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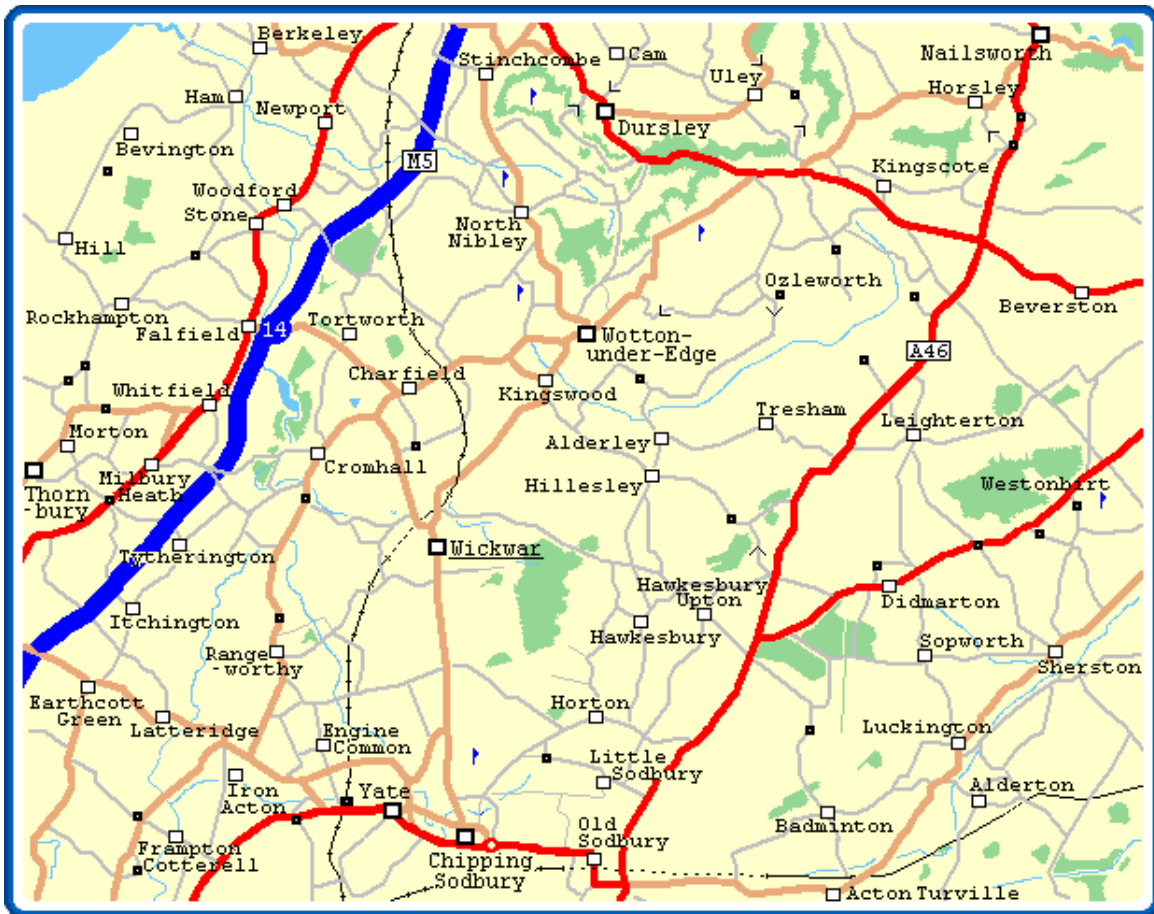
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1 Village Profile

1.1 Location

Wickwar is a village on the northern boundary of South Gloucestershire. It is equidistant from the 2 markets towns of Wotton-under-Edge in Gloucestershire and Chipping Sodbury in South Gloucestershire. The original part of the village is essentially linear in character, reflecting the typical characteristics of a medieval town with a main road through the village, narrow frontages and long burgage plots to the rear served by back access lanes.

Historically Wickwar was a thriving market town, but decreased in size and importance as surrounding towns expanded. Since 1978 there has been considerable new housing development on the eastern edge of the village facing out towards the Cotswold ridge. These developments have brought new families to the village. Wickwar affords individuals the opportunity to enjoy rural village life while being sufficiently close to Bristol, Bath, and Gloucester to allow relatively easy commuting for those in paid employment. As a result the character of the village has changed quite dramatically in recent years.



1.2 History of Wickwar

Wichen or Wyken, simply meaning a settlement (later shortened to Wick), originated in the Saxon period, though there are Roman remains in the area. In the Domesday Book it contained about 30 families and was worth £12 – a prosperous village for the time. The settlement would have been to the north of the church, which is now on the very edge of the village. The present geography is explained by the fact that in 1285 Roger de la Warre, whose ancestor, John, had been granted the manor in 1185, obtained a charter for a market from Edward I and created a new planned settlement, now the High Street, which became known as Wickwar. The earlier village, apart from the church, disappeared. Until 1883 Wickwar was legally a borough with a Mayor and Aldermen, although the population was never more than about 1,000 until the late 20th century; the mace of 1709 is still preserved. The existence of Wotton-under-Edge four miles to the north, and Chipping Sodbury four miles to the south, probably explains why Wickwar never developed into a sizeable town.



High Street

The old part of the village was designated a Conservation Area in 1973 and contains 67 listed buildings. Although parts of some houses in the High Street date back as far as the 15th century, the street's appearance today is predominantly 18th century, since many dwellings were “modernised” in that period with sash windows and, in some cases, classical doorframes. The traditional lime rendering has been removed from many houses in recent times to expose the attractive (and extremely hard)

local stone. The properties are on typical long medieval burgage or half-burgage plots, though some have been sub-divided with houses at the other end. To the east, the original boundary of Back Lane still survives.

Wickwar had a weekly market on Mondays, and fairs on 6th April, 2nd July and the first Monday in November. There was probably a market building of some kind in the middle of the High Street, replaced with the increase of road traffic in the late 18th century by the present Town Hall of 1795. This had an open market area and the village lock-up on the ground floor, with a meeting-room upstairs which is still used for the parish council and other meetings. The clock, which strikes a bell in the turret hourly, is said to be the oldest town hall clock in Britain, and may have been in the previous building: in 1676 the Mayor was ordered to wind the clock, and it is still wound daily.



Back Lane

The parish church of Holy Trinity stands on high ground on the northern edge of the village, reached by a raised footpath called the Stank (meaning dam – there were fish ponds here until the 19th century). The present handsome building, with a prominent tower, dates from around 1300 with additions and alterations in the 14th



Holy Trinity Church

and 15th centuries; a major restoration in 1881 has left its mark. There is an early 14th century statue of St. John the Baptist on the north side, and inside are a Jacobean pulpit, a magnificent brass chandelier of 1728, the Chapel of the medieval Guild of the Weavers and Dyers of Wickwar, and the Gunston memorial window depicting the history of the village, given in 1977 by Sir Derrick and Lady Gunston in memory of their son John, killed in World War Two.

Until the 18th century, Wickwar prospered through the woollen industry; John Leland's "Itinerary" in the 1530's called it "a pretty clothing townlet". One reminder of this is the Alexander Hosea Primary School. Hosea (pronounced "Hosay") was an apprentice in the 17th century who went to London and became a prosperous merchant: the story is that he ran away after dropping the dish of whitepot his master had sent him to fetch from the cook-shop. At the end of his life he endowed a school in his birthplace, and the original building of 1684 still stands at the north end of the High Street.

In 1991 the school moved to new premises, which have been twice extended; it now has about 280 pupils, and the hall and community room are well used by village organisations. In the late 19th century the village had several schools, of which the National Girls' School of 1860 is now the Village Hall and the Board School of 1878 is the Youth Centre.

With the decline of hand spinning and weaving, Wickwar suffered a period of decline in the 18th century, although the manufacture of clay pipes seems to have prospered at this time: one maker, the appropriately-named Obadiah Ash, was Mayor five times between 1714 and 1723. From 1800, malting and brewing developed, mainly thanks to the Arnold family who owned two breweries, John Arnold & Sons in the High Street and Arnold Perrett in Station Road. The malthouse behind the High Street is now part of the premises of Wilcox's Garage; the Arnold Perrett buildings became a cider factory for part of the 20th century and now house the Heritage Wine depository and the Wickwar Brewery set up in 1990, which brews real ales and is a flourishing business. English Country Pottery now occupies the cider-bottling building.



High Street & Wilcox's Garage

Perhaps it is not surprising that in the 19th century Wickwar had a reputation for drunkenness; there were at least nine public houses, of which only the Buthay (formerly the New Inn) survives – the actual buthay, where archery was practised, is off the High Street and has been greatly encroached upon by houses and garages. The Beaufort Arms is now the Social Club. On the other hand, in a village of fewer than 1,000 people there were, in addition to the parish church, three nonconformist chapels. The Wesleyan one closed in 1870 and is now only remembered as Chapel

House; the Baptist Chapel of 1865, in the Buthay, is now a private dwelling; but the Congregational Chapel, built in 1817 with attractive buildings in the High Street, is still very active.

In the late 18th century a turnpike road was set up passing through Wickwar. Tollgate Cottage still exists at the south end of the village, and the White Horse gate at the north end is remembered in the modern road, Turnpike Gate. The railway arrived with the opening of the station on Brunel's Bristol – Gloucester main line in 1844. This had a big impact, not least with the building of Wickwar tunnel, which cost ten lives and led to the draining of the lake near the church and later to the demolition of Pool House, the Tudor house belonging to the lord of the manor. Several ventilation shafts mark the line of the tunnel. The station closed in 1964 as part of Dr. Beeching's "axe" and unfortunately was totally demolished. There was a Station Hotel nearby which is now a private dwelling.

The manor passed from the de la Warres to the Ducie family in the 17th century, and the present Earl, who was born and brought up in Australia, lives locally, though not in the massive Victorian mansion of Tortworth Court built by his ancestor, which is now a hotel. In 1864 the then Earl built a large new rectory near the church, his sister having married the Rector, and this is one of the most notable houses in the village – though no longer lived in by the Rector!

