



Withington Parish Plan 2018



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The Withington Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is an important document as it feeds directly into the Shrewsbury Area Place Plan which is used by Shropshire Council (SC) departments when reviewing requirements for such projects as road improvement, housing and commercial planning, and water and sewerage improvements.

The Withington Parish five year plan was first published in 2003 and updated in both

2008 and 2013 following consultation with Parishioners. The plan has now been updated in 2018 based upon the results of a questionnaire issued in October to all 96 households in the Parish.

The results were analysed by the Clerk to the Parish and reviewed independently by one of the Parishioners.



2018 Withington Parish Plan Objectives

The purpose of the Parish Plan questionnaire was to try to ensure that the Parish Council (PC) are aware of all the issues, concerns and requirements of Parishioners and that they are taken into account when updating the plan. To achieve this the questionnaire was made up of five sections

1. Services and assets over which the PC have direct control or influence
2. Assets that the PC do not have direct control or influence over but are considered important to the Parish and have been registered as Community Assets as defined by the 2012 Localism Act. The Act enables the PC to designate assets which are deemed to be of importance to the community. When such assets come up for sale the Act gives community groups time to raise money and bid for the asset when it comes on the open market.

3. Assets and services that your PC do not have direct control or influence over but impact Parishioners and therefore your PC needs to work with the providers to ensure the services are maintained and developed.
4. Facilities and services specifically for under 18's as in recent years there has been an increase in the number of families with children moving into the Parish.
5. Facilities, services, projects that are available in or would have an impact upon the Parish if implemented

The detailed results and analysis of the questionnaire responses can be found in the next section of the document.

Based upon the responses the following is a summary of the key objectives that your PC will focus upon

Services and assets over which the PC have direct control or influence.		
	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
1. Planning & Commercial Development	Try to ensure Withington remains as Open Countryside as defined in Shropshire Councils SAMdev plan	Continue to oppose any large-scale housing and commercial development
2. Village Green	Maintain and develop the green in line with Parishioners requirements	The PC and Village Green committee will review suggestions put forward by Parishioners in their response to the Parish Plan questionnaire and provide responses.
3. Roads & Traffic	Seek to improve traffic management with regards to safety and HGV usage of the lanes and roads.	Raise and follow up with Shropshire Council community concerns reports regarding HGV's using road/lanes through village
	Improve condition of roads and reduce flooding	Continue to work with local businesses to reduce HGV traffic through the village Continue to liaise with Shropshire Council and appropriate agencies regarding improving road surfaces, repairing potholes, road and drain cleaning
4. Footpaths & Bridleways	Ensure public footpaths and bridleways are available for use by the public	Support the Parish Paths Partnership (PPP) to promote the use and maintenance of footpaths and bridleways

Assets that the PC do not have direct control or influence over but are considered important to the Parish and have therefore been listed as Community Assets as defined under the Localism Act.

	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
1. Parish Room	Encourage on going usage of the Parish Room as a valuable focal point for village activity.	Support the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the use of the Parish Room as one of the social focal points in the Parish Invite the PCC to advertise their events on the Parish web site.
2. The Hare & Hounds public house	Support the owner, whenever possible, in the pub's on going use as one of the social focal points in the Parish	Provide the owner with feedback from the Parish Plan questionnaire regarding requests/comments regarding the Hare & Hounds and request a response. Invite the owner to advertise events on the Parish web site
3. John the Baptist Church	Support the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the ongoing use of Church	Provide the PCC with feedback from the Parish Plan questionnaire regarding the Church and request a response.

Assets and services that the PC do not have any direct control or influence over but impact Parishioners and therefore need to work with the providers to ensure the services are maintained and developed.

	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
1. Oil, Gas & Electricity	Provide Parishioners with information on any utility cooperatives that may be available	Advertise the Withington Oil cooperative on the parish web site and notice board
2. Water & Sewerage	Address any issue or concerns raised by Parishioners with Severn Trent	Liaise with Severn Trent as and when needed
3. Bus Service	Improve public transport for Withington Parishioners	Share the results of the Village Plan questionnaire with Shropshire Council and Bus service providers. Explore setting up a Withington car share service
4. Internet access	Keep abreast of internet access and speed improvements available to the Parish	Invite providers to present their internet/broadband solutions to Parishioners as and when they become available
5. Mobile Library	Promote the use of the mobile library service	Share results of Village Plan questionnaire with SC regarding usage of this service.
6. GP services	Promote freedom of choice with regards to GP services	Inform Parishioners of the GP practices that offer services to Withington

Facilities and services specifically for under 18's as in recent years there has been an increase in the number of families with children moving into the Parish.

