

Parish Plan for the Parishes of Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long Parish Council



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1. Executive Summary

In early 2008 the combined Parish Council of Easthope, Shipton & Stanton Long (which also incorporates the rural village of Brockton) were presented with an opportunity to partake in an initiative to produce a Parish Plan for the community. Funding was made available from the Shropshire Rural Community Council and, with their support and guidance, a consultation process and review was undertaken seeking to establish the views of the wider community and to bring those views together to formulate a cohesive and inclusive Parish Plan for the combined Parish.

The consultation process highlighted a number of issues and concerns of residents and ideas and options were explored to address these concerns. Summaries of the findings and results give rise to an overall action plan providing a framework and way forward that attempts to meet the aspirations of the community as a whole and is detailed in the following pages.

We would like to thank the residents of the Parish who took time to present their views and the members of the Parish Council and its Clerk for their work involved in this process. Further thanks should be extended for the support given by Shropshire Rural Community Council and Bridgnorth District Council

2. The Background to the Parish Plan

In 2001 the Countryside Agency set up an initiative called the “Vital Villages Programme”, the thinking behind this programme is summarised in the Agency’s introduction to the programme:-

“Villages form the backbone of rural England. One tenth of the population live in villages. Whilst outwardly they may look affluent, many residents have difficulty accessing services, jobs, housing and transport. Villages need to evolve to overcome such hidden deprivation. Our Strategy suggests that enabling rural communities to shape their own futures and to find solutions to problems, especially through more effective local governance at the parish level in which everyone can participate is an important way forward.”

The programme’s strategy states that:

Rural communities:

- *should be enabled to get a grip of their futures and to plan for and meet their own needs, where possible*
- *should have reasonable access to local services and facilities*
- *should look at issues in the round seeking to integrate environmental, social and economic interest*
- *should have the opportunity to develop and grow, to provide jobs and homes to meet local needs*
- *should be able to pool and share knowledge, skills and experience and join with other communities*
- *should have active and participative local governance serving all members of the community.*

Parish Plans are one of the policy cornerstones to help empower those rural communities.

Parish Plans can provide:

- A way to influence decisions by other authorities
- A basis for action by people in the Parish
- A route to winning funds for local initiatives

3. Introduction

The Communities of Brockton Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long are situated in the Corvedale and along Wenlock Edge in South Shropshire.

There are three churches in the communities in Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long. A village hall in Shipton serves all the communities. A preschool group meets regularly in the village hall. Brockton WI also uses the hall for its meetings. A thriving primary school is situated in Brockton. The school's catchment area covers the three parishes. Children from outside the catchment area also travel to the school for a traditional village school education. There is also a village pub in Brockton The Feathers. The area has several farms both livestock and arable. There is very little industry. There is no shop or post office in the area.

Approx how large is the combined Parish (sq miles)?

How many households?

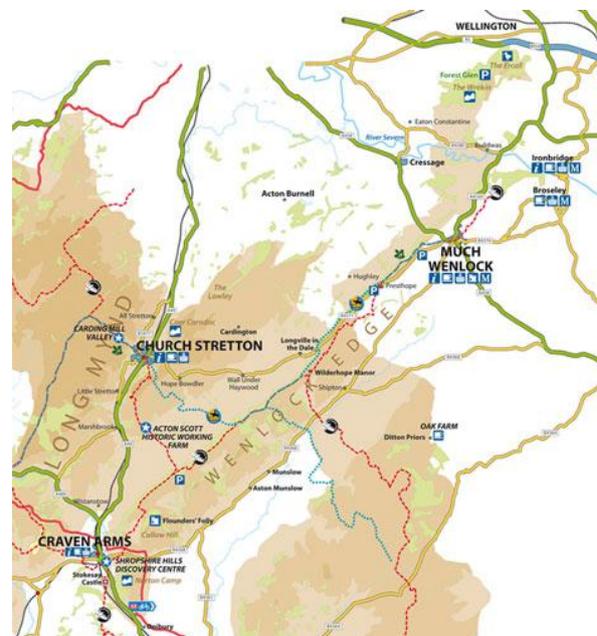
How many residents?

When were Parishes combines?

Historical buildings?

Situation of Parish relative to its neighbouring towns and cities?

Comment on situational aspect relative to Area of Outstanding natural Beauty ?



5. The Process

In Spring 2008 Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long Parish Council was given the opportunity to produce a Parish Plan for the community. With the help of The Shropshire Rural Community Council.

A grant of £2000 was obtained and the Parish Council used £150 of its budget. Councillors liaised with The Community Regeneration Officer at the Community Council and a detailed questionnaire was produced which sought to canvas the views of people on a wide range of issues and ideas, and asked them demonstrate the level of importance they attached to those issues.

The structure of the questionnaire was guided by the experience of the Shropshire Rural Community Council's officer and drew on issues raised by other similar Parishes supplemented by ideas and issues raised by the Parish Council. There was also space for respondents to insert comments and raise issues of their own.



The questionnaire was sent out to every household in the three Parishes. The response was outstanding.

The community's answers to the questionnaire and their comments were collated and analysed and, due to the exceptionally high response, it was concluded that statistically the results gave a representative summary of the views of community as a whole.

Having established the issues that people felt were important, the Parish Council and the Shropshire Rural Community Council came up with a number of ways in which different things could be addressed (the possible solutions)

An open day was held in the village hall at Shipton at which the results of the survey and possible options for the future were presented. Residents were able to comment on the findings of the survey and vote on their preferred solutions and offer other solutions of their own. A further opportunity was given to residents to view and comment on the survey's findings at the Brockton School fete when a stall was shared with West Mercia Police's local policing team.

The voting and any additional comments arising from the presentation of results were discussed with The Parish Council, Shropshire County Council and Bridgnorth District Council and an Action Plan was then written.

The following three sections detail the results from the questionnaire, how those results were analysed (the main findings) and details the Action Plan arising from the whole process.

The Parish Council will drive the plan forward liaising with other authorities and keeping the community informed through its regular article in the local Parish magazine which is delivered to all households (The Wenlock Herald).

The Parish Plan will also help the Parish Council with its work in the community and serve as evidence to other agencies what the residents of the community want for their area. It helps to form a 'Vision' for the future.

6. Summary of Results

7. The Main Findings

8. Action Plan

9. Acknowledgements

Easthope Shipton and Stanton Long Parish Council would like to thank

The community Council of Shropshire,

Residents who contributed and attended the open day.

(whoever gave the grant)

10. Contacts Parish Councillors: Mr Graham Goodman Hill Top Farm Easthope Much Wenlock 01746 785250.

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11. Glossary

12. Appendix