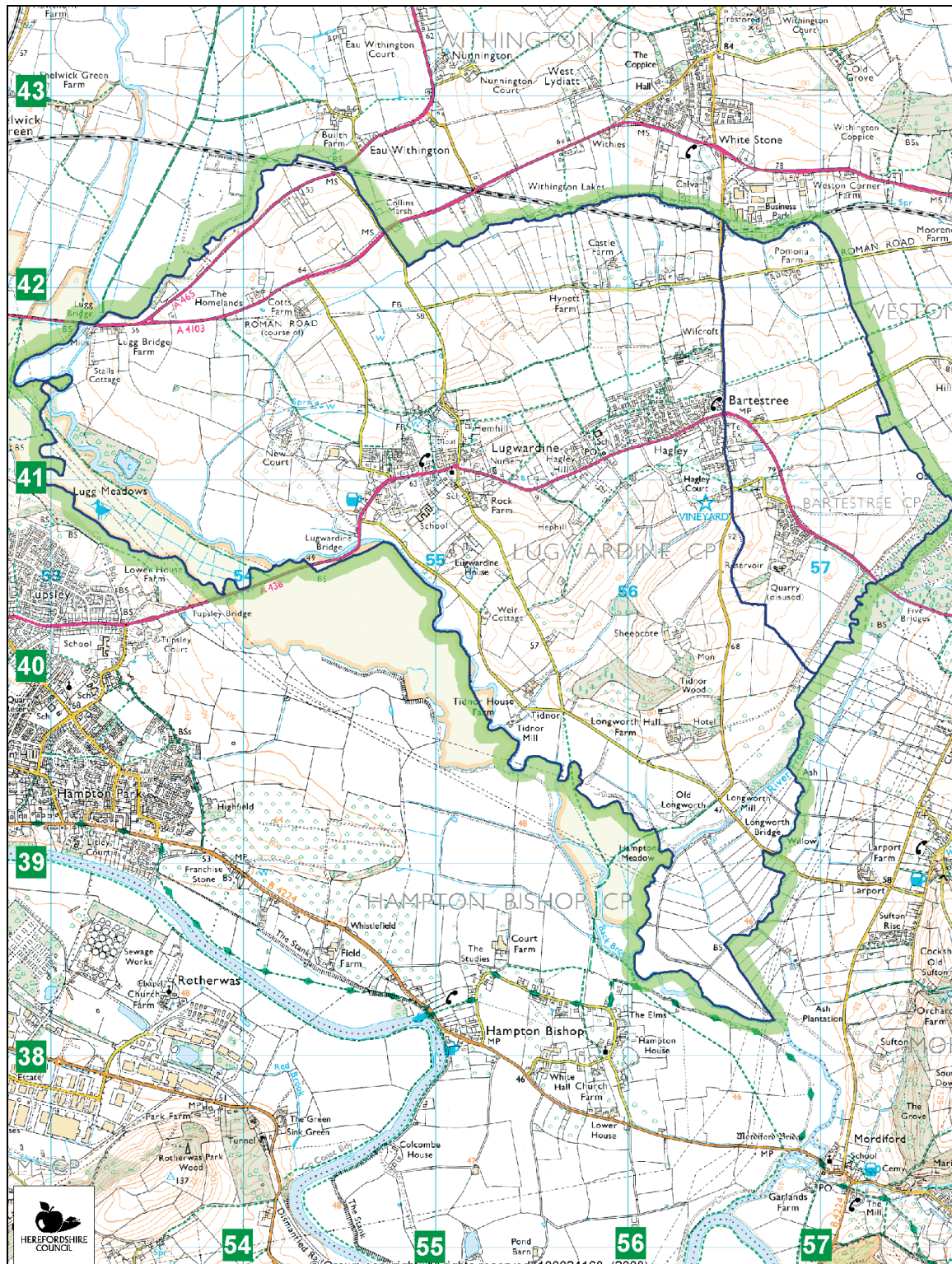


# Bartestree with Lugwardine Parish Plan 2014



Parishes of Bartestree and Lugwardine  
(Not to Scale)



## TWO TYPICAL ISSUES RAISED UNDER TRANSPORT, ROADS & ROAD SAFETY

### Safer Crossing over the Lugg Bridge on the A438



### Speeding Through the Two Villages



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## **Introduction and Background**

The Government announced the Parish Plan initiative in 2000. The purpose of the plan is for the local community to set out a vision of what is important to the parish, how to fit in any new development, how to preserve valued local features and to map out facilities needed for the future and identify the actions required for those things to be achieved. The first Parish Plan was produced in 2008.

In 2012 a new Steering Group was set up to revise the Parish Plan for Bartestree with Lugwardine to make it more relevant to changing situations.

The Bartestree with Lugwardine Group Parish Plan presents the broadly agreed wishes, likes, dislikes and intentions of the members of the parish. It recommends to the Parish Council what should be done and provides information for Herefordshire Council on local housing development and requests that it be accepted as further Supplementary Planning Guidance. It should be noted that the Parish Plan is a 'live' document that, with the help and participation of the community, will be reviewed and updated annually. All background papers used, including the survey results, are available for examination by arrangement with the Parish Clerk: e-mail: [evewilsonmediator@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:evewilsonmediator@tiscali.co.uk).

## **Location and History**

The group parish of Bartestree with Lugwardine is situated in a pleasant rural location three miles east of Hereford. It covers 2530 acres [1012 hectares], straddles the busy A438 Hereford – Ledbury road and is bounded by the River Lugg along its western and southern sides. Lugwardine consists of a mixture of older buildings, some timber framed and listed, and newer developments of bungalows and houses from the 1970s onwards. Bartestree is mostly a recently developed community, with the conversion of the convent to residential apartments together with additional adjacent housing, being the most recent. Nevertheless, the two villages still sit among fields and woods. There is pasture and arable land, corn and hops, even vines.

The oldest signs of Lugwardine with Bartestree are the remains of two Roman roads: one running East-West from Stretton Grandison to Kenchester [Blackhole Lane]; the other running North-South from Blackwardine to Weston-under-Penyard [Whitestone/Longworth Lanes].

The Domesday Book, completed by the Normans in 1086, mentions both villages. They were in the Greytree Hundred section of the book and were very small. A 'Hundred' was a subdivision of a shire and each 'Hundred' had enough land to sustain approximately one hundred households. Herefordshire was divided into twenty hundreds, of which Greytree was one. The name Lugwardine means 'an enclosed settlement on the River Lugg'. The name Bartestree originates from

'Beorhtweald's Tree' which by the time of the Domesday Book had become 'Bertoldestreu'.

An inventory of archaeological sites and historic buildings prepared by English Heritage records the earthwork and buried remains of a medieval moated site to the west of Lumber Lane in Lugwardine and the site of a deserted or post medieval village between the Ledbury Road and Longworth Lane in Bartestree.

The River Lugg enters the parish of Lugwardine in the Northwest at the Lugg Bridge on the Hereford – Worcester road and broadly forms the western boundary as it flows to join the River Wye below Mordiford. The importance of the rivers is reflected in the Domesday Book which records three mills in the parish of Lugwardine: Lugg Bridge Mill, Tidnor Mill and Longworth Mill. Except in times of flood or drought, the Lugg was navigable upstream as far as Leominster. Coal from the Forest of Dean was carried to Leominster in barges hauled by six men or one or two horses. Wheat, flour, bark, timber, cordwood and iron bars were carried downstream in the returning barges. The river was made more navigable by the presence of two locks: one at Lugg Bridge Mill and one at Tidnor Mill.

