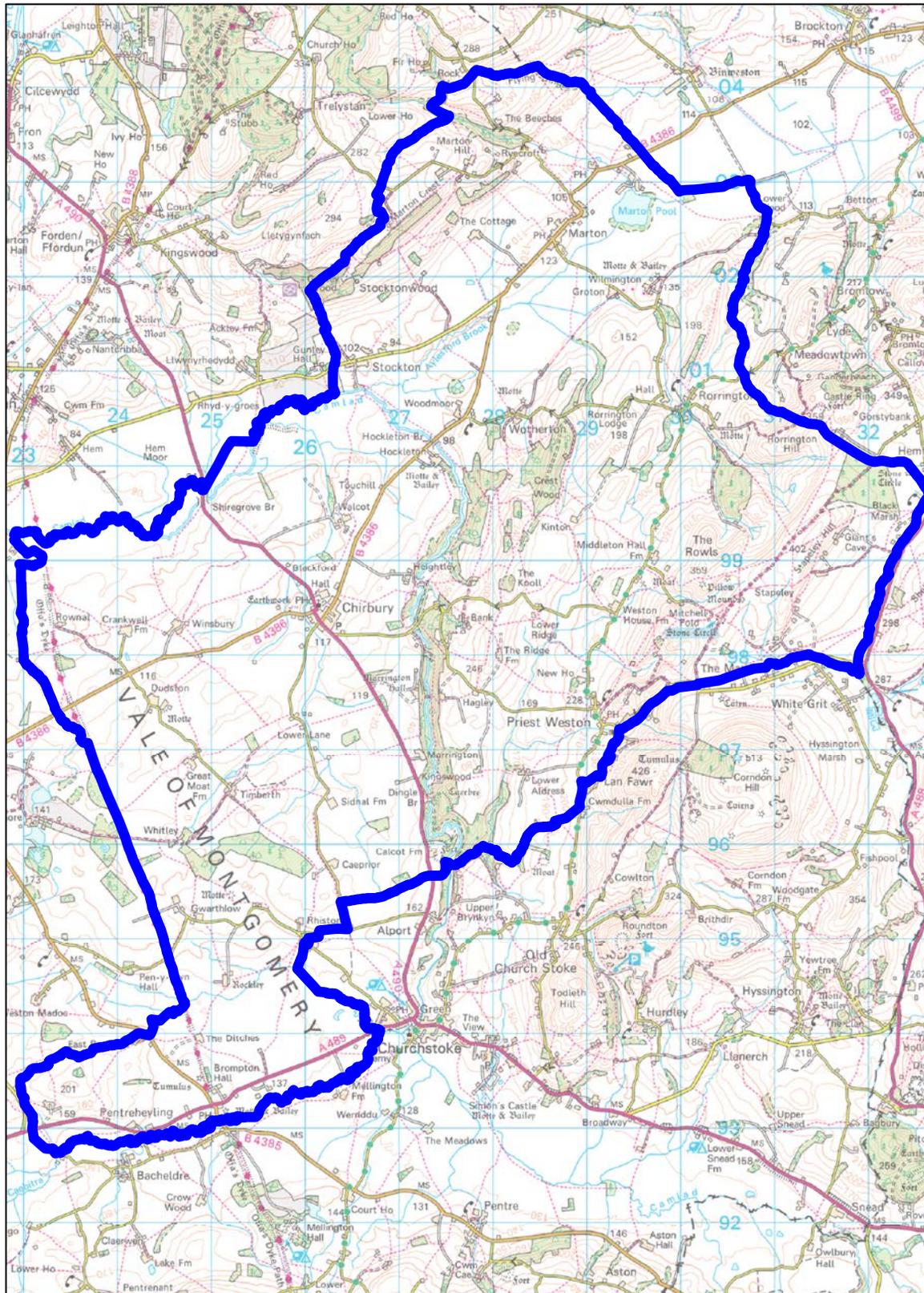


Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council
Parish Plan 2018 - 2021

CHIRBURY WITH BROMPTON PARISH



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**CHIRBURY WITH
BROMPTON PARISH**

 Parish Boundary

Scale: 1:51,000
Information, Intelligence & Insight team
Shropshire Council
May 2018

ABOUT CHIRBURY WITH BROMPTON PARISH



The Parish includes the villages and townships of Brompton, Chirbury, Marton, Priest Weston and Rorrington and surrounding rural areas. The Parish enjoys a variety of different environments from rich agricultural land and woodlands to open heathland and as such enjoys a range of beautiful and contrasting countryside. It enjoys areas of special interest sites and habitats including Stapeley Common and the lower flanks of Corndon Hill, part of *Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* (AONB) and Marton Pool a natural lake that is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is home to many rare breeds, also Whittery Wood and Marrington Dingle.

