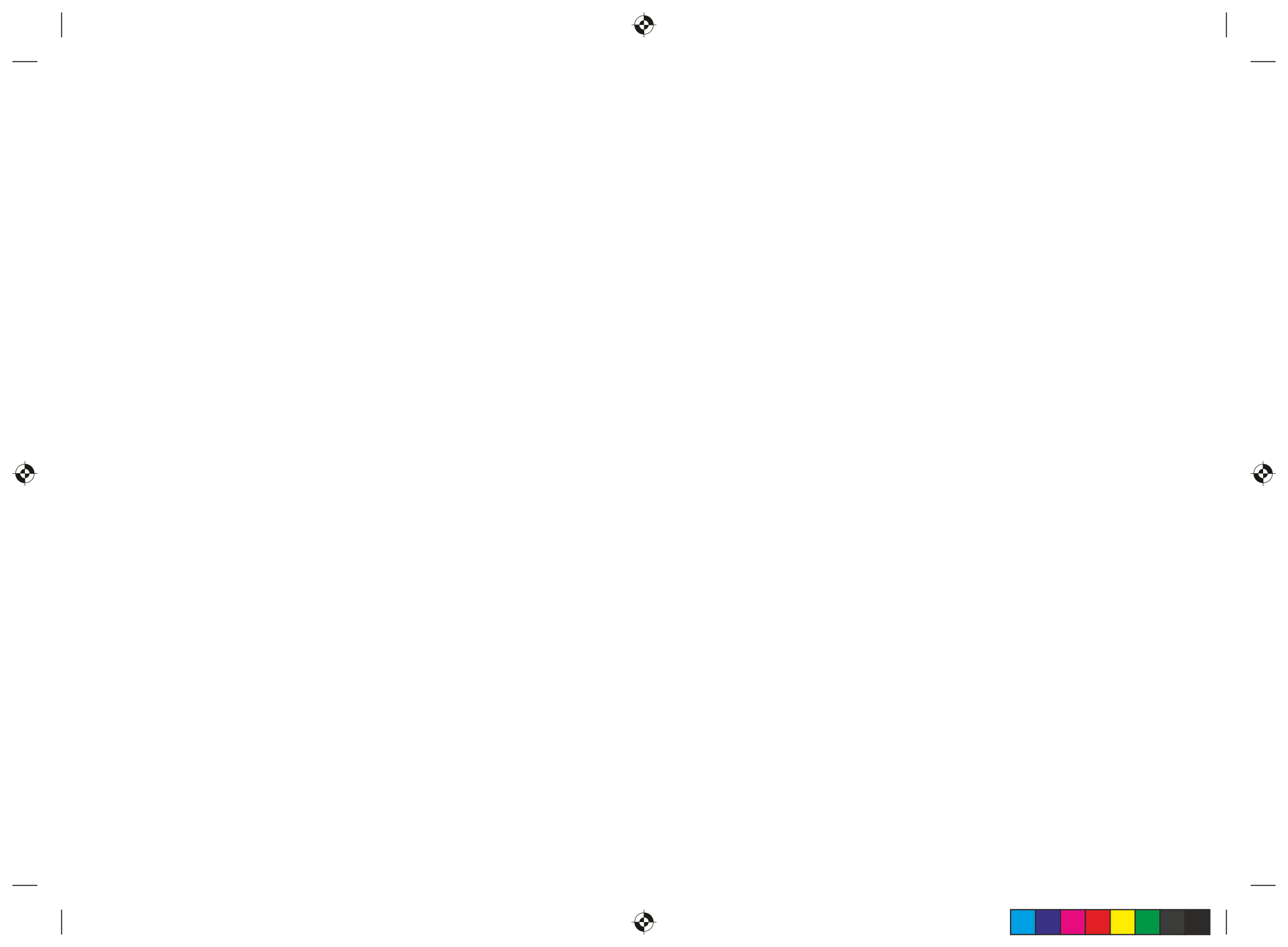


SHOSCOMBE

Parish Plan





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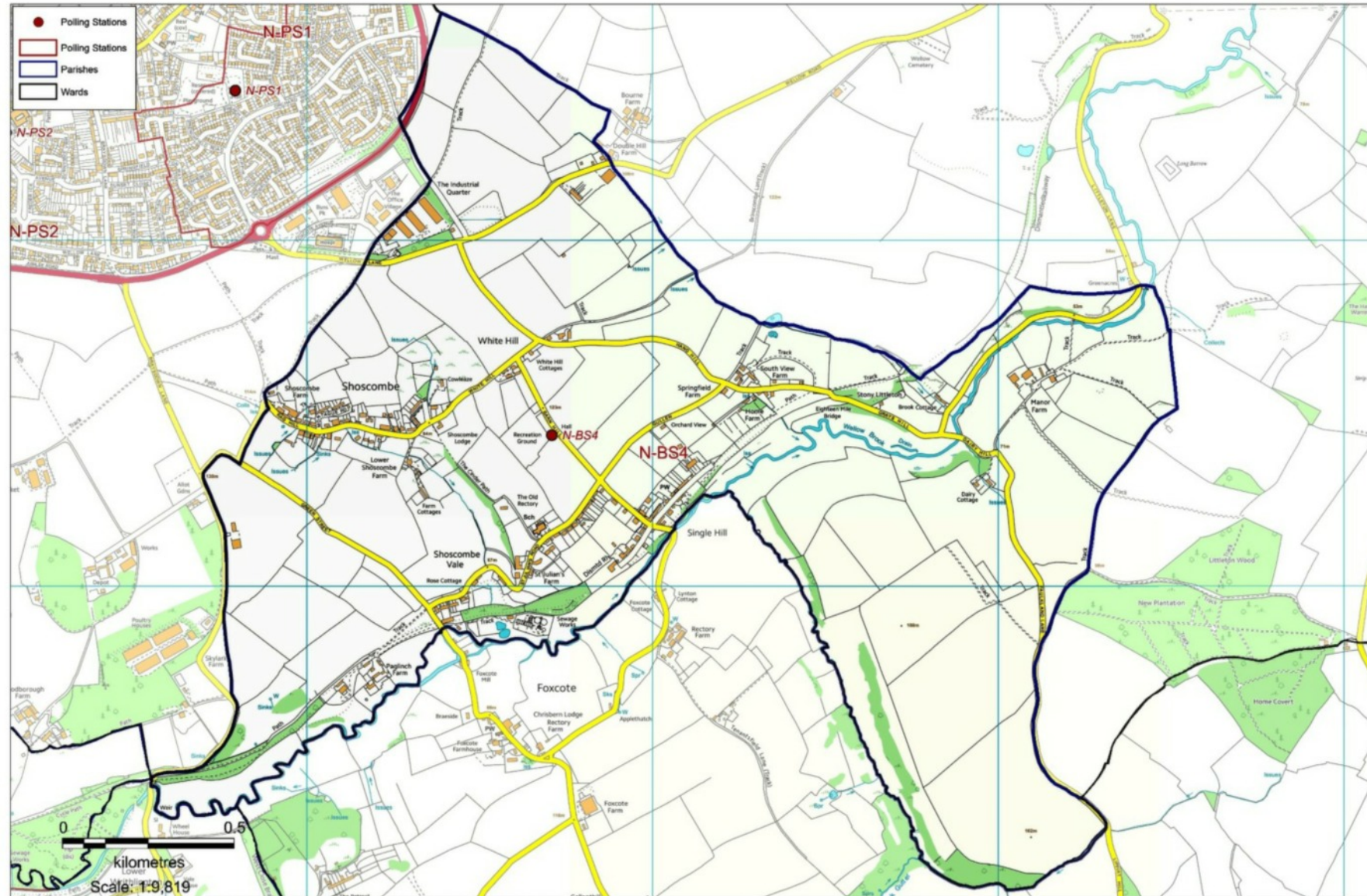
Logo by Joy Schneiderman
Winner of the Design a Logo for Shoscombe Competition



Shoscombe Parish, Polling District & Polling Station

Author :
Date : 03/10/2016
Scale:

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



Foreword

I am delighted to be able to write the Foreword for the Shoscombe and Environs Parish Plan. I have lived in the village for a good many years and the community has never achieved such a document that has already enhanced our community.

By 2013 many parishes had already developed Parish Plans and until then Shoscombe had not considered it a necessity. That year the parish was suddenly faced with the possibility of a proposed housing development that roused passions. Many village residents came together at a meeting in the Village Hall to discuss ways of opposing the proposed Planning Application. It was subsequently agreed by residents that Shoscombe would very much benefit from developing a Parish Plan. It would help to set out a clear and shared vision for the community for the future not only in housing development but also in other community activities and needs. There was also a realisation that our small hamlets could no longer exist in isolation from each other but working together we could enhance our community cohesion and make our lives more pleasant.

Through the use of a questionnaire during 2016 the residents were able to identify what is important to them, what is valued, what needs to be protected and what they would like to change. The data from the questionnaires have been analysed and an Action Plan drawn up to ensure these outcomes can be achieved. It is recognised that the Parish Plan needs to be

realistic and sustainable to help preserve and enhance the life of all members of the community in the years to come. An added bonus has been that throughout the process of developing the Plan the community has started to come together. The high number of people volunteering to support community initiatives is heartening.

