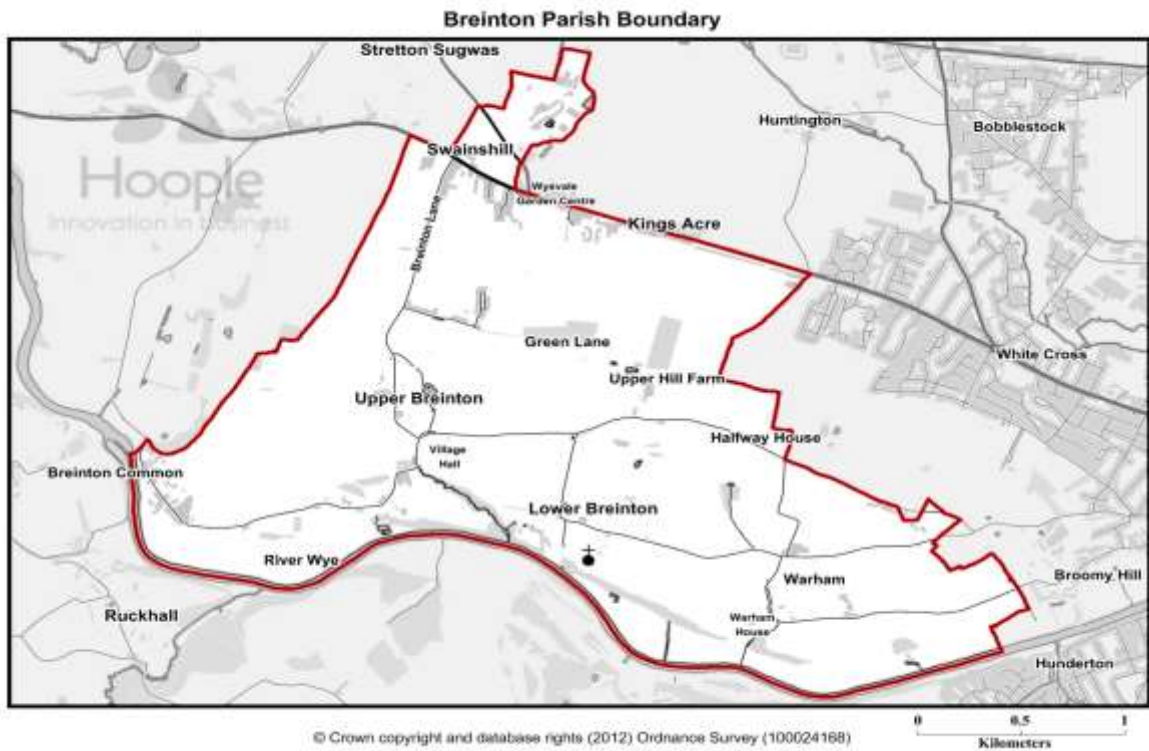


BREINTON COMMUNITY LED PLAN

February 2014



www.breintonparish.co.uk

BREINTON COMMUNITY LED PLAN

Developed and compiled by the CLP steering group:

Joint Chairs: Anthony Powers (also a parish councillor) and Karen Middleton

Secretary: Graeme Adkin (also parish clerk)

Treasurer: Tony Geeson (also chair of the parish council)

Plus: Nicky Geeson, Lorraine Lewis (also a parish councillor), Kat Oakley, Gillian Bulmer, Chris Holt and Vicki Wegg-Prosser

Abbreviations and definitions

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| ACRE | The charity Action with Communities in Rural England |
| BPC | Breinton Parish Council |
| CLP | Community Led Plan: A replacement for what was previously known as a Parish Plan. Founded on community involvement and led by voluntary groups |
| CPRE | The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England |
| DfT | UK Government Department for Transport |
| DWP | UK Government Department of Work and Pensions |
| HALC | Herefordshire Association of Local Councils – the representative body for all local councils in Herefordshire |
| HC | Herefordshire Council |
| KAR | Kings Acre Road, the A438 running west from Hereford towards Brecon |
| Local council | Town, parish or city council i.e. the tier of local government below Herefordshire Council |
| LPG | Liquid petroleum gas (for heating, cooking and industrial processes) |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| OCSI | Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion |
| PBG | Painting Breinton Green – the ‘brand name’ for the SAP, created by local volunteers to unite all the efforts being made to make the local community more sustainable in the years ahead |
| Planning for Real | A nationally recognised process of community consultation trade marked by The Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation |
| SAC | Special area of conservation (a nationally, potentially internationally, important environmental site) |
| SAP | Sustainability Action Plan, to maximise opportunities for sustainable living in the parish |
| SERCC | South East Rural Community Councils organisation |
| Sustainability | Working together so that more of our current needs are met in ways that do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Source: adapted from ‘Steps towards a sustainable 21 st century rural community’ SERCC) |