The Parish also has several sites of historical importance for our cultural heritage including a Motte and Bailey at Hockleton, Offa's Dyke where the 8th Century King Offa of Mercia and his armies fought with the British; an impressive medieval house at Rorrington Hall; a Bronze Age stone circle at Mitchell's Fold made of local dolerite stones from Stapeley Hill, amongst other things.

The Parish is primarily agricultural but also home to a range of other businesses ranging from quite large enterprises such as Lowfield Timber in Marton and Direct Deliveries in Dudston to many smaller ones including potters, consultants, agricultural contractors, electricians, mechanics, sporting shoots and tourism.

A range of services are available including Chirbury Primary School, Busy Bees Pre-School and post office facilities and stores in Chirbury and Marton. Village halls in Chirbury, Marton and Priest Weston offer a range of events and clubs, including a bowling club. The Miners Arms in Priest Weston - its name a reminder of part of the Parish's mining heritage - is one of the Parish's 5 public houses. There is also the Lowfield and the Sun Inn in Marton, the Herbert Arms in Chirbury and the Blue Bell in Brompton. The Parish also has three churches in Chirbury, Marton and Middleton and a Congregational Chapel in Marton.

There is good road access to Welshpool, Shrewsbury, Bishop's Castle, and Montgomery, towns that provide other employment opportunities and amenities - high schools, leisure facilities, swimming pools and theatres.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish is divided into 4 Wards which are Brompton, Chirbury, Marton and Middleton.

The Parish Council meets 6 times a year in the Parish's village halls. The role of the Parish Council is to represent the interest of the Parish. It looks at and may support planning applications, oversees local amenities including the playing field in Chirbury and street lights in the villages. It also monitors and lobbies on roadway issues, environment, services and provides small grant funds for local projects.

Meeting agendas are available on the Parish website approximately 1 week prior to the meeting. Parish residents may address the meeting and sit in on the proceedings.

If you want to find out more about activities in the Parish, visit www.chirbury.org.uk or visit the Chirbury with Brompton Facebook page.

INTRODUCTION - WHY HAVE A PARISH PLAN?

A Parish Plan is a document that helps identify all the relevant issues of importance to a community. It can also help to highlight the concerns in a community. It brings together the views of residents that can be used to influence and shape a shared vision for the Parish for the future.

A plan can help influence local decision making by the Parish Council and help to identify the priorities for the Parish when considering services and support. A plan can also help ascertain where any available funding should be directed and to make sure the needs of local people are recognised.

THE CHIRBURY WITH BROMPTON PARISH PLAN

This new Parish Plan replaces the one produced in March 2011. To gain the community's input to the Plan the following activities have been carried out:

- A series of drop-in sessions hosted by the Parish Council at each of the Parish's village halls (Chirbury, Marton and Priest Weston) where Parish residents were invited to write down or talk through what they considered were the pressing issues for the Parish. These events were held in the Summer of 2016 and influenced the areas for the questions in the follow-up survey.
- A questionnaire was distributed to all 401 households in the Parish asking a range of questions about key topics. The form went out in early January 2017 and respondents were asked to return it in the postage paid envelope by 31st January. The survey actually remained open until 16th February 2017 to obtain as many responses as possible.

The Parish received 144 completed questionnaires which is an overall response rate of 35.9% of households. This is a very high rate of return for surveys and has provided a good basis upon which to make some observations about the needs, issues and priorities for the Parish.

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HOW THIS PLAN IS SET OUT

For each area where questions were asked in the questionnaire there is a summary of responses and comments. The summary of responses and comments are based on a full detailed analysis of all the questionnaire respondents' answers. For each of the areas the Parish Council have then agreed some objectives where conclusions could be drawn.

The next step is that the Parish Council will develop an action plan to tackle the objectives, prioritising those objectives that gained most support and putting a timescale to the work required to deliver on that objective. The Parish Council will then review and monitor progress against the action plan, also re-prioritising as more information on issues and priorities become available.

Both the objectives and action plan need to be realistic because of the often-limited resources available to deliver on the objectives. The Parish Council will always look at what grants or other resources are available to help support the objectives for the Parish.

