

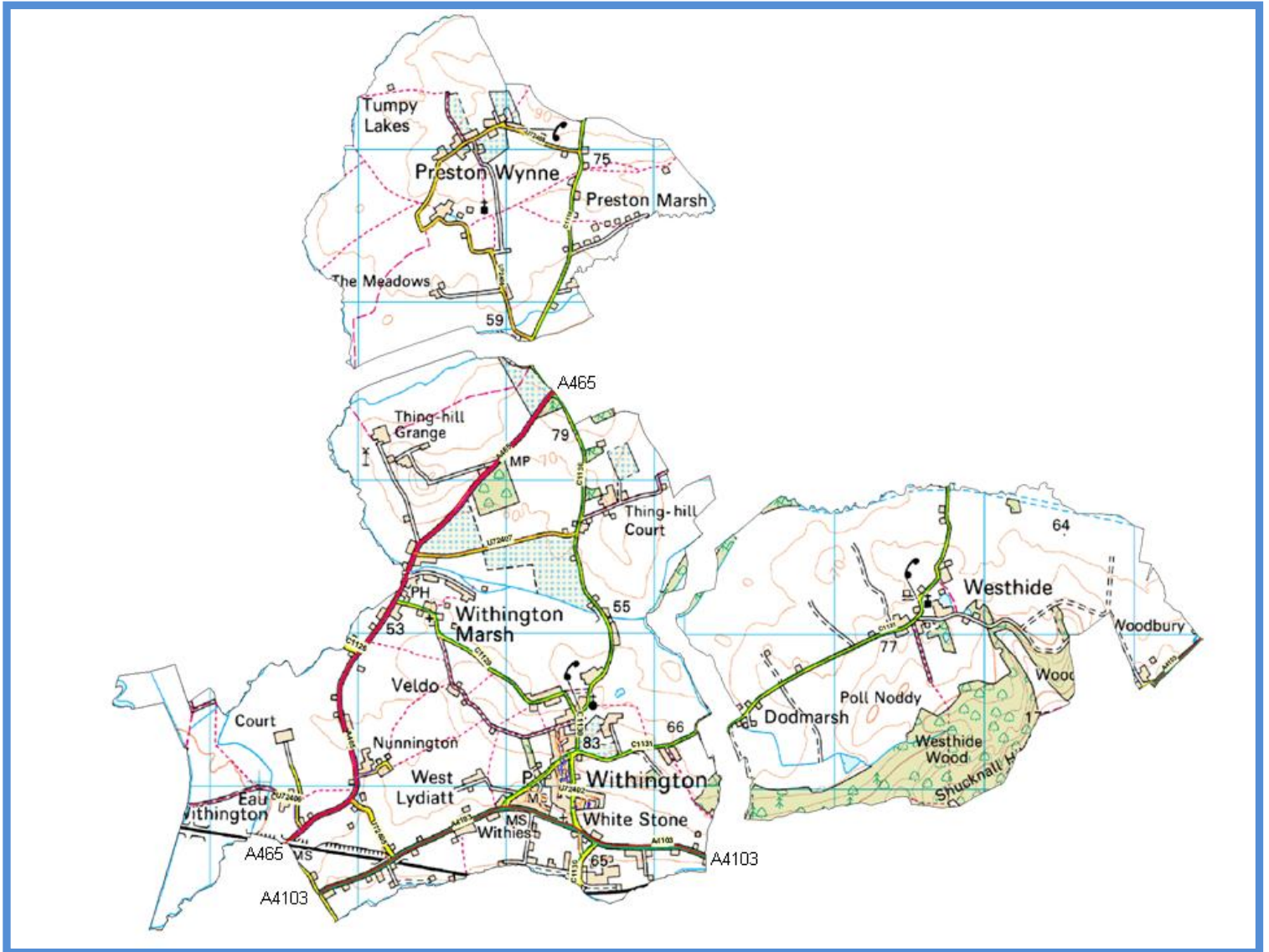
Withington, Westside and Preston Wynne



Community Led Plan 2010 - 2015

First Issue - December 2010

Parishes of Withington, Westhide and Preston Wynne



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THE THREE VILLAGES

PRESTON WYNNE

Preston Wynne is a small village situated to the north of the A465 Hereford to Bromyard road. There are just over 50 houses on a 2½ mile loop through Lower and Upper town in an area known as Preston Marsh. There is a variety of building stock, the oldest being a Grade 2 listed C14 hall house and the newest built in the last decade, although there are no more building plots under the current plans. The land is mainly used for farming.

The church of the Holy Trinity was built in 1727, probably on the site of an earlier chapel. It has a marble monument to Henrietta Pugh who left an endowment to the poor. The parish is in the Maund group of parishes and the vicar is resident in Bodenham. The old local school is now a private house, and the designated schools today are Burley Gate VC primary school and Queen Elizabeth Humanities College in Bromyard. The local children utilise a bus services to get to these schools

The Memorial Hall was erected by the villagers of Preston Wynne and Felton to remember those who fought in the Great War 1914-1918. The building was originally a receiving station on the south coast for returning wounded soldiers. After the war it was brought to Withington by train and from there it was transported to Preston Wynne. For a long time it was used as a working men's club. Regular events are arranged by the hall committee members. These vary from a 'pub' evening to flower shows and Christmas lunches.

WESTHIDE

(Extract from Littlebury's Directory and Gazetteer of Herefordshire 1876-7)

Westhide is a parish situated between the main road leading to Worcester (over Fromes Hill) and the Bromyard Road. The Hereford Gloucester canal forms its northern boundary. Westhide is situated 6 miles NE of Hereford, 9½ miles SW of Bromyard and approximately 2 miles NE of Withington station on the Worcester Hereford branch of the Great Western Railway (West Midlands Section). It is in the Radlow hundred, Hereford union, petty sessional division, and county court district, and Ocle-Pychard (Burley Gate) polling district. The population in 1861 was 174, in 1871, 164 inhabited houses, 37 separate families or separate occupiers, area parish 1,1171 acres; annual rateable value £1,917. The Right Honourable Lady Emily Foley of Stoke Edith Park is the lady of the manor; and John Brooke Esq., and the Rev Langton Brown are the principle landowners. The soil is deep clay, subsoil is red marl, chief produce is wheat, hops, beans, fruit, roots etc. The land is

very fertile and well wooded, but rather hilly. There are two quarries in the parish, one of road stone the other of an inferior kind of wall stone

Westhide has changed somewhat from the detailed description above. The Hereford Gloucester canal which forms the northern boundary is being restored by volunteers. Withington Railway station no longer exists and the population is considerably less. The number of houses now is only 31 with only 65 on the electoral role. There are approximately 30 children under the age of 17. The church dedicated to St Bartholomew still holds regular services and is an important feature of the community, holding several village events. The school which was built to accommodate 42 children at the cost of £400 in 1863 is now a private dwelling. The land is still very fertile with a wide range of crops, now including rapeseed which adds colour to the fields.

