

# UPPER DEVERILLS PARISH PLAN

## Have *Your* Say in a Refresh of the Plan

### Introduction

In September 2021, an Upper Deverills Parish Plan Working Group was re-established, with a representative from each village, to determine the spirit, hopes, aspirations and concerns - local and more widely - of our community so they may be duly reflected in a renewed Parish Plan for the Upper Deverills.

Historic England say "*Preparing a Parish Plan... provides a way of identifying opportunities to enhance ... the community. Indeed, the key section in your community-led plan is an action plan that sets out recommendations for actions to be taken, identifies who will take them and gives dates for completion*".

The renewed Plan will be presented to Upper Deverills Parish Council in the New Year, after which we will organise working groups to achieve the aims set out in the Plan. We intend to distinguish between longer-term aspirations (up to five years that would typically inform planning officials and other external organisations) and shorter term measures (things to achieve within one to two years) to focus action.

### Background

In 2014, a Parish Plan was produced for the Upper Deverills - the first for our villages. That Plan was the result of considerable work by a group under the chairmanship of Peter Marsh. Upper Deverills Parish Council duly welcomed and accepted the Parish Plan.

That Parish Plan had used questionnaires and meetings to establish what mattered to the residents of the Upper Deverills. The results, organised against a number of distinct themes, can be seen in the Parish Plan as published, which can be accessed at:

[www.upperdeverills.co.uk/parish-plan](http://www.upperdeverills.co.uk/parish-plan)

The responses were ranked according to the views expressed by those who responded to the survey. The top five priorities identified were, in order:

- Broadband and mobile phone reception
- Traffic, including road safety on the B3095 and the reduction of HGV traffic
- Conservation and restoration of the local environment
- Community facilities, particularly for young people
- Better public transport

On pages 3-4 you can see a summary of what has been achieved against those priorities from an assessment carried out by the Parish Council in July 2020.

## The 2022 Parish Plan

We want to measure, with your help, what you think of various matters so that we can re-set the Parish Plan accordingly. To that end, we are working to the following timeline:

- End of November: completed questionnaires (see attached) are submitted to the Working Group.
- December: a written assessment of the responses is drafted.
- January: a first draft of the new Parish Plan is published and a public consultation meeting is held for residents in the Village Hall.
- Early 2022: the Plan is considered for adoption by the Parish Council followed by the organisation of working groups who will take the proposals forward.

Given the summary of progress at pages 3-4, and particularly noting: the success of the Broadband Action Group; the Parish Council judgement that facilities for young people are no longer a pressing matter; and the willingness of the community (admirably shown during the pandemic) to support those who cannot drive, we think that the four most important residual matters from 2014 can now be summarised as:

- Mobile phone reception.
- Traffic, including road safety on the B3095 and the reduction of HGV traffic.
- Conservation and restoration of the local environment (within the Upper Deverills).
- Community facilities.

But you may think that there are priorities that have been missed and this is your chance to tell us what they are.

Since the last Parish Plan, awareness of climate change and the natural environment has grown. Wiltshire Council is, for example, carrying out work as part of its “*Our Natural Environment Plan*”<sup>1</sup>, the three goals of which Wiltshire Council calls:

- Adaptation, mitigation & resilience to climate change
- Halting the loss of & improving biodiversity
- Contributing to health & well-being

Although these were not matters explicitly addressed in the 2014 plan, we suggest that they must be in the next version and we have introduced questions to establish your views on these topics.

In the questionnaire attached we would like residents to rank these in importance and also indicate whether you think that there are any new pressing matters that the community and the Parish Council can and should *realistically* be able to deliver.

We would also be grateful if you could indicate – against the question set – whether you support or not various principles that we will use to set the context for the Parish Plan, to define outcomes to be achieved and determine how they are to be achieved.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/7018/GBI-Strategy-2021-08-Executive-Summary/pdf](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/7018/GBI-Strategy-2021-08-Executive-Summary/pdf) accessed 9 Oct 2021

## **Parish Council 2020 Assessment of Achievement against the 2014 Parish Plan**

The 2020 Parish Council assessment of what had been achieved against the 2014 Parish Plan reported as follows against the top five priorities:

### **Broadband and Mobile Phone Coverage**

Thanks to the persistence of the community's Broadband Action Group, the Upper Deverills now benefit from superfast broadband. However, no meaningful progress has been made to secure improvements in mobile phone services, despite the efforts of many.

### **Traffic**

Despite pressure applied to Wiltshire Council by the Parish Council on all these issues, limited concrete progress has been made. Some initiatives have been taken by the Parish Council: purchase of a mobile Speed Indicator Device; a successful bid for new road markings to further remind motorists of the need to reduce speed; and new signage to limit the number of HGVs using the B3095 when there are issues on the arterial routes (A350 and A303). The assessment concluded: there is limited or no opportunity to make significant permanent progress on the safety of cyclists and pedestrians using the B3095 until major improvements are made to the A303/A350 junction. Such improvements by Highways England may be in the pipeline in the 2020s.