	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
	Review requests made by Parishioners for facilities specifically for under 18's in the parish	Evaluate and respond to suggestions/requests.

Facilities, services, projects that are available in or would have an impact upon the Parish if implemented.

	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
1. Restoration of Shrewsbury to Newport Canal (SNC)	Liaise with the SNC trust to ensure they take account of interests and concerns of Parishioners should the restoration take place	Request updates from the Canal Trust at Parish council meetings and publish updates on the Parish web site
2. Bowbrook Archery Club	Promote the club and their endeavours whenever possible	Invite the club to publish their events and activities on the parish web site and notice board

2018 Withington Parish Plan Questionnaire:

Detailed analysis of responses

The questionnaire was issued to all 96 households in the Parish with 40 completed questionnaires returned.

Note: Appendix I contains all comments made by parishioners when responding to the questionnaire and is a separate document that can be found on the Withington Parish website.

Services and assets over which the PC have direct control or influence.				
	QUESTION	YES	NO	NO RESPONSE
1. Planning (Housing & Commercial)	Do you wish Withington to remain as Open Countryside?	37	2	1
2. Village Green	Do you use the Village Green?	36	4	0
	Do you wish to become a member of the Friends of the Village Green	11	16	13
3. Roads & Traffic	See Appendix I – additional comments			
4. Footpaths & Bridleways	See Appendix I - additional comments			
Assets that the PC do not have direct control or influence over but are considered important to the Parish and have therefore been listed as Community Assets as defined under the Localism Act.				
	QUESTION	YES	NO	NO RESPONSE
1. The Hare & Hounds public house	How often do you visit the H&H?			1
	More than once a week	11		
	Between 1 to 4 times a month	14		
	Between 1 to 4 times a year	11		
	Never	3		
2. Parish Room	Do you attend any events in the Parish Room?	36	4	0
3. St John the Baptist Church	See Appendix I – additional comments			

Assets and services that the PC do not have any direct control or influence over but impact Parishioners and therefore need to work with the providers to ensure the services are maintained and developed.

	QUESTION	YES	NO	NO RESPONSE
1. Oil, Gas & Electricity	Would you be interested in joining a similar cooperative as the existing Parish oil cooperative if one can be established?	25	12	3
2. Water & Sewerage	See Appendix I – additional comments			
3. Bus Service	Do you use the existing bus service?	1	39	0
4. Internet/Broadband	Do you have access to the internet?	39	1	0
	Do you wish to receive communications from the PC by email?	31	7	2
	Do you believe it of benefit for the PC to organise training on the use of PC's and the internet?	16	21	3
	Do you prefer to receive information from the PC in printed form?	4	29	7
5. Mobile Library	Do you use the mobile library service?	11	29	0
6. GP services	Are you registered with the GP service of your choice?	35	5	0
	If NO would you like the PC to lobby our MP on the issue	6	3	31

Facilities and services specifically for under 18's as in recent years there has been an increase in the number of families with children moving into the Parish.

	QUESTION	YES	NO	NO RESPONSE
Children	Do you have children under the age of 18?	8	31	1
	If yes have you experienced any problems with getting places at primary and secondary schools of your choice?	0	10	30

Facilities, services, projects that are available in or would have an impact upon the Parish if implemented.

	QUESTION	YES	NO	NO RESPONSE
1. Restoration of Shrewsbury to Newport Canal (SNC)	Do you support the restoration of the canal through Withington?	33	6	1
2. Bowbrook Archery Club	See Appendix I – additional comments			

A brief history of Withington

The following history of Withington was compiled by Mary McPherson a former Clerk to the Parish Council and first published in the 2003 Withington Parish Plan. The history has been re-published as it is considered to be important information that might otherwise be lost.