WITHINGTON

The village of Withington is situated about 4 miles north east of Hereford City. It lies to the north of the Hereford – Worcester road (A4103) and railway line.

While modern development has concentrated dwellings in a central area, in earlier years people were more widely distributed among various hamlets – Withington Marsh, Nunnington, Eau Withington, White Stone, West Lydiatt, Veldo and the central area around the church.



War Memorial Cross, Withington

History

Withington and its manors are mentioned in the Domesday book(1085-7), the name being spelt 'Widingtune' and there was almost certainly a Saxon church on the site of St Peter's Church.

As with most rural villages the church was an important feature in development. The board hanging in the vestry at the church offers an insight into the social history of the parish. In 1728 money was collected from the great and the good. £100 went towards a school – the original school at the Stallenge - of that, £10 built the school and £90 purchased land, the rent of which would pay the schoolmistress' salary. At the same time £550 was collected to build a new house for the Rector!

It remained a predominantly agricultural village until recent times with many of the residents supporting farming. The farms produced a variety of crops and many had cattle. In the twentieth century, the main farms also grew hops and until recently hop yards were an obvious feature of the area. The hop harvest needed significant seasonal labour. Their presence and the aroma of the drying hops were a feature of every September.

In 1851 there was a population of 713 with records showing that the trades of blacksmith and agricultural implement maker, carpenter, wheelwright, basket-maker and tanner were present. There was also a cooper who presumably supported the various public houses.

The arrival of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal in 1854, and later the railway, caused development around the canal basin at the Marsh and the railway station and yards at Whitestone. A large tile works complex was developed near the station (today Whitestone Business Park) and also north of the main road. The latter site became Anvil Enterprises, a business developing timber frame buildings and then the original out-of-town supermarket known as Meadow Market, and later, as Norman's. The area today is housing but it does host the village shop and the Post Office.

The village contained a number of substantial houses, many supported by the rich farm land. While most are still present today the building on the hill by Thinghill Farm was either burnt down or taken piece by piece to the USA depending on who you listen to.

Most housing was in small clusters with many cottages tied to the major farms or associated with the railway. This changed forty years ago when the then South Herefordshire District Council built Withies Close, at that time as council housing. While some residents had local connections, many came from the city or elsewhere and that trend has continued as new estates of private, or mixed use, housing have been built.

Today

Despite changes elsewhere, farming remains vital to any rural community. The major farms employ less direct labour for traditional arable and cattle work but much of this is done by those who work as local contractors. Diversification has created employment in trees, turf, chickens, soft fruit etc.



Farmland in Withington



The development of the Whitestone Business Park with its wide range of business activity is a major source of employment even if the majority of people working there do not actually live in Withington. Elsewhere there are still a wide range of independent businesses based in the village. Some are obvious like the Garden Centre, Garage, Car Sales operation, Furniture producers and Kennels but many operate more discreetly using the internet or phone to serve their customers.

The population has increased and this has meant many more houses. Many of the old cottages have been extended and modernised; many houses and bungalows have been built as in-fill and five new estates have been erected. A much smaller proportion of the population than hitherto has its roots in the village.

The village has a Primary School, Pub (The Cross Keys Inn from circa 1786), Village Hall, Church, Chapel, Village Store and Post Office. A new public open space, Withington Fields, is being developed for recreation next to the Village Hall.



The Cross Keys pub

BUILDINGS OF NOTE IN THE THREE PARISHES

Like most parishes in Herefordshire, Preston Wynne, Westhide and Withington have some interesting buildings, principally the churches. With acknowledgement to Nikolaus Pevsner's 'The Buildings of England - Herefordshire' the following paragraphs give brief descriptions of some of the more interesting features



Holy Trinity Church, Preston Wynne

Holy Trinity Church in Preston Wynne was built in 1727 but, apart from the tower, was later 'victorianised'. The tower doorway has a segmental head and a baroque surround. The small gothic windows in the nave and chancel were originally large and arched. To the north of the church, Court Farm dates back to the 14th century and was extended in the 17th century; parts of the original roof remain.

St Bartholomew's Church in Westhide has a 12th century tower. The south aisle is early 14th century, while the chancel and the north side of the nave were rebuilt in 1866-7. The chancel arch is of a similar date. Internally, the church has several interesting features including one early 14th century effigy and another 16th century alabaster slab recording Richard Monyngton, his wife and 16 children. Outside are the steps, base and stump of a churchyard cross.



St Bartholomew's Church, Westhide



St Peter's Church, Withington

St Peter's Church in Withington is particularly noted for its tall slender spire which stands on a late 13th century tower. There are two simple Norman nave doorways, the one on the north side being blocked. The windows are variously Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular. In the churchyard, the old cross is a registered ancient monument. The lychgate originally had only 3 posts and the beams supporting its roof were castellated.

Whitestone Baptist Church has been in existence for nearly 200 years. It is located on the main Worcester Road (A4103). It was built in 1821 and is a Grade 2 listed building. It consists of the original chapel and an attached cottage which has been vacated since the 1950's. It has two stone sheds/stables, later additions of a brick and timber porch and an outhouse attached to the cottage. The chapel stands within a consecrated graveyard and the car park area.



Whitestone Baptist Church

It was, at first, the 'Strict and Particular Baptist Church of John Calvin' but is now part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. It was also formally linked with Hereford Baptist Church (Commercial Road) but is now independent. It is a small fellowship comprising of about 20 people who meet regularly on a Sunday, plus 10 or so others who worship with us from time to time. Nearly all the worshippers do not live in Whitestone/Withington.



The White Stone

Items of secular interest in Withington include the **White Stone** to the east of the Baptist chapel. Originally it was a wayside cross but in 1700 was re-used as a direction stone pointing to Hereford, Worcester and Ledbury. About 1¼ miles west of the main village is **Eau Withington Court**, a later 17th century structure with a five-bay front added later. A small building to the west of the Court is marked with the date 1682. Thing Hill Grange to the north of the A465 Hereford - Bromyard road is a 14th century hall-house with solar and buttery wings and a number of architecturally interesting features.

HOW WE SET ABOUT PRODUCING OUR PLAN

In Autumn 2008 the Withington Group Parish Council gave the go-ahead for the production of a Parish Plan (as the Community Led Plan was then known). In early 2009 a public meeting was held to discuss what would be involved and a Steering Group was formed consisting of volunteers drawn from all three parishes in the group. Details of the Steering Group are contained in Appendix A. Following advice from the Herefordshire Partnership, a course of action was agreed and in mid-year four 'Planning for Real' events were held, one each at Preston Wynne Village Hall, Withington Village Hall, the Cross Keys public house and Withington School. These allowed local people to record their feelings about current life in the parishes and about their hopes for the future.

Based on the information gleaned at the 'Planning for Real' events, two questionnaires were prepared, one for adults and the other for young people up to the age of 18 years. Approximately 980 questionnaires were distributed by hand to all homes in the three parishes in late September 2009, with extra copies being made available in Withington Stores and via members of the Steering Group. Replies were collected by hand in early October. Completed questionnaires were gathered from 632 adults and 109 young people, giving an overall response rate of 76%. This was a very good response rate, especially considering the geographical size of the parish group.