BREINTON COMMUNITY LED PLAN

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Breinton Community Led Plan Appendices; in three separate documents, A-F, G and H-I:

| | |
|---|---|
| A | A description of Breinton |
| B | The previous Parish Plan, 2005 |
| C | Painting Breinton Green. A sustainability action plan for the Parish, 2012 |
| D | Community Led Planning |
| E | The Overall Timetable for producing Breinton's Community Led Plan |
| F | Evidence that supports the CLP (Extracts from the analysis of the results of the Parish Questionnaire by the independent consultant – Tony Cramp) |
| G | An annotated version of Tony Cramp's Report issue 2.2 |
| H | CLP Questionnaire for Adults 2013 |
| I | CLP Questionnaire for Young People 2013 |



Breinton has many orchards, old and new (N Geeson)

1.0 Introduction and acknowledgements

1.1 The Parish Council has taken two years to produce this Community Led Plan (CLP) which replaces the original Parish Plan. It would not have been possible without a small group of volunteers or the members of the Steering Group. We are very grateful:-

To the CLP steering group:

Joint Chairs: Anthony Powers (also a parish councillor) and Karen Middleton

Secretary: Graeme Adkin (also parish clerk)

Treasurer: Tony Geeson (also chair of the parish council)

Plus: Nicky Geeson, Lorraine Lewis (also a parish councillor), Kat Oakley, Gillian Bulmer, Chris Holt and Vicki Wegg-Prosser

To the dedicated army of local volunteers who personally delivered and collected the Questionnaires to all households in Breinton

For support, guidance and partial funding from Herefordshire Council: Chris Gooding, Sophie Pryce and Kath Greenow

To the research team at Herefordshire Council who analysed the questionnaires and prepared graphs etc.

and to Tony Cramp, an independent consultant who did a great job with interpreting the statistical analysis and summarising the findings



St. Michael's Church, Breinton (N Geeson)

1.2 Breinton is a small, largely rural, parish. Its key features are described in **Appendix A**. The issues it faces include an increasing number of elderly people, a lack of truly local facilities and its proximity to Hereford – the major centre for economic growth in the County. On the other hand large parts of the parish remain undeveloped devoted to agriculture and there is a strong community spirit locally.

This Community Led Plan tries to address these issues and a number of others.

- 1.3** The CLP has a number of predecessors. A Parish Plan was produced in 2005 and **Appendix B** summarises the progress made on its recommendations in the last nine years. Many of the issues remain relevant today. More recently a group of volunteers worked to produce a Sustainability Action Plan for the parish. This identified a considerable number of opportunities to make Breinton more sustainable in future. These are summarised in **Appendix C** and many of them have been carried forward into this CLP.
- 1.4** To produce this CLP the Steering Group established by the Parish Council followed the process laid down by Herefordshire Council. More details of what this involved are given in **Appendix D**. This process included a number of public events and a parish questionnaire in 2013. There were different questionnaires for adults (those of 18 years and older) and young people (those aged from 6 to 17 years). 66% of adults in the parish completed the questionnaire as did 62% of all young people aged between 6 and 18 years. This was an exceptionally high response rate in comparison to similar exercises in this and other parishes.
- 1.5** An overall timetable of all events contributing to the Community Led Plan is given in **Appendix E**.
- 1.6** The Steering Group considered how to turn the answers to the questionnaire into a plan. They commissioned a statistical summary of the questionnaire results with tables and graphs from Herefordshire Council's Research Team. A more detailed report was then produced by Tony Cramp, an independent statistician. This took all the information on all the topics covered by the questionnaire and brought together the key facts and findings. These are summarised in Section 2 below. The full details of the report by Tony Cramp are contained in **Appendix G**.



Breinton is rural but borders the city (N Geeson)

2.0 Summary and Key Findings from the Parish Questionnaire

(See Appendix G for the full report on the Parish Questionnaire, as produced by Tony Cramp)

2.1 The Questionnaire

Community Led Plan questionnaires were delivered to every household in Breinton Parish in February 2013. A copy of the adult version of the questionnaire was provided for each adult over 18 and a young person's questionnaire for each resident aged 6 to 17 years.

By the closing date of 25th February, 478 adult and 52 young person's questionnaires had been completed giving a response rate of 66% of those aged 18 and over and 62% of 6 to 17 year olds (according to 2011 census).

Of the adult questionnaires completed, 47% were by men and 53% by women, they were divided approximately equally between those who lived in the Kings Acre Road area and those elsewhere in the parish, and 60% were from residents who had lived in Breinton for over 10 years.



Magpie Lane in Breinton, also known as Gypsy Lane (N Geeson)

2.2 Roads, road safety and travel

The car was overwhelmingly the most commonly used means of transport with over three quarters (77%) of survey respondents using it daily, a further 14% weekly, while just 1% of respondents indicated that they never used a car. Over a quarter of respondents walked daily.

9% of respondents have problems resulting from lack of transport, most commonly due to the bus service being too infrequent, especially in the evenings and weekends.

Most people (61%) would not use a scheme to make private transport more accessible. However just over a quarter (27%) would use a community transport scheme.

Over 60% of respondents believe there are serious traffic or road safety issues in Breinton. These were most commonly speeding vehicles or poor road conditions (potholes). A similar proportion would like to see the Parish Council lobby for speed restrictions or other traffic calming measures. About half the comments on this topic (about a quarter of all survey respondents) wanted to see speed restrictions either throughout Breinton or in specific places, such as Kings Acre Road or some or all of the rural lanes in Breinton.

