

D. Action Plan

The Action Plan lists a number of actions that will be carried out in response to the issues that parishioners have identified. Each action is accompanied by a brief explanation of why it is needed, how it will be carried out, who will be responsible and when it will be taken forward. Producing the plan has helped bring people in the parish together; the aim now is to involve local people as far as possible in achieving the Action Plan.

Action Plan – Transport, Roads and Footpaths

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisations	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
40 mph speed limit on A49, especially through Much Birch Village, near the school, from The Pilgrim to Much Birch Garage.	Dept for Transport/ Highways Agency	Herefordshire Council – Highways; West Mercia Police	Maintain pressure on Dept for Transport during 2005/06	Dept for Transport	Parts of Much Birch will have a 50mph limit by 2005. The Parish Council will maintain discussions about the possibility of a 40mph limit and seek the support of Herefordshire Council
<p>Improve safety measures along the A49:</p> <p>“no overtaking” road markings through Much Birch Village from Tump Lane junction to south of Treberva Fruit Farm;</p> <p>traffic calming through the village;</p> <p>improvements at junction of Tump Lane and Kingsthorpe Road;</p> <p>car parking ban, especially in bus stop area opposite Much Birch Church;</p> <p>pedestrian crossings and traffic lights at the main junctions, including a pelican crossing at the Tump Lane/A49 junction.</p>	Dept for Transport/ Highways Agency	Herefordshire Council – Highways; West Mercia Police	Maintain pressure on Dept for Transport during 2005/2006	Dept for Transport	The Parish Council will seek the support of Herefordshire Council to the implementation of appropriate measures described in the Department for Transport “Traffic Advisory Leaflet 1/04”

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30 mph speed limit and traffic calming through Kingsthorne, Wormelow Village and along Tump Lane.	Herefordshire Council - Highways	West Mercia Police	2005/2006	Herefordshire Council; Parish Council contribution towards traffic calming	Working with Herefordshire Council Members, aim to include in Herefordshire Council Transport Plan.
20 mph limit on all minor roads and lanes.	Herefordshire Council - Highways	West Mercia Police	Letter 2005 seeking future provision		This is a longer term objective
Maintain passing places on minor roads and lanes.	Herefordshire Council - Highways		Programme implemented from 2005 onwards	Herefordshire Council	Parish Council will prioritise, and present proposals to Herefordshire Council to include in maintenance budget.
Enforce speed limits and weight restrictions (including installing traffic cameras along A49).	West Mercia Police		2005	West Mercia Police	Liaise with local Beat Manager; send letter to the Traffic Department, West Midlands Police; raise subject of speed limit enforcement with Chief Superintendent via HALC..
Construct pavements: - along A49 through Much Birch - along Tump Lane - from old shop to bus stop - on The Thorn for access to and from the bus stop	Dept for Transport Herefordshire Council Highways		Letter in 2005 seeking future implementation Begin process in 2005; lengthy implementation programme	Dept for Transport	Letter to Dept for Transport Site meeting with Herefordshire Council to agree a programme.

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Where not possible to construct pavements, make road edges safer, especially for children and the elderly.	Herefordshire Council - Highways		Programme implemented from 2005 onwards.	Herefordshire Council	Parish Council identifies priorities.
Improve maintenance of ditches along highways.	Herefordshire Council - Highways	Adjacent land owners	Begin programme in 2005	Herefordshire Council (via Lengthsman Scheme)	Parish Council to prioritise, produce programme and explore Lengthsman Scheme.
Improve drainage along Parish Lane, Little Birch (a Byeway Open to All traffic: BOAT)	Herefordshire Council - Highways	Parish Council	2006	Herefordshire Council; Parish Council	Discuss design issues and funding arrangement with Herefordshire Council.
Provide additional bus shelters: - at Much Birch Church/the Surgery - on Kingsthorpe Road, opposite Tump Lane - opposite top of Holly Bush Lane	Herefordshire Council	Parish Council	2006 ongoing	Herefordshire Council; Parish Council	Parish Council to discuss in 2005 with Herefordshire Council to agree a programme to include all 3 shelters. Implement programme
Provide additional car parking: - for the school - for the church/surgery/ Much Birch Community Hall	LEA Parochial Church Council, Surgery, Trustees of Community Hall	Parish Council, local land owners and Herefordshire Council -Highways Parish Council, local land owners, Herefordshire Council -Highways	Progress during 2005; aim to implement in 2006/07. Progress during 2005; aim to implement in 2006/07.	LEA, Parish Council PCC; Surgery; Parish Council	Process underway, but need to find a willing vendor Process underway, but charitable status of Community Hall has to be resolved, site to be agreed & joint negotiations opened up.

