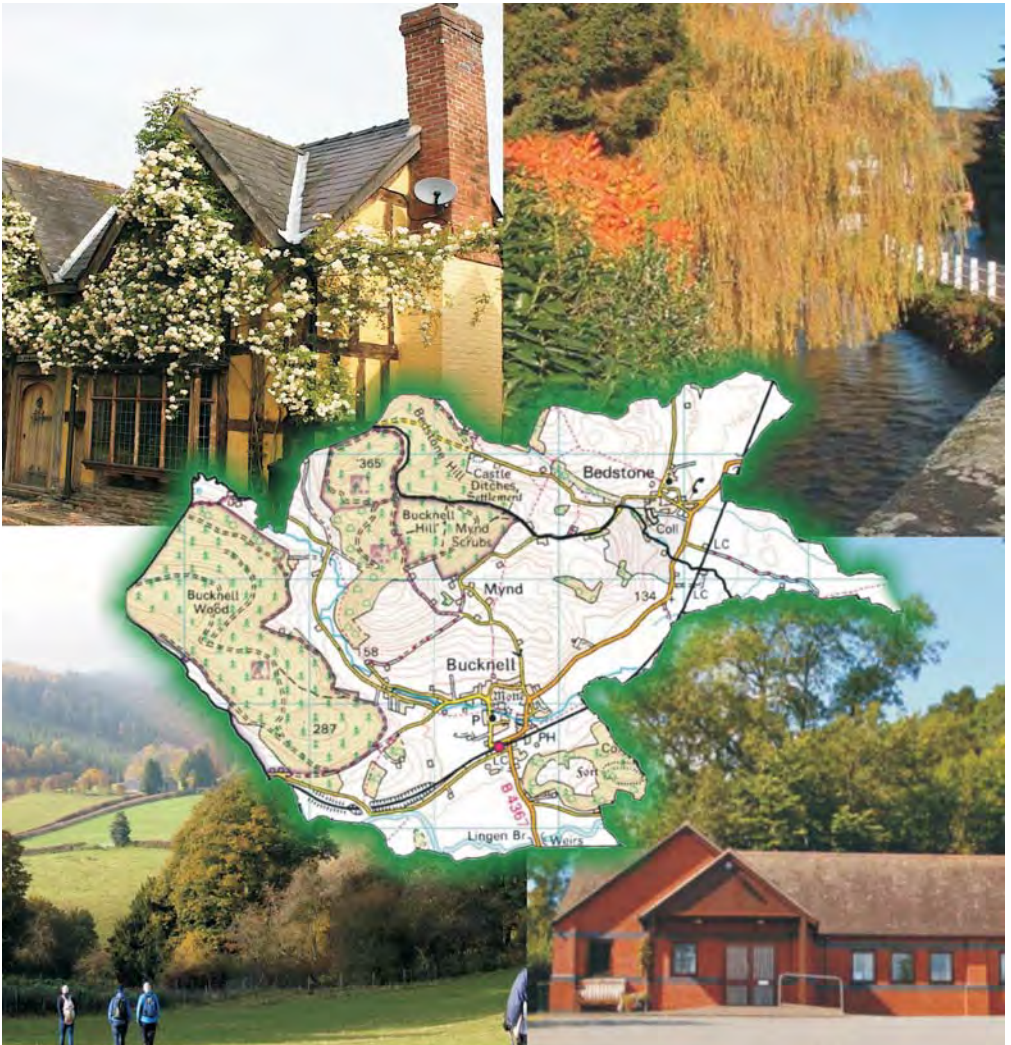


BEDSTONE & BUCKNELL PARISH PLAN





Dear Resident,

We are pleased to enclose your copy of the Parish Plan. We hope you enjoy reading it, and will value it.

This document is the result of a great deal of work by the Steering Group, and is based on two surveys of the villages, one carried out by the (then) South Shropshire District Council and the other by the Steering Group, together with information collected by interviews.

This plan presents the collected views of residents of Bedstone and Bucknell on a variety of issues and challenges. Of course, any survey and plan based on it can only reflect views held in common by many people. There will inevitably be those who will not agree with some or all of the conclusions here. Views also change with time and circumstances. The Steering Group hope that there will be a follow-up exercise in 3 – 5 years to ensure that the plan reflects any change of opinions.

This is a difficult time for everyone, and not a good point to express desire for improvements and developments. Nevertheless it is to be hoped that the Parish Plan will achieve its aim of informing all concerned with the future of our parish – Parish Council, Shropshire Council and government – of the collected views of residents.

The Steering Group would like to thank many people for their assistance in producing this plan – all residents who completed the surveys, pupils at St. Mary's and Ludlow Schools for their views in interviews, and the Parish Council for their indulgence.