One objective the Parish will be working on is building a new, more effective website in 2018 and looking at how information on the progress in achieving the Parish Plan objectives can be best communicated.

THE PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS TO THE SURVEY

Most survey respondents were based in Chirbury (36%), followed by Marton (23%) and Priest Weston (15%). From all households that responded there were 140 men, 122 women and 48 children (of whom 31 were boys and 17 were girl) whose views were represented.

The age profile of households showed occupancy in the following age ranges: 14 occupants aged 18-21, 16 in the range 22-29, 16 in the range 30-39, 37 in the range 40-49, 53 in the range 50-59, 64 in the range 60-69 and 62 in the range 70 and over.

The demographics show very clearly an aging population in the Parish. Only 10 households reported pre-school children, 14 household with primary school age children and 24 households with children of high - school age.

1

PRIORITIES IN HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT



70% of survey respondents were home owners, followed by 23% in private rented housing and 6% were Housing Association tenants. Rental from Powis Estates and tied accommodation was also mentioned.



23 respondents mentioned they would be looking for alternative accommodation in the next 5 years. Chirbury was named as the most favoured location for this alternative development followed by Marton, though all other hamlets were also mentioned. The size of current accommodation was the main reason for wanting alternative accommodation. Respondents seeking a smaller home in anticipation of a family member moving out was a main reason for a possible move. Issues like improvement and repair needs, cost, and for 2 respondents, too small a property were also mentioned for seeking alternative accommodation.



When asked about the type of housing needed, houses to buy, affordable housing and housing to rent were sought by those seeking alternative accommodation. The type of housing being sought was mostly made up of 1 or 2 bed, or 2/3 bed properties. 10 respondents were also seeking ground floor accessible / bungalow housing and 2 households sought sheltered accommodation including extra care.

For the community as a whole just over 80% supported the view that there was a need for new homes in the Parish and only 26 households did not. When asked about the scale of development needed, just under 30% of respondents felt that less than 10 new homes were needed, approximately 28% felt between 11 and 20 new homes were required and approximately 23% suggested more than 20 homes were needed. Affordable housing, to buy or rent, was suggested as needed by 75% of respondents. 38% also suggested sheltered or housing for older people was needed.

‘New housing is vital to keep the shop and school viable’

For the size of new homes needed in the Parish most respondents suggested 2 or 3 bed homes, or 1 to 2 bed homes and bungalow or ground floor accessible homes.

Development it was suggested should mainly be on the edge of existing settlements or in-fill. Building conversions and the rebuilding of disused and derelict sites were also supported.

‘Planned development is preferred to individual applications for small sites because of the need to provide services’

OBJECTIVES

- To encourage development of 2 and 3 bed family homes, and 1 and 2 bed ground accessible homes. Priority is to be given to affordable homes.
- To support development that will support elderly and young people to be part of, and remain in local communities.
- Work with Powis Estate to deliver planned developments in Chirbury.
- Update Chirbury village’s ‘Design Statement’ to provide information on the type, size and opportunities for development in the village and to encourage appropriate and sympathetic development.
- Make contact with and work with housing associations where there is an opportunity for this.
- Support self-build initiatives.

‘Young local people can’t afford houses in this Parish, the houses that are available are big with 3- 4 beds’

‘We need to make it easy for retired people to feel they have a nice place to move to, to release bigger houses for families’

‘Big houses are unaffordable for young families’

2

PRIORITIES IN HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport, though not overwhelmingly used by residents was an area that was supported by most respondents. This was also the case in other sections of the survey where public transport was raised. Also, given that 22% of respondents saying the existing public transport did not meet their needs and the 65% of residents who did not complete the survey (approximately 250 households) it is fair to say some caution should also be used in taking too much regard for any non-support. Approx. 8% of respondents said they use public transport regularly, compared to 47% (67 households) saying they used public transport sometimes, and 44% (62 households) who never use public transport.



32 households said the existing public transport did not meet their needs. Improvement to frequency of timetables gained 88% support and this was the main improvement cited, particularly but not exclusively on the Montgomery to Shrewsbury service; also, different destinations were cited as something that would address resident's needs. The most popular transport route used by respondents was the Montgomery/Shrewsbury bus service.

Almost 16% stated they need transport for school or college. Transport difficulties to school or college were being experienced by 4 households, but this should be balanced with 79 households for whom school or college was not applicable.

Alternative transport was of interest to respondent with 18 households interested in voluntary car schemes, 35 households in community transport and 13 in car sharing.