I would personally like to extend thanks to over 30 people who have helped in a variety of ways to enable the questionnaire and Parish Plan to be produced. Without all these willing helpers giving their time and energy freely, this Parish Plan would not have come to fruition. It has not been an easy journey with many obstacles to overcome on the way, but the tenacity and determination of all those involved have resulted in the production of a Parish Plan which is a true reflection of what we want as a community.

Thanks must also go to the all the people (88% of households responded) who took the time and trouble to complete and return the questionnaire. The high return rate is in itself a good indication of the commitment given by the majority of the residents of Shoscombe and Environs to the future of their community. Without this cooperation, the undertaking of developing a Parish Plan would have been meaningless. This support from the community has given the Parish Council a clear mandate to move forward with a broad-based Action Plan across a wide range of areas that affect life in our village.



Jackie Withers.
Chair, Shoscombe Parish Council



Introduction

What is a Parish Plan? A Parish Plan is a document that identifies all the relevant issues of importance to a community and should include issues of social, economic and environmental concern. It is desirable for every community to have a clear and agreed view of how it sees the future of its local environment and to tackle the important issues that might support the development of the community in the future. A Parish Plan should present a shared local vision for the community to use for years to come and contain a detailed Action Plan for achieving this vision. It should be produced, "by the community for the community" and it is important that everyone in the community has had an opportunity to participate in its preparation.

Parish Plans are an important tool that can be fed into other wider planning and strategy documents where the needs of a group of villages such as Shoscombe, Foxcote, Braysdown, Woodborough and Stony Littleton and their surrounding countryside might not normally be adequately considered.

This document outlines what our community is and the aspirations we have. The processes and outcomes have been about how to influence change in a positive way for the benefit of the community and to identify the important things we wish to conserve. The community has been fully involved with public meetings and questionnaires. Eighty eight percent of households responded to the final questionnaire so the Steering Group is confident that the

outcomes reflect the community wishes. The Action Plan becomes the responsibility of the community as a whole but will be monitored and driven forward by the Parish Council. It gives the Parish Council an agenda for improvement based on the wishes of the community and helps them to prioritise resources. The Action Plan will also provide the Parish Council with important information to influence the policies, decisions and actions of others such as the Local Authority. Below are the benefits for having the Shoscombe and Environs Parish Plan:

- **Mandate for the Parish Council** – The Parish Plan can be adopted by the Parish Council to guide their plan of action over the next three to five years. The Parish Council will then be acting directly to implement the community's wishes
- **Quality of Life** – The Parish Plan will, hopefully, improve the quality of life for everyone in the community especially as it could help to meet the needs of those who might be disadvantaged
- **Participation in local democracy** – The Parish Plan has encouraged everyone to have their say and to realise that they can help shape their community's future
- **Publicity** – The Parish Plan has helped to put our village on the map. It has helped residents become more aware of the groups and activities within the village
- **Action Groups** – The Parish Plan has got new people involved as volunteers, leaders and activists. It has created stronger action groups within the village to get things done
- **Influence Decision Makers** – The Parish Plan gives us a chance to influence B&NES and other authorities by presenting the comprehensive views of the villagers and a clear plan of action for the future
- **Meeting Needs** – The Parish Plan has helped those at the heart of the community to include and listen to those on the fringes who might otherwise feel excluded
- **Evidence for Funding** – The Parish Plan provides the evidence to apply for local project grants following the identification of need and proof of local people's wishes and involvement
- **New Skills** – The Parish Plan gives the opportunity to people to develop new skills or become more confident about their contribution to the community
- **Community Spirit** – The Parish Plan gives lots of opportunities for people to get involved in activities as well as debate about where they live. It helps to strengthen the community by encouraging people to take action by their own initiative and interest.



Evolution of the Plan

The Origins of the Parish Plan

In the autumn of 2013 a Committee was established to develop a Parish Plan for the village. They spoke to many people at B&NES, to others who had completed their own Plans and to the Bristol Environment Centre. Consideration was given to developing a Neighbourhood Plan, as encouraged by B&NES, but this was rejected as the primary purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan is the identification of housing development sites. The Committee sought guidelines to direct their planning to make the questionnaires as inclusive and representative as possible. They organised a series of focus groups within the village to identify the components of the questionnaire. A pilot study was produced to assess attitudes on a range of topics. These were sent out via the Newsletter in April 2014 and the returns were analysed. Findings were displayed to the village at the Village Day in September of that year to gain feedback. The questions were once again scrutinised and refined. These deliberations resulted in the general shape and content of the questionnaire that you have all seen. The volume of work needed to achieve this was enormous and we would like to thank the original volunteers on that Committee for all their contributions and the sponsors of this work - see Acknowledgements section.

The Questionnaire and Results

In February 2016 the newly-elected Parish Council made the reactivation of the Parish Plan one of its primary tasks and asked for a new team

to carry this through. Our offers to help were accepted by the Parish Council and the Council affirmed that they were responsible for the cost of producing the Plan. We received the draft questionnaire in April. We reviewed all the previous work, edited the questionnaire and, after proof-reading the document, we gained approval from the Parish Council to continue. The questionnaire was printed in August 2016, distributed to every house in the wider community during September and then collected. The hard work by the distribution team to try to collect as many questionnaires as possible ensured that we had a return rate of 88%, far higher than any of the other communities that we had reviewed. October was used to transfer all the data from 172 questionnaires on to the analytical software, Survey Monkey, by another dedicated team. We received the processed results in November for the analyses.

The Analyses

The questionnaire identified over 20 projects that were either in existence already or that might be worthwhile for the village to consider supporting. Volunteers who felt that they could help with these were asked for their contact details and the first job was to contact those people to thank them. For those offering help for projects that were operating already, we sent their names to the leaders of those existing groups.

The other groups of volunteers were invited to a morning Workshop in the Hall in February 2017 and we were pleased to welcome 23 people. Working groups were formed and plans for actions were decided. Some of their work is already in evidence around the village. However other projects were not ascribed to working groups for a lack of support. These may come to fruition later.

At the same time we had been working on writing the Plan itself. Several other contributors need to be thanked. The large Word document was ready to have photographs and analytical data imported in August. Approval was received from the Parish Council and we went to press.



Shoscombe Parish Council

This section provides an account of the role of our Parish Council, including what powers it has and what it cannot do. A list of the currently elected councillors can be found on the village website:

www.everythingshoscombe.org

The parish of Shoscombe falls within the unitary authority of Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) which was created in 1996. B&NES provides a single tier of local government with responsibility for almost all local government functions within its area. These include local planning and building control, council housing, environmental health, markets and fairs, refuse collection, recycling, cemeteries, crematoria, leisure services, parks and tourism. B&NES is also responsible for education, social services, libraries, roads, public transport, trading standards, waste disposal and strategic planning. Fire, police and ambulance services are provided jointly with other authorities through the Avon Fire and Rescue Service, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and the Great Western Ambulance Service, respectively.

The responsibility of the Parish Council to the community

Our Parish Council represents the first tier of local government. Parish Councillors are volunteers who are each elected for a four year term. They must live in or near the parish and they also act as trustees for the charity that runs Shoscombe Village Hall.

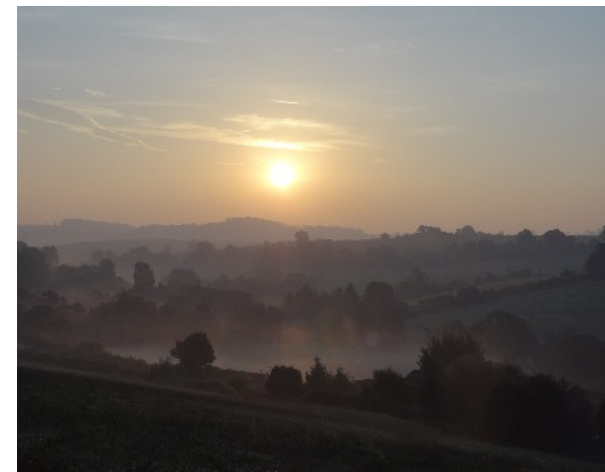
The Parish Council works with the local police and B&NES officers on matters of crime, security and traffic. The Parish Council's role also includes initiating projects for the maintenance and repair of parish facilities such as the Village Hall, playing field and playground. It consults with B&NES on the maintenance, repair and improvement of highways, drainage, footpaths, public transport and street cleaning. Planning, conservation matters (including trees and listed buildings) and environmental issues are also of interest to but not within the control of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has responsibility for local issues

A major responsibility for the Parish Council is to set the annual precept to cover operating costs. The precept is part of the Council Tax that individuals pay to B&NES that is then devolved back to the Parish Council. Last year, 2016/17, it stood at £7602.82. Details of the annual Parish Council expenditure can be found on the village website in the Parish Council section. The Parish Council produces annual accounts for public scrutiny which are compiled by the Responsible Financial Officer and these accounts are audited by an external auditor. This is the primary means by which the Parish Council is accountable to its electorate. Parish Council meetings are public meetings open to all parishioners. Time is allotted at the beginning of each meeting for questions or comments from the public. Council Agendas and Minutes are available on the website and agendas are posted on notice

boards before each meeting. An account of every meeting is also given in the Newsletter.

The Parish Council evaluates local Planning Applications, seeks comments from neighbours who may be affected and communicates these findings to B&NES along with its view on whether the Application should be accepted or rejected. The Parish Council has no legal authority to accept or deny any Application; this responsibility lies with the Planning Authorities in B&NES. Individual parishioners are also entitled to give their personal comments to B&NES directly and are encouraged to do so. Since the completion of the questionnaires the Parish Council has decided to publish a link to all new local Planning Applications on the website as soon as they are received. Information on new Applications will be included in the Clerk's report in the Newsletter.