The nineteenth century saw some major changes. The Reform Acts introduced voter power. This reduced the former dominance of the vicar and church wardens and by 1894 new, elected Parish Councils had emerged. The economies of the villages were altered by the tile works of William Godwin in 1851 and the creation of Bartestree Convent in 1863. William Godwin [1813-1883] took over the former brickworks in Lumber Lane where he made bricks, quarry tiles and drainpipes. Later, he and his brother developed a wide and inspirational range of decorative tiles that became nationally famous. At its most productive, the tile works employed a hundred people. It had closed by 1907 but displays of Godwin tiles can still be seen in St. Peter's Church, Lugwardine Chapel, Penkelly, Porch House and the New Inn.

In 1928 the 2110 acres of Lugwardine and the 420 acres of Bartestree were authorised to be a single ecclesiastical parish and a single administrative parish followed.

## **Bartestree with Lugwardine Today**

The adjoining villages of Bartestree and Lugwardine are situated in pleasant countryside, 4 miles east of the Cathedral city of Hereford. In recent years, the villages have undergone substantial growth, bringing the total population to just over 2,000.

At the time of the 2011 Population Census, the parish had a population of 2051 residents. In terms of employment 42.7% of respondents were in full time employment; 16.9% were in part-time employment; 13.5% were self-employed;

1.9% were unemployed and 2.7% were students; 13.1% were retired and 2.6% were permanently sick or disabled.

| Age Group   | Bartestree with Lugwardine |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 0 - 16      | 19%                        |
| 17 - 64     | 66%                        |
| 65 and over | 16%                        |

## Religion

### St Peter's Church, Lugwardine

The Parish Church of St. Peter stands near to the middle of the village of Lugwardine and is surrounded by a small churchyard which was closed for burials in 1889 when an additional graveyard was established down a short pathway on the opposite side of the main road. It is one of five churches in the benefice of Bartestree Cross under the pastoral care of the Rector, Prebendary Jane Davies.

There is a variety of services at 9.30 every Sunday – Holy Communion, Morning Prayer and a more informal family service. There is also a Midweek Communion at 10.00 every Wednesday.

From time to time meetings and other functions relating to church activity are held, e.g. Parochial Church Council meetings and Lent Courses. The tower also has eight bells and there is a regular bell ringing practice at 7.30 pm every Friday evening.

There are good links with the local Primary Academy with the Rector leading school assembly on a regular basis and the school visiting the church for activities such as 'Experience Harvest', a Christingle Service and other visits connected to the school curriculum. Also members of the congregation act as school governors and support the school in other ways.

Amongst its facilities the church has a Nicholson organ built and installed in 1993, which, in addition to providing music for services, has been used for concerts, professional teaching and practice, and as a centre for Associated Board music examinations. There is also a small grand piano bequeathed by a former organist. Rigid pew arrangements limit the use of both organ and piano.

Currently the basic church facilities limit the provision of other activities. There is no mains water or sanitation, and the electrical and heating systems are badly in need of replacement. Some flooring is in need of restoration and repair. Access to the main building is by badly worn stone steps, though there is disabled access via a grass pathway along the south wall leading to a door in the west wall of the chapel adjacent to the chancel. There are also large fixed pews which don't allow any flexibility with the space. Because the Parochial Church Council wants the church to be more accessible

to the community it is embarking on a project to install new heating and lighting, to remove the pews in the main body of the church and to install toilets and a kitchen.

There is a lively Parish Magazine which provides good communication between the church and the community and amongst the five churches in the benefice.

The Rector is always happy to hear from people who want to arrange a christening or wedding or who would like a home visit.

### **Lugwardine Chapel**

The Evangelical Protestant Mission was established at Lugwardine in 1820 and the present chapel in Lumber Lane was built in the last decade of the nineteenth century by Henry Godwin, owner of the Lugwardine Tile Works. It is an elegant Victorian chapel and the floor contains a large selection of Godwin tiles.

Today the chapel is a Partnership and Ichthus Link Church and its brand of Christian Fellowship thrives through a number of weekly activities which range from serious Bible study and prayer to an extremely lively Youth Club. The fellowship also supports many charities.

### **Longworth Roman Catholic Chapel and Bartestree Convent**

The chapel started life in about 1390 as a chapel attached to Old Longworth Manor House. After the reformation it was used as a farm building. In 1851 the then owner Robert Biddulph Phillips converted to Catholicism, restored the chapel and returned it to religious use. He also founded the Convent of Our Lady of Charity and Refuge at Bartestree in 1863. The first phase was designed by Edward Welby Pugin. Robert Biddulph Phillips died in 1864 and according to his wishes the chapel was relocated to Bartestree Convent in 1869-70. The relocation was designed & managed by Benjamin Bucknall. The Convent closed in 1979 has been converted for residential use. The chapel is under the protection of the Historic Chapels Trust, which has made it weather tight. The next phase is to restore it and provide facilities so it is available for use by local groups and the adjacent hospice.

## **Education**

### **Lugwardine Primary Academy**

The first school was established within the Church in 1629 and moved into a purpose built Victorian building in Rhystone Lane in 1840 where it remained until September 1989 when, as Lugwardine Primary School, it moved to new, excellent, modern premises in Bartestree, although it still remains within the boundaries of the parish of Lugwardine. In April 2012 the school converted to an academy.

Lugwardine Primary Academy is a non-denominational Community School for children aged 5 - 11 years. At present there are 7 full time and 3 part time teachers plus the Head. In addition to this, there are Support Staff designated to work with each class as well as Learning Mentors and a permanent Cover Supervisor. Our published admission number each year is 30. The school has capacity for 210 pupils.



The school has benefited from a number of building projects since it was first built. The most recent of which has been the addition of a new classroom to replace a mobile one and a hygiene room for specific individual use.

### **St. Mary's Roman Catholic High School**

St. Mary's Roman Catholic High School originated from a school established by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in 1861 in the village of Lower Bullingham. Originally named 'St Elizabeth's', it moved to its present site in Lugwardine in 1954 when the Sisters purchased Lugwardine Court and surrounding land to develop and expand the school. In 1966 boys were admitted and following local government re-organisation in 1973, the school lost its sixth form and became categorized as an 11- 16 co-educational comprehensive. By that time, the school governance had become, and remains currently, under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. In 1984, the Daughters of Charity withdrew from Herefordshire and Lugwardine Court was sold for use as a nursing home. On its closure in 1999, a Trust was established to acquire Lugwardine Court for use by the school once again. The number of pupils on role is now 740 and the school was recently (2013) awarded 'Designated National Support School' status. It is the designated school for Catholic pupils of secondary age in the County of Herefordshire, although non-Catholic pupils are also admitted.

### **The Gateway Education and Childcare Trust**

The Gateway Nursery is a long established nursery provider, situated in the village of Bartestree approximately 3 miles to the east of Hereford.

Trading as a charity, the nursery is located in a purpose built, single storey premises on a relatively large site of about 2 acres to the east of the village. It was registered to care for 100 children daily under previous Ofsted guidance but recognises that it is possible to care for a moderately higher number of children under revised Early Years regulation (Sept 2012), based on staffing ratios and the size and nature of available space.

The nursery was opened in 1989, initially in the old primary school in the village of Lugwardine, prior to moving to the current purpose-built premises in 2002, which was both National Lottery Community Fund and Advantage West Midland funded. At that time, the organisation funded the relocation and provision of facilities for gypsy families who resided on the site previously.

