

The Lickey and Blackwell Parish Plan



by the community, for the community - the hopes, views and expectations of the parish residents for the next twenty years

A Brief History of Lickey & Blackwell

The Lickey Hills running from Rubery down to Barnt Green are the last line of hills stretching along the western side of the Midlands plateau and have a particular geology which has contributed to the distinctive character and topological history of the area.

In the first century the Romans built a road through this scrubland from Alcester via Bromsgrove and the Lickey Hills to Metchley Fort. It crossed over what is now the car park in front of Lickey Church Parish Hall before descending Rose Hill to the 'Lickey Gorge'. (Editor's note: could we excavate and mark this Roman road as an important historical resource?) With the later Anglo Saxon invasions came the clearance of land for settlement in a 'leah' or 'ley' (hence the 'Like-hey').

On the arrival of the Normans the hills became part of the Royal Manor of Bromsgrove while the woodland was put into the Royal Forest of Feckenham. The Domesday Book records that the Manor of Bromsgrove stretched to Kings Norton and included several 'petit' or small manors such as Chadwich and Bonehill (now Lickey Golf course). The manorial 'great courts' were held on the Lickey probably in an 'old enclosure' on Rose Hill (now the NASUWT residential centre). We still have at least one house in the parish, the Clock House in Twatling Road, with medieval foundations. Eventually, during the reign of Elizabeth I, the manor was divided between Bromsgrove and Kings Norton.

Evidence of the nineteenth century nail making industry, which was so important in this area, can still be seen in those cottages, which have survived, with the old workshop at the side where the whole family worked.

Transport has also made an impression in the parish, firstly with The Birmingham to Worcester Canal, with its feeder reservoirs at Bittell, opening in 1815 and secondly with

the construction of the Birmingham to Gloucester Railway. Surveyed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, from 1840 onwards this became the steepest incline in the country – the famous Lickey Incline – renowned for the extra engine, the 'Lickey Banker', necessary to help some trains on the up-line. At the summit of this 1 in 37.75 gradient was Blackwell Station, which closed some 125 years later, in 1965, due to the lack of use in this rural setting.

Birmingham and Worcester were now easy to reach from Lickey and Blackwell and our parish became home to prosperous industrial families like the Cadburys (chocolate), Oslers (glass), Mitchells (pens) and Brookes (saddles). Jennie McGregor-Smiths excellent little book 'Victorian Greenhill', summarised on www.lickeyandblackwellpc.org, describes the history of these jewels of nineteenth century architecture. David Lloyd-George spent a night at what is now 'The Uplands' in Greenhill after escaping from Birmingham Town Hall disguised as a policeman during a brick throwing demonstration against him! Schools and churches were built to serve the growing number of residents and Holy Trinity, Lickey is an example of good Victorian church architecture and stained glass work – well worth a visit.

Finally much of the Lickey Hills was acquired as open spaces for the general public through purchases by the City of Birmingham from landowners such as the Earls of Plymouth and by generous gifts from the Cadbury brothers. With the coming of buses and trams to Rednal the area became famous as the 'Brummies' Playground' together with the tea-shops, fairgrounds and seasonal bluebell walks.

Today this beautiful wooded area is designated as a Country Park and cared for and maintained for everybody by the city of Birmingham.

George Gascoyne

Lickey Hills Local History Society



The proposed Monument 1834

Contents:

A Brief History	2
Introductions	3
Why A Parish Plan?	4
Local Information	5
Local Democracy	6
Housing	7
Transport	8
Health	10
Education	11
Leisure & Recreation	12
Crime & Personal Safety	14
Road Safety	15
Local Economy	16
Waste Management	17
Environment	18
The Action Plan	20
Background & Reference	22
Acknowledgements	23

cover pictures:

the monument | kevin tudge & dave cash, parish cso's | the holy trinity church, lickey | toposcope, monument lane | st. catherines church | chris | the old rose and crown | joe hayden, lickey hills country park head ranger



Forewords

Residents of Lickey and Blackwell don't need to be reminded what a beautiful part of Britain they live in. One of the reasons for that is the active citizenship of the local people and this Parish Plan is a fine example.

It represents hard work, dedication, a love of community and care for the environment. In short it is a blue-print for how we keep Lickey and Blackwell as good to live in tomorrow as it is today.

It focuses on all the issues that matter – health, education, housing, transport, the economy, crime, leisure and the environment with an action plan as to how we take them forward.

My congratulations and thanks to all those who had an input.

Julie Kirkbride MP

As a member of the Steering Committee it has been an enormous privilege to have been involved in the compiling and production of the Lickey and Blackwell Parish Plan. The hard work, enthusiasm and dedication over the past 18 months of my fellow Steering Committee members has been incredible.

We all live in a very lovely part of the County and I hope that this Plan will be read and seen, by all the residents, as a way of keeping this, our environment, beautiful and at the same time, improving the quality of life of our residents. I can thoroughly commend this Plan to you.

Ann Doyle

Bromsgrove District Councillor, Hillside

The plan demonstrates clearly the benefit of bringing decision-making closer to the people who will be affected. The issues raised should be seen as opportunities, to respond to the needs of local people. The methodology carried out shows a healthy Parish Council and one with an appetite to not only encompass local needs but to action those needs.

Peter McDonald

Worcestershire County Councillor

The development of a Parish Plan for Lickey and Blackwell represents 14 years of a Parish Council working ever more closely with its residents.

The principle followed by the Council and its Councillors over the years has been that any contact with residents should be dealt with promptly and professionally and, where possible, by personal contact. This has allowed the development of a relationship between residents and the Council to be built up.

It took the Council many years to work up good and sound working procedures for its business, largely due to changes imposed by Government policy and it was just reward when the Council achieved the status of **Quality Parish** in 2005.

In turn, the confidence that award gave, prompted the decision to set up a Parish Plan working party.

It is probable that not all the proposals contained in the plan will be achieved, indeed some may be unachievable for whatever reasons.

Nevertheless, some will be seen to come to fruition to the benefit of the Parish and its residents.

I am confident that, whatever the challenges this Parish Plan presents, the Council will face them with professionalism and determination based on the work and experience already achieved.

Ron Brown

Past Chairman Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council



Why a Parish Plan?

In November 2000 the Government's Rural White Paper 'Our Countryside - The Future' launched the concept of parish plans to follow on from village design statements, which had been largely intended to guide the planning process. *The Lickey and Blackwell Village Design Statement* is a Supplementary Guidance Document (SPG 9) and as such is consulted by Bromsgrove District Council when building applications are made.

Why parish plans?

Parish Plans are written by local people for local people and form a parish's business plan for up to the next twenty years. They are an opportunity for everyone in the community to have a voice in the forward planning of their village on topics ranging from road safety to leisure amenities, from education to local democracy and from health access to housing requirements.

Into the Future

We could not pass by this opportunity to tell all our local service providers how Lickey and Blackwell wishes to develop in the next twenty years. Having established through a pilot survey that improvements to highways and transport, road safety and local leisure facilities were this parish's top priorities, the committee set to work and we have found it a stimulating and enjoyable task. In our Parish Plan we have included the views of the whole community as expressed in the replies to our household questionnaire, the two Fun Days, through visits to schools and at various open meetings.

In all, each of the 1652 households received a hand delivered folder and questionnaire and we were delighted that over 27% accepted our invitation to participate in their Parish Plan (further information on page 22).

We have been greatly encouraged by your interesting comments and the innovative suggestions. Whether you are a service provider, a councillor or a resident, we hope that you will enjoy reading this parish plan and will help us to use it as a business plan for the future of Lickey and Blackwell Parish.

An appreciation of our parish

In the process of writing this plan we have become increasingly aware of the rich variety of activities and local amenities, which we enjoy here. Whatever makes this area a good place to live, it is not simply the attractive houses and well maintained gardens, important though these are, but also the many community activities such as the village and school fetes, craft fairs, church festivals and coffee mornings, Christmas tree lighting events, pantomimes, our local shops and village halls, which provide good meeting places. The parks and recreation areas, the amazing number of local clubs and societies, and last but not least, the newsletters and website, which keep us informed about all these activities.

