

Ryton and Grindle Parish Plan

AUGUST 2011

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Introduction

In the Autumn of 2010 the Parish Council of Ryton and Grindle conducted a survey of residents in the parish to seek their views on local issues of concern and to identify areas where our local environment and community could be improved. Findings from the survey, circulated in November 2010 have informed the development of this Parish Plan.

The Parish Plan will provide a framework for the Parish Council to focus its activities, and with the support from local volunteers and district agencies, this should enhance our community for the benefit of all by:

- Providing clear evidence of our community needs and priorities for the Parish and District Councils
- Invigorating local democracy by stimulating interest in community affairs
- Increasing interest in local voluntary action
- Highlighting projects that need involvement from other agencies
- Influencing and informing the broader community strategy.

Methods

A questionnaire, designed to collect residents' views on five key local issues, was used in the survey. This was hand delivered to the 77 households in the parish during September 2010. A total of 21 households returned completed questionnaires providing a response rate of 27%. Data from the questionnaires were analysed to identify which issues residents rated as most important. The findings showed that the five areas explored were ranked in the following order of priority:

- Appearance of the parish
- Community safety
- Transport and road safety
- Community identity and communication
- Housing

In particular, there was consensus among respondents that the rural character of the local area should be conserved and that the appearance of the parish was important to them. Litter and fly tipping were generally a cause of concern. Whilst most considered the parish a safe place to live, respondents in general considered that community safety was an important issue and that steps could be taken to improve this. Excessive speed and inconsiderate driving on the lanes were issues of concern to residents, and the need to improve the condition of the roads by increased winter gritting and clearing of mud was also raised. There was support for increased activities to improve community identity and it was clear that links between the Parish Council and the community could be improved.

Findings from the survey were presented in a report circulated to residents in November 2010. These have been used by the Parish Council to inform the development of this Parish Plan and to identify key areas for action. We recognise that it is not possible to immediately address all the issues raised by residents in the survey, however, this Parish Plan sets aims and objectives that we consider are attainable and affordable within the next three years. After this time, we shall review its implementation and develop an updated plan.

Key Areas for Action

From the five issues explored in the questionnaire the following areas have been identified as having priority for residents:

- Appearance of the Parish
- Community and Road Safety
- Community Identity and Communication

Appearance of the Parish

The appearance of the parish and preserving its rural character were highlighted in the survey as the most important issues for residents. In particular, reducing litter and fly tipping were prioritised. There was support for improved maintenance of hedges and verges and for planting of trees and wildflowers. Entering the Best Kept Village was an aspiration shared by many of the respondents.

Community and Road Safety

Whilst most residents considered the parish was a safe place to live, there was some concern about security of homes and possessions. There was support for a neighbourhood / rural watch scheme. A majority also considered that inconsiderate driving on the lanes was a threat to personal safety and that reduced speed of traffic and increased winter gritting would be beneficial.

3.3. Community Identity and Communication

The survey showed that residents were keen to improve community identity and communication and links between the Parish Council and residents. There was support for holding regular parish events and improved use and circulation of the Parishes' newsletter.

Implementation

These three key areas form the focus of the Parish Plan. To ensure this is implemented we have developed an action plan for the next three years. Successful implementation of the Parish Plan will require support, help and involvement from local residents. We propose that 3 separate working groups are formed to address each of the key areas. We would welcome your involvement in these. We also require support from the District Council and other agencies to ensure certain aspects of the plan are implemented successfully. The Parish Council will take a lead in planning and liaising with these groups. Individual Parish councillors will have responsibility for different aspects of the Parish Plan and will act as initial contacts for the three separate working groups.

The action plan for the implantation of the Parish Plan is presented next.

Action Plan for Parish Plan

Key Issue	Action	Timescale	Responsibility
3.1 Parish Appearance Contacts: J. Bedward M. Duff-Walker	1. Establish a Parish Pride Group: Litter blitz & control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weeding pruning • Grass cutting • Planting trees and flowers 	March 2012	Parish Council Volunteer Group Shropshire Council
	2. Target 'Best Kept Village' Award.	June 2014	Parish Council PCC Volunteer Group
3.2 Community and Road Safety Contacts: A. Amey M. Bozman	1. Improve Rural Watch	June 2012	Parish Council West Mercia Police
	2. Develop Local Crime Bulletin		
	3. Consider developing 'Community Helpline' for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accident at home • Transport problems • Advice and support 	March 2013	Parish Council and Volunteers
	4. Establish roles and responsibilities for snow and ice clearing and mud control on lanes.	March 2012	Parish Council Shropshire Council Local Farmers
	5. Establish a plan to improve road safety where possible	Sept 2012	Parish Council Shropshire Council Police
	6. Develop a plan for road improvement (<i>resurfacing and repair</i>).	March 2012	Parish Council Shropshire Council

Key Issue	Action	Timescale	Responsibility
3.3 Community Identity and Communication Contacts: M. Dady M. Bozman	1. Improve links between the Parish Council and residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch & feedback on Parish Plan • Improved circulation of Minutes from Parish Council Meetings. 	Sept 2011	Parish Council
	2. Establish 6 Parishes' Bulletin on a quarterly basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News • Local events • Local Advertisements 	Jan 2013	Parish Councils PCC Local Businesses
	3. Establish 6 Parishes' Council Forum to exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas • Initiatives • Opportunities 	Jan 2013	Parish Council Chairs
	4. Develop a plan to improve the community use of Ryton Church.	August 2014	Parish Council PCC
	5. Establish Parish Events Calendar	March 2012	Parish Council PCC Volunteers

First Phase of Implementation

The Parish Plan will be formally launched at a public meeting in October 2011. Residents of the Parish of Ryton and Grindle will be invited to attend this event. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss with the parish councillors how we can achieve successful implementation of the Parish Plan. Support and involvement of residents will be essential. If you are interested in contributing to the working groups for any particular area of the Parish Plan, please contact one of the councillors. Contact details for the different areas of the Parish Plan are listed below.

Parish Appearance

Julie Bedward	Tel: 01952 750244	Email: juliebedward@yahoo.co.uk
Malcolm Duff-Walker	Tel: 01952 750486	Email: malcolmduff@aol.com

Community and Road Safety

Allan Amey	Tel: 01952 750884	Email: ameykt@aol.com
Mike Bozman	Tel: 01952 750343	Email: mike@tandhdesign.com

Community Identity and Communication

Mark Dady	Tel: 01952 750844	Email: markdady@hotmail.co.uk
Mike Bozman	Tel: 01952 750343	Email: mike@tandhdesign.com

Contact Details for Ryton and Grindle Parish Council

Chairman	Mr Mike Bozman	01952 750343	Email: mike@tandhdesign.com
Vice Chair	Dr Julie Bedward	01952 750244	Email: juliebedward@yahoo.co.uk
Councillor /Treasurer	Mr Allan Amey	01952 750884	Email: ameykt@aol.com
Councillor	Mr Mark Dady	01952 750844	Email: "markdady@hotmail.co.uk
Councillor	Mr Malcolm Duff-Walker	01952 750486	Email: malcolmduff@aol.com
Clerk	Mr Richard Holt	01952 750350	Email: clerk.rgpc@btinternet.com

Copies of this report 'Findings from the Survey' can be requested from the Clerk to the parish council.