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Improve highway maintenance, including drain & gulley cleaning	Herefordshire Council - Highways		2005	Herefordshire Council (including Lengthsman Scheme)	
Erect second signpost at Upper Wrigglebrook Lane	Herefordshire Council - Highways	Local residents	2005 if supported by local residents	Herefordshire Council; Parish Council	Confirm support at Parish Council and discuss with Herefordshire Council
Improve maintenance of footpaths and bridleways.	Herefordshire Council - Rights of Way	Parish Council	2005	Herefordshire Council	Explore Parish Paths Partnership (PPP3) as source of funding from Herefordshire Council
Extend footpath system: - to other villages, especially between Kingsthorpe and Wormelow. - to form recreational circuits	Herefordshire Council - Rights of Way	Parish Council	2006 onwards	Herefordshire Council; Parish Council; Countryside Agency	Parish Council to set up a Footpath Working Group to produce a plan of new footpaths and an implementation programme.
Display the definitive map of footpaths and introduce better footpath signage	Herefordshire Council - Rights of Way	Parish Council	2005	Herefordshire Council; Parish Council	Begin immediately with the display map.
Introduce cyclepaths	Herefordshire Council - Highways	Parish Council	Parish Council to communicate with Herefordshire Council in 2005; implement in longer term		Parish Council to investigate possibilities

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Introduce "school buses"/ community transport to reduce number of vehicles involved in school run.	LEA	Community Transport Schemes	Begin process during 2005; implement, including securing funding, in September 2007	Possibility of Parish Transport Grant from Countryside Agency	Parish Council to initiate discussions with LEA
Provide a community minibus for the elderly and people with disabilities.	Herefordshire Council - Social Services	Hereford Dial-a-Ride and Community Car Scheme; Ross-on-Wye WRVS County Cars; Parish Council	Begin 2005; implement 2006	Possibility of Parish Transport Grant from Countryside Agency	Parish Council to initiate discussions with Herefordshire Council and voluntary sector providers, including the Rural Transport Partnership Officer.
Set up a car share scheme.	A local interest group	Parish Council	2005	To be identified	Parish Council to identify demand and support local people in setting up a group.

Action Plan – Environment

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
<p>Increase frequency of litter collection, especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - along A49 - along B4348 - along Hollybush Lane - along Kingsthorne Road - around bus stops in Tump Lane, near church, near School, opposite the Thorn - around the school - around the shop 	<p>Dept for Transport/ Highways Agency</p> <p>Herefordshire Council - Highways</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Litter collection to be carried out regularly on basis of an agreed programme.</p>	<p>Dept for Transport</p> <p>Herefordshire Council</p>	<p>Parish Council to write to Dept for Transport</p> <p>Parish Council to explore possibility of voluntary litter picks.</p>
<p>Provide a bulky refuse collection.</p>	<p>Herefordshire Council - Environment</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>2005</p>	<p>Herefordshire Council; Parish Council</p>	<p>Parish Council to discuss use of Parish Freighter Scheme with Herefordshire Council.</p>
<p>Provide a door-to-door recycling collection.</p>	<p>Herefordshire Council - Environment</p>	<p>Local residents</p>	<p>2005</p>	<p>Herefordshire Council</p>	<p>This is being introduced on a phased basis across Herefordshire. Parish Council will discuss programme with Herefordshire Council</p>

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Set up a parish recycling point.	Herefordshire Council - Environment Parish Council	Local residents	2006	Herefordshire Council; Private companies; grants	Parish Council will liaise with Herefordshire Council and identify a site
Prevent discharge of water and mud from fields that affect: - Tump Lane - A4348 - Barrack Hill/Little Birch Road - Forge Lane - Parish Lane - Hollybush Lane - Wrigglebrook Lane	Herefordshire Council - Highways	Parish Council; Land owners	Commences 2005; monitoring ongoing	Inputs of time from Herefordshire Council and Parish Council	Parish Council to monitor local farming practices.
Prevent discharge of water from the following highways and areas of development: - A49 - Hollybush Lane - Tump Lane - Ash Farm	Dept for Transport Herefordshire Council - Highways; Private owner	} Parish Council	} Monitor on a regular basis	Dept for Transport Herefordshire Council	Parish Council to monitor and specify problem areas.
Keep ditches clean and build more gullies into them.	Herefordshire Council - Highways; Landowners	Parish Council	Monitor on a regular basis	Herefordshire Council; Input of time from Parish Council	Parish Council to monitor and specify problem areas.

