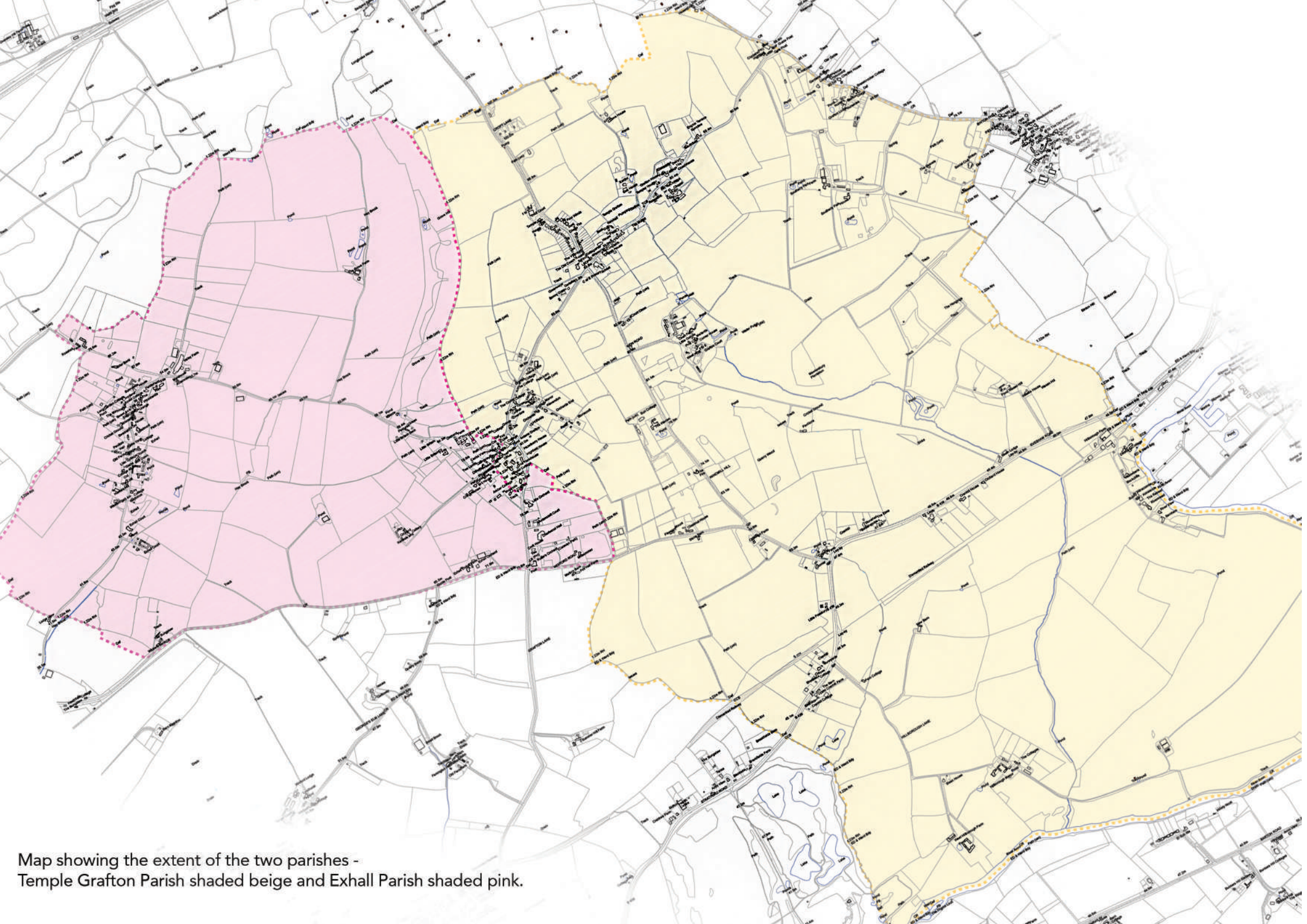




Parish Plan for Temple Grafton & Exhall 2021



Map showing the extent of the two parishes -
Temple Grafton Parish shaded beige and Exhall Parish shaded pink.

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Introduction & Background

This Parish Plan is a collaborative venture between the Parishes of Temple Grafton (comprising Temple Grafton Village, part of the village of Ardens Grafton and the hamlets of Hillsborough, Cranhill, Blackliffe) and Exhall (comprising the village of Exhall and the remaining part of Ardens Grafton village). Having worked on the plan together both Parish Councils are happy with the outcome.

