

*“The most damaging flooding is that caused by the river rising.”*

The results of the survey showed that preserving the environment and ambience of Wick was very close the vast majority of residents’ hearts. For example over 70% of respondents thought the existence and preservation of the following features was very important and worth doing:

- Orchards
- Small woods
- Meadows
- Ponds and streams
- Animals and plant life
- Ditches and hedges

There was not such enthusiasm for modern farm buildings.

What was interesting is the

relatively low enthusiasm for new projects:

- Planting hedges and trees (57%)
- Relaxing open space (33%)
- Create a wildlife nature area (46%)

The message seems to be to preserve what we have and leave well alone!

By far and away the overwhelming environmental issue for the village is the ever present danger of flooding. This can be seen as coming from three different sources;

- Localised flooding from drains and ditches
- Flash flooding from the

## Actions for consideration

- fields north of the B4084
- River flood water rising from the Avon and extending beyond its normal flood plain

Flooding from drains and ditches is predominantly an issue of good maintenance as the current systems can cope in all but the most extreme of circumstances. The maintenance of the underground flood drains is the responsibility of the Severn Trent Water Authority. The ditches should be maintained by the local landowners and their tenants, if appropriate. Since the major flood of 2007 there appears to be considerable improvement and the

Photo: Flooding in Main Street



## Housing and Development in Wick

Over the past twenty years there has been steady development of new properties in Wick, but not on the scale of the previous post war building, which replaced many older properties. Some of this development has not been without controversy, but in general the work has been viewed by the residents as in keeping with the character of the village and about the right quantity (50%). This work can generally be characterised as being either conversions of redundant farm buildings or a small amount of

College, whilst technically in the parish have always been viewed as a separate matter, but are passed through the Parish Council.

The survey specifically asked about new developments and there was no desire for any fundamental change to past policies but it is worth noting that 30% of respondents wanted no new building. There is no perceived need for new housing as the population of the village is relatively stable and there is unlikely to be any change to

Any future development would also have to take account of the capacity of existing infrastructure and services, which have never been thought through with regard for future needs. As developments have been small scale it has always been assumed that services were adequate.

Trying to locate maps for Mains Water, Foul Sewerage, Storm Water, Gas and Electricity from either Wychavon Council or the service provider has proved impossible.



Photo: Historic cottage in Main Street

*“Wick is set within an historic framework of roads, lanes, farm buildings, cottages and houses.”*

high quality individual infilling.

The work has all been carried in accordance with Local Authority Planning having regard for the building line and the requirements of the Wick Conservation Area. The Conservation area has recently been redrawn and shown in the attached map. Wick has been designated as “uncategorised” by Local Authority in dealing with the areas housing needs, this should mean that development will only occur if there is a perceived need from within the village.

Developments at Pershore

meet employment requirements. Indeed the overwhelming message was to keep Wick as the village it is.

This is not to say residents would be opposed to single developments along the existing lines, i.e. conversions of redundant farm buildings (50%), but not for any major works. Less than 5% of respondents wanted any large developments. The favoured use of any new buildings was widely spread but with a preference for homes for young people (30%) with no other category attracting over 25%.