The Parish Plan Steering Group

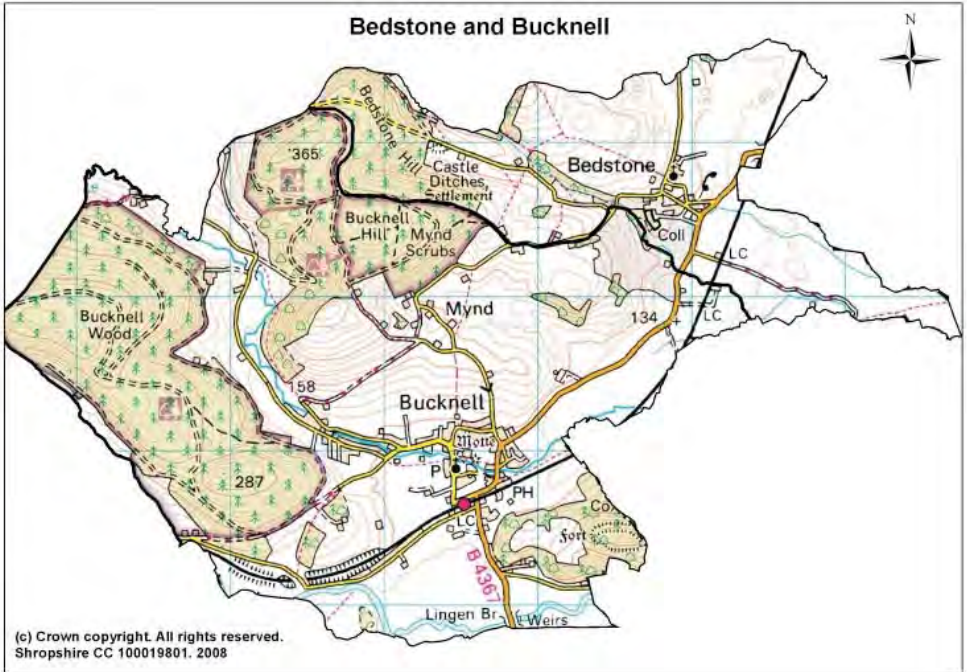
CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| HISTORY - BEDSTONE | 4 |
| HISTORY - BUCKNELL | 5 |
| THE PARISH PLAN | 6 |
| ENVIRONMENT | 8 |
| POLICING IN THE PARISH | 11 |
| TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY | 12 |
| HOUSING | 14 |
| AMENITIES | 15 |
| COMMUNICATIONS | 15 |
| COMMUNITY FACILITIES | 17 |
| CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE | 19 |
| EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING | 21 |
| GENERAL SUMMARY | 21 |
| ANNEXE | 22 |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS | 23 |
| CONTACTS | 24 |



INTRODUCTION

The parish of Bedstone and Bucknell lies in south west Shropshire in the Teme Valley and borders Herefordshire and Powys. It is 9 miles from Craven Arms and 13 miles from Ludlow.



Bedstone & Bucknell Parish Map

The Parish comprises the small village of Bedstone, which is dominated by the buildings of Bedstone College and its estate, and the larger village of Bucknell which straddles the River Redlake and is surrounded by steep, conifer-clad hills. The villages include black and white cottages with thatched roofs, some more modern developments in Bucknell and some older, substantial houses. The archetypal patchwork of fields that surround the villages are mostly grazed by sheep.

Situated on the edge of a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Parish provides an ideal base for walking, cycling, bird watching and fishing and is attractive for anyone seeking peace and tranquillity. The hill, valley and forest tracks enable walkers to view a wide diversity of landscape and wildlife.

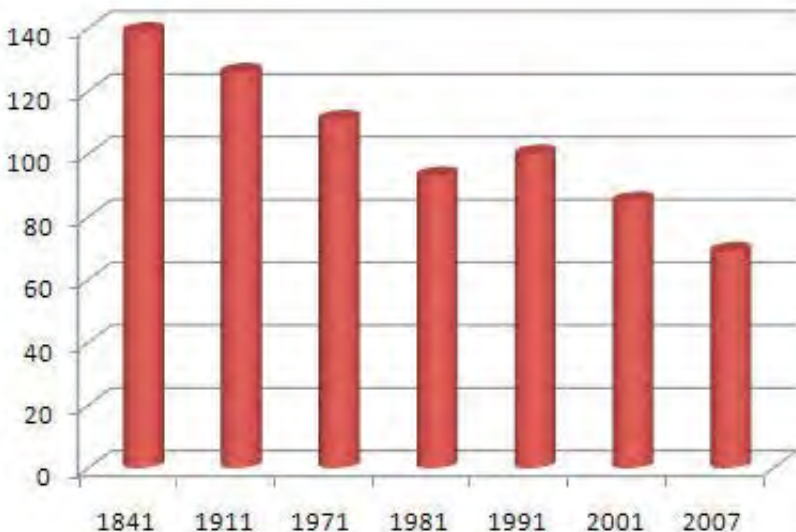
HISTORY - BEDSTONE

At the time of the Domesday Book Bedstone was known as 'Betieteune'. There was a chapel erected at the time of Edward the Confessor. The present church, St Mary's, is a small Norman church having a Saxon font.