In recognition that the existing Parish Plan dates from 2007 and needs updating, a team of volunteers who are residents of Temple Grafton, Ardens Grafton, Exhall and surrounding hamlets, set out to update and refresh the plan.

The aim of this plan is to set out an understanding of the issues that are important to the community, develop a vision for future development and outline a plan which determines the actions needed to achieve that vision.



In 2018 a survey was produced for the community by the Temple Grafton & Exhall Parish Plan Steering Group to better understand the communities' profile, the issues and concerns of residents as well as the opportunities for improvements.

The survey was designed by Simon Purfield and the responses were processed by an independent third party and aggregated and analysed by Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) in the form of a written report (Temple Grafton & Exhall Parishes Survey 2018). A copy of the report and responses may be obtained from Temple Grafton Parish Council or Exhall Parish Council.

All 306 households were delivered a household questionnaire by volunteers to obtain factual information, two individual questionnaires to obtain views and a volunteering sheet. All residents aged 16 and over were invited to complete a survey.

It should be noted that results of the surveys were pre-Covid and that during the pandemic the residents of the village came together through the formation of WhatsApp groups and Collection/delivery groups to support those in the community that needed assistance. This has created a greater sense of community and led to a slight increase in home working but not significant enough to change the original survey findings.



The survey ran during October 2018, and 169 household questionnaires were completed, plus 285 individual questionnaires. 54 volunteer sheets were returned.

The main conclusions have been summarised in this report and underpinned the development of the action plan which is set out within this document.

This Parish Plan intends to serve several purposes:

- . To outline a resilient vision shared by the community, contributing to a thriving and viable future
- . To identify areas of weakness, where improvement is required as well as assets which should be conserved
- . To provide an opportunity to consult and engage with the local residents
- . To strengthen local knowledge and understanding of who lives in the area
- . To form the basis of future funding applications by setting projects which have community support
- . To enable local priorities to be fed into the statutory spatial planning framework

This Plan details which features of the area are valued by local residents, how they want the community to develop in the future, what services and support they need to achieve this, and what specific actions therefore have to be taken.



2. Area Characteristics and History

The area is a very rural one, situated in a triangle marked by Stratford-upon-Avon, Alcester and Bidford, in Bardon Ward. The villages of Temple Grafton and Ardens Grafton are on a high spine of land, half a mile apart. Exhall village and the 3 hamlets of Cranhill, Hillborough and Blackcliffe are all much lower lying, with the Arrow and Avon rivers nearby. The villages of Ardens Grafton, Exhall and Temple Grafton were designated as conservation areas in the 1990's and maps showing the area boundaries are shown on the rear cover.

The conservation reports for each village are available to view in the planning section of the Stratford District Council website. In addition, Exhall village and the northern section of the village of Temple Grafton are included in the Arden Special Landscape Area (SLA). Both Parish Councils make reference to both the SLA and the conservation area plans when considering planning applications to ensure that any developments are in keeping with, and sympathetic to, the special character of the villages and the surrounding area.

Exhall does suffer periodic flooding which is caused by drainage ditches needing clearing. Exhall Parish Council now monitor these ditches. In recent years, some parts of Temple and Ardens Grafton reported surface water flooding events due to unmaintained or inadequate drains which need monitoring on a case by case basis.

There are 306 households in the Parishes of Temple Grafton and Exhall, which represents an increase of 49 since 2007.

Each Parish has one church and there was a Baptist church in Temple Grafton, but it is disused and was sold a few years ago into private hands.

The nearest shops are in either Alcester or Bidford where a doctor's surgery, dentist and other health care professionals are also located.

The nearest primary school, located in Temple Grafton, has been extended and is well attended. Temple Grafton and Exhall villages both have a village hall. Whilst the Exhall village hall is used regularly, the Grafton Village hall is not well used and is in need of urgent repair.

