

The Upton Snodsbury Parish Plan



2008 Update

Upton Snodsbury Parish Plan, 2008 Update

Contents

Background.....	3
The Upton Snodsbury Parish Plan	3
How Was Upton Snodsbury’s Parish Plan devised?	3
How Much Did The Parish Plan cost?	4
Parish Plan Survey – Summary of Main Findings.....	6
Parish Plan Survey – Full Results	13
Number of People Surveyed	13
Profile of the households (and individuals) responding to the surveys	13
Individual Survey Results	14
Living in Upton Snodsbury	14
Future Housing Development and Increases in Rental Accommodation	15
Crime & Anti Social Behavior.....	16
Environment.....	18
Services & Amenities.....	22
Recreation & Social Facilities / Activities	27
Youth Survey Results	31
Parish Plan Survey Results	33
Individual Survey Results (Continued)	33
Transport, Road & Traffic Related Issues.....	33
What makes residents MAD, GLAD and SAD about living in Upton Snodsbury?	37
Formulating the Parish Plan Action List.....	41
What Happened Next?	41
Upton Snodsbury’s	45
Parish “Action” Plan	45
Ranked by importance to the parish	45
Please Note	45
that this is a “wish list”	45
and not everything here,	45
no matter how desirable,	45
will be achievable.....	45
May 2008.....	45

** For fast read version of the Upton Snodsbury Parish Plan, 2008 update omit sections marked pages 13 to 36 (indicated above)*

Background

The Upton Snodsbury Parish Plan

Contained in this report are the results of The Upton Snodsbury Parish Survey (conducted in March 2006), which have shaped “The Upton Snodsbury Parish Plan”.

This Parish Plan contains a summary of the views of the people of the Parish (that participated in the survey), their likes and dislikes, as well as their current and future needs

From these views, the Parish Planning Committee have worked with the Parish Council to draw up an action list of “most desired improvements,” that have formed the focus for their work over the last 12 months.

This report details not only the actions taken, in relation to those “most desired improvements” identified in the survey but also a list of the outstanding actions, with a summary of how they will be addressed moving forward.

How Was Upton Snodsbury’s Parish Plan devised?

The idea of formulating a Parish Plan for Upton Snodsbury was initially introduced at the annual Church Fete in July 2003.

This was followed in the September by an exhibition held in the Village Hall, outlining the scope of the Parish Plan and inviting the Parish to become involved in its development.

Three further meetings were also held in the Village Hall, to which the Parish was again invited; the best attended session seeing around 20 participants take place in lively debate.

Nearly a year later, the project had reached the stage of shaping the topics and issues for investigation; A brainstorming session, attended by representatives of all age groups, tabling and prioritising the subject areas of most interest to the village. These included (but not exhaustively): The environment, security, village facilities & amenities, transport, future development and youth. Specific questions were suggested by sub-committees (in relation to these and other topics).

These continued into 2005, by which time a Parish Plan Committee had been formed.

This committee comprised five groups of 3 volunteers (15 in total). Their job was to formulate the final set of questions (shaped by ongoing feedback sought from parish residents), into a set of formal questionnaires, which were duly drafted in early 2006, tested for ease of understanding and completion and then amended, before printing in March 2006.

In total 3 questionnaires were distributed to all households and residents (see Appendix1). These were:

Questionnaire 1:	Household Survey	To be completed by head of household
Questionnaire 2:	Individual Survey	To be completed by all over 15 yrs
Questionnaire 3:	Youth Survey	To be completed by 4-14 yr olds

Residents were given 3 weeks to complete their surveys. At the end of this time, the surveys were collected in confidential envelopes (or residents could elect to drop them off at the Village Store & Post Office).

Once returned, the answers in the completed questionnaires were combined by an independent team of researchers, to give an overall result. These survey results were then written up to form the base of the Parish Plan and its action list.

How Much Did The Parish Plan cost?

In 2004 Upton Snodsbury Parish Council applied to the Countryside Agency for a grant to pay for their Parish Plan. In 2006 they were given a sum of £2,682.50 to cover:

- The production and analysis of the questionnaire
- The holding of meetings and events in relation to the Plan's ongoing development
- The production and distribution of the final Parish Plan, enabling all households to have their own copy

Parish Plan Survey – Summary of Main Findings

Total number of respondents of the Parish Plan Survey:

- 100 households (67% of the Parish)
- 168 people (over the age of 15)
- 38 young people (between the age of 4 and 14)

Key Areas of Interest (and findings in relation to these)

- **Future Housing Development**
 - 67% (112 people) said no to future development outside the currently developed area of the Village
 - 24% (40 people) said future development should be allowed, but principally smaller homes (with 1 to 2 bedrooms).
- **Crime & Anti Social Behavior**
 - Only 29% of all respondents (48 people in total or an average of 10 people per year) over the last 5 years had experienced any form of crime or anti-social behavior in the Parish
 - 15 people (average of 3 a year) reported theft from an outbuilding at some point
 - Provision of more activities for young people seen as key to prevent crime and anti social behavior in the future (67 respondents expressing this view)
- **Dog and Cat Fouling**
 - Key issue identified, with 64% of all respondents indicating it was a problem (107 people)
 - 44% of all respondents (73 people), believed that dog owners were the key to resolving it
 - 55 people suggested more dog litter bins were central to the solution
- **Littering, Dumping & Fly Tipping**
 - 53% of all respondents (89 people) said it was a good idea or very good idea to remove litter from the village environment
 - 45% (82 people) stating that more litter bins around the village would be a good idea or very good idea.
- **The Local Environment**
 - Proved to be important, with half of all respondents (52% or 87 people), volunteering to do something to improve it
 - 33 volunteers offered to take part in village litter picking day (top answer out of all categories volunteered for)
- **Recycling**
 - 93% of all respondents (157 people) stated they were aware that the Parish had recycling facilities
 - Up to 58% utilise Wychavon's recycling collection
 - 23% using other recycling facilities e.g. bins at The Oak
 - When asked what other items people would like to be able to recycle in the village, the top response was garden waste (73 people), followed by clothing and shoes

- **Pathways**
 - Local paths are well used, with 82% of all respondents (137 people) stating that they used local pathways either occasionally or regularly
 - 54% of all respondents commented that most paths could be used without difficulty
 - Where difficulties were identified these were mostly (39%) in relation to the high growth of brambles, nettles and weeds. Poorly marked routes and mud/water on tracks were sighted as the second and third biggest difficulties experienced when using paths and bridleways
 - 8% said that they were unaware of the location of public footpaths in and around the village
- **Services & Amenities**
 - When asked which of Upton Snodsbury's facilities people made use of, and how often they used them, the top response was the Village Shop & Post Office, with 99% of respondents stating that they use the facility – 69% of these regularly (as opposed to occasionally)
 - Second most used facility is the Village Hall, with 77% of all respondents having used it at some point.
 - The next most used facility being The Oak Public House (Previously the Royal Oak and French House) – used by 64% of all respondents.
 - The remaining village facilities were all used by less than a third of all respondents
 - 29% of all respondents (48 people), seemed to be unaware that the village had a public car park, located at the rear of the school
 - Increased promotion of the location of this car park, in addition to the encouraged use of this facility could potentially lead to less friction in relation to “parking”, around the village, which came up as an issue on a number of occasions in the Parish Survey
 - With reference to new facilities and amenities desired by the village, when asked, “If you had a large sum of money for village improvements, what would you spend it on?”...
 - No.1 answer – Recreation Ground/Playground (32%)
 - No.2 answer – Additional sports facilities (16%)
 - Suggestions for other recreational and sports facilities included: Tennis Courts, Skate board track, swimming pool, gym facilities, cycle tracks
- **Utilities**
 - The majority of households in the village reported that they had mains drainage (72% of all respondents or 72 homes).
 - 28% stated that they did not have it and were primarily located in Cowsden and/or the outlying properties of the village

