Abberley Parish Plan



Abberley • Worcestershire • April 2008

Index of Contents

Page No	
3	The Parish of Abberley—An Introduction Statistics
4	What is a Parish Plan Householder Survey Initial Public Meeting Sub Committee Working Party Production of The Parish Plan
5	The Householder Survey 2003 The Fornat of The Survey Collation of the results Evidence from the results statistics production How the results are going to be used
6	Clubs, societies, facilities Wheels of St. Mary's the over 60's club Wichenford Day Centre Doctors Surgery Mobile Library Abberley Village Hall
7	Householders Response Need / Improvement Identified Proposed Action and Timescale
8	Amenities & trades Post office & Shop Garage The Manor Arms Local services & trades Holiday Lets The Elms Hotel
9	Householders Response Need / Improvement Identified Proposed Action and Timescale
10	A better environment for today & tomorrow Village Green Trust Refuse Collection Litter Lengthsman Service Broadband Heritage Projects
11	Householders Response Need / Improvement Identified Proposed Action and Timescale
12	For a stronger community affor dable housing AHPS The Churches Public Transport Parish News Historical Society WI Parish Council Communications
13	Householders Response Need / Improvement Identified Proposed Action and Timescale
14	A community that is safe and feels safe Neighbourhood Watch Emergency Services
15	Householders Response Need / Improvement Identified Proposed Action and Timescale
16	Meeting the needs of children & young people PlayGroup Toddler & Parent AbberleyTomorrow Fish Club Little Saints Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Guides Cricket Club Fishing Club Young Farmers Abberley PC School Abberley Hall Prep. School The Chantry High School Village Recreation Facilities
17	Householders Response Need / Improvement Identified Proposed Action and Timescale
18	So what happens next? From Draft Plan to Final Plan Adoption of the Parish Plan
19	And how will changes happens ? implementation of the Action Points The Need to Continually Review The Parish Plan

What is a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans are a working document for parish councils and local communities, they are 'holistic' or comprehensive in scope. They should set out a vision for the community in the future highlighting the things we value and identify the action needed to tackle the issues of concern. They can include everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community, from employment needs to playgrounds. They can include any social, environmental or economic issues. It is up to the community to decide what is important.

Parish Plans give local communities the opportunity to set up their own priorities for action on behalf of the community. Parish Plans are a new initiative intended to bring together previous work in this area such as village Appraisals and Village Design Statements. It is hoped that this Parish Plan will influence a wide range of organisations which will provide better services to rural communities.

Householder Survey

The Householder survey was issued during the summer of 2003. The Parish Plan Questionnaire Response was good with two in every five plans returned (108 Plans returned out of a possible 270 households included within the Parish Boundary.) 35% of all Abberley Village Residents were represented.

Initial Public Meeting

The initial public meeting was held in April 2004 at Abberley Village Hall and the results of the survey were discussed.

Sub Committee Working Party

This committee was established to collate survey responses and produce a draft plan for the approval of Parish Council and residents

Production of The Parish Plan

The results of the householder survey is hereby produced with the intention to identify the specific needs/issues of residents and to provide a framework for action.





".. An unspoilt village in outstanding countryside.."



".. Keep our village quiet ... people who live in villages do not expect the same amenities as in towns—if they want this—they should live to a town..."

".. We are well served by medical facilities and a caring community..."

The Parish of Abberley — An Introduction

Abberley is a Worcestershire village of about 2,360 acres, situated between the river Severn and river Teme and has a population of around 850.

Abberley is split into two parts by farmland, the old and the new village. The old village houses two churches, St. Mary's and St. Michael's and the local village pub, The Manor Arms. The new village is expanding more rapidly, with a Victorian primary school and a post office and shop. Close to the village is Abberley Clock Tower in the grounds of Abberley Hall private school. Abberley Hall: The site was probably inhabited in Celtic and Roman times. Later, in AD 602, St. Augustine is popularly supposed to have met Welsh and Irish churchmen at Abberley. The 'Apostles Oak' where this important conference took place stood in the coppice across the road from the present main gates of Abberley Hall. The Domesday Book mentions Abberley as 'Edboldega' or Eadbold's settlement. William the Conqueror granted the manor to Ralph de Todeni, his standard bearer at the Battle of Hastings. The main residence was 'a park on a hill overlooking the parish of Abberley' i.e. probably within the present School grounds.