Thanks to the good offices of the Herefordshire Council Research Team the results of the survey were compiled and analysed, and returned to the Steering Group in mid-December 2009. It may help readers to understand the scale of this task by noting that the printed analysis totalled 168 sides of A4 size paper.

At this stage, the Steering Group embarked on the far-from-easy task of deciding how to start identifying the best way in which to turn the concept of a Community Led Plan into a series of realistic aims and actions. At all times, the Group accepted that whatever they produced would be only the start of a process that, if it was to be truly successful, would be on-going for a number of years. In order to set the ball rolling, some priority actions were decided upon and subsequently agreed with the Parish Council. At this stage, a double-sided 'flier' titled 'We Asked - You Replied - We Will' was hand-delivered to all homes as a means of keeping residents informed on progress.

Attention then turned to the production of a formal plan which draws together all the ideas that were put forward, the aims to be achieved and the actions to be taken. At the same time, this book will inform service providers and receivers alike of the hopes and needs of parishioners and, as such, will provide the basis for discussions about how local life might be improved.

THE THREE PARISHES - POPULATION

Although much background history of the three parishes has been provided earlier in this book, readers may find it helpful to know something about the current size of the parish group and about the local population. What follows is drawn from the National Census of 2001 (currently the most reliable source of information). While Preston Wynne parish was treated as an entity in its own right, Westhide and Withington were unfortunately merged for statistical purposes.

The Parish Group forms part of Hagley Ward within Herefordshire Council. Preston Wynne covers 352 hectares while Westhide and Withington cover 1386 hectares.

Population details at the time of the census were:

Westhide & Withington			Preston Wynne		
<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
0-15	295	21	0-15	30	21.9
16-59	834	59.4	16-59	86	62.8
60+	276	19.6	60+	21	15.3

There can be no doubt that, since the census was taken, these figures will have changed. However, if readers want to know more demographic information ahead of the 2011 census this can be found at:

http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/council_gov_democracy/council/findyourarea.aspx.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID AND WHAT WE SHALL TRY TO ACHIEVE

The following sections of this plan set out in some detail how members of the local community responded to the questionnaires that were distributed in the Autumn of 2009. After all, their views have to be central to the plan. More importantly, each section specifies the future aims which it is hoped we shall be able to achieve and the individual actions that will have to be taken in pursuit of those aims. The percentages quoted reflect the views expressed by those who answered each question rather than the percentage of the total population of the three parish community.

As already mentioned, some actions have been identified as needing early attention and have been given 'priority' status. These are shown in Appendix B. There are differences in terminology between the text of the main report and the headings of the two left hand columns in the appendix. What are identified as 'aims' in the text are identified as 'required outcome' in the appendix. Similarly, 'actions' are termed 'the process'. These variations arise from the fact that the format of the appendix was prepared in mid 2010 for members of the Parish Council but they do not affect the ultimate aims of the plan. They have been accepted as being a lesser evil than having to redraft the whole document.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Answers to questions about the environment reflected a wide range of concerns including **litter**, particularly in the main Withington Village (57%) and Eau Withington (48%). **Dog mess** was also considered a nuisance in Withington (54%). Other worries were: **agricultural spraying, fly-tipping** and **road noise** (48%, 30% and 46% respectively) around Eau Withington/Nunnington. **Anti-social behaviour** in Withington Village was another concern; this feeling was reinforced by answers to the young people's questionnaire.

However, despite the comments about litter, overall only 35% of respondents were willing to take part in self-help clearance activities. In this context, residents living in Preston Wynne (48%) and Withington Marsh/Cross Keys (41%) were most likely to assist.

No great difficulty was reported in getting to any of the **Herefordshire Council household waste disposal** sites but no fewer than 43% overall, and 47% and 48% respectively in Withington and Withington Marsh/Cross Keys felt it would be useful to have a disposal site closer to the parish (NB: the round-trip distance from Withington to the existing Rotherwas site is a minimum of 16 miles).

Despite the Withington group of parishes being of a rural nature, there was strong support for improving the status quo. Overall 70% of people wanted **more trees** planting and the creation of **wildlife-friendly habitats**, while 50% asked for the creation of **wetland areas** and the provision of **allotments**. Among the more general suggestions was the need for **improved footpaths**.

Finally, while only 31% of adults showed an interest in receiving **energy efficiency advice**; young people were much more aware of the importance of this subject.

Aims

- To improve the quality of the local environment to reflect respondents' views

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Check with Amey that routine litter-picks and street cleaning take place at the correct intervals.
- Provide dog-mess bins (see the Highways section).(Action already in hand)
- Erect signs in the most badly affected locations reminding dog owners to clear-up their pets' messes.
- Discuss with local farmers how it might be possible to reduce inconvenience caused by crop-spraying.
- Enlist the support of neighbouring parishes and the elected councillor for Hagley ward in pressing the case for a household waste disposal facility on the northern outskirts of Hereford City
- Investigate the practicability of providing allotments.

Steering Group to:

- Encourage self-help 'cleaning-up' activities.

Parish Council & Steering Group to:

- Form litter-picking teams, each being responsible for a clearly-defined area.
- Liaise with the Community Protection Team with a view to reducing anti-social behaviour.
- Develop plans for local tree-planting and encouraging wildlife.
- Remain alert to the need to encourage the efficient use of energy resources.

2. HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

A significant number of people in Westhide and in the main Withington village (69% and 67% respectively) said there was **no need for more houses** in their areas, while in Preston Wynne, Eau Withington/Nunnington and Withington Marsh/Cross Keys exactly 50% of respondents were of this opinion. Overall, only 10% were in favour. Notwithstanding these views, if there was to be more building, **support was stronger than opposition for affordable homes, starter homes and small/medium sized properties** (47%, 42% and 47% respectively). More people opposed than supported sheltered homes (42%), apartments (55%) and executive homes (48%).

When asked about housing design, 73% of respondents opted for traditional, whereas 45% were opposed to contemporary or modern design. 52% wanted houses to have their own garages but 74% suggested off-road parking.

Specific comments added to the answers quoted above reinforced the opposition to new-build of any sort.

So far as the **conversion of redundant farm or other buildings** was concerned, there was **considerable support** (74%) in favour of providing living accommodation. This was especially so in Withington Marsh/Cross Keys (83%) and Preston Wynne (81%). Against this, only 47% were in favour of making conversions available as holiday lets; Eau Withington/Nunnington (63%) and Withington Marsh/Cross Keys (56%) recording the strongest views. In the same context, 61% **supported the idea of providing workshops or small business units**, with 56% wanting open market sale/ordinary houses. As earlier, the greatest support for this came from Eau Withington/Nunnington and Withington Marsh/Cross Keys.

Aim

- To ensure that any changes to the built environment reflect the wishes of parishioners.

