



Brixton Deverill

## UPPER DEVERILLS PARISH PLAN



Monkton Deverill

**APRIL 2014**



Kingston Deverill

## **Foreword** by *Andrew Murrison MP*

I am delighted to introduce this Parish Plan which is the work of the residents in Brixton Deverill, Kingston Deverill and Monkton Deverill. All involved, including those who responded to questionnaires and came to consultations, the Parish Council and the Plan Team, are to be congratulated on a document of real worth and great potential utility. It should serve the Parish well for several years.

The planning authority, Wiltshire Council will always benefit from local input in addressing the particular needs of small communities, especially when resources are scarce. Community action has therefore become very much the way forward when residents want something to happen. This formal expression of the Parish's ambitions and needs is the first and most important foundation for future effective action.

The preparation of a Village Design Statement is suggested. We are all very lucky to be living in such a beautiful part of England and such beauty needs to be nurtured and protected. A Design Statement is one way doing this and I very much encourage the further work it will require.

The Parish needs also to evolve and develop in its appeal across the generations of the families already here and to come. So some change is necessary, and this plan, in the process of its preparation, makes that possible.

The Plan is a good piece of work and its authors are to be congratulated.



**Andrew Murrison MP**



# Upper Deverills Parish Plan

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### **Acknowledgements:**

The Parish Plan Working group is grateful to all those who participated in the production of this Plan. The contribution by residents and support by the Parish Council has been essential in the work undertaken to capture local opinion, run consultation events and present results in this printed booklet. We have been assisted by many organisations but in particular by Wiltshire's Community First who provided much support and guidance. We would like to thank all those who, by showing support, giving their views or attending events, have enabled the production of our Parish Plan.

Peter Marsh  
Chairman, Parish Plan Working Group

### **Acceptance:**

On behalf of the Parish Council I welcome and accept our Parish Plan. The Parish Council wishes to express their gratitude to the Working Group, to parishioners and to all those who took part in producing the plan.

Louise Stratton  
Chair, Upper Deverills Parish Council

**Website:** The Parish Plan, and much more, is available on the Upper Deverills website:  
<http://www.westwilts-communityweb.com/site/Upper-Deverills-Parish-Council/>

## Introduction - about the Parish Plan

### The Setting

The White Paper *“Our Countryside – The Future”* published in 2000 encouraged local communities to assume greater responsibility for their own futures. This implied the need for communities to decide how they viewed their neighbourhoods, what they wanted preserved and conserved, and what was needed in the way of improvements and changes to key facilities and services. Communities would also decide how these would be implemented over time. In short, it encouraged Parish Planning.

The many Parish Plans now in existence have delivered a wide variety of benefits, the main ones being:

- A greater sense of community identity, with a shared vision of the future and what is needed to achieve it.
- A guide to the Parish Council as to the wishes of its community.
- A formal statement to local government which has to be taken into account when considering matters affecting the Parish.

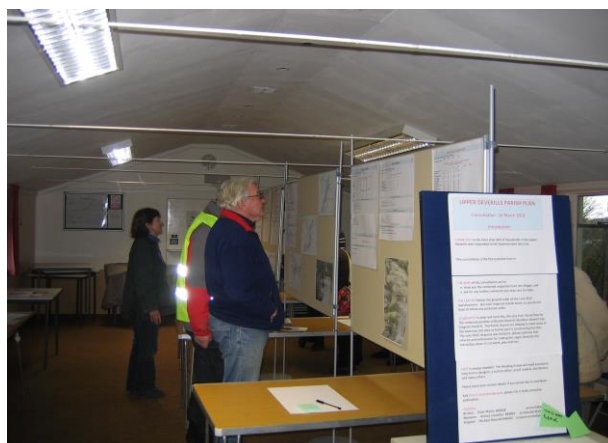
A very successful local example of a Parish Plan is that prepared by Maiden Bradley in 2005 which was updated in 2012.

### The Process

The Upper Deverills Parish Council encompasses the parishes of Brixton Deverill, Kingston Deverill and Monkton Deverill. The Parish Council agreed to the preparation of the very first Parish Plan in late 2011. It also agreed to the setting up of a Parish Plan Working Group that would work alongside the Council, not to it. This enabled the Working Group to be seen as demonstrably independent in its reporting of the results of the various consultations with the community, in arriving at its conclusions and in recommending the actions arising from those conclusions. The outline programme followed was:

**Initial Questionnaire.** The questionnaire was derived from a template used by Maiden Bradley in the preparation of their Parish Plan. This was modified and agreed by the Parish Council and then delivered by hand in May 2012 to the 154 households in the Upper Deverills Parish which has a population of around 331 persons.

**Parish Plan Working Group.** The Parish Council appointed a small Working Group of 3 volunteers in November 2012 to begin preparation of the plan.



Questionnaire Feedback Event in the Village Hall 16 March 2013

**Reporting of Responses.** The 90 responses by households (an excellent response rate of 58%) to the 143 questions were collated and presented in a display to the community in the Upper Deverills Village Hall on three feed-back events – 16th and 22nd March and 29th April 2013. They generated a good level of interest and further comments.



Discussion of the First Draft in the Village Hall 28 September 2013

**Thematic Consultations.** Three separate smaller consultations were held. One addressing the older population on 29 April and

the second dealing with the rural economy on 10 June 2013; both drew satisfactory attendances in the Village Hall. The third dealing with youth matters was conducted on a one-to-one basis during August/September 2013.

**Presentation of the First Draft.** The first draft was displayed at the Summer Fete on 7 September 2013 and then a copy was delivered to every household over the period 15-17 September.

**Public Meeting.** 28 September 2013.

**Circulation of the completed Parish Plan.** 15 April 2014.

### Existing Strategies and Plans

There are several strategies, management plans, budgets and other mechanisms that affect the Upper Deverills Parish and its day-to-day life in terms of delivery of public services. The main ones are:

**Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy.** This seeks to manage future development within Wiltshire to ensure that communities have an appropriate balance of jobs, services and facilities and homes. Its main effect on the Upper Deverills Parish is to limit housing and employment growth to meet agricultural need only, subject to some exceptions. Wiltshire Council's acceptance of this Parish Plan is conditional on it being consistent with its Core Strategy which contains six Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Objectives	Application to our Parish Plan
1. Delivering a thriving economy	By enabling technologies such as Superfast Broadband. By providing convenient access to facilities.
2. Addressing climate change	By requiring sustainable development. By encouraging resilience to consequences of change
3. Providing everyone with access to a decent, affordable home	By addressing affordable housing needs. By supporting new homes in sustainable locations. By requiring design to respect local character
4. Helping to build resilient communities	By supporting rural life. By protecting services and community facilities. By encouraging biodiversity
5. Protecting and enhancing the natural, historic and built environment	By supporting the local AONB designation. By ensuring high quality design and place shaping.
6. Ensuring that essential infrastructure is in place to support communities	Through sustainable transport networks. Through flood risk mitigation.

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan.** The Upper Deverills Parish lies at the North West limit of the AONB area. This “national” designation is intended to protect the very special landscape, environment and communities in which we live. A key aspect of this “protection” is to conserve and enhance those special characteristics which are fundamental to the designation as an AONB. It is also to meet the demand for recreation, although that is not a formal objective within the designation. Being within the AONB boundary is a major contributor to maintaining the beauty of the Parish.



