



Uffington

Parish Council



Shropshire Local Development Framework : Uffington Parish Plan

November 2014 (revised 2019)

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Frontispiece:

Main: Uffington Parish from Haughmond Hill
Top left: Barley crop - *Top right:* Bluebells in Abbey Wood
Bottom right: Shrewsbury & Newport Canal

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Shropshire Local Development Framework : Uffington Parish Plan

November 2014

1 Introduction

Foreword from Uffington Parish Council

As residents of our village, I hope you find our Parish Plan both interesting to read and the reference numbers included in it useful and helpful.

The Parish Council have updated this document in 2019 to reflect the changes that have taken place in the village.

At the April 2019 meeting of Uffington Parish Council Tim Williams from Smart Water spoke to the members of the Parish Council on the benefits of Smart Water as an effective deterrent against burglary and theft. The Parish Council were so impressed by his talk that they agreed to sign up to a scheme which is currently being promoted by The Police & Crime Commissioner for the West Mercia Police.

The Parish Council has purchased packs of the smart water for every house within the parish and have distributed these to 80% of householders. There will be a cost to the Parish Council but none to the householder. All they need to do is to use the pack and mark all their valuable property with the liquid and put the stickers up in a prominent place either on their doors or windows. It can be used on cars and bicycles as well.

Please ensure that you have your Smartwater sticker in your window in a prominent place.

Each pack has its own unique code which once it is registered will be for the household that receives it. This code is easily read if an item with it on is stolen and if retrieved by the Police it can then be traced back to its rightful owner.

By joining the scheme the village will have large signs at either end of the village stating that Uffington is a Smart Water Village. This is a huge deterrent to criminals who know that there is little point in stopping in the village as all property is protected and traceable.

Lynne Padmore
Chairman

Foreword from Uffington Parish Plan Steering Committee

In presenting the first Uffington Parish Plan to you, may I first say a big “thank you” to everyone involved in its production. A list of the many people involved is included, and their role in this work is appreciated.

The groundwork for this document began in April 2013, when Uffington Parish Council invited parishioners to Uffington Village Hall in order to hear what they had to say about our Parish and its future, as a prelude to forming a Parish Plan Steering Committee.

The Uffington Parish Plan Steering Committee was officially formed in July 2013, and began work on the Questionnaire that was circulated in February 2014. The returned data allowed us to compile parishioner comments and also generate the Action Plan in this document, which we hope to see flourish over the coming years.

The 2014 Uffington Parish Plan is also an informative document on our locality; and we hope you enjoy reading it.

Adam Beresford-Browne
Chairman 2014 Steering Group

What is a Parish Plan?

Part of the Government's strategy for Sustainable Communities is a strong recommendation for the production of Community Plans, in which members of a community set out what they want for the future of their community. A Parish Plan will be used to help guide the Parish Council in how they set their priorities, and what actions they will include about the Parish in their annual Place Plan review for the area. The Place Plan is the area wide plan, which Shropshire Council uses to deliver infrastructure in the area.

Parish Plans allow parish residents to express their views on the present concerns and future plans for their parish, such as security, community facilities, health, the young, leisure, environmental issues, roads and speeding, sport, business generation, housing, shopping, communications, transport, etc.

The development of the Parish Plan (Community Led Plan) has followed a process of consultation and collaboration between Uffington Parishioners, Shropshire County Council, Rural Community Council, Uffington Parish Council and local business. The process started in April 2013 as a response to the decision of Uffington Parishioners to become a Community Cluster; a process that has culminated in this finalised report.

"A Community Led Plan is a statement of how a local community sees itself developing in the future. It sets out the needs and aspirations of the community based on the views of the people that actually live there." Rural Community Council

The Parish Plan Steering Committee prepared a questionnaire to collect information and evidence for the Uffington Parish Plan, and this survey was sent to every household in Uffington Parish. The questionnaire was compiled through combining pre-existing Parish Plan questionnaires (found online and from neighbouring parishes) with Uffington community responses at Parish Council and Parish Plan meetings held in 2013.

To be effective, Parish Plans must be supported by strong evidence that they are up-to-date and reflect what the community wants. The results of the questionnaire survey form the basis of this Plan, and are presented here in this document.

Uffington Parish Plan : Histories of Uffington

What will this Parish Plan achieve?

By bringing together the opinions and concerns of the Parish community, a Parish Plan is a focused tool by which the community can make Action Plans for the immediate future, identify areas in which we can help to further bind the community together, and highlight our hopes for the future of the Parish.

A Parish Plan is a way of summarising what local people think about the area they live in, and what they believe are the priorities for change and improvement in their area. It is not an 'official' document, being produced and designed by local people.

Most importantly, however, the Parish Plan sets out actions that should be taken to tackle these priorities, and it indicates who and when the actions should be taken by. The action plan is presented in Section 6 from page 22 onwards.

2 Histories of Uffington

[Excerpts from Archaeology Service Report Number 189, "A WATCHING BRIEF ON THE SHREWSBURY CANAL AT UFFINGTON, SHROPSHIRE" by H. R. Hannaford MIFA, Archeology Service, Shropshire County Council, 2000]

Prehistoric and Roman Activity

Uffington is situated on a river terrace on the east bank of the River Severn, at the foot of Haughmond Hill, a prominent local landmark whose summit lies at 153 m above Ordnance Datum (essentially sea level). A Bronze Age Acton Park Phase shield-pattern palstave was found at the foot of Haughmond Hill about 1 km northeast of Uffington by a metal detectorist in 1979, and two small Bronze Age flint 'thumbnail scrapers' were recovered from the ploughsoil on the line of the new A5/A49 Shrewsbury Bypass in 1990 about 0.5 km south of the village. There is an Iron Age hillfort on the western side of Haughmond Hill overlooking the river valley and lower ground to the west and south, and a Roman temporary marching camp of legionary size lies below the hill against a bend of the river about 0.5 km south of Uffington. Two cropmark enclosures, probably marking the sites of Iron Age and/or Romano-British farmsteads lie 0.75 km to the north and 1 km to the south east of the village.

The name Uffington is of Saxon origin and means the farm, or place, belonging to Uffa. Haughmond comes from hag, the Saxon word for a wood, and it was still spelled as Hagmond until the 1830's in the Parish registers.

The Medieval Manor

Uffington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when it was known as Ofitone, and at that time it lay in Wrockwardine Hundred. Before the Norman Conquest Uffington had been held as two manors by Genust and Aelfeva, who also held manors at Holdgate (Stantune) in Patton Hundred.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the Uffington manors together comprised 5 hides which paid tax, with enough land for 12 ploughs and half a league of woodland, and

were valued at 30 shillings. There were at that time one and a half ploughs and seven slaves in lordship, and three villagers, two smallholders and two Frenchmen had a further two ploughs between them. At the time of the Survey Uffington was held from Roger of Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury by Helgot, whose lands formed the barony of Castle Holdgate. Helgot subsequently granted Moor (Monkmoor; originally part of Uffington though on the opposite side of the River Severn) and a fishery on the River Severn (probably at Pimley) to Shrewsbury Abbey. The barony of Castle Holdgate passed by descent to Thomas Mauduit in 1204, and thence to Richard, Earl of Cornwall, who gave the estates to the Knights Templar. The barony then passed to Richard's son, Edmund, and in 1284 the lands were acquired by Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

During the reign of Stephen (1135-1154) or Henry II (1154-1189), Richard de la Mare, a descendant of Helgot, held Uffington under the barony of Holdgate. Richard and his son Robert granted a mill at Punelege (Pimley), half a virgate and one noke of land from Uffington and Ledelacre (on the boundary between Uffington and Sundorne) to Haughmond Abbey.