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Note the views expressed by its constituents.
- Monitor closely any proposals for development and to oppose those that do not accord with the wishes of residents or to explain why opposition was not possible.

Steering Group to:

- Inform Herefordshire Council about parishioners' views (Already actioned).

3. POLICE AND SECURITY

The general opinion (52%) of the policing service was that it was average. However, while Preston Wynne and Westhide supported this view (57% and 61% respectively), residents in Eau Withington/Nunnington were less impressed (45%). There was an even balance between those who thought that services were good or very good and those who considered them to be poor or very poor. When asked if there were any security or safety concerns the common answer was 'No'. Even so, many of those who responded expressed concern about the **perceived lack of visible policing** and about **vandalism/anti-social behaviour**. This fact was also reflected in answers to the young people's questionnaire.

It was particularly noteworthy that only 13% of adults knew there was a **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme in the main Withington village. There was no knowledge whatsoever of any such scheme in Preston Wynne, Westhide, and Eau Withington/Nunnington while only 4% of those living in

Withington Marsh/Cross Keys knew about it. Likewise, only 2% of respondents knew about **Rural Watch**.

Aims

- To bring about a more visible police presence within the three parishes.
- Significantly to improve the awareness of Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Watch.

Actions

Steering Group to:

- Liaise with the West Mercia Police Force to make them aware of local concerns and to discuss possible changes to policing procedures (Action already in hand).
- Discuss with the Withington coordinator and with the Chair of Herefordshire Neighbourhood Watch how the level of awareness might be significantly improved (Action already in hand).
- Discuss with West Mercia Police Force how the level of awareness about Rural Watch might be significantly improved (Action already in hand).

4. HIGHWAYS

Background

Some of the answers to the adult questionnaire concerned **highways, their maintenance and use**. The main problems were identified as being the poor condition of road surfaces, parking of private cars, road signs, verges, ditches and drains, and general road safety.

Although the condition of 'A' roads was considered as being good to average (81%), there was **overwhelming concern over the state of the minor roads** with 49% of respondents considering them to be poor. This was also reflected by 51% of replies indicating a need for improved maintenance of road verges, ditches and drains. Some support was received for improving signage, while **48% of respondents wanted more speed restrictions**. Other people suggested that there should be new village name signs showing the boundaries of each community within the parish group.

The quality of winter gritting was not considered as being a particular issue (Note: the survey was undertaken before the period of severe weather in early 2010) with only 21% highlighting it as being poor. Nevertheless, it was asked that **the gritting programme should be extended to cover all bus routes together with those to Withington School**.

Parking throughout the parishes was not regarded as being a problem, with 93% of respondents reporting no difficulties with parking and between 83% and 91% of them not wanting any form of

parking control. However, the survey did identify **two main areas where parking problems existed**: South Bank, and the Withies Road junction with Withies Close

Road safety was a concern for respondents with 61% stating there were issues in the area. While **52% were in favour of more speed checks** (see above), 66% wanted restrictions on HGVs, 69% asked for a reduced speed limit near Withington School, 62% sought **more pavements for pedestrians**. In addition, 74% wanted wider pavements and 66% more street lighting. More than half were against the imposition of traffic-calming measures.

A high proportion of adult respondents (62%) never cycled, although in the young people's survey 63% indicated that cycling in the parishes was an issue for them, particularly regarding **the condition of roads and the lack of cycle paths**. Comments asked for consideration to be given to the provision of dedicated cycle paths with particular regard to access to Withington Fields.

Aims

- Improve the quality of all local roads.
- Improve the standard of verge, ditch and drain maintenance by the appointment of a lengthsman to undertake highway maintenance work (Note: a lengthsman has now been appointed).
- Improve existing road and street signage.
- Improve and extend the road gritting routes.
- Significantly reduce inconsiderate in-road parking in the specified areas.
- Improve road safety throughout the three parishes.

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Continue with the 'Parish Initiative' system for reporting potholes, etc (Action already in hand).
- Establish a system for allocating priorities for the lengthsman's work (Action already in hand).

Steering Group to

- Discuss with the **Highways Department** possible improvements to: road and street signage; winter gritting of roads; existing road safety measures, including a 20 mph speed limit near Withington School (Some actions already in hand).
- Discuss with the **Police** how best to reduce inconsiderate on-street vehicle parking (Action already in hand).
- Discuss with the **Highways Department and the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust** ways in which dedicated cycle paths might be provided.

5. FACILITIES

From the information ascertained in the Adult Questionnaire residents of the Parish in the main are happy with the main utility suppliers. However opinions on broadband and mobile phone coverage were mixed. Over 50% of people believed that **mobile phone reception was either poor or very poor**.

When asked about **Village Hall usage**, more residents of Preston Wynne were likely to use their hall when compared to residents of Withington. 35% of people in Preston Wynne were regular users compared with only 8% saying they were regular users of Withington Village Hall. When asked about the facilities available both halls favoured well at around 50% in agreement that the facilities were good



Preston Wynne Village Hall



Withington Village Hall

The question about local **church/chapel use** resulted in an overall consensus that they should remain as places of worship. An average 67% of residents across the three parish areas were in favour of Sunday Schools. **Westhide posted some slightly different results with 50% being in favour of creating a community centre within their church building**. When asked about Post Office and IT usage within the building there was no significant support.

Mobile **medical facilities** were another area of consideration. Results showed that 80% of residents had no problems accessing current GP surgery's in the City and only 48% said that they may utilise a mobile facility and 31% stating a definite no. The question of a prescription service posted very similar results.

Residents were asked about the provision of a **high speed broadband service** and whether they were prepared to pay more should an improved service be on offer. People naturally were in favour of the supply, 81% in Preston Wynne and 76% in Withington Marsh/Cross Keys, but **opinion was split when it came to possible extra costs**. Overall only 45% were in favour of paying more. The question of provision of an internet café in the Parish was raised but overwhelmingly 84% said they did not want it.

The Post Office service was another area of the Questionnaire to raise positive replies. However, since the questionnaire was circulated, the Post Office in Preston Wynne has closed.

In Withington the Post Office was widely utilised by residents across the parish, 73% of residents from Westhide and Withington using the facility at least once a month. 50% of Withington residents stated that they used the facility every week. Westhide does not have its own post office.



Withington Post Office



Withington Stores

Withington Village Store usage resulted in 67% of residents stating that used the facility at least every month. The highest daily usage, 29% was recorded in Withington itself. 64% of Westhide residents were likely to use the shop every week. When asked about increased usage, 42% of residents said they would use it more if there was more choice, lower prices and a free cash machine. **It must be noted that these results were posted before the shop changed ownership.**

Residents were also asked about the possibility of a **licensed bar within the village halls**. 55% of residents said that they would not use such a facility. The highest interest on an occasional basis, 58% was in Preston Wynne, and 52% in Withington.

The question was raised once again about a possible **farmers' market** being held at Withington Village Hall. A low return of 27% of residents would use it on a regular basis and 60% being occasional users.