Monkton Deverill looking towards Long Knoll and Little Knoll by Richard Kitson

**Special Designations.** Other designations affecting the Parish are that it is in an Area of Higher Archaeological Potential, contains several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and several Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

The River Wylde and its banks, as well as substantial areas of downs and farmland, are designated as Areas of High Ecological Value and Sites of Nature Conservation Interest.

**Warminster and Villages Community Area Board.** This Wiltshire Council driven Board brings together (top-down) the town and the 26 surrounding villages as a ‘community’ so that there is clear and transparent mutual communication and support. It can be a source of funding for projects in individual parishes and the Community can access the Area Board meetings directly to bring subjects and issues to its attention. An offshoot of the Area Board is the Community Area Traffic Group (CATG) and the Parish Clerk represents local interests, working with CATG and Wiltshire Council Officers to resolve issues highlighted by communities.

**Warminster and Villages Community Area Plan.** This locally derived (bottom-up) plan brings together the town and village plans where they exist. It contains the priorities for future action across the full range of community needs. This Parish Plan will be included in this Plan.

**Warminster Town Council.** There is little formal linkage between the Town and the Parish. Both are entirely separate and independent entities dealing direct with Wiltshire Council and other authorities. A useful link is around tourism where the Town, in conjunction with Visit Wiltshire, markets the whole area to domestic and overseas visitors.



By Richard Kitson

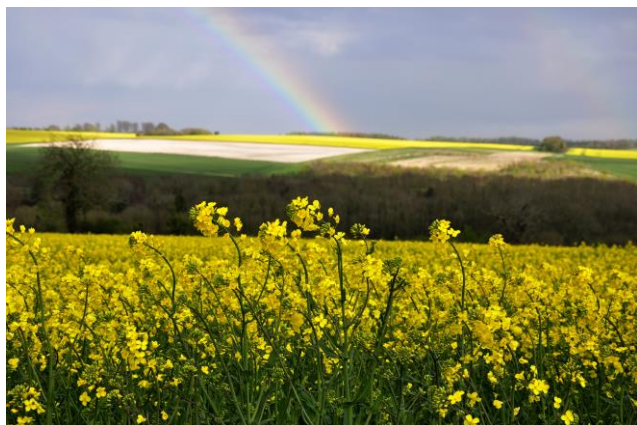
## Summary - Vision and Priorities

### Vision

The benefits of living within a rural community and the access it gives to the surrounding countryside are rated highly. There is a desire to retain the existing charm and beauty of the three villages and a strong preference to limit development.

Over time the community wish to see improvements to local facilities and services, and improvements to Rights of Way. Concern about the river, mostly relating to maintenance and minimising the risk of flooding, and improved safety on roads through our villages are issues needing attention.

Residents look to grow a greater cohesiveness in all parts of the community and across all 3 villages, with the ability to accommodate a broad spectrum of attitudes and aspirations. There is a desire to encourage diversity in community engagement and for 'champions' to take forward specific interests.



Spring Rainbow by Samantha Barber ©The Country Photographer

### Priorities

The issues rated most important during the various consultations are:

- To influence and secure improvements to communication services to the villages, in particular for better broadband.
- To improve safety on the roads and reduce HGV traffic
- Focus on the conservation and restoration of the local environment
- Improve community facilities, in particular for children and young people
- A desire for better public transport serving the villages

Other issues that attracted concern:

- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Desire for more local jobs

### Strong Points

Greatly appreciated are:

- The monthly Parish News
- The Village Hall and adjoining area
- Access to a comprehensive range of events and activities
- Monthly Pub Nights in the Village Hall (*The Cricketers' Legs*)

## Parish Plan Statistics and Presentation of Data

### Households in each Village (percent of Total in Upper Deverills)

Kingston Deverill	Monkton Deverill	Brixton Deverill	Total
74 (48%)	50 (32%)	30 (19%)	154 (100%)

### Survey questionnaires returned (percent of Total returned)

Kingston Deverill	Monkton Deverill	Brixton Deverill	Total
39 (44%)	28 (31%)	23 (25%)	90 (100%)

## Survey response rate by village

Kingston Deverill	Monkton Deverill	Brixton Deverill	All Villages
52%	55%	77%	58%

N.B. The 58% average response for all villages is considered to be a very good rate

In presenting information in the Parish Plan there are many references to percentages. These represent a convenient comparison between villages and illustrate the degree to which some held a particular view relative to the opinion of others. Naturally, these percentages can only relate to the responses received, as the views of those households that did not respond to the questionnaire are unknown.

Small percentages can typically reflect a small number of households. For example where it has been stated that 10% of responders in Kingston Deverill held a particular view, it would relate only to 4 households (i.e. 10% of 39). To help translate percentage responses into household numbers the table below indicates approximate numbers.

Percentages	10%	20%	30%
Kingston Deverill Households	4	8	12
Monkton Deverill Households	3	6	8
Brixton Deverill Households	2	5	7
Number of Households in all Villages combined	9	18	36

Apologies to those familiar with percentages

Representing data in a slightly different way, this is an example of a questionnaire response by villages.

### How do you rate the Village Hall?

	Kingston Deverill	Monkton Deverill	Brixton Deverill	Total
Good	25 (64%)	20 (71%)	8 (35%)	53 (59%)
Average	9 (23%)	7 (25%)	8 (35%)	24 (27%)
Poor	1	0	4	5 (5%)
No view	2	0	2	4
No response	2	1	1	4

ie. 25% of responses (7 households) in Monkton Deverill rated the Village Hall as average.

## The Parish and Villages

The Upper Deverills Parish covers the three villages of Kingston Deverill, Monkton Deverill and Brixton Deverill. The villages form a chain along the valley of

the River Deverill which rises just to the west of Kingston Deverill and, on joining the Shearwater stream at Crockerton, becomes the River Wylde.

Administratively the Upper Deverills are in the Warminster Community Area within the local authority area of Wiltshire.

The Parish is located in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

With few facilities in the immediate area, residents look to Warminster and Mere for local services. Salisbury and Bath offer a wider range of facilities and can be reached by car, train and bus (via



**Brixton Deverill Church by Nigel Hawkins**

Warminster. The bus service runs 3 times a day Monday to Saturday). A rail service between London and Exeter/Penzance can be accessed at Tisbury and the London/Bristol line at Westbury.

The Parish is also well located for access to the tourist attractions of Longleat, Centre Parcs, Stourhead, Stonehenge, Bath, Salisbury etc.