- They would like to see mains drainage extended to their homes, if given the choice
 - 52% of households said they had problems with their water supply, with the occurrence of the same 3 problems:
 - Intermittent supply (with regular unannounced “disconnections”) , 45%
 - Low water pressure, 45%
 - Discoloured /cloudy water, 12%
 - 51% of households said they had problems with their electricity supply,
 - All related to power cuts or disconnections of supply
- **Internet Usage & Other Communications**
 - 67% of all respondents stated they use the internet, with the majority of users accessing it at home (70%). Of all users, 34% of households stated that they had broadband
 - Despite high penetration of home usage of the internet however, only 32% of all respondents stated that they had ever looked at the village web site – leaving 113 people in the village, having never seen it.
 - Suggestions for improvements to the village we site included:
 - Advertising items for sale
 - Bus timetables
 - Forthcoming village events
 - Information about local village services / village life
 - With reference to “other forms of communications” that residents use to stay in touch with village life, events and facilities, **The Bowline** (the benefice magazine), seems to be a very effective publication
 - 76% of all respondents stated that they believed that it made them sufficiently aware of what is happening in the Parish – only 7% of all respondents stating that they had never seen it (12 people)
 - 60% of all respondents said they would welcome a **village newssheet** solely aimed at giving information about what is happening in Upton Snodsbury
 - The type of advertising messages that would most attract respondents’ attention (74% in total), when promoting future village events, was deemed to be by way of leaflet drop in their home.
 - 44% also said they would look at the village notice board
- **Mobile Phone Networks**
 - 51% of all households (51 homes) responded that they used mobile phones; of which only 32% of all users stated that they had good reception
 - A further 32% of homes stated they had acceptable reception – leaving 36% with poor reception

- Out of the top 3 service providers (Orange, O2 and Vodafone), no particular service provider appears to be any better or worse than the other.
 - There is also no particular correlation between quality of signal and household location/usage in the village.
- **Recreation & Social Facilities / Activities**
 - There is a low level of participation in sporting activities within the parish, with 68% (of all respondents 114 people), saying they never take part in activities within Upton Snodsbury and 56% saying they never take part in activities further a field
 - 44% of all respondents (some 73 residents) potentially participate in sporting activities of some shape or form, either within or out-with the parish boundaries
 - When asked, 63% of all respondents (105 people), expressed an interest in the development of further sporting facilities; The greatest demand being for tennis courts (amongst 25% of all respondents i.e. 42 people) and better access to the football pitch for junior players (17% of all respondents).
 - In relation to more **general recreational activities**, 65% of all respondents (109 people), indicated a desire to increase current facilities in the village
 - Top choice in new facilities for the Village was additional play equipment in the Children's Playground 45% of people indicating a desire for these (75 people)
- **Function Venues**
 - 72% of all respondents (120 people), believe that the village has enough function venues, with a further 23% having no opinion on the subject at all
 - Attendance of activities in the village function venues appears to be encouraging, with 79% of all respondents (132 people), having attended a function/event/meeting/group in the village hall within the last year.
 - 68% of all respondents have similarly attended the Church for functions/events/meetings/groups and 47% the school
 - The most popular local group (in terms of attendance amongst respondents) is the Baby & Toddler Group, with 9% of all respondents (15 people), saying they either used it regularly or occasionally
 - 6% expressed attendance of the Thursday Club and 3% the youth Club
 - Respondents said they would be more encouraged to attend groups in future if there was:
 - A more organised youth club, including increased activities like web design, listening to and recording of music, BMX biking
 - More talks by special speakers at the Thursday Club

- A more active agenda at the Thursday Club
- **Holiday & After School Clubs**
 - 19% of all respondents (31 people), expressed an interest in increasing the number of holiday and after school clubs
 - Of those expressing an interest, the demand for a holiday club for 11–16 year olds was the greatest (63% of all respondents)
 - When asked what sort of activities should be offered at these clubs, the combined respondent's list included:
 - Outdoor activities e.g. football, athletics, tennis, introduction to nature, creative activities e.g. craft, art, music, reading, Scouts & Guides, games e.g. table tennis, Film club and organised trips
- **Outdoor Play Area**
 - When asked whether or not the village should have an outdoor play area, 57% of all respondents (95 people), had an opinion with 41 people agreeing that there should be a play area for teenagers.
 - The desire for such a facility was identified as the top answer in relation to the question: "If you had a large sum of money for village improvements, what would you spend it on?"
 - Similarly, when villagers were asked which issues in the survey they considered the most important, the ones in relation to increased recreational facilities (in particular a park/ play ground) was the second most important one to them
- **Transport, Road & Traffic Related Issues**
 - Usage of the local bus service is currently low with only 7% using the bus regularly and 13% using it occasionally (34 people in total ever using the service at all).
 - When asked "do you think there should be more buses?" 41% of the respondent base said "yes" (68 people in total)
 - 35% of all respondents felt that more buses should be laid on between the village and Worcester, with 27% expressing a desire to see a more regular service between the village and Pershore.
 - Of those using the bus service, 73% felt that the **bus shelter** was adequate, with 27% expressing a desire to see it improved.
 - Respondents also said that they would welcome the addition of a bus shelter for the children waiting for school buses on Pershore Road. 39% of all respondents all said "yes" to a new shelter here (64 people in total).
- **Possible New Modes of Transport**
 - Respondents were asked their views on the introduction of new transport initiatives in the village

- Of the 3 schemes proposed the most popular one was for a village mini bus service, with 23% of all respondents (37 residents in total), stating they would consider using it.
 - Uptake on volunteer drivers for the service amongst villagers was poor however, with only 7% (albeit 11 people) volunteering for the job
 - Out of the 165 respondents in the village a very small number would consider making a positive contribution to reducing our carbon footprint, by car sharing. Indeed 7 people said they would car share on work journeys, 11 people on shopping or leisure trips and 10 people on school runs. They should be commended!
 - On an encouraging note 32 people also said they would be prepared to use their car to transport people to Pershore or Worcester for such things as medical appointments (with their fuel costs being covered)
- **Speeding**
 - an issue that concerned 65% of respondents (109 people), who thought that it was a problem in the village. Indeed when asked what made residents “mad” about living in Upton Snodsbury “Speeding Traffic” was the top response!
 - Similarly, when respondents were asked, “out of all the questions that you have been asked in the Parish Survey, which issues were the most important to you?”, once again the top answer was “improved road safety”
 - In particular the introduction of speed indicators, cameras and road markings were believed to be most necessary on the main A422 Worcester to Stratford, road where the comments in relation to speeding traffic were at their most prevalent
- **Pavements**
 - 40% of all respondents stated that they found many of the pavements in the village difficult to use (a total of 67 residents)
 - The top reasons for this were as follows:
 - Pavements were too narrow, 38% of all respondents
 - Pavements had broken surfaces, 38%
 - In relation to cars parking on pavements and causing issues for pedestrians, this was most noted outside the school, particularly at peak times
 - 27% (45 residents in total) agreed that vehicles parked outside the school (as opposed to in the car park) caused danger to pedestrians and road users

A full copy of the survey results are included in the next section (from page 12 onwards), for those of you wishing to read them in detail (with tabulated results and commentary).

These survey results cover:

- The Household Survey
- The Individual Survey
- The Youth Survey

Alternatively you can turn to page 37 and go directly to the section entitled “Formulating The Parish Plan Action List”; to understand more about how these survey findings have shaped the Parish Plan. In addition to reading about the progress made to date against the identified actions.