Gateway Nurseries Limited and Gateway (Education and Childcare) Trust Limited ran as parallel charities, with the former being the trading element of the latter. On 01/04/2013 however, with new trustees onboard, the decision was made to merge the two bodies and now both operate under the name of Gateway (Education and Childcare) Trust Limited t/a Gateway Nursery.

As a charity, the business is governed by Trustees, who currently are:

Mr. Tony Larkin (Chair), Mr. Tim Bryant (ex parent), Mr Dan Squire (parent), Mr William McGill, Mrs. Helen Pearson (parent), Mrs. Rachel McGill.



This is an exciting time for the provision, at a time when the cost of high standard childcare and its value to parents are paramount. In view of our charitable status, we plan to continue providing flexible, affordable and high standard child care to the local and wider community.

Our current care is accessed by families from as far afield as Cardiff, Monmouth, Ross-on-Wye, Ludlow, Malvern and Leominster.

We currently employ 38 members of staff (on full-time, part-time and flexible contracts) and work closely with Mencap in employing and supporting one staff member. We currently have 327 children on our books, providing daytime care for 6 month to 4 year olds and after school care to 4 -12 year olds. We run an after school collection and care service involving 9 local primary schools, with whom we work in partnership, as well as holiday care facilities during all school holidays except Christmas.

We offer our minibuses to local children's groups and sports teams for use at weekends and during holidays where possible, helping to make sports and activities more accessible to all children.

We are fully regulated by Ofsted and continuously strive to achieve our standards of "Putting Children First in Herefordshire ".

## **St. Michael's Hospice**

St. Michael's Hospice was set up as a registered charity in 1985 to provide palliative care for short term residential patients and their families. It consists of a purpose built 16-bed in-patient unit and a day hospice which has been providing palliative care to the people of Herefordshire and surrounding five counties for 30 years. The Hospice has a holistic approach, offering a variety of care and support to patients and families. The brand new 20-bed In-Patient Unit will be opened later in 2014, allowing the Hospice to offer care to even more patients. The existing building will be refurbished for the delivery of day care to patients and families, and a brand-new Education Suite will home St Michael's award winning Education Department. The new Hospice will enable St Michael's to continue caring for the people of Herefordshire for generations to come.

## **Village amenities**

The village is quite well served with amenities. As well as a church and a chapel, there is a modern village hall, sited amidst an extensive area of playing fields, a purpose-built children's play area and a sports pavilion. There is also a second play area in Frome Park. There is a village shop with off licence, a hair dressing salon and bespoke furniture showroom but no Post Office. There is a Public House in each of the villages.

## **Village Services**

Broadband is generally available with superfast broadband arriving imminently. There are now weekly refuse and two-weekly kerbside recycling collections. There is a daily postal delivery service, milk is delivered four times a week to some parts of the village

and there are several regular window cleaners. There is a reliable, hourly bus service between Hereford and Ledbury but no late night buses other than on Fridays and Saturdays.

## **Small Businesses**

Amazingly, there are as many as 75 small businesses if one includes those operating from home. These are many and varied and include 'Woodland Management and Forestry Consultants'; 'Technical Security'; 'Publishing'; 'Online Business Solutions'; a 'Made to Order Knitwear Company'; a 'Maker of Fine Furniture'; a 'Maker of Oak Gates', a 'Small Plant Nursery', 'Motor Cycle Spares', 'Security Training', a 'Village Shop and Off-Licence', a 'Hairdressing Salon', a 'Vineyard', two Public Houses and an 'Orchard that holds the National Collection of Cider Apple Trees'.

## **Charities**

At least seven charities are located in the parish: St. Michael's Hospice, 'The Gateway Education and Childcare Trust Ltd', Lugwardine Charities for the Relief of the Poor, The Lugwardine Educational Foundation, The Diana Caroline Hopton Charity, the Bartestree and Lugwardine Playing Fields Association, the Village Hall and the Women's Institute.

## **Women's Institute**

The Bartestree and Lugwardine Women's Institute, which is also a charity, was formed in 1980 although there had been one pre-war which closed down at some stage. The Women's Institute meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at the village hall at 7.15pm except in January and February when it is at 2.15pm.

## **The Consultation Process and Results**

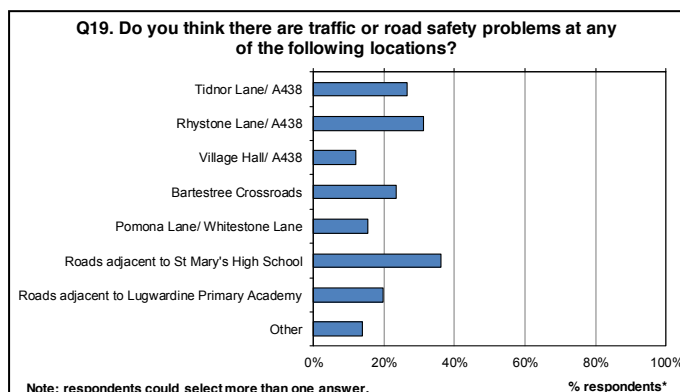
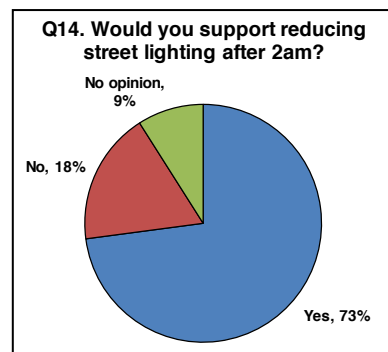
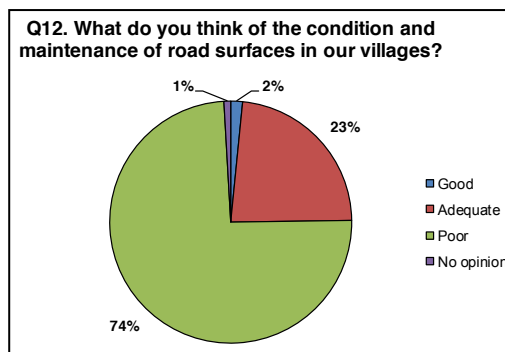
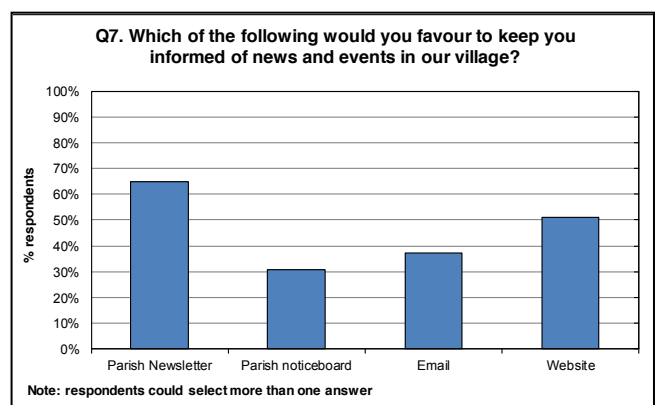
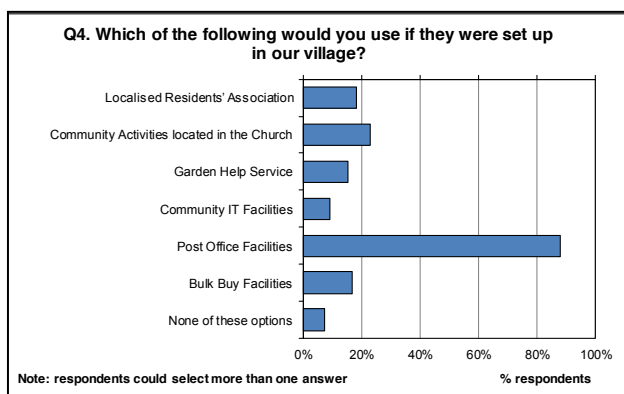
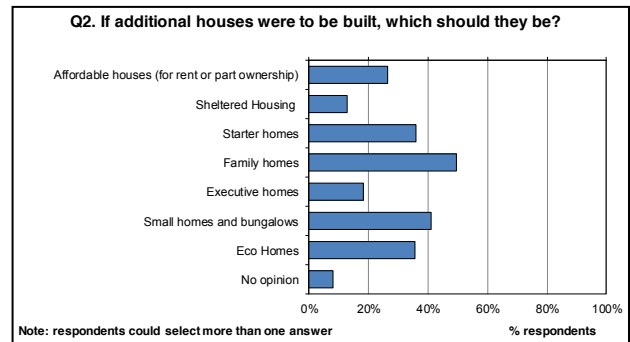
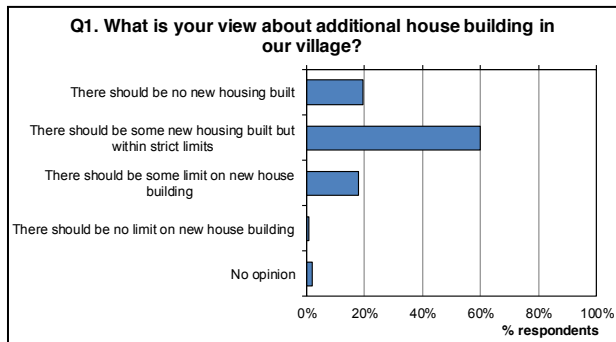
The Parish Plan Steering Group met to discuss the best way to proceed with developing the plan. It was proposed and accepted that a survey of both the Parish Youth and Adult populations would be carried out during June 2013.