The village is noted for two outstanding houses - Manor Farm, an H-shaped timber framed building built in 1775 (although the original farmhouse was built about 1350) and Bedstone Court designed by Thomas Harris and built around 1884 for Sir Henry Ripley, originally Member of Parliament for Bradford. The Ripleys moved to Bedstone from Yorkshire in 1870. Bedstone Court is a calendar house with 365 windows. It was one of the first in the area to have electricity. Since 1948 the house has been an independent co-educational boarding and day school, Bedstone College. Today it takes pupils between the ages of 3 and 18 from all over the world.

In former days Bedstone had an estate saw-yard, a wheelwright and a blacksmith. From 1750 to 1947 there was also a village school which is now a private house.

The village of Bedstone is very small with a population of 69 (2007 ONS).



Bedstone Population

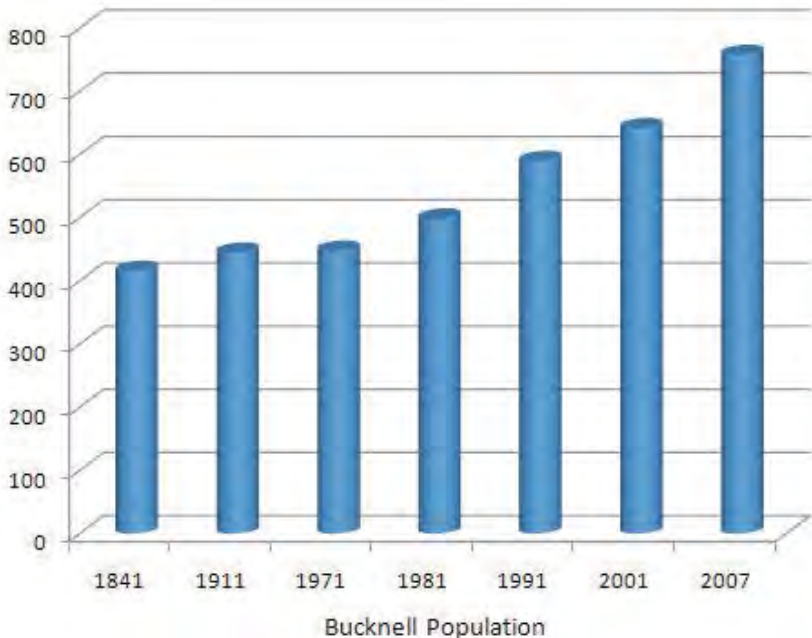
HISTORY - BUCKNELL

Although the remains of an Iron Age fort exists on nearby Coxall Knoll, Bucknell's first recorded existence is in the Domesday Book where it is referred to as 'Buckenhole' and 'Buckenhill', possibly meaning "Bucca's Hill". Described as 'waste' in 1086 with land for six ploughs and one league of woodland, it was held by Ralph de Mortimer, member of a powerful Norman family. There are traces of a Norman motte castle on the north bank of the River Redlake. The earliest part of the present parish church dates from around 1140.

The village depended on agriculture and the timber industry and the population grew slowly but steadily over the years.

The coming of the railway in 1861 and the construction of the Birmingham Water Pipeline in the 1890s brought many temporary workers to Bucknell. The village was only connected to the national electricity grid in 1948. In 1994, the oldest part of Bucknell was designated a conservation area.

Today the village has a population of 758 (2007 ONS) with a number of small businesses in addition to agriculture.



THE PARISH PLAN

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a statement of how a community sees itself developing over the next few years. It:

- ★ reflects the views of all sections of the community;
- ★ highlights what people value;
- ★ identifies local problems and opportunities;
- ★ spells out how residents want the community to develop in the future;
- ★ prepares a plan of action to achieve this vision.

Parish Plans are about action as well as ideas and opinions.

The Parish Plan will be a valuable source of information and direction for our Parish Council, who are our elected representatives.

Why do we want one?

There are a number of reasons why it is important for Bedstone and Bucknell to have a Parish Plan:

- ★ the process of producing it gives everyone a chance to have their say;
- ★ it can celebrate all the good things about our Parish;
- ★ Parish Plans are very much a part of government thinking - if you don't have one, officials wonder why;
- ★ it is valuable when making bids (e.g. for the Village Hall);
- ★ it provides an agenda for action for the Parish Council and the community in general.

What we have now

Both the villages that feature in this Parish Plan are well integrated with a strong sense of community. This is fostered by firm local links among families who have lived here for generations. These families have over the years been joined by others attracted by a positive local atmosphere coupled with beautiful surroundings. No one wants to see these qualities jeopardised.