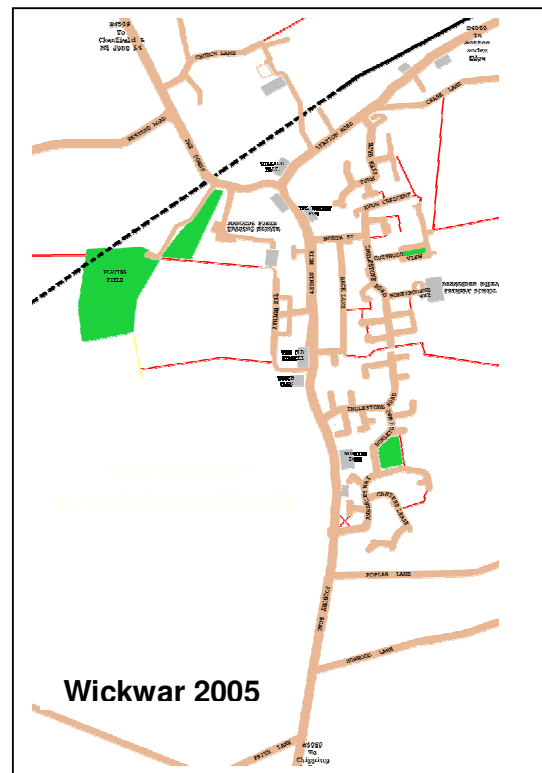
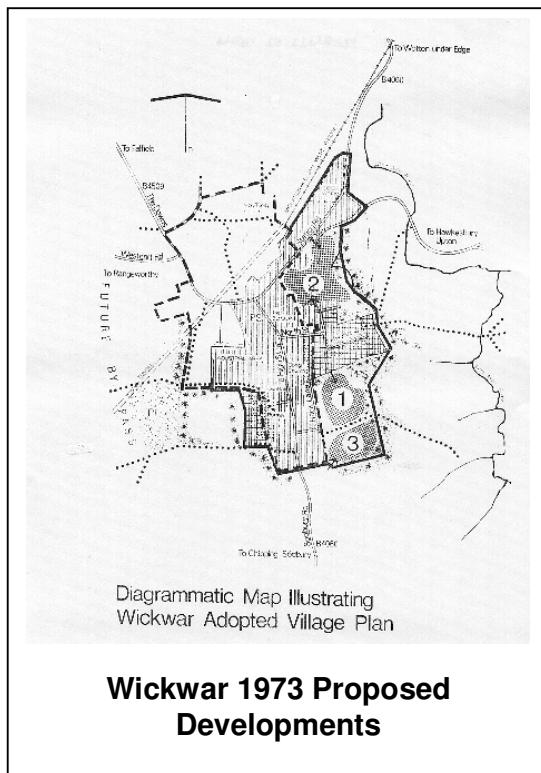
Another important house is the Queen Anne period Hill House, where the brewer John Arnold lived in the 19th century and Sally, Duchess of Westminster from 1968 until her death in 1990. The inappropriately named Castle Farm House at the south end of Wickwar is an imposing 18th and 19th century building, which is now a residential home for the elderly.

The Arnold Perrett Brewery was early in utilising electric power from a hydroelectric generator, and the excess capacity was used to provide lighting to the High Street in 1888, making Wickwar one of the first places in the country to have electric street lighting. The original poles remained in use until they were removed in 1999 and the cables put underground, ending a link with the past but improving the appearance of the street.



Wickwar Town Hall

1.3 New developments in Wickwar since 1978



1

In 1973 Wickwar was designated as a Conservation Area, being of 'Special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.'² This area comprises the High Street, the area to the north around the Parish Church and the open land to the west.

Since 1978, there have been several new housing developments all to the east of the High Street, out of the conservation area. Between 1979 and 1989 63 houses were built in Back Lane, now Inglestone Road North; from 1986 to 1989 88 houses were built on Castle Farm, now Inglestone Road South; from 1989 to 1991 75 houses were built at Southfields, now Amberley Way. Between 1989 and 1993 56 houses were built south of Station Road at what is now Turnpike Gate, 22 houses were built in Cotswold View in 1995.³

¹ Taken from website: www.wickwar.org

² Leaflet: 'Wickwar Conservation Area', South Gloucestershire Council, January 2000

³ Figures from South Gloucestershire County Council.

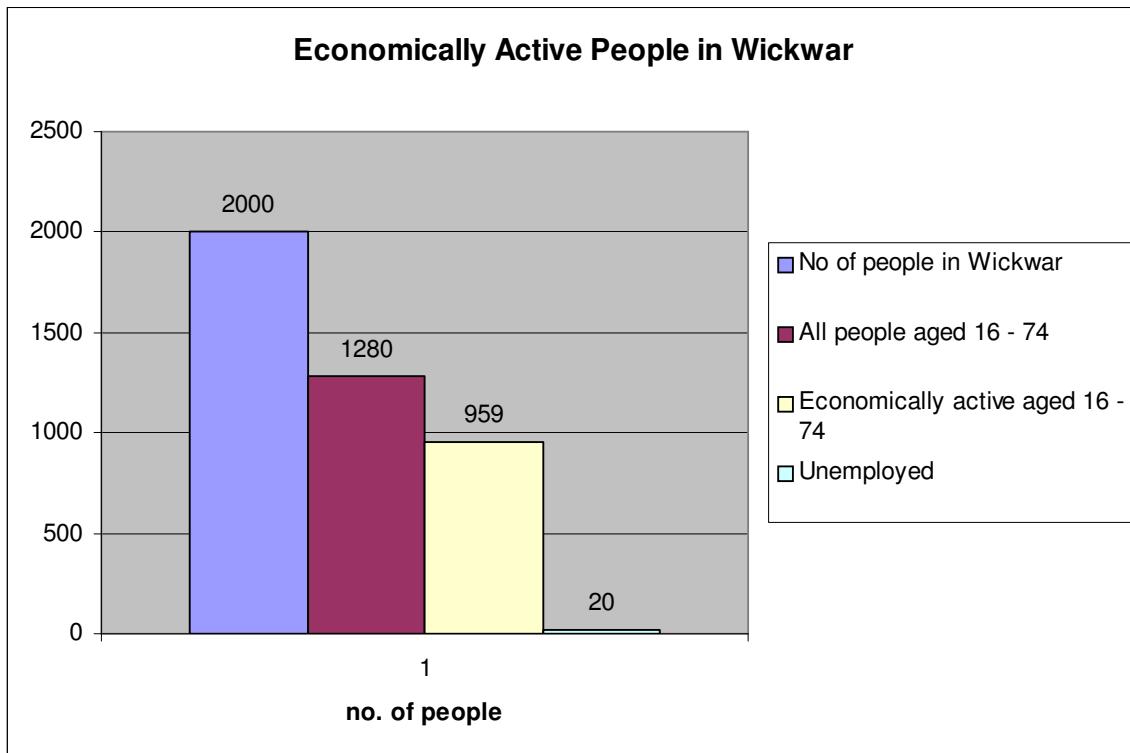
1.4 Demographics

(Figures shown below are not the full results of the 2001 census; they reflect the issues highlighted during the work of the Parish Plan Steering Group.)

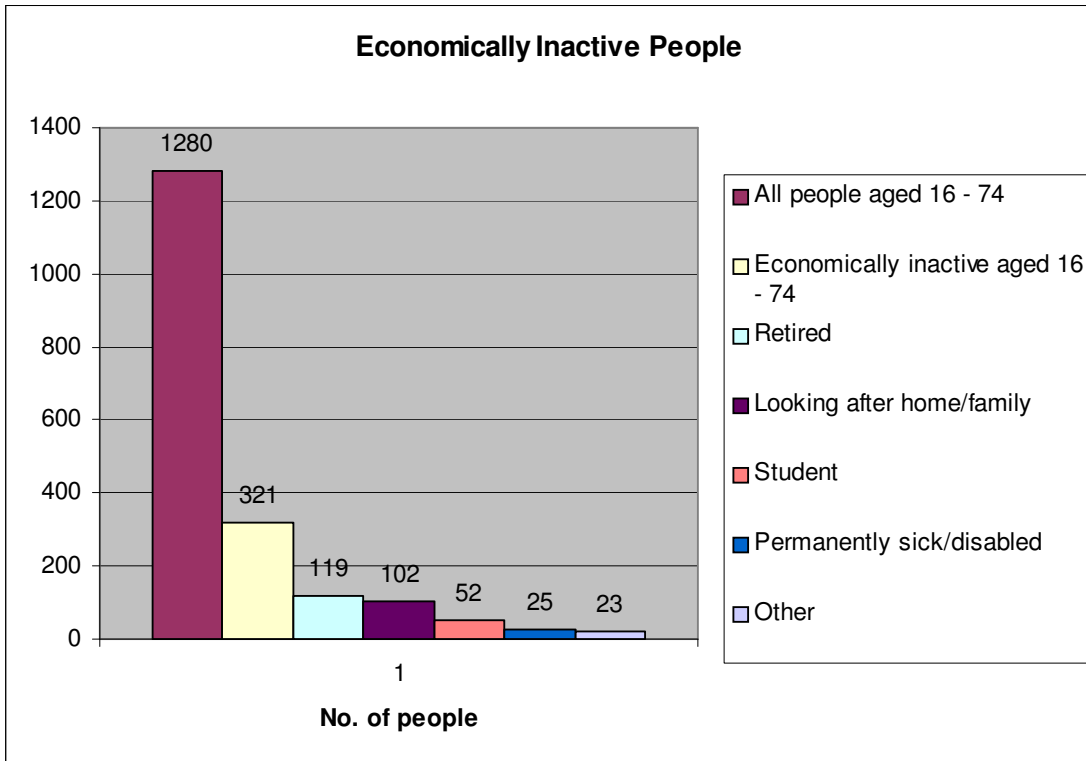
In 2005 the population of Wickwar stands at just over 2000. The 2001 Census Parish Profile⁴ shows that there were 1943 inhabitants, approximately 50% male and 50% female. Only 1% of the population is from a black or minority ethnic group. 75% of people stated that they are Christian.

97% of people live in households, whilst the remaining 3% live in communal establishments. Over 82% of households in Wickwar have dependent children. Nearly 80% of housing in the village is owner occupied, either owned outright or with a mortgage or loan. The remaining housing is rented, the majority from Local Authority and the rest from a Housing Association or private landlord. 60% of the houses are detached properties, just over 23% are semi detached and 14% are terraced. Just over 3% of housing is in flats, shared property, caravan or temporary property.