Approximately 800 adult questionnaires and 300 youth surveys were distributed by volunteers to every household in the Parish. Each household was given one adult survey, with additional adult ones and youth surveys on request. The total number of responses received from adults was 396, giving a response rate of almost 50%. In order to maintain the integrity of the data, Herefordshire Council Research Team analysed the results during July and August 2013.

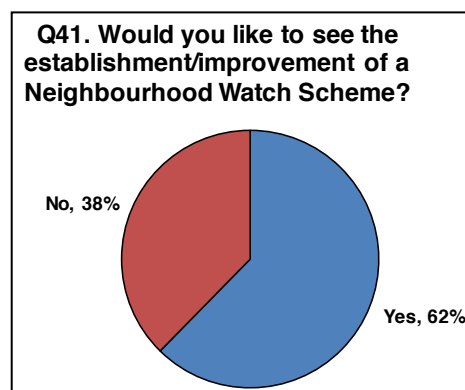
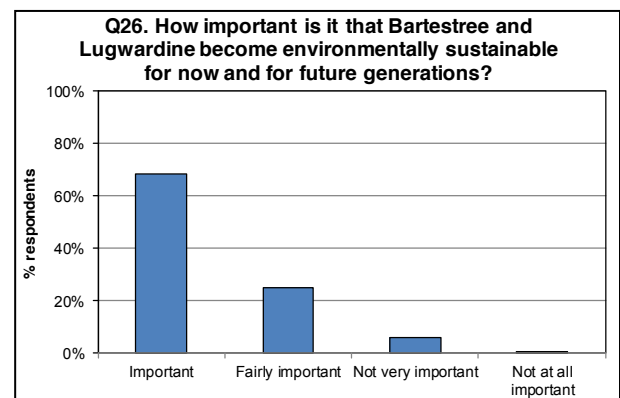
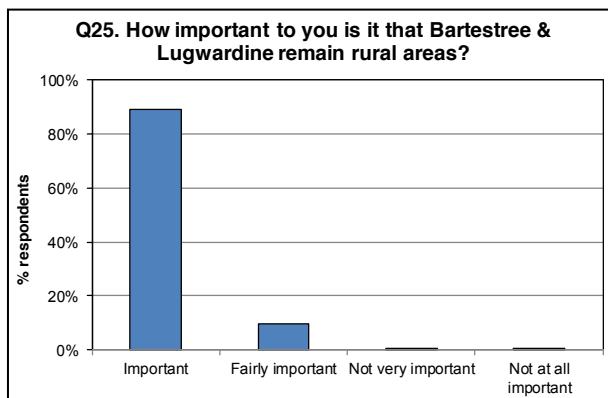
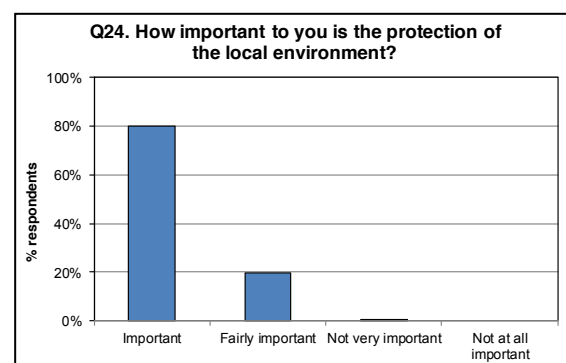
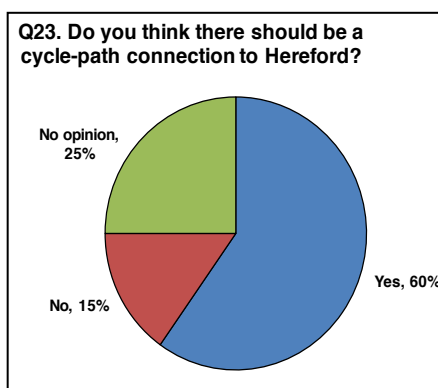
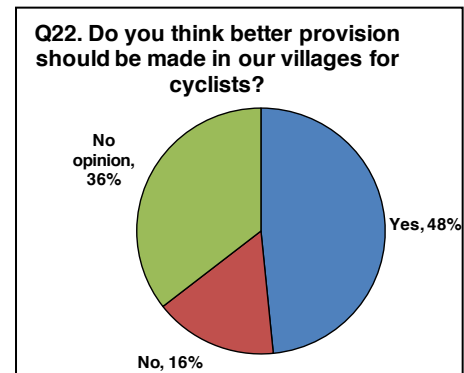
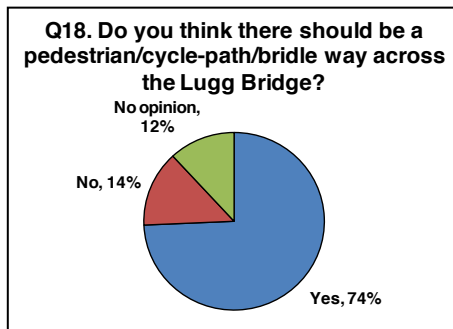
The response rate to the Youth Survey for ages 11-17 yrs was low but was a 50/50 male female split. Information from younger children aged 5-11 yrs was obtained by members of the Steering Group visiting the Lugwardine Primary Academy.

Finally, a summary of the proposed Action Plans and commentaries were presented at an open consultation event in the Village Hall in February 2014.

