

**Introduction:** In the early spring of 2005 West Felton Parish Council arranged an open Parish Meeting to judge whether there was enough support for a Parish Plan. Caroline Oakes from the Community Council came along to explain what a Parish Plan was, how it could be put together and the benefits to West Felton.

At that meeting volunteers came forward who wanted to be involved in the setting up of a committee, compiling a questionnaire, analysing the survey results and finally presenting to the village and statutory authorities our Parish Plan which contained the views and concerns of the people of West Felton.

**A brief history of the parish:** West Felton is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by Rainald the Sheriff from Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury. At that time it was a border village with a small motte and bailey castle to the west of the parish church. The remains of the mound can still be seen off the back lane to Manor Farm, but there is earlier aerial evidence of Saxon habitation; the high ground that West Felton holds was good defensive territory. Possibly the Romans were here before the Saxons; the copper mine at Lane End may have been first worked by them. There is in fact evidence of human habitation here for at least 2000 years.

Agriculture has always played a major part in the life of the people who lived here, as it still does, giving the rural environment that people value so highly today. In addition to agriculture, West Felton has, in the past, also had small industries, such as the glassworks at Queens Head and the boneworks at Rednal. The Holyhead Road (A5) that ran through the village was a major coaching road and it is no co-incidence that our pubs, including The Plough were all sited alongside.

Later transport methods include the canal (transporting both people and goods) and the railway. And during the last World War there was an airfield, at Rednal, which trained RAF pilots and wounded personnel were brought to several hospitals in the region.

In the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth century the village would have been self sufficient. What people didn't grow or raise for themselves would have been brought into the village general shop either by canal, rail or horse and cart. There were also butchers, cobblers, blacksmiths, seamstresses, farriers – all making for a self contained community.

**Geographical and physical make up of the parish:** Geographically, West Felton is situated in the lowland between the Cambrian Mountains to the west, the Pennines to the east and the Shropshire Hills to the south. Most of the parish is between 80 and 90 metres above sea level, with the highest land (125 metres) at Tedsmore. The land is mostly fertile although there are several marshy areas, usually denoted by the use of "moor" – Felton Moor, Aston Moor, Baggy Moor, etc. The only water-course of note running through the parish is the Weir Brook, although the River Perry forms the parish boundary to the north, and the Montgomery branch of the Shropshire Union canal forms the boundary to the west. The village is six miles south-east of Oswestry, which is the administrative centre for the Borough (District Council) to which West Felton belongs. It is thirteen miles to the north-west of the county town of Shrewsbury

**Housing:** farm houses, cottages, local hostleries along the A5, large wealthy estates, The Grange (Orange House), The Nursery (Dovaston), Pradoc, Tedsmore and Woodhouse with attached workers homes. Of later years sporadic development; two council estates and, much more recently, two large housing estates and infill.

**People:** the population of the Parish at the time of the 2001 census was 1380 the major proportion of that population living in the village of West Felton, others in and around the hamlets of Grimpo, Haughton, Weirbrook, Queens Head, Rednal, Henparks, Henbarns, Sandford and Tedsmore.

Children of primary school age have the opportunity to attend West Felton Church of England School. Secondary school children attend either The Corbett at Baschurch or The Marches in Oswestry. Walford and North Shropshire, Shrewsbury Sixth Form and Shrewsbury College provide further education. There are also private schools locally which take children from a very young age through to sixth form.

Although the main occupation was agriculture and most of the land is still farmed, a small industrial estate at Rednal also provides jobs for local people and improved road access makes it possible for people to travel to work to Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Telford and further afield. A small number of people work from home; broadband is available in West Felton. The survey responses received indicate that approximately 38% of the population are 50+ so people also come to West Felton to retire.

### **Current Resources:**

Pre-School for young children 2-4 years

West Felton Primary School attended by approximately 80. The school has hard and grassed playing areas.

A shop / post office which is open for long hours

A Village Hall / Community Centre on the Holyhead Road and smaller halls attached to St Michael's and The Methodist Chapel.