Uffington Parish Plan : Histories of Uffington

Pimley Mill was in the Uffington manor, and the abbey later (c. 1182-95) also acquired the Pimley side of the mill stream (the Pimbroc), with enough land to make a mill pond, and the right to establish a second mill anywhere between the existing mill and the ford below it (possibly at Uffington). On his death in 1192 at Benevento, while on crusade, Robert de la Mare left the remainder of his Uffington estate to Haughmond Abbey. Uffington continued as an estate of Haughmond Abbey, though still held from the barony of Holdgate, until the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

The Post-Medieval Estate

After the Dissolution, Henry VIII in 1541 granted the site of Haughmond Abbey to Edward Littlejohn, who sold it on to Edward Barker of Shrewsbury. The Haughmond estate thence passed by marriage to Edward Kynaston of Hordley, who married Edward Barker's granddaughter, Amy. On the death of their grandson, Corbet Kynaston, in 1740, the Haughmond estate, which included Sundorne, Uffington, and Upton was left to Andrew Corbet of Lee Hall and Albright Hussey; in 1741 the estate was acquired by another Andrew Corbet, of the Acton Reynald branch of the family, who established a new seat at Sundorne.

The Mill and Mill Stream

In the 1770's, John Corbet undertook a number of improvements to the Sundorne estate. A survey plan of the Sundorne estate made in 1777 shows the mill leat running southeast from Sundorne Pool (described on the plan as 'new made water') towards a mill, in use as a forge, at Uffington. A mill pond is also shown to the north of the mill, apparently fed by a stream flowing from the northeast. The fields immediately to the south of Sundorne Pool and between the Pool and the field through which the new pipe trench was cut, are shown on a field-name map based on the 1777 survey as Mill Meadow and Mill Leasow respectively; the former is likely to represent the site of the Norman Punelege mill acquired by Haughmond Abbey in the middle of the 12th century. (This site lies immediately to the east of the new embanked section of the A49 trunk road).

The 1881 1st edition of the OS 25" (1:2500) plan shows that in the last quarter of the 19th century the mill was in use as a corn mill. The mill pond to the north of the mill had been enlarged, and a sluice and overflow is shown carrying water from the old mill leat south into the River Severn c. 100m to the west of the mill, although it is possible that leat still supplied mill through a pipe or culvert. The mill was still in use as a corn mill in 1927 (OS 1927) and is marked as a mill on the OS 1954 1:10,560 map.

It is possible that this mill, now Mill House, is a successor to and may even stand on the site of one of the medieval mills owned by Haughmond Abbey (the second mill mentioned in the late 12th-century charters); if so the mill leat would, of course, also date back to this period. The mill is not a listed building, nor has it been included in the County SMR list of post-medieval industrial sites.

Uffington since the 1800s, by Barbara Ashton

Uffington Parish Plan : Histories of Uffington

The Pigot-Corbet family have been associated with Uffington Parish from the 1700s, the family home being at Sundorne Castle. The original Georgian house was replaced with a Gothic style building in the early 1800s, most of it being demolished in 1955.

Holy Trinity church is in the Lichfield diocese and was built on the site of an earlier medieval building in the 1850s and some of the parish registers date from as early as 1575. In the 1841 census there were 32 dwellings, with a population of 163. It is interesting to note that the population of the parish has remained fairly stable for the last 800 years. In 1851, Bagshaw's Guide records that there was a school and house for a head teacher, a Sunday school where the present Village Hall is situated, and the Corbet Arms Public House had a bowling green.

The church records of marriages, baptisms and burials reveal the occupations of local people over three centuries. They show that, as could be expected in a rural area, many of the occupations listed were connected with farming; grooms and gamekeepers were also common occupations. There are a variety of trades people recorded including basket makers, shoe makers, waggoners and gardeners.

The earlier burial records show that infant mortality was high and most people rarely lived beyond the age of sixty. Deaths by drowning in both the canal and river are listed. There is a very interesting comment in 1822 of a man being killed by hounds and gives a description of where this man's grave was in the church yard, however on the grave it states that he was killed following a fall whilst hunting.

The marriage registers reveal that during the 1800s most of the couples lived within a ten mile radius of the parish before marriage. As the village moved into the 20th century the jobs reflect the changing times, by the 1930s there were lorry and bus drivers, a GPO linesman, an electrician, and a plumber living in the parish at various times. During the war years the marriage and baptismal registers record people in the armed services, however most farmers and agricultural workers were exempted from being called up as crops were vital to the nation's survival.

There was however mining for coal on the south side of the village, there are reports of the shafts collapsing and there is a sale notice for a mine and the mining equipment in 1841. The Manse Brick and Tile making works operated until 1927 and were also situated to the south of the village near Brick Kiln Cottages. It is interesting to note that our now quiet parish was once a busy industrial area.

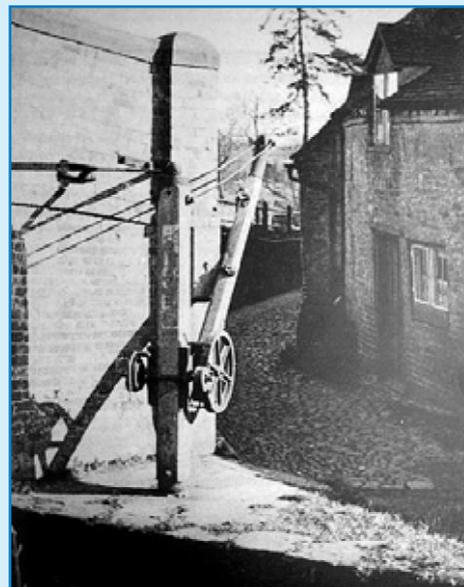
The field between the village and Downton was used as a firing range for the yeomanry in the 1800s. During WW11 a decoy building was erected on Haughmond Hill to trick enemy bombers into thinking they were over Shawbury Airfield; it can still be seen in a field near to Keepers Cottage. There was also a Spigot Mortar battery on the hill overlooking the village. Many of the temporary wartime airfields had runways that were made by laying down cast iron mesh work, the grass grew up between the meshes thus disguising the runways. After the war these were sold off or simply collected and can still be seen as garden fences in the area.

Uffington Parish Plan : Histories of Uffington

There were shops in the village within living memory as Gwen Ryan recalls in her memoirs, the last one was the Post Office where sweets and soft drinks were sold as well as stamps and writing materials which closed down sometime in the late 1970s.

Haughmond Abbey is a Grade I listed building, and there are fourteen Grade II listed buildings in the parish including parts of the remains of Sundorne Castle, the church, a barn, Vine Cottage, which was possibly a medieval long house, The Malt House and the old canal cottages.