Community projects such as the High House Wood and Greenfield Bank restorations, the Trinity Garden, the **Best Front Garden Competition**, litter picking days, the new parish walks beginning soon, the fundraising activities of the Blackwell Wheelers and the Barnt Green Station Group bring people together as a community.

Thank you to everyone involved in organising and supporting these events, and to those who participated in this plan for the future, thus enhancing the communal life of our parish.

Janet E. King

Chairwoman

Lickey and Blackwell Parish Plan Steering Committee



Carol & John Torton, 'large garden' winners, 2006



The Lickey & Blackwell Design Statement and the Parish Plan ~ both produced to enhance the parish environment



1 Local Information

General news affecting the community was, surprisingly, the most requested information. The information contained on the Parish Plan Questionnaire sleeve was well received, with a typical view "A well presented questionnaire hand delivered to my door". The need for a broader range of information was expressed, with a comprehensive services directory and diary of local events being suggested. Details of the requested information can be seen in figure 1.

The Parish has a good broad network for local news dissemination, with potential for even further improvement, but respondents did feel a need for an improvement.

The survey has revealed that four out of five responding households like to receive information via The Village Magazine and the quarterly Parish Council Newsletter. The weekly local free newspapers also play an important part for around two-thirds of households.

Parish Council notice boards remain important and well kept, although used by less than one in five. Other parish

newspapers as well as church newsletters are supported by around one in eight. The use of local radio and proposed councillors' surgeries were favoured by less than 5%. The Parish Council Web site www.lickeyandblackwellpc.org received support from 15% of households and with the growing use of the internet should continue to attract an increasing interest. Some 76% of parish households have internet access, 54% amongst the elderly rising to over 90% amongst the young.



The Parish Council notice board by the Lickey PO

Parish Council Monthly Meetings, Church Activities, Fun Days, Coffee Mornings, Fetes, Doorstep Engagement, Best Front Garden Competitions and PACT Meetings (Partners and Communities Together) are used to encourage involvement in the community and disseminate information. Occasional Extraordinary Meetings by the Parish Council for major issues are well attended by residents.

Clearly, there appears a need for local information for the local community.

Fig1 percentage of households responding requesting local community information



Issues:

1 Availability of local information and services.

Actions:

- Possible Shepley ward notice board
- Promote a welcome information pack for new residents
- Promote use of Parish Council website

The Parish Council regularly posts a newsletter to every household and updates their website. They encourage residents to contribute and participate in the community by attending local meetings.



Some of the local publications of the parish



2 Local Democracy

In general, three-quarters of respondents feel that there has been an improvement in communication since they moved to the parish. However, as is commonly experienced, within the first 5 years of moving to an area this figure is lower at some 56%.

Overall, three-quarters feel that the Parish Council represents them adequately or well, with only 6%, (raising to 11% in Marlbrook), feeling that it represents them poorly. Around one in five of respondents expressed no opinion on this particular question.

In the parish 20% respondents feel that they have significant influence on local decision making, rising to 25% in Lickey where the Parish Council meets more frequently. These meetings are actively supported, providing a platform for public questioning on all relevant issues. This enables a pro active link for representation to the Local Council and other local organisations.

Information and involvement appear to be key factors for a sense of being part of the community. Some residents felt that issues which have created strong feelings in the past have generally been externally controlled, with the views and concerns of the residents being excluded or even ignored.



Polling Day, May 2007

The Parish Council has represented, informed and responded to these local concerns on such sensitive issues such as the siting of the Lickey mobile phone mast and the Marlbrook Landfill Site.

The questionnaire revealed that at least three-quarters of respondents feel they have little influence on the parish council decision making process. Whilst few residents have actually been to these meetings, all should be encouraged to attend and participate whenever possible. More information is available on the PC website, together with contact details on your parish councillor.

“I have been very pleased to take part in the parish plan questionnaire. We are very happy living here.”
residents comments

“Thank you for the opportunity to contribute [parish plan] to improving the locality.”
residents comments

Issues:

- Residents feel they have little influence on local decision making

Actions:

- Continue to actively promote Parish Council Meetings
- Promote better understanding of Parish Council responsibilities

All residents are encouraged to attend Parish Council monthly meetings and to offer their views during the public question times.

Short consultations are also available before each of the meetings.



To be more involved in the community and local decision making, do ensure you register to vote.



3 Housing

In order to identify the housing needs of the parish, residents were asked which types of housing they felt were most needed and how new housing stock should be provided in the future. Although 54% of respondents saw no need for any additional housing, those that did thought there was a need for affordable homes for first time buyers and small families. It was felt that people born in the parish should also be given consideration as many have left the area to find suitable accommodation.

As illustrated in figure 2, investment property features very low when an opinion is offered.

The results of the household survey indicates that 28% of all respondent households perceive redevelopment of brown field sites as the most appropriate way of providing new housing capacity in the parish. This trend appears to be consistent across the parish, although slightly higher from Lickey households. This may, in the future, result in more sub division of plots and is something the Parish Council would need to look at very closely.



Large house in the Shepley Ward

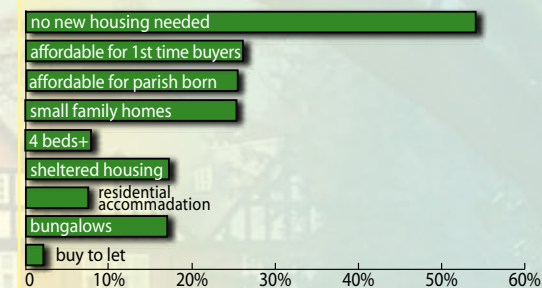
However, the Rover Longbridge site development, in the nearby parish of Cofton Hackett, could well address the need for these types of new housing including 35% affordable.

The graph in figure 3 below shows the preferred locations for future housing.

As might be expected, sheltered housing, residential accommodation and bungalows are regarded as more important amongst older households. Only 2% thought that buy to let and rented accommodation was needed in the parish. This suggests that future new housing be built to meet the needs of existing residents of the parish.

Respondents placed significant importance on the protection of our Green Belt and the least appropriate location for new housing, with the results suggesting the majority of parishioners would prefer to focus new housing on previously developed land.

Fig2 preferred housing types



“Greater thought should be given before back land development permission is given in back gardens.”
residents comments

Issues:

- 1 Retaining Green Belt
- 2 Provide affordable housing
- 3 Housing for the elderly

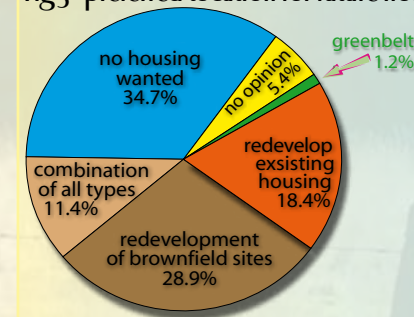
Actions:

- Lobby for retention
- Link with Longbridge development
- Housing survey
- Encourage suitable development

The protection of green belt sites, conservation areas and other potential conservation areas, is a major consideration in future development.

As are building issues after the present moratorium expires.

Fig3 preferred location for future housing



4 Transport

As in other similar rural areas, the use of the private car in this parish has been established as an important, if not the only, means of transport. Indeed, the Commission for Rural Communities acknowledges in 'The State of the Countryside 2005' that a high reliance on private transport was one of the characteristics of rural communities.

Our reliance on private transport in this parish appears to be linked to the high level of dissatisfaction with public transport provision. Not surprisingly then that one third of respondents considered transport to be the most important issue in the parish.

Just 7% of the 418 respondents consider public transport provision to be good or excellent. The most satisfied part of the parish is Marlbrook with 45% considering public transport to be good or average. Some 43% of respondents consider provision to be poor or very poor (raising to 51% in Blackwell). This reflects the findings of the Bromsgrove and District Community Plan 2003-2013, which aims to achieve a 33% increase for rural households to be within a ten minutes' walk of an hourly service by 2010.

Some 95% of journeys to work are made by car including only 2% shared use. A combined journey of car and public transport accounts for just 8% and only 2% of journeys to work are made by public transport alone. As many residents work outside the parish, this produces high levels of traffic on our parish roads.