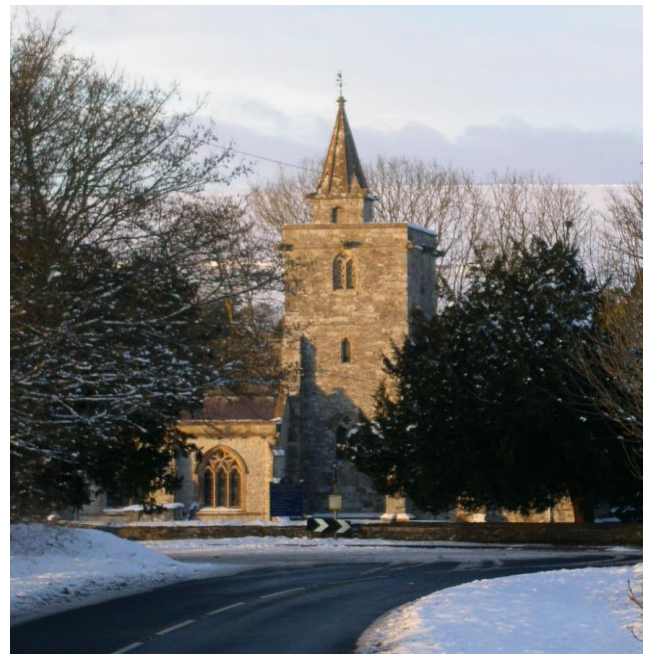
### **A Brief History**

The valley has been continuously inhabited by farming people since at least 3500BC, and there are numerous tumuli, earthworks and barrows. Ancient field systems are still visible today on Pertwood Down, Court Hill and at Monkton Deverill.

The valley was important in Roman times with settlements at Cold Kitchen Hill and Whitecliff Down. Two Roman roads crossed the Parish, one an ancient lead road from Portchester, the other from Poole. The roads join at the boundary between Kingston Deverill and Monkton Deverill where a ford crosses the river.

At the time of the Domesday survey (1086) Monkton Deverill was the largest settlement with a population of 285 (with land for 9 ploughs), Brixton Deverill had a population of 80 – 120 people in 27 households (with land for 7 ploughs) and Kingston Deverill had a population of only 34 in 9 households (with land for 3 ploughs).

Before the Reformation most of the land in the Parish was owned by the Church. Brixton Deverill manor was given to the Norman Abbey of St Mary of Bec-Hellouin by Queen Maud, wife of William the Conqueror, before her death in 1083. Monkton Deverill belonged to the Abbots of Glastonbury from the 10<sup>th</sup> century until after the Reformation when the village was purchased by Sir John Thynne. It was sold in the 1940s to help pay death duties.



**Kingston Deverill Church by Michael Mounde**

The Ludlow family owned Kingston Deverill from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Lord Weymouth bought the land in 1737 bringing the whole valley into Thynne ownership.

Until World War II farming was the main source of employment in the valley. Sheep (it is recorded that in 1289 there were 1143 sheep on Brixton Downs) and cattle were raised and corn was a successful crop. After the Second World War the farmed acreage in the Deverill parishes more than doubled. However, with changes in farming practice the number of farms reduced. In all three villages there are former farmhouses and farm buildings that have

been converted to residential use. Today only a small number of residents work on the land.



Kingston Deverill from the NW by Pat Armstrong



The river at Kingston Deverill by Jeff Cox

## Residents and their Occupations

The Parish population has reduced significantly over the last 200 years. In 1811 there was a combined population of 572 but by 2011 this had fallen to 331. The population was at its peak of 824 in 1841 since when it has steadily declined.

Interestingly, at the time of the 2011 Census, only 15.6% of the population were aged 0-17 years, 32% were aged 45-59 years and 31% were aged 60+. The community is clearly facing a future in which a significant proportion of the Parish population is composed of older people.

At the time of the 2011 Census residents aged 16 to 74 (178 people) worked in a wide range of industries

with the highest percentages working in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (14%) and Human Health & Social Work Activities (also 14%).



Preparation for seeding on Little Down – Parsonage Down beyond by Peter Marsh

## Facilities and Services

In the past, the villages were able to support one or two shops, a post office and a public house. With more car ownership and changes in the retail sector these once vital facilities are long gone. The physical facilities and services we have in the Parish are limited to a village hall and adjoining cricket field in Kingston Deverill and churches in Kingston and Brixton Deverill. The monthly Parish News is distributed to all households.

Residents were asked for their opinion on the village hall, facilities for sports and recreation and for young people and the Parish News.

The questionnaire asked for views about internet access and mobile phone reception. These questions generated the most reaction and services were rated as very poor. (See further comment under Communications).

### Community Views

- A majority of people felt the village hall was good
- Sports and recreation facilities were rated average or poor by similar numbers of people
- Many respondents to the survey felt that leisure facilities for young people were poor.

- A significant number of people had no view about leisure facilities for young people or did not respond, perhaps reflecting the high percentage of older people in the Parish
- Some comments were made about providing playground equipment for children and somewhere for young people to meet
- There was some support for a village shop and pub but it was also accepted that it would be difficult to achieve viability. NB The comments relating to a pub predated the introduction of monthly pub nights

### Some Detail.

The Upper Deverills Village Hall is a simple single storey building of light weight construction built in the 1950s. In recent years a number of improvements have been carried out including a hard standing area, an extension to provide better toilets and storage, a newly fitted kitchen and redecoration.



Upper Deverills Village Hall by Jeff Cox

Alongside the village hall is a typical village cricket field used by the Upper Deverills Cricket Club and, informally, by walkers and children for play. Apart

## Crime and Community Safety

Parishioners were asked in the initial questionnaire what their areas of concern were on crime and anti-social behaviour committed locally, and about how happy they were with the service they received from the Police. It is important to note that the questions were around 'concerns' and did not ask for 'actual'

from the many opportunities to access the wonderful countryside for walking, cycling and horse riding there are no other facilities for sport and recreation in the villages. However, a wide range of facilities such as golf courses, gyms, tennis courts, swimming pool, sports clubs etc. are available in Warminster and other local towns. Children and young people have to travel to Mere and Warminster for recreation and sport as there are limited facilities for them in the villages. However Horningsham Youth Club successfully re-opened in September 2013 and young people from the Upper Deverills are able to join the club and get free transport. It is understood that some children from the Parish are using the facilities.

### The Figures

- 59% of people felt the village hall was good, 27% felt it was average and only 5% felt the hall was poor. Fewer people in Brixton Deverill felt it was good, perhaps because it is further away from them
- 80% of people felt the Parish News was good
- Very few people (none in Brixton Deverill) felt that sports and recreation facilities were good (14%). An equal number people felt that facilities were average or poor (32% each). A significant number had no view or did not respond (21%)
- Community facilities and facilities for children and young people were of almost equal importance for attention over the next few years

### Actions

Capture ideas from children, young people and their families on what facilities might be needed for them.

instances for which different answers might have been appropriate.

## Community Views

A representative from Wiltshire Constabulary regularly attends Parish Council meetings and deals promptly with points raised. Every attempt is made to avoid undue changes in the Police Community Support Officers attending so a good level of continuity is achieved. A mobile Police patrol regularly visits the valley.

A Neighbourhood Watch organisation, based on volunteers, is active in the three villages.

Overall, there is a high level of satisfaction with the Police, despite figures indicating limited sightings of police patrols or face to face contact. The various levels of concern were significant but not matched by the record of reported incidents.

Enduring concern about fly tipping

### Some Detail

It is stressed again that the figures that follow are based on 'concerns' and not on 'actual' events. Furthermore, there are some low numbers involved which translate into high percentage variations for low fluctuations in numbers. Some caution is therefore needed when interpreting them.