Like most country parishes Uffington has a long and interesting history. Further information can be gathered from the net and from the county archives housed in Castlegates Library.



*Top left : Sundorne Castle (c.1919) - Top right : Shrewsbury & Newport Canal near Uffington
Middle left : 1938 Ordnance Survey map
Bottom left : Haughmond Lodge - Bottom right : Canal derrick by Canal Cottages, Uffington*

Uffington Parish Plan : Histories of Uffington

A personal history of Uffington, by Gwen Ryan

Over the years there have been many changes in the village, and I have been lucky to have seen quite a few of them.

I was born at Vine Cottage and have spent most of my life in and around the village, my gran kept a shop at Vine Cottage which sold virtually everything, I used to serve the sweets when they were rationed and I always had sweets and crisps for my lunch at school. Needless to say, I was everyone's friend because I always had sweets or chocolate to share.

Vine Cottage had an acre of land, which used to be divided into four flats for vegetables. Every fruit tree you can think of and black and redcurrants, gooseberry and rhubarb. We used to spend hours picking the fruit in the summer.

The blacksmith used to be next door to Vine Cottage and people would come from miles away to get their horses shoed. I would watch them all day in the school holidays through the window, which opened onto Vine Cottage's drive. Manor Farm was just across the road from Vine Cottage and you would often see the cows being fetched down the road for milking by the farm hands, most of which lived in the top cottages. I would often go and watch the cows being milked.

There were four farms in Uffington: Bridge Farm, Manor Farm, Tower Farm and the Gables Farm. My father used to help at Tower Farm when it was the hay harvest, bearing in mind that it was all got in with pikles and horse and cart. My friend and I used to have rides on the horse and cart, the horse was a lovely, big carthorse named Dolly, and she used to be in the field where the village hall car park is now. They had a small pony as well, which they used to put in a small trap and go to Shrewsbury in.

I used to watch the cows being milked there very often, and collect the eggs. They had quite a lot of poultry. Sadly, Manor Farm and Tower Farm have been replaced with new houses.

The Corbet Arms Hotel has always been a popular venue, where in 1953 we had a wonderful village party to celebrate the coronation. It also has a wonderful, big bowling green where years ago many fetes and different functions were held. In those days the hotel closed at 10pm, and every Saturday night a fish and chip van used to come and park outside the hotel and it was the highlight of the week.

Opposite the Corbet Arms there used to be four allotments, which used to be rented out. There were also four shops in the village at one time; Vine Cottage, The Malthouse, Six Church Road, and the Post Office, though I think some only sold cigarettes.

My Uncle Fred was a church warden for forty years, verger and grave digger. He also lit the boiler on a Saturday afternoon to keep the church warm and had to come down at midnight to stoke it up.

Uffington Parish Plan : Histories of Uffington

The church has always been a big part of my life and still is. I have seen and can remember the last six vicars that have been at Uffington. We used to have lovely, Church Fetes, which were always held on Thursday afternoon for half-day closing. We used to get a lot of people from Harlescott and Sundorne, they always chose someone special to open the fete and a child would be chosen to present a bouquet. There would be a baby show, skittles for a real pig, darts for a bottle of whiskey, school bands, tombola, grand draw, and tea and coffee, plus endless other stalls. Everyone used to look so forward to it, it was held on the lawn that is now part of Linda and Sara's gardens.

The Village Hall was always known as the Church Hall, and comprised of just two rooms with two, massive fireplaces. We used to have roaring fires in them when we had Sunday School parties, Mother Union parties and the Young Wives Club, of which I was the treasurer for some time. We also had a thriving Youth Club most of which came to church. Needless to say we had no water or toilet, I don't know what health and safety would say today!

We were lucky that Wilfred Owen the poet used to come to church via the ferry, which used to cross the river to Monkmoor down the Mill Bank. Bill Stephens used to run the ferry, and I have had many rides on his boat. Lots of people used to travel across on the ferry and go up Haughmond Hill, especially on Good Friday for picnics.

As you come into Uffington round the bad bend there used to be a humpback bridge, which the canal used to go underneath. Cars used to come at quite a speed over it and very often landed in the garden on the left hand side of the bridge!

The canal used to be lovely. The paths and hedges were all neat and tidy, and it was a pleasure to walk beside the canal. It was all done by one man on his cycle, with just a broom, rake and a scythe. He was known as Sam the Cutman, and he did a wonderful job. In 1947, the canal was frozen and we walked from Uffington to Pimley on it!



The Shrewsbury & Newport Canal

In the later part of the C18th, the high price of coal in Shrewsbury (most of which was hauled by road from the east Shropshire coalfield) and the success of the canals elsewhere in the region, led to proposals for a canal to be built between Shrewsbury and the coalfield. The promoters of this new canal included the Marquess of Stafford, Lord Berwick of Attingham, John Charlton of Apley Castle and John Corbet of Sundorne Castle and local iron masters Richard and William Reynolds and John Wilkinson. The 17 mile route of the canal was surveyed in 1792 by George Young of Worcester and an Act of Parliament for its construction was obtained in 1793. Josiah Clowes was originally appointed as the engineer for the project under William Reynolds; Clowes died however, in 1795, and was replaced as engineer by Thomas Telford, who had recently been appointed partime Surveyor of Public Works for Shropshire.

The canal opened in 1797. The canal was originally intended to carry 8-ton tub boats, but a number of its locks were subsequently enlarged to enable to take the narrow boats which had become standard on the rest of the canal network. Wharves were built to either side of the study area at Sundorne and Uffington.

The line of the canal runs from Uffington village to Pimley Manor along the top of the river terrace on the east bank of the Severn. The canal respected the line of the existing mill leat, crossing the leat at Pimley Manor by means of an aqueduct, since destroyed during the construction of the A5/A49 Shrewsbury Bypass in 1989-1991.

The use of the canal declined steadily during the second half of their 19th century, and the basin at the Shrewsbury terminal of the canal (now occupied the British Rail long-stay car park and the Morris Oil Co.) was abandoned in 1922. The section of the canal between the former basin and the Comet Bridge at Ditherington was abandoned in 1939, and the canal was formerly abandoned in 1944.

The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust, formed in 2000, has protected the line of the canal from any building via the local authority's planning documents and has costed plans for the canal's restoration. The benefits of restorations will be extensive and long lasting. They will make a significant contribution to the health, wellbeing and economy of the area. Independent studies confirm that the restoration will bring real, tangible and sustainable benefits.

Anyone wishing to know more about the canal and the plans for its restoration, should visit the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust website (<http://cms.snct.co.uk>) for more information.

Uffington Parish Plan : Nature

3 Uffington nature

Mammals

There are a wide variety of habitats in the parish, which provide food and shelter for many species of wildlife. The largest mammals are fallow deer mostly to be seen on Haughmond Hill but quite often the deer, generally the does, can be seen in the fields and spinneys round the area sometimes close to the village. There are foxes, badgers and grey squirrels in the woods and fields, although the numbers of rabbits have been affected by recent outbreaks of myxomatosis. Polecats have been recorded and mink can be seen near the river, as can otters. Sadly water voles, which used to live in pools near the old canal, have disappeared.