SPEED LIMITS AND ACCIDENT REDUCTION

In all settlements 30mph was the safe speed limit suggested by most respondents. However, there was a huge diversity of views on this issue and where speed limits are enforceable, speed enforcement was supported by 41% (53 households), whereas 58% (47 households) did not support speed enforcement. Other traffic calming measures were suggested in comments including speed humps, rumble strips, flashing speed limit signs, speed cameras and creating controlled passing places. Other measures also suggested to reduce accidents including better road surfaces, repair of pot holes and gritting.



A number of areas where speed limits were recommended and would be beneficial included through Priest Weston, Rorrington, Pentrehyling, Folly junction and the Blue Bell road, also 20mph in Chirbury at school times.

To improve road safety for cyclists 39 households responded with ideas including suggestions for better surfaces, more off-road tracks and a range of measures for cyclists to do more to help protect themselves e.g. wearing high visibility clothing.

For pedestrian safety a range of ideas were suggested including wider kerbs/better pavements and footpaths, pedestrian crossings and measures for pedestrians to do more to help protect themselves. For children's safety on roads comments echoed those for pedestrians. Many also mentioned the hazards including particular layout of villages with bad corners, cars parked on the road, HGVs travelling through, etc

Safety issues at the Chirbury / Churchstoke / Lower Lane junction were raised and solutions to improve the junction receiving most support included a roundabout, more/better halt markings and signage. However, some thought it wasn't an issue.

PAVEMENTS

45 households felt additional pavements, or improvements to pavements were needed in the Parish. Marton's particular needs were mentioned in terms of problems with narrow pavements; in Chirbury from the village to the Priest Weston junction, and from Chirbury to the 'show field' near Monksfield were the most popular suggestions where new paving was needed.

“We have to walk in the road as the pavement is so narrow in places.”

“Parish roads are in a really bad state, they need repair not patching up”

‘a lot of traffic travels at far more than 30 MPH through the village’

OBJECTIVES

TRANSPORT

- To provide strong support for local public transport.
- To support and safeguard school transport to all potential school destinations; and student transport to Shrewsbury to access post-16 college opportunities.
- To promote existing community transport on the Parish new website.
- To investigate and support voluntary car schemes and promote how individuals can contribute to this on the Parish website.

ROAD SAFETY

- To work towards the widening and extension of pavements in Marton to support pedestrian safety.
- To support more pavement provision in Chirbury from the village to the Priest Weston junction, and towards the ‘show field’.
- To work on a solution to make safe the Chirbury / Churchstoke / Lower Lane junction.
- To work on changes to the Folly junction to improve road safety.
- Use the Parish website to support greater road safety through providing guidance on:
 - Pedestrian and walkers’ safety
 - Safe Cycling
- To do an exercise to look at new areas that should have a speed limit applied and the start/end points for limits; and the best type of signage and other speed reduction methods.

3

PRIORITIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Residents clearly value all aspects of life in the Parish. Countryside and quiet country roads came out as most important, very closely followed by water-courses, wildlife, trees and woodland. Footpaths and hedgerows ranked as very important too in making for greater enjoyment of Parish life. These items were closely followed by roadside verges and cemeteries.

Damaged verges, fly tipping, muddy lanes, speeding traffic and noise pollution were amongst the issues that residents said had significant negative impact on rural life in the Parish. Lanes in need of repair, large vehicles on the road and litter ranked a little lower in terms of negative impact but still significant in terms of important to be addressed to support Parish life. Dog fouling and blocked drains were also raised as significant negatives, but ranked below those items already mentioned.

Poor mobile signal and poor broadband speed were also cited as having a negative effect on Parish life.



OBJECTIVES

- To use the Parish website to provide information on how to:
report on muddy roads
report fly tipping
report pot holes, damaged verges and blocked drains.
- To work with authorities where there is a need for foot path repairs and making stiles dog accessible.
- To lobby mobile phone network suppliers to improve mobile signals.
- To campaign for improvements to broadband for Parishioners and link with Connecting Shropshire initiatives to support that.
- Investigate the need for and resources available to provide more litter bins including facility for dog waste at key sites e.g. in villages and popular sites for walkers.
- Organise community litter-picking.
- Investigate awareness and encourage initiatives like Parish Paths Partnership (P3) volunteering to make all footpaths accessible.
- To use the Parish website to support local groups which are involved in the countryside and natural environment.