# Overview of Responses



# Overview of Responses





# Themes arising from the Survey

- Housing and Planning
- Transport, Roads and Road Safety
- Safer Communities
- Facilities, Services and Communications
- Environment and Sustainability
- Sport, Leisure and Learning
- Children and Young Persons

## Housing and Planning

### Introduction

At the time the questionnaires were distributed the only information regarding building plots was that supplied by Hereford Council relating to possible sites for affordable homes. It was not the intention to mislead but this was based on the only information available at the time.

### Core Strategy

In 2011 Hereford Council identified a need for a 6,500 increase in housing stock within the county and this should be spread through the county dependent upon the size of the town or village. Bartestree and Lugwardine were given the target of an 18% increase - 118 properties to be built in the twenty years up to 2031. This would equate to 6 houses per year that should be built within the Group Parish. However, until the Local Authority has adopted its new Core Strategy for development up to 2031 or the Group Parish has adopted a Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Parishes will be subject to planning applications for large-scale developments. Whereas the Parish Plan is a 'wish list' for the parishes the Neighbourhood Development Plan will be a statutory document.

### Survey

At the 'Planning for Real' meeting in October 2012, the question of housing was raised by many of the residents attending the meeting. When the questionnaire was circulated later, a response was returned from 50% of households within the two villages. The overwhelming majority wished to keep the development to this level, with the number of Family Houses (3/4 bedrooms) kept to a limited number. The greatest requirement was for housing for the elderly (bungalows) and affordable starter homes.

Central Government's removal of planning restrictions has meant that there has been a rush of land sales from farmers and landowners keen to cash in on the freedom to develop any green field and cover it with houses at any point outside the original Settlement Area. Those plans that have been submitted have included some 'affordable houses' but the majority have been for family homes and none for the elderly and disabled. Plans so far submitted have been for nearly 200 houses to be built immediately thus making a nonsense of the 118 over twenty years. There is the possibility of many further planning applications in the pipeline in the very near future.

The housing survey conducted by Herefordshire Council in 2010 concluded that our area would require 31 affordable homes within the next three years. A further housing survey was carried out between November 2013 and March 2014.

### **Where to Build**

The questionnaire also revealed that the residents wanted 'brown field' sites and 'infill' to be areas of priority for development with green field used as a last resort. So far all the large planning applications have been for green field sites. However, in recent weeks the Parish Council has supported some applications for infill, which have been approved and will provide another eight family homes.

### **The Government's definition of affordable housing:**

*"Affordable Housing is social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision."*

The broad definitions of social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing are:

*"Social rented housing is owned by private registered providers for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime".*

*"Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the affordable housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership) and intermediate rental and low cost market houses for sale, but not affordable rented housing".*

*"Affordable rented housing is usually owned or managed by housing associations and is not subject to the national rent regime, but is subject to other rent controls, that require a rent of no more than 80% of open market value (including service charges, where applicable)"*

### **Actions**

Pressure has been applied to MPs to bring in an amendment to the Bill to give more protection to rural communities like ours, but this takes time. The Parish Council understands the need for some houses to be built and assesses all application upon their merit while keeping in mind the wishes of the residents as to where and what type of houses should be given permission. However, it is ultimately down to Herefordshire Council to make the final decision and the Parish Council can only make recommendations.

An Action Group has been set up to fight excessive large-scale development and to support those applications which fall within the limits, as defined in the returned questionnaires. While the Group is as active as it can be, it is down to the residents to make their objections or support known to Herefordshire Council when each application is made. These can be seen on Herefordshire Council website and are renewed each Friday.

## **Transport, Roads and Road Safety**

The Parish of Bartestree with Lugwardine sits astride the A438, the main road connecting Hereford and Ledbury and on to the M50. This road not only carries much HGV traffic, but it is also a conduit for workers, shoppers and school transport to St Mary's High School and elsewhere. In the 2008 Parish Plan 86% of the respondents considered the condition of local roads to be adequate or good. Significantly, in 2013 only 2% felt that and 74% considered it poor. This reflects the current problems with Local Authority finance. Traffic speed through the villages is still regarded as a major problem despite the imposition of a 30 mile-an-hour limit and the regular use of Speed Indicator Devices, which seems to show that, as ever, driver attitude is the main contributory factor. Concern remains about safety at the many junctions with the A438 through the villages. This is a very difficult problem given the configuration of the roads.

The problems caused by the lack of a continuous pavement through the villages, necessitating two or three crossings of the A438 and the consequent danger to children particularly, have been highlighted. Again, the configuration of the road makes this difficult to resolve and funding would undoubtedly be an issue with Herefordshire Council's Highways Department.

Another major issue is the provision of a foot and cycle path across the Lugg Bridge and then into Hereford City. The Bridge is clearly dangerous for anyone not in a vehicle, but it is Grade I Listed and cannot be simply widened. Further, the land to the side of the Bridge where there is already a footpath on each side is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest, but enquiries can be pursued to see if a separate structure could be built adjacent to the Bridge. Informal comments from Council Officers indicate that funding might be available from several sources outside the Council, but there are a number of legal hurdles to be overcome first and there can be no immediate solution. In addition the section of the River Lugg within the Group Parish is a Special Area of Conservation.

The lack of maintenance of hedges, ditches, drains and culverts has obviously caused concern to many. Road drains are the responsibility of the Highways Department but hedges and ditches are usually the responsibility of the farmer. Maintenance of hedges in urban areas is also the responsibility of their owners and the Local Authority can enforce action to maintain both field and urban hedges.

The effect of large-scale and often inconsiderate Schools' parking continues to be a major problem, which is not helped by the situation of the Schools. Alleviation of the difficulties, with assistance from Head Teachers and Community Service Officers or the Police, must continue.

Increased provision of litter bins, dog bins and grit bins is also requested. However, all these have cost consequences and would inevitably give rise to an increase in the Parish Council's precept.

The local bus service from DRM is not used by a large part of the population of the villages and improvements to the timetable and cost are suggested. However, given the inevitable

reduction in the Local Authority grant for local bus services it seems unlikely that anything can be done about these suggestions at present.

## **Safer Communities**

In the questionnaire the majority of respondents (55%) were not too concerned by crime and anti-social behaviour in the parish. Those who were concerned had worries about youth crime such as vandalism, litter and petty theft. However, a number of people (42%) did feel that a greater active police presence was required.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme has long been established within the locality. Residents gain reassurance by belonging to a scheme which relies on the vigilance of the local community and which is supported by the local co-ordinators who organise the initiative. However, the Neighbourhood Watch scheme does need to be further co-ordinated across the group parish with the necessity to appoint a committee and volunteers to oversee the scheme.

The main concern in both villages is road safety, especially speeding traffic - 84% of respondents mentioned this problem, closely followed by safer routes for pedestrians (68%) and safe routes for cyclists (59%). These issues are discussed more fully in the Transport, Roads and Road Safety section.

## **Facilities, Services and Communications**

### **Facilities and Services**

The overwhelming request was for the reintroduction of Post Office services (88%). Whereas it might not be possible to open a dedicated Post Office, it might be possible for some Post Office services to be offered by another establishment.

There are plans in progress to reorder the interior of St. Peter's Church to make the building more suitable for wider community use. About 25% of residents indicated that they would welcome this wider use. For example, a weekly drop-in centre has already been set up in both the Church and the Village Hall to help residents use technological equipment such as satellite navigation, mobile phones, computers and digital cameras.

### **Communication within the Group Parish**

Since the production of the first Parish Plan the digital age has developed so rapidly that the communication of events and newsworthy items has required new methods of dissemination. According to the survey results, the favoured way for receiving information would be via a Parish Newsletter followed by the Parish Website. There was support for including an Events Calendar and a Welcome Pack for new residents.