Executive Summary

“A community moving forward to fulfil common aspirations”

A successful Parish Plan identifies the current expectations and concerns of a local community. More importantly it sets out the actions required to move the parish from where we are today to where we would like to be. Inevitably not all of our collective or individual aspirations are attainable but the Plan endeavours to identify those actions that we can achieve. Some will be achievable immediately and some will need more time, or perhaps finance, to solve. A great deal has already been achieved since the beginning of the process of developing the Parish Plan as a response to the answers in the questionnaire. These appear as “Green” in the Action Plan. The Parish Plan offers the Parish Council an agenda, based on the known wishes of the respondents to the questionnaire and open meetings, for enhancing the environment and the quality of life of the community.

The process of identifying what is important to the parish highlighted a need for a focus on the distinctiveness of Shoscombe and its Environs, with hopes that the Parish Plan, “will help the community move forward but also come together”. A strong theme was that the Plan should generate a closer sense of community with improved community spirit and a greater community cohesion across the parish and hamlets. Many of us are busy with family and work, but if each of us made a small voluntary contribution as part of the “whole jigsaw” this

would move the parish towards achieving a successful outcome. Overall, there were concerns expressed about support for young people, isolated people, and an increasingly older population with changing needs.

Below are the areas that the community felt most important and although they are overarching statements the detail of how they can be achieved are to be found in the Action Plan of the document:

- Preserving and enhancing the natural environment and character of the parish and its surroundings
- The provision of a safe, clean and pleasant environment
- Preserving and improving the level and quality of local services and facilities
- Enhancing information and facilitating community feedback on local issues

Already progress has been made with physical improvements to the Village Hall and the play area. The Parish Council has ensured that there is a greater transparency of its work via the Newsletter, website and noticeboards. The parish now has a very good website, which is being increasingly used as the communication hub for the village with a growing number of hits recorded every month. Road maintenance, parking and speeding problems, dog fouling, footpath maintenance, any upcoming planning

issues and signage for lorries are all high on the agenda for the Parish Council as a result of the issues and wishes raised by the respondents of the questionnaire. The Church, Apple Tree and School have also responded to the concerns and matters raised. The local natural environment was of great importance to many parishioners and as a result a Rivers Group has been set up, a Wildlife Group is in action as well as an Energy and Recycling group. These groups will address the need for our parish to remain and develop as a haven for the diverse fauna and flora that we are so fortunate to have on our doorsteps.

The Parish Plan, and especially the Action Plan, will be monitored by the Parish Council. This seems the obvious way to ensure that the momentum generated by the production of the Plan does not slow. It would not be right for the Plan to be shelved and gather dust. It is appropriate for the Parish Council to visit the Plan biannually and refresh the actions drawn up in the light of new local initiatives and needs as well as the possibility of community funding being sourced. The Parish Plan should remain an active tool for the future. The present Steering Group recognises the need for further community engagement in the future to ensure relevant and appropriate actions are met as time does alter what might be important and possible. As suggested by respondents we need a framework for future development and activities with a vision for the next 20 years. This would mean the community is moving forward to fulfil common aspirations.



The Community of Shoscombe and its Environs

Introduction

Shoscombe is in the south of the county of B&NES. With seven small settlements dispersed around the parish, our community shares many rural characteristics without modern conveniences such as street lighting.



Geographical background

Shoscombe is located to the west of the village of Wellow. Indeed, it was part of Wellow parish until 1955. The parish lies in the valley of the Wellow Brook, a tributary of the River Avon, between Radstock and Wellow on a southerly slope south-east of the village of Peasedown St John.

The parish population of 443 is spread between the seven hamlets of Stony Littleton, Single Hill, Double Hill, Shoscombe Vale, St Julian's Road, White Hill and, the largest of the settlements, Shoscombe Village. Shoscombe is on the eastern edge of the North Somerset Coalfield, which was laid down around 310 million years ago when Shoscombe was a few miles north of the Equator. Geologically this is an area of Jurassic White Lias limestone overlying the

Carboniferous Coal Measures, with alluvium and marls in the bottom of the valley. The Lias limestone forms the most common building material in the area.

Historical context

There is evidence of ancient settlement in this area dating back to Neolithic and Roman times as well as mediaeval settlement from entries in the Domesday

Book. However most of the settlement is more recent. Shoscombe and Stony Littleton are old farming communities but it was not until the end of the eighteenth century with the development of coal mining that the area saw a big increase in population. From the mid-1800s to the early 1900s there was a significant increase in population in the parish which coincided with the peak coal production of the North Somerset Coalfield. Housing, funded by the coal industry, was built in the settlements of Shoscombe, Shoscombe Vale and Single Hill. Transporting the coal along poor and inadequate roads led to the building of the Somerset Coal Canal at the end of the eighteenth century. Work began in 1795 but stopped in 1810, when it had reached from Radstock to the other side of Wellow along a branch of the canal that was never completed. In 1814 a tramway was built on the canal towpath along which horse-drawn carts continued to take coal to the canal at Midford. This continued until the towpath was replaced by the railway in the 1870s.

The railway line through the valley of the Wellow Brook opened for freight in 1874 transporting coal in particular. It was not until 1929 that Shoscombe had

a passenger service with the opening of Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt. This passenger service provided a valuable link with Bath and beyond as more people began to work outside the immediate area, especially as journeys by road were slow and difficult. However, in 1966 the Somerset and Dorset Railway was closed. A few years later, in 1973, the last of the local collieries at Lower Writhlington was closed. The closure of the mines and the railway resulted in considerable changes in the parish as employment opportunities disappeared. Today, many villagers commute to Bath, Bristol or London.

Shoscombe and environs

Our largest settlement is the village of Shoscombe which nestles into the ridge south of Peasedown St. John. It is a nucleated village with the Apple Tree Pub at its centre.



There are stone built terraces on either side of the main street with some recent infill between them.

Shoscombe Farm, at the north western end of the village is still a working farm, but other farms have



been converted into homes and the land incorporated into larger farms managed from outside the village.



There are no shops or services in the village, with Shoscombe Post Office and shop closing in 1981. There are two post boxes.

Shoscombe Vale is a linear settlement which follows the course of the former railway and Wellow Brook. There is a working farm at Paglinch to the west although most of the original farm buildings have been converted to private dwellings. Shoscombe Vale extends eastwards towards St Julian's Road.

St Julian's Road is another linear settlement where Shoscombe Primary School is located which also has an integral, consecrated chapel. There is a farm and the Old Rectory, now a private home, a telephone box and a post box.

The settlement of Single Hill stretches from the Wellow Brook to St Julian's Road and also along the line of the former railway. The community's railway station, Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt, was located here along with houses built by the

railway company. The former chapel and Magpie Inn have been converted to homes.

Double Hill stretches out on both sides of Wellow Road, and has a working farm and a rank of former miners' houses. Stony Littleton, at the eastern edge of the parish has a working farm and some smallholdings.

The communities at Woodborough and Braysdown owe their growth to the exploitation of the underlying coal deposits. The mine at Braysdown was winding coal by 1845 and was very productive. It continued producing coal up to and through the nationalisation of the country's coal industry in 1947 when a large facility was built there as a bath house for the miners. Less than two years later the mine was closed and the bath house was acquired as an industrial unit for woodworking. The site is now recognised as a typical example of a North Somerset mining community.

The two ranks of houses at Woodborough were originally built by the coal owners for miners but, like others in our area, they are now in private hands. Woodborough was also the site of Frank Beauchamp's house, the owner of many of the local mines. After nationalisation the house was used briefly as a headquarters for the Coal Board before its subsequent demolition.

Education

Shoscombe CEVA Primary School is located on St Julian's Road. It was built in 1869 and originally it was also used as a Chapel of Ease for the

residents who could not get to the parish church in Wellow.



The School is an important part of Shoscombe, catering for the needs of children from the village and surrounding villages. It has seen an increase in its numbers of pupils in recent years and is a popular choice for parents from Peasedown St John. The School building has a dual function as it is still a consecrated church and used by parishioners for worship between Advent and Easter.

There is no secondary school in the parish so at the age of eleven pupils transfer to secondary schools either in the Norton-Radstock area (Writhlington, Norton Hill, Somervale) or Bath (Beechen Cliff, Hayesfield, Ralph Allen). A bus is provided to take local children to Writhlington, the closest secondary school. In addition to post-16 provision in the local schools, Radstock College (now the Somer Campus of Bath College) provides a variety of tertiary courses.

Facilities in the village

There are no shops in the parish. However,

Peasedown St John has a range of shops including two supermarkets, baker, combined newsagent and Post Office, fuel station, estate agent, hair dressers and financial services. There are services that including a doctor's surgery, dental practice, veterinary practice, churches and youth club. There are also three public houses, a coffee shop, a charity shop and a book shop, an Indian restaurant and two fast food outlets.

The nearest Police station is at Westfield, Radstock and a community police officer is allocated to the parish. Each month the officer is available to talk to at the Apple Tree Inn.

For many years Shoscombe has had a monthly Newsletter. It is produced by parishioners, distributed to 220 households and is a valuable source of community news, events, notices and local advertising. The parish has a recently updated website, which is an excellent source of local information.