Around three quarters of residents would like the Parish Council to push for cycleways.

2.3 Future uses of land, and housing

Residents considered it important that Breinton retains its rural character, with 78% who said it's very important and a further said 16% fairly important. This was particularly so for residents in areas other than the Kings Acre Road area, of whom 85% said it was very important compared with 69% of residents of the Kings Acre Road area.

Almost four out of five residents agreed with the Parish Council opposing the plan for a western relief road for Hereford.

There was very strong, virtually universal, support for continuing to use the land for agricultural purposes, while a majority were opposed to commercial or light industrial uses especially distribution / warehousing though less so for small offices. There was more support than opposition for tourism uses, while housing and second homes were, on balance, not considered appropriate use of the land.



Breinton's cider heritage (N Geeson)

When asked for their views if there were to be new housing, as existing plans identified, around a third said there should be no new housing, while 44% said there should be some limit. Around two thirds expressed the view that any new housing should be on previously used sites and a similar number said it was preferable that it should be based on conversion of redundant buildings where possible.

Nearly two thirds of respondents felt that any new housing should be for people with local connections and family homes with three or more bedrooms were the size preferred by nearly half of respondents. A similar proportion also indicated that new homes should be adapted for easy access.

Nearly three quarters of respondents would want any new homes built to be available to buy on the open market and a large majority (71%) favoured a traditional design. Two thirds of respondents would want them to be of high energy saving standards, exceeding current government targets.

2.4 Facilities, services, leisure and environment

Nearly half of the respondents said they would use cycle paths if they were provided locally and over a third would be interested in resource sharing schemes such as bulk buying of fuel.

The village hall was used by over half (56%) of respondents, at least occasionally, while fewer people used the St Michael's Church (46%). Whilst overall 54% said they have never used the Church amongst those who have lived in Breinton for 5 years or less, four fifths or 80% have never used it.

Musical concerts, exercise classes and car boot sales were amongst the most popular additional activities that people would use if provided at the Church or Village Hall, each selected by around a third of respondents.



*View towards Drovers Wood, planted by the Woodland Trust in 2000 to mark the Millennium
(N Geeson)*

The most common reasons cited amongst those who do not use organised leisure facilities in Breinton was that they do not match their interests (56%), that they use facilities elsewhere (37%), or that they were not aware of them (27%). Common amongst the other reasons given was a lack of time due to work or family commitments.

Around one in ten people had problems with fuel costs and a similar number with gardening, decorating or DIY.

A large proportion, around four fifths, of respondents were very or fairly concerned with illegal dumping and litter in the parish and a majority (around two thirds) expressed concern about each of the other topics listed – dog fouling, burglary/theft and vandalism. About half the residents who responded were concerned about all five of the issues listed, and there was an indication that those aged over 65 were more likely than younger people to be concerned about all five issues.

2.5 Communication

Over three quarters (78%) of respondents used the internet, including 96% of those aged under 45 years, and over half of those who used it found their activities restricted by slow broadband speeds.

Around one in ten residents found the Parish Council website useful, while nearly half hadn't used it and a further 39% were unaware of it.

A majority of over three quarters of residents found Teamtalk useful and around two thirds preferred to be kept informed about Parish Council and Local government business by reports within it.

2.6 Young people's questionnaire

Amongst young people (aged 6 – 17), spending time with their friends and playing computer games / using the internet was the most popular spare time activity.

Three quarters of young people would like to see safer cycle routes and over half of them would like to see a safe playground. A similar number would like a sports pitch.

Improved bus services and cycle routes were the predominant suggestion amongst younger people to increase the local transport options.



Breinton is a friendly place to live! (N Geeson)



- especially at Breinton Village Hall!

3.0 Drafting the Community Led Plan

- 3.1** The detailed analysis of results from the Parish Questionnaires contained in Tony Cramp's report was used by the Steering Group to start drafting this Community Led Plan. Each section of the questionnaires was discussed in turn at a number of meetings and information from the Cramp report allowed these to be summarised into policies. Each of these policies has a number of parts. Further information was extracted from the Cramp report to provide a summary list of evidence from the questionnaires for these policies and this list is at **Appendix F**. These policies are not only supported by evidence from the questionnaire results but also from information in the 2012 Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) and with actions suggested by those people who replied to the questionnaires. As a first draft, these policies, the sources of evidence for them and the possible actions which would make them meaningful are all shown in TABLE 1 which follows.