A large playing field, owned by Trustees, but made available to the Parish and maintained by the Parish Council; contained within this site is a selection of play / adventure equipment for young children

Churches: Church of England St Michael's in the village, Haughton and Pradoc, The Methodist Chapel and Weirbrook United Reformed Church

The Punch Bowl Public House and The Queens Head Restaurant

Small industrial facilities

Milk round

Two phone boxes

**Environment** – the Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the playing field, churchyard, new burial ground, layby and small area of common land known as Flaxpool. Care is taken always to introduce native trees and hedging. The burial ground has an established native hedge planted. Trees planted on the layby are maturing – and we are proud of our two very distinctive trees: The Dovaston Yew and the beautiful copper beech that spans the old A5.

The Montgomery Canal runs through Queens Head and has been developed in recent years by British Waterways and Canal Volunteers. Many families take the opportunity to walk the canal footpaths and enjoy the flora and fauna that has been encouraged to colonise the area. Shropshire County Council has opened up footpaths in the parish; installed new stiles and fences where appropriate and encourage an ongoing interest in access to the countryside.

The following is analysed from the results of the questionnaire and reflect the statistics and views of those people that filled in the questionnaire.

The Parish Plan questionnaire produced 223 responses against 642 produced. 172 of these were from the main village with 40 from the surrounding hamlets. Overall this is a 34% response - very good for this type of survey. The following responses represent the views of the people who completed the survey.

### Section 1 – Village life

How long have you lived in the parish?

No of Years	Respondents
0 - 5years	87
6 - 10 years	40
11 - 15 years	28
16 – 25 years	21
26 – 35 years	11
36 – 45 years	14
46 – 55 years	6
56+ years	14

The high number who have lived in the village for 5 years or less reflect the number of new houses built in recent times and the nature of modern employment. People are far more mobile but over 90 respondents (43%) have lived in West Felton for more than 10 years, proving that West Felton is a place that people want to spend their lives in.

#### **Comments – why you live in or moved to West Felton -**

*Good rural location but close to town, transport facilities, village location, close to relatives, quiet, work relocation, ideal for young family, retired, reasonably priced houses, better quality of life, smaller school, liked house*

**How many people live in your household?**

Age	Male	Female
0 – 4	12	25
5 – 11	25	26
12 – 16	18	14
17 – 25	19	13
26 – 35	25	38
36 – 50	62	65
51 – 65	51	63
Over 65	49	47

People aged 50+ = 38% of the table above. Children (16 and under) = 22% which leaves a balance of 40% 17 – 49 year olds. A pretty good balance of ages to, hopefully, make for a good community!

**Which best describes your household employment situation?**

In full time employment	185
In part time employment	65
In the Parish	24
Outside the Parish	30
Work from home	8

Unemployed	2
Retired	99
Not working due to caring for family	10
Not working due to caring for elderly	3
Unable to work through disability or long term health	14
Full time education	47
Part time education	2

The vast majority of respondents feel part of the community and intend to continue living in the parish. (Yes 178 / No 35). People plan to live in the village long term. 188 people plan to be living here in five years – but 26 said not.

**Comments – Do you feel part of the community?**

*Friendly community; feel content and at ease here; people very friendly; yes because we have involved ourselves; are involved in all aspects of village life and community; enjoy reading Round and About magazine; sometimes children are more involved than we are; not like the old days; them and us feel in the village; felt like an outsider; not been here very long but happy so far; believe in getting involved and village very welcoming; a lot goes on in WF; work commitments mean do not have time; events like the Carnival bring out the community spirit.*

**Activities enjoyed and facilities used :**

Women’s’ Institute, Royal British Legion, Pre-school, Badminton, Bingo, Feltonians, Village Hall Committee, Youth Club, Carnival Committee, Paddlesports, Brownies, Magazine group, horseriding, painting, walking, cycling, yoga, running, fishing, book club, whist drives, PCC – all activities participated in and enjoyed.

Facility	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
Village Hall	49	108	43
Post Office/Shop	139	79	5
Village Magazine	221	0	1
Church (St Michaels)	20	71	87
United Reformed Chapel	0	11	134
Methodist Chapel	4	12	134
Church/Chapel Hall	8	21	122
Mobile Library	19	22	114
Punch Bowl	32	110	46
The Queens Head Res’t	55	119	20
Local Farm Shop	4	28	117
Mobile Fish/Chip Van	3	28	122
Mobile Shop	7	10	130
Milk Delivery	54	4	110
Pre-School	10	0	127
Playing field	78	10	116
Phone Box	0	11	133