Shoscombe Parish Council is a very active group of parishioners who look after the community and carry out the necessary Council business. At the beginning of 2016 elections were held for seven of the eleven positions on the Parish Council, the first election for over 45 years! Monthly public meetings are held in the Village Hall.



Shoscombe Parish is in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The parish is now part of a larger group. St John's Group covers the Anglican parish churches of St John Peasedown, St Julians Wellow, St James the Less Foxcote and St Julians Shoscombe. The area is covered by the Roman Catholic parish of St Joseph in Peasedown St John. Although the village school contains a consecrated chapel our closest church is St James the Less in Foxcote, just outside the parish boundary. Within the parish the Friends of Foxcote Church, a committed and active group, organise a range of activities and events. Church services are shared between Foxcote (summer time) and Shoscombe School (winter time).

The Parish Cemetery is another link with Wellow Parish and comes under the control of a joint Burial Board. Since the early 1900s burials have taken place in the cemetery just outside the parish boundary on Wellow Road.

Transport

Shoscombe is a rural community with difficult road access. The only A-class road near the parish is the A367 Peasedown St John bypass in the north of the parish. Shoscombe Village has steep hills on both of its access roads and roads into Shoscombe Vale and Single Hill also have steep gradients.

All the lanes are narrow and access in icy weather is particularly difficult. The road to Shoscombe School is gritted in winter.

There are over 12km of public footpaths in the parish. A particularly important footpath is the Cinder Path which links Shoscombe Village with Shoscombe School in St Julian's Road. As the Cinder Path avoids the narrow roads it is a safe route for children walking to School.



There is no public bus service in Shoscombe with the nearest bus stops in Peasedown St John. As there is no public bus service there are services



subsidised by B&NES in the parish. A Dial-a-Ride service offers a door-to-door, fully accessible bus service for older and disabled people into Radstock and Midsomer Norton. The service can be used for shopping, visiting friends or medical appointments. Shoscombe falls within its pick-up area and parishioners need to register with the service; application forms can be obtained from The Hollies, Midsomer Norton or by phone (01761 417504). A Fare Car service into Bath four days a week and a minibus service on Wednesdays to the Odd Down Park and Ride and to Midsomer Norton also exist.

The Sustrans Cycle Route No. 24, Colliers Way, from Bath to Radstock and beyond to Frome follows the lanes through Shoscombe Vale and Stony Littleton, sharing the narrow roads with cars, pedestrians and horses.



Understandably there is high proportion of car-ownership in the parish.

Employment opportunities

While farming is still important to the economy in the parish, the majority of employment is found outside the

parish with people commuting to Bath, Bristol and London. The last 20 years have seen more people work from home using the internet. More recently several bed and breakfast businesses have opened in the parish as well as a craft workshop.

Village Hall, clubs and societies



Shoscombe Village Hall (or The Miners Welfare Institute as it was named when opened in 1929) is located on the edge of Shoscombe Village on White Hill. It has a large playing field, a children's play area, a boules court and a large car park. The playing field is popular with local dog walkers.

The Hall was built on land gifted by the mine owners and the building was funded using donations from the miners themselves.

Consequently it is a Hall of some character and an important part of community life for many decades. In more recent years additional facilities have been added as well as a welcome face-lift resulting in increased use. The Hall is used regularly for two table tennis clubs, Irish Set Dancing, dog training and Souper Tuesdays (a monthly community luncheon club open to everyone

and organised by the Friends of Foxcote Church). In addition the Hall is often booked by local residents for parties, meetings, local history talks, fund raising events, band practices and weddings. The Hall is administered by the Village Hall Committee, a sub-group of the Parish Council, the councillors being Trustees.

Arts and culture

Shoscombe's rural heritage is still celebrated by the annual Flower Show and Family Fun Day in the autumn at the Village Hall. In addition there are music festivals, live music events and other community events there. There are two reading groups which meet in members' homes. There is a local history group which meets regularly and each year the Shoscombe History Group has a full programme of talks, walks and visits which cover a wide range of subjects relating to our community and environs. The group is well supported and has become an important part of community life.

Environment and green belt – woodland, wildlife, footpaths and bridleways

Shoscombe parish has washed-over Green Belt status. The countryside is largely unspoiled and accessible by many footpaths and bridleways. Horse riding is popular with increasing areas of arable land being used as pony pastures. There are also many maturing trees thanks to a community tree planting scheme in the 1980s.



A number of sites close to the disused railway line and along Wellow Brook, and its tributary Bladdock Gutter, are designated as UK Priority Habitats and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (B&NES Green Infrastructure Profile). Fishing is allowed by permit in the Wellow Brook.

Housing

Most of the older housing in the parish is built from local White Lias limestone with slate or tiled roofs, giving the area a distinctive building style.



There are many examples of nineteenth century terraced houses built by the mine owners. Typically each rank has six homes. The four in the middle were two up and two down homes for the miners, while the houses at each end were slightly larger, for managers or supervisors who could keep an eye on their workforce.

To subsidise the low wages miners received the terraces had long gardens in which vegetables were

grown and livestock kept. In addition, housing was built by the National Coal Board for mine managers in Montague Road, Shoscombe. The Somerset and Dorset Railway Company built houses in Single Hill for their workers. Throughout the parish there are examples of houses built for farm workers or miners which have been up-graded and extended. Today Shoscombe parish is an area of high home ownership even though many of the miners' and mine-managers' houses were originally built to be rented.



Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt

1929 - 1966

The History

Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt was a small railway station on the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway serving small villages between Wellow and Radstock, about seven miles south of Bath. The Halt wasn't opened until 23rd September 1929, 55 years after the opening of the Bath Extension. It was the last station to open on the S&D.

It consisted of two pre-fabricated concrete section platforms with ornate oil lamps but without buildings or shelters. A small building containing a booking office and a waiting room was provided, on the footpath leading to the station.

Although there were no facilities for loading and unloading goods, the Halt was very well used as the road leading to the village was, and still is, narrow. Following the Beeching Report, the Halt closed with the rest of the line on 7th March 1966.

The ornate oil lamps

Waiting for the train - 1965

Ticket office & fuel store

Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt - Memories 1

"Tony Clivers' mother was Margaret Clivers (née Tappet) who was the daughter of two sisters, Renee Beavis being the other, who were booking clerks at Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt between 1929 when it opened till it closed in 1966. Renee served each of the 8 daily stopping trains between 07.20hrs and 15.40hrs, working part time for 36 years by clocking on 10 minutes before each of the trains arrived and clocking off 10 minutes after each had departed. So she was fully committed each day for 2hrs 40mins pay.

Margaret and Renee's father was Archibald Tappet, he was a ganger on the S&D and was killed in 1928 where the road crossed the line at Stony Littleton. The bridge was a double arch bridge and it is believed he crossed the track away from an oncoming train into the path of another going the opposite way. As a form of compensation, his wife and family were allowed to live in 2 Railway Cottages, Single Hill, Shoscombe for the rest of her life."

Reminiscences with the permission of Tony Clivers

The Halt Timeline

Year	Event
1874	Track Laid
1884	Double Tracked
1929	Halt Opened
1966	Halt Closed

1922 Somerset and Dorset Railway Survey Map - Stony Littleton to Paglync

Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt c 1930

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Halt

The Case-book of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle "Shoscombe Old Place"

"Thus it was that on a bright May evening Holmes and I found ourselves alone in a first-class carriage and bound for the little 'halt-on-demand' station of Shoscombe. The rack above us was covered with a formidable litter of rods, reeds, and baskets. On reaching our destination a short drive took us to an old-fashioned tavern, where a sporting host, Josiah Barnes, entered eagerly into our plans for the cultivation of the Rip of the neighbour hood."

Even Sherlock Holmes has been here!

The Halt - 1955

Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt - Memories 2

"Joe Perhem used to catch the train into Bath to collect items to sell in the shop he had in the front room of his house"

"I used to push the gram along to the Halt, to catch the train to visit my relatives. I was allowed to stand in the guard's van with my gram"

"For the annual Sunday School outing an arrangement was made for the First Express to stop at the Halt, and we went by train to Bourne-mouth for the day"

"When I was 9 I went for cookery lessons in Radstock by train. I took my apron and ingredients in a case and we had our lessons in a room next to the picture house"

"We could tell the time of day by the trains as the train's whistle would blow as it approached the halt"

"Before the Single Hill Halt was built families used to walk to Radstock Market along the railway line of the S&D"

"The train from Green Park Station brought the morning and evening newspapers which were left on the station by the guard"

"During the Blitz of Bath many of the Admiralty staff came out by train to stay in the chapel at Single Hill"

The Halt - 1966

The Halt - 1967

1912 - Corner at Single Hill before the Halt

REVISED SERVICE - WEEKDAYS ONLY

COMMENCING MONDAY, 3rd JANUARY, 1966

From	To	Time	Days
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	07.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	08.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	09.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	10.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	11.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	12.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	13.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	14.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	15.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	16.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	17.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	18.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	19.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	20.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	21.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	22.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	23.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	24.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	25.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	26.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	27.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	28.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	29.20	MON-FRI
BATH GREEN PARK	TO BOURNE-MOUTH	30.20	MON-FRI

Shoscombe and Single Hill Halt - Memories 3

"The Halt - 1966"

"The Halt - 1967"

Acknowledgements
Shoscombe History Group thank the following people and organisations:
Dick Graham, the people of Shoscombe and Shoscombe Parish Council for their support and use of their resources, and Historical Railway Centre.