Parish Plan Survey – Full Results

Number of People Surveyed

3 types of questionnaire were distributed to all households and people living in the Parish. These included:

150 **Household Surveys** (to be filled in 1 per household)

311 **Individual Surveys** (to be filled in by residents over 15 years old)

79 **Youth Surveys** (to be filled in by young residents – age 4 to14)

The number of returned surveys was very positive, giving us a total sample (on which to base decisions in the Parish Plan), of over half of the residents. This was split as follows:

Survey Group	Total Number of respondents	% returns of total sample surveyed
Household respondents	100	67%
Individual respondents	168	54%
Youth respondents	38	48%

Profile of the households (and individuals) responding to the surveys

Out of the 100 households who returned their surveys, 64% said they had 2 or less individuals living in their household, with 32% indicating a household size of 3 or more.

Of all adults responding, 52% of all individuals were male and 48% female. Their age breakdown being as follows:

Gender	Under 18	18-64	65 and over
Male	5%	52%	43%
Female	2%	64%	34%

In terms of where the individuals returning their questionnaires lived, the results were as follows:

Location where the respondent lived	% of respondents living here
Pershore Road, Croft Road, Hillside, Flax Piece, Cutts Pool	33%
College Road, Church Road, The Furlong	17%
School Lane, Chapel Lane, Owls End Lane	17%
Cowsden	16%
Worcester Road	14%
Other	3%

Individual Survey Results

In total there were 73 questions on the individual questionnaire. The survey results in relation to these questions being:

Living in Upton Snodsbury

Most of the respondents (67% of the total) said that they had lived in the Parish for over 11 years, with over a third (38%) of all respondents having lived here for a total of 21 years or more.

“Relative new comers” to the Parish was less than one tenth – with 7% of all respondents having lived here for less than 2 years.

When asked why they moved to the Parish, the most popular reason for doing so was because of the rural location (48% of all respondents saying this). Other popular reasons included:

Reason for moving to Upton Snodsbury	% of total respondents
The rural location	48%
Moved with family	17%
Proximity to work place	13%
The School	4%
The price of property	3%
Availability of property	3%
Liked the area	2%

5% of all respondents said that they were born here, with a further 4% having moved here to be close to family and 2% having moved here as

a result of marrying residents in the village (or moving in with a partner).

When asked how long residents thought they might stay in the Parish in the future, the majority said they were not sure at this time (61% of all respondents).

Of those that did know however, the vast majority (78% of them) selected the longest time frame to stay i.e. 11 years or over, indicating that they certainly intended to stay for the foreseeable future.

Future Housing Development and Increases in Rental Accommodation

Views expressed by residents on this topic were quite strong with over two thirds of all respondents (67% or 112 people) saying that they did NOT think it would be acceptable to allow future development outside the currently developed area of the Village

24% (40 people) believed that further housing development should be allowed and 9% (15 people) expressed no opinion on the subject.

Of those that thought more housing should be allowed, the most popular type of housing that people thought should be developed were Smaller homes (with 1 to 2 bedrooms).

Type of Housing	% popularity of developing this type of housing
Smaller Homes (1-2 bedrooms)	40% (16 people)
Larger Housing (3 or more bedrooms)	24%
Bungalows for the Elderly	21%
Warden Controlled Housing for the Elderly	15%

With all types of houses, the respondents replying were largely in agreement that the maximum number of houses of any type that should be developed is between 1 and 5 houses. This indicated that while they supported future development this should be in a controlled and limited way.

With regard to **rental property**, 51% of all respondents did not have an opinion on whether there was a need for more rental property (86 people). Of those having an opinion, 69% were of the opinion that NO

additional rental property was required, whilst 31% (25 respondents) believed there should be.

Less than half of all those people who completed and returned their questionnaires (45% or 76 people) were aware that the Village has a planning conservation area.

This would also imply that the majority of residents are not aware of the implications of the conservation area in relation to existing housing stock and future development

Crime & Anti Social Behavior

A minority of residents in the Parish have been a victim of crime or anti social behavior in the last five years, with only 29% (48 people in total or an average of 10 people per year) of all respondents indicating that they had experienced any one of the following:

Description of Crime or Anti Social Behavior	% of respondents who had expressed a view that they had been a victim of crime
Theft from outbuildings	34% (16 people in 5 years)
House burglary	30% (14 people in 5 years)
Theft from the garden	24% (11 people in 5 years)
Theft from cars	22% (10 people in 5 years)
Theft of cars	22% (10 people in 5 years)
Vandalism	20% (9 people in 5 years)
Graffiti	12% (5 people in 5 years)
Drugs	2% (1 person in 5 years)
Drunkenness	0%

These figures are low when compared with average crime figures for the region and illustrate how relatively safe and secure the Parish is.

When asked their opinion as to how potential crime and anti social behavior could be minimised further in future, respondents suggested that Upton Snodsbury could benefit from:

Measure suggested	% of respondents agreeing the measure was a good idea
More activities for younger people	45% (76 people)
A greater police presence	43%
Better consultation between local police and local residents	25%

Greater participation in the neighborhood watch scheme*	21%
Improved street lighting	20%
CCTV Cameras	6%

(*Note: 92% of all survey respondents are aware that we have a village neighborhood watch scheme)

17% of all respondents (29 people), felt that none of the measures above were required, while 6% (10 people) felt that measures other than those noted above were required. These included:

- 2 people believed increased parental supervision would lead to reduce crime and anti social behavior.
- 2 people believed speed cameras and traffic calming measures would lead to fewer problems.

The issue of **speeding through the village** occurred in a number of areas in the survey questionnaire results, largely recorded in a number of the “Other (please specify)” sections.

In the section where respondents were asked “What makes you MAD about living in Upton Snodsbury”, it also ranked as the number one response.

Similarly respondents indicated that “improved road safety” was the top most important issue to them out of all questions asked in the survey, gaining 24% of the total vote (40 people in total).

Dog fouling (and indeed cat fouling) was also identified in the “MAD” and “What makes you SAD about living in Upton Snodsbury” sections of the survey results.

When asked, “How do you think the issue of dog fouling in Upton Snodsbury should be addressed”, feeling was quite strong with 64% of all respondents indicating it was a problem (107 people). 44% of all respondents (73 people), believed that dog owners were the key to resolving it, with education being provided direct to them, to successfully address the problem.

Other solutions included:

Solution	% in agreement with solution
Provision of dog litter bins	33% (55 people)
Putting up notices	24%
Enforcement of by-laws	21%
Name & shame policy	18%

Littering, dumping & fly tipping were similarly identified in the “What makes you MAD about living in Upton Snodsbury” and “What makes you SAD about living in Upton Snodsbury” sections of the survey. Many respondents were in agreement that littering, dumping & fly tipping was a nuisance and causing problems in the village.

53% of all respondents (89 people) said that they thought that it was a good idea or very good idea to remove litter from the village environment, with 45% (82 people) also stating that more litter bins around the village would be a good idea or very good idea.

Environment

The local environment, in which residents live, is an important issue to most, with over half of all respondents (52% or 87 people), volunteering to do something to improve it.

When asked which initiatives they would be prepared to help with, this group of 87 willing volunteers replied:

Initiative volunteering for	% prepared to volunteer out of total volunteer group
Annual litter clearing day	27% (24 people)
Protecting wildlife habitats	16% (13 people)
A wildlife & environment survey	16%
USPRA - Village recreational association	11%
Setting up an Upton Snodsbury Wildlife & Conservation Group	9%
Surveying trees	8%
Maintaining public footpaths	7%
Maintaining the church grounds	6%

When asked “Do you think any of the following disturb you sufficiently that you would like to see something done to reduce the problem, 85% of respondents felt strong enough to express their view.