The cricket club at Exhall is thriving, the grounds and pavilion are well maintained and there is an active youth and adult division. Temple Grafton cricket club has an active adult squad and, at the time of print, is fundraising to improve its pavilion and changing facilities. There are also 2 public houses within the 2 parishes. There is a mobile library that visits the parishes every three weeks (Stratford District Council Route Alcester O) and it has stops as follows:

Exhall (Noticeboard) – 10:45 – 11:10

Ardens Grafton (T junction) 11:35 – 11:55

Temple Grafton (Croft Lane) 13:45 – 14:05

38 residents responded as business owners in the areas of farming and horticulture, IT/ business and consultancy services. Two-thirds of these responders run their business solely from home, whilst a third operate from other premises as well.

This Plan details which features of the area are valued by local residents, how they want the community to develop in the future, what services and support they need to achieve this, and what specific actions therefore have to be taken.

3. The Process

The steering committee engaged Simon Purfield at Stratford-on-Avon District Council, to design a questionnaire which was delivered to all 306 households. The Parish Councils funded the cost of this project as it was felt that by engaging such professional services, the questionnaire designed would meet the requirements of Stratford-on-Avon District Council Planning department.

The questionnaire was split into 2 parts. Part A provided information about the household completing the questionnaire and as such only one Part A could be completed per household.

Part B was designed to obtain the views of individual residents and any resident aged 16 and over could complete this part. Consequently more than one part B could be submitted per household. If more copies were required by a household, they were available via their distributor or downloadable off the Temple Grafton Parish Council website.

As well as the two questionnaires, a volunteering sheet was also delivered to every household to enable residents to provide their contact details should they wish to further participate in the community.



The survey ran during October 2018, with delivery on 6th/7th and collection on 27th/28th, although questionnaires were accepted after this date. Questionnaires were returned to the collectors in sealed envelopes. 169 household questionnaires were completed, plus 285 individual questionnaires. 54 volunteer sheets were returned.

All the information provided was processed by an independent third party, and Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) aggregated and analysed the responses to create a final report.

This allowed complete confidentiality for the responses.

Additional information has come from the Temple Grafton Parish Housing Needs Survey, adopted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council in 2020. This survey was based on 101 replies, out of 230 surveys issued to the residents of Temple Grafton Village and residents living in the section of Ardens Grafton which falls into the Parish of Temple Grafton. This survey identified a need for up to seven new homes in Temple Grafton Parish, for households with a defined local connection to the area. Exhall last held a housing needs survey in 2003 and is therefore out of date, but this survey identified a need for 1 x 2 bed house, 1 x 3 bed house, 1 x 2 bed bungalow (all for rental) plus 1 x 2-3 bed shared ownership house. The Parish Council will put the matter at future AGMs for consideration by parishioners.

The Parish Action Plan contains a number of actions that need to be taken. These are included within Chapter 6. A meeting was held on 26th September 2019 and attended by over 100 residents of both parishes, at which the Action Plan was discussed and endorsed.

4. Planning Policy Context

The Parishes of Temple Grafton and Exhall lie within Stratford-on-Avon District Council, the Local Planning Authority. Any planning decisions are therefore governed by its adopted Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy establishes the overall spatial vision for Stratford-on-Avon District up to 2031 and sets the framework that planning decisions will be based on. Policy CS.15 defines Temple Grafton and Exhall as 'other settlements' and states how small-scale community-led schemes that meet a need identified by the local community would be allowed. Policy AS.10 of the Core Strategy also supports other types of development where it would help support the rural community or rural economy.

5. Key Themes & Findings

5.1 Broadband and Mobile Phones

- Generally superfast broadband is available in Temple Grafton and Ardens Grafton, although less so at Cranhill and very limited in Exhall.
- 50% of the respondents have high speed broadband, with the remaining 50% having standard broadband. To some extent, this may be because individuals have not checked the availability.
- *47% of respondents consider the broadband service to be very good or quite good, with 38% registering quite poor and 15% very poor.*
- *27% say they experience a problem with their broadband service on a daily basis, 15% on a weekly basis, 47% sometimes and 12% never.*
- *In respect of the connection speed, 34% experience problems on a daily basis, 10% weekly, 46% sometimes and 10% never.*

- Mobile telephone reception / reliability is generally considered very good or quite good by 60% of residents, with 40% considering it to be quite poor or very poor.

Other information:

Recently, substantial improvements have been made to the superfast broadband network with financial help from BT, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and Warwickshire County Council. Those who use the internet should check whether superfast is available to them by visiting www.dlschecker.bt.com.

BT finally completed a rollout of superfast broadband into Exhall during 2020. CSW Broadband confirm that 93-94% of the district now has access to superfast broadband.