The one responder who commented noted that the one burglary of which they were aware in the last 4



Litter Pick along the Hindon Road 2014 – well done the Cousens family  
By Andrea Llewellyn

## Culture, Leisure and Recreation

Parishioners were asked if they supported the various activities organised locally. They were also asked if they supported some suggestions for new and improved community facilities.

### Community Views

- Residents support well established activities such as the village fete and other events organised by the Upper Deverills Village Hall Committee.
- The 'Cricketers' Legs' monthly pub nights have proved a great success

years had led to concerns when security lights came on. No other comments were made.

The community carries out an annual "Litter Pick" along the B3095, Hindon Road and village lanes.

### The Figures

#### Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Concerns about the level of burglaries/theft from homes/outlying buildings and gardens affected some 55% of parishioners, as did fear of crime committed by outsiders.

Much lower at around 25% was the concern about break-in and thefts from vehicles in the villages.

Antisocial behaviour and local vandalism were lower still at 16% and 11% respectively.

#### Police

There was a positive response of 80% to the question "Happy with the service received?"

But that was based on little face to face or on-patrol contact over the preceding 12 months where 42% had not seen a policeman at all, 20% has seen one less than three times, and only 17% (15 parishioners) has seen one more than 5 times.

#### Actions

The Neighbourhood Watch organisation should be maintained.

Reporting of illegal fly tipping to Wiltshire Council (0800 23 23 23 or email CLARENCE) for clearance and further legal action, to be encouraged.

The Clerk to continue to communicate any reports of crime to parishioners through the Parish Council.

- There was some interest in a regular daytime tea, cake and chat event for residents
- The pantomime organised for the first time in 2011 was also popular.
- The idea of a community hub is supported (although the exact form this might take was not described)



Community gathering on Cold Kitchen Hill preparing to light the beacon  
by Samantha Barber ©The Country Photographer



The beacon alight to celebrate the Golden Jubilee by Jeff Cox

### Some Detail

The Village Hall Committee organise a number of events throughout the year including the village flower show and fete, duck race, quiz nights, celebratory meals etc. The monthly 'Cricketers' Legs' pub nights are a recent initiative. Film nights at the village hall using the organisation Moviola failed to attract enough interest and the Village Hall proved to be an inappropriate venue for the showing of films.

In 2011 the Deverills Players staged their first pantomime and in 2014 a Deverills Festival is to be held.

Whilst opportunities for cultural activity in the Parish itself are limited, the community is fortunate to have access to local theatres in Warminster (The Athenaeum) and Codford (The Woolstore). Further afield there are theatres, cinemas, museums and galleries in Frome, Devizes, Salisbury, Bath and Bristol and the Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon.

A number of other cultural events have been held in the Parish from time to time including music recitals, music evenings, jazz and presentations by local residents on various topics of interest. The village hall and churches have provided the venues for most events but others have been hosted in other locations such as Manor Farm barn in Kingston Deverill and private gardens. The Wylve Valley Art Trail, organised on a biennial basis, is very popular and several exhibitions were held in the Parish in 2013. The local Art Group based in the village hall have contributed to the event for several years

Theatre trips to Salisbury Playhouse with transport by coach are also organised during the autumn and winter months.



Kingston Ducks by  
Valerie Childs



Jubilee Celebrations June 2012 at the Village Hall by Peter Marsh

## The Figures

The annual village duck race received the most support in the survey with the fete and pantomime placed second and third.

Support for the rounders event was low, placing it in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

Tea, cake and a chat (consultation event) - 24 attended and all were happy to see it continue.

## Local Economy and Tourism

Parishioners were asked to comment on whether more local jobs were needed and if tourism should be promoted more. They were also asked if developments should be supported even in fields and open spaces. A more general question concerned the agricultural identity of communities.

### Community Views

It was thought that new jobs would most likely be achieved through encouraging home-working with the assumption that adequate broadband is generally regarded as an essential and basic requirement. Local businesses relied on good broadband connection and the poor mobile phone reception hindered some activities, e.g. farming.



Some felt that the Parish News should carry adverts for local businesses.

The acceptability of any development was seen as depending on the scale and type being considered. Whatever was being considered should be confined to brown-field sites only. The conversion of redundant farm buildings within village boundaries was cited as a possible future change.

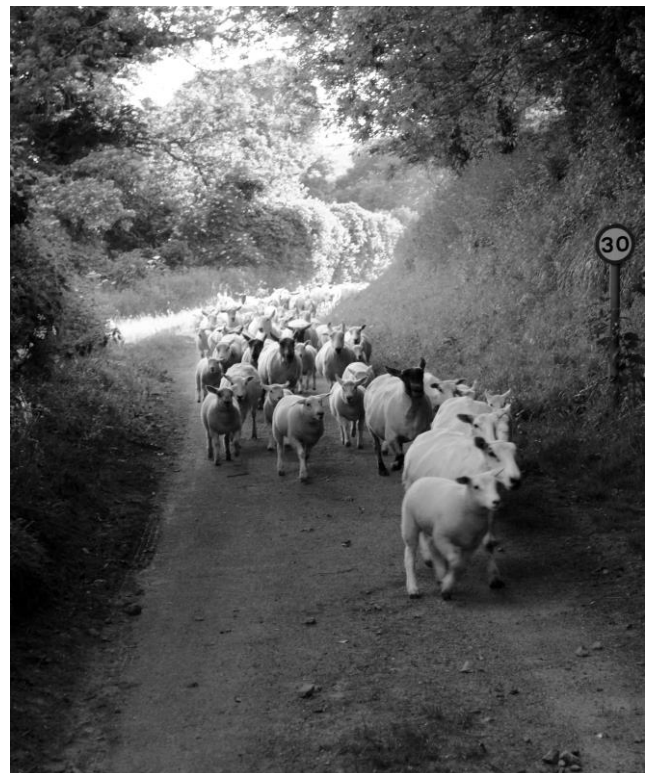
It was felt that the Parish could not be considered an “agricultural community” (as was asked in the

### Actions

The Village Hall Committee to continue to seek ideas from the community for new events, with an additional focus on the needs of children and young people.

Organisation of a regular daytime tea, cake and chat event open to all

Questionnaire), with suggestions that it was more a “rural community”. This is reflected in the support for the various events and activities.



Moving sheep through Kingston Deverill  
by Samantha Barber ©The Country Photographer

### Some Detail

While the Parish is overwhelmingly rural in nature, only a minority are actually employed in agriculture and related activities. It is the area’s rural nature and natural beauty that has drawn the majority of residents to it to live in it, and often to work away from it.

The separate feed-back event on the economy agreed that while agriculture was the main land use, it was probably the smallest 'employer'. Most farming is today a matter of volume production, the individual components of which are often carried out by contractors brought in for the task. This was a trend that would not be reversed.

The most significant tourism assets are the local countryside and the churches of St Michael the Archangel and St Mary the Virgin. None are marketed as strongly as they could be. But a balance

### The Figures

A small majority, 48% v 31%, agreed that the parish needed more locally based jobs, with the same numbers supporting the promotion of more local tourism.

