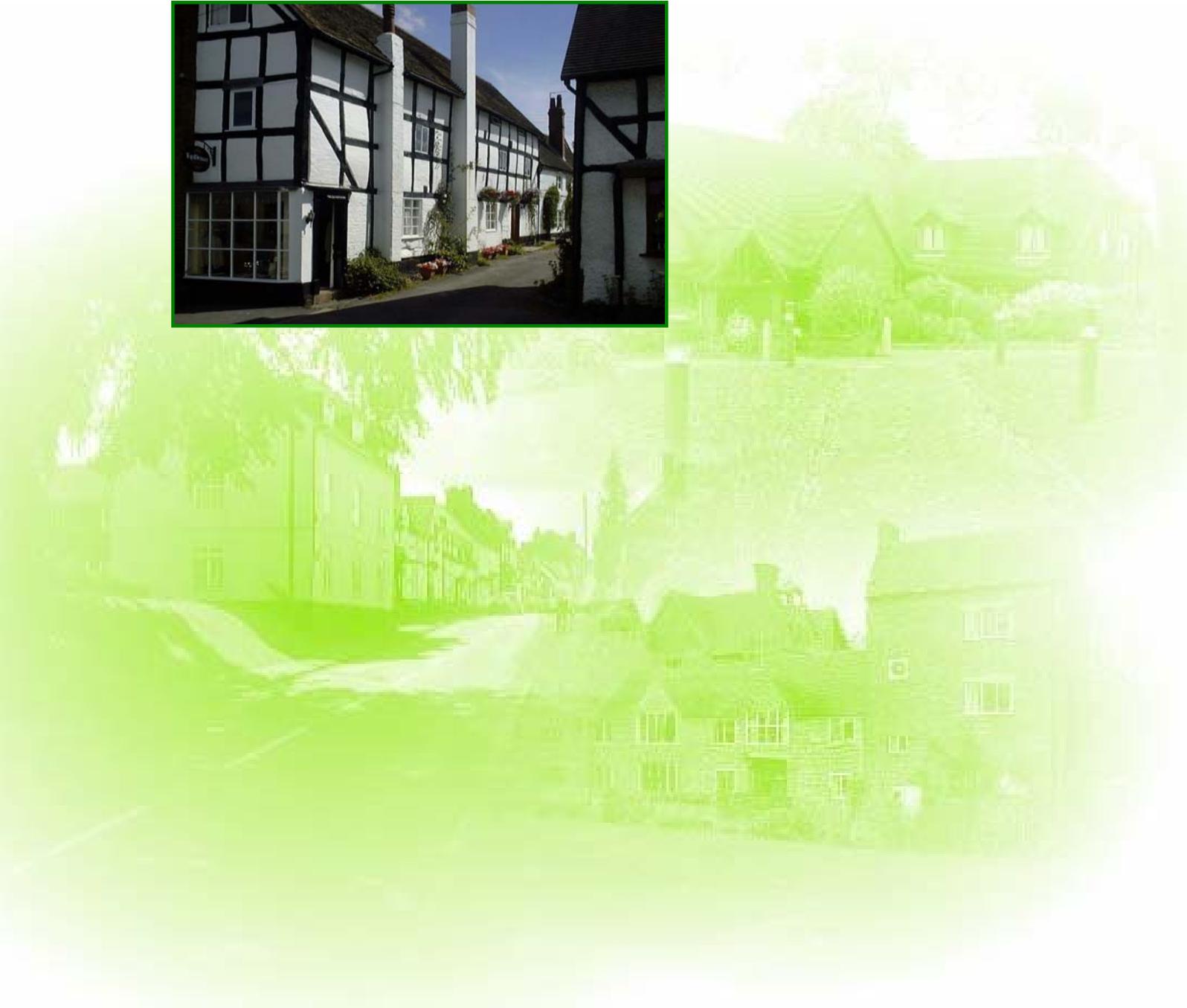


A Plan for the Parish of Chaddesley Corbett



CHADDESLEY CORBETT PARISH PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

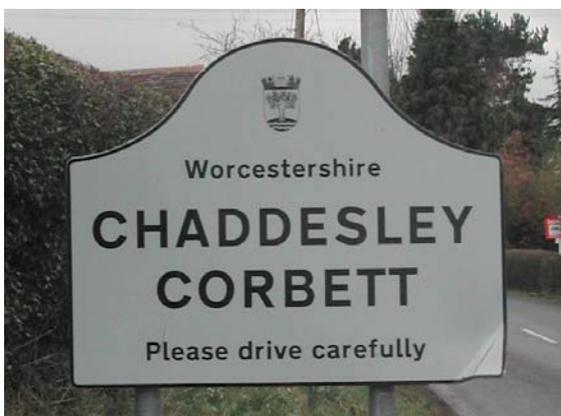
In 2003 the Parish Council decided to instigate the preparation of a Parish Plan, which would form the basis of their policy for the maintenance and development of the Parish over the next few years.

WHAT WILL THE PARISH PLAN ACHIEVE?

The Parish Plan sets out a vision of what is important to residents of the Parish, and will influence the policies, decisions and actions of other bodies, such as local planning organisations, local housing strategies and Education and Social Service departments. It aims to establish an agreed framework against which residents, the Parish Council and village societies can assess opportunities and determine future directions.

The Plan suggests how to preserve valued local features and how any new development might be incorporated and maps out the facilities which the Parish needs to secure its future, as a good place to live and work.

A detailed action plan sets out the route to address the key issues and will be monitored and reviewed by the Steering Group. It will also guide actions and priorities for working with other statutory bodies, agencies, individuals and organisations.



HOW WAS IT FORMULATED?

