton

Committee Members

Ray Adkins

Paul Allit

David Holman

Cllr Anne Omer

Cllr Michael Pearson

Co-opted Members

Cllr Jan Burgess

Linda Clark

Parish Plan Support Volunteers

Elizabeth Gilchrist

Beryl Page

Helen Smithson

Charlie Upton