**What other activities / facilities would you like to see in the parish?**

*Chess club, U3A branch in village, local talks in the village hall, coffee club - drop in, toddler group, theatre group, skittles, bowls, cubs/scouts, keep fit/aerobics, plays, something for older children - hard surface play area with basketball court, regular events at village hall, bowling green, tennis courts, better shop, more things for older people (outings etc), pub to be family orientated, Flicks in the Sticks*

**Comments about likes and dislikes of living in village**

**Likes** - Not over populated, area for kids, friendly people, countryside and wildlife, school, carnival, facilities, low traffic levels, sense of community, buses very handy, post office, rural area but good road links, bus service, village shop and pub, good magazine, easy access, walks, canal, beautiful, peaceful, social activities, great place to raise children, everything, good road links

**Dislikes** – over development, nothing for teenagers, outsiders coming in and trying to change it, speed of traffic through Queens Head, litter, vandalism, shop facilities, car parking at junctions and on pavements, people who complain about nothing, spoiling village life, dog foul on pavements, posh houses, teenagers hanging around, rubbish, rare police presence, no mother and toddler group / young mums

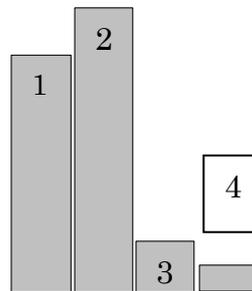
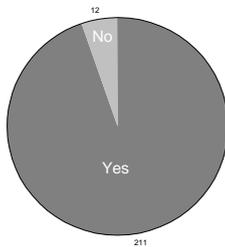
**What would you like to see happen to improve living here?**

For things to continue the way they are, no more housing, speed limits, cleaner environment, better shop, people taking part in village life rather than just commuting, dog fouling signs, less litter, more trees, reduce property development, tidy up recycling area, tidy up untidy frontages, children taught to put rubbish in bins, better police presence, drop in lunch club, mother and toddler activities, Hicksons Lane to be better maintained, improvements to school building, drainage improved, public transport to Gobowen – would use trains more often, protection of open spaces

This is a general wish list. Please look under separate headings where we have identified who should be notified of specific concerns.

**Section 2 – Travel and Transport**

Do you have your own transport?



No of cars per household

**How many return journeys do you make in a week?**

Car	Male	Female	Children
1 – 5 Journeys	62	81	14
6 – 10 Journeys	64	61	13
11 – 15 Journeys	12	14	3
16 – 20 Journeys	7	10	0
21 – 25 Journeys	1	1	0
26 – 35 Journeys	0	1	0
36 – 46 Journeys	2	1	0

4 respondents use motorbikes. 37 use their bikes for between one and ten journeys per week including a high proportion of children. Dial-a-ride seems not to be used except by one respondent. Very few use trains or taxis but 37 use the bus service weekly with 10 using it monthly. 125 said they seldom use the bus.

Of those that did use the bus service they said the following :

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Route	27	38	37	13	6
Frequency	28	39	25	14	7
Reliability	23	35	29	16	2
Cost	11	19	28	33	13
Disabled Access	11	14	14	12	4
Information	8	16	17	27	12
On/off points	20	23	32	19	5

### What would improve the service for you?

*Bus times up at bus stops, service to get children to Marches School at 8.30 am, family ticket, bus to Gobowen to link with trains, service to and from hamlets, bus timetables in village shop., earlier to Oswestry, later from Oswestry, earlier and later Sunday services, lower fares, help on/off bus with buggy etc, free local transport for OAP's, move bus stop back to the village hall, bus service to Baschurch to allow children to attend after school clubs.*

School bus	Children
1 – 5 Journeys	13
6 – 10 Journeys	4
11 – 15 Journeys	2
16 – 20 Journeys	1

Shropshire County Council and Arriva are responsible for the buses that serve West Felton. The Parish Council/Plan Committee will let them have the Transport part of this survey and ask them to address the issues that you have highlighted and report to the Parish Council.