However the vast majority of respondents did **not** see any element of the identified list as an issue at all. This was very positive. For example, of those responding to the question:

- 91% (129 people) were not disturbed by noise at antisocial hours
- 88% were not affected by pollution from garden bonfires

- 92% did not suffer from light pollution
- 87% were not exposed to unpleasant smells
- 87% were not disturbed by traffic noise
- 89% were not exposed to visual eye sores

In general terms, just over 10% of all respondents replying to this question (14 people), were disturbed enough to want to do something about the issues listed. Out of all the issues, the number one issue that they wanted something done about was “unpleasant smells” – which generally related to drainage smells around the village.

Recycling

93% of all respondents (157 people) stated they were aware that the Parish had recycling facilities; with up to 58% of all respondents utilising Wychavon’s recycling collection. 23% of all respondents also stated that they used other recycling facilities e.g. Tesco’s recycling facilities and the recycling bins at The Oak.

Of all items people choose to recycle the most popular are glass (58%) followed by paper (30%) and then cans (18% of all respondents currently recycle these).

5% of all respondents stated that they did not recycle at present.

When asked what other items people would like to be able to recycle in the village, the top response was garden waste, followed by clothing and shoes.

Items people would like to be able to recycle at the village recycling centre	% of respondents
Garden Waste	44% (73 people)
Clothing/Shoes	36%
Cardboard	27%
Plastic Bottles	20%
Toys	8%
Vegetable Peelings	1%

“Other” respondents also expressed an interest in recycling used oil; 2 further respondents expressed a desire for the council’s recycling facility to be extended to include Cowsden; And 1 individual asked for the communal skip that used to be available in the village 3–4 times a year, to be re-instated.

Pathways

The local paths were well used, with 82% of all respondents (137 people) stating that they used local pathways either occasionally or regularly.

Only 8% of all respondents said that they were unaware of the location of public footpaths in and around the village. In contrast the majority (66% of all respondents) found local public paths easy to find and 54% of all respondents commented that most paths could be used without difficulty.

Where difficulties were identified and experienced (in both the use of footpaths and bridleways), these were mostly (39%) in relation to the high growth of brambles, nettles and weeds. Poorly marked routes and mud/water on tracks were sighted as the second and third biggest difficulties experienced when using paths and bridleways. Other difficulties included:

Difficulty experienced when using local footpaths and bridleways	% of respondents experiencing the difficulty
High growth of brambles, nettles and weeds	39% (65 people)
Poorly marked routes	28%
Mud/water on tracks	28%
Poorly signed from the road	24%
Unsafe stiles	21%
Farm Animals	16%
Locked gates	11%
High Stiles	10%
Cropped across paths	8%
Barbed wire	7%
Uncontrolled dogs	4%

Places where these types of problems were felt to be a particular problem included:

- The footpath behind the houses on College Road
- The broken stile behind the Village Hall
- Stile on Lower Cowsden Road, near to the Peopleton Road
- Footpath 18
- Bridleway out of Queen's Coppice towards Naunton Beauchamp
- Bow Wood
- South from Owl's End Lane
- Dog mess on public footpath from Village to Cutt's Pool

When asked what improvements villagers would like to see, respondents replied:

Improvement required	% of respondents agreeing
A map showing paths and a guide to interesting walks/rides	57% (95 people)
More path and bridleway clearance	34%
Improved access to paths and bridleways	22%
More kissing gates	20%
Improved surfacing	16%
More bridleways (for pedestrians, cycles and equestrians)	16%
More local paths	13%
More footpaths (pedestrian only)	13%

26% of all respondents (43 people), also expressed an interest in using an “off road facility” for walking and cycling between Upton Snodsbury & Worcester. This figure rose to 38% (62 people in total) when asked if they would use an off road facility for walking and cycling between Upton Snodsbury & Pershore.

Services & Amenities

When asked which of Upton Snodsbury’s facilities people made use of, and how often they used them, the top response was the Village Shop & Post Office, with 99% of respondents stating that they use the facility – 69% of these regularly (as opposed to occasionally).

The second most used facility is the Village Hall, with 77% of all respondents having used it at some point in the past. The next most used facility being The Oak Public House (Previously the Royal Oak and French House) – used by 64% of all respondents. The remaining village facilities were all used by less than a third of all respondents.

It was also surprising to note that around 29% of all respondents (48 people), seemed to be unaware that the village had a public car park, located at the rear of the school.

There is no doubt that increased promotion of the location of this car park, in addition to the encouraged use of this facility could potentially lead to less friction in relation to “parking”, which came up as an issue on a number of occasions in the Parish Survey. (See later section).

Facility Used	% of Total Usage	% Frequency of Use		
		Regularly	Occasionally	Never
Village Shop & PO	99%	69%	30%	1%
Village Hall	77%	19%	61%	20%
Royal Oak Pub	64%	9%	62%	29%
Milkman	33%	33%	3%	64%
Bants Pub	28%	3%	28%	69%
Newspaper Collection Point	19%	18%	3%	79%
Mobile Fishmonger	15%	9%	7%	84%
Mobile Library	10%	3%	8%	89%

With reference to new facilities and amenities desired by the village, when asked, “If you had a large sum of money for village improvements, what would you spend it on?” ... 53% of all respondents (89 people) expressed a view. Of these, the top 2 responses were:

- No.1 Recreation Ground / Children’s Playground (32% of all respondents)
- No.2. Additional sports facilities (16% of all respondents)

Suggestions for additional recreational and sports facilities included: Tennis Courts, Skateboard track, swimming pool, gym facilities, cycle tracks.

Access to Local Health Services

There was some disparity between the distances that people thought it reasonable to travel to access health services and the distances they already travel to access already available services.

The disparity was most pronounced in relation to Accident and Emergency and Maternity Services, where there seemed to be some demand for further services to be available in Pershore, in addition to those currently available in Worcester.

For GP and all other health services (e.g. Chiropody, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Nursing & Chronic Care and Specialist Children’s Services), there seems to be fairly close correlation between the distance people already travel to access these services and the distance people think it reasonable to travel. This would indicate that in these areas, there is no current demand to improve the provision of more localised services.

When asked, “if you had a large sum of money for village improvements, what would you spend it on?”... only 2 respondents stated they would make any improvements in relation to local health services. These both related to the building of a local health centre and pharmacy.

Utilities

The majority of households in the village reported that they had **mains drainage** (72% of all respondents or 72 homes). 28% stated that they did not have it and were primarily located in Cowsden and/or the outlying properties of the village.

Indeed, many of these respondents later stated that they would like to see mains drainage extended to their homes, if given the choice.

When asked if households had problems with their **water supply**, 52% stated they had with 48% stating they had not. Of those stating they had problems, respondents indicated the occurrence of the same 3 problems. These were:

Intermittent supply (with regular unannounced “disconnections”)	45%
Low water pressure	45%
Discoloured /cloudy water	12%

When asked if households had problems with their **electricity supply**, 51% stated they had with 49% stating they had not.

Of all households stating they had problems, all related to power cuts or disconnections of supply. Interestingly enough however, it is likely that these same power cuts affected all village households. Despite this, around half the households responding seem not to consider this a problem. This may either be because they accept power cuts as part of rural life; have become so used to the regular occurrence of power cuts (which are often short lived); or because the pattern of disruption was not noticed, or affected some households more than others.

Internet Usage & Other Communications

67% of all respondents stated they use the internet, with the majority of users accessing it at home (70%). Of all users, 34% of households stated that they had broadband.

Despite high penetration of home usage of the internet however, only

32% of all respondents stated that they had ever looked at the village web site – leaving 113 people in the village, having never seen it. Of the 52 people that had looked at the village web site, over one third of them thought it was good with a further 61% thinking it was acceptable.