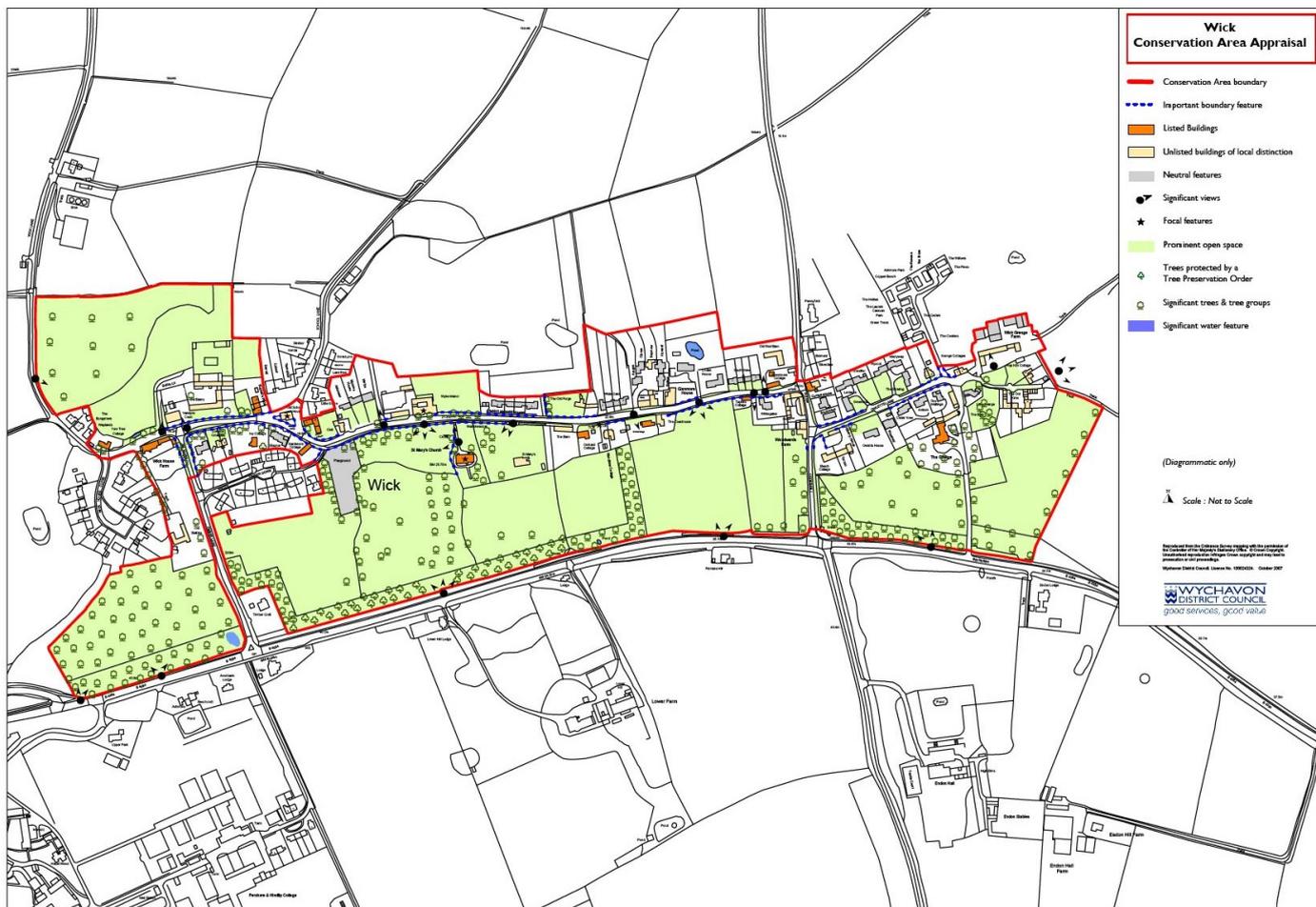
This puts the Parish Council in an impossible position on any significant planning application.

The situation below is based on empirical observations or local knowledge.

### Electricity

The supply is from two sources; the West comes from Pershore and the East from Crophorne, the division is at the Church. It should be feasible to link these lines and avoid the instances of power cuts in the village.

## Wick Conservation Area



### Gas

This is a recent addition to the village and was supplied on the provision that sufficient number of houses subscribed. It is assumed that there will be adequate capacity for future minor requirements.

### Water

This is provided by Severn Trent and is a spur off the Coventry Main running from Bredon Hill and crossing the Parish.

### Foul and Storm Water Sewerage

The foul sewer is a 150mm pipe running through the centre of the village to a pumping station by the main

road and Pershore Bridges. Here it is joined by pipes from Pensham and Pershore College. There is no knowledge of capacity, however with major residential expansion planned at the college this situation needs to be monitored.

