



and supported by
The Community Council of Shropshire



The Parishes of Great Ness and
Little Ness Parish Plan
& Community Strategy

2004

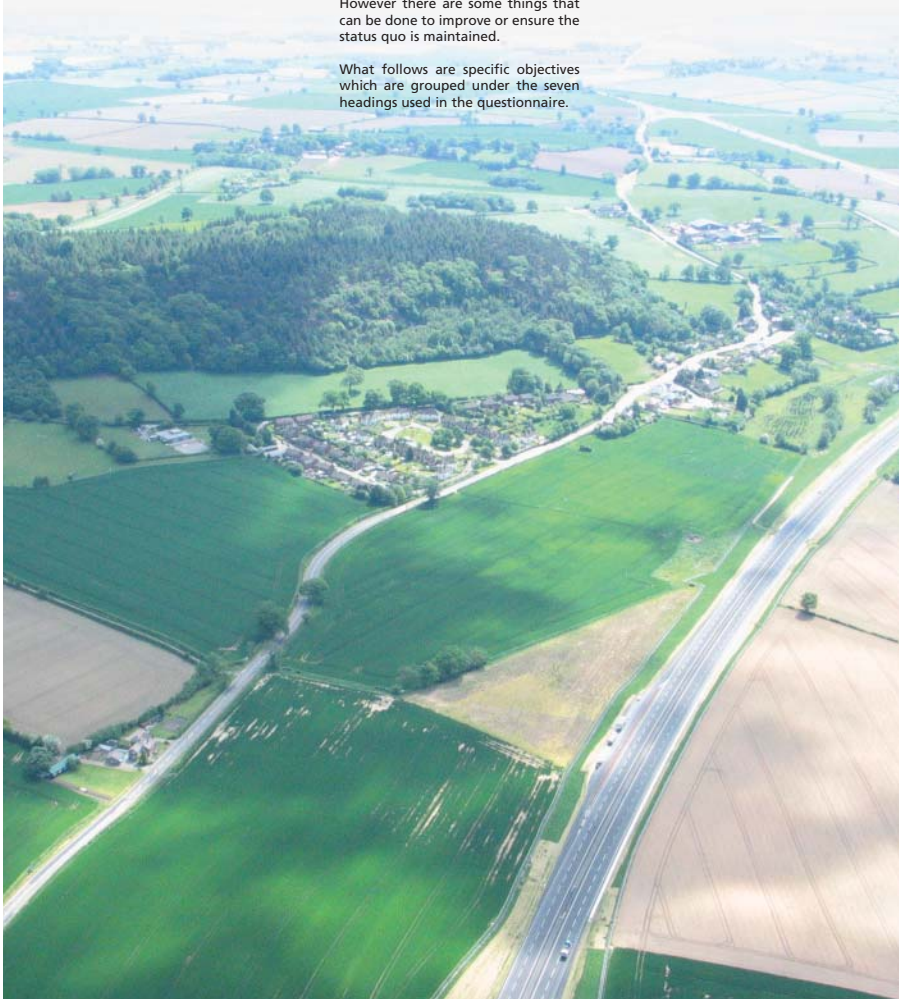
Forward

The creation of this Parish Plan has been driven by the desire to have a voice. Through the Countryside Agency Initiative the Parish Plan is a vehicle to have that voice and to ensure the vibrancy and well being of the Parishes known as "The Nesses"

The Action Plan
There is over-riding evidence that the majority of the people living in the parishes do not want any major change to the area in which they live. It was stated several times that people live here because of the way it is.

However there are some things that can be done to improve or ensure the status quo is maintained.

What follows are specific objectives which are grouped under the seven headings used in the questionnaire.



Community Services

This section of the plan focuses on the activities in and around the parishes that help to make our community what it is.

C1. OBJECTIVE:
To provide pre-school facilities, an after school care club, and a holiday play scheme.

HOW?
Arrange a public meeting to call for volunteers within the local community who could provide the necessary support for the existing Ness Kids pre-school facility, and who could liaise with the SCC Early Years and Childcare Development Partnership. Help would also be sought from the Nesscliffe School Governors concerning after-school and holiday club provision, as well as working with the Nesscliffe Playing Fields Committee to provide a suitable building close to the playing fields and the school.

C2. OBJECTIVE:
To provide a suitable building close to, or attached to, St Andrew's Primary School for childcare etc. in association with a possible scheme to provide a building for recreational facilities.

HOW?
Set up a fund-raising and planning committee to manage the project.

C3. OBJECTIVE:
To provide facilities for and information on adult evening and day classes for computing, art, fitness, languages, and other studies as required.