The de Todenis held Abberley until about 1300 when it passed through marriage to Guy de Beauchamp, the first of the Earls of Warwick, who continued as lords of Abberley for five generations. During this time, in 1405, Owen Glendower, with assistance from 12,000 Frenchmen, invaded the area and camped on Woodbury Hill. An opposing English army occupied Abberley Hill, and there was a skirmish on Merritt's Hill (on which the Clock Tower is now built). The Welsh then withdrew

The manor of Abberley later passed to the Neville family. During this time, a fortification built on the site rated as one of the seven major castles of Worcestershire. The Nevilles were one of the many great baronial families weakened by the Wars of the Roses (1453-1485). Henry VII, the victor of the Battle of Bosworth and the first of the Tudors seized Abberley as a royal possession. His son, Henry VIII, granted Abberley to his Groom of the King's Chamber, Walter Walsh whose family lived at nearby Shelsley.

The Walshes held Abberley for over 175 years, but not without interruption. Queen Elizabeth I took it away to give to a favourite, but after a law suit it was restored to the Walshes.

Joseph Walsh fought on the Royalist side at the Battle of Worcester on September 3rd, 1651 and suffered imprisonment for his loyalty to the Crown.

Statistics

Population 845 Households 270 84% Owner/Occupier 93% British / White 45% Employed/Self Employed 267 Commute to work 77 Work From Home 107 Homemaker/Student/Retired In the 18th century, Abberley Manor has some literary connections. It was visited by the poet Pope, and also by Joseph Addison who often stayed there. A walk lined with yews behind the present building is still known as 'Addison's Walk'.

".. Tranquillity... Countryside & old fashioned village appeal..."

94 % of residents are proud of their parish

".. Abberley is peaceful, generally friendly and a lively community..."



The Householder Survey 2003

The format of the Survey

The Questionnaire posed 63 questions covering key physical and quality of life issues with an invitation for comments and suggestions. All responses to the survey were anonymous.

How the results of the Survey were collated

Each survey was carefully read and answers to questions analysed. The responses are reflected in the body of the plan.

Where particular comments were made these were noted for further action.



Many areas of opportunity have been identified by the results of the survey and following consultations with various organisations and parties within the community.

Where needs for improvement have been identified a strategy has been developed where organisations and the community can work together.

The production of statistics

There were 108 responses received, representing 35% of households. These responses are reflected in the plan.

How these results are going to be used

The results of the householder survey are the views of the residents of The Parish of Abberley. These views are important and will be used as a basis for areas of action or proposed change. In most cases, it is the majority view that will be acted

".. It is a beautiful village nestling in the Hill and you can get as involved or otherwise in the workings of the community..."













...clubs, societies, facilities...

Wheels of St Mary's

A car service started by volunteers to provide transport to medical services for the residents of Abberley and Great Witley who would not otherwise have means of transport.

The Over 60's Club

A popular social and activity club for the Over 60's, gathered from Abberley and the surrounding area. Regular meetings are held every two weeks. An annual luncheon and coach trip also take place. The proceeds of the annual auction of Harvest Festival produce at the Manor Arms are given to help funding.

Wichenford Day Centre

A welcoming place for the elderly to meet and socialise, receive medical advice and enjoy a hot lunch two days per week. Run on a voluntary basis.

Doctors Surgery

An excellent practice of six doctors based at the branch surgery at Great Witley open 5 days per week and a branch surgery in Martley open 3 days per week. The main practice also has a dispensary, two practise nurses, a phlebotomist and a full community team including nurses, health visitors and midwives.

Mobile Library

Organised via Stourport Library, the Mobile Library visits the village square opposite the Manor Arms monthly and also on Common Road with a good range of materials, including DVD's and audio tapes.

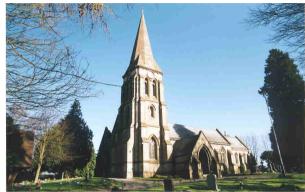
" ... keep it rural and quiet, do not introduce facilities which can be obtained in towns or suburbs..."

".. the hills, the countryside and the peace.."

Abberley Village Hall

Considered by many residents to be a vital facility within the village. Well maintained and managed by an excellent Committee for the benefit of the village. The Hall is 12 years old and can accommodate 300 people plus the Committee Meeting Room.

A much used focal point of village life and activity for all age groups from toddlers and play school to the over 60's Club and many local events. The Hall is often fully booked.