The main reason for people using the site was for general interest / general information; Only 2 people stating that they had used it for a specific reason i.e. to look at Parish Council minutes.

A number of people put ideas forward as to how the site might be expanded for greater use in the future. These included incorporating the following on the site:

- Advertising items for sale
- Bus timetables
- Forthcoming village events
- Information about local village services / village life

In terms of other communications mediums, that the residents of Upton Snodsbury utilise to stay in touch with village life, events and facilities, **The Bowline** (the benefice magazine), seems to be a very effective publication.

76% of all respondents stated that they believed that it made them sufficiently aware of what is happening in the Parish – only 7% of all respondents stating that they had never seen it (12 people).

When asked, whether residents would like to see a **village newsheet** solely aimed at giving information about what is happening in Upton Snodsbury, in the future, 60% of all respondents said they would welcome this new edition.

Furthermore, when questioned on which type of advertising message would most attract their attention, when promoting future village events, respondents stated their number one preference would be to receive leaflet drops at home.

Type of advertising	% that stated that this mechanism would attract their attention
Leaflet drop through my door	74%
Village notice board	44%
Local Press (evening News, Worcester Journal)	20%
Village website	13%
Local radio	13%

Mobile Phone Networks

51% of all households (51 homes) responded that they used mobile phones; of which only 32% of all users stated that they had good reception.

A further 32% of homes stated they had acceptable reception – leaving 36% with poor reception.

Of all the mobile phone companies in use, the most popular ones in the village are:

- | | | |
|----|----------|----------------|
| 1. | Orange | 24% of all use |
| | O2 | 24% |
| 3. | Vodafone | 22% |
| 4. | T Mobile | 11% |
| 5. | Virgin | 7% |

Out of the top 3 service providers, no particular service provider appears to be any better or worse than the other. There is also no particular correlation between quality of signal and household location/usage in the village.

Recreation & Social Facilities / Activities

At present there appears to be a low level of participation in **sporting activities** within the parish, with 68% (of all respondents 114 people), saying they never take part in activities within Upton Snodsbury and 56% saying they never take part in activities further a field.

By implication however, this means that up to 44% of all respondents (some 73 residents) potentially participate in sporting activities of some shape or form, either within or out-with the parish boundaries.

When asked, 63% of all respondents (105 people), expressed an interest in the development of further sporting facilities; The greatest demand being for tennis courts (amongst 25% of all respondents i.e. 42 people) and better access to the football pitch for junior players (17% of all respondents).

Sports facility we would like in Upton Snodsbury	% of respondents
Tennis court	25% (42 people)
Better access to football pitch for juniors	17%
Bowls	13%
5-a-side Football	12%
Junior Rugby Team	10%
Junior Cricket Team	9%
Cricket facilities	8%
Netball court	8%
Basketball	5%

In relation to more **general recreational activities**, 65% of all respondents (109 people) indicated a desire to increase current facilities in the village.

When asked, “Which of the following do you think Upton Snodsbury needs?” ...people replied:

Facilities needed	% of respondents
Play equipment in Children’s Playground such as slide, see saw etc	45% (75 people)
A park that can be used at all times	42%
An adventure playground	28%
A mountain bike track	18%
A skate park	11%

A further 5% of all respondents also indicated that they would like to see other recreational facilities in the village. These included:

- An all weather sports pitch
- A hockey pitch
- A green area on which children can kick a ball

Upton Snodsbury’s “Function” Venues

72% of all respondents (120 people) believe that the village has enough function venues, with a further 23% having no opinion on the subject at all.

In essence there is only 5% (8 people) therefore that believes that the village requires more venues. This is due to the fact that they believe one or more of the following:

- The village hall is too small
- The village hall lacks parking facilities
- The village hall has no outdoor area
- The management of the local pubs is unwelcoming and does not encourage functions booked by local residents*

*NB It is worth noting that The Oak is now under new management, which was not in place at the time of the Parish Plan Survey being conducted.

Attendance of activities in the village function venues appears to be encouraging, with 79% of all respondents (132 people), having attended a function/event/meeting/group in the village hall within the last year. 68% of all respondents have similarly attended the Church for functions/events/meetings/groups and 47% the school.

In contrast (and reflecting the popular opinion that the village pubs are less accommodating/welcoming), only 36% and 18% of all respondents had attended functions/events/meetings/groups at the Royal Oak and Bants respectively.

In relation to the Baby & Toddler Group, Thursday Club and Youth Club, there was a general low level of interest shown in these **village groups**, amongst the respondent base.

The most popular group was the Baby & Toddler Group, with 9% of all respondents (15 people), saying they either used it regularly or occasionally. 6% expressed attendance of the Thursday Club and 3% the youth Club.

Respondents went on to state that they may be more encouraged to attend such groups under the following conditions:

- A more organised youth club
- Increased activities e.g. web design, listening to and recording of music, BMX
- More talks by special speakers at the Thursday Club
- Talks of cultural interest at the Thursday Club
- A more active agenda at the Thursday Club

Holiday & After School Clubs

19% of all respondents (31 people) expressed an interest in increasing the number of holiday and after school clubs, with 70% having no opinion on the subject. This is indicative of the fact that a large

percentage of the survey's target audience would have been homes without children (and therefore not in the market to "use" such services").

Of those expressing an interest, the demand for clubs by age range was as follows:

Club type	% of respondents expressing an interest
Holiday club for 11- 16 yr olds	63% (19 people)
After school club for 6-10 yr olds	53% (16 people)
After school club for 11-16 yr olds	50% (15 people)
Holiday club for 6-10 yr olds	43% (13 people)
Holiday club for 4-5 yr olds	23%
Pre school club for 4-8 yr olds	20%
After school club for 4-5 yr olds	7%

When asked what sort of activities should be offered at these clubs, the combined respondent's list included:

- Outdoor activities e.g. football, athletics, tennis, introduction to nature
- Creative activities e.g. craft, art, music, reading
- Scouts & Guides
- Games e.g. table tennis
- Film club
- Organised trips

When asked what activities and facilities (from a specified list) should be provided in the village for teenagers, the majority of people did not express an opinion. In general terms this was approximately 65% of the total respondent base.

This level of response related to whether or not there should be:

- Organised trips and days out for teenagers
- A part time paid youth worker for the clubs and holiday schemes
- More volunteers needed to run the youth club and other activities

Interestingly enough however, this lack of opinion decreased dramatically in relation to the question of whether or not the village should have an **outdoor play area**.

Here 57% of all respondents (95 people) had an opinion – with 44% of all people having an opinion (41 people), agreeing that there should indeed be a play area for teenagers.

This opinion was re-iterated through out the survey with the need and desire for a children’s play ground / recreational ground / Parish Park for all residents to enjoy occurring in many answers.

The desire for such a facility was identified as the top answer in relation to the question.... “if you had a large sum of money for village improvements, what would you spend it on?”

Similarly, when villagers were asked which issues in the survey they considered the most important, the ones in relation to increased recreational facilities (in particular a park/ play ground) was the second most important one to them.

This strength of opinion is also echoed through the results of the youth survey.

What activities and facilities should be provided in the village for teenagers	% of respondents agreeing
An outdoor play area	44% (16 young people)
More volunteers to run the youth club and other activities	26%
A part time paid youth worker for the clubs and holiday schemes	23%
Organised trips and days out	22%

Youth Survey Results

The Youth Survey was completed by those individuals between the ages of 4 and 14 years of age.

In total, 48% of the village’s young people (38 individuals) responded to the survey, nearly half of which (48%), were between the ages of 10 and 12 years of age (inclusive).

Likes and Dislikes about the Village

When asked what they liked about living in Upton Snodsbury, the most popular responses were the fact that the village was in the country, it was nice and peaceful and there were other children to play with.