All residents greatly prize the existing facilities on offer. These include a regular, reasonably frequent bus service linking the two villages to Ludlow

and Knighton; a rail service (the Heart of Wales line); two village halls; and in Bucknell two shops, a butchers, a post office, two pubs, a primary school, a vehicle service and repair workshop and a garage. All were rated highly in the Parish Plan Questionnaire carried out in 2009. This followed an earlier exercise, a Local Scrutiny, done by the then South Shropshire District Council in 2006.

Among the businesses in the Parish are a timber yard and sawmill, a plant nursery, car repair workshop, roofing fabricator, trailer maker and several places offering bed and breakfast. Additionally, there are a number of people running small businesses from home.

There are a considerable number of voluntary groups including a playgroup, a football team, branches of the Women's Institute in both villages, a skittles club, a walking group, a Good Neighbours scheme, a parish paths group, activity groups, and the Mothers' Union. Knighton and District Rotary Club meets in Bucknell.

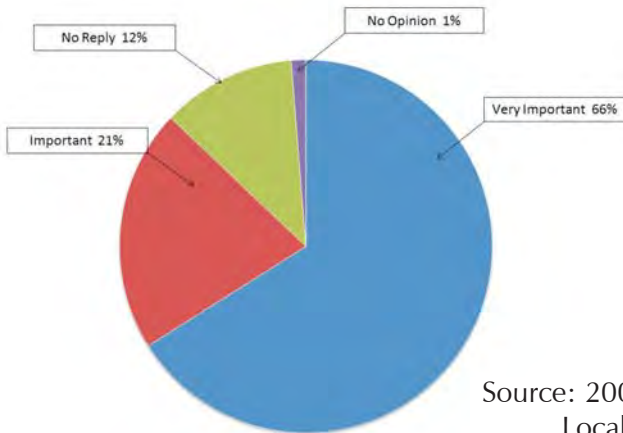
In the narratives below, (LS) refers to the 2006 Local Scrutiny, (PPQ) refers to the 2009 Parish Plan Questionnaire.



ENVIRONMENT

Learning from local people

In both the 2006 and 2009 surveys, environmental issues were commented on with 87% of respondents (LS) saying that they considered the local environment in Bucknell to be either very important or important to them (see chart below). Issues raised included footpaths, pollution, lighting, flooding, dog fouling and litter.



Source: 2006 Bucknell Community Local Scrutiny Questionnaire

Chart - How important do you consider the local environment in Bucknell?

Landscape

Residents say they like the rural feel and character of the Parish and believe that this and the beautiful open countryside should be preserved and not spoilt. Indeed, whilst not asked any specific environmental questions in the separate questionnaire sent to them, even young people mentioned the very pretty, green countryside, the green open space and the peacefulness of the villages, that it is very calming and relaxing and that they would hate to see them grow any bigger. 51% (LS) respondents wanted the landscape conserved and enhanced and 50% (LS) wanted habitats to be created and improved. The Forestry Commission are in the process of reviewing their plantations and, where appropriate, are replacing the conifers with broadleaved trees.

"The character and peace of the village needs to be preserved for everyone" (PPQ)

Heritage

Heritage is very important to local people and cannot be replaced. As noted above part of Bucknell is a Conservation Area and more protection was requested for ancient buildings and barns: they should not be allowed to fall into disrepair.

Footpaths

56% (LS) respondents wanted the rights of way to be maintained. Since this questionnaire, there has been an improvement in signage and new kissing gates and stiles have been installed. There is a P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) voluntary team in the parish and members regularly walk, monitor and maintain the footpaths and rights of way. Bucknell residents are concerned that in some parts of the village, pedestrians have to walk in the road contending with speeding vehicles, so pavements and additional footpaths are suggested. There were also suggestions for a replacement footbridge over the River Teme towards Heartsease, an improved footbridge beside the ford near Bridgend Lane, dog friendly stiles and improved accessibility for disabled people, pushchairs and the elderly.

Rivers

Local people expressed concern over the poor maintenance of the River Redlake and its susceptibility to flooding. However, others were opposed to change including altering its flow. They preferred the more natural feel of the river which encourages wildlife such as kingfishers and otters.

Nuisance and rubbish

68% (LS) respondents wanted a reduction in littering and dog fouling. A team of residents now regularly pick up litter around the village of Bucknell and it was recently observed by one resident that drivers on approach roads are responsible for some of the litter. Dog fouling remains one of the main concerns amongst respondents including young people. More bins have been provided, dog poo bags are available at the garage and a warden who can give out fixed penalty notices visits Bucknell periodically. Some respondents mentioned light pollution but there are varied views on street lighting which can be seen as either intrusive or inadequate. Some wanted the lights strategically placed and properly angled. The noise generated by the timber yard and the metal works was mentioned, as was noise from aircraft and scrambler bikes.