Organisation / Service / Facility	Householder Survey Response	Need / Improvement Identified	Partners	Proposed Action & Timescale
Wheels of St Mary's	"Excellent service"	Further volunteers are always needed.	The Wheels of St. Mary's Abberley Parish News	Advertise fα drivers. Immediate.
The Over 60's Club	Not included in the Survey	None identified but this club is supported by residents of the Parish	The over 60's Club Abberley Parish News	The Club continues to actively encourage new members On Going
Wichenford Day Centre	Not included in the Survey	More volunteers and funding needed.	Wichenford Day Centre Abberley Parish News	To publicise need for helpers and drivers and increase community awareness of need for support. Immediate.
Doctors Surgery	"Excellent ærvice"	For the practice to continue to provide excellent care to patients	The Doctors Surgery	To aim to provide caring friendly staff to patients within the locality . On Going
Mobile Library	Only 10% of respondents said they used this facility. However, 50% of respondents said they would support a Local Library.	The service would benefit from more publicity and increased general awareness of the variety of material the Mobile Library has to offer in order not to lose the service.	Mobile Library Service Abberley Parish News	Increase awareness and actively publish times and dates of the service. Immediate.
Abberley Village Hall	74% of respondents used the Hall regularly.	To maintain current excellent standards. A projection screen would also be useful for presentations and film clubs etc.	Abberley Village Hall Committee	To discus with Management Committee. Medium Term.





".. A
delightful
rural
village with
ex cellent
walking /
footpaths
..."



...amenities and trades....

Post Office and Shop

A vital local facility open daily which is used by the village and other surrounding villages. The shop provides a range of general food and grocery supplies including general provisions, butchers, green grocery, frozen foods and Post Office.

Garage

A vehicle service and repair business well used by many residents.

".. We are well served by medical facilities and a caring community..."



Manor Arms Inn

Well supported by the village the pub is a grade II listed building in the heart of the old part of the village. It has 10 bedrooms, 2 of which are suites. The restaurant seats 40 - 45. Permission has just been obtained to erect a marquee on the terrace which should double the capacity. The management has changed since the questionnaire and introduced many improvements. An important and integral part of the social life of the village. Hosts Harvest Festival Auction and annual Poppy Gala Dinner and many other "family" competitions are arranged throughout the year.

Local Services and Trades

There are a vast number skills and trades represented within the village.

Holiday Lets

There is a range of Holiday Lets available, all year around, within the village and surrounding countryside, offering a variety of accommodation.

The Elms Hotel

Part of the Von Essen Group of luxury privately owned hotels throughout the country. The Elms is aimed at the up-market family leisure break. Currently construction is underway for the creation of a health spa, swimming pool, treatment rooms and crechè which is already open. Private membership will be available.

".. I wish the church could offer services that connect to people..."

89 % of residents Own a computer

" .. A lovely place to be..."





Organisation / Service / Facility	Householder Survey Response	Need / Improvement Identified	Partners	Proposed Action & Timescale
Post Office & Shop	98% of respondents use the shop.	A number of local residents have expressed the need to see the re-opening of the pedestrian access from The Common.	Parish Council / Local Residents / Post Office & Shop	The Parish Council to endeavour to resolve this issue. Short to medium.
Garage	84% of respondents use the garage.	No need for improvements have been identified	Not applicable	Residents of The Parish to continue to support this local business. Immediate and ongo ing.
Manor Arms Inn	88% of respondents use the facilities on a regular basis	Some respondents indicated the need to maintain / improve standards	Manor Arms Inn Abberley Parish News	To encourage wider support from the community
Local Services & Trades	Not included in the Householder Survey.	Help to improve awareness and communication of what local services are available.	Abberley Parish News Abberley Web Site	To create a register of local service providers. Medium term.
Holiday Lets	Not included in the Householder Survey.	To improve awareness of facilities available and look at updating the communication of this.	Abberley Parish News Abberley Web Site	To create a register of accommodation and map. Medium term.
The Elms Hotel	Not included in the Householder Survey.	None identified.	Not applicable	No action or timescale is applicable







A better environment for today and tomorrow....

Village Green Trust

The Trust manages and maintains a recreation area for the benefit of the residents of Abberley and the surrounding area. Including a large green area, woodland and picnic area. Regular village working parties help maintain the area.

".. The children / young children do need an area where they can play..."

Refuse Collection

Abberley benefits from a weekly refuse collection and recycling collection by the Malvern Hills District Council.

Litter

Part of the village has been covered by a privately sponsored Litter Picking Service and has benefited from this. The remainder of the village is affected by litter particularly on main roads where litter is deposited by passing traffic.

Lengthsman Service

This is an excellent maintenance service which ensures improvements to clearance of footpaths and gulleys around the village.

