

THE ENVIRONMENT 3. The Built Environment

THE PRESENT SITUATION

The Parish has not the unity of building style or materials that is found in some areas, such as the Yorkshire Dales or the Cotswolds. However, there are certain styles and features that characterise the villages of North Worcestershire and to some extent the village of Arley, which has in this respect benefited from the unifying influence of its ownership by one estate. Pound Green and Shatterford have a more diverse range of styles and materials.

The oldest building the Parish is St. Peter's Church, built largely of sandstone, and some other older buildings also use this material. Newer buildings are in stone or brick, often of quite highly decorated styles from the Victorian era. Outstanding buildings or buildings of historic interest include Arley Cottage, Arley School and the School House (now part of the school itself), the SVR Station buildings and the Victoria Bridge, the Valencia, Arley Tower, Hawkbatch Farm and Woodhouse Farm.

Modern buildings are largely in brick, some of the most recent being of styles that do not fit in well with the character of the surrounding buildings. Barn conversions have on the whole been carried out sympathetically, and many substantial residences, although of distinctive styles, fit in more easily with nearby properties.

The Parish is relatively free of empty or derelict buildings, although changes in farming practices have led to some agricultural buildings falling out of use.

Issues

- Some buildings do not fit into the design of Arley Village.
- Use of local materials
- Preserve features in refurbishing old properties.

<u>Actions</u>	<u>Stakeholders</u>	<u>Timescale</u>
Monitor planning applications to ensure sympathetic design and use of materials in new or altered buildings.	PC, WFDC	Ongoing
Encourage preservation of characteristic buildings and design features.	PC, WFDC	Ongoing
Encourage re-use of disused farm buildings	PC, WFDC	Ongoing

Policy Statement

The Parish Council will only support development the style of which is considered to be sympathetic to the present character of the villages.
In any new residential development the Parish Council would expect to see the use of local materials whenever possible.
In the refurbishment or conversion of existing buildings the Parish Council would expect to see the use of sympathetic materials and styles.