Shrews, common voles, mice and rats have all been recorded locally and there has been one sighting of a dormouse, now a very rare mammal, in a garden in the village, sadly, hedgehogs are in decline. There are several bat roosts in the locality, mainly pipistrelles.

Birds

A personal account of Uffington Parish birds, by Peter Bray

My own list goes as high as a hundred, ranging from the common to the rare and for an inland county, this number is good. The number is inflated by the River Severn and I would say that at least 20 of the birds on the list would not be seen otherwise. Some birds have increased significantly in number, Buzzards and Goosanders in the last 10 to 15 years, but others have gone down significantly including House Sparrows, Spotted Flycatchers and House Martins.

Over the years I have seen 22 species associated with the river, the rarest being a Bittern which appeared in two severe winters. Little Egrets show up from time to time, Ospreys go through on passage as do Common Sandpipers and in the summer, Hobbies hunt Dragonflies on a regular basis. There are seven birds of prey on my list with a Peregrine Falcon the most dashing. There are three owl species; Tawny, Little and Barn with the latter becoming more rarefied year on year. We get six types of Warbler each summer, with the White Throat having staged a recovery in the last three or four years. Finches are common all the year round, with six different types and the Tit family is also well represented also with six. There are far too many to list, but I would finally mention the highlight of early winter which is the return of Redwings and Fieldfares in large numbers to feast on the profusion of Hawthorne berries that the area offers.

Insects

A wide variety of insects thrive in the various land and water habitats found within the parish. The River Severn, various ponds and scrapes, ditches and streams are a fantastic habitat for dragonflies and damselflies (pictured), including emperors, common hawkers, four-spotted chasers (pictured) and banded demoiselles.



Butterflies are commonly seen in the meadows and pastures, including small tortoiseshell (pictured), peacock, red admiral, orange tip and speckled woods are found throughout the fields and woodlands.

Amphibians

There are toads, frogs and newts (including the rare, protected, great crested newt) to be found near local waterways and ponds. Common lizards have been seen on Haughmond Hill.



Trees

There are a number of fine, veteran oaks within the Parish, including a spectacular specimen on the western flank of Haughmond Hill (pictured).

Other species commonly found throughout the parish include sweet chestnuts, horse chestnuts, ash, birch, beech, willow, poplar, lime, hazel, damson, crabapple, apple, maple, larch, and Scots pine

Hedgerow

The local hedgerows are filled with blackthorn, hawthorn, holly, etc. Many great places for picking blackberries for pies and sloe berries for gin!

Flowers

There are numerous flowers to be seen across the parish, throughout the year, but arguably the bluebells of Abbey Wood and Haughmond Hill are the most impressive, with an amazing carpet display to be seen in the Haughmond Hill, Abbey Wood, New Coppice, Colins Rough area around April / May each year.

Fungi

The fields and meadows of Uffington Parish are home to a number of fungi, both edible and inedible. Some commonly encountered fungi include parasol, shaggy inkcap, amethyst deceiver, puffball, fly agaric, candle snuff, jelly ear, razor strop, chicken of the woods, and beefsteak.

Haughmond Hill

[Excerpts from “The Flora of Haughmond Hill”, Whild, Lockton & Godfrey, 2006
http://bsbi.org.uk/Flora_of_Haughmond_Hill.pdf]

Haughmond Hill is about two square kilometres in extent. The main portion of the hill is managed by the Forestry Commission, primarily as conifer plantation and as a public amenity. A huge number of people visit the hill, to exercise, ride horses, cycle, walk their dogs and admire the views. The summit is 152 m above sea level, rising 100 m higher than the River Severn, less than a kilometre away. The best view point and rock exposures are at the western end, where there are low cliffs and some ruins.

The summit of the hill is an undulating plateau that slopes gently down to the north and east, with steep slopes to the south and west. The steep slopes are mostly grassland, although now rather covered with scrub and bracken. The rest is mostly woodland, with a mixture of close conifer plantations, more open mixed plantations, secondary deciduous woodland (both planted and natural) and pockets of ancient semi-natural woodland. Amongst these stands of woodland are wet, peat-filled hollows, ephemeral streams and dry rocky hummocks. The latter support stands of heathland – the dominant vegetation on the plateau before it was afforested.

The rocks of Haughmond Hill are late Precambrian sedimentary rocks of the Longmyndian Supergroup, mainly sandstones but with conspicuous very coarse conglomerates. Some of the harder sandstones are referred to as greywacke and have been extensively quarried for roadstone. Late Precambrian dolerite dykes occur as thin vertical sheets cut the Longmyndian rocks in places.

The Longmyndian rocks forming the main hill are surrounded by younger Carboniferous Upper Coal Measures and the whole area has a patchy cover of more recent Quaternary glacial boulder clay, and postglacial superficial sediments, mainly sands and gravels. The Longmyndian rocks give rise to acid soils but weathering of basic dolerite dykes produces more alkaline soils.

Haughmond Hill was once a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated under the 1949 National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act. It was never re-notified under the 1979 Wildlife & Countryside Act, apparently because it was believed to have been seriously damaged by afforestation. The main wildlife interest was considered to have been the heathland and the presence of nightjars.

One of the best ways to measure the conservation interest of a site is through its axiophytes – the plants that are indicative of habitats of conservation value. Normally a site in Shropshire should have at least a dozen axiophytes to qualify as a County Wildlife Site, and about 50 to qualify as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. At Haughmond Hill, a total of 108 species have been recorded that are currently considered to be axiophytes. Twentyone of these have not been seen for decades, and three are probably planted, leaving 84 species that have been recorded in recent times that are indicative of good habitats.

A Blast from the Past - Tales of Haughmond Quarry, by Charles Teece (interviewed by Karen Strefford)

Charles Teece and his family have lived at Haughmond Farm for six generations starting with his grandfather in 1897. Initially a sitting tenant, he purchased the property in 1925, adding the Dower House and Rydal in 1931. As a close neighbour of Haughmond Quarry he has a wealth of knowledge of its history and development over the years.

Charles recalls in the early years, as a child, the mushroom clouds of dust that would shroud the sky and the great flying rocks that would come over the farm and garden, commenting "you took your life into your own hands." No health and safety then!