".. The children are our future..."

Broadband

The entire village are able to access Broadband.

Heritage Projects

Abberley is a conservation area with many listed buildings and a Norman Church built on Saxon Foundations. A village with history dating back 1000 years.











Organisation / Service / Facility	Householder Survey Response	Need / Improvement Identified	Partners	Proposed Action & Timescale
Village Green Trust	45% of respondents use the green.	To support the Trust in their objectives including improvements to the Green. To help provide a safe footpath access from the school to the Green. To encourage the continued development of the forest school and other educational projects.	Abberley Village Green Trust / Parish Council	To support the Trust in providing a safe access route. Medium term.
Refuse Collection	98% of respondents were satisfied with the service.	Maintain the existing level of service without the need for wheeler bins.	MHDC	Maintain the existing level of service without the need for wheeler bins.
Litter	36% of respondents indicated that there was a litter problem.	Consideration should be given to village working parties to litter pick periodically.	Parish News / Private Litter Collection Company	To encourage local working parties. Short to Medium term.
Lengthsman Service	Not included.	To maintain service.	Parish Council	Not applicable.
Broadband	In the three years since the original Parish Appraisal the majority of Internet access has converted to Broadband.	Broadband is available to all	Not applicable	Not applicable
Heritage Projects	98% of respondents indicated considerable pride in their village.	To collate all known historical and social documents and bring together information from existing residents.	Community First / County Records Office / University & Reference Libraries	To record a history of Abberley. Medium term.



" ...the church could be more welcoming...."

83 % of residents separate compostable waste from other waste





...for a stronger community....

Affordable & Appropriate Housing

There is confusion whether affordable housing means "small houses" or social housing and therefore responses are confusing.

The Parish News is a monthly publication run by the P.C.C. giving information about the activities of the church and village life. Self-funded by local

Abberley Hills Preservation Society (AHPS)

The organisation exists to preserve the Natural Environment of the Abberley Hills and encourage interest in its flora and fauna.

St Mary's & St Michael's Church

There are two churches in Abberley - St. Mary's and St. Michael's. The churches are used by various groups throughout the week. Regular services are held at both churches. The church in Abberley extends deeply into village life in ways not necessarily appreciated by those who do not regularly attend worship.

The Church accepts they have not been as good at communicating as they should be.

Included in church activities are Little Saints - a monthly service for pre-school children and their carers, Fish Club - a weekly after school club. Pastoral visiting also takes place by church members to those in hospital and to the housebound. Holy Communion is taken to those who cannot attend church.

Public Transport & Access to Services

Yarrantons of Eardiston run a popular, well supported service, No. 758, from Worcester to Tenbury, calling at the village shops six times a opportunity day. A school service runs in the morning and returning in the late afternoon into the Village committees. Square which the general public can use.

Parish News

The Parish News is a monthly publication run by the P.C.C. giving information about the activities of the church and village life. Self-funded by local advertisers and voluntary contributions (but in the event of a deficit this is met by the P.C.C.). This is an important publication that is delivered by volunteers to every household in the Parish.

Teme Valley Historical Society

A group which has been established for a number of years, meeting monthly in the Village Hall. Speakers are invited to cover a wide range of subjects and topics of interest to those people who want to know more about the wider area in which they live.

Women's Institute

A popular women's group that has thrived for years and has a number of guest speaker visits and other types of regular activities.

Communications with Parish Council

An elected Council of nine members supported by the Parish Clerk meet ten times per year with an Annual General Meeting.

These Meetings are open to the public with the opportunity for any issues to be raised. Much of the work of the Council is through various subcommittees.



94 % of residents are proud of their parish "We hope that the church would provide friendly services to attract more people, young and old...."