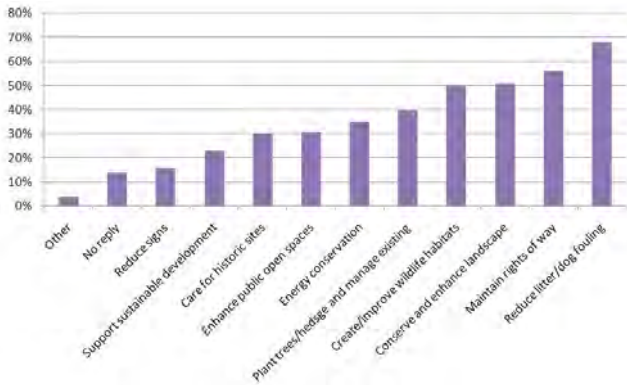


Chart - What can be done to address environmental issues?

Source: 2006 Bucknell Community Local Scrutiny Questionnaire

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Landscape | Conserve, protect and improve landscape and wildlife habitats to retain the rural feel. Plant and maintain trees and hedges. Support local farming. Protect open areas in centre of Bucknell village. | Community Council for Shropshire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Forestry Commission Natural England Parish Council Shropshire Council Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Shropshire Wildlife Trust |
| Heritage | Protect and conserve existing local heritage. Oppose inappropriate development and over expansion of villages. | CPRE Parish Council Shropshire Council |
| Footpaths | Improve and maintain rights of way including stiles /kissing gates. Improve footbridge next to ford. Improve accessibility for all. | Parish Council Shropshire Council P3 team |
| Flooding | Maintain river and its banks. Establish a regime for maintenance of the rivers and their banks. | Environment Agency Parish Council Shropshire Council Riparian owners |
| Litter and dog fouling nuisance | Provide more litter/dog waste bins and signs. Provide information and enforcement. Request more visits from the warden. | Parish Council Shropshire Council Local volunteers |

POLICING IN THE PARISH

The Parish is policed by the Craven Arms Rural West section of the West Mercia Police. A group of police officers, Community Support Officers (CSOs) and special constables work with the local community and external organisations to improve the neighbourhood. Following concerns expressed in the PPQ survey, the police in Craven Arms responded that changes in staff and their absence have conspired to reduce the visual presence of police & Community Support Officers in the Parish over the last year. As far as enforcement is concerned police are willing to respond to any reported instances of speeding etc.

Statistics obtainable from the West Mercia Police website show that the incidence of crime is very low. As a consequence, many felt that the police tended to overlook local concerns. Whilst it is appreciated that the era of the "village bobby" has long gone, a greater police or Community Support Officer presence was requested by the majority of the 17.5% (PPQ) of respondents who felt it appropriate to comment on crime & policing in the Parish. Concerns were also raised about the response times to any calls that may be made for help.

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|---|--|--|
| Police/Community Support Officer presence | Contact divisional head of police (Craven Arms Rural West). | West Mercia Police |
| Speeding | Contact divisional head of police (Craven Arms Rural West). Local lobbying to reduce speed adjacent to the school/church. | West Mercia Police Shropshire Council Parish Council |

TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY

Transport

The need for good public transport is felt strongly in the villages despite the fact that car ownership is high. 77% (LS) have a car/van as their main means of transport. A number of people indicated that they would switch to public transport if it were improved. Some are conscious of the need to improve our carbon footprint in this way.

The train service (Heart of Wales Line between Shrewsbury and Swansea) was rated as important by 96.2% (PPQ) followed closely by the bus service (94.3%). The main concern about the train service was the lack of good connections at Craven Arms and Shrewsbury. There are currently four trains each way Mondays to Saturdays. The greatest improvement villagers would like to see (37% (LS)) is a greater frequency starting with a fifth daily service each way. There was also concern that the automated information service on Bucknell Station platform was frequently out of action.

"We are lucky to still have the train - if only they were more frequent." (PPQ)

The frequency of the bus service was less of an issue, however 20% (LS) of villagers said they would like to see provision of shelters, particularly at The Tyndings in Bucknell where the bus turns round. A smaller percentage 10% (LS) would like a later bus in the day, a reflection of the

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Greater train frequency | Lobby Arriva Trains Wales. | Arriva Trains Wales HOWLTA Welsh Assembly Shropshire Council |
| Improve information service at Bucknell Station | Discuss with appropriate bodies. | Arriva Trains Wales Parish Council West Mercia Police Shropshire Council |
| Provision of bus shelter in at least one location in Bucknell | Discuss with appropriate bodies. | Parish Council |
| Provision of an evening bus service | Discuss with appropriate bodies. | Arriva Bus Shropshire Council |

feeling that younger people in particular, would like to be able to travel to other centres for an evening out. At present this can only be done by taxi or private transport.