5.2 Community

- The questionnaire highlighted the need for more events and activities. Overall, 72% of respondents would actively support events and celebrations, such as fetes, bonfire parties, and jumble sales.
- Around half of respondents felt there are enough activities in the Parishes for adults and elderly residents. There was strong support for cinema screenings (59%) as well as for exercise classes, quiz nights and talks on a range of subjects.
- Respondents noted the need for more activities for children, especially teenagers. Teenagers were asked if there were adequate community groups. 80% of those who responded said no. When asked which specific activities they would like 61% said Film Club, 39% said a Music Society, 39% a Drama group, 32% said Youth Group, 29% said Martial Arts and 18% said Youth Council.

- No issues were raised regarding Exhall Village Hall as this is a well-used community resource.
- Asked about the activities they would support in the Temple Grafton Village Hall the respondents favoured a wide range of activities however, the general response was that the Village Hall is currently not fit for purpose and an upgraded village hall would be able to host a range of activities leading to an improved sense of community.
- 23% of residents would be prepared to help with the management of the village hall.
- Printed magazines were the most popular method of communication: 81% regularly read Open Gate News and 67% regularly read the Church magazine Heartbeat. 41% identified flyers as a useful method of communication.
- 47% read posters that are put up in the Parishes, 60% of respondents stated the importance of word of mouth, 47% of respondents regularly use email but 42% of respondents never look at social media or the Village Facebook page.
- Further development and promotion of the parish council website was mentioned as being beneficial to all residents.

5.3 Environment and Footpaths

- 89% of the respondents rated the general condition of the footpaths as either good or satisfactory however, there were many comments relating to dog mess

being a persistent problem. There were requests for more footpath signage, 'clean up dog mess' and 'please close gates' signs.

- 23% considered noise an issue with 67% blaming traffic and 16% antisocial behavior. - 14% of residents were concerned about flooding, especially in Exhall, with landowners drains and ditches not being maintained mentioned as the cause.
- A quarter of residents considered fly tipping an issue and 30% considered litter a problem.

5.4 Housing

- During the next 5 years, 14 households (or members of that household) expect to move to a house elsewhere within the parishes, whilst 46 could move outside the parishes. Of the 78 households expecting to change their home within or outside the parishes, 36 are looking to downsize, 13 to extend their existing home, 8 moving to a similar sized home and 6 moving to a larger home. The majority are looking to buy on the open market.
- In terms of other comments made by residents on this issue, there were concerns raised about over-development of the villages and some were considering moving closer to amenities, so they are not reliant on a private car.
- In 2020 a Housing Needs Survey Report was undertaken for Temple Grafton and has been endorsed by the District Council. This survey has been considered and used to inform the action plan. This survey identified a need for up to seven new homes in Temple Grafton Parish, for households with a defined local connection to the area.

5.5 Law & Order

- 85% feel the parishes are a safe place to live with 26% feeling the police service was good or very good.
- Those who had experienced general crime problems in the Parishes mentioned robbery/theft/burglary as the biggest issue (70%).
- For the communication of crime issues arising in the area 64% of residents want this information in the local newsletter, 62% would like an email from Neighbourhood Watch and 32% via Facebook.
- Respondents expressed a very strong desire to see a greater presence of the police in the parishes.

5.6 Traffic & Transport

- 98% of residents have a motor vehicle (over 70% of households have 2 or more motor vehicles) and only 14% of residents use the limited local bus service.
- The majority of residents use cars for travel to/from school or work, shopping, commuting to a train station, leisure activities and health visits.
- The majority of residents (74%) travel a maximum of 25 miles to work (most travelling between 6 and 24 miles to work) and 93% of residents would not use a car-sharing scheme. Train travel is not a widely used commuting method, with the majority of residents using the train less than once a month

- The villages of Temple Grafton and Ardens Grafton are used during peak times as a cut through from the A46 to Bidford and the proposed A46 junction improvements, whilst welcomed by residents to ease access onto the A46, also create concern that the volume of traffic will increase.

The speed the traffic flows through the villages is frequently in excess of the posted limits and residents seek speed-restricting activity to reduce this. The majority of residents support extending the 30mph zones and/or reducing the speed limits to 20mph particularly near Temple Grafton Primary School.