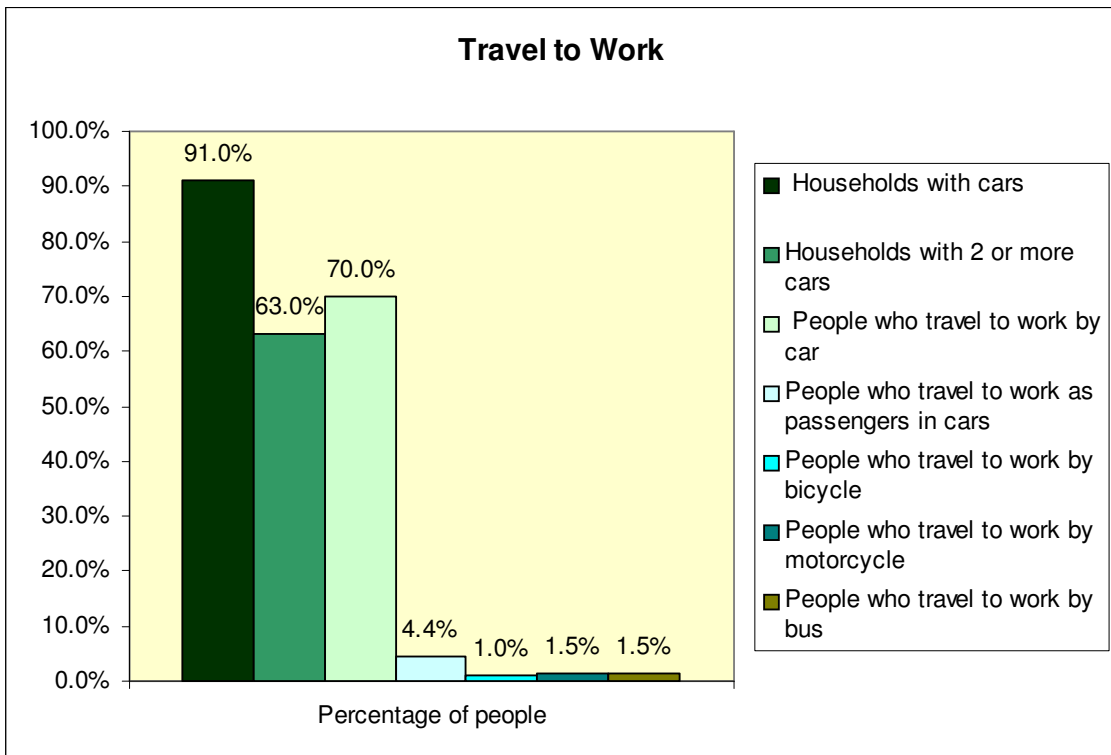
The following 2 charts illustrate economic activity in Wickwar:



⁴ Analysed by Strategy & Information Team, Planning, Transport & Strategic Environment, South Glos. Council.



The majority of those in active employment travel to work by car as can be seen from this chart.



1.5 Industries & Economic Activities

There are two light industrial estates in the village, which provide employment in engineering and machining, ceramics, brewing and distribution. Arnold's Field Trading Estate is home to The Alderley Group, Wilcox's Garage Accident Repair Centre, Majorlift Ltd and Cotswold Engineering, whilst the Station Road Industrial Estate houses The Wickwar Brewing Co., Heritage Wines, English Country Pottery, Shear Pride Conservatories, and Brine's Garage. There are also the Timber Yard, Avon Vending Supplies, Law Dennis Engineering and The Stables Bed & Breakfast. Wickwar is surrounded by working farms, and is also home to several other individual businesses and service providers.



**Arnold's Field
Trading Estate**

1.6 Services & Facilities

The village has a number of services and facilities including:

Holy Trinity Church	Congregational Chapel
The Buthay Public House, B & B	The Social Club
Wickwar Tea Rooms	Hairdressers
Post Office/Spar Grocery Shop	Newsagents
Antique Shop	Petrol Station
Primary School	Town Hall
Community Rooms (in Primary School)	Village Hall
King George V Playing Fields with Pavilion	The Stables B&B
Nursing/Residential Homes	
Weekly doctor's surgery in Avon Crescent	Warden's House.

Secondary age children attend school in either Wotton – under – Edge, Chipping Sodbury or Yate. Likewise parishioners use the health services in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire.

1.7 Clubs & Organisations

There are thriving clubs and organisations, including the following:

Youth Club	Toddlers' Group
Pre-school Group	Out of School Club
Rainbows	Parent Teacher Association
Cricket Club	Football Club
Women's Circle	Friendship Club
Friends of Holy Trinity Church	The Tuesday Group
Gardening Club	Neighbourhood Watch
Children's Entertainment Committee	Community Speedwatch

2 The Parish Plan: Aims and Objectives

2.1 What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is two things: -

- It is a statement of issues of concern to the community, and
- It is an action plan for how those issues can be addressed.

2.2 How the Parish Plan got started

A number of consultations took place in January and February 2004 through which the Parish Council publicised the idea of the Parish Plan and asked villagers whether they supported the idea of developing a plan. It was clear that there was support for the idea and a number of people expressed their interest in being involved.

The first meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group took place on 6th April 2004. Members of the group were:

Sue Aldous	Sarah Berry	Jane Burton
Ian Dale	Phil Gearing	Hilary Kingswood
Rosemary Pearce	Philip Revill	Sue Roberts
David Russell	David Tomlinson	Selma Wheatcroft

(Sue Aldous, Phil Gearing and Selma Wheatcroft subsequently left the group at later dates owing to other commitments.)

2.3 Desired Outcomes

The Steering Group agreed that it wanted to achieve the following outcomes:

- Identify what could be done to make Wickwar a better place in which to live. The Plan would need to have a longer term outlook – over a 10 year period but should also focus on things that could be done in the short and medium term.
- The plan should be a living document. There should be a longer document detailing the plan that will be the ‘official version’ for the records and for use by the Parish Council and other authorities but the summary action plan should be as accessible as possible to parishioners and something that can be updated on a regular basis once the initial work has been completed.

3 The Consultation Process

3.1 The Process

The Steering Group estimated that the process was likely to take between 12 and 18 months. The following decisions were taken at the outset regarding the process for developing the plan:

- An initial short survey would be distributed to and collected from all households. This would essentially ask people to identify what they liked best and what they liked least about living in Wickwar. As many people as possible within households would be encouraged to complete the survey.
- Meetings would also be held with all of the various social, sporting, business and self-help groups that exist or operate in the village to gain their perspectives.
- The Steering Group would oversee the analysis and collation of the information collected through the survey and meetings and should then suggest areas for focus, priorities and options for action etc.
- An interim report would be prepared and distributed to all households and groups summarising the results of the consultation exercise so far and outlining the proposed areas for action.
- Open meetings would be held to get feedback from individual parishioners and groups on the proposed areas for action.
- The plan would be drafted to reflect the outcomes of consultations. It would include a summary of the consultation and the draft action plan for discussion with Parish Council and other authorities
- The plan would be finalised taking into consideration above discussions.

The Steering Group also agreed that:

- Regular and widespread communication within the village about the development of the plan would be necessary to maintain interest in the process and to keep people involved
- It should use both existing communications channels (e.g. notice boards and the Parish News) as well as developing its own communications materials.
- It would be desirable to have an 'identity' for the communication materials – i.e. some form of letterhead or coloured paper that would make it easily recognisable to people.
- Wherever possible other events taking place in the village should be used as opportunities to publicise the plan and to seek ideas from other people.

3.2 Funding

The Steering Group devised a proposed budget for the above activities and sought funding from Wickwar Parish Council and from the Vital Villages Programme administered by the Countryside Agency.

The Parish Council gave £1312 and the Countryside Agency granted £4652.80.

3.3 The Initial Survey

In the first two weeks of June 2004, the first newsletter was delivered to every household and business in Wickwar. This explained what the aims of the Parish Plan were and what the process would be. It also introduced the members of the Steering group so that villagers knew who were their points of contact. At the same time the initial survey was distributed – enough copies for every member of each household over the age of 5. Residents were asked to identify their age group and sex and were asked to say what they liked best about Wickwar and what 3 things they would most like to see improve in the village. They were also asked to identify which areas best described what they were writing about, eg Transport or Facilities. Members of the steering group and other volunteers, called to collect the forms at the end of June or residents were able to post forms at the houses of Steering Group members.

Posters were placed throughout the village and on 18th June 2004 the local Gazette ran an article about the village plan.

Members of the Steering Group analysed the surveys and the results were produced as spreadsheets. (See Section 3.4) These results were then included as bar charts in the second newsletter distributed to the village in September 2004, and are shown below. Villagers were also informed about the next stage of the process, which included specifically seeking the views of local businesses and organisations. The Steering Group felt that it was very important to show all of those who had filled in the survey that their responses were taken seriously and that all forms were read and recorded.

3.4 Contacts with local businesses and organisations

A survey was also sent to all of the businesses operating in Wickwar for distribution amongst their employees. This survey focused more on what people liked or did not like about working in Wickwar. Business owners and managers were invited to one of two sessions on September 28th to discuss the Parish Plan with the Steering Group. Attendance was disappointing but those who did attend were very interested in the plan and provided good feedback.

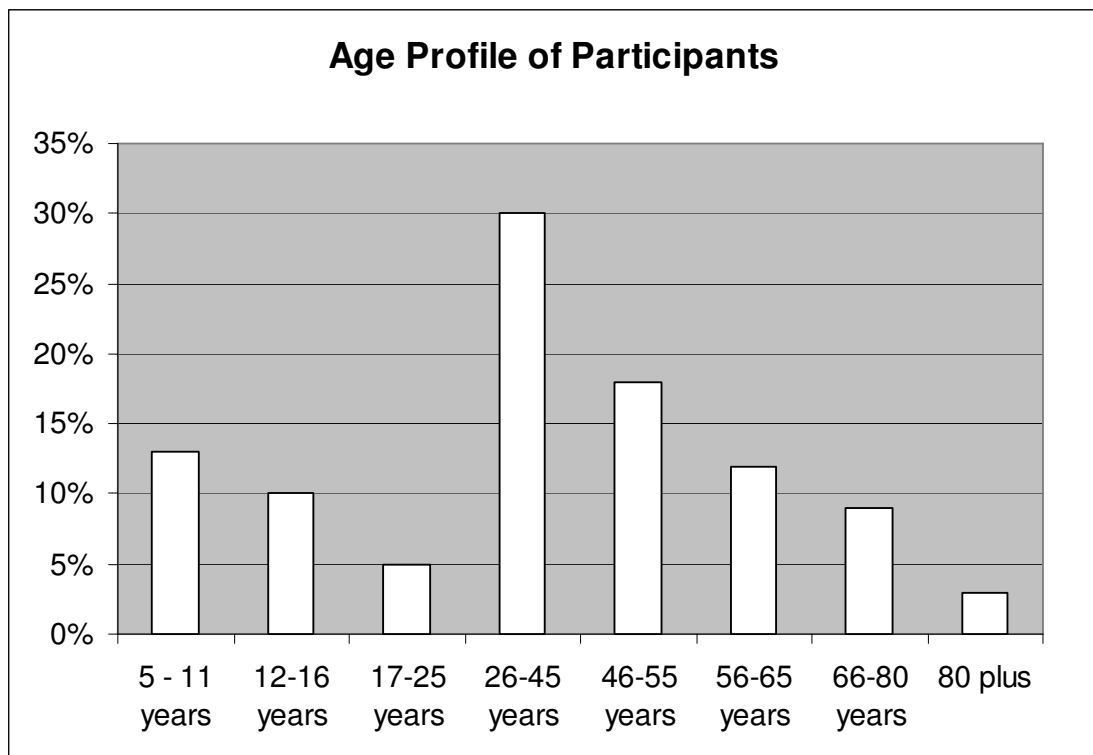
Community organisations were invited to a meeting on 25th October 2004. There was excellent representation from the majority of the clubs and societies in the Village. Each club had the opportunity to talk about what its purpose and activities were and to suggest things that could happen as part of the Village Plan that would improve Wickwar as a place to operate from their perspective. The main points that came out of this meeting were:

- The need for more sport, recreation and leisure facilities
- The need for better communication within the village
- The desirability of clubs and societies doing things together from time to time to meet mutually beneficial objectives.