TABLE 1 Draft policies, sources of evidence for them and suggested actions

| Policy (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) | Answers from the questionnaires providing evidence for the policy (See also Appendix F) | Suggested actions from local residents (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) |
|---|--|---|
| From the answers about ROADS, ROAD SAFETY and TRAVEL in the questionnaires | | |
| Policy 1: To promote and secure where ever possible improved access for Breinton residents by:- | | |
| i. Engagement with the bus companies and Herefordshire Council (HC) to improve services where possible | 1b,1c,1g,3b,3d,YP2a,YP4a | Lobby Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Association of Local Councils and bus company/ies to retain and improve services, with new bus stop at Breinton Lane/Kings Acre Road junction |
| ii. Exploring improved provision for cyclists. | 1f,6k,9a,17a,YP2a,YP3b, YP4b | Lobby for completion of Kings Acre Road cycle path and make sure existing routes are well-signed |
| iii. Exploring the opportunities for car sharing | 1a,2b,3a,4b,4c | Put people interested in car sharing in touch with one another |
| iv. Exploring the opportunities for community transport | | Explore community transport opportunities <i>and look at best practice from elsewhere in United Kingdom</i> |
| v. Continuing to oppose Herefordshire Council's plans for a western relief road | 11a | Continue to collect evidence for un-deliverability and ineffectiveness of western relief road in helping traffic flow in Hereford. Work with Core Strategy Challenge Group to submit evidence to Local Plan Core Strategy Examination In Public |
| | | |
| Policy 2: To address residents concerns about road safety by:- | | |
| i. Exploring the grounds for reducing speed limits and investigating how to restrict the speed of traffic throughout Breinton | 6a,6b,6c,6d,7a,8a,8b,8c, 8d | Explore Department for Transport criteria & options for lower speed limits in Breinton & for 30mph further along Kings Acre Road e.g. to Swainshill, <i>consider neighbourhood limits</i> & traffic calming measures |

| Policy (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) | Answers from the questionnaires providing evidence for the policy (See also Appendix F) | Suggested actions from local residents (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) |
|---|--|---|
| | | <i>Obtain evidence of how much traffic passes through Breinton. Find evidence of how many accidents are due to speed, to support a case for restrictions</i> |
| ii. Continuing to lobby Herefordshire Council – the Highways Authority - to repair roads | 6e,6f | Monitor progress of the Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty C and U class road improvement initiative (2014 onwards). Explore locally sub-contracted ‘rapid response’ options with Balfour Beatty. Encourage the public to report damage and chase progress |
| iii. Implementing, where possible, individual recommendations for improved safety documented in the Parish questionnaire results 2013 | 6g,6h,6i,6j,6k,6l,6m,6n,6o | Initiate dialogue with landowners, farm contractors and representatives of other road users (cyclists, pedestrians). Consider more passing places, maintenance of verges, hedge management |
| | | |
| From answers about future LAND USES in the questionnaires and the sustainability action plan (SAP) | | |
| Policy 3: To ensure that future land use and development within the parish meets the needs and aspirations of its residents by:- | | |
| i. Considering whether any commercial or agricultural development is sensitive to the parish’s character and sustainability | 12b,12e | Maintain primacy of Grade 1 and 2 Agricultural Land and <i>encourage appropriate farming and land uses</i> . (National Planning Policy Framework sections 109 & 112) <i>Find out if commercial or agricultural developments are viable in the Parish</i> |
| ii. Taking account of the preference for traditional fruit and agricultural enterprises when commenting on planning decisions | 10a,12a | Take account of community preferences in all business and enterprise planning applications. Provide a checklist of agreed land use priorities, in conformity with relevant Herefordshire Council and National Planning Policy Framework policies, for all planning applications |
| iii. Giving appropriate encouragement to projects that feature renewable energy | SAP, 15g,16b | Set a minimum ‘code’ level for all new builds and future-proofing conversions |

| Policy (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) | Answers from the questionnaires providing evidence for the policy (See also Appendix F) | Suggested actions from local residents (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) |
|--|--|--|
| iv. Encouraging the use of brownfield sites and disused buildings for any appropriate, small-scale, less intensive commercial developments | 13c,15f | <i>Find out how much building is viable to be converted.</i> Include the National Planning Policy Framework statement encouraging the use of brownfield land in Parish Council comments on applications (Section 111) |
| v. Supporting traditional land uses (farming, horticulture, orchards) | 12a | Enquire if any projects are running to support the planting of more orchards in Breinton |
| vi. Conserving and improving the natural and built heritage | 10a,12c, SAP, YP5a | Promote keeping Breinton's landscape and its uniqueness. Work with Council for the Protection of Rural England, Natural England and Herefordshire Council Conservation Officer(s) to safeguard natural and built assets in the parish e.g. trees, hedges, ponds, orchards and the wildlife they support. Tree planting. Bulb planting. More National Trust Days |
| vii. Supporting low density rural tourism initiatives e.g. walking, cycling | 12c, 1d, 1e,1f,1h | Support tourism with information on interpretation boards and on the Parish website http://www.breintonparish.co.uk/ Obtain recognition via Herefordshire's Tourism board |
| From answers about HOUSING in the questionnaires and the sustainability action plan (SAP) | | |
| Policy 4: To ensure that any future housing development meets the needs and aspirations of residents by:- | | |
| i. Limiting new housing to be consistent with the rural housing allocation in the Local Plan Core Strategy (LPCS) | 12d,13a,13b,13e,15e | Assess what sites are viable and appropriate for housing e.g. on drainage, access grounds etc. Develop a Neighbourhood Plan to help resist predatory development and ensure LPCS growth targets are not exceeded |
| ii. Maximising the use of brown field sites and existing buildings for housing development | 13c,15f | Map out where opportunities might be |