- Areas of particular concern are the roads surrounding Temple Grafton Primary School, New Road, the road connecting the villages of Ardens Grafton and Temple Grafton, the approach to Temple Grafton from the Blue Boar and through Cranhill.- There is a strong feeling that extending the 30mph limit from the Blue Boar through the villages down to the Golden Cross and through Exhall to Wixford, with a 20mph limit around the school would help reduce speed and also help reduce the cut-through traffic.
- Electronic speed limit signs and regular speed checks would be welcomed by the residents generally, although only 50% would be willing to see the parish precept increase to cover these. Many respondents wanted speed checks to be carried out during rush hours but only 25% would be willing to join the Speedwatch Group.

- 99 residents were concerned about the cars parked dangerously on-street, 64 residents were concerned about cars parked on pavements and 50 were concerned about parking and the damage caused to pathways/verges and kerbs.

- There is a parking congestion issue around the school and while there is strong support for dealing with it, although the approach to resolving this issue is mixed. Problem parking areas identified are Church Bank, the area by the school, the exit from Cox's Walk towards Temple Grafton and Exhall Cricket Club.

- The bus service is seen as generally inadequate for gaining much more usage

- the feeling is that it would be used more if the service was daily and ran more frequently.



Image references:
Left Ardens Grafton
Top Exhall
Above Temple Grafton



If the regular Alcester and Stratford buses could be diverted to stop within the villages and an additional stop was included on the B439 close to the junction with Temple Grafton then this would improve usage. However, unless this improved service was publicly funded it is unlikely to be viable. It is possible that the current weekly service could be used by more people if the time between departure and return was extended (currently 2.5 hours).

5.7 Youth

- Within the households which responded to the survey, there are 17 children between 0-4 years (4%), 28 children between 5-11 years (7%), and 30 young people between 12-18 years (7%) (Note: University Students are classed as living at home.) Young people aged between 10 and 18 were invited to take part in the parish plan questionnaire and give us their views on a range of topics.

- When we asked if there were adequate local services/community groups provided for teenagers, 8 (20%) said Yes and 33 (80%) said No.

- 8 young people (20%) felt there was adequate local services/community groups provided for teenagers, 33 or 80% did not.

- 28 young people answered the question on whether they would take part in other activities if they were available. 17 (61%) said Film Club, 9 (32%) indicated they would like a Youth Group, 11 (39%) said a Music Society, 11 (39%) in a Drama group, 8 (29%) said they were interested in Martial Arts and 5 (18%) expressed interest in a Youth Council.

Only 1 young person said 'other' although there were 2 responses: 'Maybe in school holidays' and 'Gaming Club'. 8 (29%) young people expressed an interest in Babysitting.



- We asked if they would use public transport if the services were improved. There was very strong interest in an improved service to Stratford, with most young people (40 - 95%) stating this was of interest to them. 26 (62%) wanted better services to Alcester, and 18 (43%) wanted better links to Bidford. 2 (5%) young people replied 'Other' with only one giving further details as 'Banbury'.

- The broadband service in our area was rated as Very Good by only 2 (3%) young people. 36 (50%) rated it Quite Good, but 28 (39%) said it was Quite Poor and 6 (8%) said Very Poor.

- Mobile phone service within the parishes also had a mixed review, with 8 (11%) rating it Very Good, 41 (54%) saying Quite Good, 23 (30%) thinking it was Quite Poor, and 4 (5%) telling us it was Very Poor.

6 ACTION PLAN

6.1 Broadband & Mobile Phones

Issue	Proposed action	Delivery and resources	Timescale
Not all residents are aware of the existence of superfast broadband	Recently completed improvements as well as future rollouts and network improvements to be circulated via Open Gate News	Parish Councils Newsletters	2021

6.2 Community

Issue	Proposed action	Delivery and resources	Timescale
The questionnaire highlighted the need for more events and activities.	<p>Consult with residents to see if they are willing to volunteer to set up and support 3 types of community activities - Volunteer requests to be publicised in Open Gate News.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social groups with the main purpose of building a community and organising specific events targeted by age group, interest or family focused activities. Examples: coffee mornings, dementia café, U3A club, WI lite, a scrabble club, toddler group, youth club. 2. Sporting activities to keep fit and socialise, e.g. running and walking groups, exercise classes, karate, tennis and table tennis clubs. 3. Education and hobby focused groups e.g. a choir, a book club, playing music, arts club, a history society, a garden club, conservation activities, cubs/brownies. 	Parish Councils Newsletters Opengate@thegraftons.org www.facebook.com/groups/1566370350081235	2021