Action	Person/Body Responsible	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/Resources	Comments
Introduce Bye Laws requiring dog owners to remove dog mess, especially along footpaths.	Parish Council; Herefordshire Council - Environment		2005 Finalise any changes in 2006	Inputs of time from Herefordshire Council and Parish Council	Parish Council to check that existing Bye Laws cover all areas where needed; if necessary, extend coverage.
Enforce legislation related to domestic bonfires.	Herefordshire Council - Environment	Parish Council; Residents	Information item in local newsletter in 2005. Implement on a regular basis	Herefordshire Council	Parish Council to inform/remind local residents of Herefordshire Council's powers related to bonfires.
Begin a tree-planting programme, e.g. birches at Community Hall	Parish Council	Highways Agency; Herefordshire Council - Highways	Introduce a programme in 2006 which will run over a number of years	Parish Council; seek trees from sponsors.	Parish Council to prepare a scheme
Commission an artwork for the Much Birch crossroads to give more identity to parish.	Parish Council	Herefordshire Council - Leisure; West Midlands Arts Council	Plan during 2006 Implement in 2007	Parish Council; Local Heritage Grant; West Midlands Arts Council	Parish Council to set up a local design competition.
Run a "village in bloom" competition.	Parish Council	"Herefordshire and the Wye Valley in Bloom"; local residents	2005	Parish Council; Local residents	Parish Council to enter Much Birch in the "Village Pride" category of the "Herefordshire and the Wye Valley in Bloom" competition.

Action	Person/Body Responsible	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
Establish more conservation areas for wildlife, including reduced mowing of roadside verges where width allows this to be done without causing danger to animals, walkers and vehicles.	Parish Council; Herefordshire Council - Highways and Countryside	English Nature; CPRE; Herefordshire Nature Trust	2005	Herefordshire Council - Highways and Countryside; Parish Council	Parish Council to produce a plan identifying priority sites.

Action Plan – Shopping and Services

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
Extend the car park at Wormelow Stores and/or improve the layout of parking spaces and the vehicular access point.	Owner, Wormelow Stores; Herefordshire Council - Highways		Medium Term	Owner	Parish Council to initiate discussions.
Provide a post box designed to take larger envelopes at Wormelow stores.	Owner, Wormelow Stores; Royal Mail		2005	Royal Mail	Parish Council to initiate discussions
Provide a 24 hour cash point at Wormelow stores	Owner, Wormelow Stores		2006	Private sector	Parish Council to initiate discussions
Provide Broadband Internet Access	British Telecom		2005	British Telecom	To be implemented during 2005
Provide Mains Gas supply.	British Gas		Letter 2005 seeking future provision	British Gas	Parish Council to write to British Gas.
Provide Mains drainage.	Welsh Water; Herefordshire Council - Engineers		Longer Term	Welsh Water	Parish Council to write to Welsh Water and Herefordshire Council.

Action Plan – Housing Development

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
Parish Council scheme at Barrack Lane to provide 2 semi-detached cottages for low cost accommodation for local people	Parish Council	A selected Housing Association	Aim to implement in 2006/07	From sale of land owned by Parish Council; Social Housing Grant from Housing Association/ Housing Corporation	Investigations are underway by the Parish Council
Explain Parish Council's policies on housing to Herefordshire Council.	Parish Council		2005	Nil	Parish Council to invite Strategic Housing Officers to a meeting.
Quantify the need for starter homes and sheltered accommodation and identify suitable sites.	Herefordshire Council – Housing	Parish Council	2005	Herefordshire Council	Parish Council to discuss updating of Housing Needs Study with Herefordshire Council
Work with a selected Housing Association to encourage provision of starter homes and sheltered accommodation.	The selected Housing Association	Herefordshire Council - Housing; Parish Council	2006/07	The selected Housing Association	Parish Council to open up discussions
Hold discussions with developers/builders interested in providing starter homes and sheltered accommodation.	The selected developer	Herefordshire Council -Housing; Parish Council	2006/07	The selected developer	Parish Council to open up discussions

Action Plan – Education, Much Birch Community Hall and Little Birch Hall, Places of Worship