**Action:** Shropshire County Council / Arriva

## Section 3 - Housing

### What kind of house do you live in?

Owner Occupied	189
Rent from private landlord	13
Rent from local authority	10
Rent from housing assoc/n	7

### Type

Detached	126
Semi	53
Bungalow	30
Flat	0

### Number of Bedrooms

1	1
2	45
3	72
4	55
5	14
6	1
7	1

**Thinking of the character of the village, what number of additional houses do you think is needed in the Parish?**

0 – 10 houses	133
11 – 20 houses	32
21+ houses	19

**What kind of housing do you think your community needs?**

Housing for young people	67
Affordable housing for local people	117
Large families	6
No additional housing needed	74
Elderly (e.g. sheltered)	51
Mixed	4

Are there any members of your family who have moved away and would like to return if suitable housing were available – **190 said no but 9 said yes.**

Are there any members of your household presently living with you who would wish to live in their own accommodation if it were available? **178 said no, 15 said yes.**

**Conclusions:** Overall people would like to see affordable housing for local people but not more than 20 houses in total. There is also obviously a need for elderly (semi-sheltered) housing.

**Comments:** *already had extensive building – please retain village atmosphere, no more large estates, we will have no wildlife left or greenery for future generations, housing prices have been pushed out of the price range of ordinary working people in favour of the town people looking for country idyll, very few places left in the village to build new houses, people need gardens with houses, village boundary should not be crossed, need affordable housing but not too many, sheltered housing for elderly, no facilities to sustain larger community, new people have brought in new ideas but there must be an optimum size, enough houses built in the last twelve years.*

The relevant planning authorities should consider prioritising changing demand, particularly for affordable housing and bungalows within their future plans, but at the same time acknowledge people’s concerns about the size of the village. West Felton has had several large estates in recent years and Oswestry Borough Council acknowledge this in their Newsletter “Osplan” Issue 3, November 2004 – Key Issue Consultation where it says “that villages such as West Felton have witnessed more than sufficient development over the last few years and reached their ‘environmental capacity’. They should be given some ‘breathing space’.”

**Action:** Parish Council /Oswestry Borough Council / Shropshire County Council

## Section 4 - Law and Order

**In the past twelve months have you been a victim of crime in the community?**

None	180
Theft from or of a vehicle	5
Verbal or physical threat or attack	8
House related burglary/damage to your home	14

**Did you report it to the police?**

Yes	25
No	16
Not relevant	105

**Do you think any of the following measures are needed?**

Greater police presence	90
Better consultation between local people and police	58
Regular meetings between local people and police	66
Re-establish neighbourhood watch groups	105

**Comments:** *cheeky kids whose parents are unapproachable, vandalism to cars, car damage, tools stolen from shed, parking outside post office, regular speeding offenders. Establish friendly relations between police and local children; children who know and like their local bobby are more likely to grow into youths who will respect him/her, bored children form gangs, concern for safety and property. In the months of living in The Avenue only seen a police officer once. Very little crime, parking in School Road very dangerous for drivers and pedestrians*

*Having a village PC is useful but I feel his beat is too large and you cannot get hold of him easily. The police are very ineffective dealing with noise, public disorder, damage, youngsters drug taking in the village. Trouble in this estate has escalated and we have had enough, every week there is trouble. Please do something before something serious happens. Regular meeting with police so people can drop in and discuss local problems would be a good idea. Think PC Dale does a good job with the resources available to him, verbal abuse needs sorting out, get to know people like the old days.*

*I think if the community police officer could have a weekly surgery, say in the village hall, where people could speak about their concerns and also pass on information about what they have seen, we may find a drop in crime and have more confidence in our police service*

Speeding and illegal parking also featured in other parts of this survey. Approach the Police Authority with a view to a regular Surgery in the Village Hall. This could form good relationships between all levels of community. Neighbourhood Watch should be encouraged.

**Action:** Village Hall Committee, West Mercia Police Authority

## Section 5 - Environment and Conservation

**Do you consider any of the following significant nuisances to yourself or your family within the Parish?**

	Respondents
Speeding traffic	129
Dog fouling	83
Aircraft Noise	31
Foul Smells	18
Traffic Noise	33
Agricultural activity	23
Litter	98
Fly Tipping	55
Graffiti/Vandalism	19
Parking on pavements	72
Hovercraft	17
Street lighting	23
Pub/clubs/entertainment	4

**If so where?**

*Speeding all through village, litter all roads and especially play area, dog fouling all pavements, aircraft (training helicopters) all village, fly tipping country lanes, parking on pavement specially bad, traffic noise from by-pass.*

**Do you or your family, consider any of the following to be important environmental issues?**

Loss of natural habitats	153
Light pollution	75
Planting/landscaping	107
Declining number of birds	148
Loss of wild flowers	138
Conservation of buildings	111
Preservation of trees	142
Mobile phone masts	115
Electricity pylons	100

**Comments:** *hedges not cut by land owners, converting all the barns into houses, new lights downward pointing – non polluting, lorries too large for lanes*

**Do you use public footpaths and bridal ways?**

Yes	149
No	71

Please tick any that stop or limit your use of local footpaths and bridleways.