Analyses of the Data from the Questionnaire

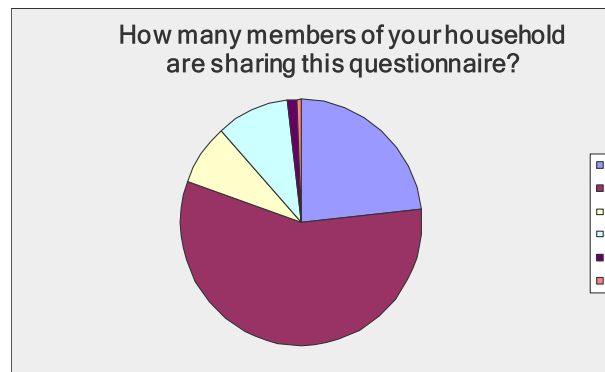
Introduction to the Analytical Section:

- All households in the parish and environs were given one questionnaire each to complete. The term *Respondent* throughout this section refers to the answer given to a question by that household; it does not give any information about how many people in any one household held the view expressed in the answer given
- In answer to the question, *Do you have broadband access at home?* the results are: *Yes*, 158 and *No*, 13, total 171. The numerical data derived from this question are expressed as follows: Ninety two percent (of 171) do have access to broadband and 8% (of 171) do not. This notation is used throughout this section. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number
- Some responses gave the option of ticking more than one box. In these cases, again, the analytical software presents the number of Respondents as a percentage of the total number of responses that were provided. The pie charts, used to illustrate the text, are derived from Survey Monkey
- For the open dialogue boxes in the questionnaire, *Is there anything else you want to add on this topic?* we received

over 1540 responses. These form the greater part of the Analytical section

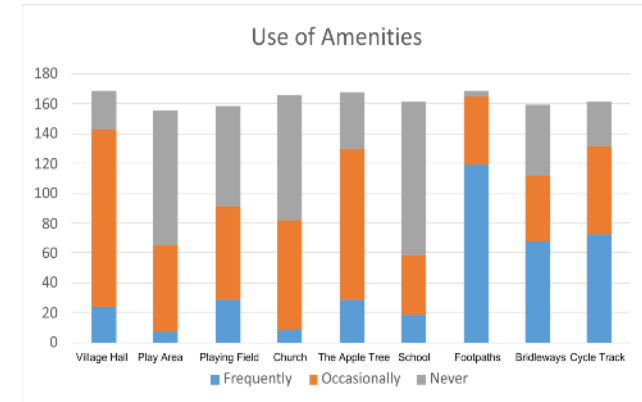
General Questions

1. One hundred and ninety five questionnaires were delivered and 172 returned, which represents 88% of the parish households.
2. There was a very good return rate from all areas of the parish as well as the environs of Foxcote, Braysdown and Woodborough. With such a high return rate the outcomes from the questionnaire are a true reflection of the views of the parishioners.
3. The questionnaire was filled in per household with the breakdown of the number of members sharing the responses as follows:



Section 1: Community Amenities and Events

4. The following chart shows the frequency of use of the facilities in the village:



5. An overwhelming 97% (of 168 respondents) thought that village events supported community coherence and there was a long list of events that villagers would like to have available to them.
6. The majority of the respondents 64% (of 165) said that the Village Hall is adequate for the community's needs.
7. Suggestions (42) to increase the usage of the Hall included classes. These were mainly for yoga, pilates, exercise and

zumba but a few suggested art, photography and dance.



8. Talks also featured and included U3A, Adult Education, history, nature and skill-sharing.
9. Drama, film club, choir, music, quiz nights, café, gardening club and car boot sales all got a few mentions, along with many single suggestions.
10. Usage of the facilities in the play area was as follows: *Frequently*, 19% (of 168), *Occasionally*, 42% and *Never*, 38%.
11. From the comments for improving these facilities, 56 responses were offered and the numbers of comments left were as follows; playing field 21, play area 16, dogs 13 and amenities 11 (See below).

12. For the playing field improved sports facilities were suggested. Ideas included a cricket pitch and new nets, football pitch and goal posts, tennis court, basketball hoops and a running track. The results from the Young People's survey also had wide support for these ideas. Similar ideas for the play area included a climbing wall and better climbing frame, a bigger slide, a log cabin, zip wire, skateboard ramp and for the whole area to have a canopy.



13. Improvements for the amenities included regular bush and hedge

trimming in the play area, with more seats, picnic tables and a barbeque area. A secure fence around the area was suggested as well as an outside toilet. The footpath to the School was raised here too.

14. The problem of dog fouling was of concern with this open space being used frequently. One suggestions for solving the problem was a fenced-off area for dogs to defecate in and for this to be picked up. Another suggestion was to ban dogs from the playing field if matters did not improve. Two respondents felt that the current notices were too aggressive and created a bad impression of the village.
15. The questionnaire shows that 14% of villagers use the Apple Tree *regularly* with 46% calling in *occasionally*.
16. In answer to the question about using the Apple Tree more often, several people said it would mean being retired, having baby-sitters or more spare cash! Mark and Mandy will continue to promote themselves as a centre for hosting village events, walking groups and as a meeting place.
17. The largest group of comments suggested that more events such as quiz nights or music events would be popular. There is a link from the village



website to the pub's own webpage. Here you can find details of their opening hours, sample menus and a picture gallery, as well as events that are held at the Apple Tree.

Section 2: The Church and the School

18. Regular Church attendance in the village is below 5% (of 170), with 55% of the community never attending. However, when asked about the sort of services they would attend, the most popular event by far (49% of 143), was that of festivals and other special occasions. Other community events that would be popular were concert evenings.



19. More general comments about Foxcote Church supported the idea of more events such as the successful Craft Show (e.g. flower show, exhibitions, poetry evenings and a community choir). Improvements to the fabric of the Church were mentioned in terms of better heating

and lighting (possibly solar-powered?), regular grass cutting and a toilet. In summary, a neighbour commented, "We are neighbours to the Church and it is an amazing part of our community. We would be happy to help with parking and anything else needed to keep it going and thriving".

20. Almost 80% of respondents (of 170) considered that the School is an integral part of our community. Forty five percent (of 164) felt that news from the School, via the Newsletter, would be appreciated. Almost half of responses (of 166) thought that the School building could be used for community events.
21. Comments about the School highlighted the ongoing and recognised concerns that transporting children to School creates with parking problems at drop-off and pick-up times. At the time of writing only 24% of pupils at the School live in the parish itself with the majority coming from Peasedown St John. For the village to retain the School these external students, and associated traffic, are essential otherwise the School would become unviable and close. Constructive solutions for this problem included suggestions for lift-sharing, a school bus from Peasedown and the

possibility of a footpath from the Village Hall to School. Associated with the volume of traffic was concern for children's safety with cars driving too fast.

Section 3: Communication

22. The noticeboards attract an 83% (of 170) viewing of *Frequently* or *Occasionally* and the new boards have been greeted by an overwhelming expression of support, "the new ones are a great improvement" and, "they look great – well done". This comes with the caveat of hopes that they will be kept updated and some wishes that they were not locked.
23. The Newsletter is a resounding success for the village. It is read *regularly* by 94% (of 171) and *never* by just one person. Its content rating of *Useful* stands at 99%. We should send a loud message of support to the small team of volunteers who create and distribute this well appreciated venture. As commented by one reader, "it made us feel part of the community as soon as we moved into the village".
24. Asked about changes to the Newsletter over 60% (of 160) asked for more information from the Parish Council about Planning Applications and ongoing work in the parish. Between



40% and 50% thought that updates from the Village Hall Committee and village clubs would be useful. Surprisingly, over half of you wanted a list of local tradespeople to be included but this already exists.

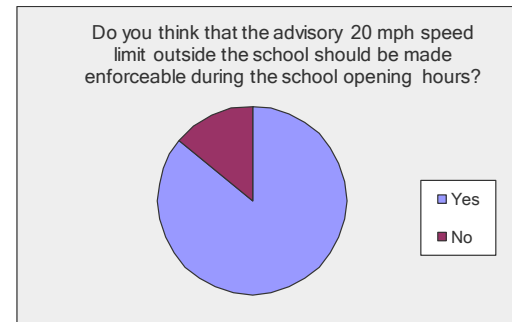
25. The most common comments (40%) were of, "Congratulations" and "An Excellent Communication Tool for the Village". A small number of people (6) suggested an electronic version would suffice but that facility is already in place on the village website. Some suggestions were for listings of community services such as baby sitting, dog walking, cleaning services and an exchange site. Others thought that input from the School, ("a column writing section on local, interesting topics and from budding writers from the School"), neighbouring parishes, Neighbourhood Watch alerts, a Letters page and Discussion Forum would improve the Newsletter.
26. One suggestion for a more professional appearance, with better graphics, photographs and illustrated cover, may present cost issues.

Section 4: Roads, Parking and Transport

27. Seventy percent of respondents (of 165) thought the roads in the parish were not maintained adequately. The main areas of

concern were White Hill, Green Street, Rag Hill, Single Hill and Barn Hill.

28. The largest number of written responses mentioned the overall poor state of the surface of the roads with too many potholes that were patched rather than an area being resurfaced.
29. Other highways issues mentioned were:
 - Signage to stop large lorries entering the village lanes
 - Suitable hedgerow cutting for visibility and wildlife habitats
 - Safety signage for cyclists
 - Exposed and blocked drain covers
- 30.