Any development in fields and open spaces was strongly opposed by a 40% margin.

But the strongest response by a 60% margin was to keep being a rural/agricultural community.

is needed between maintaining public access at a sustainable level, not overburdening a visually stunning countryside, and recognising that more visitors will not provide any significant additional revenue or advantage for the Parish. Warminster, in conjunction with Visit Wiltshire, markets the whole area to domestic and overseas visitors. Overall, the current balance (albeit informally arrived at) seems to be about right.

- Actions**

  - Consider improving the tourism potential of the two churches.
  - Consider initiatives that might encourage tourism and assist the rural economy.
  - Investigate potential for advertising in the Parish News.



Harvesting rapeseed with views to Whitecliff Farm, Boar's Bottom and Cold Kitchen Hill by Peter Marsh



Gathering in the wheat on Brims Down by Ranald Blue

## Education and Communication

The initial questionnaire sought views about education, specifically in respect of access to schools and about pre-school/post school facilities, asking parishioners to rate how good or poor they thought these were and to rate the ease of getting access to such facilities.

The questionnaire asked for views about internet access and mobile phone reception. These questions

generated the most reaction. This was not surprising as the typical broadband speed is only 0.5mbps and mobile reception is elusive. A number of people work from home for some or all of the time and they and other local businesses are frustrated at the poor service in the villages. Residents were also asked about community IT provision at the Village Hall and if this might be desirable.

## Community Views

- There was limited opinion about access to schools and pre/post school facilities. There were mixed views among those who responded.
- Overall, access to schools was rated better (good/average) than that for pre and post school education (average/poor).
- Good access to broadband and better mobile phone reception were rated the most important of all issues raised in the initial questionnaire.
- Better broadband and mobile phone reception were rated important or very important by nearly all parishioners who responded.
- Most residents did not think that IT provision or internet access at the Village Hall was particularly important.



Brixton Deverill former schoolroom by Peter Marsh

## Some Detail

Views about access to education were limited to a small number of people. The majority of responses, including those where there was no entry, indicated “no view” about access to education facilities (schools, pre-schools), probably reflecting more a lack of knowledge amongst parishioners who have no need to make use of such facilities. Census data indicates that only about 15% of the population are children of pre-school or school age.

Of the responses where parishioners had some experience or knowledge of local education facilities, there were mixed views. In Kingston and Brixton Deverill, many thought the facilities were good or average, except in Kingston Deverill, regarding access to pre/post school facilities, where there was a more predominant view that they were poor. In Monkton Deverill there was a much stronger feeling that overall access to facilities was poor with some rating it as average.

Nearly all who responded made use of the internet at home and more than half used it for business or home-working. The vast majority thought that access to broadband was very important. Several comments made reference to the need for a much better speed and offers of community support to help achieve this. The Broadband Action Group (BAG), set up by the Parish Council some time ago, has been working hard to research ways of improving the internet service and to ensure that the community’s circumstances are known to Wiltshire Council and others with influence. Upgrading by BT in 2014 should provide Brixton Deverill with improved speed. As a result of excellent work by BAG, all the Upper Deverills should receive superfast broadband in 2015, i.e. a minimum download speed of 24mbps.

Parishioners rated the need for better mobile reception very highly. Nearly all responses rated this as important or very important. Comments at the consultation event about the rural economy indicated the importance of using mobile phones for operating effectively within the farming community with activities spread across a wide area in the valley and the need to remain in contact. There were similar views from others in business in the Parish.

Of all the issues and opinions arising in the responses to the initial questionnaire, residents rated broadband access and better mobile phone reception as the most important factor affecting the community for the future.

## The Figures

On education issues, the majority (62% – 72%) gave no view or did not reply. Of those who submitted responses to questionnaires, 29% thought access to school facilities was good or average – only 8%

thought it was poor. Responses related to pre/post school facilities were 14% good/average and 14% poor. Looking at the figures differently, 16 households rated access to schools as good compared to 17 who thought they are average or poor. For pre/post school facilities, 3 households rated these as good and 21 rated them average or poor.

93% used the internet at home, of whom, 61% stated they used it for business. Access to broadband was rated very important or important by 93%. Only 4 households considered it was not very important.

Mobile phone reception attracted similar responses with 92% indicating that better reception was very important or important. Only 7 households thought it was not very important.

There was less enthusiasm for internet access or IT provision at the Village Hall. 58% thought this was

## Environment and Countryside

The initial questionnaire asked people for their views on the preservation and conservation of the villages and surrounding countryside. Residents were also asked what they thought about access to the countryside and about the River Wylde that runs through all 3 villages in the Upper Deverills. Questions about access to the countryside addressed availability, suitability and maintenance of rights of way. The Upper Deverills is fortunate to be within an area well served by footpaths, bridle ways and byways. The river is of major importance to the diversity of habitat it provides. But it also gives rise to concerns about fluctuating levels, maintenance and the occasional incidents of flooding and residents were asked to indicate their concerns, or otherwise, on these issues.

### Community Views

- The preservation and conservation of the villages and surrounding area is strongly supported. The idea of a Village Design Statement attracted considerable interest.
- Some felt that a balance between preservation and the maintenance of vitality in our villages would be a good thing
- A few suggestions focussed on environmental issues associated with tree planting, sustainability and farming practices
- A majority have concerns about the river, particularly about maintenance and flooding

not very important compared to those who thought it was important (29%) or very important (11%).

### Actions

- Look at ways to keep Parish interests in education facilities under review so that those with children have a means to raise concerns.
- Retain and support the Broadband Action Group to monitor the introduction of improved internet services and keep the community informed.
- Investigate further where mobile phone reception is important for business or community interests and ways of improving signal strength.



View to Bidcombe Down from Kingston Deverill  
by Samantha Barber ©The Country Photographer

- Some viewed weed cutting and “unofficial” bridges across the river as a concern
- Many felt that excessive water abstraction was a cause of low levels in the river
- The majority were content with rights of way
- Most did not want new paths or additional connections between existing paths
- Many thought existing paths should be improved, undergrowth cleared and a slight majority were in favour of better signage
- The majority were not in favour of ‘dog poo’ bins



Hare on Keysley Down  
by Mandy Martyn

### Some Detail

Conservation and restoration of our environment was rated as third in the most important issues facing the community in the next few years. There was substantial support for the view that the community should do everything it can to preserve and restore the villages and surrounding countryside.

A large number of responses registered concern about the River Wylde, mostly about maintenance and slightly fewer, about the possibility of flooding. 8 people volunteered to be part of a Flood Warden Group. Consultation events highlighted further concern about water levels and river flow being affected by abstraction of water. It has been established that the Environment Agency closely monitor and control water abstraction by Wessex Water which is from underground aquifers, not from the river. The Environment Agency monitors and maintains water levels and flow by pumping water into the river.



Flooding on the water meadows at Whitecliff Farm © Albert Lee

The Environment Agency confirmed that river maintenance is the responsibility of riparian landowners. It advises that weed cut from the river

should be removed and not allowed to drift downstream.

(NB - A water discharge exemption is required for weed cutting and can be obtained by contacting the Environment Agency’s National Customer Contact Centre on 08708 506 506 or from the Environment Agency website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).)