Lack of signposts or waymarking	62
Fear of trespassing	64
Fear of dogs	29
Obstructed access	57

Poor surface	28
Fear of getting lost	29
Fear of abuse from landowners/ others	37
Don't know where the paths go	69
Fear of farm animals	20

**Other:** *crops over footpaths*

**Would you use a series of footpath leaflets?**

Yes	160
No	45

**Would you like to be able to recycle plastics locally?**

Yes	192
No	19

**Comments:** *most of our rubbish is plastic, why can't we recycle plastics? why can't we recycle vegetable peelings as in a compost heap? all forms of recycling should be encouraged.*

General environmental concerns referred to large statutory authorities. People are generally concerned with their environmental surroundings and fly tipping should always be reported to either the Parish or Borough Council who will arrange for collection. Please report anyone seen fly tipping to the Borough Council with as many details as possible.

Ask local primary school to educate young children of the dangers of dropping litter and encourage them to be proud of the place where they live.

Walks leaflets something that can be explored in conjunction with Parish and County Council.

## Section 6 - Utilities and Services

In the past twelve months have you had any problems with any of the following?

Septic tank drainage	7
Public drainage/sewage	11
Water supply	9
Electric supply	16

If you are not connected to the mains water/sewage, would you consider paying to be?

Yes	15
No	25

Would you use mains gas should it become available?

Yes	129
No	73

If yes would you be prepared to pay for the supply (pipeline etc)

Yes	60
No	73

**Comments:** more use of energy conservation, gas has become expensive

Do you know the names and how to contact the following councillors?

	Yes	No
West Felton Parish	120	91
Oswestry Borough Council	100	105
Shropshire County Council	83	115

**Comments:** Don't know all individual names but do know how to contact them, I can find if necessary, we know where to find out, parish and council numbers in book/magazine, does not invite local press to council meetings, does not encourage local people to attend meetings

Parish Council Minutes are published regularly in Round and About Magazine. A full version is also available in the Parish Council Notice Board on the Village Hall. Agendas can also be viewed giving venues, dates and times of next meeting. The public have a statutory right to attend meetings and are very welcome. Anyone can approach a Parish Councillor with concerns – the whole point of a Parish Council is to take democracy to local level. The Parish Clerk's contact number is on the back of Round and About Magazine.

Names and contact details of Borough and County Councillors are available from either the local library, borough or county council.

**Action:** West Felton Parish Council

## Section 8 - Health and Care

Do you think that the parish is serviced with adequate healthcare?

Yes	86
No	100

**Comments:** use Knockin Surgery, Shrop Doc not suitable, those who need it most will have most difficulty, have to go to Telford for NHS dentist, county at fault, people without transport would struggle, out of hours service is a nightmare, would like to see visiting weekly clinic, what healthcare is there in the village?, no A&E at hospital, not enough dentists, we used to have a surgery, prescriptions delivered

Do you have any problems collecting your prescriptions? 23 said yes, 179 said no

### Would you benefit from having a collection point within the parish?

Yes	96
No	94

**Comments:** *delivery service would be good, it must be a nightmare for people without own transport, we collect from doctors in Oswestry, could have if didn't have access to car, I work full time in Shrewsbury and struggle to get to surgery on time, doctors dispensary is closed on Saturday morning. If nothing else it would save fuel, reduce congestion, pollution and there is no denying it would be convenient.*

### Do you get regular visits from any of the following?

Personal care (home help)	3
Social Care & Health (e.g. Meals on wheels)	2
District nurse	3
Chiropodist	1

### Do you think the Parish would benefit from a local First Responder?

Yes	169
No	13

**Comments:** *the elderly, housebound must feel marginalised, when they are unable to continue to drive, a first responder would certainly benefit the village as ambulance service already overstretched, we are all living longer so should not complain too much.*

Shropshire Primary Care Trust will be sent a copy of this Parish Plan by the Parish Council. The Parish Council will also investigate the possibility of a prescription delivery service and make initial enquiries about First Responder. The Dial a Ride telephone number is regularly on back of Round and About magazine.