As indicated by the chart on the right, in **figure 4**, some 53% of journeys to work are made by car including 8% combined with public transport. This heavy reliance on the private car to take children to school causes traffic and

parking problems, particularly for those residents living close to the schools (see Road Safety page). However, almost 20% regularly walk to school within the parish. Interestingly, walking was also favoured by many retired residents as an enjoyable and healthy option to other modes of transport but there are concerns about the state of repair of some of the footways in the parish.



The 202 bus dropping pupils at Lickey Hills School

Just 4% of journeys to access services are made by public transport against 80% by car. Interestingly, 88% of Lickey residents use a car, whilst in Marlbrook, with its bordering supermarket, 61% use a car and 54% are able to walk to the shop. Many are frustrated that buses cease to be available from early evening, with none whatsoever on Sundays. This lack of support for local residents affects work and social modes of transport, thereby promoting the car as the only viable way of addressing this problem.

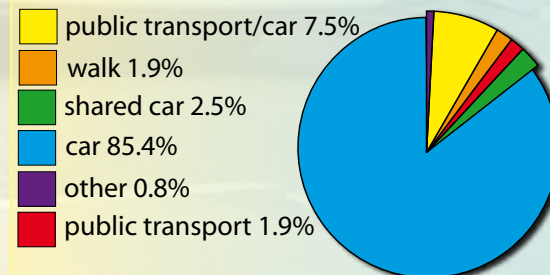
The most difficult services to access are the police stations (Rubery and Bromsgrove), youth and adult learning opportunities and hospitals. There is an excellent network of informal transport providers and a dozen people avail themselves of the local WRVS Rural Rides service. This service could be extended to provide a shopping service if a demand was shown.

Blackwell used to be a popular venue for cyclists and even boasted a café to provide meals. There are no cycle tracks running through the parish with most of our roads are too narrow for these to be considered.

The reopening of Blackwell Railway Station was important enough to 29% of respondents to be one of their top three priorities for improvements in the parish and

“As a retired person no longer driving, it is impossible to enjoy any evening or Sunday activities in Bromsgrove town centre eg concerts at the bandstand, as public transport ends after 7pm. And there is none on Sundays.”
residents comments

fig4 mode of transport used for work



4 Transport cont.

123 respondents requested better access to the rail stations. Some remarked that a return to this form of transport would also help in reducing CO2 emissions. Whilst the County Local Transport Plan 2, does not mention Blackwell Station, it is only in the long term that we might expect some development to take place. The recent large rise in rail users in the Bromsgrove area may be a cause for optimism.

The Parish Plan Questionnaire identified a real need for an improvement in public transport in the area and showed how this impacted on our dependence on the car for completing journeys, both locally and further afield. Associated traffic and parking problems were also a result of inadequate available services. With an improved local service and the promised free bus travel nationally for all seniors by 2008, this situation can be addressed.

“My children, who cannot drive, would like to be able to get buses to friends, to the shops and to Bromsgrove; so would I! The services are not well publicised or very regular.”

residents comments

“To reduce road traffic locally a reliable and regular bus service is needed.”

residents comments

“A bus service from Lickey to Birmingham would be useful or a bus from Lickey to a station on the cross city line eg Longbridge.”

residents comments

“I would like to see a safe footpath between Blackwell and Barnt Green.”

residents comments

Issues:

- 1 Dissatisfaction with the public transport service
- 2 High reliance on the car

Actions:

- Initiate talks to improve present services
- Investigate a possible Blackwell Station survey
- Promote existing car alternatives
- Monitor school transport plans
- Work with Bromsgrove District & Worcs. County Council's

The Parish wish to improve the lives of residents who need or prefer to use public transport, by seeking direct and regular routes is an important issue. This involves improvement to bus shelters and the provision of timetables at bus stops.

Bus services for the Lickey & Blackwell area



Additional schooldays only service 83 operates between: North & South Bromsgrove High Schools, Lickley End, Barnt Green, Alvechurch & Rowley Green to the Redditch area (and vice versa)



5 Health

The parish has a number of nursing homes but does not have any medical centres within its boundaries. Certain services are available in the adjacent parishes but parishioners must travel for treatment. Although the general level of health is higher than the county average in the parish, access to services is still an important issue for all. Indeed hospital access ranked second, after access to police services, in the overall concerns identified.

It appears that 93% of respondent households are dependent on their own car to reach medical support, with public transport at only 7%. There appears no viable alternative for households.

Of health facilities, the bar chart, figure 5, shows that 60% of households considered hospitals were the least accessible, with just under half finding access to dentists difficult and approximately a third of households found it difficult to reach shops selling affordable healthy food. There was no significant difference in the response of the different areas of the parish.



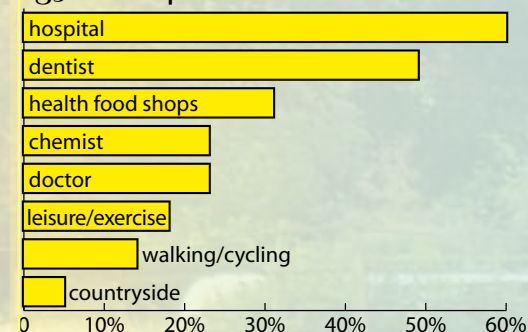
Green fields in Greenhill

Households were asked if a new local doctor's surgery was to be provided within the area whether they would continue to use their existing GP or would register at the new facility. Overall, two thirds of households said that they would remain with their existing GP but the proportion did vary across area ranging from 77% in Shepley/Barnt Green to 53% in Marlbrook. The difference may possibly because of the ease of access to the existing neighbouring surgeries varying across the parish.

The survey found that 35% of respondents would like local health information. Other responses suggested that in the longer term enhancement of general health and quality of life was also an issue that a number of parishioners would like addressing.

Access to health services, particularly to hospital services, is a major concern with most people dependent on the use of their own car.

fig 5 services perceived difficult to access



Issues:

1 Access to medical services, particularly hospitals

Actions:

- Ensure all options are publicised
- Provide information on health issues
- Support community hospital services

The Parish Council newsletter and website offers local information and articles principally relating to the parish.

This could be extended other topics, including health matters, if there was a need.



6 Education

A recent census shows that the population is typically well educated, with 34% of 16-74 year olds educated to degree level or higher; compared with under 20% across the county. Education is seen as a very important issue. Younger households (22%) specified a greater need for educational and training services in the area than older households at 16%. In addition, 30% of those responding to a question on leisure services would like better access to adult learning and evening classes.

Accessibility of education for under 11's is seen as good. In addition to pre-school groups, there are two primary schools, Blackwell First School and Lickey Hills Primary School, in the parish. However, older children are educated outside the parish where a wide range of state and private schools are available. Even so, some 11% would like to see better educational choices. Information on the transport needs and parking issues for the primary schools are covered in the Transport and Road Safety sections.



Blackwell First School

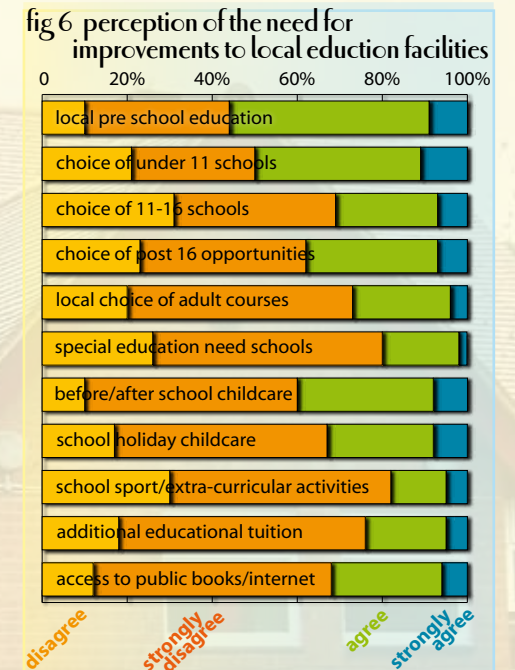
miles away.

Special Educational Needs schools and sport/extracurricular activities are the services most felt to need improvement.