Looking north along the Lynchets at Monkton Deverill  
by Louise Stratton

There was a very good response rate to questions about rights of way in the Upper Deverills and this topic attracted a lot of interest and comments at consultation events. Most residents were content overall with the rights of way, but a sizeable minority thought additional paths were a good idea. There was specific interest in having a path in Monkton Deverill that would cross the river and provide a link to Kingston Deverill via the west.

There was a majority of support to see improvements to existing paths and stiles, with new/better signage and undergrowth cleared. There was some interest in community involvement to work on rights of way and enquiries indicate that financial support, tools and expertise can be made available for this.

Most residents did not support the idea of having ‘dog poo’ bins by local paths, although there was

greater interest in Monkton Deverill, albeit still a minority, compared to the other 2 villages.



The river in flood at Brixton Deverill bridge 2008 © Albert Lee

### The Figures

Nearly all responses (93%) favoured conservation and restoration of the villages and surrounding countryside. This topic was rated the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in importance (out of 11 issues) in the priorities facing the community in the next few years.

63% expressed concern about the river, with 58% registering concern about maintenance (probably including river flow) and 34% about the possibility of flooding. There was comparatively less concern overall and about flooding in Monkton Deverill.

Most residents (73%) were happy with existing rights of way. 27% would like to see new paths and 29%

additional links. Residents identified improvements to paths /stiles (53 %), better signage (41%) and clearing undergrowth (52 %) as things they would like to see. 29% would like 'dog poo' bins (36% in Monkton Deverill).

#### Actions

- Parish Council to note the support and comments for conservation and restoration in the villages and surrounding countryside
- Consider measures to allay concerns about the River Wylve
- Follow up the interest in the Flood Warden Group
- Improve knowledge and understanding in the community about rights of way and support their use and accessibility
- Establish viability and interest in forming a Rights of Way Maintenance Group
- Investigate the possibility of a new path (Permissive Path?) in Monkton Deverill to cross the river and link with existing paths
- Take forward the strong interest in conservation, preservation and restoration (and related comments) into the work on a Village Design Statement

## Health and Social Care

With a growing number of older people resident in the Parish access to health and social care services will be an increasingly important issue.

### Community Views

A significant proportion of people responding to the Parish Plan survey (50%) felt that support for older people was only average or poor

### Some Detail

There are no local health services in the Upper Deverills and most residents access Primary Health Care services in Warminster and Mere. Local

Community hospitals operate in Warminster, Trowbridge and Shaftesbury but the main hospitals are in Salisbury and Bath.

Transport to hospital and other health services can be difficult with limited public transport serving the Parish. However the Warminster and Mere Link Schemes run on a voluntary basis with support from Wiltshire Council and Community First provide a good service locally. The Wiltshire Good Neighbour Service covers the Parish and will help older and vulnerable residents with information and advice on local services.

Access to Broadband for online shopping, information and advice etc. is likely to become increasingly important for older people and those with long term health problems.

### The Figures

31% of the Parish population was aged 60+ at the time of the 2011 Census. Most residents stated they were in good or very good health in 2011.

About 6% of residents (22 people) felt their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term health problems or disability in 2011. A similar number felt they were limited a little.

### Actions

Set up a Working Group to carry out further research on how older people might support each other and be supported to remain living independently in the Parish. Topics for discussion might include:

- Transport sharing – for shopping etc.
- Social activities – in the Parish and access to activities further afield
- Avoiding isolation – particularly of single elderly residents
- Access to the internet for those without a computer/tablet/smart phone

## Housing, Development and the Built Environment

Residents were asked in the Questionnaire if they were content with the restrictions on planning permission for new housing arising from living within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and additionally, in the case of Brixton Deverill, within a Conservation Area. A further question on residential development sought views on how many new houses would be acceptable within the Upper Deverill villages as a whole. Those favouring development were then asked what type of housing they might support. An additional question in the section on Rural Economy asked whether residents would support development even if it involved building on fields or open spaces in the villages.

A Housing Needs Survey was conducted by Wiltshire Council Housing Strategy Team in April/May 2013. The response to this survey was smaller than that for the Parish Plan survey and although it addressed some different issues, there were some common themes related to housing development. The Parish Plan Working Group **was** consulted and commented on the draft report. Data and comments from the Parish Plan survey were provided so that, where appropriate, the Wiltshire Council Strategy Team could ensure consistency in reporting community views.



Dairy Cottage, Brixton Deverill by Randal Blue

### Community Views

- A significant majority were content with current restrictions on development because of the location in an AONB/Conservation Area
- There were many who favoured no new housing, but the popular view supported up to 5 houses or fewer
- There was stronger support in Kingston Deverill for development and greater acceptance for a larger number of houses
- A significant number in Monkton and Brixton Deverill in particular, held the view that there should be no additional housing

- Those who supported some new housing mostly favoured having a balanced mix of development with substantial support in Kingston Deverill for affordable housing
- There was very little support, other than from Kingston Deverill, for new housing to be located on fields or open spaces in the villages
- There were many comments and considerable support for producing a Village Design Statement for the community.

### Some Detail

The majority of homes are owner occupied. There were a small number of responses from those in rental properties in Brixton and Monkton Deverill (less than 10 %) whereas in Kingston Deverill significantly more respondents lived in rented accommodation (about 30%).

Restrictions on development arising from being located in an AONB or Conservation Area were generally welcomed. Reasons for objecting to these restrictions from a small number, mainly in Kingston, are unknown.

Support for new housing was not consistent. More people in Kingston Deverill believed a larger number of houses (6+) would be acceptable. Many in all villages, but more in Monkton/Brixton Deverill, were opposed to any development at all. There is considerable opposition to housing development in Brixton Deverill, probably associated with its Conservation Area status. Most responses across all villages favoured 5 or fewer new homes. There was significant commonality in this response reflected in the Housing Needs Survey undertaken by Wiltshire Council in April 2013.

A majority of those supporting new homes preferred a balanced mix of development. There was a minority of support for new housing to be low cost affordable homes, mostly from those in Kingston Deverill.

There was very limited support for building development to take place on fields or open spaces within villages, although there was much stronger support for this in Kingston Deverill.

There was some strong feeling about inappropriate development with negative comments about wind turbines, poor use of wood/glass/concrete in dwellings, largely arising from a few examples of development where the choice of materials and style is different to the more common types of building. Considerable interest was apparent to develop a Village Design Statement for the villages to address concerns and reflect community opinion. The Parish Council requested that the Working Group should take this forward as a separate piece of work, requiring additional consultation, and to form an addendum to the Parish Plan at a later date.



Sympathetic conversion of farm buildings at former Manor Farm, Brixton Deverill

### The Figures

Across all villages, 36% wanted to see no new houses at all.

48% believed up to 5 new houses might be acceptable

Only 14 % of responses from all villages supported having more than 5 new homes.

The majority (90%) of responses from Monkton/Brixton Deverill considered there should either be no development or limited to up to 5 new homes. In Kingston Deverill, on the same basis, the figure was 74% .

Of those who supported new homes, 38% said these should be a balanced mix. 18% (mostly in Kingston) thought they should be low cost affordable homes.