Finally within the Adult Questionnaire there was an open question on general views within the community. There was a high percentage of returns in favour of promoting a '**centre of village**' for Withington and this could be done with the development of the **new field adjacent to the hall** with the provision of sports and play facilities. The shop & post office are also nearby.



Withington Fields Development

Comments were also high in relation to **improved communication** within the parish, along with a need for more information about the local councillors.

There were also high returns in favour of **improved footpaths** along with improved local information including maps of the area and marked walks.

In relation to the Youth questionnaire there were several interesting responses and high percentage returns in relation to; 57% in favour of sports fields, 60% in favour of a tennis court, 49% in favour of a football pitch.

Aims

- Promote the continued survival of the parish **churches and chapel**.
- Promote further usage of the **village halls** and encourage alternative activities.
- Maintain the **Post Office** facility in Withington Village..
- Continue to support/use Withington **village stores**.
- To enhance the **centre of Withington** around the new Withington Fields development and the village hall areas.
- To improve the signage of public **footpaths** in the parishes.

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Continue to seek funding and opinions on the continued development of Withington Fields.
- To liaise with Herefordshire Council to seek improvements to footpaths and their signage.

Steering Group to:

- Liaise with the Parochial Church Council in order to discuss alternative uses of the parish churches in order to assist their survival.
- To discuss with the post office and village shop proprietors in order to encourage continued use of the facilities.

6. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSPORT

Only 13% of adults and 22% of young people claimed to use **the local bus services** at least once per month or more often. 58% of adults said that they never used them.



Local bus in Withies Rd, Withington

Users were broadly content with the services but would welcome increased frequency. The highest level of bus use and the best opinion of the services came from residents in the main Withington Village. In general, people wanted at the very least to maintain the existing services but, if possible, to improve them.

Requests for **safe, dedicated cycle routes** are covered elsewhere in this plan.

There was a degree of interest (52%) in **double-tracking the railway line** from Hereford to Ledbury and in **re-opening Withington railway station**. No fewer than 58% of respondents said they would use the train more if the station was re-opened; this figure rose to 63% in the case of residents in the main Withington village.

Aims

- To ensure the continuance of current bus services and, if possible to increase their frequency.
- To achieve an improved rail service.

Actions

Steering Group to:

- Negotiate with the Transport Forum with a view to varying bus services to reflect local needs.
- Find out from Network Rail if there is any possibility of re-opening Withington rail station.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Results of our survey were to establish the community's awareness and usage of various communication tools available across the Parishes, and to establish what might be needed in future.

77% said they would/ might use a **Parish Website**, mainly for accessing local information (68%), to read about the work of the Parish Council (42%), and to find out about local social/ cultural events (22%), and then there were some additional suggestions from a few individuals. A Parish Website now exists and can be accessed at:-

<http://www.withingtongroupparishes.co.uk>

However some people (7) said they do not have access to the internet or a computer and 25% said they would not use a Parish Website, so we also need to continue to keep you informed in other ways too.

54% of people claimed to know something about the work of the **Parish Council** (66% in Westhide) but 46% do not. Withington News was the way 63% find out about it, and village notice boards for 19% (higher at 24% in the main Withington village). Otherwise people find out by word of mouth (27%). Only 5% claimed to attend any Parish Council meetings. So the survey results tell us we need to find ways of letting you know who your parish councillors are, who does what, how you can contact them and the work they are involved in on your behalf.

Withington News, the free parish-wide magazine, is important as a means of communication. 41% said they get it hand delivered to their door, 44% collect a copy from Withington Stores or the local Post Office, but 12% said they do not get a copy. For those who read it, up to 84% said it is very or fairly useful. Only 17% disagreed.

We asked about other ways that you like to get hold of information, through **notice boards** etc and we will be reviewing these to make sure they are relevant, useful and within reach for as many of you as possible. There were suggestions that we include more maps, also showing local footpaths.

Overall, the survey indicated that we need to make sure we provide and support more effective multi-channel communication within the Parish Group.

Aims

- Improve the overall communication throughout the parishes by **better distribution of information**.
- Inform the community of the **work carried out** by the Parish Council along with knowledge of individual roles.

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Establish a parish website. (Already actioned).
- To fund and support further publications of the Withington News parish magazine. (Already actioned).
- To publicise a full list of current councillors along with details of the secondary duties performed. (Already actioned).
- To look at the positioning of current notice boards and to maintain the information within them.

8. YOUNG PEOPLE

Of the 109 young people who replied to their specific questionnaire, 34% were aged 9 years or younger, 47% between 10 and 14 years and 19% between 15 and 17 years. 60% of replies related to the main part of Withington village. Very pleasingly, **well over half of the respondents reported that the area was a nice place to live** and another 38% said it was 'OK'.

Out of a total of some 40 spare time activities which were mentioned, the most popular were: hanging about with friends, playing outside, bike riding, watching TV and swimming.

The **most common means of transport for getting to other towns was by car**, either getting a lift in the family car or travelling with friends. Only 22% of replies mentioned using the local bus service.

In reply to the question about 'what worries you?' **the prime concerns were: anti-social behaviour, dog mess, speeding traffic, litter and drugs or alcohol abuse.** On the other hand, dedicated cycle routes and more pedestrian pavements were identified as requirements for making the villages safer places.

While replies to the adult questionnaire were somewhat dismissive about the need for maximising the energy efficiency of homes, **51% of young people said energy efficiency was very important** and another 44% acknowledged that it was fairly important

Finally, the facilities 'most wanted' in the local area were, in descending order: tennis courts, a sports field, a football pitch, a play area and a BMX/mountain bike trail. The facilities least wanted by young people were: an after-school club, a play group, a holiday play scheme and a youth shelter.

Aims

- Provide facilities for a wide range of leisure-time activities (Note: the development of Withington Fields will go some way towards meeting this aim).
- Improve local personal safety
- Improve the local environment.

The second and third aims relate very closely to those already listed under responses to the adult questionnaire.

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Keep young people fully informed about progress in developing the full potential of Withington Fields.

Steering Group to:

- Consult young people on a regular basis to ensure that information about their aspirations is kept up to date.

9. EDUCATION

At the heart of replies to questions about education was the belief by 59% of respondents that **the continued existence of Withington Primary School was essential for the well-being of the local community.** A further 28% indicated that it was quite important. That said, only a minority of people wanted to see more child care facilities (24%), after school facilities (28%) or holiday clubs (30%); most recorded 'no opinion'.



However, there was **far more interest in the School premises being used for other educational, social or cultural activities** with 76% of replies favouring adult evening classes. Next most popular were activities for senior citizens (64%) and a youth club (60%). Other respondents suggested that plays (56%) and concerts/recitals (55%) might be staged at the School, while 44% advocated its use as a community centre and IT centre. All these feelings were evenly spread between the five main communities within the Withington Parish Group. 14 respondents selected 'other' possible uses and made a total of 30 comments but no clear themes emerged.