Issue	Proposed action	Delivery and resources	Timescale
TG Village Hall is currently not fit for purpose, and an upgraded village hall would be able to host a range of activities leading to an improved sense of community.	<p>The existing village hall committee will continue to explore redevelopment opportunities and will inform the parish of any further developments.</p> <p>The project would need to be community-led and supported by Temple Grafton Parish Council.</p>	Any future developments with regard to this project will be publicised in Open Gate News and via the Parish Council Agendas/ Minutes/Email (vh@thegrafftons.org)	2021-2022
Printed magazines are the most popular method of communication	<p>Continue with the production of the existing magazines as well as the display of posters and flyers on the village notice boards.</p> <p>Increase the magazine distribution by posting a message in the village noticeboards on how to subscribe.</p>	Parish Councils Village noticeboards Magazines	ongoing
Improve usage of social media	Publicise the social media pages in the printed magazines and how to gain permission to enter the Facebook page.	Open Gate news www.facebook.com/groups/1566370350081235	ongoing
Further develop and promote the Parish Council's website	Publicise the webpages and media pages in the printed magazines	Parish Councils Magazines Hugofox.com/community/temple-grafton-parish-council-13494/welcome-page# http://www.exhallparishcouncil.org.uk	ongoing

6.3 Environment & Footpaths

Issue	Proposed action	Delivery and resources	Timescale
Lack of poo bins at some locations	Additional poo bins to be introduced in key locations, such as Grafton Court, Church Bank, Croft Lane.	Parish Councils in discussion with Stratford-On-Avon District Council	2021
Lack of footpath signage	Provide information on existing footpath network and increase footpath signage at key locations.	Parish Councils in discussion with Warwickshire County Council	2021
Lack of clean up dog mess signs and please close gates signs	Signage to be provided at key locations.	Parish Councils in consultation with Stratford-on Avon District Council	2021
Noise problems: - Traffic - Quad bikes - Dogs barking	Article in newsletter with comments from survey, identified by village to encourage greater consideration. The issue of noise complaints will be put forward by the Parishes, through chatting directly with the noise offenders or via liaising with the District Council	Magazines Parish Councils in consultation with Stratford-on Avon District Council	2021
Roadside littering	Set up litter collections	rubbishfriends@thegraftons.org	2021
Surface water flooding	Ensure residents can quickly access reliable and timely assistance / advice	Warwickshire County Council as Lead local flood authority Opengate News	2021

6.4 Housing & Business

Issue	Proposed action	Delivery and resources	Timescale
A need for 7 new homes for those with a local connection to Temple Grafton Parish has been identified in the Housing Needs Survey.	Liaise with Rural Housing Enabler/ District Council to identify potential options for housing delivery.	Temple Grafton parish Council & District Council	2021 and ongoing
Some residents looking to downsize, extend, move to similar size or bigger houses in the area.	Majority of residents seeking to up/down size intend to do so on the open market, so no further action required.	Parish Councils and District Council	No action at present
Exhall future housing needs	The Parish Council will put the matter to future AGM's for consideration by parishioners.	Exhall Parish Council	2021 and ongoing

6.5 Law & Order

Issue	Proposed action	Delivery and resources	Timescale
Robbery/theft/burglary concerns	Advertise the existing neighbourhood watch WhatsApp group. Provide specialist crime prevention and property marking sessions. Any new development would also consider 'secured by design' principles, as identified within the NPPF, to help create safer environments and in turn reduce crime.	Residents/Parish Councils For whatsapp group contact nhw@thegraftons.org	Ongoing
More Neighbourhood watch coordinators are needed within Temple Grafton and Exhall	Expand the number of Neighbourhood watch coordinators within Temple Grafton and Exhall. Continue to advertise this request in Open Gate News and residents meeting.	Residents/Parish Councils nhw@thegraftons.org	Ongoing
Residents want to see more patrols and greater visibility	Liaise with District and County Councillor and Crimes Commissioner. Any new developments to take into account the need to deliver emergency services infrastructure (where needed).	District and County Councillor and Crimes Commissioner & Parish Councils	Ongoing