Views were sought on a wide range of educational services offered. The results, figure 6 on the right, indicate that, with the exception of local pre-school education and the choice of pre 11 schools, the majority of households agree that these services require improvement, but offered no specific proposals for achieving this.

Special Educational Needs schools and sport/extracurricular activities are the two services which have the highest proportion of households, in fact four out of five, agreeing that they require improvement. The latter issue is also covered in the Leisure section.

On completion of their education approximately one fifth of children find employment within 10 miles of the parish, with around 37% finding employment over 50



Issues:

- 1 Special Educational Needs
- 2 Improvement of sport and extra-curricular activities

Actions:

- Promote available facilities
- Encourage additional facilities
- Improve access to adult learning and evening classes

The Parish Council offers support both local primary schools and gives sympathetic consideration to their small grant applications.

“These are exciting times for our school as the programme of refurbishment continues and major work to provide the dedicated school hall gets under way. This will allow us to provide our traditional village school approach in up to date facilities.”

Ian Howells
Blackwell First School Headteacher



7 Leisure & Recreation

Located in the north of the parish is the Lickey Hills Country Park, one of Birmingham's most popular recreational destinations for many years. To the south is the more rural village of Blackwell which also offers locals the opportunity to enjoy their leisure time. Both have village halls where groups can meet and functions can be held. Blackwell also has 'The Wheel', a small hall attached to St. Catherines Church, which is suitable for church meetings, WI and other local groups etc. Whilst these three venues are used extensively for parish activities, due to the age of the halls they are in need of renovation to bring them in line with modern requirements.

A wide range of interests is catered for in the parish including ~ golf, tennis, crown green bowling, keep fit classes, drama, camping facilities, craft fairs, WI, coffee mornings, nurseries, Scouting and Guide groups and a Youth Club. Additionally, the new sports hall at Hunters Hill Technology College will be made available to the community and the prospect of the proposed nine hole golf course at Marlbrook (presently the Marlbrook Landfill).

Whilst the parish does have two venues for Sunday luncheons in the form of The Rose and Crown Hotel and the Barnt Green Cricket Club (inside the parish),

44% of respondents did express a need for a "high quality and affordable restaurant". There are also tea rooms at the Warren Lane Visitors Centre and at the Lickey Duck Pond. This apparent shortfall in restaurant establishments is perhaps a reflection of the parish make-up; nevertheless there are many restaurants and pubs available within half a mile of the boundary. Another social venue is the Blackwell Social Club who run a programme of events for members.



The Toposcope, Beacon Hill

At 74%, a large number of residents felt they were unaware of all the facilities available. One in five specifically wanted to become involved in arts & crafts, and a similar number wishing for library and cultural activities. Adult learning and evening classes were requested by 30% of respondents which may be met by using existing facilities such as local schools and village halls. Cropwood House has an Information Technology facility which will be available to the community and will offer assistance to those who request it.

Surprisingly, 35% said they had never used the Lickey Hills Country Park, an area of some 524 acres, even though a substantial part is located in the parish. They organise a comprehensive range of activities throughout the year for all

“Village people expect to travel to access sport and education/health but this village has remarkably little by way of public facilities or evening transport. To compensate for an inadequate transport service, we really need to ask for better local facilities eg a children's play area within walking distance.”

residents comments



An excellent network of sign-posted parish pathways allows you to explore the countryside

“...need for children's play area in Blackwell, parent's of Blackwell School will help to get one installed.”

residents comments



7 Leisure & Recreation cont.

capabilities and interests at the Country Park, attracting the whole family to participate.

There are numerous footpaths and bridle ways crossing the parish which are managed by a dedicated parish Footpaths Officer. Many of our residents enjoy walking in the parish as a pastime and see this as a way to remain fit and healthy.

A recent initiative is the Story Corner used by Blackwell School in 'Jen's Place' Memorial Garden which is situated at the recreational ground in St. Catherine's Road. Lack of a suitable play area for the under 7's in Blackwell was highlighted, although this is currently under discussion.

Certainly the availability of information for participating in Leisure and Recreational pursuits has been a main feature for respondents. A play area for the young and the provision of adult evening classes were also an important considerations coming out of the questionnaire.

Issues:

- 1 Lack of information on local events
- 2 Play area in Blackwell
- 3 Adult/evening class availability

Actions:

- Regular calendar in parish newsletter and web site
- Liaise with Country Park
- Utilise parish notice boards
- Pursue early Blackwell playground lease settlement
- Investigate opportunities

“With an area of 524 acres, we have many species of plants, fungi, fern & mosses, and a relatively young wood to explore. We welcome everyone, particularly those in the parish, to the second most popular country park in the region.”

Joe Hayden
Head Ranger
Lickey Hills Country Park



The Lickey Hills Country Park map



Walks, events and local interest leaflets

The Parish Council maintain and improve recreational facilities throughout the parish including public footpaths and bridle-ways.

They work in forming partnerships with other organisations to meet these aims.



8 Crime & Personal Safety

The Parish is policed by the Bromsgrove Division of West Mercia Constabulary. There are two beat officers, one each for Lickey and Blackwell and four Community Support Officers (CSOs), two for each village, were appointed during the completion of this Parish Plan. Across the board, crime rates for the division are lower than the national average (www.crimestatistics.org.uk) and this appears to be reflected in responses of residents in the parish.

A positive return from 89% of respondents said they felt safe or very safe and this did not vary significantly by area within the parish, although there was variation by age of residents. In households with at least one person under the age of 19 years around 5% said they did not feel very safe, whilst in households with a person aged over 65 years this did increase three fold to over 15%.

The two main reasons for people's perception of insecurity are a lack of police presence and risk of burglary, possibly due to the lack of information regarding

actual crime levels. Reference was also made by respondents to the armed robberies at both parish Post Offices of recent times.

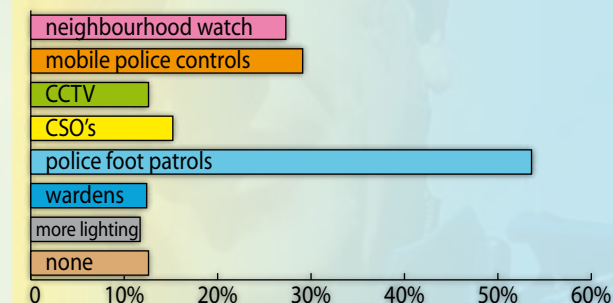
Two of the preferred methods to improve perception of personal safety, as shown in figure 7, are more police foot patrols requested by over 50% residents and an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch schemes by some 27%. It should be noted that around 90% of respondents to the question on Neighbourhood Watch said that they "would consider joining a scheme".



Kevin Tudge and Phil Cash, parish CSOs

In conclusion, the vast majority of residents feel safe living in the parish although the elderly would benefit from factual crime information to help alleviate possible insecurities and more police foot patrols. The majority of residents would welcome a Neighbourhood Watch initiative.

fig 7 preferred method of improving personal safety



“We fully understand the public wish for more visible policing. Since the CSOs were appointed some 18 months ago, there has been more crimes detected. We also attend PACT meetings which achieve an 84% success rate.”

Kevin Tudge
Community Support Officer



Issues:

- 1 Older households feel less safe than the young
- 2 Strong interest in Neighbourhood Watch
- 3 Lack of police presence

Actions:

- Communicate actual crime levels to reassure the public
- Liaise with Bromsgrove police to implement new schemes
- Maintain the increased police patrols

The Parish Council maintain links with the police through regular meetings and by receiving regular crime reports to be shared with the public.

All residents are encouraged to attend any local PACT meetings and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.



Many residents have shown interest in learning more about how the 'neighbourhood watch' scheme could help them



9 Road Safety

The parish has a network of local roads with one major road, the Old Birmingham Road (B4096), running through the middle of Lickey and Marlbrook acts as a main link to Birmingham, Bromsgrove and the motorway networks. Residents were asked their opinions on speeding, Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic and parking.

HGV's are considered a problem in the parish, with almost 75% of responding residents identifying Lickey and Marlbrook as the focus of concern. This is a reflection of through traffic on the Old Birmingham Road and the current movement patterns to and from the Marlbrook Landfill site.