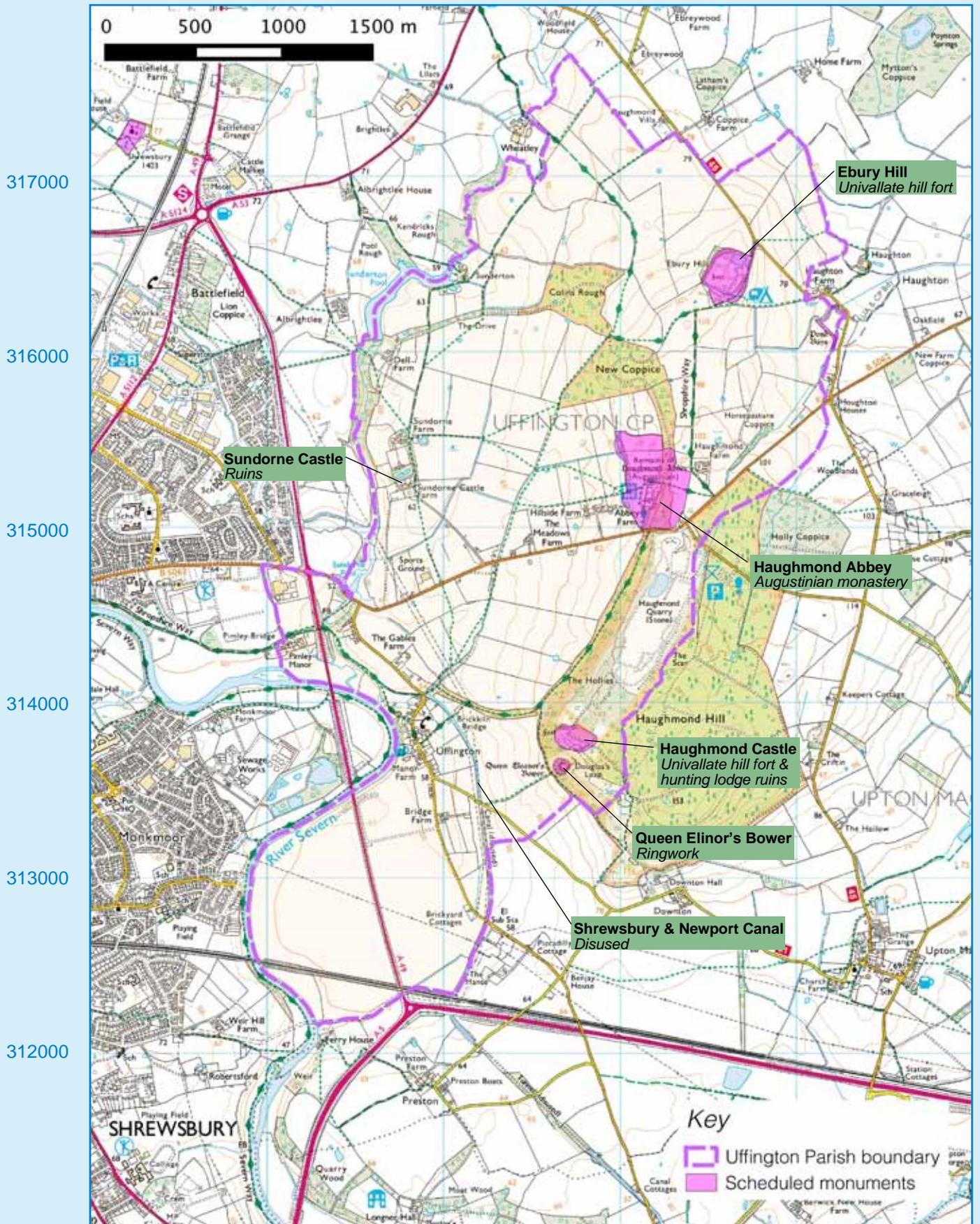
The quarry has had a chequered history and has been "mothballed", quarrying has ceased, on more than one occasion. Between the 1970's and 1980's changes at the quarry saw blasting become more controlled and the dust issues reduced. Since 1980, quarrying and living alongside the site have greatly improved. The access road was rerouted and widened, putting distance between it and the two properties opposite; Rydal and Rock Cottage.

Gaining their own slip road provided a private access, enhancing the properties.

Charles acknowledges the Quarry as a good and responsible neighbour and one that has the interests of the local environment, as well as the business of extracting rock, at its heart.

Precambrian greywacke (left), Precambrian conglomerate (right)

4 Uffington Maps



352000

353000

354000

355000

Aerial view of Uffington village



Outline map of Uffington village



5 Questionnaire Results

Parish Questionnaire

The questionnaire survey was compiled by the Uffington Parish Plan Steering Committee in late 2013, and subsequently issued to the community in February 2014. Several examples of Parish Plan Questionnaires were sourced (Shropshire Council, other parishes via the internet), and these were examined and discussed by the Committee as to the relevance of the questions to our community and parish.

In addition to standard questions found in most example questionnaires, the Committee designed a number of questions specifically for Uffington parishioners as well as the activities and problems particular to our parish.

In January, the Committee prepared a leaflet that was included in the Community Newsletter delivered in Uffington Parish only, advising parishioners to expect the questionnaire in the coming weeks and kindly encouraging them to complete and return it.

The questionnaire was prepared for printing and distribution by the Shropshire Rural Community Council (RCC), and subsequently issued on behalf of Uffington Parish Council by Shropshire Council in envelopes prepared and printed by the Committee.

Parishioners were encouraged to complete and return their questionnaires promptly by the offer of inclusion in a £50 prize draw. Of the 102 households in Uffington Parish, we received a total of 34 completed questionnaires, which is almost exactly one-third of the population. While we are confident that the statistical data presented herein is indicative of the parish as a whole, we would encourage future Parish Plan Steering Committees to do all in their power to engage the community and increase responses to over one-half.

Completed questionnaires were returned by freepost to the RCC for confidential collation of the information. The RCC removed all personal information and compiled the results before returning them to the Steering Committee.

The complete results can be viewed on the Uffington Parish website, at internet:

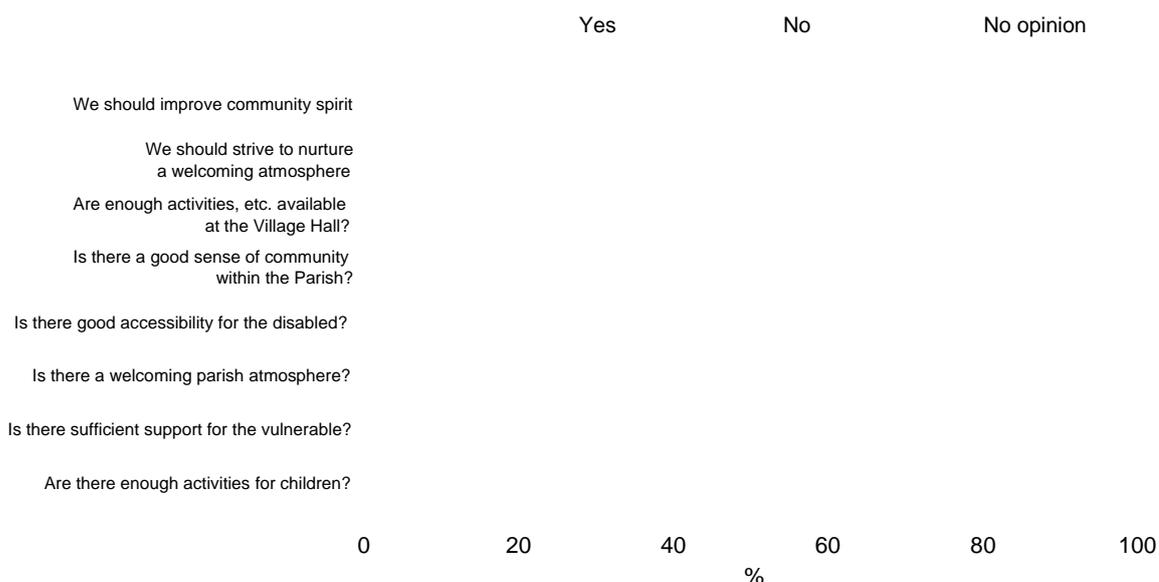
www.uffingtonparish.co.uk

A summary of the questionnaire results is presented here, along with key Action points for consideration by the Uffington Parish Council and the parishioners of Uffington Parish.

