

INTRODUCTION

The Government's Rural White Paper (2001) introduced the concept of the Parish Plan, which it was felt should deal with every aspect of community life rather than just the more narrow aims of previous approaches. The Upper Arley Parish Plan aims to do just that.

The Steering Group has surveyed residents and visitors, and has also looked at other research. The following sections each give a description of the present situation, issues that have been identified in the surveys or have come out of other research, and proposals for action.

The Parish Plan reflects at local level the planning processes of the County and District Councils, and has been prepared having regard to the County Structure Plan, the District Local Plan and the Draft Community Strategies of the two authorities, although at one or two points policies of the Parish Council may deviate from policies contained in those documents. In many instances the Plan provides support for the principal authorities in the services that they provide.

The Parish Council cannot take all the decisions; it has relatively limited powers and finances, and must often persuade others to take the action. However, because the process has involved local people, and full discussion and research, we hope that the Plan will achieve credibility in the eyes of other organisations and will form a basis for their work in the Parish. The Plan shows who we think are the people and organisations that might be involved in acting on the proposals.

Obviously it will take time for all the options for change to work through the systems – some of them will take time to plan, or time to find the money. We have therefore shown a timescale within which we think the aim can be achieved.

Although this will be the Parish Council's "business plan" for the next ten years or so, there will be a continuing process of review and updating. The Council is working on an Action Plan, in which it will give more detail of the various proposals in the Parish Plan, identify a "lead person" who will champion each proposal, where possible identify costs and sources of funding, etc. The first issue of this Action Plan will be available in the early Summer of 2004.

Ray Harrowing
Clerk to the Parish Council
March 2004

Upper Arley Parish

The Parish consists of three small villages in North Worcestershire, of which Upper Arley and Shatterford are on the east side of the River Severn and Pound Green on the west side. The total population is about 645, of whom many are near to or above retirement age.

The Parish is one of the ten rural parishes and three towns that make up the District of Wyre Forest.

Abbreviations

PC – Parish Council
WFDC – Wyre Forest District Council
WCC – Worcestershire County Council
HETB – Heart of England Tourist Board
OB – Opportunity Bewdley
VH Committee – Village Hall Committee