Road Safety

There are a number of issues concerning road safety in the Parish. 70.3% (PPQ) supported in varying degrees more traffic control. But the form this might take differed e.g. there are opposing views over the desirability of road humps (sleeping policemen). While speeding traffic was clearly a concern, what to do about it was less clear cut. In Bucknell, a 20mph speed limit in the centre by the church and the school was called for by some with occasional checks by the police. Others would like flashing warning signs for those exceeding the recommended speed limit. Others are concerned already at the "blight" caused by the current number of road signs.

"If people in the village drove at a low speed and took a bit more care then things would be fine." (PPQ)

The road between Bucknell and Bedstone, the B4367, is narrow in parts and there was concern at the number of heavy lorries - some with trailers - using that route with a consequent difficulty when two large vehicles need to pass each other.

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|---|--|--|
| Better control of speeding traffic | Lobby for traffic calming measures e.g. 20mph speed limit in Bucknell village centre, more regular police patrols, sleeping policemen, flashing signs requesting drivers to slow down in centre of Bucknell village. | Parish Council Shropshire Council West Mercia Police |
| Many large vehicles passing through both villages and along the country roads in the vicinity | Monitoring and evaluation exercise. | Highways Agency Parish Council West Mercia Police |
| Pedestrian safety | Enforce landowners to cut back hedges that obstruct pavements. | Parish Council |

HOUSING

There is a mix of housing in Bucknell ranging from council and housing association rented accommodation to owner-occupied homes. The South Shropshire Housing Association is planning a development of affordable housing at the far end of Weston Road. A scheme for private and affordable housing is planned for the timber yard and the steel fabrication yard.

"Should only mirror job availability - pointless bringing more social housing if no work available." (PPQ)

Housing is a divisive topic in the Parish. 54% (LS) said that they believed that the current level of local housing and building in the area was 'about right'. However, affordable housing for local people including young families and single people, gained support (either fully or partially) from 74% (PPQ) of the respondents. Controlled in-filling as compared to estates and ribbon development was favoured. Concern was expressed about the development of private housing. 43% (PPQ) gave some support but 30.1% (PPQ) opposed any further development. What was clear is that the issue of care for the elderly in the community received support, with 80.2% (PPQ) fully supporting the idea and 12.5% (PPQ) giving partial support.

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|---|--|---|
| Some affordable housing needed for local people including families and single people. | Work with appropriate bodies to identify sites. | Shropshire Council-Housing and Planning South Shropshire Housing Association |
| Sheltered housing and/or care home to cater for ageing population | Suitable organisation (e.g. church PCC) to approach specialist developers to explore viability, identify site etc. | Shropshire Council Specialist developers Parish Council South Shropshire Housing Association |

AMENITIES (including road maintenance, sewage disposal, energy supply)

48% (LS) commented that they were not satisfied with road maintenance, in particular road surfaces and drainage. In the PPQ a high percentage (82%) supported improving the sewerage and drainage systems in the area. Issues such as the demand on electricity supply and sewerage systems if Bucknell develops were examples of concerns raised. Poor radio reception was commented on in a number of cases especially, digital and FM reception. A request for the introduction of plastic recycling collections was also suggested.

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|---|--|--|
| Poor road maintenance - pot holes, street sweeping (in the autumn), maintenance of verges | Liaise actively with Council to ensure roads are better maintained. | Parish Council Shropshire Council Highways Dept |
| Sewerage and drainage systems | As above. Investigate if upgrading of sewerage and drainage systems is possible. | Shropshire Council Severn Trent Water Environmental agencies |
| Recycling | Lobby Council to extend recycling. | |

COMMUNICATIONS

Notice Boards

An important method of communicating news and events in the Parish is via the traditional notice board. There are a number of these on the village greens, at the churches and village halls where people can leave public messages, for example, to announce events, advertise things to buy or sell or provide general information. 75% (LS) of respondents found the notice boards useful. A number of local businesses such as the shops, pubs and the garage are also willing to display notices and "for sales" on their premises.

As with most rural locations, many events in the Parish are promoted by a flurry of hand painted signs in prominent locations beside the road.

Newsletters

Currently the Parish lacks a newsletter, although 81% (PPQ) indicated in the survey that they would like one. A regular, accessible Parish newsletter could give advance notice of the many events that occur and perhaps encourage community spirit and more participation.

Internet

The internet is a growing communication link and is increasingly used to provide essential public information. The Parish has both landline and mobile broadband services but the speeds and level of service in such a rural location can be patchy. There is no free internet facility in the Parish.

Parish Website

The parish has a website: www.bucknellandbedstone.org which has been in place for over five years and is maintained by a local resident. The website contains links to local organisations and businesses and a good deal of useful information such as bus and train timetables, Parish history and Parish Council minutes. However the website has not been actively promoted so relatively few villagers seem to know of its existence.