**Action:** Shropshire Primary Care Trust, Parish Council

### Have you any concerns which have NOT been covered in the questionnaire?

*Proposals to widen by-pass. We need to fight our corner to ensure safety for vehicles leaving the village. It can be difficult enough getting onto and off the by-pass at present – more lanes will just worsen the situation. Quiet road surface to lessen noise pollution*

*Road maintenance/safety. Potholes need repairing and gutters cleaned out. Slow signs required off A5 at Weirbrook and Long Oak to facilitate turning right to come off main road to Sandford. Gamesters Lane through wood badly in need of repair.*

*More forums from Parish Council to address issues.*

Highways Authority will be made aware of our concerns about the by-pass. Shropshire County Council Highways will also be contacted. Parish Council Parish Meeting held in May every year. This is a public meeting for all to attend. this is advertised in the magazine and will also be notified on the Parish Council noticeboard.

**Action:** Highways Agency, Shropshire County Council, Parish Council

## West Felton Business Questionnaire

**What type of business do you run or what service do you offer?**

Multi media service	Metal work
Leisure	Carpentry & joinery
Chartered Accountant	Garden service
Restaurant but not in Parish	Farmer (several)
Beauty therapy	Recycle dairy waste
Joinery/building + property maintenance	Florist proprietor

**Are these services suitable for sale to local residents?**

9 said yes, 3 said no

**What constraints, if any, affect the growth of your business?**

Market size and type

Nothing

Lack of business premises – but – would not want to change the village too much

Lack of premises

**What kinds of products and services relating to your business would you prefer to buy locally from within the Parish, if you could find them?**

Health food.	Vegetables honey
Organic Food	Fresh vegetables
Repairs to premises, cleaning.	

**Do you employ local people from West Felton and, if so, how many?**

Full time 2

Part Time 3

**Do you expect to expand your business over the next five years and employ more people?**

4 said yes and 7 said no

**What if anything might the parish do to help you expand or improve your business?**

Business grant

If I stay in West Felton and if I can buy a bigger house – I will apply for ‘change of use’ in my home – domestic + business use

Advertising

Affected more by Parliament

**What constraints – relevant to tourism – to growing your business?**

In Green Belt

**Farming**

**What produce is generated from your farm?**

Milk, cereals, milk, lamb and beef production; sheep, hay, beet

**What produce do you sell to customers direct and locally via farm shops or farmers markets?**

Goats milk; Beef; Lamb; milk, none

**If you do not sell directly to consumers now, might you consider doing so in the future and what do you see as the opportunities and constraints?**

Lack of time. Too busy producing. Farmers Market not sustainable.

**Do you have redundant buildings on your farm that could be converted for non-farming purposes?**

Yes	4
No	4

**What types of use would you prefer these buildings to be put to, if given a choice?**

Holiday accommodation or long term lets / Small business/housing eventually

**Which of the following “countryside tourism” activities do you offer now on your farm?**

Self-catering accommodation	1
B & B accommodation	1
Caravan park	0
Eating establishment	0
Attraction / event	1

**Which of the following “countryside tourism” activities would you consider offering in the future?**

Self-catering accommodation	1
B & B accommodation	0
Caravan park	0
Eating establishment	0
Attraction	0
Event	1

***There were no comments***

Possible grant aid to encourage tourism, diversification – the Borough and County Council Development departments could be helpful in this.