When asked which **facilities** the youth of the village felt to be the most important to be provided, the top responses were as follows:

1. A park that could be used all the time (63% or 23 young people)

2. An adventure playground (53%)
3. A mountain bike track (52%)
4. Access to goalposts and nets (47%)

In addition, over half the respondents wanted to see tennis courts (57%) and a five a side football pitch (57%) made available; with 44% and 42% respectively interested in a netball and basketball court.

When asked, “what other facilities or activities young people would like to see in Upton Snodsbury”.... Responses included:

- A play ground
- Running or Jogging Club
- Football pitch / Junior Football Team
- Swimming pool
- Trampolining
- Some where to meet up with my friends
- Anything!

It is worth noting here, that nearly half of all responses in the individual survey (i.e. the adult survey), believed that making more activities available for young people would help reduce crime and antisocial behavior.

A move to meet the desires and aspirations of the village’s youth would therefore seem to be a most positive one – matching the need for increased activities/entertainment to engage the young, whilst through its provision minimising boredom and the resulting propensity to vandalise and engage in other anti social past times.

Clubs

Again over half of all respondents (51%) in the youth survey said they would be interested in joining a youth club, if one was available for their age group.

A quarter of respondents (40 in total), in the individual survey, thought there was a need for more volunteers to run the youth club or other activities. Solving this issue would enable the village to respond to this growing desire amongst its younger residents, for more interesting and organised activities

In contrast to the youth club, only around a third of all youth respondents indicated an interest in holiday, pre or after school clubs. Indeed 68% of all respondents (25 young people), actively stated that they would NOT be interested in a pre school club – which was the least popular of all potential clubs offered to the group.

The low number of respondents expressing an interest in these clubs (i.e. less than 14% or 5 young people) would also cast doubt on their likely viability. As we wrote earlier, there was also a similarly low level of demand for this type of facility amongst the respondents of the individual survey (i.e. amongst 14 to 16 year olds).

Parish Plan Survey Results

Individual Survey Results (Continued)

Transport, Road & Traffic Related Issues

Vehicle ownership in the Parish is high with only 13% of households lacking a car; consequently 87% of all households own one or more cars. 2% of households owned motorcycles and 4% stated they owned a van.

Of all households owning a car, virtually all have access to off-street car parking (via a driveway and/or garage).

Vehicle Usage

When asked how individuals get to work, of those working (i.e. 55% of the respondent base), 67% said they used their car to make journeys to and from work.

Car usage dropped to 24% on the school run, the most popular mode of transport between school and home being “walking”. 58% of all respondents that said they made a school run stated that they walked to and from school (indicating that their children attended the local school in the village). The second most popular mode of transport here was the school bus, with 38% of those answering stated that they utilised the bus for journeys to and from school (indicating that their children attended schools out-with the village).

The Local Bus Service

Usage of the local bus service is currently low with only 7% using the bus regularly and 13% using it occasionally (34 people in total ever using the service at all). The majority of respondents, 71%, stated that they never used the bus service.

Low usage does not mean that given the right service more people would not be encouraged to use it, in fact quite the reverse.

When asked, “do you think there should be more buses?” 41% of the respondent base said “yes” (68 people in total)

35% of all respondents felt that more buses should be laid on between the village and Worcester, with 27% expressing a desire to see a more regular service between the village and Pershore.

Of those using the bus service, 73% felt that the **bus shelter** was adequate, with 27% expressing a desire to see it improved.

Suggestions for improvements to the bus shelter included:

- Building it closer to the road
- Making it more visible to the bus drivers
- Facing it in the right direction
- Providing additional seating within the shelter

Respondents also said that they would welcome the addition of a bus shelter for the children waiting for school buses on Pershore Road. 39% of all respondents all said “yes” to a new shelter here (64 people in total).

Possible New Modes of Transport

Respondents were asked their views on the introduction of new transport initiatives in the village. These included:

- A village mini bus service
- A car sharing scheme
- A car based transport system for neighbors and fellow villagers

Of the 3 schemes proposed the most popular one was for a village mini bus service, with 23% of all respondents (37 residents in total), stating they would consider using it. Uptake on volunteer drivers for the service amongst villagers was poor however, with only 7% (albeit 11 people) volunteering for the job.

The notion of a car sharing scheme was not popular with over 70% of all respondents saying they would not be interested in such an initiative, either for making journeys to work, the shops or schools.

Out of the 165 respondents in the village a very small number would consider making a positive contribution to reducing our carbon footprint, by car sharing. Indeed 7 people said they would car share on work journeys, 11 people on shopping or leisure trips and 10 people on school runs. They should be commended!

On an encouraging note 32 people also said they would be prepared to use their car to transport people to Pershore or Worcester for such things as medical appointments (with their fuel costs being covered). There is no doubt that neighborly actions of this type are greatly appreciated by other residents in the Parish, who do not readily have access to transportation. Such voluntary acts enable many to maintain their independence and thus make a positive and welcomed contribution. Again these volunteers should be commended.

Speeding

Speeding was an issue that concerned 65% of respondents (109 people), who thought that it was a problem in the village. Indeed when asked what made residents “mad” about living in Upton Snodsbury “Speeding Traffic” was the top response!

Similarly, when respondents were asked, “out of all the questions that you have been asked in the Parish Survey, which issues were the most important to you?”, once again the top answer was “improved road safety”.

Clearly an emotive subject, residents stated that they would welcome the following measures to counteract the problem of speeding traffic:

Measure that should be introduced to counteract speeding	% that agreed or strongly agreed o
Speed indicators	54% (90 people)
A 20mph speed limit round the school	48%
Speed cameras	39%
Road markings	37%
More Warning Signs	34%
Extend the 30mph speed limit further outside the village	19%
Traffic calming devices (humps, chicanes etc)	18%

In particular the introduction of speed indicators, cameras and road markings were believed to be most necessary on the main A422 Worcester to Stratford, road where the comments in relation to speeding traffic were at their most prevalent.

Pavements

40% of all respondents stated that they found many of the pavements in the village difficult to use (a total of 67 residents).

The top reasons for this were as follows:

Pavements were too narrow	38% of all respondents
Pavements had broken surfaces	38%
Pavements had side ways slopes on them	29%
Vehicles were parked on them	16%
Lack of dropped curbs	5%

In relation to cars parking on pavements and causing issues for pedestrians, this was most noted outside the school, particularly at peak times i.e. weekday mornings and afternoons.

27% (45 residents in total) agreed that in general terms that any vehicles parking outside the school (as opposed to using the car park) caused danger to pedestrians and other road users. Indeed the issue of parking in this area was sighted as one of the top 7 reasons for making residents of the Parish “mad” about living in Upton Snodsbury.

As well as parking on pavements, parking on the blind corner of School Lane and Church Road was an issue, in addition to parking opposite and over private driveways.

What makes residents MAD, GLAD and SAD about living in Upton Snodsbury?

Issues that make the residents of the village **MAD** generally follow a common theme. In total 64% of all respondents (107 people), took the time to express their opinions in relation to this question.

The number one issue for all respondents was “speeding traffic” in the village, with 15% of all respondents (25 people) stating that it made them mad! This was followed by littering/ fly tipping (9% of all respondents stating that it made them mad), with a further 8% expressing their concern over the Youth of the village, left with nothing to do, could potentially lead to (or already lead to) unruly behavior.

Beyond this, other top issues that made residents mad were the threat of greater “urbanisation of the village”, “unfriendly neighbors”, and “bonfires lit on weekends and sunny days”, in addition to “cars parked by the school by parents of school children”, “new planning applications” and “the Parish Council”.

Issues raised by residents in relation to the Parish Council related to the council being “non representative of the village it serves”, “lack of public information about the work of the council”, “the length of

council meetings (i.e. too long so therefore not inviting” and “the lack of unity between it and other working groups in the village”.