A circular was sent to all households inviting residents to become involved in the preparation of a Parish Plan. Subsequently a meeting was arranged which resulted in the formulation of a Steering Group. A grant was obtained from the Countryside Agency and funding from the Parish Council enabled the Steering Group to begin work on the Parish Plan. After several meetings a Survey was compiled and this circulated to all households in 2004. A detailed summary of the results of the Survey was distributed to all households and this information was used to formulate a draft Parish Plan. This was presented to residents at a Public Consultation meeting.

However, since completing the original survey, Worcestershire County Council have carried out an extensive review of the Wyre Forest Education system and have decided to introduce a two tier education system, resulting in the closure of some schools and the expansion of others. Chaddesley Corbett First Endowed School will retain its charitable trust status and in 2007 will re-open as a primary school, with up to 210 pupils.

This decision has far reaching implications for the Parish, particularly with the possibility of a new school in a new location. Some residents are concerned about this development and its effect on the community and feel that this and any other proposals should be viewed as a whole to avoid piecemeal development. The Steering Group will work closely with other organisations on these areas of concern to ensure that the Action Plan addresses this changing situation.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

This Parish Plan is not set in tablets of stone, it is a starting point, a direction to give the Parish some control and influence over in the future, and the content will be kept under review and its implementation monitored. A detailed ACTION PLAN is being prepared which sets out the objectives, timescale, contacts and resources required to implement the plan. The Steering Group will work closely with other organisations over the next few years to achieve these objectives.

The Steering Group thanks the Countryside Agency, and everybody who responded to the Parish Survey, which made the production of this Parish Plan possible.

**COMMUNITY
FIRST**



THE ENVIRONMENT

Landscape

Archaeological evidence indicates that there were settlements in the area prior to the Ninth Century, with Romano-British occupation of the surrounding countryside, for example at Fold Farm where a Roman Brooch was found. Other evidence indicates a Bronze Age dagger found at Laights Farm, possible Bronze Age barrows at Drayton, and a Roman Road running from Droitwich to Greensforge, passing the village of Chaddesley Corbett.

The village of Chaddesley Corbett is set within a Conservation Area which is largely undeveloped. It includes a local school, church and series of shops. It covers an area of 7.17 hectares (19.1) acres. The village has retained the form of an early medieval settlement and the Church, parts of which are the oldest structures, forms the main focal point.

The preservation of the landscape, both in quality and content, is of prime importance to residents, this was confirmed by a majority who said they wanted little change in the Parish.

The District Council's Adopted Local Plan (January 2004) contains policies to assist in preserving and enhancing conservation areas, the landscape, character and appearance of the Parish. A Character Appraisal for Chaddesley Corbett Conservation area has been published in September 2005.

Residents expressed concern regarding the:

- preservation of trees and hedgerows; maintenance of hedges, verges and watercourses;
- arrangements for urban/rural grass cutting;
- new planting of trees and hedges;
- threat from light, noise and air pollution;
- loss of natural habitat for wildlife.

These issues will feature in the Action Plan in terms of improvement and monitoring.



Vision

The existing landscape should be preserved and enhanced in keeping with a rural environment.

THE ENVIRONMENT

History and Heritage

Chaddesley Corbett is a large Parish of some 6,000 acres (2,428 hectares) set within the heart of the Worcestershire countryside, and sits about 80m above sea level. The village lies within a shallow valley, with the ground rising on each side towards Kidderminster, Blunton and Woodcote Green. The soil is primarily a Trias, which sits on Keuper sandstone.

The parish of Chaddesley Corbett with its unspoilt surroundings, attractive buildings and long history, provides enjoyment for residents and visitors alike. The earliest mention of Chaddesley comes in 816 AD in a deed of King Coenwulf of Mercia. Ceadesleaghe, as it was spelt then, is of Saxon origin, although a flint tool has been found in the area dated prior to 200 BC. To the north of the parish is a tumulus (Barrow Hill). Recent finds of artefacts from the Roman occupation have been discovered and placed in the County Museum. By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, Chaddesley was a village of 300 to 400 persons.

The ancient church of St Cassian is a Grade I listed building and is a local landmark, framing the entrance to Chaddesley village from the A448. Within the parish is the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary at Harvington and the Methodist Chapel at Blunton, both of which are fine buildings of their type.

Vision

A Parish which celebrates and is proud of its history and traditions.

Chaddesley Corbett First Endowed School has pre-reformation origins. 'The Old Grammar School' adjoining the churchyard and the Schoolmaster's House across the street, give glimpses of its history.

The association with the medieval Corbet family is remembered in the Parish name. There are several large country houses in the area which remain in private ownership, whilst Winterfold House now provides educational facilities in the private sector, and Brockencote Hall is a Country-House Hotel and Restaurant. Many properties both inside and outside the conservation areas are 'listed'.

The village of Chaddesley Corbett is zoned as a Conservation Area and is renowned for its combination of architectural styles from succeeding periods (Medieval, Tudor, Regency, and Victorian). Many schools arrange visits for pupils studying history, architecture and design, and the buildings and the views of the area feature in the work of many artists and photographers.

Harvington Hall is a moated medieval Elizabethan manor-house, built in the 1580's by Humphrey Pakington, on a medieval site. It passed to the Throckmorton family and after being left almost derelict was purchased and given to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham in 1923. Following its restoration it was opened to the public. Re-enactment events, plays, school visits and concerts are staged in its ground, and Christmas events take place. The Hall is open between March and October. This is also a Conservation Area.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The Built Environment

There has been very little modern development within the village of Chaddesley Corbett, except at the northern end where the Doctor's surgery has been built off the Hemming Way. The building stock dates from the Twelfth Century through to the Twentieth, with a variety of type of construction, materials and styles. The centre of Chaddesley Corbett is recognised as a fine example of the quintessential Worcestershire village.