● Marton Pool is a natural lake that is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and home to many rare species. ●



4

PRIORITIES FOR LOCAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

LOCAL FACILITIES



Chirbury Post Office, village stores and local pubs are frequented more regularly by Parish residents than any other local facility. Also, Marton and other Post Offices were also mentioned as being used by residents. Interestingly the playing field (in Chirbury) and Pre-school facility were mentioned as less used, but this is most likely to be due to the age profile of residents answering the survey.



Additional comments highlighted that village halls in the community were also important facilities.

SERVICES AND LEISURE FACILITIES

The local services that came out as most essential were highways maintenance, including taking care of potholes, gritting roads and cutting verges. Home based care for the elderly or vulnerable adults, local schools, bus services and supporting children with special needs were also ranked as essential services for the Parish by more than 50% of respondents.



When it came to local leisure facilities respondents tended to rank them as 'nice to have', this included local swimming and sports facilities, theatre and arts and mobile library. Similarly, youth services were ranked more-often as 'nice to have'. Whilst most of these services are currently in Local Authority control, some responsibility for supporting these services is likely to be transferred to Parish and Town Councils in due course. Given that 65% of residents did not respond to the survey (approximately 250 households), also the age profile of respondents some caution should be used in taking these areas as 'nice to have' facilities.



Other services mentioned as needed, arising in comments included waste removal and recycling services, doctors' surgery and play facilities in Priest Weston and Marton.



On the question of playing fields in the Parish, 49 households considered there was sufficient playing fields and 21 households felt there wasn't. Marton and Priest Weston were mentioned in comments as places where play facilities were needed. Again, due to the response rate to the survey and the age range of respondents it is unwise to draw real conclusions on these facilities.

VILLAGE HALL PARKING

Whilst there was a 75% response rate, most answered 'don't know' as to whether there was adequate car parking at village halls. Comments mentioned that the Chirbury parking facility was more-often used as residents' parking and that of Priest Weston which is reliant on good will - both need a solution. Any solution for parking in Priest Weston requires investment of potentially considerable sums.

INTERNET AND MOBILE PHONES

30% of respondents considered that broadband services could be improved and 46% said that super-fast broadband was very important; however almost 40% felt the internet services were adequate for their use, or that they don't use the internet. There were many comments about slowness, intermittent and variable performance of the services. It is also important to acknowledge we do not know the views of 250 households who did not respond to the survey. The age we live in and common sense would suggest the internet and connectivity are crucial for the future of our Parish residents as technology is often cited as leading the way in economic growth.

Usage of mobile phones is high in the Parish with the majority agreeing that the signal needs to be improved and can be unreliable. This is clearly an important issue for residents. Reliable and consistent mobile signal is seen as important or very important by the majority.

‘The internet and connectivity are crucial for the future of our Parish.’



OBJECTIVES

- To use the Parish website to promote use of local amenities and businesses, including post office, stores, village halls, churches, pubs, Chirbury school and pre-school.
- Support the modernisation of village halls.
- Report and support requirements for road improvements, gritting and verge cutting.
- Put in place new lease arrangements for Chirbury playing field to secure the facility for the future and for Busy Bees pre-school.
- To support improvements to mobile phone signal and broadband for Parishioners.
- Use the Parish website to signpost services and organisations that support the elderly and vulnerable.
- Put in place signage on Chirbury village hall parking indicating that it is not for residents.
- Review the need for and opportunities to support play equipment in Marton and Priest Weston.
- Seek a realistic solution for parking for Priest Weston village hall.
- To have a diary of local events on the new Parish website and investigate a print version of local information to improve communication.

Village halls in the community are important facilities.



5

PRIORITIES FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT



Of all the respondents 48 households already work from home in the Parish and 15 more are considering doing so. For those working at home, or considering it:

- 3 - 4G mobile network,
- available, frequent public transport and
- broadband

were cited as very important.

The road network was also cited as important overall, followed by availability of suitable premises and finance although these were deemed less so.

OBJECTIVES

- To support local employment initiatives through the promotion of grants and business information available from Shropshire Council.
- To raise awareness of local grant schemes for business development and bio diversity initiatives.
- To lobby mobile phone network suppliers to improve mobile signals. (Also in objectives for the Environment)
- To campaign for improvements to broadband for Parishioners and link with Connecting Shropshire initiatives to support that. (Also in objectives for the Environment)



6

PRIORITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

The host of initiatives that support domestic renewable energy for sustainable living, from air source heat pumps, turbines, digesters and solar through to loft insulation gained some interest and support. There was also a large proportion of 'don't knows', those that were already using some sources and those strongly against.