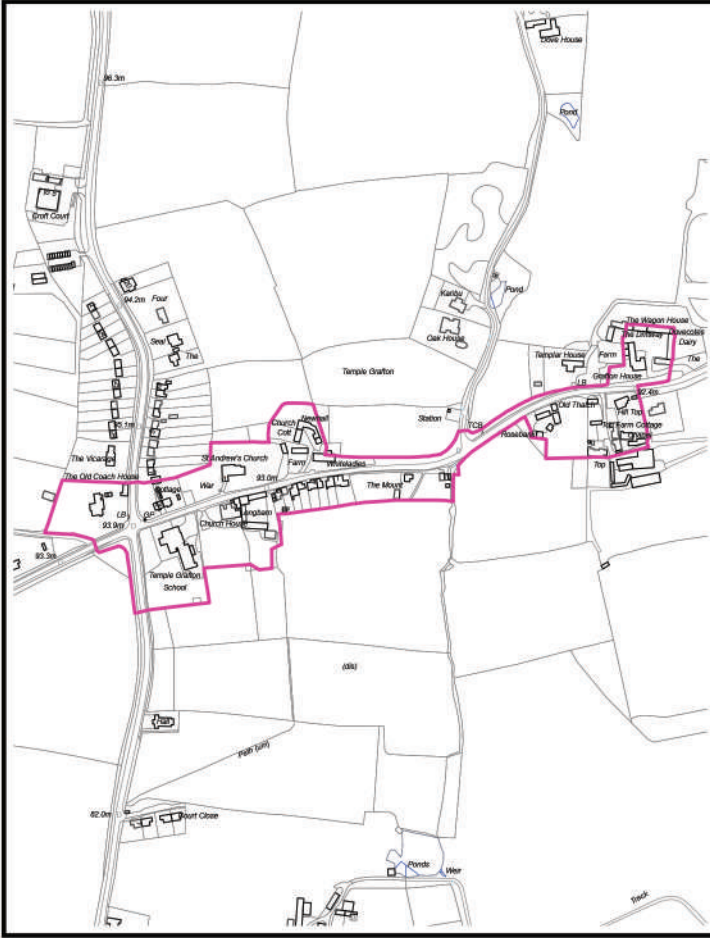
6.6 Traffic & Transport

Issue	Proposed action	Delivery and resources	Timescale
Bus service is generally viewed as inadequate, with an identified need to run daily and more frequently during the day.	Parish Council to liaise with the relevant transport companies to try and improve the level of service.	Parish Council	2021-2022
Roadside/dangerous parking	A Parking Watch group to be established on WhatsApp and residents encouraged to report parking issues to the group. PC's to consider best remedial actions for repeat occurrences.	Residents and Parish Council Volunteer organiser required Police / Warwickshire Constabulary	2021-2022
Speeding	Liaise with Warwickshire County Council to see if it is possible to reduce the speed limits through Temple Grafton and Ardens Grafton.	Parish Council & Warwickshire County Council WCC Road Safety Team	2021-2022
Lack of electronic speed signs	Liaise with appropriate parties to determine if it is possible to erect electronic speed signs within the villages and if so determine funding needs and funding options.	Parish Council, Warwickshire County Council, WCC Road Safety Team and Warwickshire Constabulary	2021-2022
Speed Watch Group	Advertise and extend the Speed Watch Group and this group will continue to lobby Warwickshire Constabulary on the need for regular speed checks in the villages.	speedwatch@thegraftons.org	2021