HOW?
Find, by consultation, which subjects would have sufficient support for a local class using local instructors or in association with local colleges, and promote classes in neighbouring parishes.

C4. OBJECTIVE:
To promote the existing mobile library service.

HOW?
Contact the SCC Library Service to inform them of the Parish Plan Questionnaire results and recommend that they advertise their services locally on notice boards and in The Three Parishes Newsletter, and also encourage the SCC to introduce more "user friendly" visiting times.

To ensure The Three Parishes Newsletter is available to everyone in the community.

HOW?
By delivering it to every household, and publicise it as the official method of communicating with the community. Plan, in time, for an electronic version to be produced on the Parishes website.

C6. OBJECTIVE:
To form a youth club to provide a meeting point for the youth of the parishes.

HOW?
Call a public meeting with Shropshire Youth Association and the local community to determine interest from volunteer helpers and organisers, with a view to asking them to help form a club based at Nesscliffe Village Hall.

C7. OBJECTIVE:
To promote greater use of the village halls by providing some of the services and events requested in the questionnaire.

HOW?
Encourage members of the community to approach the village hall committees with ideas and proposals for the use of the halls. Encourage the village hall committees to advertise the hall facilities, availability, and hire rates in The Three Parishes Newsletter.



Health

There were no clear actions indicated by the consultation on Health. There were several comments made in the suggestions section; these will be passed on to relevant organisations. Three questions were posed in this section of the questionnaire:



- "How do you get to the doctor's surgery?"
- "Do you regularly have difficulty travelling to appointment?"
- "Are there any other medical services needed in the Parish?"

The conclusions drawn from these are reflected in other sections; namely there is a high degree of dependency on cars used to access health care. The challenge faced is for those people who do not have access to a car; 58 people have to rely only on lifts from friends, taxis, neighbours or relations. These people are greatly disadvantaged when it comes to accessing health care.

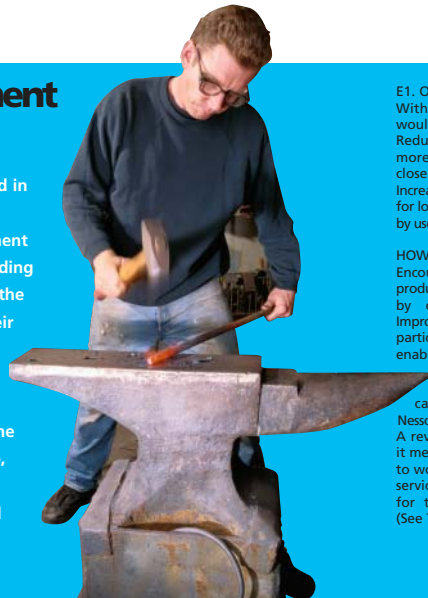
H1. OBJECTIVE:
To provide The Primary Health Care Trust with the data and with them investigate the options to address the

areas of concern. It is also important to monitor the position as future changes to the demography of the population could make the situation worse.

HOW?
Bring the findings of the consultation to the attention of the Primary Health Care Trust. In particular, raise with them the following:
1. Discuss improved patient health care availability with Prescott Surgery.
2. Explore the possibility of having a medical facility such as a clinic in Nesscliffe.
3. Consult with other parishes on the viability of setting up a community car scheme.
4. Enquire whether a repeat prescription service could be set up for delivery to Nesscliffe.

Employment

The questions asked in the questionnaire regarding employment concentrated of finding out how people in the Parishes earned their living, to see if there was any desire to increase job availability in the local area, and if so, what types of employment would be required.



E1. OBJECTIVE:
With regard to employment we would like to:
Reduce commuting by car: more people working from home or close to home in the parishes.
Increase availability of premises suitable for local small businesses (not industrial) by use of redundant or empty buildings.

HOW?
Encourage planning permission which produces local jobs e.g. small businesses, by converting existing buildings. Improve communication infrastructure, particularly provision of Broadband, to enable business communications and effective working from home (Responsibility: current campaign to bring Broadband to Nesscliffe, Switch on Shropshire).
A review of public transport to see if it meets the needs of those travelling to work, e.g. is there a need for a bus service via the hospital, later services for those in service industries etc? (See Transport).

Parish Development

Parishioners are passionate about retaining the character of the villages and surrounding areas but recognise the need for selective and progressive changes to maintain the high standard of living and working environment.

The over-riding feedback from the consultation was the need to achieve a way forward in a positive and productive manner. This means to encourage and accommodate the needs of everyone in all aspects of life

and to give people the chance to express opinions about what happens to the area in which they live.