Almost 75% of residents perceive speeding, as shown in figure 8, as a problem. By area, some 43% of residents in Lickey view the issue to be "a serious problem" as do 35% in the Sheply/Barnt Green area of the parish. Households were asked to comment on the appropriateness of a range of traffic calming measures with weight restrictions, speed indicators and improved road markings identified as the preferred

options (at around 80%), whilst chicanes, speed humps and speed traps were only favoured by around one third.

Parking problems in the parish are mainly confined to the two primary schools during the morning and afternoon. The Tesco store bordering Marlbrook whilst not actually in the parish, does have an impact on residents.



The proposed Monument 1834

Residents expressed concern at the state of the highways in the open question section. The general maintenance, particularly the repairing potholes were identified. Once again Alvechurch Highway and the HGV's visiting the Marlbrook Landfill site was mentioned.

The lack of footpaths in certain areas was also highlighted as a road safety issue in the open section of the questionnaire.

Problems of speeding, damage caused by HGV's, inconsiderate parking and poor road surfaces featured highly. The lack of footpaths in certain areas of the parish is also of concern.

Issues:

- 1 Speeding vehicles
- 2 HGV's, particularly on Old Birmingham Road
- 3 Inconsiderate parking
- 4 Poor state of roads and footpaths

Actions:

- Investigate traffic calming
- Adherence to assigned routes
- Liaise with local schools for possible solutions
- Approach to TESCO and Catshill & North Marlbrook PC
- Early repairs on problem areas

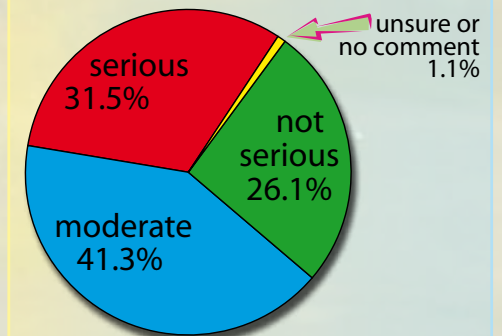
The Parish Council 'Highways Group' is actively seeking to identify solutions to these problems. They are working closely with the Highways Partnership and Police to implement improvements to curb inconsiderate parking, speeding and other traffic issues.

“Speeding and parking restrictions need to be enforced.”
residents comments



Joint winner 'Parish Plan Recreation, Leisure and Environment' competition - Joseph Ward of class 5hw, Lickey Hills Primary School

fig8 perception of parish speeding problems



10 Local Economy

Unlike many small villages, neither Lickey or Blackwell have a traditional village centre as such with a group of shops, pub or a restaurant. Likewise, because of the rural nature of the area there is no heavy industry, nor any likelihood of there being any in the future, due to lack of land for development or a suitable road infrastructure. As a result, the local post office, the petrol garage and the small Tesco store (located on the parish boundary) are very important to the community, especially for the older residents, being used by almost 20% of the respondent population. In addition to the adjacent village of Barnt Green, the local towns of Bromsgrove and Redditch were clearly identified as the most popular centres for weekly household shopping by 39% and 22% of households respectively, as they offer a good range of shops and services. They are also much closer than Birmingham or Worcester.

There is a demand for more local services to support the villages with the four most popular economic activities suggested being agriculture & local food production (63%), sport & leisure opportunities (42%), local arts & crafts

and food retail, both at 38%. In addition, 18% of the older households see a need for more financial and banking facilities as they are less keen to move to internet banking.

Employment opportunities in the area are very limited. The largest employer in the parish is NASUWT teachers union, followed by the various schools, nursing homes and shops spread across the parish. There are a growing number of people working from home and this is expected to rise dramatically over the next ten years.

Sports and leisure facilities such as the Lickey Hills Country Park and the Municipal Golf Course employ a small number of people (see the Leisure page). This lack of provision was a key issue for many people especially the younger and more active households.

Part of the charm of the parish is it's rural nature with no industry which is why the majority of residents choose to live here. However, part of the disadvantage is the necessity to travel to access many facilities.



Nick Byatt, Lickey Post Office and store



The head office of the 'National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers' - the largest employer in the parish.

Issues:

- 1 Additional shops & financial services (cash points)
- 2 A demand for more Arts and Crafts

Actions:

- Support and retain new and existing services
- Identify a location for possible cash point
- Publicise events

Whilst supporting suitable employment opportunities, every business planning application has to be treated on its merits.

It should be acknowledged that this is primarily a rural residential area and is unlikely to change.

“Smaller, affordable homes for older and single people, could be built to free up larger homes for families, this would enable these residents to remain in the area.”

residents comments



11 Waste Management

This area of parish life is seen as increasingly important, because of the raised awareness of the necessity for recycling and the general need to conserve energy resources. The County Council are instituting measures that address many of these growing problems.

From the results of the questionnaire it appears that there was an overall satisfaction rate of 83% of respondent households with the standard of waste collection in the parish. However, concerns were expressed regarding the disposal of furniture and other bulky household waste by a substantial 63%, disposal of thick cardboard by almost half and 20% regarding the disposal of plastic packaging, see figure 9.

A strong interest was shown in the way the disposal of household waste is handled, with production of energy from waste (67%) and kerb side recycling (21%) were seen as most important. The public tip at Romsley provides facilities for recycling for residents in the parish (using the supplied pass).

Issues:

- 1 Large item disposal
- 2 Lack of winter collection of green bins
- 3 Concern over hygiene for grey bins

Actions:

- Publicise Bromsgrove Council collection services
- Monitor reduced service & lobby for improvements
- Parish Newsletter and website to address concerns

Comments received indicated that there was concern that the 'grey bins' were only emptied once a fortnight and this was perceived to be a possible hygiene problem, especially during the summer period.

The 'green bins' for garden refuse were not being collected during the winter months. This was because of a "lack of demand" and "conservation of council resources" say Bromsgrove District Council. This, nevertheless, led to numerous complaints by a number of unsatisfied households in the parish, according to comments in the returned parish plan questionnaires.

Although many households were generally satisfied with how our waste is handled and the way recycling was conducted, there were, however, problems of disposal of larger items. Also, no regular year long collection of green bins and the assurance over potential health issues are a particular concern to many in the parish.

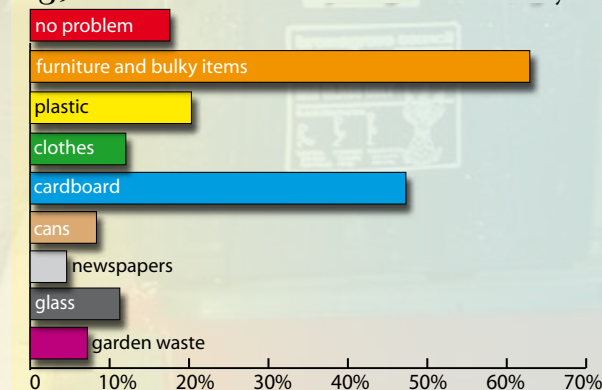


Recycling in the parish



Joint winner of the 'Parish Plan Recreation, Leisure and Environment' competition - Sarah of year 1, Lickey Hills Primary School

fig 9 materials that households find difficult to recycle



Along with the Bromsgrove District Council, Worcestershire County Council and other bodies, the Parish Council wish to improve recycling and waste management for the parish.



12 Environment

The Parish has the enviable reputation as an area of great natural beauty and much work has been, and will continue to be done, in the parish to preserve this. How many parishes can boast Muntjac deer, amongst the varied wild life, roaming our woods and back garden's? The awaited results of the parish biodiversity project will greatly help us to increase our knowledge of the many aspects of the Lickey Hills and surrounding areas which will be welcomed by all the groups involved in maintaining these high standards. See **figure 10** for a information on the types of habitat in the parish and **figure 11** for a detailed map.

However, there has been a tendency to urbanise the parish during the last few years with many householders preferring railings and fences rather than hedges. The loss of green gardens to concrete car parks has been noted and the parish tree warden is working to improve this situation with a programme of tree planting in public areas.

The Parish Council has planted thousands of bulbs and maintains a number of attractive planters, which

brighten up the villages and the annual Best Front Garden Competition encourages careful maintenance of private and public gardens.