It is worth noting however, that issues in people’s minds in relation to such areas can often be routed in their “perceptions” as opposed to the reality of a situation. That said, identifying that individuals have these perceptions allows bodies like the Parish Council to work towards changing perceptions by increased communication and welcoming feedback of this type.

Issues that make the residents of the village **SAD** also generally follow a common theme. In total 47% of all respondents took the time to express their opinions in relation to this question.

The number one issue for all respondents was the “over development of the village or threat of future development”, with 10% of all respondents stating that it made them sad☹.

Other top issues that made residents sad were the “lack of amenities for young people”, “speeding drivers” and a “fear of loosing the village shop and post office in the future”.

Other issues making respondents sad included:

- Lack of public transport
- Noisy neighbours or visitors
- The anti-family attitude at Bant’s Public House
- Fly tipping and littering
- Lack of neighbourliness
- Lack of respect for the countryside
- Lack of support for village events
- Barking dogs in gardens
- Careless use of insecticides

Many of these issues that make others mad or sad can be addressed by us all, and by taking personal steps to safeguard that we are not responsible for contributing to some of these going forward, we can make a positive contribution to the happiness of many of our friends and neighbours in the village.

Things that make us all GLAD about living in Upton Snodsbury

62% of all respondents (104 people) took the time to share with us, what makes them GLAD about living in Upton Snodsbury. Clearly the village is a place that brings much joy to many residents and they are proud to be part of its community.

For this reason we have listed all the unique comments made in relation to this question, so they may be shared and enjoyed by us all. After all this is your village, so take a moment to reflect on what makes it so great!

- “I am glad that there are more children and young people living here now. I like living "in the country", whilst still close to town. I like the friendly atmosphere”
- “It is a wonderful place to live, just the right size. People know each other, it is very sociable. It is a pleasant rural location, with good local walks and well managed farms. Good local amenities. Important school and church. Enjoyable local fetes.”
- “The nice people, lack of crime and community spirit. It is a safe place for children”
- “The village school is excellent.”
- “Unspoilt scenery”
- “Peace and quiet”
- “It is still a 'country' village”
- “Everything!”
- “The fresh air”
- “The shop/P.O., the school, the pubs. They keep the village alive. It's not yet a commuters' dormitory”
- “Friendliness of the residents and community spirit”
- “Country surroundings yet near to Droitwich, Worcester and Pershore for shopping, leisure & sport”
- “My nice house”
- “It’s beautiful!”
- “No street lights”
- “The beautiful area. Lack of modern facilities. Friendly post office. The quiet. Being able to see the stars because no light pollution. Quiet lanes to walk down & for families to walk their dogs”.
- “Beautiful countryside and tranquility”
- “Friendly people”
- “The lack of hustle and bustle and the few cars and people”.
- “Good environment and good views. Good cross section of rural society”
- “Easy access to Worcs, Birmingham, Cotswolds
- Easy access to motorway”
- “The area. The space. Tidiness”.
- “The village is lively and contains some fine examples of early English architecture. The conservation aspect of the village needs to be fully embraced to ensure the historical aspects of the village are properly maintained”
- “The relative tranquility. Access to footpaths/bridleways. Easy access to work & transport network. Close proximity to the countryside and wildlife. Space”.
- “Good eating inns nearby”

- Active Parish Council. Good neighbourhood watch scheme”.
- “Location, location, location! The wildlife. The peace and quiet”
- “Away from noise & city life”
- “The lack of pollution”
- “I always wanted to live "in the country" rather than in the town; without facilities it would not be possible, but we have pubs, a school and, best of all, a well run village shop and post office. We are well served for a small village. If it ain't broke, don't fix it! It's very good as it is, please don't spoil it for the sake of change”
- “Hearing the church bells & chiming clock. The non-modernisation of the village”.
- “Happy people. Safe. Quiet living”
- “Lovely people. Lovely location”
- “I have lived in the village for 25 years & find it quite delightful”
- “It has retained all its character”
- “Love the church & all its activities”
- “Everyone willing to help each other out”
- “Wonderful views, wildlife especially the birds”
- “Community”
- “Lovely country around bow wood. Love the birds”
- “My doggy!”
- “Friendly, lovely location, good mix of people in the community. The dark at night”
- “Lovely people surrounded by beautiful countryside. Every day a holiday!”

Formulating the Parish Plan Action List

What Happened Next?

Once the findings of the three respective surveys conducted in the village, had been collated, our next step was to summarise the Parish Action Plan. This was designed principally to:

- Rectify any issues raised in the Parish Plan Survey
- Address the wishes and needs of the residents of Upton Snodsbury that had been identified in the Parish Plan Survey
- Prioritise the completion of actions in relation to those wishes
- Delegate the responsibility of completion of the actions
- Timeline the delivery of key objectives

In general terms, it is fair to say that the majority of respondents to the survey appeared reasonably satisfied with life in the Parish. In such, one of the major actions that emerged from the survey results was for us to ensure that the Parish takes every step to ensure it retains its existing character and amenities moving forward.

It should be made clear that this was not as such classified as a "do nothing" action – indeed the opposite.

Preserving the “good things” about the Parish will need to be an active process moving forward. It also worth noting that by “preserving” the character of the Parish, this does not rule out adding to the existing amenities already here – particular when it comes to providing additional amenities for young people and families (a strongly held wish expressed by many parishioners in the survey).

Actions already taken under the “Parish Action Plan”

and

The Formulation of a NEW “Parish Plan Action Group (PPAG),” with a view to moving the outstanding actions forward

Since the results of the Parish Plan Survey were evaluated, the Parish Council in association with other village groups and organisations (e.g. The Church & USPRA), businesses and individual volunteers, has been working to address a number of the actions that the Parish Plan identified.

These include (but not exhaustively):

- The opening of the Parish Park (through USPRA) including:
 - Adventure playground
 - Football pitch
- The re-development of the Village Bus Stop on the A422
- The provision of dog litter bins around the Parish
- Improvements to local footpaths, including removal of broken stiles and better marked signage

NB: Further details in relation to these actions are detailed on pages 37 onwards (under the section entitled “Parish Plan Action List”).

“Parish Plan Action Group (PPAG)”

In order to ensure all outstanding actions in relation to the Parish Plan are explored and delivered, a "Parish Plan Action Group" (PPAG) will now be formulated.

Their primary role will be to monitor progress against the key objectives laid out in the Action Plan (and timelines of delivery), reporting to the village on a regular basis the progress against plan.

Where the parish council needs to be involved, the PPAG will formulate proposals for consideration at Parish Council meetings.

The PPAG will help ensure that the plan is implemented and that there is accountability to the residents of the parish.

With all parties working together; The Parish Council, the village Groups and Organisations (e.g. Church, USPRA), businesses and individual volunteers, it should be possible to maintain the desired balance between preserving all that is good about the village, whilst providing appropriate development (including amenities and facilities), which will continue to meet the expressed needs of all those who live here.

Priorities

In order to identify the issues which were of major importance to respondents (and thus prioritise our actions moving forward), two principle questions from the questionnaire were looked at.

These were the questions asked:

1. Which questions they considered most important?

2. What they would like to see a large some of money spent on?
 Illustrated in the two tables below are the survey respondent's answers to these questions.

Table 1: Which questions (and thus issues), did you consider being the most important?

Issue	% of respondents who believe it to be most important issue
Improved road safety (including reduction of speeding cars)	26% (43 people)
Increased village facilities (Particularly for young people e.g. Recreational ground and play area)	21% (35 people)
Security, crime & antisocial behavior (Making U.S. a safe place to live)	17% (28 people)
Preserving the country side and protecting our environment	11% (18 people)
Improved roads and pavements (including ongoing maintenance)	9% (15 people)
Housing/ development	7% (11 people)
Improved transport/bus service (and increased cycle routes)	7% (11 people)
Improved recycling facilities	5% (8 people)

Table 2: What would you like to see a large sum of money spent on in the village?