Community

As a community we have a lot to improve upon regards achieving a sense of community spirit, which is borne out by over three-quarters of responding parishioners indicating a welcoming atmosphere needs to be nurtured.

Action: Encourage groups and activities that could improve community spirit.



74% of those respondents agreed a community group to work on small projects would be a positive step forward along with setting up of a neighbourhood support group, networking more closely with local villages to organise joint events with the aim of improving our sense of community spirit.

Action: Small Projects Group to be set up of volunteer parishioners whose aim it will be to identify interests and possible activities, which will work to developing a closer-knit community.

The vast majority of respondents offered no opinion on the effectiveness of current and traditional sources of information. However of those indicating an opinion the higher percentage thought that information provision is ineffective.

Action: Develop a strategy to improve information provision via the traditional sources to ensure Uffington parishioners have equal and inclusive opportunity to access information about our community whether it be public notices, local events or news that may impact or be of interest to any one parishioner(s).

It should be acknowledged that whilst there is a need for the traditional sources of information there is also a strong leaning towards electronic means which is demonstrated in the overwhelming majority of support for Uffington to have a parish website.

Action: Increase parishioners' awareness of the Uffington website, which has been a work in progress alongside the development of the Parish Plan.

Uffington Parish feature low on the annual Police statistics for the county of Shropshire, however this was not reflected at local level with 27 of the 34 respondents (average of 5.2 per year) indicating they had experienced one criminal activity or another over a five year period. What does not come out of the questionnaire is whether all of the crime activities indicated were reported to the police or not; this would have a bearing on the county statistic if so as these are broken down into individually reported cases.

Energy & Services

50% said they were in favour of an individual or collective plan to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency, however, only 29 % were for and 35 % were against having a solar farm or biomass generator, hence no recommendation to proceed.

Action: Develop a Parish Energy Plan to help improve individual energy efficiency.

Only 4% of respondents have had trouble with flooding, with two reports of flooding twice or more in the past 12 months, one report for twice or more in the past three years and two reports of once more than three years ago. Two thirds were happy with the response from Severn Trent and all who informed the Parish Council saw the situation resolved.

Action: None.

79% of parishioners thought current waste collection services are sufficient, while 6% did not. 74% thought current recycling facilities sufficient, 12% did not. When asked if community recycling facilities would be useful, 53% said they would use it and 21% said they would be unnecessary.

Action: Investigate feasibility of installing community recycling facilities.

Of the 51% who indicated that they had used local Health Care Services, 88% said they were satisfied. Of the 6% who indicated that they had used local Social Care, 100% were satisfied. 21% said they felt that the available Health & Welfare Services could be improved upon but only 9% said they would be interested in forming or joining a local voluntary group to tackle any issues.

Action: None.

100% were totally satisfied with their gas and water supplies. A very small number were dissatisfied with their electricity but there is nothing in the comments to indicate the reason for this. 14% were not satisfied with mains sewerage. A comment suggests that this is possibly attributable to the smell of sewage in the village and concern that future housing could over burden the sewage system. Overall the questionnaire shows that the majority of the people living in the parish are satisfied with the utilities. It should be noted that some properties are not on the main sewage system or have mains gas supply.

Action: Form a community, fuel-purchasing group for those not on mains supply.

Every respondent has a main line phone. Only a small number of people said that their main line phone service was unreliable. While 85% had landline internet connection only just over half considered that the connection was reliable and under a half considered that it was sufficient for their household. Only a limited number of people were connected to broadband, and this connection was only available to a few households.

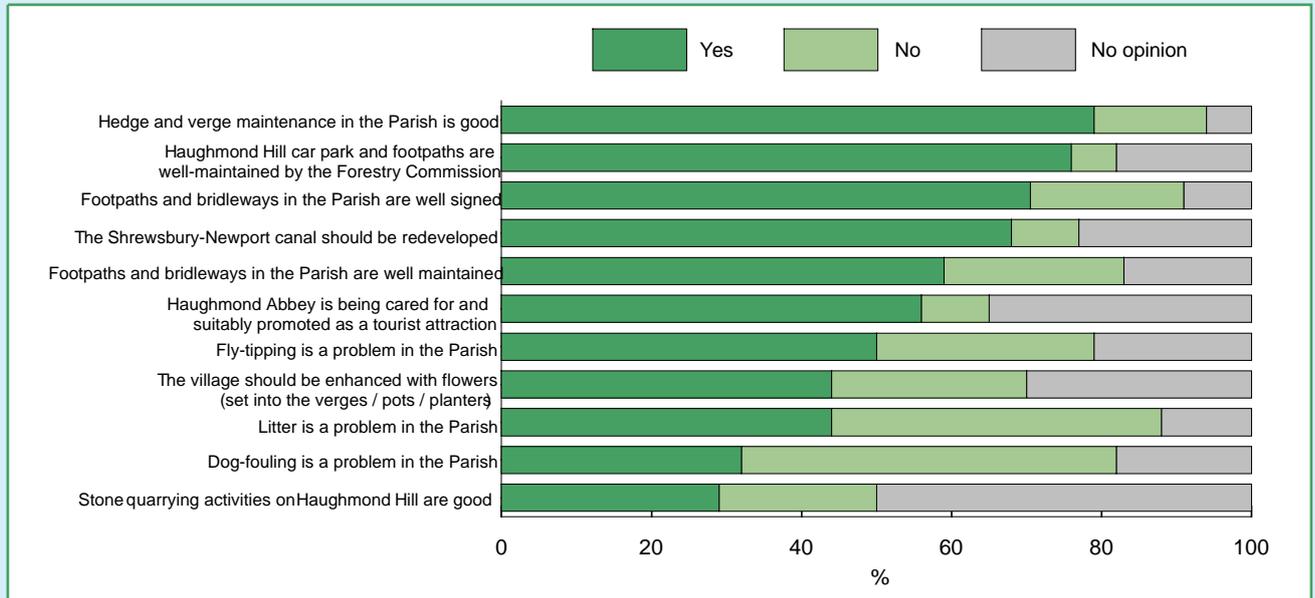
Main Service Providers: O2/Tesco was found to be the main service for most households with mobile phones, and the survey suggests that it has the best coverage in the parish.

Overall there was considerable dissatisfaction about the poor provision of fibre optic services and the reliability of broadband provision. In the comments section, one respondent has suggested a co-ordinated village/parish response to go to BT.

Action: Co-ordinate approach for provision of high-speed internet to the Parish.

Environment

In general, there were positive responses to the level of maintenance of hedgerows, footpaths, verges, etc,



However, fly tipping and litter would seem to be items that require further research in order to establish how large a problem this is.

Action: Community Led initiative with the aim of addressing the issues of litter and fly tipping in the parish.