### **External communication within the Group Parish**

A superfast broadband cable is currently being laid throughout the parishes and is expected to be available for connection later this year.

Mobile phone reception is extremely poor in specific areas of the parishes and it will be necessary to lobby the appropriate authorities to improve the services.



## **Environment and Sustainability**

Protecting the environment is very important to the vast majority of residents. 89% think that it is important and 10% think it is fairly important that our parishes remain rural areas and remain environmentally sustainable for future generations. Popular factors are the setting up of a local composting scheme, allotments, the bulk delivery of fuel and receiving help to maximise energy efficiency in the home.

As in the first Parish Plan, litter is a continuing concern. We now have a Parish Lengthsman, who clears and tidies the side roads but is not allowed to work on the 'A438'. As the task is too great for one person, additional help is needed from residents to help combat this problem. It is encouraging to note that 40% of respondents would be prepared to join a village litter pick.

Since the first Parish Plan, access to public rights of way has improved with more kissing gates replacing stiles. As replacement requires the permission of the landowner, the Parish Council cannot force all of them to be changed.

There was a huge appetite (88%) for supporting a local food market but only 10% would be willing to help set one up.

## **Sport, Leisure and Learning**

In the survey a large number of respondents replied that they would be interested in attending activities in our villages. From the activities offered, the most popular was Flicks in the Sticks (46% of those interested) followed closely by Concerts and Arts and Crafts. There was also an interest in Yoga, Pilates, Aerobics, Badminton and a Fitness/Running Track. There was a preference for activities to be held in the Village Hall if appropriate, with St Peter's Church, St. Mary's School and the Lugwardine Academy as the main alternative venues.

A number of leisure activities already exist: bridge clubs, gardening club, slimming, dancing, bell ringing, short mat bowling, cricket club, football club and tennis.

At the time of the survey, an encouraging number of people were willing to offer help running activities in a variety of subjects, including those mentioned above, plus offers to run a Youth Club and a Book Club. If this is still the case, then there is a good range of expertise upon which to draw. However, further volunteers would be welcomed to organise and run Concerts.

As well as encouraging and supporting the activities of the Football Club and Cricket Club, the Parish Council wishes to support the availability of additional sports and the installation of a jogging track and outdoor gym around the perimeter of the playing fields at the Village Hall. Also they wish to increase the participation of women and girls in sport. The playing fields are open for informal use by the community at any time and offer an ideal venue for young people and families to meet, relax and enjoy the outdoors. Any new groups formed will require the help of volunteers in their formation and leaders appointed to take them forward.

Of those using the play facilities at the Village Hall 90% found the facilities to be adequate to very good. 85% of those using the play facilities at Frome Park found them to be adequate to very good. However, as only a minority of young children were using the facilities the Parish Council is to identify what equipment is required for specific age groups at both sites by consultation with parents. The Parish Council is looking to replace the play area fence at the Village Hall to an upgraded fence to comply with regulations.

## **Children and Young Persons**

On the whole, young people enjoy living in the Group Parish. They would like more activities to be available at the Village Hall site such as Mountain Bike and Fitness Trails. Any new groups formed will require the help of volunteers in their formation and leaders appointed to take them forward as discussed in the Sport and Leisure section. There is also a request for a safe area for recreation in Wilcroft Park to allow children to play without having to cross the busy A438 road.

Young people also made comments about the play facilities at the Village Hall and Frome Park and these are included in Sport, Leisure and Learning above. Similar comments were also made by the young people about the lack of a continuous pavement through the villages referred to in Transport, Roads and Road Safety also above.

## **Conclusion**

The high rate of response to the Questionnaire (almost 50%) means that this Revised Plan is as good a reflection of the views of the residents of the Parish as we are likely to get. The more recent main area of concern is housing and planning, which arose immediately after the questionnaires had been collected. The other major concern is traffic and road safety – not surprising in a group parish with a main highway running through it. Whilst the Revised Plan reflects these concerns (and many others) the Parish Council's ability to deal with them will be increasingly constrained by the crisis in public funding unless grant aid or other funds can be found elsewhere.

Most residents of the parish expressed a desire to 'support village life to ensure a continuing, vibrant, friendly, sociable place to live.' It is to be hoped that the encouraging number of residents who cited their personal skills and expertise in a wide range of interests will come forward to offer their services to the parish, in particular, those who could impart their enthusiasm to the young people of the parish.

This is a live document which will be subject to review and updating on a regular basis. If you feel able to contribute ideas, expertise or support of any kind, please contact the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk: [evewilsonmediator@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:evewilsonmediator@tiscali.co.uk)

## HOUSING and PLANNING

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed  | The action   | Who will do it         | Partners/dependencies            | Time scales | Cost | Funding source | Who will apply for funding | Who will monitor/evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|--|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Prioritise Housing Development by type     | To support the building of Family, Starter, Affordable & Eco Homes   | NDPSG / Parish Council | Hfds Council Landowners Builders |             |      |                |                            | Parish Council & NDPSG             | H                    |
| Prioritise Housing Development by location | <p><b>a)</b> Major green field development to be resisted</p> <p><b>b)</b> Focus on small infill &amp; brown field sites</p> <p><b>c)</b> To comply with the Core Strategy recommendation of an 18% increase in housing i.e. approximately 118 by 2031</p> |                        |                                  |             |      |                |                            |                                    |                      |

**NB:** The specific sites will be identified and considered by the Neighbourhood development Plan Steering Group

## FACILITIES and SERVICES

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed | The action   | Who will do it   | Partners/ dependencies   | Time scales  | Cost   | Funding source                                  | Who will apply for funding                      | Who will monitor/ evaluate progress  | Priority (H, M or L)                  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Provision of Post Office Services         | <b>a)</b> Consult local shop/ pub/ Church regarding introduction of P O Services<br><b>b)</b> Investigate the introduction of a mobile PO Service  | Parish Council   | PO / Local Shops   | Ongoing  | TBA  | PO/Local Shops/ Grant?                          | Interested Parties                              | Interested Parties   | M                                     |
| Improve parish communications             | <b>a)</b> Improve & widen scope of parish website to include an events calendar and welcome pack<br><b>b)</b> To introduce an on-line parish newsletter<br><b>c)</b> Widen the coverage of parish magazine.<br><b>d)</b> Extend the Neighbourhood Network as a means of receiving & disseminating information.<br><b>e)</b> Ensure that the PC publicises its activities & decisions via all the above methods | Parish Council / Webmaster<br><br>Parish Council /volunteer<br><br>PCC<br><br>Parish Council<br><br>Parish Council | Parish Council / Webmaster<br><br>Parish Council /volunteer<br><br>PCC/Parish Council<br><br>Parish Council /volunteer/ Parish Action Group<br><br>Parish Council/ Webmaster | 2014<br><br>2014<br><br>2014<br><br>2014<br><br>2014 | Parish Council<br><br>Time<br><br>Time<br><br>Time<br><br>Time | N/A<br><br>N/A<br><br>N/A<br><br>N/A<br><br>N/A | N/A<br><br>N/A<br><br>N/A<br><br>N/A<br><br>N/A | Parish Council<br><br>Parish Council<br><br>Parish Council<br><br>Parish Council<br><br>Parish Council | H<br><br>H<br><br>H<br><br>H<br><br>H |