Across all villages only 23% of responses indicated support for building development on fields and open spaces in our villages. 76% of these responses were from Kingston Deverill.



Barn Owl by Dave Kjaer [www.davidkjaer.com](http://www.davidkjaer.com)  
DROG (see Annex 2) is helping with the necessary conservation by providing & monitoring boxes throughout the valley

## Transport and Traffic

The opening question under this theme was about the concern parishioners had about traffic in the villages, followed by a series of detailed queries establishing what those concerns were. There was then another series of detailed questions asking for Yes/No responses around cars and public transport, and car parking need. This theme was the second most important for residents.

### Community Views

There was concern about the ‘rat run’ B3095 with too many large vehicles. A weight restriction was needed and there was concern that the HGV ban on the B3095 had been permanently shelved. HGV restrictions previously advertised by Wiltshire Council should be implemented. Many do not walk or cycle because of the dangerous roads, and the concern was about accidents to cyclist and pets, as well as to pedestrians.

Agricultural traffic raised several comments. It was noted that agricultural traffic was necessary, but not above the law. For Monkton Deverill a 20mph limit on The Street was advocated.

Noisy Moto X bikes were using footpaths.

Note by Working Group: During 2012/13 a Parish Council Working Group had undertaken considerable research and consultation in relation to traffic use of the B3095. This included representation to and working with Wiltshire Council to achieve a 7 tonne weight restriction on the road. This weight restriction has now been agreed by Wiltshire Council but cannot be implemented until the Highways Agency has completed road layout/signage changes on the A303 that will provide an alternative route for heavy vehicles.

### Actions

The Parish Council should take note of local preferences when considering planning applications for development within the Upper Deverills.

Wiltshire Council should consider and respect local views in determining planning applications and in housing strategy plans.

The Parish Plan Working Group should continue with the preparation of a Village Design Statement for the Upper Deverills.



Unwelcomed lorries - © Albert Lee

### Some Detail

Only 3 respondents did not have their own transport. Statements on car and public transport usage made clear that a private vehicle is used for most journeys (95%) and that a family going to work could not do without its own transport (70%). Only 22% walked or cycled on as many journeys as possible. School runs are mostly made by car. Buses are used by only 12% of parishioners if at all possible. However, 35% would use public transport if there was more of it, or it was more flexible.

It is noticeable that the size and speed of today’s “equipments” are increasing slowly year on year, while the capacity of the B3095 and its spur roads remain unchanged.

This is an area where evidence is the most powerful factor in effecting change. Volunteers were sought

to gather it. Parish traffic issues are discussed at the Warminster Community Traffic Group Meetings.

More parking for the villages was not seen to be a priority with only about 8% agreeing.

### The Figures

Almost all households were concerned about traffic in the villages, with only 10% not so.

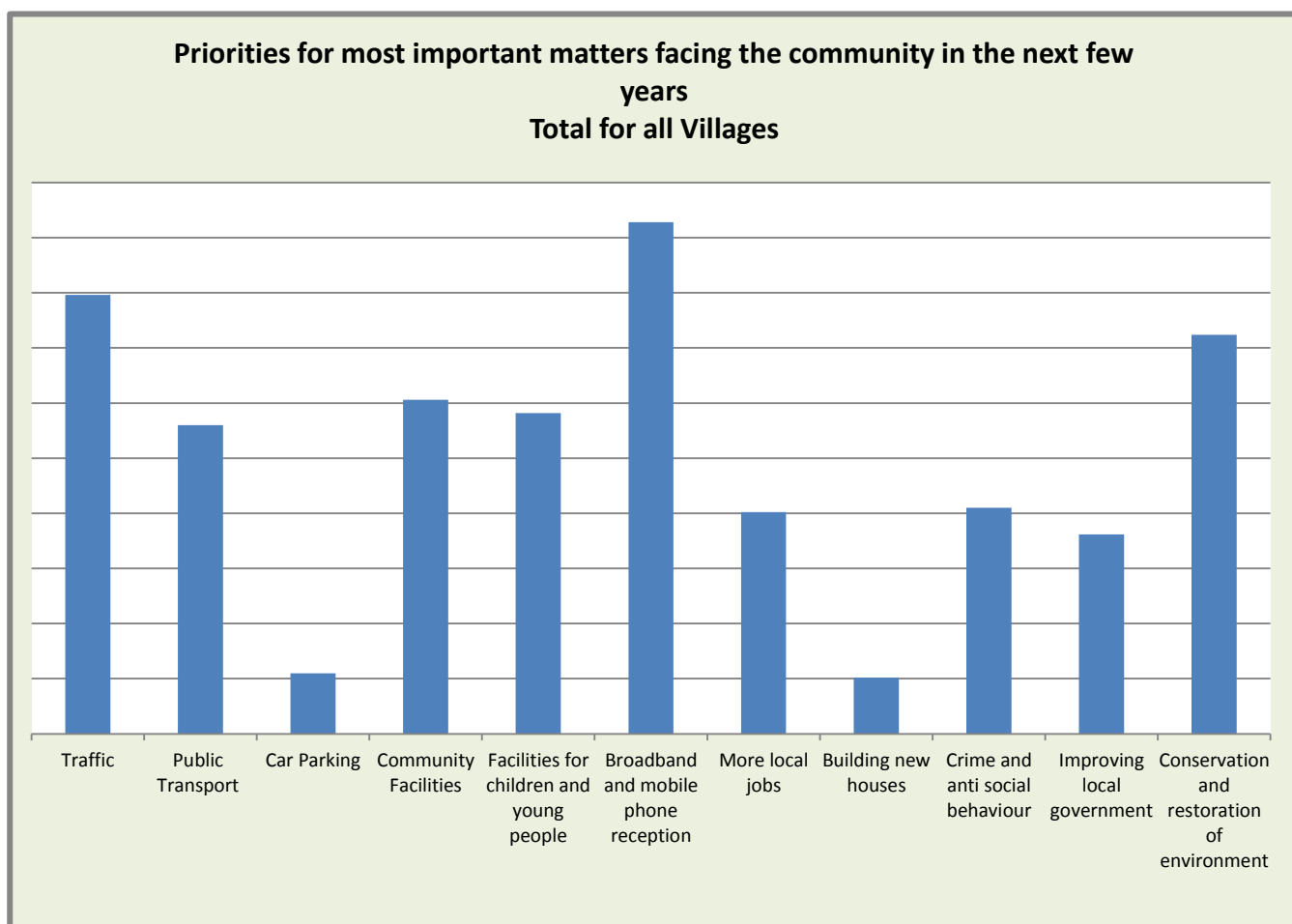
The major traffic concern was about speeding (82%) and the associated accident risks to pedestrians (74%). The concern around the volume of lorries followed closely (70%). The volume of cars was seen to be less of a problem (46%). The misuse of paths and byways (28%), and vehicles parked on roads (13%) were the minor issues.