However, fly tipping and litter would seem to be items that require further research in order to establish how large a problem this is within the parish.

Action: Form voluntary groups to tackle these issues.

A small yet significant number of respondents stated that they would be interested in volunteering with small local projects, such as litter-picking walks, footpath maintenance, village beautification, etc.

Action: Form voluntary groups to undertake these works.

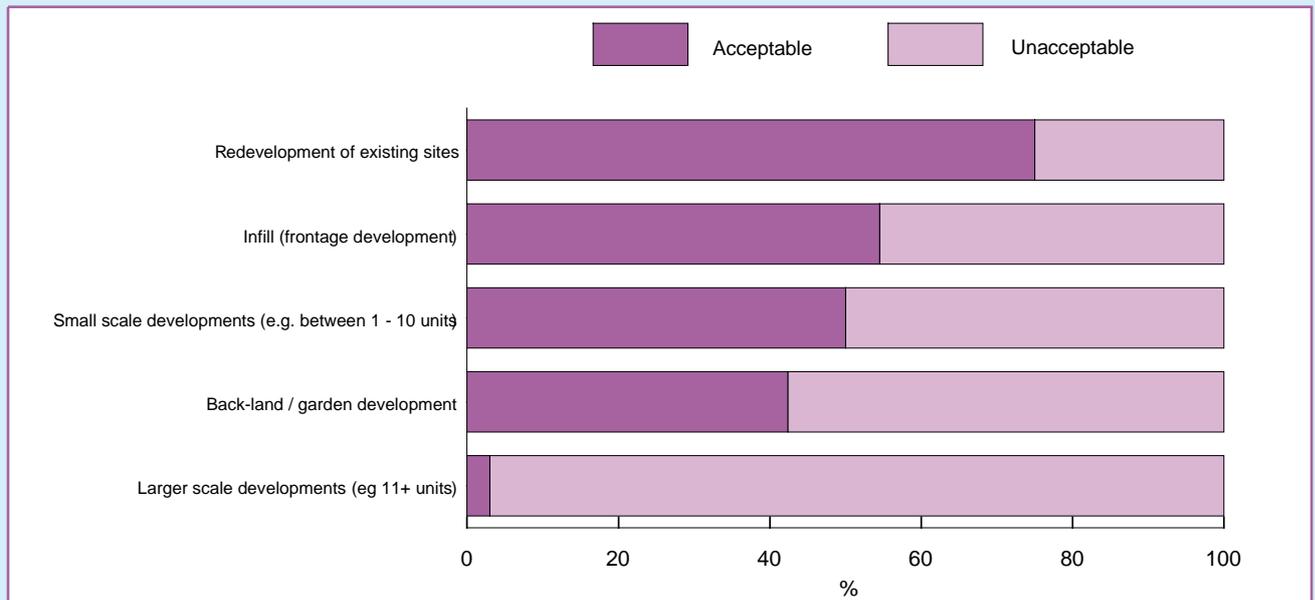
Other, comment-driven suggestions:

Action: Install community/visitor recycling facilities in the Village Hall car park.

Action: Install dog waste bins at key points in the parish.

Housing & Development

Well over 80% of respondents felt that Uffington Parish would benefit from the development of a Village Design Statement, and that responses to planning applications should be better coordinated.



When considering what kind of housing would be required and accepted within the parish, less than 20% of respondents thought that more is required. The clear majority felt that no more is needed.

75% of respondents agreed with, or had no objection to, redevelopment of existing sites, with only around 25% being opposed.

Four out of five parishioners felt that a more coordinated response to planning applications would be beneficial.

Action: Form a committee to review the feasibility and potential benefits of a Village Design Statement, as well as coordinate responses to planning applications.

Of all parishioners who completed and returned the questionnaire, 27% live in rural Uffington, 73% live in Uffington Village. More than half live in houses with two people in permanent residence.

Of the responding residents the age range is predominantly 31 to 89 years old, with around 34% being under 31.

6 Action Plan

Several calls for action were raised by Uffington parishioners through the questionnaire survey, including concerns and ideas for improvements.

Community

1	Build & improve community spirit
Actions :	Set up small projects groups
Responsible :	Parishioners, with guidance from Parish Council
Timeframe :	Some new groups are already being set up

2	Improve availability of Parish information
Actions :	Develop a strategy to improve provision of Parish information
Responsible :	Parish Council
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

3	Further development of the Parish website
Actions :	Increase awareness among Parishioners
Responsible :	Adam Beresford-Browne, with guidance from Parish Council
Timeframe :	Immediate (2013 onwards)

4	Improve awareness of Neighbourhood Watch within the Parish
Actions :	Increase awareness of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
Responsible :	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, with guidance from Parish Council
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

Energy & Services

5	Develop a Parish Energy Plan
Actions :	Form a group to research and develop a Parish Energy Plan
Responsible :	Parish volunteers, with guidance from the Parish Council
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

6	Improve community waste management facilities
Actions :	Install recycling bins in Uffington village for general usage
Responsible :	Parish Council
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

7	Improve broadband internet provision in the Parish
Actions :	Approach BT to bring reliable, high-speed internet to the Parish *
Responsible :	Parish Council, with assistance from Parishioners
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

** some already available, check at <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where/>*

Traffic & Transport

8	Tackle the issue of speeding vehicles within Uffington village and Parish
Actions :	Form a Speed Awareness Group (Police Force / Shropshire Council)
Responsible :	Parish Council, with assistance from Parishioners
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

Environment

9	Tackle issues of fly-tipping, litter & pathway maintenance in the Parish
Actions :	Form voluntary groups for each issue
Responsible :	Parishioners, with assistance from Parish Council
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

10	Parishioners desire to undertake village beautification projects
Actions :	Form voluntary group
Responsible :	Parishioners, with assistance from Parish Council
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

11	Provision of waste bins for dog mess
Actions :	Form voluntary groups for each issue
Responsible :	Feasibility to be considered by Parish Council
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

12	Parishioners desire to improve Village Hall car park surface
Actions :	Feasibility to be considered by Village Hall Committee
Responsible :	Village Hall Committee
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

13	Coordinate Parish responses to planning applications
Actions :	Prepare a Village Design Statement or Neighbourhood Plan
Responsible :	Parish Council / Parishioners
Timeframe :	Immediate (2014 onwards)

Summary

These actions are presented to Uffington Parish Council by the Parish Plan Steering Committee, on behalf of the parishioners of Uffington.

The objective of the Actions outlined within this Parish Plan is for the Parish Council to adopt and execute actions that are within their remit, and to support and motivate those who endeavour to take responsibility for community actions.

The community-derived actions should be reviewed annually by the Parish Council, which will provide a chance for reporting on tasks that have been achieved, and also to review those that are ongoing.

The Parish Council can facilitate these processes but, as volunteers themselves, can only do so much. It is up to the parishioners to organise committees or volunteer groups, then seek the advice and guidance from the Parish Council.

In the Action Plan boxes above, where it says "Parishioners, with assistance from Parish Council", it means that you are responsible. If you made the suggestion, or support it, then please come forward and help to make it happen.