Many of the houses have distinctive styles from the Georgian and Victorian eras. Outstanding buildings within the Parish include Harvington Hall and Drayton House, which are Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings respectively. Some buildings in the parish are timber framed.

Modern buildings are largely brick and generally fit in well with the character of the surroundings. Barn conversions have on the whole been carried out sympathetically. The parish is relatively free of empty or derelict buildings, although changes in farming practices have led to some agricultural buildings falling out of use.

There is a wide variety of properties in the Parish which includes old and new, large and small. As the parish is in the Green Belt this precludes new development other than in exceptional circumstances, although re-development of existing buildings or sites may be permissible. Infilling will only be permitted in Chaddesley Corbett, as outlined in the District Plan.

Whilst much accommodation in the area is owner-occupied (including housing purchased from the District Council housing stock) there is a high proportion of rental properties, some coming under the management of housing associations, the Educational Trust and other charities, and some from private ownership.

Wyre Forest Community Housing still have 73 properties in Chaddesley Corbett and 21 in Harvington. In addition Nexus Housing Association has 10 properties in Harvington.

Because of the desirability of properties in the Parish, house prices are generally high, resulting in difficulties for first time buyers.

The first social housing scheme included six houses on Briar Hill in 1928. There were further schemes in the 1940s and 50s in Chaddesley and Harvington. In 1967 seven houses were built in Hemming Way and later council bungalows were also built in the same road. Further affordable houses were built in the 1990s at Sam Spencer Court, Harvington.

A survey was carried out which revealed that a majority of residents had no objection in principle to a development which might help to meet the housing needs of local people.



Following a Government objective to provide Affordable Housing for local people in rural areas, a Housing Needs Survey was conducted in 2003. The Parish Council appointed a Steering Group and agreement was reached with Nexus Housing, a member of the West Mercia Housing Group and Wyre Forest District Council for a small development of bungalows and houses. A recent planning application was submitted for the development to be located on land off Hemming Way, but was subsequently rejected by Wyre Forest District Council on 10 January 2006 due to highway issues.

Following the Public Consultation regarding the first draft of the Parish Plan, it is recognised that concerns remain regarding proposals for Affordable Housing development on Green Belt land and sites where access is poor. The following is an attempt to clarify the current position regarding the principles that guide recent policy decisions.

A small development of 5 bungalows and 10 semi-detached houses would be built. The bungalows would be retained for rent to local senior or disabled residents. If the new tenants already occupy existing social housing in the Parish, the properties they vacate would only be re-let to local people.

With the shared ownership properties, an initial share of the open market value of the property (as valued by an independent valuer) would be sold to the purchaser. The balance of the value of the property would be retained by the Housing Association on which rent would be paid. Further shares in the property could be purchased, up to 80% of the open market value.

If shared owners want to later sell their property, they would have to approach the Housing Association for a list of eligible applicants. Those eligible would have a local connection and enough financial resources to purchase the share, but not enough to purchase on the open market.

With a shortage of Affordable Housing to purchase in the Parish, and concerns over lettings, it might be possible to adjust the mix to reflect a higher percentage available for sale to those on lower incomes, or first time buyers, who want to take the first step towards owning their own homes. Full details about eligibility and application for these properties will be published as soon as available.

Issues raised by residents include:

- Accommodation for local people, first time buyers, young families and the elderly;
- The number of large executive homes built recently;
- The number and type of barn conversions;
- Preservation of features in re-furbishing old properties;
- Use of matching materials for extensions and conversions;
- The need for new properties to match existing styles and materials;
- Preservation of the Conservation Area and the Green Belt.

Vision

A Parish where there is a diversity of housing, respecting the historical heritage of the area and complimenting the rural environment. New housing should be limited unless there are exceptional circumstances.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Farms and Diversification

The majority of the land, which is of good quality, is used for agriculture, horticulture and farming comprising medium size acreage.

There is a garden centre with tea room and several nurseries which offer a wide range of plants, garden ornaments and home grown produce.

The foot and mouth disease outbreak and other economic factors have affected some farms within the Parish and there has been some diversification, which has taken various forms such as fishing pools, and farm building conversions for residential use.

Reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy give farmers greater freedom to meet the demands of the market as subsidies will be decoupled from production. At the same time new baseline standards for agriculture will contribute to a higher degree of environmental protection. The Environmental Stewardship scheme provides the opportunity to enhance the environment on farms, particularly with increased demand for organic produce.

Although most residents indicated that they would prefer little change within the Parish, there were some suggestions for the use of redundant farm buildings. These include:

- The development of a farm visitor centre;
- Increased sports facilities;
- A limited number of small commercial units;
- The development of bed and breakfast facilities;
- A possible craft centre.



Vision

A Parish which sits within a traditional rural, agricultural landscape.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Highways and Transport

The Parish has two 'A' roads, but much of the infra-structure consists of country lanes, some of which are single track with few having pedestrian pavements. Most residents travel by private car. There is a railway halt at nearby Blakedown, and a newly reinstated bus service operates through the Parish. Three bus shelters are provided and maintained by the Parish Council. There is currently no mini-bus service to the Parish. There is one petrol station, which is under threat from housing development.

Speed limits of 30 and 40 mph are imposed on some sections of 'A' and minor roads throughout the Parish, and are enforced from time to time by the District Council and the Police. Residents have identified danger spots in the village, particularly during school starting and finishing hours, where speed and heavy traffic can represent a threat to children and residents alike.