Areas we would like to see a large sum of money spent on	% in agreement
Increased Village Facilities (Particularly for young people e.g. Recreational ground and play area)	23% (38 people)
Environmental Improvements	10% (16 people)
Speeding & Road Safety	7% (11 people)
Other	7% (11 people)
The Church	5% (8 people)
Street Lighting	4% (6 people)
Housing	2% (3 people)

The main priorities that appear to emerge from the survey results and thus form the core of the Parish Action Plan are:

- Improving road safety & reducing speeding
 - Incorporating the improvement of roads and pavements
- Improving village facilities
 - Particularly recreational facilities for young people and families
- Reducing the potential for crime and antisocial behavior
- Undertaking environmental improvements

Upton Snodsbury's Parish "Action" Plan

Ranked by importance to the parish

Please Note

**that this is a "wish list"
and not everything here,
no matter how desirable,
will be achievable.**

May 2008

1. Improved Road Safety (including reduction of speeding cars)

Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility
Speeding traffic, particularly on A422 Worcester to Stratford Road.	Form a Road Safety Group. Work towards the implementation of speed reducing measures e.g. speed reducing signs and road markings	Form a group to consider the results of the parish plan. Undertake further investigations and make recommendations to the parish council for introduction of speed reducing measures.		PPAG, Community Volunteers to be identified, Parish Council, West Mercia Police

2. Increased Village Recreational Facilities & Amenities

Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility
Desire for a Parish Park that can be used all the times, by adults and youths	Continue to invest and develop newly established "Parish Park",	Park currently funded by USpra, Lottery Fund & Charitable Donations. As the majority of residents requested more facilities and amenities for young people in the village, as a positive contribution to reducing crime and anti social behavior, this should form the key investment area in the village. The responsibility and future development of the current facilities should be extended and made a primary consideration by all Parish bodies. Central funding should also be considered.	46	USpra, Parish Council, PPAG

Adventure Playground / Mountain Bike Facilities	Investigate the incorporation of such ideas into existing facilities in the Parish Park. Also promote the use of locally established tracks and footpaths/ cycle trails	<p>Making optimum use of existing facilities and opportunities may meet some demand without the need for additional investment. However, consideration will need to be given to the allocation of space to deliver facilities like mountain bike tracks.</p> <p>A dialogue should be opened with the local council to determine the feasibility of establishing cycle tracks (both mountain bike and conventional road bike tracks, offering routes to Pershore & Worcester)</p>		USPRA, Parish Council, PPAG
Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility
Increased access to existing sports facilities	Investigate widening of access to school and football fields. For example through the development of junior league teams or training academies in school holidays	Making optimum use of existing facilities may broaden participation. This may require facilitated discussions, as there has been past resistance to extending use of these facilities in the past.		USPRA, PPAG, Parish Council, US Football Club, US First School
More sports facility desired	Development of Village Tennis Court		47	Parish Council, PPAG
Lack of activities for young people	Further development of Youth Clubs	Incorporate up to date and relevant activities, for target age groups		Parish Council, PPAG
Lack of activities for young people	Investigate possibility of further holiday clubs for 11-16 year olds	Desired by parents – but less so by youth, when asked in youth survey. In order to increase uptake involve youth focus group in scoping the club. High interest was shown for outdoor based activities so maybe holiday clubs could be in the form of a Football or Tennis Academy		Parish Council, PPAG

3. Measures to prevent crime & anti social behavior

Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility
Despite the low level of crime in the village, there was a very high level of concern about crime.	Publicise low crime figures to overcome "perception" of crime. Utilise village web site and develop neighbourhood watch page, featuring crime statistics	Crime figures to be widely publicised to emphasise low levels in parish by way of reassurance. Consult with West Mercia Police to determine campaign for publicizing safety of life in U.S.		Parish Council, Neighbour Hood Watch Team
Persistent dog fouling around the village	Introduce campaign to educate dog owners	Aim: To increase levels of responsibility, with a view to minimizing the problem. Utilise results of parish survey to highlight anti feeling in the Parish.		PPAG.
Parking problem around school and other locations in village	Still many villagers not aware of car park facility	Promote to minimise aggravation generated by poor parkers		

4. Measures to preserve the countryside and protect our environment

Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility

High usage of existing recycling facilities. Demand for an increase in recycling facilities (particularly in relation to Cowsden & a Garden Waste facility for all village residents).	Promote recycling in parish. Increase re-cycling facilities	Forward results of parish plan to WDC to show support for expanded recycling services. To include pick up of garden waste and clothing/shoes		Parish Council, PPAG.
Support for Annual litter pick	Annual Litter Picking Day.	Institute and promote an annual Litter Picking day		PPAG, Parish Council, Community Volunteers to be identified
Littering	Introduced more litter bins around the village	Back up with further introduction of more notices around village.		
A lot of use is made of the footpaths and bridleways. Some of them are difficult to use. There was also considerable interest in clearing local pathways, as well as improving signage on and them to them. A local guide or map would also be popular.	Form a Parish Paths Group.	Investigate obstructed difficult to use paths and pass to Rights of Way team at WCC. Form group to consider production of a local paths guide.	Year.	Parish Council, PPAG, Community Volunteers to be identified.

Other areas identified as of interest to residents – for further investigation / possible action:

5. Bringing Improvements to Utilities

Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility
Disruption of Power and Water supplies	Raise continued disruption with suppliers.	Institute a scheme for monitoring disruption so as to allow community representations to be made to the relevant supplier.		PPAG.
Poor Mobile Phone reception	Investigate causes with suppliers	Take up poor reception with suppliers on a community basis.		PPAG, Parish Council.

6. Further Improvements in Communications

Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility
Improving communication though out the village in a number of key areas e.g. Content of Village Web Site	Increase content on web site to include new areas such as Neighbourhood watch, local bus time tables, what's on guide, items for sale etc.	Could couple news-sheet and website together with emailing and or door to door delivery. Increase promotion of village website address - e.g. advertise it!		Parish Council, PPAG, Community Volunteers to be identified.
Perception of Work of Parish Council / Council Meetings	Increase communication and flow of information regarding parish council	Think of new an innovative ways to provide regular information. At present information e.g. minutes is billed on village web site that has very low usage.	50	Parish Council,
Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility

Improving communication though out the village in relation to local information, events and personalities e.g. Introduce your new parish council - A Who's who guide	Introduce new village newsletter			PPAG, Community Volunteers to be identified.
--	----------------------------------	--	--	--

7. Improved Transportation

Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility
Survey indicates some willingness to car share.	Set up Car Share Scheme.	Form a group to produce a register of interest and details of scheme to include ideas for publication and how people can get involved.		PPAG, Community Volunteers to be identified.
Survey indicates some willingness to take people for medical appointments.	Set up Volunteer Lift Service.	Form a group to organise a scheme for volunteers to give lifts to people for doctor's/ hospital appointments etc and provide information on how people can book a lift.	51	PPAG, Community Volunteers to be identified.
More Bus Services required	Investigate possibility			PPAG, Parish Council

8. Future Housing & Development

Survey Result (Issue/need Identified)	Action	Detail / Comments	Resource requirement (& delivery timeframe)	Proposed Responsibility

Resistance to further housing development outside of the village envelope and only limited support for development within the village.	Incorporate into the Parish Council's policy on housing and communicate to planning authorities.	Forward results of parish plan to WDC and WCC.		Parish Council
--	--	--	--	----------------