This is our community, and by coming together and being proactive we can effect or prevent the changes we wish to tackle. If we don't come together as a community to work on behalf of Uffington Parish, then we risk losing the rural identity of both village and parish as Shrewsbury continues to develop and grow.

To the 2019 Uffington Parish Plan Steering Committee, we hope that the work done to prepare this document, and the Actions presented herein, will help guide and inform you for your task ahead.

Adam Beresford-Browne
Chairman
Uffington Parish Plan Steering Committee (2014)

Acknowledgements

Uffington Parish Plan Steering Committee would like to thank all of the people, services and companies that have helped with the preparation and creation of this Parish Plan, including Shropshire Council, Uffington Parish Council, Shropshire Rural Community Council, Pimley Manor, Georgina Sharpe (Forestry Commission), Bardon Aggregates (Haughmond Quarry), English Heritage, Sundorne Estate, David & Sue Robson (The Corbet Arms), Bernie Jones, Charles Teece, Peter Bray, Gwen Ryan, Joy Margerum, Sandra Worrall, Lynne Padmore, and all the residents of Uffington Parish.

Special mention and thanks to Mathew Mead, Community Enablement Officer at Shropshire Council, for his tireless support, encouragement and guidance throughout the process.

This document was prepared by the Uffington Parish Plan Steering Committee, comprising volunteer parishioners, with funding and guidance from Uffington Parish Council, Shropshire Rural Community Council and Shropshire County Council.

The 2013/14 Steering Committee were:

Adam Beresford-Browne	-	Chairman
Barbara Ashton	-	Secretary
Ted Strawbridge	-	Treasurer
Karen Strefford	-	Parish Councillor
Graham Lewis	-	Parish Councillor
Sue Robson	-	Business Liaison

The committee would like to personally thank each and every parishioner for their contribution to the Parish Plan, and the future of our Parish.



*Left to right: Edward Strawbridge (Treasurer), Barbara Ashton (Secretary), Adam Beresford-Browne (Chairman), Karen Strefford (Parish Councillor), Graham Lewis (Parish Councillor)
Absent: Sue Robson (Business Liaison)*

Police (non-emergency)		101
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service		01743 260200
Shropshire Council Customer Services		03456 789000
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital		01743 261000
Princess Royal Hospital (Telford)		01952 641222
ShropDoc		01743 454900
Severn Fields Health Village (Sundorne Road, SY1 4RQ):		01743 281950
Social Care and Health (Child and Adult Services)		03456 789044
Wheelchair Services		01743 444051
Early Years and Childcare Services		01743 254400
Blue Badge Service		03456 789014
Community Equipment Service		01952 603838
Sundorne Estate Land Agent (Richard Corbet, Balfours)		01743 241181
Village Hall	Adele Cooke (Chairman)	07791 512263
	Linda Truman (Treasurer)	01743 709390
Parish Council	Lynne Padmore (Chairman)	01743 709524
	Andy Blake (Vice Chairman)	07984 297818
	Pauline Daimond (Parish Councillor)	01743 709034
	Edward Strawbridge (Parish Councillor)	01743 709171
	Jayne Carter (Parish Councillor)	07977 214505
Church Committee	Sara McCartney (Church Warden)	01743 709639
	Lad Lees (Church Warden)	
Parish Council website	Uffingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
Church Times & Community News Editor (Cynthia Rickards)		01743 709291
Place Plan Officer (Mathew Mead)		01743 252534
Shropshire County Councillor (Tern) - Lezley Picton		01743 761619
	Email: Lezley.picton@shropshire.gov.uk	
Community News Correspondent (Gwen Ryan)		01743 709087

Haughmond Farm

BUSINESS	TYPE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Berwick Windows	Windows & conservatories	Roger Moore	07866 506968
Mountford Windows	Windows & conservatories	Gary Edwards	07861 298335
Ian Johnson Joinery	Joinery	Ian Johnson	01743 242819
Hallsworth Thatching Ltd	Master Thatcher	Phil Hallsworth	07771 534261
BG Landscaping	Landscaping	Ben Griffiths	07531 167571
German Car Services	Mechanic	Nick Price	07966 200263
Brian Dulson Driver Training	Driver instruction	Brian Dulson	07792 445221
Red Zed Plus	Classic Car Maintenance	Jon Redwell	07941 547993

Pimley Manor

BUSINESS	TYPE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Turner Peachey	Accountants	Dawn Owen	01743 273999
Inter County Couriers Ltd	Couriers	Paul Lloyd	01743 365656
Sweets for Life	Barnardos fund-raising	Martin Wright	07974 902888
A. Horne	Builder / Restoration	Andrew Horne	07763 113426
Gemini Beauty & Holistic Oasis	Massage / Therapy	Clare & Julia	07958 958341
Salop Maintenance Ltd	Building Maintenance	Kevin Jones	01743 241402
Crossbar Coaching	Sport Education	Gavin Cowan	07786 080801
W. H. Rogers & Son	Painter / Decorator	Rob Farquhar	07976 051777

Uffington Farms

NAME	TYPE	RESIDENT
Bridge Farm	Livestock / Equestrian	Davies
Gables Farm	Arable / Livestock	Lewis
Sundorne Farm	Arable / Livestock	Lewis
Dell Farm	Livestock	Jones
Sunderton Farm	Arable / Livestock	Hocknall
Meadows Farm	Livestock	Griffiths
Hillside Farm	Livestock	Morgan
Abbey Farm	Livestock	Davies
Haughmond Farm	Caravan storage / Business units	Teece

Uffington Parish

BUSINESS	TYPE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
A.C. Home & Garden Service	Handyman	Andy Cox	07866 506968
Graham Ryan	Electrical contractor	Graham Ryan	07861 298335
Borehole Doctor Ltd	Hydrogeological services	Adam Beresford-Browne	07979 962521
Rea Valley Tractors	Farm machinery	-	01743 289104
Copthorne Services	Vehicle services	Geoff Sieradzki	0845 241 7600
Woodland Timber Products Ltd	Timber & outdoor furniture	-	01743 709383
The Corbet Arms	Bar, hotel & restaurant	David & Sue Robson	01743 709232
Bardon Aggregates (Haughmond)	Aggregate industries	-	03332 206728
Liz Waters	Dog & cat grooming	Liz Waters	01743 355412
Paul Bennett Roofing	Roofing	Paul Bennett	07977 879795
High Class Shoe Repairs	Shoe repairs	Philip Hammond	01743 364804
W. R. Capper	Coal merchant	Gary Bernard	07773 376158
The Shrewsbury Club	Sports / fitness centre	-	01743 467755



To report a non-emergency incident to the Police, dial 101

If it is a life or death emergency always dial 999.

Always call the police first, then report it to a members of the Neighbourhood Watch (listed below). Information may also be given to the anonymous Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Lynne Padmore	01743 709524
Edward Strawbridge	01743 709171
Andy Blake (Co-ordinator)	07984287818
Pauline Daimond	01743 709034

If you wish to receive e-mail notices of incidents and crimes in the locality, please send your e-mail address to the clerk at uffingtonpc@gmail.com



Thanks to Shropshire Council and
Shropshire Rural Community Council
for their guidance and support.