Withington Primary School



It should be noted that since these responses the school has formed a hard federation with Aylestone Business and Enterprise College and has established a purpose-built outstanding early years foundation unit within the school.

Aim

- To ensure the continued existence of Withington Primary School.

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Promote the use of the Primary School and Pre-School within the Withington Group of Parishes.
- Ascertain the views of non-Withington parents whose children attend the School.
- Liaise closely with the Head of the School, the Governors and the PTA to determine if the premises might be made available for uses other than primary and pre-school education.

10. FLOOD ALLEVIATION



Local flooding - April 1998

Results of our survey revealed that 33% of people across our Parishes know of areas near their homes where there is **a need for flood relief measures or better drainage**. This increased to 76% in Withington Marsh/ Cross Keys, 50% in Eau Withington/ Nunnington and 44% in Preston Wynne. The figures were lower in other parts of the Parishes but still at least 20%. Although there were many mentions of the Cross Keys/Withington Marsh vicinity there were many mentions of locations outside of these too: Withies Close, Southbank to A4103, Lock Lane, Easy Lawn, A465, Duke Street, Townsend Farm in Westhide.



Local flooding - April 1998

14% of respondents knew they or someone else might need **help from others in the event of flooding**. This increased to 44% in Withington Marsh/ Cross Keys. Although 53% of respondents indicated they are prepared to volunteer to help others in the event of flooding very few came forward to identify themselves. It is hoped that over time volunteers will make themselves known to the parish Emergency Co-ordinator.

63% of people felt thought **restoring the Hereford and Gloucester Canal** which runs through the Parishes of Withington and Westhide was a good idea. 25% would need to know more about it before deciding. Only 5% thought it was not a good idea. Support was highest in Withington Marsh/ Cross Keys where 75% of people thought it was a good idea, and high in Eau Withington/ Nunnington (64%) and Westhide (65%). In the main village of Withington support was still high at 61%, and it was 58% in Preston Wynne.

Reasons given for liking the idea of restoring the Canal ranged from preventing flooding to creating an attractive leisure amenity, walks etc, increasing tourism and improving the local environment. Some were keen to see its heritage restored and preserved. Those against the idea were mainly concerned with the cost of such a scheme, litter/ dog mess and safety, however there were only 27 negative comments in total and 333 positive ones.

Aims

- To arrange for a technical survey of the risk and impact of flooding in order to minimise the risk.
- To reduce the risk of flooding in the areas most prone to it.
- To encourage early stage preparation or restoration works on the Hereford and Gloucester canal in our parishes as soon as possible.

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Press Herefordshire Council to carry out a technical survey of flooding risk in our parishes (Action in hand. The Council has already commissioned an independent assessment of flood priorities for Herefordshire).
- Participate in county-wide, Herefordshire Council-led fact-finding and other initiatives designed to minimise the risk of flooding.
- Liaise with local landowners and involve them in efforts to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Work with Herefordshire Council, Amey and their sub-contractors to implement flood alleviation measures for the 25 homes in the Cross Keys area which have been awarded DEFRA grant aid for household flood protection and resilience by the end of March 2011.
- Brief the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust about the benefits the parishes hope to gain by mitigating flood risk and by restoring the local sections of the canal.
- Improve the standards of verges, ditches and drain maintenance. (Action in hand: The Council has already appointed a lengthsman).
- Develop and put in place a Community Emergency Plan for the parishes.
- Establish and implement accountability for flood risk management within the parishes.

Steering Group to:

- Explore the possibility of local fund-raising and generating physical support to help with canal restoration (Note: Cargill has made a grant of £3000 towards canal restoration and it is hoped that some of this money can be used for work within our parishes).

11. SPORT & TOURISM

When asked if they thought that the **restoration of the Hereford to Gloucester canal** was a good idea, 63% of respondents were in favour. This rose to 75% among the Withington Marsh/Cross Keys community. Residents in Westhide and Eau Withington/Nunnington were also strongly in favour but those in Withington Village and Preston Wynne were slightly less so.

Many reasons were given for supporting the restoration, by far the most popular were: to create walks and a leisure facility (121 replies), to provide an added tourist attraction (90 replies) and to help prevent flooding (39 replies). A relative minority of people considered that restoration would improve the environment and attract wildlife, and would help to restore local heritage.

To some extent, the acquisition of **Withington Fields** and their recent development as a leisure facility mainly for young people has overtaken the responses to the question '**What leisure facilities would you like to see provided?**' However, for the record, **the most widely supported ideas were:** a recreation field (68% adults and 48% young people), a local play area (60% adults and 47% young people), a football pitch (58% adults and 49% young people). While 52% of adults wanted a youth club only 29% of young people thought this would be a good idea. Other suggestions attracting varying degrees of support included: a cricket pitch, a sports field, a BMX/mountain bike trail and a skate park.

General comments highlighted the need for the **recreation/play areas to be located away from roads** but no less that 77% of adults were unwilling or unable to assist with running sports clubs or to be members of any management committees.

Thought was also given to possible **leisure activities for adults, including senior citizens**. Responses favoured bowls, dancing, coffee mornings and fitness/yoga sessions, all of which could take place in the village halls. **No fewer than 69% of respondents said they might attend adult evening classes** which again could be held in the village halls (or possibly in Withington Primary School - see the Education section).

Finally in this section, 43% of respondents said they used **local footpaths** on a daily basis while 36% were occasional users. It should be noted that the Parish Council has a Footpaths Officer and has joined the Parish Footpaths Scheme.

Aim

- To provide recreational local facilities to reflect the wishes of adults and young people.

Actions

Parish Council to:

- Develop Withington Fields in such a way as most closely to meet local people's wishes.
- Actively seek to involve more local people in the management of Withington Fields.
- Provide more and better opportunities for local people to voice their opinions on the ways in which Withington Fields should be developed and managed.
- Ensure that footpaths in the three parishes are properly signed and maintained.
- Liaise with the Hereford to Gloucester Canal Trust and agree how restoration affecting the three parishes might be undertaken.

Steering Group to:

- Develop a liaison with the Hereford to Gloucester Canal Trust in order to support its work.
- Generate funds to help meet local restoration costs.
- Seek to involve local residents in restoration work.
- Investigate the possibilities of arranging adult education classes and other activities for adults including senior citizens.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Something like two years have passed since the Parish Council gave the go-ahead for the production of a plan that would reflect the hopes and wishes of residents in the three conjoined parishes of Preston Wynne, Westhide and Withington. A Steering Group was formed and four 'Planning for Real' events were held, followed by the distribution of questionnaires to every house in the catchment area. There were well over 700 replies to the questionnaires (a wonderful response rate of 76%). The Steering Committee and the Parish Council then produced a list of '19 Prioritised Actions' (see Appendix B), many of which are already in hand. It is now timely to think about how we shall move forward into the future.