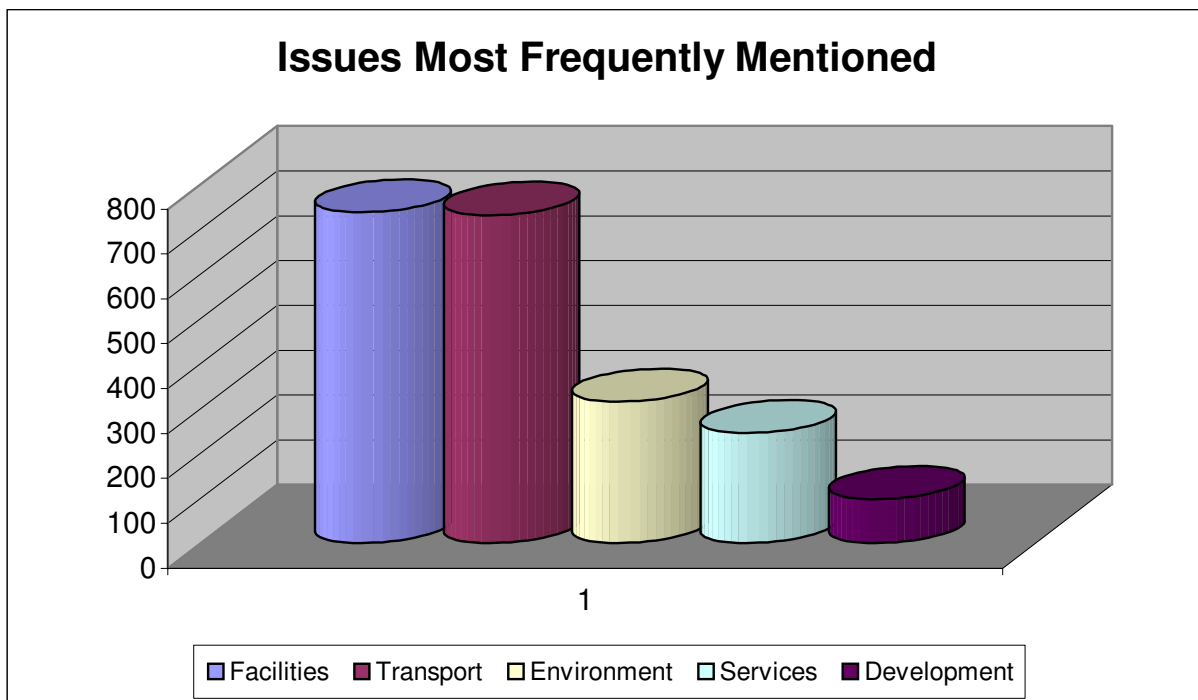
Throughout the consultation process the head teacher of Alexander Hosea School was very keen that the children should be involved and informed. Members of the Steering Group spoke to children at the school during Assembly on 2 occasions and regular liaison was facilitated by the fact that a member of the Parish Plan Steering Group was also a School Governor.

3.5 The results of the Initial Survey as presented in the second newsletter

In total there were over 700 responses – 55% female and 45% male. The age profile of the people who participated is shown here.



The most frequently mentioned issues were as follows:



People also had many positive comments:

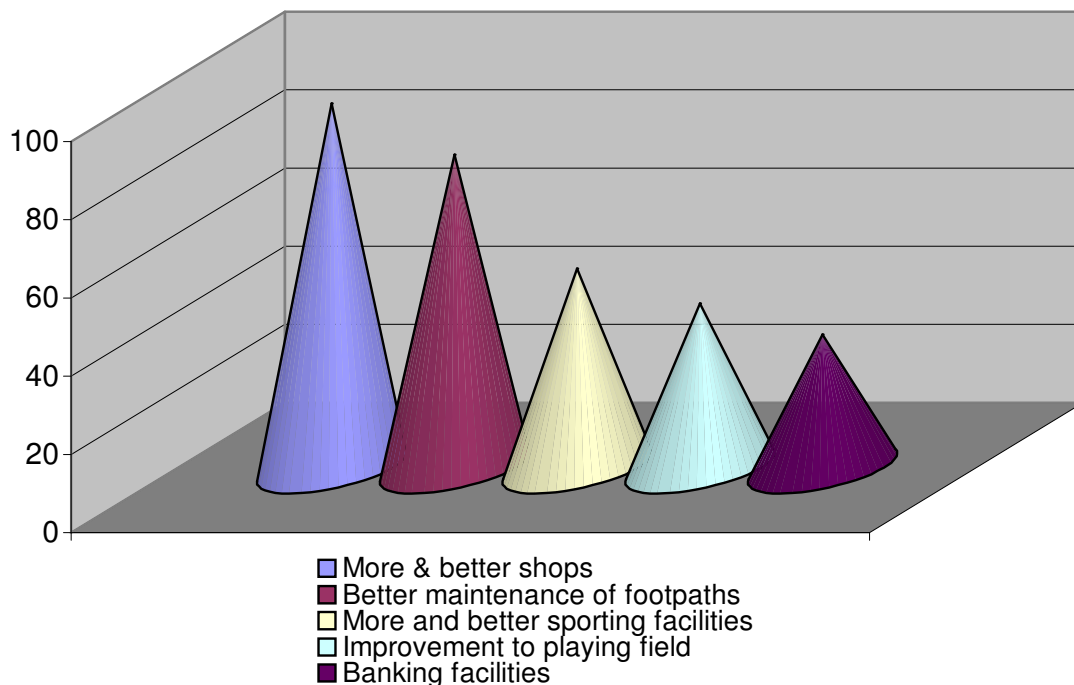
WHAT YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN WICKWAR

- ✓ Quiet Rural Setting
- ✓ Close to good transport and communication links
- ✓ Close to good facilities
- ✓ Current size of the village
- ✓ Good schools in the area

The summary of the ideas received are shown below:

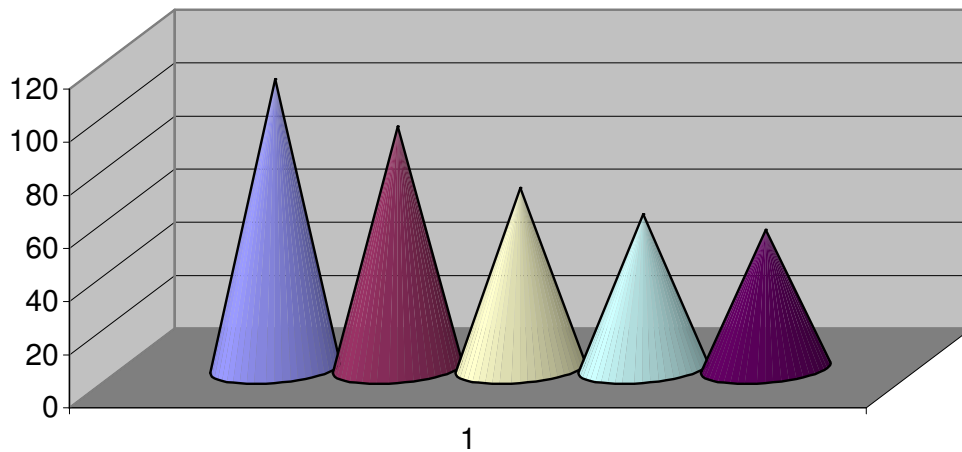
VILLAGE FACILITIES Categories of ideas put forward:	
IDEAS	No
Shopping & banking	177
Sports	165
Clubs & entertainment	152
Leisure	137
Parks	67
Surgery	39