### **Conservation and Restoration of the local Environment**

**River Wylde:** A Parish Council Community Resilience leaflet produced in 2019 included flood awareness advice; recording and sending Wiltshire Council a list of flood-risk points, and the reminding of riparian owners of their responsibilities for maintenance of banks and vegetation. (No assessment was given against the 2014 recommendation of a group to focus on the ecology of the River Wylde).

**Housing Development:** there was a strong 2014 feeling that further housing development would be detrimental to the Valley. Since then there have been a very small number of new builds (two in Kingston), conversions of redundant farm buildings (one in Monkton [planning permission given but no work to date]) and replacements of houses in a poor state of repair (one in Kingston). A number of extensions to properties have taken place.

**Village Design Statement:** the Parish Council discussed the possibility of a Design Statement covering the villages as recommended in the 2014 Plan. The Parish Council decided that such a design statement, (which would have potentially limited the range of building materials, roofing materials, building design etc) would be unworkable and that Wiltshire Council and the AONB will continue to provide the best advice on whether proposals meet appropriate design criteria.

**Rights of Way:** Access to the countryside is generally good or very good. The Parish Council has established a small team of volunteer "Rights of Way Officers" covering the valley. There continue to be some issues around access (stiles and gates) and maintenance of footpaths (*sic*) by landowners. From the farmers' perspective, there continue to be some problems with walkers not sticking to the country code.

The report did not include any assessment against *restoration* of the environment.

### **Community facilities, particularly for young people**

The village hall continued to be a key asset for the community. Despite improvements ... the building has been showing its age, is a little smaller than required and is not as comfortable as it could be for the range of activities that take place there. In 2019 the Parish

Council sponsored a survey of residents which sought opinions on facilities for children and younger people...the results were inconclusive. The over-riding response was that the community should not invest in additional facilities which would not be used by many. This suggests that whilst this was an issue identified in the 2014 parish plan as requiring action, it is not now a priority.

### **Better Public Transport**

No specific assessment was given on attempts to better public transport, but the report did note the community maintains a very strong informal support network for the more vulnerable residents. This was evident in the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, when more able residents provided services such as shopping, prescription collection etc for those unable to get out.

## **COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE:**

**You can complete this questionnaire online or on paper - but not both.**

**If you can, please complete this Questionnaire on Survey Monkey by 30 November. You can access the link on the Parish Council website:**

[www.upperdeverills.co.uk/parish-plan](http://www.upperdeverills.co.uk/parish-plan)

**If you prefer to complete a paper copy, please deliver it to one of the following houses by 30 November:**

**The Bell House, Kingston Deverill, BA12 7HE**

**Windrush House, 89a Monkton Deverill, BA12 7EX**

**Riversdale Cottage, Brixton Deverill, BA12 7EJ**

**If you prefer to submit more than one answer per household, please complete additional copies whether online or on paper, and indicate how many household members it covers.**

## UPPER DEVERILLS PARISH PLAN 2022 - QUESTIONNAIRE

Please give the name and address of a household member in the first box and in the second box indicate how many household members the response covers:



1. **Priorities:** Please rank the following matters to be addressed in the 2022 Parish Plan in order of importance to you (1 for the most important, 5 for the least important):

Subject	Order of Importance
• Mobile phone reception	
• Traffic, including road safety on the B3095 and the reduction of HGV traffic	
• Conservation and restoration of the local environment, including its ecology	
• Sustainability measures to protect the wider environment and impacts of climate change	
• Community facilities	

Please indicate whether you think there is any other existing or new matter that the Parish Plan should address and where it ranks in relation to those above.

2. **Principles:** Please indicate (by marking the relevant column) whether you agree or not with the following statements:

The new Parish Plan should:	Agree	Not sure / Unconcerned	Disagree
Seek to protect Upper Deverills according to the dark skies status of the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty			
Propose how to monitor and improve the ecological health of the River Wylde			

Propose how to monitor, protect and promote the ecological health of the countryside, including biodiversity and habitat protection			
Seek to improve mobile phone coverage within the Upper Deverills			
Press Wiltshire Council and Highways England to increase the safety of users of the B3095, including the reduction of HGV traffic			
Identify the most important community facilities, assess their condition and propose how to improve them to meet the needs of residents			
Support housing developments in your village if they involve building:			
On fields or open spaces			
To infill gaps between existing buildings			
Support commercial or business developments in your village if they involve building:			
On fields or open spaces			
To infill gaps between existing buildings			
Support planning applications that promote renewable energy			
<b>For Brixton Deverill residents only:</b>			
Propose how to secure a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan to protect and enhance the Brixton Deverill Conservation Area			
<b>For Monkton Deverill residents only:</b>			
Assess the desirability and feasibility of a Monkton Deverill Conservation Area			
<b>For Kingston Deverill residents only:</b>			
Assess the desirability and feasibility of a Kingston Deverill Conservation Area			

If you have any other comments, please make them below:

Remember: submit your responses on Survey Monkey or paper copy by 30 November 2021