**Action:** Oswestry Borough Council, Shropshire County Council

## West Felton Youth Questionnaire

### Do you enjoy living in your Parish?

30 young respondents enjoy living in WF – 10 said not

### Please state why?

because my friends are here and its fun  
it has a friendly feel  
pleasant and friendly environment to live in  
very sociable  
you see more nature  
My friends live here, I also love school. safe place to play  
there is nothing to do  
There is no activities for children  
Nice and quiet and lots of nice people to talk to.  
Quiet, peaceful, no trouble from anyone  
lots of places to go not crowded and easy place to get to the towns  
Nothing to do within Parish  
because none of my friends live near me and there's not much to do!  
where we live is quiet and uninterrupted  
because the people who are my age aren't very nice  
"Freedom" – independence - Bus route. Countryside, school, brownies, friendly  
Lots of places to ride my bike  
nothing to do  
Boring  
like living in a rural area. it is friendly and I feel safe  
It's safe  
feel intimidated by groups of youths hanging around  
it's fun and everyone is nice  
Cos it peaceful and clean. I like the countryside around the parish  
Nothing to do

### What would you like to see happen in the village to improve living here?

a skate park and places to meet my friends, new goal posts at the playing field  
more village events  
Bigger choice at local shop, longer opening times  
a place for teenagers  
No more building more green area  
earlier bus to town (Oswestry) at about 7.45am  
nothing  
Leisure activities. something for teenagers to do  
More activities for older teenagers  
More Bins for Dog Muck + litter!  
less houses being built  
More amenities  
I would like to see something built that's for children  
Decent tennis courts and a small shop nearer Grimpo  
Youth club to be on more often  
Firework Display on Nov 5th  
facilities at playing field incl benches  
Nothing

something to do

Anything Fun

Facilities for young/teenage people

30 miles speed limits

More to do at playing area. Clubs for different age groups. DVD nights at village hall etc?

somewhere to go at night in the winter

More things for entertainment for 10-15 year olds and the families

More shops

Would you like somewhere to meet?

23 said yes, 13 said no

Are you interested in out of school clubs?

14 said Yes, 20 said No

What sort of indoor facilities/activities would you like if they were possible?

Indoor football pitch or outdoor astro turf

skate park, girls football, tennis club

a place to hang out ie football field, area for us so we don't get in trouble over it.

Horse riding

volleyball

badminton/tennis courts

more sports facilities

canoeing

tennis

Public toilets, Skate park

Rugby, Tennis, Volleyball, skate ramp

Possibly bus trips to various places

Sports & leisure facilities

pool hall

Discos Cinema trips Outings

Sports, monthly disco, youth club for teenagers

table tennis . Tennis facilities - all weather pitch. pool tables for tournaments.

table tennis

Football, Painting, crafts

A youth cafe, or somewhere to meet up with youth and just chat.

evening entertainment would be a plus!

football club

Any Comments

*more adults to chill out and socialise with teenagers so they can see for themselves that we're not up to mischief*

*More fields with crops*

*West Felton is fine how it is*

*Benches to sit on and congregate around the village.*

*Village shop is very poor for food and essentials but the paper and magazine/post office is*

*OK*

Many of the children and teenagers make very positive comments about West Felton, particularly commending its quietness and the countryside. It is obvious, however, that volunteers are needed to make some of their wish-list happen.

The village hall and the playing field can provide a venue but more adults need to get involved with the youth in this village – spare the time to run clubs, discos, plan outings for them, talk to them, “chill out”.

No statutory authority can take the place of people. If enough volunteers come forward and contact the Parish Council or Parish Plan Committee we could hold a meeting with the Youth Service and the young people of the village to make some of their wish list happen.

**Action:** Volunteers, Parish Council, Shropshire County Youth Service

## FINALLY ....

The Parish Plan committee thank you for taking the time to read, complete and hand in your Parish Questionnaire. We also hope you have found that the Parish Plan compiled from your answers gives realistic and achievable targets. However, it will require a great deal of effort, not just by the statutory authorities, but by the inhabitants of the Parish themselves.

The Parish Council should prioritise many of the recommendations in this Plan and the Annual Parish Meeting should be an opportunity to, at least, report re-actions to the Plan and any response from those authorities mentioned.

We would also like to thank Caroline Oakes of The Community Council for Shropshire for her unfailing help and support in this venture without whom we would have foundered several times. Thanks also to the Magazine personnel who printed and collated all the paperwork and the volunteers who delivered the Questionnaire and Plan with your magazines.

We hope that it does have a beneficial impact on West Felton, its people and environs.

Your Parish Plan Committee  
in alphabetical order

Bert Bliss, Glynnis Carr, Pete Edmonds, Robert Hammond,  
Roger Hampson, Yvette Harris, Chris Hayes, Hilary Iles,  
Colin Jenno, Chris Jones, Pat Mabe,  
Julie/Tony Stevenson



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