Facilities - Top 5 Ideas



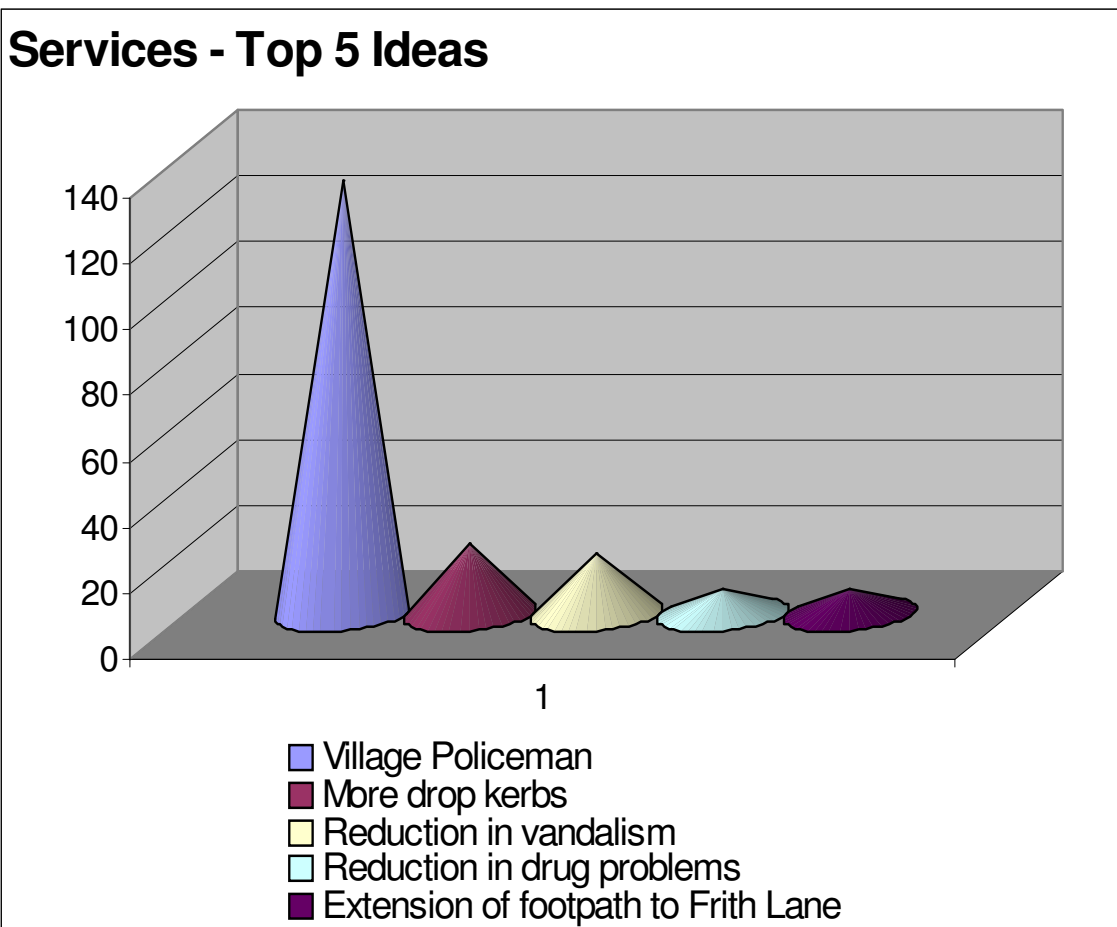
TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC Categories of ideas put forward:	
IDEAS	No
Public transport	172
Traffic calming	158
Cycling issues	117
Parking	101
Pedestrian & other safety	94
Reduced traffic	87
Other	2

Traffic & Transport - Top 5 Ideas



- More, better & safer cycle routes
- More regular & diverse bus service
- Pedestrian crossing in High Street
- Better traffic control in village
- Bypass

SERVICES	
Categories of ideas put forward:	
IDEAS	No
Crime prevention	167
Public/civic amenities	48
Active community involvement	48
Other services	4

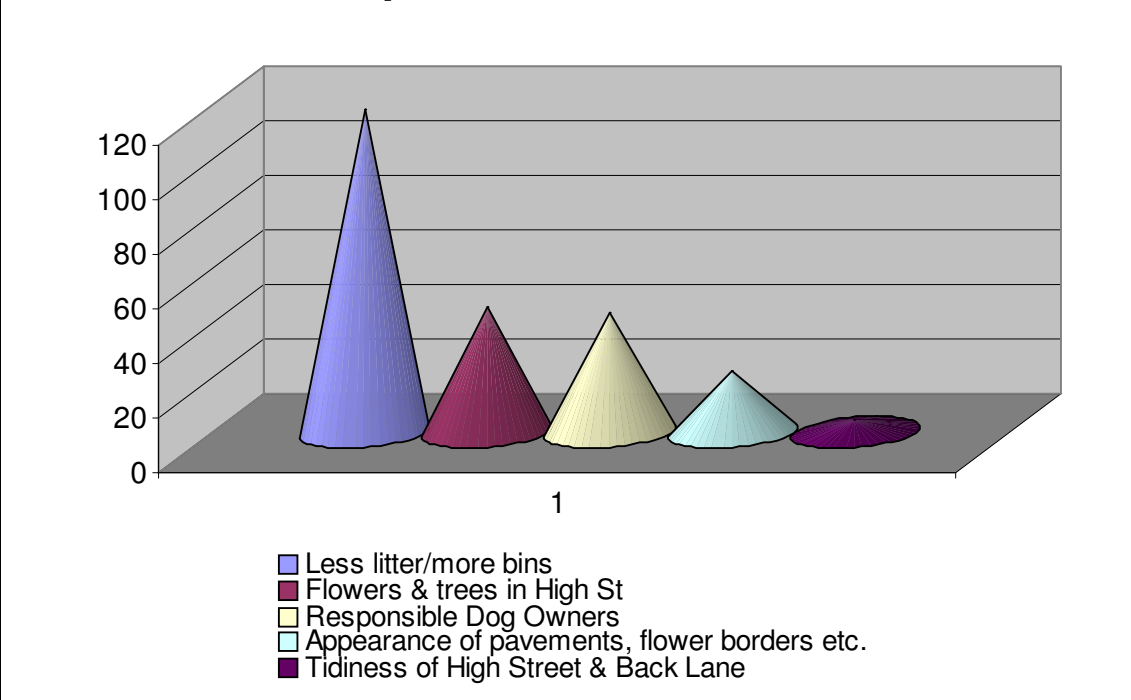


ENVIRONMENT

Categories of ideas put forward:

IDEAS	No
Individual responsibility & respect for others	191
Landscaping issues	108
Noise, smoke & smells	16

Environment - Top 5 Ideas



DEVELOPMENT

The one single idea that came through as a majority view on the issue of development was that the village should be maintained at its current size. Out of the 98 ideas submitted, 79 of them supported this view.

3.6 The second survey

The results of the first survey were collated into 250 specific ideas. It was suggested by one of the volunteers at the Steering Group meeting of 11th October 2004, that villagers should have the opportunity to see and comment on all 250 ideas. It was suggested that the document should be made accessible to everyone, by making copies available in the local shops, pub and tearooms; also it could be emailed to people on request.

An A5 flyer was composed, to be delivered with the Parish News at the end of October explaining where to pick up a copy of the document. A member of the Steering Group also volunteered to check with the shops and pub whether they would be willing to have a supply of the document of 250 suggestions in their premises for collection by villagers.

The deadline for return of the leaflet was 27th November. The Rector, also a member of the Steering Group, offered the Church Christmas Fair, in the Village Hall on the 27th November as a venue to have a stall to hand out and receive responses.

The results of the survey were collated and analysed by a sub-group of the Steering Group. Five main areas for action emerged – Facilities, Environment, Services, Development and Transport. The committee worked in pairs on the analysis of the data from each of these areas. Members were also asked for their ideas on how these ideas could be put into action. The results of the survey on each of the areas are shown below:

Village Development Idea or Suggestion	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Keep village at present size	42	20	11	3	1	77
More affordable housing	13	33	26	4	3	79
More houses	1	4	21	16	30	72
Encourage leisure businesses to come to village	7	15	27	13	9	71
Encourage more small businesses in the village	10	33	20	4	5	72
More young people - Fewer old people	3	3	30	16	17	69
Let it grow so facilities grow	3	12	21	18	21	75
New smaller development for younger people in keeping with architecture	4	20	28	10	8	70
Reduce planning approvals for extensions in gardens & burgage plots	11	13	30	14	8	76
Sympathetic industry	8	24	26	5	5	68

Village Environment	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Idea or suggestion						
Responsibility and Respect						
Less litter/More bins	31	35	12	2	2	82
Responsible dog owners	40	27	15	0	0	82
More dog bins	17	29	30	3	2	81
Respect/consideration from young people/supervision by parents	32	23	16	4	0	75
Dog owners to prevent dogs fouling people's gardens	46	22	12	0	0	80
Educate children to respect other people's property	38	30	9	1	0	78
Responsibility and Respect	204	166	94	10	4	478
Landscape issues						
More flowers & trees on High St	25	19	21	6	3	74
Appearance, Pavements, flower borders, telegraph wires	17	29	23	0	3	72
Tidy the High St & Back Lane	22	30	23	0	1	76
More areas for flowers & wildlife	16	29	24	2	3	74
Improve area round Buthay, access, surface, garages	17	24	33	5	0	79
Maintenance of frontages by residents	14	27	26	1	1	69
Care of Youth Club area	25	36	11	1	0	73
More trees on The Green	9	21	38	7	3	78
Better Xmas lights	12	18	33	8	6	77
More care of open spaces	16	33	25	2	1	77
Improvement of appearance some buildings on the High St	29	40	53	5	1	128
Prevent drainage flooding during heavy rain	23	36	18	0	0	77
Remove telephone wires in Back Lane	5	14	55	6	2	82
Better maintenance of hedges & verges adjacent to pavements	15	42	18	3	0	78
Landscape issues	245	398	401	46	24	1114
Idea or suggestion	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Noise, Smoke and Smells						
No bonfires in village	14	6	27	23	9	79
Noise levels cars & music	11	27	29	5	3	75
Local industry to respect residential area re noise/smoke	14	29	29	3	0	75
No fly zone for military aircraft	6	10	35	15	11	77
No noise restriction on playing music	6	11	23	21	19	80
Reduce noise/impact of quarry	5	8	51	8	1	73
Reduce noise from light aircraft	2	10	51	14	3	80
Less complaints about countryside smells	10	14	41	7	3	75
Noise, Smoke and Smells	68	115	286	96	49	614
TOTALS	517	679	781	152	77	2206

Village Services	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Crime Prevention						
Village Policeman	29	31	16	3	0	79
Get rid of vandalism	39	31	4	0	0	74
Get rid of drug problem	42	28	4	1	0	75
Create a safer community	32	35	8	0	0	75
Reduce sales of drinks to underage users	35	32	9	0	0	76
Village warden look after & report issues	21	24	24	4	0	73
Teenagers not wrecking school	36	30	7	0	0	73
Crime Prevention	234	211	72	8	0	525
Public or civic amenities						
More dropped kerbs for wheelchair/pushchair access	19	42	18	0	0	79
Extend footpath on south side of village to Frith Lane	29	29	19	3	0	80
Recycling facilities	26	23	18	6	0	73
All wheelie bins collected weekly	22	20	17	14	4	77
Move telegraph pole outside Nursing Home	7	9	50	6	1	73
More street lights	13	13	38	12	3	79
More pavements	13	14	34	11	1	73
Public toilets	3	10	29	20	13	75
Public or civic amenities	132	160	223	72	22	609
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Active Involvement in the Community						
More village competitions and social events	9	23	37	7	0	76
Community action that is fun	13	29	27	3	0	72
More people to get involved in village	20	25	26	2	0	73
Sense of community	18	36	21	0	0	75
Communication other than through school	16	34	23	0	0	73
Involve young people in more decision making	15	34	21	4	0	74
Village map & hamlets display in High St	16	28	23	7	1	75
Council to understand needs of locals	20	30	21	3	0	74
Council to have positive attitude to youth	12	28	26	2	0	68
Annual fete to include clubs and societies	19	29	24	2	0	74
Make sure events do not clash	17	34	22	0	0	73
Reduce size of council	3	7	48	13	5	76
Greater communication between council & residents on major issues	21	35	17	2	0	75
Active Involvement in the Community	199	372	336	45	6	958
Other Services						
Review Postal Services	8	12	34	11	6	71
Improve electricity supply to stop power cuts	20	28	21	6	1	76
Doctors Surgery	9	24	31	3	2	69
Other Services	37	64	86	20	9	216
TOTALS	602	807	717	145	37	2308