31. Eighty one percent of respondents (of 159) felt that the gritting bins were appropriately sited.

32. Eighty percent of respondents (of 161) have experienced difficulty walking or driving in icy weather in the village.
33. The routes in the village that are gritted and not gritted, as well as the speed of the gritting lorry, were mentioned as issues in the written responses.
34. Hedge and verge cutting at appropriate times for safety as well as wildflowers and wildlife were often mentioned in the written responses.
35. A Welcome to Shoscombe sign was suggested.
36. Parking in some parts of the village was considered a problem, especially near the School and the Apple Tree. Sixty seven percent (of 167) had no difficulty parking with 21% (of 167) having occasional problems. Parking was not relevant to 12% of respondents. Twenty six percent (of 129) replied that they would like to see more designated parking spaces with 64% replying to the same question who thought that there should not be any more additional parking. Ten percent (of 129) felt that there should be a residents parking permit. Nine percent (of 129) thought that there should be more road markings for restricting parking.
37. Ninety one percent (of 170) normally travel to and from home by car with small numbers using motorbikes and bicycles.

38. There was some indication of a lack of knowledge about the public transport to and from the village. Eighty four percent (of 88) knew about the Wednesday morning bus and 60% (of 88) knew about the Fare Car.
39. The majority of young respondents said they would use a more regular bus service.

Section 5: Access to Medical Services

40. Seventy six percent (of 171) use the surgery at Peasedown St John.
41. Five percent (out of 171) stated that they had some difficulty accessing the medical facilities locally.
42. Thirty two volunteers have put themselves forward to support the transport of those that have difficulty accessing medical facilities and a driving group has been set up.

Section 6: Local Businesses

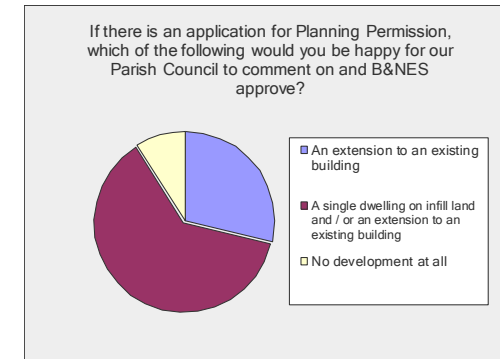
43. From the 48 responses given we have a very wide range of professional, technical and specialist skills in the parish.
44. Some businesses such as farming go back over 100 years whilst some are only just starting up.

45. Between them the businesses employ 31 full-time and 18 part-time people, 80% of whom are from the parish.
46. Most people do not advertise their business in the village but of those who do, 90% use the Newsletter.
47. The answers listed the advantages of working here. The majority stated the beautiful surroundings and absence of the daily commute as their prime reasons. A few people said that an occasional communal co-working space and/or café would be constructive.
48. The singular negative side to trying to work here is the very poor broadband provision with some mention of poor mobile coverage.
49. As to supporting local businesses we can call on their services.



Section 7: Housing, Planning and Building Design

50.



51. For the design of any infill, most people preferred traditional designs, (66% from 165), built from traditional materials (55%) and with excellent Green Energy credentials (45%).
52. The control exercised by the Parish Council over Planning Applications is described elsewhere but people asked to be kept informed of all new Planning Applications being considered by the Parish Council. How new development may affect someone's outlook is not taken into account when B&NES makes its decisions.
53. The majority view was that the rural nature of our village should be preserved and that the Green Belt status we enjoy be respected. Comments describe how the narrow



lanes inhibit easy access to the village and we have little or no existing infrastructure to support an increased population; we have no shop or bus service. Inadequate space to park is highlighted elsewhere and the School is at capacity.

54. The alternative view was that the village needs to grow to move forward. Only five respondents (of 172) commented on the need for affordable housing for young people

Section 8: Landscape, Environment and Wildlife

55. Eighty eight percent (of 167) felt that the landscape, natural environment and wildlife were *very important* to them and 12% (of 167) *quite important*.
56. Sixty two percent (of 164) rated the appearance of the village *excellent* or *good* with 38% (of 164) judging the appearance *fair* or *poor*.
57. Fifty nine percent (of 165) felt there needs to be more litter/poo bins and 55% think litter-picking needs to happen more often.
58. Suggestions for improvement to the village from the questionnaires:
- Footpath maintenance especially the Cinder Path

- Removal of dog and horse excrement with the provision of more poo bins
- Litter picking days
- A planting regime for wildflowers
- Care of wildlife: hedgerows, trees, wild flowers, birds, insects, owls, bats and verge trimming at the right time. Links with Somerset Wildlife Trust and other conservation organisations
- Care of the river: bank conservation, rubbish removal and Himalayan Balsam eradication
- Retention of dark skies at night: no street lighting, fewer outside lights to houses
- Restriction on bonfires and noise, especially from power tools
- Ensuring that the skyline is unspoiled by development
- Greenways remain free from 4x4 damage
- Maintenance of traditional stone walls
- Identifying possible allotments within the parish
- Becoming a Fairtrade community



59. Forty eight percent of respondents (of 168) thought the condition of the local rights of way were either *excellent* or *good* with 11% (of 168) stating that they thought they were *poor*.
60. The written responses about the landscape, wildlife and natural environment and how important the various aspects were to them, indicated that the residents thought it was very important to maintain and preserve the natural environment around the parish. Ninety four percent (of 167) wanted to protect the birds, insects and wildlife, saying that the green spaces between hamlets were important to preserve. There was also a high positive response rate concerning the *beautiful countryside and views, low pollution and fresh air*,



the rivers and streams and open areas for butterflies, wildflowers and insects.

61. Regarding the general appearance of the village and footpaths 62% (of 164) felt that they were *good to excellent*. Suggestions to improve things were headed by problems with litter and insufficient litter/poo bins. As to the footpaths themselves, over 50 mentions for a few specific sites were made and these have been passed to the Footpaths Officer on the Parish Council.
62. Other comments included: cutting back hedges, rats near the allotments, animal muddled gates, cattle in fields and 4x4 damage to some byways. One suggestion was to develop a scheme whereby local monitors, armed with secateurs, would cut back hedges.
63. The most common comments about the river described the need to clear fallen trees and debris. Other comments were about monitoring the river for pollution prior to possible fracking locally, clearing the banks of Himalayan Balsam and extending the riverside footpath along to Foxcote Mill.
64. Suggestions for possible future environmental or conservation projects was requested in the

questionnaire. The table below shows the response:

Answer options	Response (%)	Response (#)
Acquisition of land for community orchard/nature reserve	57.6	83
Allotments	29.9	43
Becoming a bee-friendly village	72.2	104
Conservation and improvement of the river	71.5	103
Insect-friendly planting at the entrance to the hamlets	61.8	89
Garden sharing initiative	24.3	35
Management of open areas for butterflies, wild flowers and insects	71.5	104
Total respondents		144

Section 9: Energy, Sustainability and Recycling

65. The B&NES recycling scheme was regarded as *very important* by four out of five respondents (79% of 159). This scheme will be enhanced by the move to fortnightly collection of rubbish. It should encourage more recycling and reduce the need for polluting bonfires.
66. Eighty respondents expressed an interest in renewable energy sources. These sources are reviewed on the website, along with information on signing up for shared oil deliveries and Green Energy suppliers. A Freecycle site was well supported and this is

mediated via the Village Facebook page.

67. Other suggestions included lectures on these topics, a community orchard and carbon capture programmes.

Section 10: Shoscombe Parish Council

68. The majority of respondents, 61% (of 149), said they had some idea of what the Parish Council was responsible for.
69. Around 84% (of 146) knew some or all of their councillors and 80% knew how to contact a councillor.
70. Only seven respondents attended Parish Council meetings *regularly* with the majority, (65% of 149), *never* attending. When asked why, most people were too busy or would attend only if a matter of concern was being discussed. A small number said they did not know that these were public meetings and that they were allowed to attend.
71. The most frequent comments about the Parish Council, (52% of 23), complimented the new PC on its efforts, time and communications with the village. A few people asked for more Parish Council business to be made available.



72. Asked about increasing the Parish Council's precept for supporting village projects, opinion was evenly divided with 40% (of 149) saying *Yes, but depending on the project*, and 44% saying *No*. Almost 60% felt that designated projects could be supported, depending on the amount.
73. Almost half of respondents, 49% (of 146), said that the precept should not be used to pay someone to do jobs around the village that are, at present, done by volunteers.
74. Strong support, (73% of 146), was given to the idea of trying to raise money from residents for some village projects. Very strong support (88% of 144) was given to the idea of seeking external funding via grants and Local Authority.
75. Comments about funding the community brought responses that there are grants and Lottery monies available and that volunteers should be found to apply for them. To quote one person, "given the cuts to all Local Authorities, if communities want services they have to fund them themselves".

Section 11: Would you consider helping to make any of the following happen?

76. Data from this section concerned volunteers. These people have been directed to the appropriate Working Groups. Forty two individuals offered their help.

Section 12: Other Suggestions

77. The final questions asked for suggestions and ideas for other projects, your expectations for the outcomes of the Parish Plan and anything we might have missed.
78. In these responses, there is a focus on the distinctiveness of Shoscombe and its Environs, with hopes that the Plan, "will help the community move forward but also come together".
79. A strong theme in this section was that the Plan should generate a closer sense of community with improved community spirit and a greater community cohesion across the parish and hamlets. Many of us are busy, but a helpful suggestion made here was that each small voluntary contribution works as part of the "whole jigsaw"

towards achieving a successful outcome.