The task of ensuring that every effort continues to be made to implement not only the 19 priorities but all the actions identified in the preceding pages rests with the Parish Council and the Steering Group. Therefore, responsibility for progress has been allocated to one or other of these bodies and, in a few cases, to both for joint action. It has also been accepted that, if true success is to be achieved, it will be necessary to enlist the co-operation of a large number of individuals and corporate bodies outside the confines of the Parish Group; their names are included in Appendix C which lists all those to whom printed copies of the plan have been sent.

So far as the Parish Council is concerned, it is very much hoped that, following the local government elections in May 2011, the new Council will continue actively to take on board the work required of it. In turn, the Steering Group will still have its own aims to achieve and actions to pursue. However, it is likely that, after two years of constant effort, some members of the Group will want to move on and to be able to devote time to other interests. Accordingly, like the Parish Council, the Steering Group's composition may well change. As this is so, there will be a public meeting in the near future at which all parishioners will be given an opportunity to say what they think about what has already been accomplished and to become more deeply involved in future activities.

All that remains is to say a very warm 'thank you' to everyone in Preston Wynne, Westhide and Withington who has shown an interest in the development of this truly 'community-led' plan. The thoughtful and, above all, useful ideas they have put forward will help to make local life even better than is it today.

APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP

Steve Caine – Chairman

Judith Ball

Jackie Bremner

Rev. Wallace Brown

Georgina Caine

Rev. Lynne Davis

Sylvia Fletcher

Marcia Hopkins

Robin Jones

Carlton Lowe

Rachel Leake

Andrew Massey

David Packman

Rachel Rice

Peter Seal

Rev. Iain Skinner

Winnie Soo

The following local people had asked to be kept well-informed about progress with the development of the plan:

Paul Bainbridge - Chairman of the Parish Council

Dave Greenow - Herefordshire Councillor for Hagley Ward

Kevin Hewison - Parish Councillor, Village Hall Chairman

Rob Soutar - Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council

Geoff Studerus - Parish Clerk

Thanks are given to the following members of the Herefordshire Partnership and Community First who have helped with the production of the plan:

Chris Gooding – Community Led Planning and Coordinating Officer

Mel Preedy - Temporary Community Action Plan Implementation Officer

Sophie Pryce – Community Led Planning Development Support Officer

Cat Roberts – Community Led Planning Youth Engagement Officer

Malcolm Walker – Community Action Plan Implementation Officer

Finally, a special vote of thanks goes to Kevin and Ruth Hewison who have done such a sterling job in collecting together many disparate contributions to this plan and in turning them into a single, readable whole.

APPENDIX B

ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING		Appendix B : 19 Prioritised Actions										
Required Outcome	The Process	Who Will Do It	Partners/ Providers	Time-scales	Cost	Funding/ Source/s	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ evaluate progress	Communication	Progress	PPSG Member	Parish Council Member
Provide dog mess bins in the most badly affected areas and arrange to have them emptied	Encourage the PC to chase up this action bearing in mind it is one which they have previously looked at	WGFC	Hereford Council, Amey Herefordshire and FOSCA refuse contractors	Jan-11	??	Parish Council	Parish Council	Parish Council	Notify residents of location of bins - Wittington News/Website	It has been established that bagged dog mess can be disposed in any public bin. Parish Council have agreed to the purchase of additional general waste bins and are currently identifying suitable locations based on needs	Rachel Rice	Ann Packman
Erect signs in the most badly affected areas reminding dog owners to pick up their mess	WGFC to action as above and consider funding locally when suitable collection bins have been put in place	WGFC	Amey Herefordshire and the Community Protection Warden	Jan-11	??	Parish Council	Parish Council	Parish Council	Notify residents of need to use dog mess bins and implications of not doing so. Known offenders can be reported to Herefordshire Council, community protection team.	Keep Britain Tidy campaign stickers available, bag that poo - any rubbish bin will do.	Rachel Rice	Ann Packman
Check with Amey that routine litter picks and street cleaning take place at the correct intervals. Possible support through local self help activities	Ensure the PC continue to liaise with the nominated contact	WGFC	Amey Herefordshire and the Community Protection Warden	Ongoing	0	Litter pick packs are available to use free of charge	Parish Plan Committee	Parish Plan Committee	Inform residents of the availability of litter picking kits available and implications of not doing so. Known offenders can be reported to Herefordshire Council, community protection team	Amey street cleanse on a needs basis and currently provide on demand requests. Amey litter pick packs are available for use by individuals or groups	Rachel Rice	Ann Packman
Inform Herefordshire Council about the wishes of residents when it comes to future housing developments	This is to be relayed via the WGFC when future developments are proposed	WGFC	Hereford Council & Herefordshire Unitary Development Plans	Aug-10						Herefordshire Council told about residents' views by letter dated 16 August 2010	David Packman	Paul Bainbridge

POLICING & SECURITY												
Required Outcome	The Process	Who Will Do It	Partners/ Providers	Time-scales	Cost	Funding/ Source/s	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ evaluate progress	Communication	Progress	PPSG Member	Parish Council Member
Bring about a more visible police presence within the Withington group of parishes	Liaise with WMP through continued dialogue and meetings	WGPC & PPSG members	WMP & PACT	Sep-10						This was achieved but the Hereford Rural East policing area will be without a CSO until at least early 2011	David Packman	Ann Packman
Improve the awareness of Neighbourhood and Rural Watch schemes throughout the group of parishes	Liaise with the WMP to promote the schemes and also encourage the community at large to take an active role	WMP, WGPC & PPSG members	WMP Community Policing Officers							The Parish Council will be given a briefing about Rural Watch on 11 November 2010. Contact has also been made with Herefordshire Neighbourhood Watch	David Packman	Tom Nellist
Liaise with the Community Protection Team with a view to reduce anti-social behaviour	Joint action by WGPC and PPSG members	WGPC & PPSG	PACT & West Mercia Police	Ongoing				Parish Plan Committee	Inform residents of the activities that are considered as antisocial and can attract a fine. Known offenders can be reported to Herefordshire Council, community protection team	Initial conversation held with Community protection team who have outlined the activities they can undertake. Currently Withington is not considered a problem area.	Rachel Rice	Wallace Brown