The maintenance of roads in the Parish is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council and the Wyre Forest Highways Partnership. The condition of many of the roads is poor and major re-surfacing works are required in most areas. Potholes are inspected on a regular basis by the Highways Partnership, but are often left in a dangerous condition for too long. The Parish Council has recently introduced the Lengthsman Scheme, funded by Worcestershire County Council, to provide routine maintenance on minor roads.

The area is popular with cyclists and many people travel here to enjoy this sport with clubs using road and racing machines and off-road mountain bikes.

There is much agricultural movement along the local roads and through the Parish, and there are designated routes for heavy goods vehicles collecting and delivering. The bridge over Hockley Brook at the northern end of the Village has a weight-limit restriction.

The parish lies beneath flight lines from Halfpenny Green airfield for helicopter and light private planes flying south, and it would be subject to increased commercial use if the proposed extension to the airfield obtains planning permission.

Many local residents have been involved in protests against plans for the construction of the Western Orbital Motorway and Hagley Relief Road along routes close to the parish.

There are no official off-road parking facilities in the Parish. However, with the co-operation of local businesses, some parking is available on public house car parks in the area around the parish of Chaddesley Corbett for special events. Parking causes traffic congestion in many areas, particularly in The Village during school opening and closing hours and during church activities. Residents should be encouraged, wherever possible, to park within the curtilage of their own property to ensure the free movement of traffic.

The Parish was divided on the need for a car park in the village of Chaddesley Corbett, but some suggestions were received for possible sites.

An extension to the pavement is needed along Park Lane, Harvington, in the interests of public safety, and funding is currently being sought for this project by the Parish and County Councils. The pavement from The Village to the Village Hall at Brockencote, which is much used, needs widening in the interests of public safety.

Some lanes in the Parish are designated as 'quiet lanes' and these should be respected by residents and visitors. Signage would be required to make people aware that they are entering a restricted area.

Key issues identified by residents include:

- Identified danger spots;
- The speed of vehicles travelling through the village, and along the A448 within the 30 mile speed restriction area;
- Using The Village as a cut-through route;
- Improved signage;
- Heavy goods vehicle restrictions;
- Road maintenance;
- Parking;
- Pavements.



Vision

A Parish with clean, well maintained and safe roads, adequate parking and rural public transport.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Chaddesley Woods

The woods are designated a National Nature Reserve owned by English Heritage (the Government Agency responsible for nature conservation in England). They are managed by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust on a 99 year lease. Management is undertaken in consultation with English Nature who have overall final control. Practical conservation work is organised by the Wardens and undertaken by a team of local volunteers who meet weekly.

The woods were once part of Feckenham Forest and comprise Coal Pit Coppice, Santery Hill Wood, Black Meadows, Hockley Meadows and Chaddesley Wood and are all within District Council boundaries. An ancient clearing in Coal Pit Coppice is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The public only have access to Chaddesley Wood on public footpaths and permissive paths routed by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. The woodlands are enjoyed by many people from the parish and further a-field and many ramblers groups incorporate the woods into their itinerary. Residents consider this facility very important.

The natural history of the woods is also important both from a recreational and scientific point of view. Many of the Wildlife Trust members and others who visit have particular interests, which include, Entomology (insects), Lepidoptery (butterflies and moths) and Ornithology (birds). Visitors to the woods observe their particular speciality and often complete recording studies of national importance.

During Worcestershire Wildlife Week guided walks are organised by the Wardens and also when required throughout the year. Car parking is limited and thus this has the great advantage of keeping the woods a tranquil place to visit.

Issues include:

- safe parking;
- the preservation of areas of natural beauty.



Vision

A Parish where ancient woodland is valued, managed and protected.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Footpaths and Bridleways

There is an above-average number of footpaths and bridle paths within the parish and an above-average number of footbridges spanning the streams (Belne Brook and Hockley Brook). The footpath 'The Monarch's Way', which follows the escape route of King Charles after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester (Civil War) passes through the parish, at the Village and near to Harvington Hall.

The opportunity to walk the footpaths and bridleways of the Parish attracts many people, both residents and visitors. There are some 80 plus paths covering 60 km (50 miles) which show a diverse and interesting landscape with extensive views.

The Parish Council has delegated powers from Worcestershire County Council to maintain and oversee these paths and work with the Parish Paths Warden (PPW) to co-ordinate ongoing maintenance.

The local history society has published a booklet called 'Steps Into History', available from local shops, which describes six walks in the Parish and includes hand drawn maps with interesting and informative text.

Visitors and residents should be encouraged to respect the Country Code.

In general information on footpaths was felt to be adequate by residents, who had the following concerns:

- seasonal vegetation which obstructs footpaths;
- livestock;
- access for all abilities;
- dogs;
- vehicles;
- maintenance;
- funding.



Vision

A Parish where footpaths and bridleways are well maintained, well respected and used.

EDUCATION, WORK AND RETIREMENT

Education

At present Chaddesley Corbett Endowed First School provides education for children aged 4-9 years. The school has been praised for its recent achievements which include a very positive Ofsted report in 2002. As a result the school is very popular and is held in high esteem within the area. A privately run pre-school for children aged 3 years and above is housed within the school site, which has close connections with the school. When pupils reach the age of 9 they leave Chaddesley School to attend a variety of middle schools within the Wyre Forest District. A number of pupils move into the private sector. When children reach the age of 13 they transfer from Middle Schools to a range of High Schools. The survey revealed that the majority of residents felt that the current Village School was very important, but many did not wish it to expand

Private education is available at Winterfold House for children from 2 to 13, together with a nursery from the age of 3 months.

