

BARROW PARISH COUNCIL

**ANNUAL REVIEW
OF
BARROW PARISH PLAN**

Spring 2016

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for May 2014 to May 2015:

We have had another challenging year in Barrow Parish, particularly with planning applications. Central Government has insisted that all local authorities have a five year housing stock in place and until this level was reached normal planning policies adopted by the Parish and Shropshire Councils held little sway with decision making. Therefore the criteria we normally use to approve or object to specific applications, as laid out in the Parish Plan, were largely ineffective and during the last year applications that normally may have been refused have been allowed in order to help produce the required level of housing stock. The desired level has now been achieved so hopefully our Parish Plan policies will be applicable again.

We have also started to try and prevent heavy vehicles travelling the wrong route though the Parish; they should be travelling through Barrow rather than through Posenhall and Benthall. In addition we are trying, where possible, to limit the speeds to 30mph or lower. This is being done in conjunction with Broseley and Much Wenlock Town Councils.

In the autumn we completed our annual update of the Barrow Parish Plan; my thanks to Councillors King and Knott for their time and efforts with this task.

Following meetings, with Parish Councillors, our Shropshire Councillor, Shropshire Council Engineers and staff from Barrow 1618 C. of E. Free School, we now have traffic calming elements around Barrow, and particularly the school, to make the entrance and exit of vehicles and pedestrians, especially the children, less hazardous. I urge all drivers to approach Barrow 1618 C.of E. Free School at slow speeds; we do not want any accidents.

During last summer, with help from a number of parishioners, we installed two new benches replacing the old ones at Shirlett and at the end of Floyer Lane. Both benches have attached plaques remembering those who have lost their lives in the service of the country. These benches were purchased with a grant from the Broseley and Barrow Local Joint Committee. In addition we placed a noticeboard at Shirlett to replace the 'plank' which was used previously.

It has been an interesting last twelve months and I can only assume this next year will be varied too. I know we will all rise to any challenge that confronts us.

I will end by saying a few thanks; first to the Parishioners of Barrow who we serve and especially those of you who have attended our Parish meetings here at Willey Village Hall. Secondly to the Police who cannot attend all of our meetings, but do keep us informed. And lastly to you who sit alongside me: our Shropshire Councillor, David Turner, who does a sterling job for us at Shirehall, our Clerk Les Oakley who is invaluable for his knowledge and help, and my fellow Parish Councillors Mrs Sally Gibbons, Mrs Shirley King, Milner Whiteman

and my Vice Chair, Philip Knott. You all provide me with support and encouragement and make my position as Chair a pleasure.

Nick Downes

Chairman

14th May 2015

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Notices of all Meetings are displayed at Willey Village Hall, Shirlett Holdings, Barrow School, Floyer Lane and Brook Cottage, Bridge Road. The usual venue for all meetings is Willey Village Hall. In addition the agenda is displayed on the Parish web site.

Parish Council Meetings:

Full Council meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of alternate months commencing at 6.30 pm; those held in May are the Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting. In addition, extraordinary meetings may be held from time to time. Time is given at the start of meetings for matters to be raised by Parishioners.

Dates planned are as follows:

For 2016	14th January
	10th March
	12th May Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting
	14th July
	8th September
	10th November
For 2017	12th January
	9th March
	11th May Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting
	13th July
	14th September
	9th November

Planning Meetings:

The planning committee normally meets at 5.45pm, when necessary, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. These meetings will only take place when planning matters arise which need attention before the next full Council meeting.

THE ANNUAL REVIEW:

We are pleased to set out below the tenth Annual Review of the Barrow Parish Plan. The Parish Plan was completed and approved early in 2004.

As you will see, some progress has been made on most items. Many of the actions proposed rely on Shropshire Council funding and regular prompting is required to achieve total success.

POLICY: PUBLIC ROADS AND PAVEMENTS

Barrow Parish Council will strive to improve the maintenance of highways and pavements in the Parish, in particular where the safety of residents is concerned, by discussion with the relevant Council Officers.

Proposed Action (1): The cutting back of hedges and trees which obstruct pavements and roads.

Progress: Letters have been written to residents urging them to maintain their boundary hedges and trees to avoid inconvenience to pedestrians and road traffic.

Proposed Action (2): Officers of the West Mercha Police Authority have attended the meetings of the Parish Council and discussed the difficulties being experienced by pedestrians having to walk in the road due to vehicles obstructing and blocking pavements.

Progress: The Parish Council has received further complaints about inconsiderate parking and will continue to monitor the situation. The Police have advised the Parish Council that they will take action if a vehicle is blatantly obstructing a pavement so that it is totally blocked. For an offence to be committed, someone must be obstructed. In these circumstances the police should be contacted by dialling 101.

POLICY: STREET LIGHTING

The Parish Council will consider requests for alterations and additions to street lighting taking into account the quantity of pedestrian traffic (during lighting-up times), the proportion of such traffic that could be considered to be from vulnerable groups, the safety of the site either due to its terrain (trip hazards etc.) or if it is a high crime area, the environmental cost of the changes and the financial cost of making the changes.

When installing new lights, or replacing existing units, the Council will look for solutions which are environmentally sound in that they have low power requirements and limit light pollution.

POLICY: TRAFFIC CALMING

To work with Shropshire Council to identify places in the Parish where traffic calming measures are needed.

Under Shropshire Council policy, traffic calming measures within the parish need to have the approval of the Parish Council as well as the police, our Shropshire Council Member and the Shropshire Council Engineer before any progress can be made. We can make an application for such works in May, September and February, but in each case the decision will be made in the following April.