Organisation / Service / Facility	Householder Survey Response	Need / Improvement Identified	Partners	Proposed Action & Timescale
Affordable & Appropriate Housing	70% of respondents would support "appropriate" affordable housing for local people but only 16% of respondents said they needed such housing for their family.		MHDC / Central Government / Parish Council	Set by Central and Local Government in Local Development Framework timescale but both the public and Parish Council will be given the opportunity to make representations.
Abberley Hills Preservation Society (AHPS)	99% of respondents indicated an interest in the Society.	Increase activity level and encourage new and ongoing membership.	AHPS / Abberley Parish News / Abberley Web Site	Ideally to establish interest meetings and reintroduce study groups and inform community of the Organisation's plans and principles. To encourage more involvement in activities. Medium to long term.
St Mary's & St Michaels Church	A number of respondents thought the Church could do more to encourage more to attend the services	The Church intends to try and improve their communication to the community about what it does via the Parish News and Church website.	The Rector / Abberley Parochial Church Council / Abberley Parish News / Abberley Web Site	To encourage villagers who do not necessarily attend church to communicate their thoughts and needs and feel their connection with the church. Introduce a dedicated children's area in St. Mary's. Short to medium plus long term.
Public Transport & Access to Services	Not included in the survey.	None identified through the survey although need identified to investigate free or subsidised transport for the Young and the	MHDC / Parish Council	To investigate free or subsidised transport for the Young and the Elderly Short term.
Communications with PCC, LA's & Service	Comments regarding the low public attendance of Parish Council Meetings were made	There is a need for wider communication from the Parish Council and a need for encouragement to the community to raise issues of concern.	Parish Council / Abberley Parish News / Abberley Web Site	To aim at setting up an effective Parish website to record all Parish Council activities and minute meetings and provide a source for local information for the community. Immediate
Women's Institute	Not included in the survey.	None identified through the survey.	Not applicable	None identified through the survey.
Teme Valley Historical Society	Not included in the Survey.	To look at increasing the community's knowledge of the Society's work. Maintain existing programme.		To help publicise the Society's work Short term.
Parish News	Not included but individual positive comments were made.	To continue with the Parish News and encourage all local organisations to ensure their programme of activities is publicised.		Encourage greater use of this medium by local organisations to keep the community updated. Short term.

...a community that is safe and feels safe....

Neighbourhood Watch

The Abberley Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is sponsored by the Parish Council and includes every household in the Parish. The objectives of the scheme are to

- Develop a spirit of neighbourliness. a)
- b) Through the regular issue of directories provide local information and neighbour contact details.
- Reduce fear of crime. c)
- d) Strengthen the community / police partnership.

The plan should be to use new technology to further enhance the scheme and improve communication.

94 % of residents supporting the neighbourhood watch are proud of their parish





Abberley Village



Emergency Services

The remoteness of the location of Abberley does result in some inevitable delay in response. Emergency Services are however well networked in this area. Technical communication development continues to improve the system.

The Air Ambulance acts as an important back-up in the areas of serious incidents.

> " It is a quiet Parish with residents concerned with preserving this was way of life"



" ... beautiful views and quiet surroundings"

Organisation / Service / Facility

Neighbourhood Watch

Emergency Services

94% of respondents saw Neighbourhood Watch as a benefit to the community.

Survey Response

Householder

Not included in the survey.

Need / Improvement Identified

Improve communication of the benefits of the scheme.

To continue to increase awareness of action to take in an emergency.

Partners

Parish Co-ordinator / West Mercia Police / MHDC community safety

Neighbourhood Watch / West Mercia Police / Abberly Parish News/ Abberley Web Site **Proposed Action & Timescale**

To continue with the scheme. Short, medium and long term.

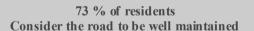
To aim to increase awareness of the action needed to take in an emergency. Short, medium and long term.







".. Peace and quiet. Beautiful countryside. Good Schools. Great local amenities. Community spirit.."









... meeting the needs of young people...

Abberley Play Group

Run by an enthusiastic and efficient committee. The Playgroup currently has 26 children aged 2 - 4 years using the facility, the majority of which reside in Abberley. A well supported group for children to join in play, crafts, music and for pre-school children to be given support in early learning of basic numbers, letters and colours, etc.

Run in the Village Hall for five sessions weekly by qualified nursery staff and volunteer carers.

There is a well used outside play area with wooden equipment.

Abberley Toddler & Parent Group

A well supported popular group meeting weekly. Toys, fun and games for babies and children. Coffee and biscuits and social support for carers. Run by volunteers. Parties periodically throughout the year. Craft activity at every session.

Abberley Tomorrow

A young persons club established approximately four years ago, currently not active.

Fish Club

A Christian based Group held for children after school once a week. Bible stories and crafts, etc.

Little Saints

A pre-school Group held monthly for young children and their carers for singing, stories, making things, based on Christian teaching. Generally held in St Michael's.

Abberley & Gt. Witley Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Guides, Rainbows & Brownies

These Groups meet weekly during term time. Approximately 30% of children are from Abberley. The Groups offer organised activities and a summer camp.

Abberley Cricket Club

A long established Club meeting at Abberley Hall School.

A club for all age groups interested in playing cricket.

Abberley Fishing Club

The Club meets regularly and fish at the inkpot lake in the grounds of Abberley Hall School. All age groups are involved.