P1. OBJECTIVE:
In the future, houses built in the parishes should be small family homes, preferably controlled in terms of affordability, for the local people.

HOW?
We are to request The Borough Council to favour planning applications for small family homes, preferably controlled in terms of affordability.

P2. OBJECTIVE:
New developments should first use redundant buildings, then the building of single dwellings, lastly developments of fewer than ten houses.

HOW?
In reviewing the local plan it is recommended that the Borough Council Local Planning Authority develop policies to promote the conversion of redundant buildings to housing, to explore the potential to develop single dwellings in appropriate locations, and on village extensions to develop schemes of less than ten dwellings. The results of the consultation indicate that the parishioners do not favour larger schemes of more than ten dwellings.

P3. OBJECTIVE:
New houses should blend in with existing styles.

HOW?
In determining detailed planning applications the Parish Plan Committee and the Parish Council will request the local planning authority to promote the construction of semi-detached and detached properties together with bungalows and cottages, though there may be a need for a limited number of terraced units. The Parish Council is to investigate the use of Conservation Areas to control the style of buildings.

P4. OBJECTIVE:
The local planning authority is to engage people in forward planning for the borough and in particular the rural parishes.

HOW?
Representation is to be made by the Parish Council to the local Borough and County Councils stating that the way they communication is not getting the message across.





Local Environment

The questionnaire tried to find out if people used the local country park and rights of way, and if they did, what they used them for.

Respondents to the questionnaire take great pride in their local environment and wish to maintain it for relaxation, leisure activities and as a place for wild life to flourish.

To allow this to happen, it should be appreciated that there needs to be cooperation between the various leisure and conservation groups.

L1. OBJECTIVE:
As a result of the answers to the questions in the Environment section of the Parish Plan Questionnaire, it is proposed that a volunteers group be set up.

HOW?
The action plan for the environment will involve the co-operation of the Countryside Rangers for Shropshire County Council, together with volunteer members of the community. Regular meetings will be arranged, details of which will be found on the website.

Sport, Recreation and Leisure

The questionnaire attempted to find out what activities parishioners enjoyed and what they thought could be done to encourage people to use their local facilities.

S1. OBJECTIVE:
The rights of way around the hill should be improved to allow easier access for both pedestrians and horses.

HOW?
To achieve this it is recognised that finances will be required and a further in depth study carried out. This is to be combined with the voluntary wardens' activities in liason with Shropshire County Council.

S2. OBJECTIVE:
To find out which events would be well supported in the village Halls and to encourage people to attend.

HOW?
There needs to be further consultation with the parishioners to determine which events would be popular, and find ways of providing and promoting such events. The village hall chairpersons and committees are to be provided with the feedback from

the questionnaire and given support in identifying possible ideas.



Transport

Transport was selected as an area for investigation by the committee as it was suspected that that public transport and road safety were of interest to the parishioners.

The questionnaire asked about types of transport used, the adequacy of public transport and specific areas of road safety.

One of the main findings was that we are a car dependent community. Those with out cars are severely disadvantaged. This problem should be addressed.

T1. OBJECTIVE:
To support, maintain and improve transport for all who require it in the parishes.

HOW?
1. Consult with the bus companies via the councils the possibility of providing
• Later buses
• Kneeling buses
• An improved service to the hamlets
• A service to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

2. Consult with other parishes on the viability of setting up a community car scheme.

T2. OBJECTIVE:
To attempt to achieve more sensible use of the roads in the area by adopting an approach toward Quiet Lanes.

HOW?
Press the council to restore the Quiet Lanes Initiative. (On hold at present because of financial constraints). There is the possibility of at least getting signs erected on the key roads to inform motorists of possible hazards and make them aware of other road users ie horses, bikes and pedestrians.

T3. OBJECTIVE:
To make the parishes a more healthy and a more pleasant place to live by reducing the impact of traffic.

HOW?
Through the Parish Council, push for pedestrian operated traffic lights or crossings in Nesscliffe village. Work with the County Council and land owners to improve the quality and usability of local footpaths.





Nesscliffe Hill

On Nesscliffe Hill the moon shines down
bathing the trees with silver light.
The badgers appear from beneath the roots
and wend their ancient ways.
Owls, watching in silence, screech.

There, a silver-footed rabbit runs
tramping the grass, hedge to hedge.
A squirrel chatters in the night.
In the darkness: a distant bark
and the soft sway and fall of leaves.

This is the music of Nesscliffe Hill.

David Fairfax

First published in SHROPSHIRE UNFOLDED, February 2004.