| Policy (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) | Answers from the questionnaires providing evidence for the policy (See also Appendix F) | Suggested actions from local residents (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) |
|--|--|---|
| <i>iii. Ensuring a mix of housing types and designs according to community preferences for any new housing</i> | 13e,14a,14b,14c,14d,15a,15c,16a | Ensure community and Parish Council are consulted on all development proposals irrespective of whether they become formal planning applications |
| <i>iv. Lobbying to ensure that any new housing is built to high ecological and sustainability standards</i> | 15g,16b, SAP | <i>Find out what level is required and would such buildings be affordable to local people</i> |
| <i>v. Arguing that adequate water supply, drainage, sewerage and flood alleviation / prevention should be provided for any new housing.</i> | 13d | <i>Map existing provision</i> |
| From answers about the ENVIRONMENT in the questionnaires and the sustainability action plan (SAP) | | |
| Policy 5: To seek to reduce Breinton's carbon footprint by:- | | |
| <i>i. Supporting the production and use of domestic renewable energy by, e.g. solar panels, to make the parish both communally and individually more energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly</i> | SAP | <i>Promote environmentally-friendly practices, e.g. for agriculture, building, etc</i> |
| <i>ii. Promoting of energy saving and sharing schemes</i> | 17c,21a,SAP | Promote appropriately-scaled energy efficiency projects for local benefit / needs, e.g. bulk fuel schemes, solar panels on existing buildings, access to Green Deal 2 grant opportunities. Encourage local schools to take action |
| | | |

| Policy (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) | Answers from the questionnaires providing evidence for the policy (See also Appendix F) | Suggested actions from local residents (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) |
|---|--|--|
| Policy 6: To seek a reduction in all forms of pollution affecting the parish by:- | | |
| i. Taking action to combat fly-tipping and litter | 22a,SAP | Consider appointment of Warden to co-ordinate reporting of fly-tipping Advise Breinton residents to report illegal fly-tipping and litter promptly to Herefordshire Council e.g. at Breinton Springs Organise regular litter-picks Explore the practicalities and costs of providing bins Install signs. <i>'Fines for tipping'</i> . <i>'We are watching you'</i> . Article in Team talk / website etc <i>to challenge anti-social behaviour</i> |
| ii. Taking action to ensure dog waste is properly disposed of | 22a,SAP | <i>Promote 'good practice'</i> . Explore the practicalities and costs of providing bins for dog waste where appropriate and / or provide bio-degradable collection bags. Spray poo with paint. Install signs – <i>Fines humour or caustic signs</i> <i>Act to report or deal with anti-social behaviour</i> Article in Team talk / website <i>to educate dog owners</i> |
| iii. Supporting action to reduce the amount of air, noise & light pollution as well as soil erosion and surface water run-off | SAP | <i>Monitor any reported issues</i> |
| | | |
| From answers about FACILITIES AND SERVICES in the questionnaires | | |
| Policy 7: To maintain and improve communication and facilities locally by:- | | |
| i. Improving the communication infrastructure for residents | 23a, 23b, | Facilitate fast broadband, better mobile networks & internet access. Consider/explore options for broadband 'mast' on church spire |

| Policy (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) | Answers from the questionnaires providing evidence for the policy (See also Appendix F) | Suggested actions from local residents (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) |
|---|--|--|
| ii. Improving communication between the Parish Council and parishioners | 17b,24a,25a,26a | Develop and improve current communication channels with residents using Teamtalk, Parish website http://www.breintonparish.co.uk , noticeboards, events, etc A annual day at Village Hall 'What's happened/happening in Breinton and reminding residents how we communicate |
| iii. Improving local signage and public maps | 17b | Improve, update and maintain signage and maps |
| iv. Encouraging support for community facilities in order to secure their future | 18a,18d,19a | Support Village Hall, St. Michael's Church, Warham Community Farm and use of the fruit farm shop. Wi fi access in the village hall <i>Wider advertising. More social events run by Village Hall Committee or Breinton Parish Council</i> |
| v. Using offers of volunteer help from the 2013 questionnaire survey to maximum effect in increasing activities in the parish | 19a | Promote and monitor offers of help from residents |
| From answers about LEISURE in the questionnaires | | |
| Policy 8: To increase opportunities for exercise and promote well-being by:- | | |
| <i>i. Exploring the options for more events/classes locally</i> | 19a | <i>Promote more events / classes at the Village Hall, St. Michael's Church, Warham Community Farm, etc.</i> |
| ii. Promoting walking and cycling, and exploring the possibilities of more cycle paths | 1f,9a,17a,YP3b,YP4b | Promote walking and cycling, e.g. routes downloadable for Parish website http://www.breintonparish.co.uk/ |

| Policy (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) | Answers from the questionnaires providing evidence for the policy (See also Appendix F) | Suggested actions from local residents (See the end of this table for an explanation of the text in <i>italics</i>) |
|--|--|---|
| iii. Exploring of the possibility of providing a playground, sports pitch, public open spaces etc | 17e,YP3a,YP3c | Explore the possibility of a playground or sports field in easy range of main Kings Acre Road population centre. <i>Consider scheme for residents with e.g. tennis court to allow community access on an agreed basis.</i> Identify land for allotments |
| iv. <i>Seeking opportunities to increase support for vulnerable residents</i> | 21a,21b,21c | <i>Identify the needs of vulnerable residents and act to help where this is wanted. Promote well-being and neighbourliness.</i> Garden sharing schemes |

NB The Steering Group took the text in *italics* in TABLE 1 above and either amended it or merged it with other text before including in the Action Plan (TABLE 2) which follows. In a few cases it was decided not to use some *italicised* text at all in the Action Plan (TABLE 2). The Steering Group wanted an Action Plan that was as Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) as possible and some reasons why text was not included in Table 2 are explained in paragraph 3.2.