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
Consider the layout and design of Much Birch Community Hall extension with a view to providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a stage (for plays, etc) - a cloakroom - another meeting room (and/or bigger committee room) - more storage space 	The trustees of the Community Hall	Herefordshire Council – Policy & Community; Parish Council	Investigations have begun and a Business Plan has been produced for the expansion of the building	Grants; Local fund raising; Parish Council	Parish Council will support the work underway.
Consider the facilities at the Community Hall with a view to providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more car parking - tables and chairs for hire - outdoor fixed play equipment - internet access 	The trustees of the Community Hall	Herefordshire Council – Policy & Community	Progress in the context of the work underway on the Business Plan	Grants; Local fund raising; Parish Council	Parish Council will support.

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
<p>Extend the range of activities at the Community Hall to cover the priorities identified in the survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult Education Evening Classes - Computer courses - Classes in arts, crafts and languages - Keep fit, aerobics and history - Start “Flicks in the Sticks” - Start a Youth Club 	The trustees of the Community Hall	Herefordshire Council – Policy & Community	Begin planning immediately and agree a target date for introduction of each activity.	Grants; Herefordshire Council; Income from users	Parish Council will support.
<p>Decide on the role of Little Birch Hall and examine the costs and benefits of the following options for the building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - major refurbishment and modernisation - demolish and rebuild on site or on a new site - “catch-up” maintenance 	Little Birch Parish Council	Herefordshire Council - Economic Development	Begin an appraisal as soon as possible	Grants; Herefordshire Council	Much Birch Parish Council will support need for an appraisal of this building.

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
Encourage foundation of a Much Birch Rambling Club	Herefordshire Council - Leisure Services; Local residents	UK Ramblers Association	Follow up in 2006 when implications of Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 have been clarified	Time input from Herefordshire Council.	Parish Council supports and passes to Herefordshire Council - Leisure and publicises the local interest.
Encourage foundation of a local branch of the University of the Third Age	Herefordshire Council - Leisure Services; Local residents	University of the Third Age	Follow up in 2005 and identify a date for implementation.	Time input from Herefordshire Council.	Parish Council passes to Herefordshire Council - Leisure and publicises the local interest.
Examine the additional activities people would like to see carried out in the Church, e.g. concerts, plays, meetings, Sunday School, coffee mornings, contemplation, and agree a programme of events.	Vicar/Parochial Church Council	Local residents	Follow up in 2005 and identify a date for implementation.	Time input from Parochial Church Council and local residents	Parish Council writes to Parochial Church Council and publicises this interest.

Action Plan – Recreation and Leisure

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
Produce a plan for the provision of additional playgrounds in the parish.	Parish Council	Local residents; Herefordshire Council – Parks Officer	Produce Plan in 2006; Begin implementation, including securing grants, 2007	Time inputs from Parish Council	Parish Council could set up a Working Group to progress this.
Produce a plan for additional equipment and new activities in the playground at Tump Lane, e.g. a football pitch.	Parish Council	Herefordshire Council – Parks Officer	Begin in 2005; Implement in 2006	Herefordshire Council	Parish Council could carry out a more detailed survey, based on initial findings from Parish Plan work.
Parish Council to support: a) Setting up a Youth Club b) Setting up leisure activities, e.g. arts and music events, “Flicks in the sticks”.	Herefordshire Council - Youth Service Herefordshire Council - Leisure	HCVYS Local residents	Advertise in newsletter in 2005; if successful in securing volunteers and inputs from other bodies, aim to set up in 2006.	Herefordshire Council; Income from users	Parish Council will publicise these interests.

Action Plan – Information about Local Activities

Action	Responsible Body	Partner Organisation	Timescale	Budget/ Resources	Comments
<p>Parish Council to consider methods for publicising its decisions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - additional and up-dated notice boards - put Parish Council minutes & planning sheets on notice boards - content of Parish Magazine/ Newsletter & distribution to all parishioners - possibility of setting up a parish website 	Parish Council		<p>Implement a programme</p> <p>Underway</p> <p>Underway</p> <p>Publicise interest immediately</p>	Parish Council	<p>One new board provided; plan future provision</p> <p>Implemented, and service now to be regularly monitored by Parish Council</p> <p>Distribution of newsletter has been increased and includes Parish Council decisions (the Parish Council provides a grant)</p> <p>Parish Council will publicise and aim to recruit volunteers to progress this scheme</p>