Proposed Action (1) Initiate discussions with neighbouring councils in order to arrange a weight limit for vehicles using Bridge Road and Benthall Bank.

Progress : Meetings have been held with representatives from Broseley Town Council and Much Wenlock Town Council to discuss the danger to pedestrians and the damage caused by large vehicles to buildings, footpaths and roads. A joint bid has been submitted to Shropshire Council to ask for funding to prevent HGV traffic in problem areas; the success or other of this will not be known until after April 2016.

Proposed Action (2) Initiate discussions with Broseley Town Council with a view to establishing a 20mph speed limit throughout the Conservation Area.

Progress : Meetings have been held with representatives from Broseley Town Council but, at present, further action will depend upon funding being available.

Proposed Action (3) During Autumn 2013 Arrange a further meeting with Shropshire Council, two members of the Parish Council and representatives from Barrow School to agree the establishment of improved road safety measures on the B.4376 at Barrow.

Progress: After some modifications to the planned changes, safety works around Barrow School were carried out during the Easter 2015 school holiday.

POLICY: WILLEY VILLAGE HALL

Barrow Parish Council will support, wherever feasible, the use and maintenance of Willey Village Hall.

Proposed Action: To continue to hold Parish Council Meetings at Willey Village Hall and consider requests for financial assistance towards its maintenance.

Progress: During the past twelve months all Parish Council meetings have been held at Willey Village Hall.

POLICY: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Barrow Parish Council will continue to maintain its opposition to the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. The provision of new houses outside the development boundary defined by Shropshire Council should be limited to those that will provide affordable local needs housing or be replacement dwellings.

Where a suitable site is identified within the development boundary the Parish Council will consider the application based on the suitability within the environment, including access to local services and the provision of public transport.

Progress: When considering planning applications at Parish Council meetings the Parish Council will always maintain this policy.

POLICY: FLY TIPPING

Barrow Parish Council will encourage all parishioners to be vigilant and to report to Shropshire Council any occurrence of fly tipping within the Parish.

by phone: 0345 6789009;

online at: www.shropshire.gov.uk/environmental-maintenance-and-enforcement/street-care-and-cleansing/fly-tipping/

or by email to: customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk .

Progress: There have been several incidents of fly-tipping in the Parish over the past year. The Parish Council would encourage all parishioners to report Instances of fly-tipping in the Parish to Shropshire Council.

POLICY: NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

Barrow Parish Council undertakes to facilitate the initiation of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in areas where there is a cluster of interested households to operate the scheme.

Proposed Action: To facilitate a meeting within 10 weeks of any request for assistance by interested groups of residents.

Progress: No requests have been received during the past year.

POLICY: COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS

Barrow Parish Council will encourage Shropshire Council to maintain all existing rights of way and will review any claims submitted for new access, or claims for the change of use of existing rights of way. Barrow Parish Council will encourage the use of rights of way by local people and visitors to the area and will liaise with appropriate organizations concerning bridleways.

Progress: There has been no improvements to the rights of way during the last twelve months.

POLICY: SITES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Barrow Parish Council will oppose the erection of commercial wind farms and any form of renewable energy activities that they consider detrimental to and intrusive in the quality of life of the residents of the Parish.

Progress: No applications have been received by the Parish Council over the past year.

POLICY: TOURISM

Barrow Parish Council will oppose the issue of licences and contest planning applications for sites for all types of camping and caravanning, chalets and mobile homes that they consider will be detrimental to and intrusive in the quality of life of parish residents.

POLICY: TRANSPARENCY

To comply with current legislation on access in order to give parishioners the tools and information that they need to participate in local affairs.

Proposed Action: The Council is in the process of creating a Parish web site.

POLICY: NOTICEBOARDS

Barrow Parish Council has three Notice Boards located at:
Floyer Lane, Benthall
Willey Village Hall
Shirlett

The use of these notice boards is predominately for the purpose of the Parish Council to meet its statutory duty to display notices and information concerning the running of the Council for the benefit of its parishioners.

The Parish Council recognises that it needs to support community groups, local organisations and local businesses who reside or operate within its boundaries and whose work and efforts may benefit parishioners and the Parish Council will therefore allow the above mentioned groups access to display suitable information, notices and promotional material that will be of benefit to them and provide useful information of benefit to parishioners.

Use of the notice boards will be monitored by Members of the Council and the Clerk and should the Clerk or Members require space on the notice boards for notices necessary to conduct the council business, they will remove such items as necessary to create sufficient space to fulfil the Parish Council's needs.

Members of the Council and the Clerk have the right to decline or remove any such notices that are deemed unsuitable for display on these notice boards and to remove notices that are out of date.

A notice advertising a fête or other event run by a political party would be acceptable but a notice promoting a political party would not be acceptable. Notices giving contact details or informing of meetings with elected representatives are permitted.

No notices may be displayed on street furniture belonging to the Parish Council.

Barrow Parish currently consists of the following Members

Nick Downes	Hem Farm, Linley Chairman 01952 882069
Sally Gibbons	Bridge Road, Benthall Councillor 01952 883732
Shirley King	Bridge Road, Benthall Councillor 01952 882725
Philip Knott	Benthall Lane, Benthall Vice chairman 01952 882462
Les Oakley	Church Road, Trench Parish Clerk 01952 612294 barrowpc@gmail.com
Milner Whiteman OBE	Arlescott Farm Cottage, Barrow Councillor 01952 727340

Written or electronic copies of this review can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.
It can also be found on the Parish web site.

Barrow Parish Council
Spring 2016

www.barrowparish.org.uk