EXPLANATION OF TABLE 1 above.

SAP: Sustainability Action Plan. See **Appendix C**

1, 2 etc: used in the middle column of TABLE 1 denote evidence from answers to questions 1, 2 etc of the questionnaire completed by adults aged 18 and over. In many cases the answers to a particular question contain more than one piece of evidence so these separate pieces are identified as '1a', '1b', '1c' and so on

YP1, YP2 etc: used in the middle column of TABLE 1 refers to Question 3 from the questionnaire completed by young people aged 6 to 17 years inclusive. Where there is more than one piece of evidence in the answers to a particular question this will be shown as YP1a, YP1b etc

Please see **Appendix F** to find out about particular pieces of evidence from the questionnaire results which have been used in Table 1 above

- 3.2** Having drafted TABLE 1 (above) the Steering Group met on a number of occasions to consider how it could be converted into an Action Plan that was Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely. Achievable was taken to mean:-
- within a reasonable length of time,
 - given the powers of the Parish Council,
 - with the funding likely to be available,
 - given the need get other organisations and bodies to act and
 - acknowledging the limited number of volunteers available locally.
- 3.3** The actions listed in TABLE 2 which follows, will help to make the Policies suggested by the results of the Parish Questionnaire real. However any particular action needs to be completed or followed through consistently for progress to be made with the Policy.

4.0 The Action Plan, and monitoring its progress

TABLE 2 – ACTION PLAN (if followed these actions will make the Policies derived from Breinton’s Parish Questionnaire real)

BPC = Breinton Parish Council, HC = Herefordshire Council, VHMC = Village Hall Management Committee, DEFRA = Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, NFU = National Farmers Union, Fastershire = Herefordshire Group overseeing the roll out of superfast broadband locally, PCC = St Michael’s Breinton Parochial Church Council

| Actions | Those who will need to take action include | Priority (High, Medium, Low) and comments |
|---|--|---|
| POLICY 1 To promote and secure improved access to facilities for Breinton residents where ever possible | | |
| i. Seek evidence to lobby Herefordshire Council (HC), Herefordshire Association of Local Councils and bus companies to retain and improve public transport e.g. along Upper Breinton Road | BPC | M – although desirable, little BPC control, and unlikely |
| ii. Make the case for a new bus stop at the Breinton Lane/Kings Acre Road junction | BPC / Ward councillor / HC | M – demand would have to be demonstrated and costs met |
| iii. Continue to lobby for completion of a Kings Acre Road cycle path | BPC / Ward councillors / HC | H – Overwhelming support in the Questionnaire. HC funds needed |
| iv. Seek to ensure that existing cycle routes are well and appropriately signed | HC / BPC | M – HC or BPC funds needed |
| v. Put any local residents interested in car-sharing in touch with one another to co-ordinate this themselves | BPC | L – small BPC input unless many residents make contact |
| vi. Put any local resident interested in community transport in touch with the Royal Voluntary Service and other community transport organisations | BPC | L – as above. Low support for this in the Questionnaire |
| vii. Continue to collect evidence for un-deliverability and ineffectiveness of western relief road in helping traffic flow in Hereford. | BPC | H – this proposal will change the parish significantly for ever |
| viii. Work with groups like the Core Strategy Challenge Group to submit evidence to Local Plan Core Strategy Examination In Public | BPC | H – estimated cost is £100 pa from BPC |
| | | |
| Policy 2 To address residents concerns about road safety | | |
| i. Explore the Department for Transport criteria and options for | | |

| Actions | Those who will need to take action include | Priority (High, Medium, Low) and comments |
|---|---|--|
| a) reducing speed limits in Breinton's rural lanes | BPC / Ward councillor / HC Community safety strategy | H – may take a lot of lobbying. it is a long process to change limits. Funding & enforcement needed |
| b) reducing speed limits to 30mph further along the A438 / Kings Acre Road e.g. to Swainshill and also on the A480 towards Stretton Sugwas | As above | M –as above. Will need enforcement |
| c) traffic-calming measures in the Parish. | As above | M – as above |
| ii. Monitor progress of the HC/Balfour Beatty initiative to improve the condition of 'C' class and unclassified 'U' roads as it impacts on Breinton. | BPC | M – HC plans to begin this initiative in 2014 |
| iii. Explore the options for a locally sub-contracted 'rapid response' service for Breinton by working directly with HC's contractor, Balfour Beatty | Ward Councillor / BPC | M – depends on HC & BB agreement and BPC funding |
| iv. Encourage the public to report damaged highways and chase progress with HC – e.g. via periodic articles in Teamtalk and on website | BPC | H – relatively small BPC effort for potentially big benefits |
| v. Continue pressure on Herefordshire Council and relevant landowners to repair and maintain roads, hedges, drains and verges | BPC / Ward councillor | M – will require co-operation and funds to get benefits. May fall in DEFRA's stewardship schemes |
| vi. Dialogue with landowners, farm contractors and representatives of other road users (cyclists, pedestrians etc) to implement individual road safety solutions at specific localities in Breinton as issues arise | BPC/ landowners / road users and road safety groups | M – requires co-operation and funding |
| vii. Consider the creation of more formal passing places on rural lanes in the parish | BPC / HC / landowners | M – as above |
| POLICY 3 To ensure that future land use and development within the parish meets the needs and aspirations of its residents as far as is possible | | |
| i. Lobby relevant bodies to retain Grades 1 and 2 Agricultural Land where this is under threat (See National Planning Policy Framework sections 109, 112) | BPC / National Trust / Council for the protection of Rural England / Bulmer Foundation / Country business and land owners association | M – Important. BPC cannot impact directly on this to any great extent. Relatively little effort over time might produce results. Could also involve the Woodland Trust, NFU, DEFRA |
| ii. Take account of local preferences in all commercial planning applications. | BPC / HC | H – will be BPC standard practice |