Telephone

Each village has a public phone box currently maintained by BT. Mobile phone coverage is patchy and varies depending on the service provider.

Postal Facilities

Bucknell has a post office open Monday - Saturday and there is a weekly post office facility at Bedstone Village Hall, open on Tuesday mornings. There are twice daily collections from most post boxes.

Parish Council Minutes

The Parish Council publish minutes of their monthly meetings and printed copies are distributed to a number of locations such as the Post Office, St Mary's Church (Bucknell), the village halls and garage. The latest minutes are also available on the Parish website. Residents of Bedstone asked for wider distribution (PPQ).

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Village/Parish Newsletter | Investigate feasibility. | Parish Council |
| Internet | Lobby for improvement in speed. | BT |
| Web Site | Actively promote site. | Parish Council Whole community |
| Broaden distribution of Parish Council Minutes in Bedstone | Identify distribution points. | Clerk to Parish Council |

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Both villages have active parish churches and there is also a Baptist chapel at Coxall. The PPQ showed that villagers regard their parish churches as important or very important (77.6%), using them for worship, baptisms, funerals and weddings as well as supporting other church-based events. Bedstone and Bucknell both have village halls. The questionnaire showed universal support for the halls with 98.5% of the respondents stating that the hall was important or very important to village life. For a number of years consistent efforts have been made to win funding to replace the ageing Memorial Hall in Bucknell.

"Bucknell needs a new village hall." (PPQ)

Other facilities in Bucknell include a butcher, post office, garage, village shop and allotments. The shop and the post office were regarded as particularly important. 71.9% (PPQ) said that the shop was very important and nearly as many, 71.1% (PPQ) gave the same rating to the post office.

A mobile library visits once a week.

Bucknell has two pubs which attract people from the neighbouring area. 84% (PPQ) said the pubs were very important to the village. The pubs provide a social venue and host various events throughout the year.

A 'Customer First Point' is located at the garage. This is a computer terminal providing access to services from a range of organisations. Banks, dentists and doctors can only be accessed by travelling to Knighton, Leintwardine or Ludlow although prescriptions can be collected from the garage in Bucknell. 84.8% (PPQ) said that they would like to see a doctor's/health surgery in Bucknell.

Recreation and Leisure

A great asset to Bucknell is the recreation ground, situated at Daffodil Lane off Chapel Lawn Road, where there is also a children's activity play area. A site has been prepared for changing rooms which will be greatly welcomed by the football club. The new village hall is also planned for the site.

There is wide support for 'Flicks in the Sticks'. 86.3% (PPQ) would like or like very much to see this form of entertainment available in Bucknell (Bedstone already offers this facility to its community).

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|---|---|--|
| Provision of doctor's surgery in Bucknell | Lobby local surgeries. | Local G.Ps Parish Council |
| Ensure Post Office continues in Bucknell | Support local PO. Lobby Royal Mail and other action groups involved in maintaining rural Post Offices. | Royal Mail Central government Local MP |
| New village hall project in Bucknell | Community support for Village Hall Committee. | Memorial Hall Committee Parish Council |
| Offer 'Flicks in the Sticks' in Bucknell | Lobby Arts Alive for funding. | Arts Alive Memorial Hall Committee |

Good Neighbours

The Good Neighbours Service is highly valued by 87% (PPQ) who thought it was a worthwhile and important facility.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Bucknell is fortunate to have a primary school, toddlers group and a playgroup.

St. Mary's C of E School is housed in extended and refurbished 19th century buildings. It is small, the numbers fluctuating between 35 and 50 pupils aged between 4 and 11. Fortunately, due to the Parish's position in the extreme south of the county and relative isolation, the school has been excluded so far from closures and mergers, such as the Shropshire consultation of 2008/9.

Secondary age pupils attend a variety of schools - Bedstone College, Wigmore, Bishop's Castle Community College - although the majority go to Ludlow C of E.

There is a very high level of appreciation among all local residents of the importance of having a school in our community (86% (PPQ)). There is a will to ensure that the school is supported and kept in Bucknell. There is a great deal of support for the quality of the school and the work it does.

"Very important for the life of the village to keep the school. We must ensure young families are attracted to live in the village." (PPQ)

The value of the playgroup was acknowledged by 80% (PPQ) of respondents.

There is great agreement amongst young people of all ages with regard to their feelings about life in the Parish. Nearly all like the peace and quiet (80% (PPQ)) and feel safe living here. The majority enjoy country pursuits, such as fishing, equestrianism etc. At the same time they feel that there is not enough for young people to do and would like more activities (90% (PPQ)). The nature of these and the facilities they would want is more varied, though respondents to the PPQ and those interviewed in schools were strongly in favour of a café facility in a new village hall and a youth centre. Among the younger age groups there is a desire for a youth club, an idea which is strongly supported by adults (70% (PPQ)). Older age groups would prefer less formal arrangements, such as a youth shelter and outside leisure facilities. Amongst rather more hard-to-achieve ideas were a fish and chip shop, a fishing pool and a zip wire.