Households identified three areas to improve the Ambience of the parish; with 72% of respondents regarding the maintenance of hedgerows and grass verges as important; the destruction caused by lorries delivering to Marlbrook Landfill (see Road Safety section); 41% requested the provision of more dog fouling bins, 37% the provision of more litter bins and better upkeep of flower baskets and trees by some 36%.



A splash of Bluebells in Blackwell

Other areas included the prompt removal of graffiti, the upkeep of open areas and monuments, and additional street furniture. Improved signage around the parish was also suggested by respondents for consideration.

From comments added to the questionnaire, two addressed important issues to many in the parish. The first of the excessive noise from the M42 motorway as blight



Joint winner of the 'Parish Plan Recreation, Leisure and Environment' competition - Danielle Davies, class 6JS, Lickey Hills Primary School



Although the parish suffers little from graffiti and illegal dumping, this was found within feet of the sign!

fig 10 parish habitat area km²

grassland	5.84
woodland	2.10
cropped/agriculture	0.39
wetland & ponds	0.0022
heathland	0.0021
total parish area	8.22

“The number of species of plants and animals that are at risk and in need of protection in the British Isles has doubled in the last decade. That is why the parish wildlife survey is so important. If WE don't care for the wildlife in own backyard, who will?”

Jill Harvey
Green Party



Environment cont.

upon much of Blackwell. Suggestions, including tree planting and fencing schemes adjacent to the motorway, plus the use of 'low-noise' road surfacing, were put forward as possible ways to alleviate this problem.

The second relates to the lack of adequate street lighting and the poor state of many footpaths and pavements, indeed, the lack of footpaths in many parts of the parish. This is both an environmental and safety issue (see Road Safety). The appointment of a 'Lengthsman' in 2006 will do much in resolving this particular issue.

Many now feel this subject should be at the fore when discussing the future and is linked to important recycling issues that we all now encounter each day. Indeed, this document has been printed on recycled paper, courtesy of a grant from the Lickey Hill Society, with all households in the parish receiving a CD version.

Hedgerows and verges to be kept in order, dog waste and litter bins to be increased and an improvement to lighting and the reduction of the level of motorway noise.

Issues:

- 1 Maintenance of hedgerows and verges
- 2 Additional litter & dog waste bins
- 3 M42 noise pollution

Actions:

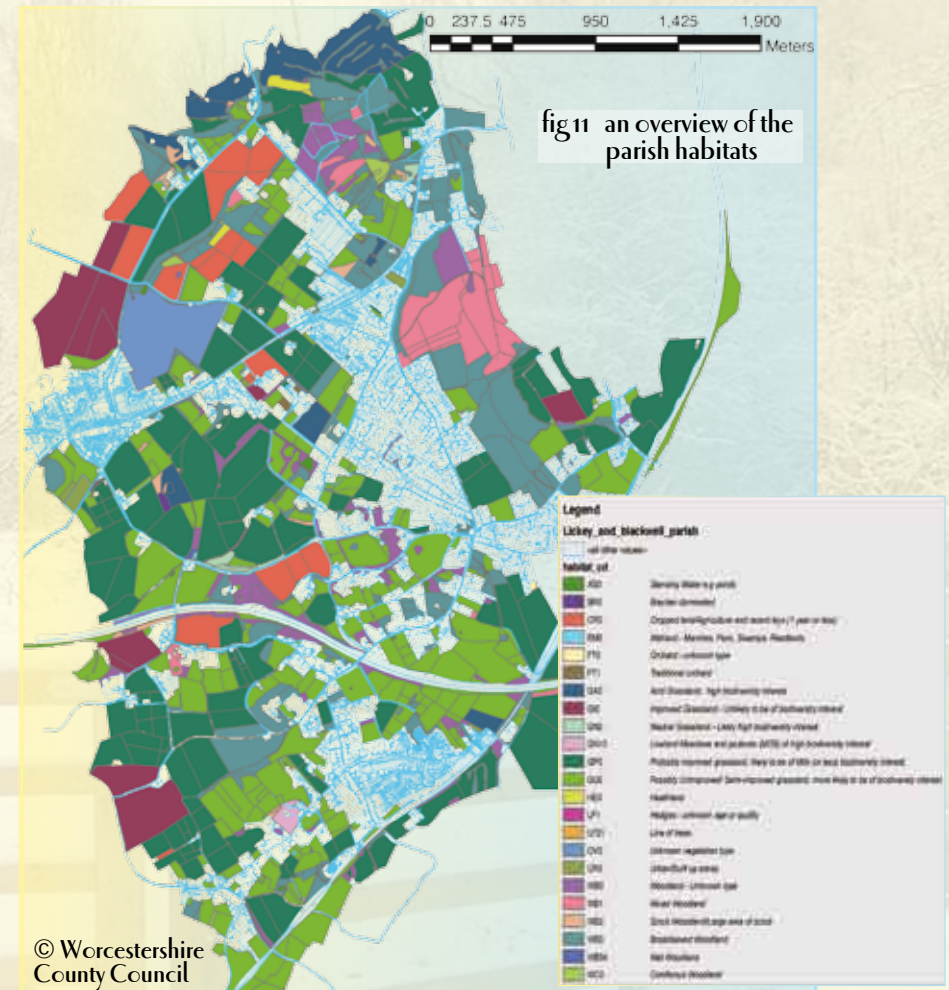
- Inform residents of their obligation
- Access provision
- Work with local residents' groups/approach Highways Agency

“Congratulations to the Parish Council for Quality Status and beautifying the area with scrubs and bulbs.”
residents comments

The Parish Council maintain hedgerows & verges and enhance the parish environment with planters, bulbs and trees.

A parish wildlife survey is currently under consideration.

The number and position number of dog waste and litter bins is being reviewed.



The Action Plan

ISSUE	ACTION	KEY PARTNER(S)	DATE	RESOURCES
1. Local Information				
1.1 Make information more accessible	a Consider provision of notice board in Shepley ward	Parish Council	2007/08	Parish Council budget
	b Promote a 'welcome pack' to new residents	Parish Council	6 months	Parish Council & possible sponsors
	c Publicise the Parish Council website	Parish Council	6 months	Parish council newsletter
2. Local Democracy				
2.1 Interaction between residents and PC	a Encourage attendance at monthly PC meetings	Parish Council	ongoing	Parish Council Newsletter and website
	b Provide a clear explanation of PC work	Parish Council	ongoing	Parish Council Newsletter and website
3. Housing				
3.1 Retention of the Green Belt	a Continue lobbying for the green belt	Residents and BDC	ongoing	Parish Council Strategy
3.2 Need for affordable housing	b PC to establish links with Longbridge developers	PC, BDC & developers	ongoing	PC and Bromsgrove District Council
	c Investigate the possibility of a local housing survey	Bromsgrove District Council	2008	Bromsgrove Council
4. Transport				
4.1 Improvement in public transport	a Enter talks on improving bus services	WCC and bus providers	2010	Worcestershire County Council and bus providers
	b Request local feasibility study on Blackwell Station	Network rail	2008	Worcestershire County Council, Network Rail & provider
	c Promote school travel plans	WCC School Transport Dept.	2010	Worcestershire County Council
4.2 Condition of all paths	d Improve the footpaths and footways network	PC & WCC Highways Partnership Unit	annual review	Worcestershire County Council
5. Health				
5.1 Access to medical services and hospitals	a Review and publicise existing options	PC and Primary Care Trust	ongoing	Parish Council
5.2 Provision of information on health issues	b Publicise health issues via 'PACT' meetings & website links	Parish Council and PACT	ongoing	Existing PC website & 'Partners and Community Together'
5.3 Support community hospital services	c Residents to lobby/resist further closures	Residents	ongoing	Residents
6. Education				
6.1 Special Educational Needs facilities	a Ensure available facilities are promoted & maintained	Residents and WCC Educational Dept.	ongoing	Worcestershire County Council Educational Dept.
6.2 Sport and extra-curricular activities	b Actively encourage use of existing facilities	Local schools	ongoing	WCC & Birmingham Educational Depts.
	c Improve access to adult learning and evening classes	Residents and WCC Educational Dept.	ongoing	Worcestershire County Council Educational Dept.



