

**B**elmont Rural's Parish Plan - a long look at today's parish and a prediction on desirable changes in five years' time - was

adopted by the parish council in late 2003. A condensed version appeared in the December 2003 issue of *Belmont Voice* and was distributed to all residents.

Printed versions of the plan are held by the clerk, the parish councillors and by Belmont Library. A CD version is available for inspection at library terminals. A full version is also available on the website:

[www.belmontrpc.supanet.com](http://www.belmontrpc.supanet.com).

Here is a progress report on plan proposals covering the past year. The "snapshot" targets were thought to be those that carried the highest priorities and to be reasonably achievable

# THE PARISH PLAN

## On

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information boards at Newton Coppice.

**What happened:** Some funds and active support given. **Future action:** Continue

support for SHARP

● Promote the rural nature of the parish. **What happened:** PC helped fund Sustain project at Newton Coppice. **Future action:** Continue

### TRAFFIC

● A 40 mph speed limit extension, from Tesco roundabout to Ruckhall Lane, has always been seen as locally desirable, and Belmont Rural PC will continue to push for this. **What happened:** Highways Agency, based in Birmingham, non-receptive. **Future action:** Continue

### "SNAPSHOT" TARGETS

#### Short term action (one year)

● Plant wild flowers on roundabout and further planting near streams and elsewhere. **What happened:** Done partially. **Future action:** Consult Highways Agency and Hfd in Bloom

● Mark out five-a-side pitch and put up goal posts. **What happened:** Goal posts done. Marking out: pitch too small for FA recognition. **Future action:** No further action

#### Medium term action (one to three years)

● Press for footpath/cycleway to Ruckhall Lane. **What happened:** Started. **Future action:** On list of Hfd DC's priorities

● Establish Northolme Community Centre and encourage use. **What happened:** South Wye Foundation formed. PC already providing financial support. **Future action:** Actively continue financial support

● Boost Neighbourhood Watch and Road Reps. **What happened:** NW under national reorganisation.

Nighttime patrols already taking place. **Future action:** Progress according to new national scheme.

#### Long term (three-plus years)

● Seek to ensure land north of Dorchester Way is taken into public ownership. **What happened:** Under way. Hfd DC pursuing CPO

● Press for Landfill adoption and Country Park establishment, including PC/SHARP direct action re. picnic and kick-about areas. **What happened:** Operating licence now passed to Envir. Agency. Legal process continuing. **Future action:** Continue to monitor progress

● Establish policy on dog mess, including local volunteers if necessary. **What happened:** Dog signs put up by PC and DC. Active policing. **Future action:** Continue

### ENVIRONMENT

**Build on the potential for voluntary help revealed in the survey to achieve:**

● Support for SHARP on finding funds for further nature/trail infor-

● A city bypass, if it happens, will form part of a 25-year integrated transport plan. A consultant report suggests a cost of £42m for a relief road on the west, and £61m to the east. The PC will consider all proposals and consult residents before deciding stance. **What happened:** No change. **Future action:** Continue

● If the CH7 footpath is upgraded, it should be possible to include traffic calming at three points on Abbotsmead and Northolme roads. **What happened:** Abbotsmead cyclists' "chicane" and pelican crossing near Tesco introduced. **Future action:** Continue to pursue calming for Northolme

● To continue to monitor traffic on the estate and to support, in principle, a relief road. **What happened:** Provision of traffic calming signs and child awareness signs near play areas being discussed. **Future action:** Continue

### TRANSPORT

● Monitor changes to 75 service. **What happened:** Shellingham Way

successfully re-routed. **Future action:** Continue

● Press for 100% use of lowline buses. **What happened:** Lowliners now in use.

● Any new bus shelters should be positioned to ensure maximum use with least offence. **What happened:** One replaced on A465. **Future action:** Continue

● Continue to explore possibility of extending services to Southolme and Westholme roads despite repeated refusals of present provider. **What happened:** WyseMove service now covers Southolme, service unlikely for Westholme. **Future action:** Continue

#### **LEISURE**

● Press Herefordshire Council to adopt the Landfill, the pavilion and the adjacent five-a-side pitch. Adoption depends on the developers bringing the areas up to an acceptable standard. Hereford's legal department is being urged to see that this is done and that all outstanding projects are taken into public ownership. **What happened:** Pavilion and pitch adopted. Lease under negotiation between South Wye Foundation and Hfd DA. **Future action:** Support

● Continue to resist further development within the parish. **What happened:** Development complete.

● Continue to oppose development within 50 m of Landfill. **What happened:** Development complete.

● Continue to press for the principle of off-street parking where residence extensions increase the number of bed-spaces and/or reduce the availability of garage parking. **What happened:** Parking included as

condition in most planning applications. **Future action:** Continue

● Continue involvement in the Tesco planning application to ensure the parish gets as much benefit as possible. **What happened:** Some planning gain achieved. Tesco development now complete. **Future action:** Monitoring of all applications.

● Monitor developments round the parish boundary (ie, the site at Belmont Abbey and the "housing / country park proposals"). **What happened:** No change. **Future action:** Waiting UDP outcomes

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

● Maintain present levels of communication using present channels. The PC's cash allocation, supporting the printing and distribution of *Belmont Voice*, was based on a fourteen-page magazine. Revenue from advertisements was used to add extra pages and to improve paper quality. **What happened:** Last issue of *Voice*, December 2003. **Future action:** PC to adopt formal parish communications policy (see draft below)

#### **BELMONT RURAL Parish council** **Some proposals for formal communications policy**

**Regular newsletter.** Two sides of A4 devoted solely to PC activities, to appear three or four times a year. Cost allocation: up to £150 per newsletter covering printing and distribution. Contents to be approved by chairman.

**"Urgent" newsletters.** Covering specific problems. Clerk, chairman and vice-chairman authorised to spend up to £150 on each issue.

**Noticeboard material.** In descending priority: (1) PC notices, (2) Neighbourhood Watch info, (3) Website address, (4) Other material approved by Parish Clerk.

**Website.** Open to contributions from all parish residents. Website not owned by PC but actively supported by it.

*Note: The above items are merely a selection of points. The final policy will include aspects of the Freedom of Information act and other relevant legislation*

#### **CRIME**

● Take advantage of the newly appointed South Wye community support officers and the recent addition of a third police constable. **What happened:** Frequent police presence at PC meeting. PC contributed £1000 to cost of CSO's bicycle. **Future action:** Support Eastholme Centre's "surgery"

● Develop sports and recreation facilities to alleviate problems with noisy teenagers. **What happened:** Teenage seat unit under consideration. Police consulted. **Future action:** Continue

● Work closely with West Mercia police to monitor criminal and minor criminal activity and report back to the community. **What happened:** Police reports appear on PC noticeboards; also regular police presence at PC meetings. **Future action:** Continue

● Encourage residents to clear up after dogs, collecting dog mess in plastic bags and disposing of it in bins, or taking it home. **What happened:** Signs installed, plus active policing.

● Litter bins are provided all over the estate, and SHARP has done litter pickups. Worst areas are the A465 and the brooks. The latter work should be publicised and a wider area of volunteers sought. The estate survey showed more people than expected may be willing to help with this problem. **What happened:** Litter bins added and damaged bins repaired. Graffiti removed. **Future action:** Continue

#### **A465 DIVISION**

● PC should work towards co-opting councillors from southern side of the A465. **What happened:** Approaches made but no acceptances yet. **Future action:** Continue