Abberley Young Farmers

The group has been inactive for a number of years. Members are aged between 10 and 26 years.

Abberley PC School

The School is a vital element of village life. There are currently 100 pupils aged 4½ to 11 years. Oakapples, a pre-school and after school Club, offers "wrap around care". Extra curricular clubs are also popular.

A close link is being developed with Abberley Hall School. The School use their swimming pool and other facilities are being offered.

Abberley Hall Prep School

This preparatory day and boarding school with separate Nursery complex can care for children from 2 years to 13 years. Set within substantial grounds the Hall represents a major resource for the village and they are already involved with Abberley Cricket Club, the Anglers Club and local Scouts and clubs.

The Chantry High School

A secondary school for ages 11 to 16. Covers HP to GCSE level. An excellent modern campus situated in Martley with excellent sports facilities including indoor badminton courts and climbing wall. The site also incorporates Sport Martley, a sport and fitness facility available to the public during evenings, weekends and school holidays

Organisation / Service / Facility	Householder Survey Response	Need / Improvement Identified	Partners	Proposed Action & Timescale
Abberley Play Group	73% of respondents said this was an important resource.	To continue to support the Group.	Abberley Play Group / Local Residents	To continue to support the Group. Ongoing
Abberley Toddler & Parent Group	Not included.	To continue to support the Group.	Abberley Toddler & Parent Group / Local Residents	To continue to support the Group. Ongoing
Abberley Tomorrow	Not included.	To form a Youth Council which could then reactivate the group.	Abberley Hall School / Parish Council	To encourage the formation of a Council and any potential link with the Abberley Hall School. Short / medium term.
Fish Club	Not included.	To continue to support the Group.	Fish Club / Abberley Parish News / Web Site	To raise awareness of the Group. Short term.
Little Saints	Not included.	To continue to support the Group.	Little Saints / Abberley Parish News / Web Site	To raise awareness of the Group. Short term.
Abberley & Gt Witley Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Guides	Not included.	To continue to support the Group.	Abberley & Gt Witley Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Guides/ Local Residents	To continue to support the individual groups. Short / medium and long term.
Abberley Fishing Club	Not included.	To continue to support the Club.	Abberley Fishing Club / local residents	To support the Group. Short / medium plus long term.
Abberley PC School	65% of respondents want a speed limit of 20 mph around	To support this well run school in its expansion and development of its facilities.	Abberley PC School / local residents / Parish Council	To give support to the School's ongoing plans and proposals. Short / medium and long term.
Abberley Hall Prep. School	Not included.	To forge closer links between the village community and school to take advantage of the offer by the school to allow access to their skills and facilities for the greater benefit of the Abbberley community.	Abberley Hall Prep School Local Residents	To arrange a meeting at the school involving parents and young people to develop links between the Hall and wider community. Short term.
The Chantry High School	Not included.	To continue to support the school. To work with the school over a range of youth activities.	Chantry High School Local Residents	To continue to support the ongoing development of the school. Short / medium / long term.
Village Recreation Facilities	84% of respondents stated that a recreation area was needed.	To continue to explore the identification of a suitable site.	Parish Council	To maintain this project as a priority. Short / medium term.
Abberley Cricket Club	Not included.	To continue to support the Club.	Abberley Cricket Club / Abberley Prish News / Web Site	To raise awareness of the Club. Short term.
Abberley Young Farmers	Not included.	To reactivate the Abberley and District Young Farmers Club.	Parish Council / Young Farmers / Local Residents	To involve parents and young people in the reforming of the Club. Short to medium term.

..so what happens next?

From Draft to Final Plan

The Parish Council will first approve the Draft Plan. Following this there will be a consultation period on the areas identified along with proposed action points.

73 % of residents See the playgroup as an important resource

Adoption of The Parish Plan

Following any amendments made as a result of the consultation period, the plan will be adopted by the Parish Council and the published document circulated to all households and organisations.









84% consider that a children's recreational area is required

" .. We do not need to be over sign-posted.."





...and how will changes happen...?

Implementation of the Action Points

All organisations identified in the plan are party to the actions indicated and will strive to achieve their objectives within the published timescale.

The need to continually review The Parish Plan

The plan will be reviewed annually by the Parish Council together with the local community and revisions / additions made at that time as and where appropriate.







" It is a quiet Parish with residents concerned with preserving this way of life"







99% of residents recy cle their waste.

".. There is a community feeling ...safe...beauty... quiet..."

Abberley Parish Plan



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