Education within Wyre Forest District has been reviewed by Worcestershire County Council and as a consequence will change to a two tier system in 2007. As a result the Village school which currently has between 120 and 130 on roll, will close and be replaced by a Voluntary Aided Primary School initially on the same site. This would provide education for pupils from 5 to 11 years. In the newly organized school there will be 30 pupils in each age group, resulting in a school roll of 210 pupils. The Education Department will provide transport for pupils according to the current formula. The County Council has indicated in their proposals that the 'Village' school would remain on the current site pending the location and purchase of a suitable site for a new school.

Following this decision, the Trustees of the Chaddesley Corbett Educational Foundation have considered :

- the feasibility of re-building on the existing site;
- alternative possible sites for re-location;
- design elements to be incorporated into a new build;
- Community School status;
- additional facilities;
- added benefits to the community;
- the alternative future use of the existing site;

The Steering Group have considered carrying out a supplementary survey of residents in order to ensure that the data used for the Parish Plan is as up to date as possible. However, the Trustees of the Education Foundation recently carried out their own Public Consultation, and have made the data from that survey available to the Steering Group. Therefore, based on that information we are confident that our information is now sufficiently representative of

the majority of residents in the Parish.

More than 200 attended the Public Consultation and were asked to consider nine possible sites for a new school, and rate them according to preference, the results of which are as follows:

Site	Location	V.Good	Good	Adequate	Poor	V.Poor
1	Existing School	13	20	39	41	36
2	Top of Briar Hill	15	24	27	38	27
3	Malvern View	17	33	57	30	14
4	Fold Farm	10	18	22	36	30
5	Land Adjacent Rowberry's Nurseries	68	21	30	23	11
6	Longmore (Sports Field)	5	8	19	39	50
7	Bottom Briar Hill	60	37	21	11	23
8	Fishpond Field	4	4	19	37	59
9	Roaring Brook	2	6	15	40	58

The two favoured sites were site 5 – adjacent to Rowberry's Nurseries and site 7 – bottom of Briar Hill, with slightly more residents rating site 5 as Very Good.

At the meeting of the Trustees held on 20 October 2005, the decision was taken to choose site 5. However, this is not the end of the story, as both Wyre Forest District Council Planners and the Highways Partnership have indicated problems with both sites. It is understood that a Planning Application is being prepared for Site 5.

Obviously there is a long way to go before any final decision is taken on the location of a new school, and the Steering Group, together with the Parish Council and Educational Trusts, will monitor the situation closely over coming months. Every attempt should be made to address the concerns of residents with regard to traffic congestion, car parking, and availability of facilities to residents outside school hours.



Vision

The Parish fully supports its schools and recognises their importance within the community.

EDUCATION, WORK AND RETIREMENT

Employment and Retirement

A number of opportunities exist for people to work locally, ranging from Education and Healthcare to Agriculture and Horticulture. Additionally some local people are employed in shops, public houses, car sales, a local garage, tea rooms and a small hotel and restaurant. Remuneration for much of this work is at the lower end of the pay scale. Some residents work outside the Parish, mainly in service industries or manufacturing. Others are self employed, or run small businesses in the area. Recent advances in Information Technology have increased opportunities for individuals to work from home.

It is noted that the Wyre Forest District Plan does not include the Parish of Chaddesley Corbett amongst its list of sustainable locations for new employment opportunities.

The age profile of the Parish is similar to that of other rural communities in terms of those in work and those of retirement age. Whilst the local survey indicated that social facilities for the retired were reasonably good, a significant number of respondents had no opinion in this respect. This may suggest that facilities need to be more widely publicized.

More than half of the respondents to the survey indicated that they did not wish the Parish to develop in the future, but would prefer it to stay very much as it is. A minority of respondents could see some scope for limited developments in tourism and small businesses, in order to increase the number of jobs available in the Parish and develop Chaddesley as a working community.



Vision

The Parish should be maintained as a thriving community and suitable local businesses should be encouraged.

EDUCATION, WORK AND RETIREMENT

Computers and the Internet

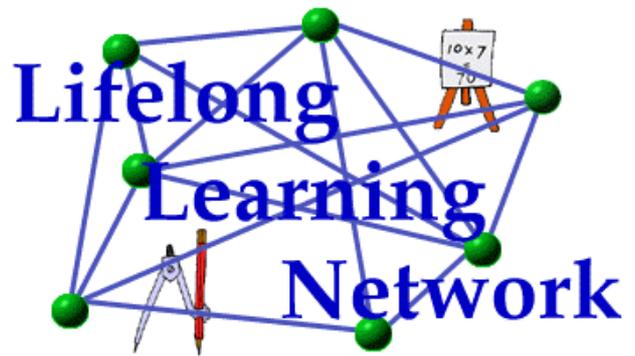
A number of self-employed and small businesses in the parish use Information Technology and the Internet in the course of their work. For some, Information Technology is a key aspect of their business, whilst others make use of the technology for study or recreation.

It is proposed to further develop the facilities available in Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall to include computer internet connections.

In support of widening access to new technology, regular "Life Long Learning" sessions are held every Thursday at the Village School in Chaddesley Corbett.

The Parish Council has recently set up a website to improve communications with residents.

It is planned that in 2006, subject to finance, Planning Applications will be viewed electronically by the Parish Council and their recommendations relayed immediately to the District Council by e-mail.



Vision

A Parish which makes use of new technology in order to improve communications and efficiency.

EDUCATION, WORK AND RETIREMENT

Visitors and Tourism

The Parish has several places of interest to visit, in particular Harvington Hall, St Cassians Church and St Mary's R C Church. The picturesque village and hamlets, and the peaceful nature of the area together with the beauty of the landscape, already attracts many visitors.