**Actions**

- Gather evidence to affect change.
- Follow up previous work by Wiltshire Council.
- Monitor and hasten implementation of weight restrictions on B3095

### Our Priorities

The final question in the survey asked residents to indicate their priorities and rank what are the most important matters to face the community over the next few years. Broadband and mobile phone reception were rated the most important and building new houses was of least importance. The chart below summarises the response:



## Way Forward and Action Plan

Ser	Issue	Action	Lead Partners	Resource Implications	Timescale
<b>Long-term Overview</b>					
1	Maintain impetus of Action Plan	Formal and regular overview by Parish Council	UDPC	Nil	At UDPC discretion
2	Maintain relevance of Parish Plan	Annual review by UDPC	UDPC	Nil	At UDPC discretion
<b>Facilities and Services</b>					
3	Providing facilities for children, young people and families	Capture ideas for future consideration	UDPC, A working group	Small consultation expenses	Complete by end 2014
<b>Crime and Community Safety</b>					
4	Maintaining current satisfactory situation.	Maintain current Neighbourhood Watch organisation. Encourage reporting of fly tipping to Wiltshire Council. Maintain periodic 'litter pick'.	UDPC, All residents	Small. Some assistance available from Wiltshire Council for 'litter pick'.	Regular and frequent monitoring
<b>Culture, Leisure and Recreation</b>					
5	Need for new ideas, particularly for children and young people	Capture ideas for future consideration	UDPC, Village Hall Committee A working group	Small consultation expenses	Complete by end 2014
6	Need for regular informal daytime 'gatherings'.	Confirmation of need.	UDPC, A group/ individual	Depends on actions needed	Complete by end 2014
<b>Local Economy and Tourism</b>					
7	Churches' renovations need resourcing	Consider improving tourism potential of churches	PCC	Partnership with UDPC, AONB, LAG	Continuing
8	Assisting the local economy, including encouraging tourism	Consider better marketing of churches, countryside, walks, B&Bs, gliding club etc	UDPC, A working group	Will evolve out of planning actions	Continuing
9	Assisting economic growth	Consider advertising in the Parish News.	UDPC, PCC, Editor,	None	By end 2014
<b>Education and Communications</b>					
10	Keeping education of children under review	Develop means of articulating concerns	UDPC, a working group	None	By end 2014, then continuing
11	Improve communication of Parish Council activities	Consider insert into monthly Parish News	UDPC	<£200	Continuing
12	Need for improved Broadband	Report and monitor roll out.	Broad Band Working	Already budgeted for	Continuing

Ser	Issue	Action	Lead Partners	Resource Implications	Timescale
			Group	by UDPC	
13	Need for improved mobile services	Campaign for better facilities	A working group	< £500	By end 2015
<b>Environment and Countryside</b>					
14	Maintain support for conservation and restoration in villages and countryside	Consider forming special interest group. Consider preparation of a Village/Parish Design Statement	UDPC Farmers A working group	<£100 >£500	By mid 2015
15	Meet concerns about the River Wylde	Consider forming special interest group around ecology of river. Follow up the interest in the Flood Warden Group Consider periodic river monitoring walks.	UDPC A working group	<£100  <£100  <£100	Continuing   Annual
16	Improve knowledge and understanding of Rights of Way, their use and accessibility	Consider forming a Rights of Way Maintenance Group. Consider permissive path in Monkton Deverill to cross the river and link with existing paths.	UDPC Farmers House owners	>£250	By mid 2015
<b>Health and Social Care</b>					
17	Improve support to older people	Consider forming Working Group to examine: • mutual support by/for older people, • provision of further outside support.	UDPC Working group Community First	<£200	By end 2014
<b>Housing, Development and the Built Environment</b>					
18	Taking forward local preferences when considering local planning applications.	See serial 14 re Village Design Statement	UDPC	Nil	Continuing
19	Wiltshire Council's respect for local views in determining housing strategy allocations and individual planning applications.	Create awareness of this Parish Plan See serial 14 re Village Design Statement	UDPC	Nil	Continuing
<b>Transport and Traffic</b>					
20	Gather evidence to affect change	Form traffic monitoring group	UDPC	<£200	As determined.
21	Follow up previous work by Wiltshire Council	Periodic monitoring	UDPC	Nil	Quarterly
22	HGV use of B3095	Monitor and hasten implementation of weight restrictions on B3095	UDPC	Nil	Continuing

## Annexes:

- 1 Listed Buildings
- 2 Clubs, Associations and Groups in the Parish
- 3 Parish Plan Working Group members



The Street in Monkton Deverill in former times and in 2014



By Jeff Cox

## Annex 1

### Listed Buildings within the Upper Deverills Parish

#### Brixton Deverill

Georges Barn  
 Whitecliff Farmhouse  
 Drove End (Cross Cottage)  
 Bridgewalk House  
 Dairy Cottage  
 Bridge Cottage  
 The Manor House  
 Manor Farm Cottage  
 Church of St Michael  
 The Old Rectory  
 Telephone Kiosk  
 The bridge

#### Monkton Deverill

Burton Farmhouse  
 Manor Farmhouse  
 The Old School  
 86 Monkton Deverill  
 Former Church (St Alfred the Great) and Whiting monument



Monkton Deverill by Pat Armstrong

#### Kingston Deverill

Keysley Farmhouse  
 Hedge Cottage  
 Marvins  
 Humphrey's Orchard  
 Barn at Manor Farm  
 Pope's Farmhouse and Flat  
 Church of St Mary and Young monument  
 Kingston House  
 35 Kingston Deverill  
 36 & 38 Kingston Deverill  
 39 Kingston Deverill



Winterbournes flowing at Monkton Deverill February 2014 by Jeff Cox

## Clubs, Associations and Groups in the Parish

*The following are active within our Community:*

Upper Deverills Parish Council	Pub Night – <i>Cricketers’ Legs</i>
Parochial Church Council	Salisbury Theatre Club
Village Hall Committee	‘Look and See’ Art Group
Deverills Cricket Club	Wylve Valley Arts Trail
Deverills Players	Deverill Valley and Crockerton WI
Deverills Book and Dining Club	Cast on Club
Deverills Festival	Warminster Walkers
Bell Ringing	School of Infantry Beagles
North Dorset and Somerset Gliding Club	South and West Wiltshire Hunt
Model Flying Club	Salisbury and District Angling Club - fly fishing
Pilates Groups	Parish Plan Working Group
Deverills Raptor and Owl Group (DROG)	

### Parish Plan Working Group Members

Peter Marsh (Chairman)  
Andrea Llewellyn  
Michael Mounde  
Sarah Jeffries – administrative and much other support



Kingston Lake? – nay, a field of linseed betwixt Kingston Dairy and Bidcombe Down by Louise Stratton



H I L L D E V E R I L L  
Acres 1548.429

B R I X T O N D E V E R I L L

Acres 2186.900

D E V E R I L L

Acres 3.067

King's Hill

Kingston Deverill

Monkton Deverill

Brixton Deverill

Boar's Bottom

Whitepits

Woodcombe Farm

Tumuli

Kitchen Hill

Whitecliff Farm

Manor Farm

Manor Farm

Newport Farm

Staddle Barn

Pen Hill Barn

Field Barn

Fir Clump

Beech Clump

British Settlement

Manor Farm

Lanole Farm

Manor Farm

Smoke Alley

Worm Mill

Manor Church

Manor Church

Manor Church

Tumuli

SURVEY