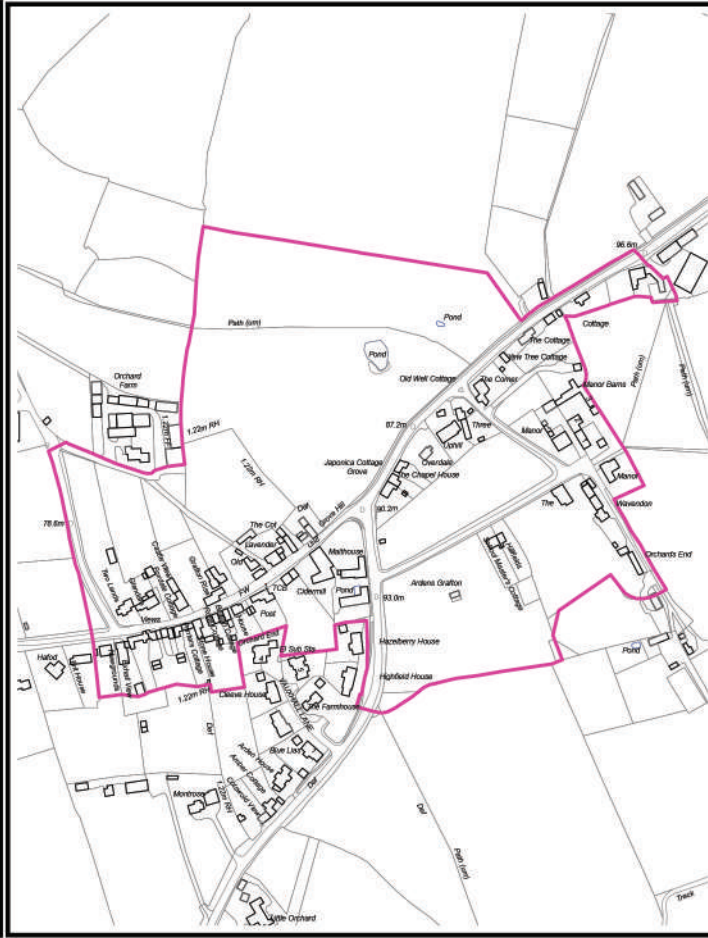
6.7 Health

Issue	Proposed action	Delivery and resources	Timescale
Difficulty in accessing healthcare or making appointments	<p>Parish Council to contact Bidford Health centre for comments on how residents can gain information about services and with feedback regarding quality of service.</p> <p>Information on the above and existing Ubus service to be advertised in magazines and Parish Notice Boards.</p>	Parish Council Magazines Display Boards	2021-2022
Defibrillator use	Defibrillator training to be advertised in the magazines and Parish Notice Boards.	Parish Council Magazines Display Boards defib@thegraftons.org	2021-2022

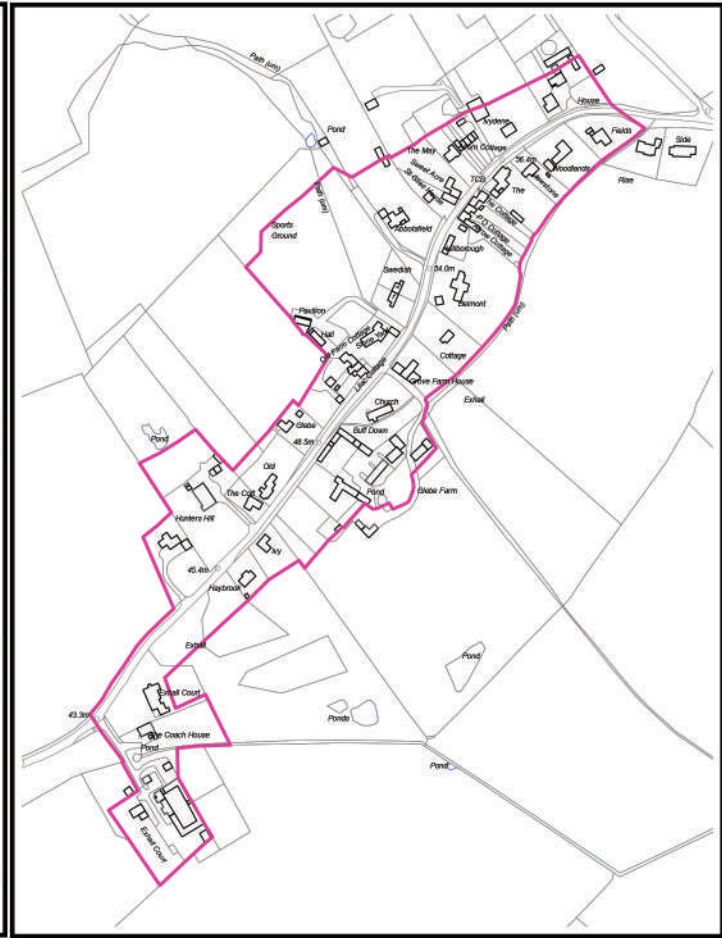
Conservation Areas



Temple Grafton



Ardens Grafton



Exhall