## FACILITIES and SERVICES CONT...

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed        | The action  | Who will do it                     | Partners/ dependencies                                       | Time scales    | Cost           | Funding source            | Who will apply for funding | Who will monitor/ evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Develop St. Peter's Church as a Community Centre | Support the PCC in obtaining a grant, raising funds and promoting the widening of the use of the Church | Parish Council/ Interested Parties | Parish Council /Interested Parties                           | 2016           | TBA            | Grant & local fundraising | PCC                        | PCC                                 | M                    |
| Promote the use of IT in the Community           | Set up a drop-in centre to provide help in using technological gadgets                                  | Parish Council                     | Parish Council / Volunteer                                   | 2013 & ongoing | Volunteer Time | Grant from Hfds Council   | Parish Council             | Parish Council                      | H                    |
| Improve broadband reception                      | Lobby the relevant authorities to improve the services  | Parish Council                     | Parish Council & BT  | 2014           | TBA            | Government Grant          | Hfds Council               | Parish Council / Hfds Council       | H                    |
| Improve mobile phone reception                   | Lobby the relevant authorities to improve the services  | Parish Council                     | Hfds Council, Parish Council, Mobile Phone Network Providers | 2014 onwards   | N/A            | N/A                       | N/A                        | Parish Council                      | H                    |

## ENVIRONMENT and SUSTAINABILITY

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed | The action   | Who will do it              | Partners/ dependencies                    | Time scales | Cost       | Funding source     | Who will apply for funding | Who will monitor/ evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|-------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Community Composting Scheme               | a) Identify an individual or organisation who would be prepared to set up a scheme<br><br>b) Identify a suitable site<br><br>c) Consult users and decide if it is to be a take to or collection service.<br><br>d) Apply for any necessary planning permission/ licences | Parish Council              | Interested Parties                        | 2014 - 2015 | TBA        | TBA                | Interested Parties         | Parish Council                      | M                    |
| Reduction of litter                       | a) Set up a network of litter picking groups to collect litter from side roads on a regular basis<br><br>b) Provide the necessary equipment and Hi-vis jackets   | Parish Council              | Volunteers<br><br>Hfds Council            | 2014        | Low (Time) | Parish Council     | N/A                        | Parish Council                      | H                    |
| More accessible public rights of way      | Replace all stiles with appropriate gates  | Parish Council              | Hfds Council/ Landowners                  | 2014 - 2016 | TBA        | Hfds Council       | N/A                        | Parish Council                      | M                    |
| System for dealing with community issues  | Set up an information service to provide advice e.g. energy saving methods & delivery of oil & wood to same area on the same day.  | Parish Council & Volunteers | Fuel suppliers & Local Interested Parties | 2014        | Low (Time) | N/A                | N/A                        | Parish Council/ Volunteer           | H                    |
| To set up a local food market             | Find a group of volunteers to set it up  | Volunteers                  | Volunteers                                | 2014 - 2016 | TBA        | N/A                | N/A                        | Volunteer                           | M                    |
| Allotments                                | To find available suitable sites for allotments  | Parish Council              | Landowner & volunteers                    | 2014 - 2016 | TBA        | Interested Parties | Interested Parties         | Parish Council                      | M                    |

## TRANSPORT, ROADS AND ROAD SAFETY

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed      | The action   | Who will do it                             | Partners/dependencies                                | Time scales | Cost                             | Funding source                       | Who will apply for funding | Who will monitor/evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|--|--|--|--|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Enforcing the speed limit through the Villages | Continued use of speed indicator devices. Police enforcement.                      | Parish Council<br>Police                   | Highway Authority<br>Police                          | Ongoing     | SIDs hire<br>£1,500 approx       | Parish Council                       | Parish Council             | Parish Council and Police          | H                    |
| Safety at junctions with A438                  | Continue to work with Highway Authority to improve safety where possible           | Parish Council<br>Highway Authority        | Highway Authority                                    | Ongoing     | To be found from Highways budget | Hfds Council                         | Parish Council             | Parish Council                     | H                    |
| Responsible parking outside Schools            | CSO patrolling outside Primary School. Head Teachers to regularly remind parents   | Parish Council.<br>Police CSOs<br>Schools  | Lugwardine Academy,<br>Gateway Nursery, St Marys R C | Ongoing     | None                             | N/A                                  | N/A                        | Parish Council via complaints      | H                    |
| Safe, usable pavements                         | Surveys to identify remedial action, perhaps in relation to housing development    | Parish Council                             | Hfds Council<br>Planning Dept                        | 2014/15     | To be borne by Hfds Council      | Possibly s.106 funds from developers | Parish Council             | Parish Council                     | H                    |
| Road surfaces, potholes, etc                   | Maintain pressure on Highways Authority to deal with this                          | Parish Council and individual complainants | Highways Authority                                   | Ongoing     | To be borne by Hfds Council      | Highways budget                      | Hfds Council               | Parish Council                     | H                    |
| Street lighting                                | Pursue reduced lighting after 2.00 am except at junctions                          | Parish Council                             | Highways Authority                                   | 2014        | Net gain?                        | N/A                                  | N/A                        | Parish Council                     | M                    |
| Cutting of hedges, clearing drains and ditches | Hfds Council to enforce farmers' obligations. Lengthsman to deal where appropriate | Hfds Council<br>Lengthsman                 | Hfds Council and Lengthsman                          | Ongoing     | Within Lengthsman's annual fee   | Parish Council                       | Parish Council             | Parish Council                     | H                    |

## TRANSPORT, ROADS AND ROAD SAFETY

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed   | The action   | Who will do it                  | Partners/dependencies | Time scales    | Cost                                 | Funding source | Who will apply for funding | Who will monitor/evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|---|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Grit bins   | Parish Council to promote installation where necessary | Parish Council Highways Service | Hfds Council          | By Winter 2014 | From Highways budget                 | Hfds Council   | Hfds Council               | Parish Council                     | M                    |
| Foot and cycle path for Lugg Bridge   | Active efforts to find solution to problem             | Parish Council                  | Hfds Council          | 2014           | Possibly s.106 funds from developers | Hfds Council   | Parish Council             | Parish Council                     | H                    |
| Cycle route across Lugg Flats to City   | Pursue with Hfds Council                               | Parish Council                  | Hfds Council          | 2014           | Possibly s.106 funds from developers | Hfds Council   | Parish Council             | Parish Council                     | H                    |
| Potential increase in traffic from a possible eastern bypass from Rotherwas to A438 | Monitor Local Transport Plan                           | Parish Council                  | Hfds Council          | ongoing        | N/A                                  | N/A            | N/A                        | Parish Council                     | M                    |
| Barrier on pavement alongside A438 at junction of footpath from Lugwardine Academy. | Pursue with Hfds Council                               | Parish Council                  | Hfds Council          | 2014           | From Highways budget                 | Hfds Council   | Hfds Council               | Parish Council                     | H                    |