Transport is an issue for young people who would like more opportunities for independent travel. There is some concern over the danger of the railway level crossing.

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| School - continuation | Monitor, lobby if necessary. | Shropshire Council Education Department |
| Youth Activities | Secure provision of Youth Club. | Shropshire Council Youth Service St. Mary's School Memorial Hall committee |
| Facilities for young people | Investigate provision of youth facilities e.g. Youth Shelter, basketball hoop, cafe etc. | Parish Council Memorial Hall Committee |



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The lack of employment opportunities in the local area and the consequent effect on the carbon footprint of the villages was a real concern for a number of respondents. The question of where people will work is also linked to the provision of housing. Employment within the villages has declined, though there are many self-employed people living in the Parish.

There is a strong feeling that the provision of small business premises in Bucknell would be a positive development (73% (PPQ)). However, there is a worry that the current trend is for small businesses in the Parish to close, often to realise the property value of premises. Current Shropshire Council policies may prove to be advantageous in bringing businesses to Bucknell.

"The village is becoming a retirement village and it would be beneficial to the community if small businesses could be attracted to our beautiful location." (PPQ)

Although Bucknell is fortunate in comparison with many villages in the speed of its broadband, there is a need to continue pressing for the fastest speed possible to encourage internet-based businesses.

| Issues | Recommendations | Interested Parties and Contacts |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Provision of small business premises | Support Planning for Business Premises | Shropshire Council Planning Department Parish Council |
| Improvement of Internet | Lobby for higher speeds | BT |

GENERAL SUMMARY

The survey and questionnaire carried out for this Parish Plan showed that people living in Bedstone and Bucknell appreciated the sense of community within the two villages. Some in our community, however, fear that any change will put at risk what we have; others recognise that, to preserve what is good, further development is necessary. Consequently this is why this Parish Plan has highlighted areas where we feel there are significant issues to be addressed.

ANNEXE

How we went about drawing up the Parish Plan

On 19th September 2006, 70 local residents attended the Bucknell Community Event at Bucknell Memorial Hall to express their views on access to local services and other issues. Cameras had previously been issued to residents to take photographs that highlighted their areas of concern. The photographs were then exhibited and the residents' comments recorded.

In October 2006, 165 households (56%) completed the Bucknell Community Local Scrutiny Questionnaire with 318 people (50%) responding. The high number of respondents demonstrated the concern that local people have for their village.

At a public meeting held in Bucknell's primary school in April 2008 as part of a follow up, it was decided to set up a Steering Group to produce a Parish Plan for the Parish of Bedstone and Bucknell. Those who expressed an interest in helping met for the first time on 19th June where the election of officers and a plan of action was drawn up. An information 'flyer' was produced and delivered to every household in the parish which was followed on 27th September 2008 by community events which were held in Bedstone and Bucknell and on Thursday 2nd October 2008 a further community event was held in Bucknell. Groups of residents discussed various topics and a wide range of views and opinions were collected from the participants.

Following further meetings including representatives from the former South Shropshire District Council and Shropshire Community Council, who gave much valuable advice and support, the Steering Group issued a further survey to all the residents in Bucknell and Bedstone in October 2009 eliciting 150 responses (38%).

The Steering Group members were: Ian Graves (Chairman), Graham Jackson (Secretary), Peter Pryke, Ian Hay-Campbell, Margaret Hay-Campbell, Colin Cummings, Paul Barrett, Geri Jackson & Jean Pryke.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Parish Plan Steering Group would like to acknowledge the help of the following groups and individuals:

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South Shropshire District Council (until amalgamated into Shropshire Council 2009)

Community Council for Shropshire
Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Information:

South Shropshire District Council
Pupils of St Mary's School, Bucknell
Students of Ludlow C.E. School
Memorial Hall Committee

Support:

Frances Hall Shropshire Council

Photographs:

Carolyn Reader, Beryl Sharpe, Ian Hay-Campbell, Graham Jackson

And a special thanks to all who completed and returned the Parish Plan Questionnaire.

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West Mercia Constabulary, Craven Arms Police Station, Ludlow Road,
Craven Arms, SY7 9QL

★ e-mail: cravenarmsruralwest.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk - If your email requires a response, a member of the team will get back to you within 24 hours.

★ Telephone: 0300 333 3000 (In an emergency always call 999)

★ Voicemail: 01743 264774 - Phone this number if you would like to leave a message for your Local Policing Team. Only use this number for non-urgent, general queries. A member of the team will get back to you within 24 hours

Severn Trent Water Limited, Sherborne House, St Martins Road,
Coventry, CV3 6SD

★ Telephone: 0800 783 4444