80. Overall, there were particular concerns about the support for young people, isolated people, and an increasingly older population with changing needs.
81. Other suggested projects included a framework for future development and activities with a vision for the next 20 years, a clear view of what is important and an evolving plan to be reviewed regularly. This would involve:
- A community moving forward to fulfil common aspirations
 - A community brought together by community events
 - More people working together with community projects
 - More sustainable projects to ensure environmental and wildlife protection
 - A visual resource, for example a large-scale map, to raise awareness of community resources and interests, to preserve, "the inherent nature of our surroundings" and to provide support and influence over decisions being taken by B&NES



82. An expected outcome was that we produced a realistic and sustainable Parish Plan with a clear strategy, with projects and targets supported by fund-raising to achieve these aims. Suggestions included:

- A report and conclusion with a list of priorities, including details of how these would be undertaken and who would accept responsibility
- More activities for young people and teenagers responding to their interests and for the needs of isolated people
- A new village Community Hall with joint activities and spaces for different activities and facilities such as a village library
- Community transport in the medium to longer term for changing population needs
- Speed restrictions for cars, vans and cyclists on mixed-use lanes and roads
- Acquiring land to alleviate parking problems in some areas
- The majority mentioned restrictions on housing development, or development, to infill sites. In this section one respondent mentioned appropriate and

affordable development, especially for the younger generation

83. A range of aspects that we missed in the questionnaire ranged from environmental concerns to improving communication across parishes:

- Recognition of the value of dark skies and generating awareness of light pollution from security lights, and the effects on wildlife
- Listing heritage assets for preservation and for influence on development decisions made by B&NES
- Recognising the pub as an asset
- Improving the quality of old signposts
- Use of the phone box as a site for a community defibrillator and book exchange
- More contact between farmers and other landowners and the Parish Council
- Better links across Parish Councils, for example, more joint projects with Wellow including fundraising

Young People's Questionnaire

84. Twenty six young people returned questionnaires, 15 males (average age 13.1) and 11 females (average age 10.6).

85. When asked about what they enjoyed about living here, most appreciated the peace and tranquillity and village friendliness. One lad likes it for the conkers and another for blackberries. Dislikes mentioned no bus to Bath, no shop and little for older children to do.

86. A set of miscellaneous hazards was also mentioned that included horse poo, thorns and nettles, cow poo, chicken poo and smelly rain.



87. The most mentioned improvements would be to have more extensive sports facilities such as football and cricket with five mentioning a Youth Club.



Further Comment from the analysis of the Questionnaire:

As described in the Executive Summary, there was unanimous agreement about what we value in our community and our rural surroundings. However, in a survey with such a very high response rate there were also some contentious matters raised.

The first of these was the concern over School traffic and the attendant parking problems. There has to be agreement that these problems need to be dealt with in a courteous manner by all concerned. A school bus from Peasedown St John, where over half of the students come from, is not possible. Measures already in place include the Walking Bus, from the Village Hall down to the School, three mornings a week and a voluntary one-way system along St Julian's Road at peak times. The School will also trial a drop-and-go system to shorten vehicle time outside the School. Additional safety solutions are being sought involving the Leadership of the School, the Board of Governors, the Parish Council, the Diocese and B&NES. The local Beat Officer will call down at busy times to advise on parking difficulties.

Secondly, there are around 100 dogs in our community and a small number of their owners are not accepting their necessary responsibility of cleaning up after their dogs. It is an offence to allow a dog to foul and not clear it up; fixed-penalty fines can be imposed by the dog wardens. This concern was brought out in the responses to the questionnaires in several places, including from some dog owners themselves. The problems seem to be centred on the conduits from the village out to more open

spaces. Specific examples mentioned were the Cinder Path, the front of Farm Cottages, Single Hill, the footpath along the north side of the river from the Dragon's Teeth and especially the sports field at the Village Hall. With regard to the sports field, there has been a renewed interest in revitalising this area, from parents, young people and football and cricket players. Therefore, this area needs to be cared for more responsibly. Two people have objected to the "aggressive" notices put up by the Parish Council but clearly there is still a need for them. The Parish Council is currently trying to get agreement from B&NES for extra bins and is consulting with other local Councils to see how they deal with this problem. B&NES also has a dog warden service, (01225 394041), which aims to protect members of the public from issues that arise from irresponsible dog ownership. These issues include straying dogs, fouling, aggressive behaviour and persistent barking. The Parish Council would be very grateful for any constructive solutions to these problems.

The Parish Council is seeking to resolve the woeful broadband coverage we all suffer from. The Government is funding a scheme to provide high speed fibre coverage to all areas not covered by commercial schemes. The local delivery is being carried out by Connecting Dorset and Somerset (CDS). CDS was due to select a contractor by the end of May 2017 to carry out the installation of the fibre connections on their behalf. Once that has happened the Parish Council and community will be approached to assess potential interest in the village and to survey the overland route that will be adopted. Providing there is sufficient interest in the community to make this commercially viable the Parish Council will liaise with CDS to facilitate the process. The

Newsletter and website will be used to keep the community informed.

More locally concerns were raised about burning bonfires in restricted spaces. The B&NES advice about bonfires has been reproduced on the village website by the Energy Group. All material that is being burned can be recycled. The intrusiveness of some poorly positioned security lighting could be resolved by repositioning lights that face bedrooms. This courtesy would enhance neighbourliness.



Action Plan

Note: The column labelled 'Priority' in the Action Plan is assigned traffic-lights colours. These mean the following: Red – an important Action, to be instituted as soon as feasible, Amber – a less urgent Action, to be re-examined at a later date or when funding/ volunteers are found and Green – the Action has already been carried out and completed OR has been initiated but will undergo periodic revisiting (for example litter picking, hedge trimming, footpath clearing).

Action No.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified Need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
1	1	Community Amenities	To develop and maintain the play area at the recreation field	To investigate, research and develop further amenities to include: a) More seats and picnic tables b) Secure the fence around the play area c) Hedge and bushes cut back in play area d) Trim hedge at West end of the field e) Path down to School f) Football posts g) Cricket nets	 Amber Green Green Amber Amber Red Green	RC/MU	Mar-18
2	1		To improve the facilities in the Village Hall and publicise its potential usage and availability	a) Members and their roles publicised via the Newsletter and website b) Spring Clean Day c) Deep clean the entrance, stage and back room floors d) Insulate and redecorate interior walls. New curtain tracks e) Fit projector, screen, sound system, and hearing loop	 Green Green Green Green	*VHC *VHC	
3	1		To increase the present usage of about 20h per week up towards 40h per week to demonstrate the need for a Village Hall as a community facility that the community uses and values	a) Install ambient lighting for evening functions b) Upgrade toilet floors and kitchen appliances c) Improve stage access and fit a new hand rail d) Market the facilities via the Newsletter, website and social media to prospective groups seeking a place for lectures, classes e) Apply for grant applications for a potential rebuild	 Green Red Red Green Amber	*VHC	

* VHC = Village Hall Committee



Action no.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified Need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
4	2	The Church	To provide an outdoor toilet	a) A composting toilet is being considered if Ancient Graves are not affected b) An alternative is being discussed if a) fails	Green Green	CS/MC	
5	2		Upkeep of the Churchyard	a) Working parties are usually organised from village volunteers via the Newsletter	Green	CS/MC	March 2017 and then six monthly
6	2		To ensure access to Church outside normal hours	Phone contacts to be published for access to the key	Green	MC and BG	Apr-17
7	2		To plan future Church organised community events	a) Candle-lit Carol Service b) Easter talk on flora and fauna relevant to the Church c) A concert d) Organise a community choir	Green Green Green Green	CS/MC CS/MC CS/MC BG	Through 2017

Action no.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified Need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
8	2	The School	To increase School and community contact	a) Updates from School to Newsletter and encourage pupils to write up their achievements b) Invite village expertise to help in specialist topics and announce in Newsletter c) Rivers project with children. Approach BART and Brook owner at Dragons Teeth d) Arrange an Open Day at School for community and not prospective pupils	Green Green Red Amber	Head NG/TR Head	
9	2		To investigate the use of School buildings by the community	a) School to publish costs and conditions for hiring the new room behind Church building	Amber	Head	
10	2		To work to solve the parking problems outside the school	a) Investigate a school bus run from PSJ. b) Trial a Drop-and-Go for pupils c) Alleviate congestion. Investigate a parents car-share scheme via School Newsletter d) Unsociable behaviour. Appeal to both parents AND residents for civility and understanding via School and Parish Newsletters e) Poorly parked cars. Invite PSCO to visit at peak times to advise parents	Green Red Red Green Green	Head Head Head Head and JJW Head and JJW	
11			To ensure the safety for the Walking Bus	a) Explore the possibility of a safer route	Red	School Governors, PC, B&NES	