ISSUE	ACTION	KEY PARTNER(S)	DATE	RESOURCES
7. Leisure & Recreation				
7.1 Lack of information on local events	a Promote Parish Council newsletter/website b Enhance signage and publicity c Increase use of parish notice boards	Parish Council publicity group Lickey Hills Country Park Parish Council	ongoing 2007/08 ongoing	Existing Parish Council budget Birmingham Parks Existing facilities
7.2 Reinstatement of Blackwell play area	d Ensure suitable lease agreement	Parish Council, BDC and WCC	2007	Parish Council and BDC budget
7.3 Adult learning & evening classes provision	e Investigate options	LEA, schools and church	2008	Service providers
8. Crime and Personal Safety				
8.1 Strong interest in Neighbourhood Watch	a Establish meeting the NHW Co-ordinator	Residents, PC & NHW Co-ordinator	ongoing	West Mercia Constabulary
8.2 Older residents feeling less safe	b Encourage NHW scheme participation ~ as above c Provide figures and updates on crime d Publicise safety schemes and free personal alarms e Invite stated partners to attend monthly PC meetings	as above Parish Council & West Mercia Constabulary Age Concern & Community Safety Partnership Parish Council & West Mercia Constabulary	ongoing ongoing ongoing ongoing	as above Parish Council newsletter Age Concern and BDC funded Providers
8.3 Lack of Police presence	f Maintain presence of the 4 newly appointed CSO's	West Mercia Constabulary & local CSO's	ongoing	West Mercia Constabulary
9. Road Safety				
9.1 Speeding vehicles	a Improve local awareness & investigate traffic calming b Enforce traffic laws	Parish Council & West Mercia Constabulary West Mercia Constabulary	ongoing ongoing	West Mercia Constabulary West Mercia Constabulary
9.2 Problem Heavy Goods Vehicle's	c Residents to monitor agreed Landfill HGV route d Ensure running repairs & full reinstatement of roads	Residents, Parish Council and site owner Parish Council & WCC Highways Dept.	2009 ongoing/2009	Residents PC and Worcs County Council Highways Dept.
9.3 Parking problems near schools and store	e Liaise with local schools to identify possible solution f Enforce parking laws	Parents, Parish Council and schools Police, store owner & local PC	ongoing ongoing	West Mercia Constabulary and TESCO
9.4 Road maintainance	g Improve reporting and increase efficiency of repair	Residents, PC & WCC Highways Part. Unit	ongoing	PC newsletter/website and Worcs County Council
10. Local Economy				
10.1 Need for additional shops/ATM	a Support suitable applications b Identify potential ATM cash dispenser location c Investigate a possible Blackwell mobile Post Office	Parish Council Parish Council and retail outlet The Post Office	ongoing ongoing 6 months	Parish Council strategy Bank funded Post Office
11. Waste Management				
11.1 Large item disposal	a Publicise existing services	'Mission Possible' and other schemes	available now	Worcestershire County and Bromsgrove District Council's
11.2 Continuous collections of green bins	b Lobby for regular collection throughout the year	Residents and Parish Council	ongoing	Bromsgrove District Council
11.3 Health issues concerning grey bins	c Seek assurances that no health risks exist	Bromsgrove District Council	2007	Bromsgrove District Council
12. Environment				
12.1 Maintenance of hedgerows and verges	a Inform residents of their obligations	Parish Council	ongoing	Parish Council and Lengthsman
12.2 Requirement for more litter/dog bins	b Assess present provision and location	PC and Bromsgrove District Council	2007	Bromsgrove District Council
12.3 M42 noise pollution	c Review of position	Parish Council and other local PC's	ongoing	Parish Councils'



Background & Reference

The parish map on the back cover shows that the parish has four wards, namely Linthurst, Shepley, Lickey Monument and Lickey Grange. However, residents do not always use the official ward names in their day to day conversations and they are often referred to as Blackwell, Barnt Green, Lickey and Marlbrook.

In the initial data analysis the latter names were used but in the text of this plan Shepley/Barnt Green is used to make it clear that the information does not refer to the neighbouring Barnt Green parish.

The questionnaire was distributed to all 1652 households in the parish in April 2006 following extensive research. A total of 429 questionnaires were returned by the end of May 2006, a household response rate of 27.4%, which represents 1019 residents and is equivalent to around 25.3% of the total parish population. The distribution of returned questionnaire responses can be seen in figure 12

Such a pattern of response provides sufficient sample sizes to enable comparisons of results to be made between different parts of the parish and between different household

structures. Response rates did vary from question to question but the reasons for this have not been investigated.

Retired people (16% of households according to Census 2001) are over represented with 27% of the responses in the parish plan survey, and there is an under representation amongst full and self employed residents. Such a response profile is not regarded as unusual given that the retired are more likely to make time available to complete such a survey.



Julie, Katherine & Brian at the Lickey Fun Day

Overall there appears to be a sound representation from all age groups within the survey and the comparisons described above suggest that the cross section of ages represented in the survey are representative of the whole parish population. Although the majority of respondents had resided in the parish for 11-25 years (42%), the remainder, whether for a longer or shorter period of time, were adequately represented.

For those wishing to learn more about the responses received and view the full analysed data, we have included a comprehensive copy on the CD version of the Parish Plan with other material relating to the parish.

fig 12 responses received by area

Blackwell	156	36.3%
Barnt Green	95	22.1%
Lickey	112	26.1%
Marlbrook	58	13.5%
None Specified	8	2.0%

Useful websites:

Bromsgrove District Council	.....	bromsgrove.whub.org.uk
Government carbon calculator	.....	actonco2.gov.uk
The Holy Trinity Church, Lickey	.....	lickeychurch.com
Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council	.....	lickeyandblackwellpc.org
Lickey and Blackwell Parish Plan	.....	theparishplan.org.uk
Lickey Hills Country Park	.....	birmingham.gov.uk/lickeyhills
Lickey Hills Local History Society	.....	lhls.org.uk
Lickey Hills Society	.....	lhs.org.uk
The Village Magazine	.....	villageonline.co.uk

Parish Plan, Janet King, Chairwoman	0121 445 2802
1st Lickey Scouts, Cubs & Beavers	0121 445 2339
Age Concern	01527 871 840
Alexandra Hospital, Redditch	01527 503 030
Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove	01527 577 330
Avoncroft Arts Society, Bromsgrove	01527 833 828
Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings	01527 831 363
Blackwell & Burcot WI	0121 445 5868
Blackwell First School	0121 445 1622
Blackwell School Village Fete	0121 445 1622
Blackwell Social Club	0121 445 5076
The Blue Cross, Pet Charity, Bromsgrove	0121 453 3130
Bromsgrove District Council	01527 873 232
Bromsgrove Arts Alive	01527 874 136
Bromsgrove Museum & Tourist Information	01527 831 809
Citizens Advice Bureau, Bromsgrove	01527 831 480
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Dolphin Leisure Centre, Bromsgrove	01527 881 720
Holy Trinity Church, Lickey and	
St. Cathennes Church, Blackwell	0121 445 1425
Hunters Hill Technology College	0121 445 1320
Lickey & Blackwell Parish Council Exec Officer	0121 445 5788
Lickey Community Group	0121 445 5525
Lickey Guides	0121 445 4501
Lickey Hills Art Society	0121 694 8712
Lickey Hills Country Park	0121 447 7106
Lickey Hills Local History Society	0121 453 6320
Lickey Hills Primary School	0121 445 1992
Lickey Hills Society	0121 624 9464
Lickey WI	0121 445 1872
NSPCC, Worcester	01905 617 975
Neighbourhood Watch	01527 586 253
Police Station, Rubery	08457 444 888
Princess of Wales Hospital, Bromsgrove	01527 488 031
Public Transport information	0870 608 2608
Rural Rides	0121 447 7430
Samaritans, Worcester	08457 909 090
St. Catherine's WI	0121 445 4336
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	01527 874 011

Emergency: Water: 0800 783 4444 Gas: 0800 111 999
Electric: 0800 328 1111



Acknowledgements

An end or a beginning?