| Actions | Those who will need to take action include | Priority (High, Medium, Low) and comments |
|---|---|---|
| iii. Produce a checklist of agreed land use priorities that conforms with the relevant policies of Herefordshire Council and the National Planning Policy Framework to use when considering all planning applications | BPC / HC | M – once done it can be incorporated into a Neighbourhood Plan eventually |
| iv. Set a minimum local standard for the sustainable design and construction for all new builds and future-proofing of conversions etc and include this in the Neighbourhood Plan | BPC | M – as above. The voluntary Code for sustainable homes already exists to base a local version on |
| v. Include reference to the National Planning Policy Framework section 111 (encouraging the use of brownfield land) in all relevant BPC responses to planning applications | BPC / HC | H – will be BPC standard practice |
| vi. Support opportunities to conserve or extend local natural resources such as the planting of more indigenous orchards in Breinton e.g. through the Traditional Orchards Project | BPC | H – relatively little BPC effort for the potential benefits. May require volunteer effort |
| vii. Promote and conserve Breinton’s natural landscape and its uniqueness through Teamtalk, the Parish Council web-site etc | BPC | M – as above |
| viii. Work with local landowners and relevant bodies to safeguard natural and built assets in the parish e.g. buildings, indigenous trees, hedges and orchards, ponds and the wildlife they support | BPC / residents / CPRE / Natural England / Country business and landowners association / Lengthsman / HC conservation officers / landowners | H – has support from questionnaire but will require co-operation and potentially funding. BPC has no powers to compel |
| ix. Support indigenous tree and bulb planting etc. initiatives | BPC | L – volunteers may be needed |
| x. Encourage more National Trust Days | BPC / NT | L – relatively little effort involved |
| xi. Support tourism with information on interpretation boards and on the Parish Council website http://www.breintonparish.co.uk/ | BPC / CPRE/ Parklands Project / Local residents / landowners | M –NB 58% consider tourism an appropriate land use. Needs information to be gathered and consent of landowner |
| xii. Obtain recognition of Breinton’s attractions via Visit Herefordshire | BPC / Visit Herefordshire | M – need to decide the best approach |
| xiii. Support and promote local heritage initiatives – e.g. exhibitions of paintings | BPC / exhibitors and | M – relatively little effort by BPC. |

| Actions | Those who will need to take action include | Priority (High, Medium, Low) and comments |
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| and photographs by local residents | venue owners | Needs initiatives & volunteers |
| POLICY 4 To ensure that any future housing development meets the needs and aspirations of residents as far as is possible | | |
| i. Consider what sites are appropriate for housing e.g. on drainage, access, water supply, flood alleviation and sewerage etc. grounds | BPC / residents | H – as part of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) |
| ii. Develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) to guide sustainable development within Breinton | BPC / residents | H – BPC has agreed to start this |
| iii. Map out where brown field sites offer opportunities for sustainable development | BPC / landowners | H – as part of the NP |
| iv. Seek to ensure that Breinton residents are engaged with all development proposals irrespective of whether they become formal planning applications | BPC / developers or their agents | M – is standard BPC practice but much depends on the developer |
| v. Establish the level of environmental sustainability that buildings are required to have and could have and lobby for all developments locally and Local Plans for Herefordshire to incorporate the highest level practical. | BPC / HC / Developers | M – requires research. Cannot enforce beyond the current legal limits |
| vi. Encourage Herefordshire Council to periodically assess local housing needs | BPC / HC | M – may depend on HC's funds |
| POLICY 5 To seek to reduce Breinton's carbon footprint | | |
| i. Promote, through Teamtalk, the Parish Council website etc, appropriately scaled energy efficiency projects for local benefit / needs, e.g. bulk fuel purchasing schemes, Green Deal 2 grant opportunities | BPC | L – BPC can only provide information and a point of reference for residents when opportunities arise |
| ii. Encourage schools and colleges attended by local children to maximise the National Curriculum opportunities to promote sustainability. | BPC / Governing bodies / Head teachers | M – will require a volunteer to work with Stretton Sugwas and Whitecross schools in particular |
| iii. Encourage self sufficiency by highlighting useful links to information and incorporating any found into the Parish Council website | BPC | M – requires volunteers to identify valid sources |
| POLICY 6 To seek a reduction in all forms of pollution affecting the parish | | |
| i. Periodic advice to Breinton residents on the process for reporting illegal fly tipping promptly to Herefordshire Council emphasising the need to chase | BPC, residents, National Trust / HC | H – low cost – visible results providing HC continues to have |