There are several public houses, inns, a country-house hotel, garden centre and several nurseries and tea rooms, which attracts a regular following from inside and outside the Parish.

Residents do not feel that tourism is an important part of the future development of the Parish.

It is recognised, however, that a range of activities are undertaken within the Parish which include walking, riding, cycling, bird watching, nature study, photography, painting, sight-seeing, fishing and shooting.



Vision

A Parish which welcomes visitors and provides appropriate facilities for a rural Parish.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Emergency Services and Security

POLICE

The area is policed from Hagley West (limited hours) and Kidderminster (Main) Police Stations. Response times are sometime poor, especially overnight. A more visible presence with regular police patrols would be welcomed by residents.

The Beat Officer has been changed several times during the year and attendance by the Police at meetings has been disappointingly spasmodic. Recent changes mean that two Beat Officers have now been appointed to cover an area larger than the Parish, which may result in a greater police presence.

The Neighbourhood Watch schemes have been very successfully introduced and have contributed to a general reduction in crime in the Parish. Our thanks are extended to the volunteers running the scheme, who make a worthwhile contribution to the community's well being.

Police officers report crime statistics and planned operations to the Parish Council on a fairly regular basis. A Parish Councillor is a liaison link with the Police and attends Area Reviews.

FIRE

The service is provided from Kidderminster, with a back-up from Bromsgrove. This is under review.

AMBULANCE

A service is provided from Kidderminster.

Emergency services sometimes have difficulty locating rural properties.

HOSPITAL

The loss of Kidderminster Hospital as an Accident and Emergency Unit is much regretted, but an out-patient Treatment Centre has developed successfully. Emergency treatment is at Redditch (15 miles) or Worcester (14 miles). The newly re-introduced bus service runs from Redditch to Worcester hospitals, via Chaddesley Corbett, and provides an important service to residents.

MEDICAL

Chaddesley Corbett has a dispensing practice with two General Practitioners. Other medical staff are based there and a visiting service by both Doctors and Nursing staff is available. 'Out-of-hours' service is available at Kidderminster Hospital.



Vision

Support for measures which provide a safe, secure and trouble-free environment and for improved services.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Public Utilities / Services

Public services are provided as follows:

- **Water and Sewage**

This is provided by Severn Trent, although some residents are not connected to a sewage system.

- **Electricity**

The electricity network is supplied and maintained by Aquila, and is subject to periodic loss of service. Recent maintenance improvements have taken place.

There is no street lighting in the Parish, except at Mustow Green island, and residents do not wish to see this extended to other areas.

- **Gas**

Although not available to all residents, a supply is provided in some areas by West Midlands Gas. Requests for a service in Drayton have been made, but the high cost to each individual household made this prohibitive.

Transco and Esso pipelines run through the Parish with a pumping station at Tanwood Bridle (off Tanwood Lane)

- **Telephones – BT**

The local BT exchange was recently upgraded to provide Broadband facilities in the area.

There are 3 telephone kiosks available in the Parish, which may shortly be changed for use with telephone cards only.

- **Telephones – Mobile**

There has been resistance to the placing of transmitter masts in the area, but the mast located at Barnett Hill (which is in Broome Parish) has recently been upgraded. The transmitter mast on the skyline at Tagg Barn Farm, Chaddesley Woods is very prominent in an area of natural beauty.

- **Post Offices**

The Parish is served by two sub-post offices, which are an important service to the community.

Mail collections are made daily from boxes throughout the area

- **Waste Collection**

The District Council collect from the front of properties and residents are presently required to segregate glass, plastic and paper wastes for collection cycle and other household refuse in another. Large 'wheelie' bins are emptied fortnightly and boxes for re-cycling weekly. This is designed to aid recovery and re-cycling. Some residents have difficulty putting out waste bins, but help is available by arrangement.

- **Waste Disposal**

The County Council is responsible for disposal of waste and is currently seeking feedback on it's Ten Year Plan. The Parish Council has been involved in the consultation process. It is believed that future policy will change to a unified collection with waste segregation being undertaken mechanically, chemically and using heat treatment at a centralised facility.

- **Mobile Library**

Worcestershire County Council provides a regular service to local residents. Safer off-road parking for the vehicle would be desirable.

- **Litter Bins**

These are provided by the District Council and are emptied regularly. Residents have requested more.

- **Fly-Tipping**

The District Council removes from the public roadside any fly-tipped waste, when informed.

- **Abandoned Vehicles**

Abandoned and burnt-out cars are removed after a time delay for a search for the registered owner, but this policy is under review.

Residents expressed concern about:

- the quality and pressure of water delivery;
- water and waste leaks;
- flooding and the silting of drains;
- the intrusion of power lines and masts on the landscape;
- road maintenance;
- consistency in the electricity service.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Amenities, Recreation and Leisure

The Parish is fortunate to have a great variety of amenities for all ages. There is a range of shops, nurseries, tearooms and a petrol station; in addition there are five public houses and a hotel with restaurant, as well as a Doctors' Surgery with a dispensary. There are two post offices, which provide important services particularly for those who have difficulties with transport. The area has long been known for its market gardens and a wide array of fresh fruit and vegetables are available in season from local shops and 'Pick Your Own' farms. Residents are able to purchase much of their food locally, thus avoiding the need to travel into town. The pleasant surroundings attract visitors from further a-field who come to shop, and then stay to take refreshment.

Several halls are available for hire for functions including the recently refurbished Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall at Brockencote, and the recently re-built Oaks Community Hall at Harvington. Both facilities are great assets to the community and are generally well used by a variety of organisations. In particular the Chaddesley Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS) who regularly stage productions of popular plays and musicals which are much appreciated and enjoyed by residents. Some people still travel to Kidderminster or Bromsgrove for more specialist leisure activities, but in general the community is well served. A new cinema has recently been opened in Kidderminster.