Action no.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified Need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
12	3	Communications	To ensure the use of Noticeboards for communication to the parish	a) Priority given to PC, Village Hall and groups b) Permission from PC needed for advertisements c) Notices of services to be no larger than a postcard, dated when posted. They will be removed after three months but can be replaced with a newer version	Green	Clerk AH	
13	3		To monitor the Noticeboards so that they are updated regularly	All boards will be checked at least every two weeks and old notices removed	Green	AH	
14	3		To maintain a list of key-holders for the Boards	a) Metal boards b) V Hall board	Green	Clerk and village groups Clerk and AH	
15	3		To collate a list of local tradespeople	Notice to be placed in Newsletter encouraging local tradespeople to submit an advertisement	Red	SB	
16	3		To communicate updates from the Village Hall Committee about its activities	A report following Village Hall meetings to be placed in the Newsletter quarterly	Green	VHC	
Action no.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified Need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
17	4	Roads, Parking & Transport	The maintenance of the highways to ensure a safe and appropriate infrastructure	a) Continue to monitor potholes, surface rippling, exposed and blocked drains b) Update with appropriate sign for weight restriction (bridges over river) and height restriction (Writhlington Pit bridge) to stop large lorries entering the lanes c) Suitable hedgerow cutting for visibility and wildlife d) To continue to lobby for safety signs for cyclists especially on the Sustrans Route 24 e) Roads and lanes through the village have a 20mph speed restriction	Green Green Green Green Green	AW AW Clerk MU PC	
18	4		The maintenance and appropriateness of gritting throughout the parish	a) To lobby B&NES so that all areas are gritted b) To maintain the present siting of gritting bins c) To work for suitable access for the gritting lorries and other emergency vehicles d) Maintain links with Highways England/B&NES about the main ice hazard spots: Rag Hill, White Hill, Green St, Barn Hill and Single Hill	Green Green Green Red	JJW JJW JJW AW	
19	4		To monitor unsociable parking in the parish	a) To investigate how to alleviate poor parking in the difficult areas outside the School and Apple Tree b) To investigate extra car parks or parking places c) To work with the School and Diocesan Board of Education to alleviate poor parking near the School	Red Red Green	PC PC PC	
20	4		To publicise the public transport from the village	a) Ensure that the parishioners know what is available	Green	JJW	



Action no.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified Need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
21	5	Access to Medical services	To ensure there is transport to medical facilities for those in need	a) Maintain a list of people who would like occasional transport to doctors and/or hospital b) Maintain a list of volunteers who would offer lifts to doctors or hospital	Green	WG	Apr-17
22	6	Local Businesses	To improve Broadband and mobile signal provision to support business, those working at home and domestic use	a) To investigate the options of increasing Broadband speed to the village b) To investigate the mobile signal and see if it can be improved	Green	AD	Dec-17
23	7	Housing, Planning and Building Design	Housing, Planning and Building Design	a) The Parish Council to agree that additional housing development will be restricted to extensions and infill within the housing development boundary b) The PC to agree to be in contact with B&NES about their Planning Applications c) To comment to B&NES when the skyline is spoilt by development in neighbouring areas	Green Green Green	PC PC PC	Jun-17 Jun-17 Jun-17



Action no.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified Need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
24	8	Landscape, Environment and Wildlife	To clear and maintain the river through the parish	a) Survey both banks through the parish for rubbish b) Assess what equipment will be needed c) One or two working parties to rectify what needs to be done	Green	SB/RD	By end 2017
25	8		To establish who owns both sides of the river along the parish boundary	a) Identify all owners b) Produce a map, summarising the owners. Talk to as many as possible about rubbish	Green Red	DW	April-May 2017
26	8		To coordinate the work of the rivers group and plan further progress	a) Provide progress reports for village via website b) Plan the rubbish removal with advice from BART/IM c) Arrange IM talk in the Village Hall d) Produce a proposal after adequate consultations, to give to footpath group on the Parish Council e) Arrange meeting with IM from BART	Red Amber Red Red Amber	MA MA MA MA	Dec-17
27	8		To maintain the village environment	a) To publish B&NES guidance about bonfires b) Greenways remain free from 4x4 damage	Green Amber	CU PC	
28	8		Desire to support birds, insects and wildlife and provide open areas for butterflies, wild flowers and insects	a) Identify existing sites within the village which can be easily managed to support this aim b) Mobilise Wildlife Group to undertake management tasks at these sites	Green Red	PH PH	October 2017 to March 2018
29	8		To research the possibility of securing nature reserve(s) within the parish to provide secure habitat for wildlife	a) Encourage membership of Wildlife Group b) Approach landowners with suitable habitat for permission to manage land sympathetic to wildlife	Amber Amber	PH	2018
30	8		To maintain the general appearance of the village as good	a) Volunteers to survey areas for improvement and decide on suitable management plan for planting more trees, cutting back, mowing	Red	PH	
31	8		To ensure that there is minimal litter within the village	a) Increase litter picks from one to two per year in March and October b) Two pairs of litter picking tongs are available for residents to borrow c) B&NES to be requested to remove the litter from Wellow Lane d) Children from School to help with litter picking before village pick e) Litter awareness education at School – Poster competition.	Green Green Green Green Green	JJW JJW Clerk School	Oct-17
32	8		To maintain the footpaths throughout parish	a) Repairs to be reported to PC b) Biannual assessment of the condition of all footpaths c) Biannual check to see if problems rectified	Green Green Green	LCR, PROW LCR, volunteers “ “	April-18 June-17
33	8		To ensure the condition of the Cinder Path is good. To upgrade the Cinder Path to be more accessible for buggies and wheelchairs	a) Continue to maintain the pathway through voluntary group. b) Landowner of overgrown hedge to be contacted regarding reducing height of the hedge in autumn c) Regular clearing of surface mud by volunteers d) Meet with the landowner to get permission to widen path for wheelchair and buggy access. e) Seek funding to finance the upgrade in d)	Green Green Green Amber Amber	JJW JJW NN	Oct-17



Action no.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
34	9	Recycling and Energy	To share oil deliveries	a) Post application forms to website to download	Green	CU	Apr-17
				b) Inform village that system is ready via web and Newsletter	Green	CU	Apr-17
35	9		To increase Green Energy sign-up	a) Research list of Green Energy companies	Green	TC	Apr-17
				b) Publish list on web and in Newsletter for people to switch	Green	CU	Apr-17
36	9		To create a Freecycle facility in the parish	a) Set up facility on web	Green	CU	Apr-17
				b) Publicise it	Green	CU	
37	9		To investigate local sustainable energy sources	a) Research suitable mix of alternatives	Amber	CU,SV,P C,TC	By Summer 2018
				b) Collate the information and publish through media	Amber		
				c) Recruit more members into the working group	Amber		
38	9		To seek to lower air pollution by restricting bonfires	a) Publish B&NES advice for domestic bonfires to encourage more recycling	Red	NG	Oct-17
Action no.	Questionnaire Section	Area for Development	Identified Need	Recommended Action	Priority	Lead Person	Time Scale
39	10	Shoscombe PC	To ensure the workings of the Parish Council are understood more widely	a) To increase public attendance at PC meetings as well as knowledge and understanding of the role of the PC, the PC will:		Clerk	Apr-17
				• Ensure parishioners know what is on forthcoming PC Agendas via the Newsletter, Noticeboards and website	Green	Clerk	Apr-17
				• Publish Minutes as above	Green	Clerk	Apr-17
				• PC news report in Newsletter to be recorded under headings to make clearer those Actions the PC are involved with	Green	JJW	Mar-17
				• Chair to write a piece for publication to encourage attendance at meetings	Red	Clerk	Mar-17
				b) Ensure that the precept expenditure is easily accessible via the website including information about possible yearly increases	Green	Clerk	Mar-17
				c) Explore sources of external funding needs for identified projects	Amber	PC	Mar-17
				d) Discuss the possible appointment of a village caretaker	Green		
40	10		To add further litter/dog poo bins in the parish	a) Investigation of litter and dog fouling issues	Green	JJW	Jun-17
				b) Investigation of increasing number of bins	Green		
				c) Contact B&NES and request a bin at the corner of Single Hill, by gritting bin	Green		
41	10		Additional projects	a) Allotments within the village to be investigated by the PC	Amber	PC	Dec-17
				b) A welcome pack for new residents to be developed	Amber	JJW	Sep-17
42	10		To ensure the management of the Recreation Field	An action and management plan to be drawn up and presented to the PC for discussion. To include:	Amber	PC	Dec-17
				• Boundaries of field to be managed by Wildlife Group.			
				• Children's play area			
				• Playing Field development and maintenance			
				• Village Hall by VH group			
				• Dog fouling designated area			
				• Recreation facilities for young people			
43	10		To ensure that information about Planning Applications is widely broadcast	a) Links to new applications posted in Planning section of www.everythingshoscombe.org	Green	Clerk	Oct-17
				b) PC discussion of Planning Applications will be recorded in Clerk's Report in the Newsletter	Red	Clerk	



Acknowledgements

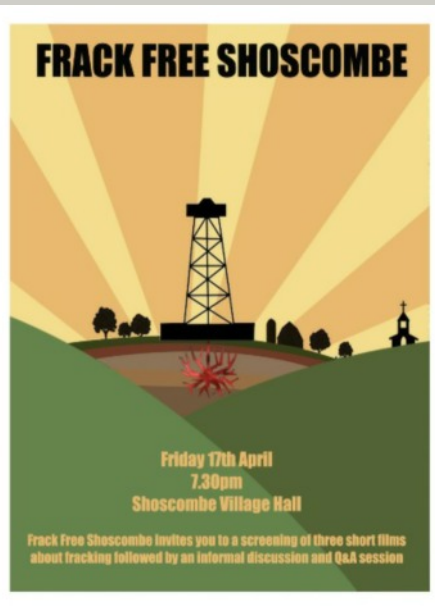
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