Traffic & Transport Issues	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Idea or suggestion						
Public Transport						
More regular & diverse bus service	28	29	16	2	0	75
Public transport to Cribbs and Yate to include evenings	26	28	23	2	0	79
Re-open train station	32	20	21	3	3	79
Better transport links eg community bus scheme	20	37	21	1	1	80
Bus shelter	15	30	25	6	0	76
Better service for KLB sixth formers without cars	18	25	30	4	2	79
Transport service for young people	18	33	22	3	1	77
Public transport or taxi service for the elderly	18	37	21	0	0	76
Public Transport	175	239	179	21	7	621
Traffic Calming						
Better traffic control in village	27	28	19	3	1	78
Traffic calming flashing 30 sign	35	27	13	0	7	82
Reduce speed limit through village to 20mph	20	12	20	16	8	76
Slower traffic	22	28	15	7	2	74
High St congestion & speed	28	26	15	1	1	71
Speed cameras	14	15	21	16	10	76
Speed ramps at entrance of village on Amberley Way	9	16	22	16	20	83
Block cul-de-sac from Inglestone Rd into Honeybourne Way	4	0	47	18	11	80
Back lane speed limit of 10mph	18	21	32	9	2	82
Traffic calming High St Sodbury Rd, West End	18	21	26	12	3	80
Improved traffic light control	14	17	27	12	2	72
Residents to observe speed limits	38	34	11	1	1	85
Stop proposed traffic calming	9	12	28	15	13	77
Stop unofficial traffic police	12	10	23	18	18	81
Keep ransom strips to avoid rat runs	22	22	23	3	4	74
Inglestone Rd bollards removed	5	7	19	24	24	79
Traffic Calming	295	296	361	171	127	1250
Reduce Traffic						
Idea or suggestion	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Create village bypass	17	18	14	6	22	77
Improved policing of weight restriction	33	35	10	2	2	82
Reduce traffic	23	27	25	2	0	77
Fewer people driving children to school	31	26	19	1	0	77
Close High St to heavy vehicles	30	26	16	6	2	80
Reduce High St being used as rat run between M4 & M5	34	15	21	3	3	76
Reduce congestion	24	27	24	0	0	75
Less through traffic	24	26	22	0	0	72
Reduce Traffic	216	200	151	20	29	616
Other						
West End is not sign posted	12	22	41	0	1	76
Other	12	22	41	0	1	76

Traffic & Transport Issues	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Idea or suggestion						
Cycling Issues						
More, better & safer cycle routes	34	31	13	0	0	78
Cycle path to Yate & Chipping Sodbury	37	22	16	4	1	80
Cycling Issues						
Parking						
Improve car parking on all main roads through village	35	27	16	1	1	80
Improve parking on High St	19	26	26	2	3	76
Parking in designated areas around school	29	23	28	1	0	81
Stop parking by the Spar	6	8	24	28	17	83
Reduce congestion around school	20	21	35	1	0	77
Restrict parking to increase safety	17	18	30	7	3	75
No car parking on pavements	42	26	11	1	2	82
Business parking in Station Rd to improve	19	18	43	0	0	80
Village car park	17	22	23	13	7	82
Parking	204	189	236	54	33	716
Pedestrian Safety & Other Road Safety						
Pedestrian crossing in High St	26	32	14	8	1	81
Improve pavements & roads	23	34	22	2	0	81
Zebra crossing or lollipop by school	14	14	41	10	0	79
Zebra crossing at South end of the village	12	12	47	9	1	81
Safer way to cross road near Youth Club	17	36	20	2	1	76
Crossing at Lower Station Rd & north end of High St	6	18	42	10	1	77
Roundabout top of Inglestone Rd	6	13	36	19	7	81
Widen Downs Rd on the bends	5	12	40	11	10	78
Safer area around school am & pm	17	28	31	2	1	79
Footpath to Yate needed	12	24	23	12	5	76
Make mini roundabout more prominent	6	25	27	11	7	76
Remove the new zebra crossing	1	7	19	28	21	76
Safety	145	255	362	124	55	941
TOTALS	1047	1201	1330	390	252	4220

Village Facilities	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
<i>Idea or suggestion</i>						
Shopping and Banking						
More shops including organic produce	7	21	25	15	8	76
Bank	6	15	29	19	8	77
Cash Machine	12	22	19	13	10	76
Longer shop opening hours	6	10	35	18	6	75
Tea rooms to stay open longer	6	15	37	13	3	74
Telephone on playing fields	7	11	32	17	9	76
Disabled/Buggy access to facilities	7	19	43	2	1	72
Farmers market and organic products	14	24	29	5	4	76
Fast food outlet	1	5	16	19	38	79
Longer opening hours at garage	1	5	39	15	12	72
More privacy at the Post Office	20	22	32	3	1	78
Shopping centre	1	0	14	12	45	72
Shopping and Banking	88	169	350	151	145	903
Clubs and Entertainment						
Children/teenagers: more clubs Brownies etc	15	29	28	2	1	75
Bigger Youth Club	14	32	24	2	2	74
More Meeting places for youth	17	30	19	5	2	73
Improvement of youth & sports facilities to combat vandalism	24	37	11	4	2	78
Youth club for younger children	12	34	23	4	0	73
Support for Youth Club	20	36	15	1	0	72
A local walk group/leaflets	11	30	34	0	2	77
Daytime Arts & Crafts clubs	7	23	34	6	2	72
Cinema	4	6	30	14	25	79
Permanent stage for local shows	4	10	32	12	15	73
Motocross track	1	2	19	19	31	72
Archery club	0	12	52	6	6	76
Art Club	2	16	45	4	6	73
More discos	1	6	35	12	22	76
Zoo	3	0	18	11	38	70
Museum	1	13	31	9	18	72
Clubs and Entertainment	136	316	450	111	172	1185
Idea or suggestion						
Sports						
More and better sports facilities	17	28	22	4	2	73
Improvement of playing fields/changing rooms/car park inc zip wire	23	28	30	1	3	85
Swimming Pool	10	6	28	14	18	76
Improve sports pavilion	21	24	29	1	0	75
Bowls green	8	25	34	4	3	74
Tennis courts	13	30	26	3	1	73
Football Pitch or Goals on east side of village	8	10	35	11	9	73
Permanent goals at playing fields	8	16	39	5	2	70
Better football pitch	7	17	44	0	1	69

Village Facilities <i>Idea or suggestion</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Leisure						
Better maintenance of public footpaths	32	38	7	0	0	77
More activities for people of all ages evening classes etc	20	35	17	1	1	74
Safe access to Park	20	33	18	0	0	71
More craft related things to do	8	21	39	2	0	70
More access to bridle paths	4	20	42	2	3	71
Footpaths not blocked by farmers	27	37	14	0	0	78
Improve footpath access and stiles in countryside	31	33	12	0	0	76
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	142	217	149	5	4	517
Idea or suggestion	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Parks						
More play areas including The Green	11	21	29	5	7	73
Play areas for children closer to village	16	30	18	4	7	75
Skateboard park	6	16	23	12	17	74
A park or somewhere to sit and talk	14	28	25	1	6	74
Keep The Green as it is	14	17	34	3	5	73
Seats in playing fields	14	49	12	0	2	77
BBQ area	4	13	30	15	13	75
Parks	79	174	171	40	57	521
Other Ideas						
More people to attend church regularly	3	13	42	3	12	73
Competition for the pub	12	23	32	6	1	74
Purpose built pre-school facility	8	13	48	6	3	78
Better use of existing public buildings	13	38	26	0	0	77
Better use of school facilities	11	30	34	0	0	75
Regular use of community room/hall	10	27	39	0	0	76
Purpose built community room for day and evening use	7	16	39	10	4	76
Procure land for allotments	14	30	31	0	0	75
Better amenities generally	9	34	30	1	0	74
More places to eat	12	14	32	12	5	75
Community office/town hall with photocopier	8	29	32	11	3	83
Disabled access to facilities	23	46	12	0	0	81
Other Ideas	130	313	397	49	28	917
TOTALS	575	1189	1517	356	406	4043

4 What happened next

During the course of the consultation process, events were held in order to publicize the Parish Plan and to seek the views of members of the community. Also members of the Steering Group were present at many regular village events, such as the **Football Frolics**, **Sports Day** and **Village Fun Run** in June 2004. This coincided with the launch of the first survey.



There was a Parish Plan table at the annual **Village Fair** in September 2004, where members were very prominent in their Parish Plan polo shirts. Members were able to publicise the results of the first survey as well as the planned consultation meetings with local businesses and clubs and organisations.



The Village Hall

The **Church Christmas Fair** in the Village Hall on the 27th November 2004 was the last event of the year and a chance for the Steering Group to ask the inhabitants of Wickwar for their views. The second survey was available for people attending the Fair to complete.

When the results of the second survey had been analysed and summarised, members of the Steering Group took the findings to the Parish Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Somerset & Avon Police. The aim of this was to discuss the viability of the suggestions, and ways that they could be put into action. In South Gloucestershire Council the Steering Group spoke to officers from Transport & Traffic, Rights of Way, Sports Development, Adult Education, the Dog Warden and the Youth Service Support Group. One of the Steering Group also had one to one discussions with the local Community Police Officer.

A **Youth Club Forum** was planned for the 23rd March 2005. This was a chance for the young people of the Village to have their say on some of the issues that had arisen from the 2 surveys. By this stage the Steering Group had analysed the results of the second survey and had identified the main areas for action.

Although the forum was not particularly well attended those young people who did come were very constructive in their comments. Posters were left on the walls for those who did not attend to add their views. The Feedback Sheets showed that all the people at the event enjoyed it and had learned a lot about the village and the plan; they seemed willing to get involved in making things happen for young people in Wickwar.