| Actions | Those who will need to take action include | Priority (High, Medium, Low) and comments |
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| repeatedly | | staff to enforce |
| ii. Consider the feasibility of actions to combat litter and dog waste e.g. regular litter picks, periodic articles in Teamtalk / the Parish Council website as well as providing bins, installing signs bio-degradable collection bags and paint spraying dog waste at relevant sites. | BPC / National Trust / HC / Woodland Trust / Nature Trust /dog owners and litterers | M – signs and bins may not be cost-effective. Some actions need regular volunteers |
| iii. Report cases of air, noise or light pollution and soil erosion, surface water run-off etc. to an appropriate authority | BPC / residents | M – depends on individuals |
| POLICY 7 To maintain and improve communications and facilities locally wherever possible | | |
| i. Facilitate faster broadband, improved mobile networks and internet access through liaison with suppliers and by passing on any information that they provide | BPC, HC, Fastershire / VHMC / broadband providers | H – but can only really lobby for this – BPC have no control over speeds |
| ii. Consider and explore options for broadband ‘mast’ at a suitable location e.g. on church spire, existing radio mast, highest point in the parish | BPC / PCC / landowners | M – depends on the land owners co-operation |
| iii. Lobby for wi-fi access in Village Hall to facilitate internet training courses if demand is there | VHMC / BPC | M – funds will be required to install and run over time |
| iv. Develop and improve current communication of parish news to residents by: | | |
| a) Ensuring that all public notices are placed in Teamtalk | BPC / Teamtalk editor | H – BPC currently gives £450pa |
| b) Considering the automatic e-mail of BPC notices to individuals | BPC | L -nice to have but prioritise time to other issues |
| c) Maintaining and repairing notice boards as necessary | BPC / lengthsman | H – funds need to be identified |
| d) Considering installing additional notice boards e.g. on Kings Acre Road | BPC / lengthsman | L –costly, estimate £500 each |
| e) Promoting the use of the Parish Council website – www.breintonparish.co.uk by advertising it in the press, on notice boards, through Teamtalk etc. | BPC | H – relatively low effort and support from questionnaire |
| v. Consider periodic BPC events e.g. at the Village Hall to explain ‘What’s happened/happening in Breinton’ and how the Parish Council communicates | BPC | M – will require volunteers and people to be interested / attend for this to be a success |
| vi. Decide upon the extent of signage throughout the parish and then provide, improve, update and maintain these public signs and maps | BPC / HC | L – Questionnaire - only 33% would use community maps, directories etc. Impact on crime, |

| Actions | Those who will need to take action include | Priority (High, Medium, Low) and comments |
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| | | vandalism etc. needs checking |
| vii. Help promote more use of St. Michael's Church, Warham Community Farm, Village Hall etc. for appropriate events through notice boards, the Parish Council website etc. | BPC / residents / PCC / VHMC | H – need to sustain local facilities |
| viii. Promote local businesses through Parish Council events, notices, the Parish Council website etc. | BPC | M – relatively low effort. Requires information to promote |
| ix. Promote and monitor offers of help from residents to organise activities and encourage community spirit | BPC / residents | M – relatively low effort providing volunteers organise themselves |
| POLICY 8 To increase well being in Breinton | | |
| i. Promote walking and cycling, through routes downloadable for Parish Council website C:\http://www.breintonparish.co.uk/ | BPC | M – requires a volunteer to provide information and updates |
| ii. Explore any opportunities that arise for a playground or sports field that is easily accessible by local people | BPC / Community Farm / land owners | L – any site will need to be assessed |
| iii. Consider the feasibility of using available land for allotments, public open space etc | BPC / local land owners | L – demand has not been high to date |
| iv. Explore the potential for garden sharing with local residents | BPC / local residents | L – as above. |

5.0 Conclusions

The Action Plan (TABLE 2) will be used to guide the actions of the Parish Council over the next few years. This draft was approved in draft form for consultation in January 2013 and the CLP will be agreed in its final form by the Council in February 2014. At the same time an Annual Work Plan will be discussed which will describe what actions will follow. Progress against the Annual Work Plan will be reviewed at least twice a year at regular Parish Council meetings or at parish events.

The CLP will also be used as a basis for developing local land use planning policies in collaboration with Herefordshire Council and other interested parties. Clearly the Parish Council has to work within the overall planning policies of Herefordshire Council. However, every opportunity will be taken to influence these. These opportunities include using the 2014 CLP to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Despite the recession there is so much change being proposed for Hereford and its immediate hinterland that it is really important that local people have the opportunity to say how they would like their community to develop. If a Neighbourhood Plan is developed and successfully completes the statutory process (including an examination in public and a local referendum) it will have legal status as planning policy.



Oilseed rape and poppies near Breinton Manor Farm, June 2013 (N Geeson)