For local commercial renewable energy, there were also some mixed responses in terms of favouring initiatives. Solar farms and digesters and individual turbines getting some support. Wind farms were less supported.

Improved and more recycling was well supported as an initiative.

STREET LIGHTING

Just over 71% of respondents to this question stated they did not think that more street lighting was needed. A small proportion (5%) felt that street lights should be moved. There were a number of places that people suggested street lighting was needed including Wotherton / Wayside and Rorrington. There were a couple of suggestions about upgrading to LED lights.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide support for sustainable energy planning applications.
- Continue supporting kerbside recycling and other recycling initiatives via promotion on the Parish website.
- Put in place replacement LED streetlighting with timers.

7

PRIORITIES FOR HEALTHCARE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Parish residents are more likely to be registered with Montgomery or Worthen doctors than any other. Overall 88% said the level of care they received was good and availability of nurses and doctors was good overall too. Several comments were made around the desirability of 7 day working, walk-in sessions, Saturday care and getting quicker appointments.

There was a mixed response on accessibility of accident and emergency care, ambulance and paramedic response, but generally it was felt to be good or as expected for those who had experience of them. Out of hours NHS, doctors service (ShropDoc), emergency policing and fire brigade services were generally regarded as good, or as expected, but many also said they had no experience of the services.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide feedback given on local medical practices to those practices.
- Support the continued provision of A&E in Shrewsbury and other local healthcare and emergency services.

Support continued provision of A & E in Shrewsbury



8

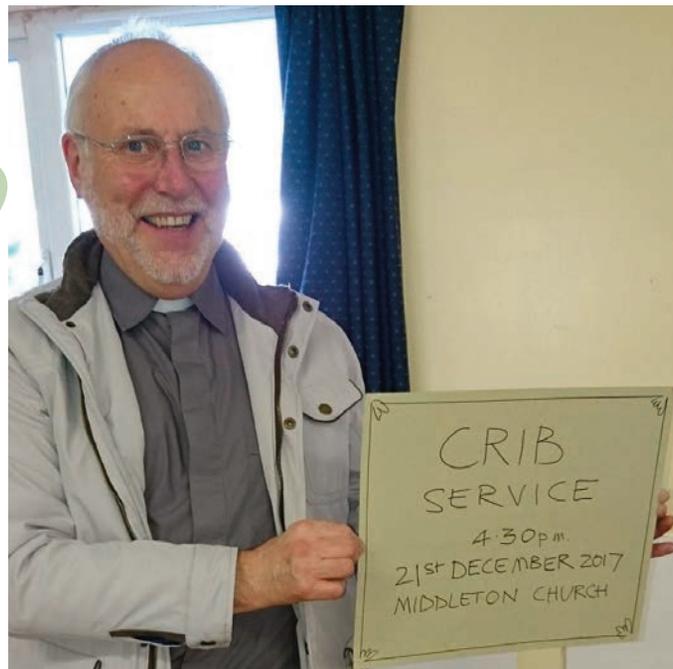
OTHER MATTERS

VOLUNTEERING

32% of respondents said they would volunteer and just under 60% said they were not sure. These are positive indicators of Parish residents' willingness to be involved in local volunteering opportunities.

The Parish Council will consider supporting community social events or activities on various issues to support voluntary involvement. The new Parish website will also be used to promote events and volunteering opportunities.

These are positive indicators of residents' willingness to be involved in local volunteering opportunities



CHIRBURY WITH BROMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS:

CHIRBURY WARD

Nigel Brown
Heather Kidd
Stuart Scott-Goldstone (Chairman)
Tony Sheppard
Martin Williams

BROMPTON WARD

Sandra Evans
1 Vacancy

MARTON WARD

Felicity Bevan
Maureen Jenkins
Heather Thomas

MIDDLETON WARD

Gwyneth Bird
Huw Thomas
Heather Venis

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Councillors' details are correct at time of going to print (June 2018).

Please visit the Parish website (www.chirbury.org.uk) for further contact information.

THANK YOU

Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council would like to thank all those who by completing questionnaires and sharing their opinions have enabled this report to be compiled.

Thanks to Maldwyn Colley and other parishioners for the use of their photographs.



“ Without the countryside we as humans have nothing. ”



Details of Parish Council news and activities, including dates of meetings, minutes and achievements can be found on the Council's web page: www.chirbury.org.uk.



You can also keep up with local news and events by visiting Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council's Facebook page: www.facebook.com