A suggestion was made for a Youth Club page in the Parish Magazine as part of the drive for better communication and to make the young people feel more part of the village community.



The Youth Club

Many of the comments made at the Youth Forum reflected those issues raised by the 2 surveys for all Wickwar residents. They include:

Village Facilities

- More play equipment on the playing fields suitable for older children
- Use of the pub's Skittle Alley for youth groups
- Football Nets in and out of season
- Tennis Courts/Basket Ball/Skate Ramps
- More Clubs for Young People

Village Environment

- More litter bins and dog bins
- Fines for vandalism
- CCTV for Youth Centre to stop vandalism
- Benches

Transport & Traffic

- Traffic Calming in Village
- Pedestrian Crossing by shop/Youth Club
- Cheaper/free buses for under 16's
- Road Safety Education
- Cycle Route

On the 9th April 2005 an **Open Forum** for the whole village was held in the village community rooms. The purpose of this was to present the outline for an action plan based on the findings from the survey. Posters were put up around the village and flyers distributed; the local Gazette ran an article on the 8th April publicizing the event. Although the numbers attending the forum were small (the Steering Group was competing with a Royal Wedding and the Grand National), the Steering Group received some very good suggestions and feedback on their initial thoughts about the various ideas that could be included into the final action plan.



Alexander Hosea Primary School & Community Rooms

5 Plan Related Developments

During the consultation and planning process for the Parish Plan, villagers did not wait for the final Action Plan to start finding ways to make things happen.

Gardening Club

One of the most immediate signs of community involvement was the development of a Gardening Club. Anyone who has walked around Wickwar, or along the High Street, will see that the people of Wickwar are very interested in their gardens. A very successful Open Gardens day in May 2005, organised by Friends of Holy Trinity Church, highlighted some of the lovely gardens and there is always a plentiful supply of locally grown flowers and vegetables on sale outside houses in the High Street.

Playing Fields

A charity, called the Wickwar Playing Fields Association was formed with the express intention of purchasing 15.2 acres of land adjacent to the existing playing fields. The Wickwar Playing Fields Association intends that the Village will use the land in perpetuity for sporting, recreational and leisure purposes. This initiative will go a long way to meeting the wishes expressed in the consultation for more and better sporting,



King George V Playing Fields

leisure and recreational facilities. As at August 2005 the WPFA is busy raising funds for the land purchase. It has received pledges of support from a number of village organisations including Wickwar Parish Council, The Social Club, The Cricket Club, The Football Club, South Gloucestershire Council, The Educational Trust, and The Children's Entertainment Committee This is a very exciting development for Wickwar.

Website

Although setting up a website was not part of the original budget proposal, it was felt that this would be a positive way of responding to some of the proposals raised by villagers for more and better communication about village life. It was felt that a website would provide an excellent way of recording and publicising the Parish Plan and would complement the work done through the monthly Parish News in advertising and promoting village activities.

A Wickwar Website Group was formed early in 2005, a domain name was purchased and a web host was selected. www.wickwar.org went live on 1st June 2005 although there is still more work to be done. Local clubs and organizations have been invited to submit material for their own pages and there is space for businesses as well. There is a brief history of Wickwar, and photographs from local events. The Website Group is keen to continue the development of the site over the next few months.

Welcome
to Wickwar



Part of the Wickwar Website Home Page

6 The Parish Plan Action Plan

The Wickwar Parish Plan Action Plan was produced in June 2005. It was designed and produced as a stand-alone document that contains the Parish Plan Steering Group's proposals for action. It was produced in booklet form and was delivered to every household in the village in June 2005. The text is produced in full in the following section.

The Action Plan is based on the ideas and suggestions that received most support during the consultation. It summarizes the areas where action could be taken to improve the quality of life in Wickwar, it suggests what that action could be and who could consider taking the ideas forward.



The Action Plan

The Action Plan is the product of over a year's work by the volunteer Steering Group and supporters. It has involved a series of enquiries and consultations by questionnaire, open meeting and newsletter.

This document is a summary of the village plan proposals. It contains recommendations for action by individuals, groups, the parish council and other authorities. These recommendations have been proposed by the Steering Group on the basis of those items that were most frequently mentioned and received most support during the plan's consultation period. As by far the majority of villagers did not want to see any further housing or industrial development in the village, development issues are not included in the plan.

The full Plan document will be produced over the summer. It will contain this Action plan, the data collected by the Steering Group on which the Action Plan is based, the complete list of suggestions received during the consultation period and a Village Profile. It will be launched in the late summer at an event organized by the Village Plan Steering Committee. This event will bring to an end the work of the Steering

Group and will be an opportunity for those villagers who have expressed interest in being involved in follow up action to come together and decide how to take the proposed initiatives forward.

It must be emphasised that the Village Plan Steering Group has no powers to act on the recommendations in the Action Plan. If it is to result in practical action, this will be the responsibility of individuals and groups in the village, the Parish Council, the South Gloucestershire Council and other relevant statutory organisations such as the Avon and Somerset Police.

The Group very much hopes that the Plan will be accepted by the village of Wickwar for what it is, and that it will stimulate residents to take appropriate action to bring about some or all of the changes and improvements which people have told us they want.

We now need your support. How will you get involved? Please reply by filling in and returning the enclosed response form or by email through the new village website at **www.wickwar.org**

*Sarah Berry
Jane Burton
Ian Dale
Hilary Kingswood
Rosemary Pearce*

*Philip Revill
Sue Roberts
David Russell
David Tomlinson
Selma Wheatcroft*

June 2005

Action Plan based on the most frequently identified and most supported suggestions

Village Facilities

Better Facilities for Young People

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- Clubs for children of all ages
- Better Youth Club service
- Meeting places for young people

The present situation

Youth Centre for 11-13's on Mondays and 14+ Wednesdays, 7 – 9.30 p.m.
After-School Clubs at Alexander Hosea Primary School for pupils
Some evening activities in the Community Centre

Recommendations

Individuals and/or Groups:

Make the most of what is available already.

Take a lead in setting up new activities.

Take an interest in the Youth Centre Support Committee.

Support the Youth Centre being used more than two evenings a week.

The Parish Council:

Maintain an active interest in the Youth Centre Support Committee.

Work with South Gloucestershire Council to agree an ongoing maintenance programme for the Youth Centre

South Gloucestershire Council:

Maintain, and if possible develop, the existing Youth Service in the village

Sports

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- Improved sports facilities
- Improved footpath and safer access to Playing Field

The present situation

King George V Playing Field available for football and cricket with playground area.

There are football and cricket teams with junior sections.

Indoor sport at the Community Centre, e.g. badminton.

New organisation established – the Wickwar Playing Fields Association - to generate funds for acquisition of land for more recreation and sport facilities.

Recommendations

Individuals and/or Groups:

Take initiative to establish interest in and to set up new activities

Support the newly formed Wickwar Playing Fields Association

The Parish Council:

Work with landowner and South Gloucestershire Council to improve footpath access to the Playing Fields.

To consider providing financial and general support to the Wickwar Playing Fields Association to help it purchase land.

Work to improve the pavilion/changing facilities.

The South Gloucestershire Council/other authorities:

Help with grants for the establishment of new sports activities, facilities in Wickwar.

Improve the footpath access to the Playing Field.

Leisure

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- More leisure activities for people of all ages
- Better use of public buildings
- Improved footpath maintenance, access and stiles
- Land for allotments

The present situation

Various clubs and organisations exist within the village, e.g. the Social Club, Wickwar Women's Circle, Friendship Club, Tuesday Friends (ex-WI), Good Companions (ex-Trinity Guild), Rainbows; activities run by the Parish Church and the Chapel; others run by the School P.T.A., the Pre-School, Baby and Toddler Group and the Children's' Entertainment Committee e.g. the Village Fair and the Fun Day. The Town Hall, Village Hall, Community Room and Hall, Pavilion and Youth Centre can be hired. *Support with obtaining adult education tutors is available if sufficient interest can be demonstrated.*

Filton College, Stroud College and Secondary Schools provide courses.

Landowners are legally responsible for the maintenance of stiles/kissing gates and re-instatement of paths after ploughing and spraying.

South Gloucestershire Council is responsible for handling complaints from the public, vegetation clearance around stiles and maintenance of the surface.

The Parish Council organises regular Sunday walks along village footpaths.

Recommendations

Individuals and/or Groups:

Join existing organisations.

Take the initiative in exploring possibilities for Adult Education classes.

Walk the footpaths to keep them open, join the Parish Walks, and report problems to the Parish Clerk.

Volunteer to be Footpath Warden.

The Parish Council:

Publicise availability of Parish premises for hire.

Continue to monitor condition of footpaths.

Suggest walks to include in 'Easy Access Trails' and other publications.

South Gloucestershire Council/other authorities:

Respond quickly to complaints about footpaths.

Transport and Traffic

Public Transport

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- Better Bus and Transport Links
- More regular & diverse bus services – day & evening
- Better public transport for young and old people

The present situation

Daytime bus service to Wotton & Yate every hour or hour-and-a-half.

One daily bus to Filton College and back.

Yate and District Community Transport is available to parishioners.

Limited school transport between Katherine Lady Berkeley School in Wotton and Yate and Chipping Sodbury.

Additional bus services are introduced on basis of need.

Private bus companies will put on extra services if profitable.

South Gloucestershire will subsidize unprofitable services if the need is clearly established.

Recommendations

Individuals and/or Groups:

Make sufficient use of existing services and support representations for additional ones.

Volunteer(s) could take this further, to establish a clear need/demand for additional services..

The Parish Council:

Could survey actual need/demand for additional services and, if demonstrated, make representations to bus companies and South Gloucestershire Council –considering the Government’s election promise of free local bus travel for senior citizens.

Research the potential to apply for Village Transport Survey grants.

Investigate whether Wickwar can benefit more from the Yate & District Community Transport Scheme.

Keep abreast of Park and Ride proposals and their impact for Wickwar residents.

Work with neighbouring villages to identify transport initiatives that would be mutually beneficial.

South Gloucestershire Council:

Respond positively to any representations from the village.

Cycling

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- More and better cycle routes

- Cycle path from Wickwar to Yate & Chipping Sodbury

The present situation

No designated cycle paths.

No specific facilities for cyclists in Wickwar.

Alexander Hosea School is drawing up a Transport Plan to include initiatives to encourage students to cycle.