From the initial suggestion of a Parish Plan and with volunteers from the community establishing the Steering Committee, the support and assistance offered whenever it was sought was generously given. Needless to say (which means we will anyway), there are quite a few individuals and groups which we need to point the finger at and offer our heart felt thanks. Each one of us went through a very interesting learning curve as we felt our way through the various stages ~ identifying the topics, drafting a questionnaire, re-drafting following sample returns, producing the folder and finally analysing the data and producing your finished Parish Plan.

The journey

This thirst for knowledge began in earnest one cold autumnal December evening in 2005, when we gathered in The Wheel, St. Catherines Church, Blackwell. Meetings with public bodies and experiences shared by those that had gone before, particularly Gill Lungley of Alvechurch PP, all helped in our direction and focus. On this perilous quest, we consulted the parish residents, held 'fun days' and invited interested parties to be involved.

A twenty year plan...

What we eventually arrived at is this document you are looking at ~ either in print or via a screen. The clever bit was deciding what goes in and what was a distraction ~ very much a joint decision, so we can all share the blame!



Principal members of the steering committee

We do sincerely trust that you will enjoy the contents and derive useful information from it's pages. We also hope that the majority, if not all, the issues and actions identified will eventually be met. Having contributed our time, effort and talents freely over the last 22 months, many on the committee have either vowed to retire gracefully or have gone on to joining the Parish Council. All have greatly benefited by this community achievement.

Certainly one thing's for sure ~ we all now know a lot more about the unique parish we are fortunate to live in. And glad of it.

The Lickey & Blackwell Parish Plan Steering Committee

Principal members: Janet King/chair, Judith Brierley/vice chair, Lesley Stanhope secretary, Andrew Gardner/treasurer, Keith Woolford/publicity & design, Hugh Evans, Maragret Hanrahan, Ann Doyle, Katherine Crockett and Mike Kesterton

We pleased to acknowledge the generous funding of the Parish Plan from:
Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council,
Lickey Hills Society,
Defra
and the Big Lottery Fund (Awards For All)

Our thanks to:

Julie Kirkbride, MP
Ron Brown, former Chairman Lickey and Blackwell PC
Neil McDonald, Questionnaire Analyst
Paul Crysell and Mike Dumphy, Planning Dept. and Andy Coël, Strategic Housing Dept., Bromsgrove District Council
Ron Brown, former Chairman Lickey and Blackwell PC
Judith Casey, EO Lickey and Blackwell PC
Allison Cross, WRVS Rural Rides
Mel Clarke, Neighbourhood Watch
Sergeant Nick Husbands, PCs Jayne Willetts and Tanya Grey, West Mercia Constabulary
Margaret Taylor and Brian Fuller, former Bromsgrove District Councillors
Dan Harrison, Bromsgrove Advertiser
Phil Vincent and Rose Parker, Bio-Diversity Project, Simon Hartley, Sustainability Officer, Andy Galligan, David Balme and Marcus Seale, Transport Dept., Worcestershire County Council
Ian Howells, Blackwell First School
Stephen Wallin, Lickey Hills Primary School
Ken Lewis, Hunters Hill Technology College
Gill Lungley, former Executive Officer, Alvechurch PC
Joe Hayden, Chief Ranger, Lickey Hills Country Park
George Gascoyne, Lickey Hills Local History Society
Blackwell Concert Band, Bromsgrove
Rev. Philip Swan
Linda Cogzell, Diane Malley and Jennie McGregor-Smith
and many other contributors
Finally, thank you to all our residents who completed the questionnaires and for their interesting comments.

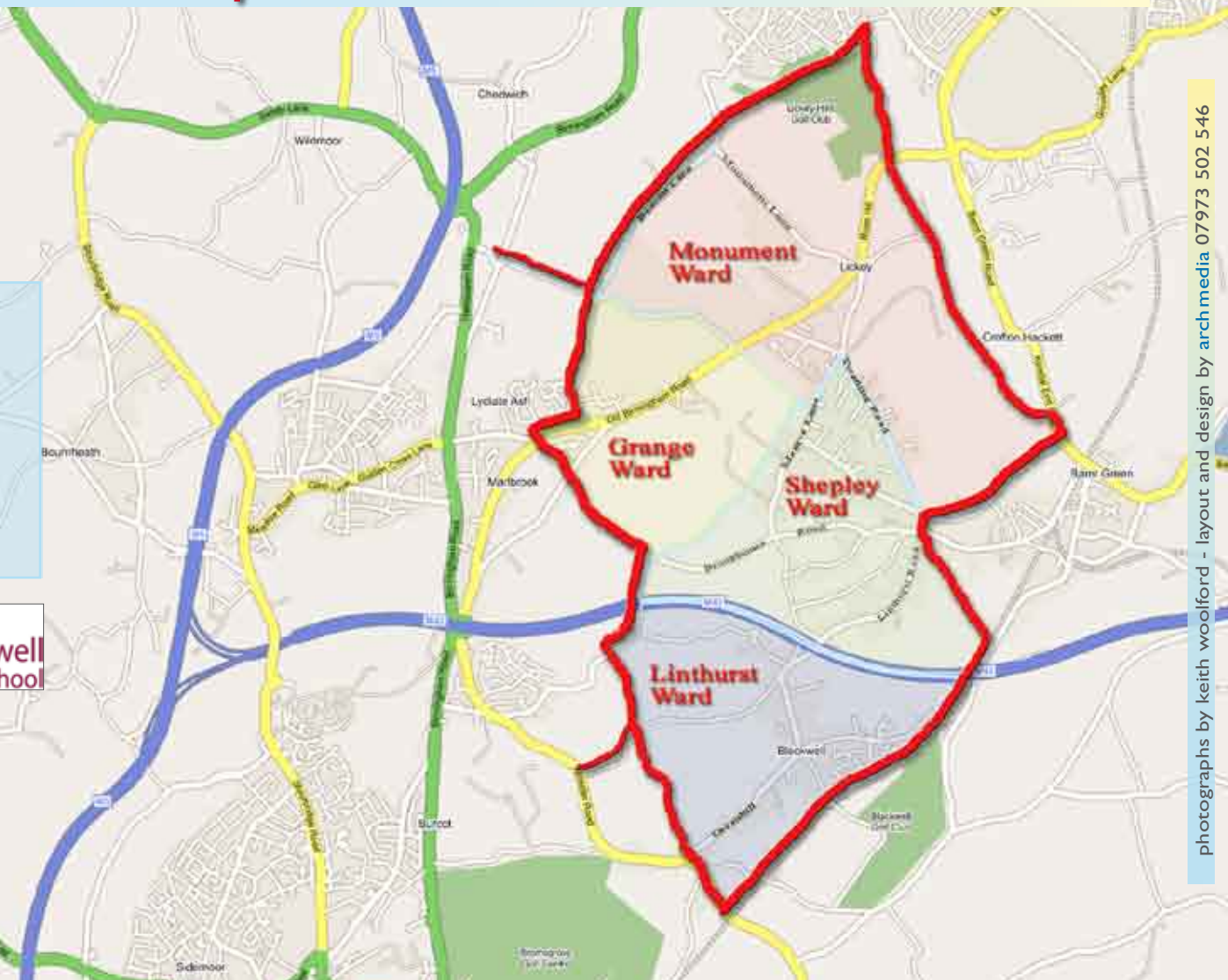


The Lickey & Blackwell Parish Map

The Lickey and Blackwell Parish Plan is supported by
The Big Lottery Fund (Awards For All)
Blackwell First School
Defra

The Holy Trinity Church, Lickey
Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council
Lickey Hills Local History Society
Lickey Hills Primary School
Lickey Hills Society

No reproduction without prior permission
Lickey and Blackwell Parish Plan Steering Committee
Copyright 2007 ©
printed on recycled paper



photographs by keith woolford - layout and design by archmedia 07973 502 546



The Lickey and Blackwell Parish Plan

weathervane | high house wood in winter | the clock house | newly restored horse trough crown | the lickey cross | duck pond | late evening, beacon lane | reverend philip swan & parishioners