## SPORT, LEISURE AND LEARNING

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed   | The action   | Who will do it   | Partners/dependencies                | Time scales  | Cost     | Funding source                    | Who will apply for funding | Who will monitor/evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Provision of Interest Groups  | Identify groups needed<br>Identify a venue for each group  | Interested Parties & Volunteers                        | TBA                                  | 2014 ongoing | TBA      | Self funding/ grants              | Interested parties         | Interested parties                 | H                    |
| Increase use of St. Peter's Church for concerts and other appropriate activities. | Reordering of the interior & improve heating.  | PCC & interested parties                               | PCC Diocesan Authorities             | 2014/19      | TBA      | Grants & fund raising             | PCC                        | PCC                                | M                    |
| Activities attracting most interest/ offers of help                               | Identify most popular activities<br>Marry up with volunteers offering to be leaders of groups<br>Contact potential leaders | Parish Council & volunteers                            | Interested parties                   | 2014 ongoing | TBA      | Self funding/ grants              | Interested parties         | Interested parties                 | M                    |
| Increase use of play facilities at Village Hall                                   | a) Identify play equipment required for specific age groups by consultation with parents                                   | Parish Council   | Interested parties                   | 2014/16      | TBA      | Grant                             | Parish Council             | Parish Council                     | M                    |
| Frome Park  | b) To replace the Play Area fence at the Village Hall with an upgraded fence to comply with current regulations            | Parish Council   | Parish Council                       | 2014/16      | £7,000   | Parish Council                    | N/A                        | Parish Council                     | H                    |
|   | Identify play equipment required for specific age groups by consultation with parents                                      | Hfds Council   | Parish Council & interested parties  | 2014/16      | TBA      | Hfds Council /grant               | Hfds Council               | Parish Council                     | M                    |
| Increase space available for sport and recreation                                 | a) Support expansion of the Playing Fields<br>b) Support the installation of a jogging track and outdoor gym               | PFA, Football Club, Cricket Club & private individuals | PFA, Football Club, Cricket clubClub | 5 years      | £200,000 | Private interests, grant funding, | Interested parties         | Parish Council                     | H                    |

## SPORT, LEISURE AND LEARNING

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed   | The action  | Who will do it  | Partners/ dependencies                      | Time scales | Cost                                  | Funding source                | Who will apply for funding | Who will monitor/ evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|---|---|---|---|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Continuation and increase of organized football and cricket training for local youngsters | Encourage and support the activities of the Football Club and Cricket Club.                         | PFA, FC, CC and possible future clubs e.g. junior athletics | PFA, FC, CC others                          | Ongoing     | Continuous expenditure by Clubs       | Parish Council, Clubs, grants | Local groups               | PFA, Parish Council                 | M                    |
| Availability of sports other than cricket and football                                    | Encourage other sports to develop, possible installation of a MUGA (Multi-use games area)           | PFA, community  | PFA and local community                     | Ongoing     | £1,000 pa from Parish Council, grants | Parish Council, PFA , grants  | Local groups               | Parish Council, PFA                 | M                    |
| Increased “casual” community use of Playing Fields  | Innovative ideas to encourage use of space by families and children not involved in organised sport | Parish Council, PFA   | Parish Council, PFA FC, CC, local community | Ongoing     | Few thousand pounds                   | Parish Council, grants        | Local groups               | PFA, Parish Council                 | H                    |
| Increased participation of women and girls in sport                                       | Support CC and FC in their development of girls’ coaching and teams                                 | CC, FC  | CC, FC                                      | Ongoing     | Continuous expenditure by Clubs       | Clubs, grants                 | Local groups               | Parish Council                      | H                    |

## SAFER COMMUNITIES

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed | The action   | Who will do it              | Partners/ dependencies        | Time scales  | Cost | Funding source | Who will apply for funding | Who will monitor/ evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Issue of speeding traffic                 | Provision of more anti-speeding deterrents   | Parish Council              | Hfds Council<br>Highways Dept | 2014         | TBA  | Hfds Council   | N/A                        | Parish Council                      | H                    |
| Safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists  | a) Provision of pedestrian crossings for school users<br>b) Footpath improvements on main road.<br>c) Set up a cycle route | Parish Council              | Hfds Council<br>Highways Dept | 2014 - 2019  | TBA  | Hfds Council   | N/A                        | Parish Council                      | H                    |
| Police presence                           | A more regular police presence in both villages.   | Parish Council              | Police<br>Public              | 2014         | N/A  | N/A            | N/A                        | Parish Council                      | H                    |
| Parent parking                            | Headteachers to keep reminding parents of the problems they cause by dangerous parking.                                    | Parish Council              | Teachers<br>Parents           | 2014 ongoing | N/A  | N/A            | N/A                        | Parish Council                      | H                    |
| Neighbourhood Watch Scheme                | Further promotion of Scheme and appointment of a committee and volunteers.   | Parish Council & Volunteers | Volunteers                    | 2014         | Time | N/A            | N/A                        | Parish Council                      | H                    |

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

| Required outcome or issue to be addressed | The action   | Who will do it                                    | Partners/ dependencies                                  | Time scales  | Cost | Funding source                           | Who will apply for funding                      | Who will monitor/ evaluate progress | Priority (H, M or L) |
|---|--|---|---|--------------|------|--|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Youth Activities                          | Find a Youth Leader to establish preferred activities and take them forward. | Parish Council HVOSS                              | Hfds Council Youth Services & Volunteers                | 2014 ongoing | TBA  | Hfds Council Youth Services & Grants     | Youth Leader                                    | Youth Leader & Parish Council       | M                    |
| Fitness Trail                             | To move forward the setting up of a fitness trail.                           | PFA, Parish Council & Volunteers                  | PFA, Parish Council & Volunteers                        | 2015 ongoing | TBA  | Grants                                   | Interested Parties                              | Parish Council                      | H                    |
| Mountain Bike Trail                       | Investigate the possibility of installing a mountain bike trail.             | PFA, Parish Council & Interested Parties          | PFA & Parish Council                                    | 5 years      | TBA  | Grants                                   | Interested Parties                              | Parish Council & PFA                | M                    |
| Activities that protect the environment.  | To find a leader or action group to take this forward.                       | Parish Council & Sustainability Group             | Hfds Council, Natural England, HNT & Interested Parties | 5 years      | TBA  | Grants & Charities                       | Interested Parties                              | Parish Council                      | M                    |
| Safe area for Recreation in Wilcroft Park | To establish a suitable area and make it safe.                               | Parish Council, Hfds Council & Interested Parties | Hfds Council & Interested Parties                       | 2014 ongoing | TBA  | Interested Parties/ Hfds Council         | Interested Parties                              | Parish Council, Hfds Council        | M                    |
| Safer travelling within the Group Parish. | Remedial action to provide safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists.        | Parish Council & Interested Parties               | Hfds Council Highways Dept & Interested Parties         | 2014 ongoing | TBA  | Hfds Council Grants & Interested Parties | Parish Council in conjunction with Hfds Council | Parish Council                      | H                    |

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The preparation of the Parish Plan has involved a number of people from within the Parish with support from others from outside. In particular, thanks must go to:

- All those, both past and present, on the Parish Plan Steering Committee who gave their time freely to deliver the questionnaires and draw up the plan.
- To Community First and Herefordshire Council for their support and guidance.
- To the Herefordshire Council Parish & Community Plan Grant Scheme and Bartestree with Lugwardine Group Parish Council for providing funding.
- To the Sustainability Group for their co-operation with our Planning for Real consultation
- Finally, to all those households who completed and returned questionnaires without which the Plan could not have been achieved.

## **GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES MEETING WITHIN THE GROUP PARISH**

(See Parish Magazine for details)

Short mat bowls  
Brownies  
Cool Moves Dance & Fitness  
Gardening Club  
Prayer Meeting  
Yoga  
Xplorers 2001  
Weight Watchers  
Zumba by Body Passion  
Baby Sensory  
Bridge Club  
Thursday Encounter  
Xplorers Youth Club  
Rosemary Conley Class  
W.I.  
British Legion Branch Whist  
Bellringing  
Football Training