The storm water sewer is thought to run under Owletts Lane and Main Street this then flows into the Village Ditch and across The Waylands to the river downstream of the wier. This has been the subject of flooding on several occasions, especially during the major flood of 2007, and the situation has been worsened by blocked pipes and ditches.

## Actions for consideration

- To encourage the Parish Council to continue with its work in the area and to report, via Notice Boards and Wick News, details of any potential developments.
- To press for more information regarding the capacity of services.

## Educational Opportunity for Wick Residents

Sadly Wick lost its school many years ago. However for families wishing to live in the village, there are two different paths parents can follow when deciding what is best for their children - State provision or Independent schooling.

Firstly, state provision is through the auspices of Worcestershire County Council Local Education Department. Basically it provides First Schools, Middle Schools and High Schools.

years. This is different from Evesham and Worcester. For most children, their educational progress is from Abbey Park First and Nursery School through Abbey Park Middle School to Pershore High School.

There are two other Primary Schools in Pershore – Cherry Orchard First School and Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Primary School. Cherry Orchard First School has a catchment which serves the area west and north of the High Street, in Pershore.

thorne, Elmley Castle, Pinvin, and Drakes Broughton – but no transport is provided by the Local Authority which includes Wick.

The Vale of Evesham Special School provides specialist education for children with special educational needs. It is located in Evesham to which a taxi service takes children.

It is best to visit the websites of each school to see what current educational opportunities are being offered.



Photo: Main Street

*“It is best to visit the websites of each school to assess educational opportunity.”*

Unfortunately the age of transfer between stages is not uniform across the county or even in the district. Thus although parental freedom of choice is claimed by government, it is unlikely that you will be able place your child anywhere other than Pershore without great inconvenience.

Wick comes under the ambit of Pershore. The age of change from First to Middle school is 9 years, and that for Middle to High School is 12

Holy Redeemer School - taking pupils from 4+ to 11 years - serves the whole district. It is a feeder school to Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College in Worcester.

“Pershore High School – A Technology College and Training School” is designated as a specialist school in technology. Its pupils are from 12 to 18 years.

Other First / Middle schools exist in local villages – Crop-

Also, a visit to the Schools OFSTED site will indicate the quality of education being offered and how recently it was inspected.

Transport to schools can be difficult. Worcester L E A charges parents for the bus provision for pupils. There are no convenient buses on regular routes that can be used.

The education provision by Independent Schools is such that Cheltenham, Malvern, Bromsgrove, Worcester and

## Educational Opportunity for Wick Residents ctd

Gloucester, which are within half an hour's journey, offer wide ranging opportunities that cater for all pockets, faiths and educational backgrounds. It is best to consult the various directories of independent schools for specific details. These can be viewed on-line or in the local library.

Photo: Playground



*“There was no great requirement for additional cycle ways.”*

## Transport and Footpaths

As would be expected the overwhelming majority of the village use a car as their main form of transport. However there is a significant minority that do not own a car and for whom the bus is a vital form of transport; 25 people use the bus at least once a week.

There is no perceived threat to this service and improvements would be welcomed with a more frequent service and smaller busses. It is important that this service is maintained at least at the current level.

There were few other serious

transport issues with few complaints about parking, blocked drives etc. the only parking issue is outside Wick Club which looks like being an intractable problem.

Speeding vehicles mainly are a problem in Owlets lane with contracting vehicles being responsible.

There is some enthusiasm for reducing the speed limit but not for speed humps, 60% against. Street lighting was equally unpopular with 61% against and 15% in favour. The responses were equally divided regarding the restric-

tion of heavy goods vehicles, reflecting the fact that those that do come into the village are here to deliver and not in transit.

There was no great requirement for additional cycle ways and both these and the footpaths were considered well signposted.

The condition of the roads was considered a major problem on both the roads leading into the core of the village and on other roads. This has been the subject of ongoing correspondence with the County