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT		Who Will Do It	Partners/ Providers	Time-scales	Cost	Funding/ Source/s	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ evaluate progress	Communication	Progress	PPSG Member	Parish Council Member
Required Outcome	The Process	WGFC to maintain regular contact with AMEY to ensure signage and road markings are maintained. This can be done with the help of the Lengthsman to report problems areas	Herefordshire Council and AMEY	Jan-11						Geof: WGFC are in constant contact with Amey. Again "overnight" results should not be expected. Rachel: Further discussion held with Amey to progress sign matters. Nov-10 Amey have confirmed that several new/replacement signs will be installed	Rachel Rice	Geoff Studerus
Improve local road signage and road markings												
Required Outcome	The Process	WGFC to maintain contact with Herefordshire Council about the standard of gritting. WGFC have reported on the recent Dec09/Jan10 winter weather conditions	Herefordshire Council and local bus companies who have an interest in maintaining the bus routes through the parishes	Oct-10	0			Parish Council	Once final decision on route through Withington is agreed communicate through website and Withington news. If change not agreed further lobby next Winter season	Parish Council have formally written to Highways requesting consideration of amendment to routes to include bus and school routes. Initial contact indicated no change in routes. Parish committee working with Amey to put forward further evidence to support change in route. Nov-10 Amey confirm that Withies Rd and the rear of the school now on priority list	Rachel Rice	Simon Dent
Lobby for a 20mph speed limit on the roads around Withington Primary School	Encourage the WGFC along with the School to report the findings through to Herefordshire Council	WGFC & Withington School	Safer Routes to Schools campaigns within Herefordshire Council	Jan-12	tbc	Hfd Council Safer routes to school s 106 money from further housing development	Parish Council	Parish Council	The introduction of any change to Traffic Regulations can take up to a year once the process is commenced.	Established that Withington are currently on the list for consideration of a 20mph advisory limit. However not a priority so unlikely to be considered in next couple of years. Withington school agreed to reconfirm requirement for a safer route to school within its travel plan. Initial contact with Amey to establish any feasible options for improving the safety of the route to the back of the school.	Rachel Rice	Kevin Hewison
To seek improvement in the bus routes and timetables	Approach the respective bus companies in conjunction with Herefordshire Council to iron out possible improvements.	PPSG Members	Bus Companies and Herefordshire Council							No progress will be possible until the financial aspects of Local Transport Plan 3 have been clarified	David Packman	Jackie Bremner

SPORT, LEISURE & TOURISM: THE YOUNG & EDUCATION												
Required Outcome	The Process	Who Will Do It	Partners/ Providers	Time-scales	Cost	Funding/ Source/s	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ evaluate progress	Communication	Progress	PPSG Member	Parish Council Member
Explore the possibility of the Canal to come through the Parish and offer support towards its restoration	Continue to liaise with the Hereford & Gloucester canal Trust.	WGPC & PPSG members. Also Hereford ESG development	Hereford & Gloucester Canal Trust. ESG development committee								Jackie Bremner	Jackie Bremner
Provide more and better opportunities for local residents to voice their opinions on how the New Withington Fields should be developed and managed	Ask the WGPC Chairman to again promote the field development	WGPC & PPSG members	Alternative funding from outside agencies to aid the development of the field and council contractual employees to maintain the field	Oct-10					Information publicised in Withington News by Rob Soutar and continues to do so for further helpers	Withington Fields development now completed with limited funds available. Plans for development were to view prior to contractual work. Future development subject to further funding.	Steve Caine	Rob Soutar
To ascertain more detailed information about the aspirations of young people in the Withington Group of parishes.	Review the Questionnaire findings in order to ascertain a detailed range of activities required	WGPC & PPSG members to consider the suggestions in conjunction with the New Withington Field.	Youth Worker form the Hfd Council Parish Plan Implementation Team	Aug-12					Information to be publicised locally to gauge interest and to formulate management committees for the proposed football teams	Contact to be made with Cat Roberts (a youth liaison officer) at Herefordshire Council. Additionally proposals being put forward to create youth football teams to play on the new village field	Marcia Hopkins & Steve Caine	Rachel Leake
Maintain the existence of Withington School through further use of the facilities and undertake an extended school audit	Encourage alternative facility usage. Promote the Primary School and Pre-School. Ascertain the views of non-Withington parents	School Governors. School PTA. School Head teacher and other School teaching Staff	Aylestone High School as part of the upcoming federation	Sep-10	UK	Education Authority & Aylestone Federation		School Head, Governors & PTA		Federation in place. Foundation stage unit established in the school releasing old nursery unit available as community space.	Kevin Hewison & Rachel Rice	Kevin Hewison

COMMUNICATION, FLOODING & DRAINAGE: FACILITIES												
Required Outcome	The Process	Who Will Do It	Partners/ Providers	Time-scales	Cost	Funding/ Source/s	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ evaluate progress	Communication	Progress	PPSG Member	Parish Council Member
Improve the means of communication within the parishes. Better information distribution methods to be instigated	Parish Website to be in place. Maintain the Withington News parish magazine. Publicise the work of the WGPC and contact details of councillors	WGPC	WGPC	Jul-10		WN funding along with WGPC provisions		WN Editor and WGPC Clerk		Geoff: Withington Group Parish website is up and running and is being gradually developed to meet this objective.	Marcia Hopkins	Geoff Studerus
Improve the standards of verges, ditches and drain maintenance.	WGPC to employ a Lengthsman to carry out local remedial work within the parishes	WGPC	WGPC	Jun-10	£1600 initial	WGPC	Funding received from Amey Ltd	WGPC		Geoff: WGPC have employed Lengthsman - work in progress, but do not expect an "overnight" result. There is already a long list of work to be done with priority being given to areas liable to flood.	Rachel & Jackie	Geoff Studerus
Flooding accountability and surveys to take place. Develop an emergency action plan to alleviate the effects of flooding	WGPC representative to liaise with Hfd & Glos Canal Trust, Environment Agency and Herefordshire Council	WGPC Emergency Planning Officer	Hfd & Glos Canal Trust, Environment Agency								Jackie Bremner & Marcia Hopkins	Jackie Bremner
Discuss with the proprietors of the Post Offices and Withington Village Stores if there is anything that can be done to assist continuation of the facilities	PPSG members to approach the Post Office owners and the new owner of Withington Stores once the facility has reopened	PPSG Members	Royal Mail	Jan-11						Withington Post office proprietor approached and notified of the survey results. Further contact to be made with both the shop and post office for updates	Steve Caine	Rob Soutar

APPENDIX C

DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED COPIES OF THE WITHINGTON GROUP PLAN

All parish councillors -16

Cllr Dave Greenow – Elected member for Hagley Ward of Herefordshire Council

Steering Group members who are not parish councillors -14

Churches and chapel – 5 copies each

Withington Primary School - 6

Withington Post Office - 6

Withington Village Hall - 6

Preston Wynne Village Hall - 6

Withington Village Stores – 12

'Cross Keys' public house - 6

Herefordshire Council Cabinet Members for:

Corporate Strategy and Finance

Children's Services

Economic Development and Community Services

ICT, Education and Achievement

Corporate and Customer Services and Human Resources

Environment and Strategic Housing

Highways and Transport

Resources

Older People and Social Care

West Mercia Police Force:

Herefordshire Divisional Commander

Hereford Rural East Inspector

Hereford Rural East Beat Manager

HALC

Primary Care Trust - 2

Amey Herefordshire – 3

Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust

Anthony Bush Parish Council Liaison Officer Herefordshire Council

Chris Gooding Community Led Planning and Coordinating Officer

Mel Preedy Temporary Community Action Plan Implementation Officer

Sophie Pryce Community Led Planning Development Support Officer

Cat Roberts Community Led Planning Youth Engagement Officer

Malcolm Walker Community Action Plan Implementation Officer

This plan is also available on the Parish Website: <http://www.withingtongroupparishes.co.uk>