The Parish is also a magnet for those interested in less organised outdoor pursuits such as cycling, walking and angling.

Regular Point to Point Meetings are held in the Parish of Chaddesley Corbett, which attract hundreds of visitors.

There is a Sports Ground at Cakebole, to the south of the Parish, with changing facilities and a clubhouse. Recognised clubs of adults and children train and hold fixtures in Rugby, Football, Hockey and Cricket. There is off-road parking and some outdoor lighting around the practice areas.

There is a war-memorial on the edge of St Cassian's Churchyard, which is maintained by the Parish Council.



Vision

A Parish with a good range of well-supported clubs and organizations, catering for all sectors of the community.

A need for a more facilities for younger people has been identified, including a small play area. The following clubs and organisations already exist in the Parish: (please refer to the complete list at the back of this booklet)

- Local History Society
- Chaddesley Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS)
- Belbroughton and District Probus Club
- Gardening Club
- Two Women's Institutes
- Brownie Pack
- Bell Ringers
- Farmers Club
- Royal British Legion
- Wednesday Club
- Mothers and Toddlers Group
- Pre-School Nursery
- Riding for the Disabled
- Creative Arts Group
- Masonic Lodge
- Sports Club
- Friends of the Village Association

There is a need to raise awareness of the wide range of activities available.



QUALITY OF LIFE

The Church in the Community

There are three churches in the Parish: St Cassians Church is served by the Vicar, who is also Vicar of Stone in the adjoining parish. It has two services on Sunday morning, except for the first Sunday in the month when there is a Family Service and evensong. Communion is held on Wednesday mornings. A Sunday school is held every Sunday, except for the first Sunday of each month. There is a strong link with the Village school whose trustees include the Vicar, and the Church is used for Concerts, Plays and other performances. As a Grade I listed building, the Church has many visitors. The churchyard is now open for burials and regulations exist in respect of monuments that may be erected. A Parish magazine is published monthly.

There is a Methodist Chapel and Hall at Bluntington with a weekly Sunday service. The Chapel is Licensed for marriages and the facilities are available for hire. There is a burial ground within the site.

The Roman Catholic Parish of Harvington is a large rural parish extending beyond the civil parish of Chaddesley Corbett. St Mary's Church was built in 1825, prior to that services were held at Harvington Hall. There is a resident Priest and Masses are said daily and twice on Sundays when there is also a Children's Liturgy Group. There is a burial ground with space for the interment of ashes still available. The Church has recently been restored and it is planned to refurbish the Organ so that concerts may be held. There is a small parish room adjacent to the church and there are a number of clubs and societies associated with the church.



Vision

A Parish where churches play an active role in Community life.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Tidy Villages

In general the Parish is maintained in a tidy condition and residents of the Parish take pride in the local environment.

The Parish Council operates a Lengthsman scheme for small scale maintenance of the highways.

The survey indicated that there are some areas that could be improved:

- upkeep of road signs;
- floral displays;
- overgrown verges;
- pavements and walkways fouled by dogs;
- rural grass cutting.

The establishment of a voluntary litter-picking patrol for areas of the Parish would be a valuable asset and should be explored.



Vision

A Parish which takes pride in its appearance and provides support for projects and ideas which aim to make the Parish a pleasure to look at and live in.



QUALITY OF LIFE

The Parish Council

The Parish Council is made up of 11 members (eight of them currently by election and three by co-option) and is served by a part time Parish Clerk. Elections take place every 5 years. It holds monthly meetings at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall. Councillors also sit on numerous Committees, attend regular briefing sessions at District and County Council, and are Trustees of local Charitable organisations. Councillors have all signed up to the Code of Conduct issued by the Standards Board. The Parish Council has adopted Standing Orders as recommended by The National Association of Local Councils, and is a member of Worcestershire Association of Local Councils.

The Council provides training for its Clerk and members, and the Clerk has recently attained a Certificate in Local Council Administration. The Council's finances are also handled by the Clerk, who received an "unqualified audit opinion" in 2004 and 2005. A Code of Conduct for Parish Clerks is currently being prepared.

The Parish Council publishes copies of minutes of meetings in the Parish Magazine and on 3 Parish Council Notice Boards, and recognises its duty under the Freedom of Information Act. A web page has recently been introduced and will feature full details of its activities to ensure community awareness.

An Annual Report of its activities is sent to all residents and Annual Parish Meetings are planned in the future.

A Steering Group has been set up to produce a Parish Plan, which includes representatives from many local organisations.

Civic Burial Facilities

The Parish Council opened a burial ground in 1952, which is now nearing capacity, though a small area has been left unconsecrated and will continue to provide a service to those who require this facility. The burial ground is maintained by the Parish Council. Second burials will continue to take place in the foreseeable future, but financial support will have to be provided in perpetuity. It has been necessary for the Parish Council to carry out repairs to some headstones where relatives could not be traced, in order to meet health and safety regulations. The possibility of an extension of the burial ground, adjacent to the existing burial site, should be explored if land should become available for purchase in the future. This would secure local burial facilities to meet the needs of the next generation.

Allotments

The Parish Council rents land for an allotment site from the Diocesan authorities which is currently under-utilised. Greater use of this facility should be encouraged. Suggestions have been made for alternative uses for this land, but permission from the landlords and the terms of the tenancy would need to be changed to facilitate this.

Lengthsman Scheme

The Parish Council, in partnership with Highways Partnership and Worcestershire County Council, provides urban grass cutting, a Lengthsman scheme and Parish Paths maintenance, all of which are in the main funded by Worcestershire County Council with support from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is aiming for Quality Status which should provide greater involvement in its affairs and more funding opportunities.