If sufficient demand/need is established, South Gloucestershire Council will consider grants for cycle parks and paths.

South Gloucestershire Council's position is that a cycle path to Yate would have to be separate from the road and would cost more than £250,000.

Recommendations

Individuals and/or Groups:

Form a village Cycling Group to: -

- *Identify potential usage of cycle path from Wickwar to Chipping Sodbury.*
- *Identify if there are areas within Wickwar where a cycle path would be useful.*
- *Identify need for cycle parks within Wickwar.*
- *Lobby the authorities for a cycle path between Wickwar and Yate – a very strong case would have to be made.*

The Parish Council:

Liase with School to include Village Plan issues in School Travel Plan.

Support the activities of the Village Cycle Group if it is formed.

South Gloucestershire Council:

Respond positively to requests if a strong case is made.

Parking

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- No parking on pavements
- Improved parking on main roads and near school

The present situation

No current parking limitations other than road safety areas.

Yellow lines are unlikely to be welcomed in a conservation area.

Main problems seem to be double parking in the High Street and parking on pavements elsewhere.

Congestion does exist around school at times of delivery and collection of pupils.

Recommendations

Individuals and/or Groups:

Report illegal parking on pavements to the Police.

Residents and visitors should avoid parking on pavements.

*Avoid taking children to and from the school by car whenever possible.
School Travel Group to address school congestion problems in their School Travel Plan.
Parents to support and act on the School Travel Plan.*

The Parish Council:

Work with School Travel Group over how to address congestion issues raised in the village survey.

South Gloucestershire Council:

Make any necessary grants from funds available for School Travel Plans.

Traffic calming

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- Less speeding.
- Better compliance with weight restriction.
- Less congestion and through traffic.

The present situation

Speedwatch is maintained by a small group of volunteers.
Weight restriction signs in and on approach to village.
Occasional temporary speed warning signs.
Occasional presence from the Safety Camera Partnership.
Flashing speed signs can be purchased at about £6,000 each: evidence is that they bring a small speed reduction.
Annual Frome Vale Transport Grants of £50,000 per year is available – Wickwar can apply.
Highway Authority prioritises areas with poor accident record – not Wickwar.

Recommendations

Individuals and Groups:

*Volunteer for Speedwatch
Report large lorries (with more than 2 axles) within the weight restriction area to the Police.*

The Parish Council:

*Consider purchasing flashing speed signs.
Using Speedwatch data, identify sites of community concern which could be given additional resources from the Safety Camera Partnership.
Request additional resource from the Safety Camera Partnership to monitor areas of community concern.
Prioritise projects for inclusion in annual round of applications for Frome Vale Transport Grants.*

South Gloucestershire Council:

Install and maintain flashing signs If bought by Parish Council.

Pedestrian safety

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- Improved pavements
- Footpath extended to Frith Lane
- More dropped kerbs
- Safer area around the school
- Pedestrian crossing in High Street

The present situation

No progress on replacing tarmac with paving in High Street.

Some dropped kerbs have been built in recent years.

School safety issues are being dealt with through School Travel Plan.

Pedestrian crossing would remove parking space and appears not to be acceptable to residents, given response to Rural Bus Challenge proposals.

Village consultation led to rejection of proposals for changes in High Street.

Recommendations

Individuals and Groups:

Present specific pedestrian safety concerns and suggestions to Parish Council.

Parents support and implement School Travel Plan.

The Parish Council:

Continue to pursue plans for improvement of the High Street pavements.

Research the need to extend the footpath to Frith Lane and consider making formal proposals to South Gloucestershire Council.

Prioritise areas for more drop kerbs to convey to South Gloucestershire Council in annual request round.

Prioritise items for inclusion in the annual applications round for Frome Vale Transport Grants.

Liase with School Travel Plan Group to include issues raised through the Village Plan consultation.

Hold public consultation to establish viability of some form of controlled pedestrian crossing in the High Street/and or by Youth Club.

South Gloucestershire Council:

Make grants where local need is established and funds are available.

Village Services

Law and Order

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- Increase police presence in the village
- Reduce vandalism
- Combat drug abuse
- Reduce underage drinking
- Create safer village community

The present situation

No likelihood of a resident village policeman.

New Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) in the area makes a higher policing profile in the village possible.

Village Neighbourhood Watch seeks to maintain and develop community awareness of law and order issues and ways of dealing with them.

Education through school Citizenship programme.

Police do not believe drugs or alcohol are significant problems in Wickwar.

Recommendations

Individuals and /or Groups:

Report issues, incidents and concerns to Neighbourhood Watch or Police.

Become actively involved in Neighbourhood Watch.

Exercise more personal and family responsibility.

Promote greater awareness of issues and concerns through the Parish News and the Wickwar Website at www.wickwar.org

The Parish Council:

Make requests to Avon & Somerset Police for PCSOs to patrol on foot in the village at trouble spots/times.

Consider viability of establishing Village Warden/Street Warden positions.

Avon & Somerset Police:

Respond more quickly to crime reports.

Provide more reporting to Neighbourhood Watch.

Provide more patrols, at least by PCSOs.

The Village Community

The most supported requests and suggestions were

Greater sense of community
More people to get involved in village affairs
Young people to be consulted in decision-making
Better communication between Parish Council and residents
More co-ordinated village events
Mutual respect and consideration between younger and older people

The present situation

Many activities in the village but always open to more support.
Perceived lack of coherence in village life.
Poor attendance at consultations and open meetings about village issues.
Citizenship programme in school.

Recommendations

Individuals and Groups:

Make fuller use of existing activities.
Set up/join new groups.
Use Parish News more for publicity.
Use Wickwar website at www.wickwar.org
Volunteer to help create a village event.

The Parish Council:

Set up volunteer register in Parish News and on website.
Use the village website to encourage better communication.
Instigate annual village event involving all clubs and societies.
Hold more informal consultation events for more two-way communication.
Set up Youth Council.
Consider establishing annual small grants programme for village charities and clubs.

The Village Environment

Dog Ownership

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- More responsible dog ownership
- More dog bins

The present situation

Dog fouling is an offence
Dog bins strategically placed throughout the village.
Problems reported in some specific areas.
Parish Council will consider any request for bins.
Dog wardens can target a problem area but only operate during office hours.

Dog Wardens will give talks on responsible dog ownership at school.
South Gloucestershire Council will:

- Send warning letter sent if one person reports an incident
- prosecute if two people are prepared to be witnesses.

Recommendations

Individuals and Groups:

Dog owners act responsibly and clear up after their animal(s).

Report irresponsible owners to South Gloucestershire Council (01454 868000 or complete on-line form at www.southglos.gov.uk).

The Parish Council:

Consider proposals from parishioners for more dog bins.

Regular reminders to parishioners to act responsibly and clear up after their animals.

South Gloucestershire Council:

Respond quickly to reported problems.

Environment

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- Less litter, more litter bins
- Tidy the High Street and Back Lane
- Better maintenance of verges and hedges
- More care of open spaces
- Care of the Youth Centre area
- Prevent drains from flooding

The present situation

Two litter bins in High Street.

No plans by South Gloucestershire council to provide more bins.

No specified clearance days or standard for South Gloucestershire litter collection.

Annual Village Clean Up takes place in April.

School Citizenship programme.

South Gloucestershire Council responsible for publicly owned verges and green spaces.

Flooding occurs after heavy rain at the south end of High Street and in Downs Road.

Recommendations

Individuals and/or Groups:

Avoid dropping/pick up litter.

Youth Club members tidy area regularly and avoid creating litter.

Exercise individual responsibility. Report problems to STREETCARE at South Gloucestershire Council (01454 868000 or complete on-line form

www.southglos.gov.uk).

*Help in the annual Village Spring-Clean
Report problems to South Gloucestershire Council 'STREETCARE'*

The Parish Council:

*Monitor the cleanliness of the village and organise more frequent clean-ups.
Give Village Spring-Clean higher profile.*

South Gloucestershire Council:

*Respond to complaints quickly and positively.
Maintain/improve litter collection.
Improve storm drainage in High Street and Downs Road.*

Village Appearance

The most supported requests and suggestions were

- More flowers and trees on the High Street
- Appearance of pavements
- Preservation of High Street buildings
- More areas for wildlife and flowers
- Local industry to respect residential area - especially noise/smoke

The present situation

Householders are responsible for their own properties.
Environment grants are available, subject to rules and financial limits.
Pavement improvement still not settled (see 2E above).
South Gloucestershire Council reports that no complaints have been received about industrial noise/smoke.

Recommendations

Individuals and Groups:

*All residents to keep environs of their property tidy.
Individuals or groups can apply for grants.
Form a Residents' Group.
Form a Gardening Club.
Support the Wickwar Playing Fields Association (see 1B above).
Report problems to STREETCARE (see 4B above).
Plant more window boxes/hanging baskets.*

The Parish Council:

*Publicise the availability of grants.
Investigate feasibility and legality of additional tree planting and flower displays in High Street.*

South Gloucestershire Council:

*Respond quickly to grant applications.
Respond to complaints about noise/smoke pollution.*

Do you like some of these ideas? ... Would you like to see them happen?

Now is your chance to become involved in turning these proposals into action. Please register your interest below.

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: _____

I would like to help (please identify the areas of the plan you would like to be involved in)

Please return this form by no later than 29th July by:

- Giving it to your Village Plan distributor when he/she comes to collect it
- delivering it to the Village Plan Steering Group via Hilary Kingswood at 65 High Street
- or e-mailing you areas of interest to us via the new Wickwar website at www.wickwar.org giving your e-mail the subject "Village Action Plan".

7 Conclusion

The development of the Parish Plan has, we believe, been the first of its kind for Wickwar, and has proved to be a worthwhile and successful exercise. What the Parish Plan confirms is that Wickwar is a good place in which to live and we, the Steering Group have really enjoyed working on the plan. Whilst our work is at an end, we hope that the residents of Wickwar will find the Parish Plan interesting and stimulating, and that it will encourage them to become even more involved in the life and development of the village.

Sue Aldous	Sarah Berry	Jane Burton
Ian Dale	Phil Gearing	Hilary Kingswood
Rosemary Pearce	Philip Revill	Sue Roberts
David Russell	David Tomlinson	Selma Wheatcroft

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The Countryside Agency.
The Gazette.
Wickwar Football Club.
Wickwar Parish Council.
Wickwar Social Club.
Wickwar Spar & Post Office.
Wickwar Tea Rooms.
Wickwar Web Site Group.