Local Councillors

Two District Councillors serve Blakedown and Chaddesley Wards, elected to Wyre Forest District Council, who periodically attend Chaddesley Parish Council meetings and report on their activities in the District and their attendance on Committees. Many residents were satisfied with their representation, but needed more information. A District Councillor holds Surgeries in the Parish.

The elected Worcestershire County Councillor also attends Parish Council meetings and submits a periodic newsletter. The County Councillor also supervises the activities of the Highways Unit. Residents were unaware of much of the work carried out by the County Council.



Vision

A Parish Council which provides parishioners with high quality services within acceptable cost levels. The Parish Council should achieve Quality Parish Status to take advantage of funding initiatives.

Councillors should keep parishioners informed of issues which affect the Parish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Steering Group is very grateful to all those who have contributed in any way to the Parish Plan process.

The Household Survey questionnaire, sent to 564 homes in the parish, brought a 42% response (237 returned).

THE STEERING GROUP

Frank Wayt

Keith Hopkins

Sandi Holding

Elizabeth Mountford

Jonathan Swift

Harry Grove

Jean Andrews

Diane Dolley

Yvonne Scriven

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Charles Dodge

Michael Shaw

John Spalding

Chris Rowberry

Tim Ireson

Kirsty Kirwan

Michael Gibbs

David Mills

Photographs are by courtesy of Michael Shaw

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Accommodation

Hotel, Brockencote
B & B, Chaddesley Corbett

Activities / Societies/Recreation

Amateur Theatrical Society – CATS
Bell Ringers – St Cassian's
Conservative Association
Farmers Club
Friends of St Cassian's
Friends of St Mary's
Gardeners' Club
Local History Society
Royal British Legion
Wednesday Club
WI Brockencote – afternoons
WI Chaddesley Corbett – evenings
A Freemasonry Lodge

Allotments

Chaddesley Corbett

Car Sales

Lower Chaddesley
Mustow Green

Classes, Lectures, Life Long Learning

Beginners computing at CC school
Gardeners' Club
Local History Society
Mobile library
WI
Kidderminster College

Children / education, activities

Chaddesley Corbett Pre School Nursery
Chaddesley Corbett Endowed First School, 4-9
Winterfold House Day Nursery 0-3,
Winterfold House School, 3-13
Mothers & Toddlers
Brownies

Churches / Chapel

Church of England, St Cassian's
Roman Catholic, St Mary's Harvington
Methodist, Bluntington Chapel

Hairdressing

Chaddesley Corbett

Health

Doctors Surgery & Dispensary
District Nursing
Community Nursing

Parish Council

Meetings open to all
Minutes in St Cassian's parish magazine
Minutes on notice boards, Chaddesley Corbett,
Drayton and Harvington
Annual Report
Public Meetings

District and County Councillors

Attend Parish Council Meetings
Attend District/County Meetings and head various
Committees
Hold regular surgeries

Petrol

Lower Chaddesley

Places to visit

Harvington Hall
Gardens – Dial Park & Tythe Barn House
Point to Point Meetings
Churches
Chaddesley Woods

Post office/ banking, Photocopying, etc.

Chaddesley Corbett
Harvington

Shopping

Brockencote	PYO & flowers
Cakebole	Horticulture
Chaddesley Corbett	Butcher
Chaddesley Corbett	General stores
Chaddesley Corbett	Shoes & Gifts
Harvington	Gallery
Harvington	Farm shop (seasonal)
Lower Chaddesley	General Stores
Lower Chaddesley	Garden centre & PYO
Sandy Lane	Farm shop & PYO
Woodrow	Plant nursery
Home Delivery	Milk & newspapers

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Services

Mains drainage and mains gas supply is not available to the whole parish.

Broadband is limited by line resistance, BT define limit of availability.

Recreation

Cricket Club
Football Club
Rugby Football Club
Various Exercise Classes
Hockey Club
Walking – Footpaths signposted
Chaddesley Woods
Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall
The Oaks, Harvington

Refreshment

Brockencote Hall
The Talbot & The Swan – Chaddesley Corbett
The Robin Hood – Drayton
The Dog – Harvington
The Fox, Lower Chaddesley
Tea Rooms - Chaddesley Corbett and Harvington Hall
Garden Centre – Lower Chaddesley

Local Businesses

Veteran and Vintage Motorcycle Spares – Drayton
Piano Reconditioning and Sales – Drayton
Reproduction Furniture Manufacture & Sales - Drayton
Smith (Iron-work) – Drayton
Cricket Bat Manufacture – Drayton
Off-Road Vehicles: Parts and Sales – Drayton Mount

Transport

Bus Service
Transport to Hospital

Venues for hire

Bluntington Sunday School Hall
Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall
Chaddesley Corbett School Hall
Harvington Hall
Oaks Community Hall, Harvington
Sports Club
Private function rooms at Inns

Charities

Chaddesley Corbett Educational Foundation
Brockencote Women's Institute
Chaddesley Corbett Poor's Land and Jonathan Harrison Charities
Chaddesley Corbett Women's Institute
Charity of Anne Mills
Charity of Charles Mann
Charity of Elizabeth Pratt
Charity of John Giles for Bellringers
Dame Mary Yate Charity
Harvington Hall Restoration Fund
Institute (Chaddesley)
Margaret Delabere's Almshouse Charities
Strawberry Fields Pre-School
The Friends of St Cassian's Chaddesley Corbett
Riding for the Disabled

E&OE

A full list of contact names and numbers is available in the Parish Magazine, published monthly.