Withington has sat on the sidelines of national history as important events happened nearby, these included the Battle of Shrewsbury at Battlefield and an important civil war siege at High Ercall. It must have seen changes as the Saxon settlement of Wietone, the village in the willows, became part of the lands of the Norman Roger de Montgomery, William I's cousin: later changes brought in land ownership by Haughmond Abbey, the Haughtons, the Corbet and the Tayleur estates. The earliest reference to a church here is 1160.

Little is known about these early times. In the church are brasses, transferred from the previous church, to the memory of John and Johanna Onley and their children. It is believed he was lord of the manor at the old manor at Hunkington. By the choir is a brass to Adam Grafton who was priest of Upton Magna and of the Battlefield College as well as being vicar of Withington. He died in 1530. In 1480s he was the tutor to the young king Edward V and his brother in Ludlow castle.

The population of the village was 91 conforming Anglicans over 16 in 1676. That does not allow for any children or members of other denominations but there would have been few of them. Little remains of these times but scattered around the village are eight half timbered houses, most now beautifully restored and extended, which would have been in existence then. That they have survived and others have been demolished which were in better condition is one of the accidents of



A watercolour of St John the Baptist Church, Withington, October 13 1790



A watercolour of Withington's Old Church, circa 1845 by J. H. Smith



Gravestone detail, Withington



Postcard of the canal at Withington c.1908

history. The blacksmith's shop opposite the pub, featured on postcards in the early years of the 20th century, was demolished in the 1960s. In 1710 a new manor house was built for Illedge and Mary Maddox; following this all future buildings were built in brick. One of the most attractive is the Old Hall, once the Vicarage, and before that a Gentleman's residence, built in the days of Queen Anne.

Perhaps the biggest change was the coming of the canal, opened in 1797 and used mainly to carry coal from Ketley to Shrewsbury. Coal for Withington was unloaded at a wharf at the Old Post Office as well as farm foodstuffs, oil etc. It travelled alongside the churchyard wall where there was a big pool in front of Church Farm where the boats could turn. There were swing bridges there and by Canal Cottage and hump back bridges over the lanes to Walcot and Rodington where the lanes crossed the canal. Fishermen, skaters, walkers all used the canal and its towpaths. In 1944 the canal was closed and in the 1960s it was offered for sale to the landowners whose land adjoined it but if they did not want it, to the landowner on the other side, by the towpath.

The population of Withington in 1861 was 232; the village boasted a blacksmith, two wheelwrights, a shopkeeper and the landlord of the Hare and Hounds. The vicar's salary was £107 per annum; fortunately the Rev Halke was a man of means. The majority



Withington Shop and Pub, George Thomas the village blacksmith in foreground, c.1928-30.

worked in farming but a few worked on the railway.

A big change came after World War One when Shropshire County Council bought 400 acres of the Manor, bringing its smallholdings scheme to Withington. The original manor was then split into two smallholdings and five new white houses were built for small-holders. There were also three cottage holdings owned by the council. This made the County Council the largest landowner in the village. In 1911 the sale of the Tayleur estate led to changes in the Walcot Lees to Rodington area of Withington. Three farmers operating on a larger scale emerged at this time. The population in 1926 was 235. Again there were craftsmen among the farmers - a blacksmith, a carpenter and a

boot and shoe repairer. Village children travelled to Upton Magna or Rodington for state schools but from the 1920s to 40s there was a small private school in the Shrubbery. After 1945 for all secondary schools children travelled into Shrewsbury and Wellington but with a limited choice of schools. Children going to private or grammar schools took the train from Walcot or Upton Magna stations whilst students at the secondary modern at Harlescott were bussed into Shrewsbury. This state of affairs changed with the closing of the stations. As a result of a petition the daily bus service from Shrewsbury to Upton Magna was extended to Withington.

Withington remained an agricultural community on this scale until the late 1960s when changes began to occur.



Withington Church with Canal in the foreground



View towards Withington Church and The Old Hall

The population had become rather elderly, children moved away out of agriculture and, as houses came up for sale, they were bought by people who wanted to live in the country and had the means to modernise them. At the same time agricultural changes meant

it was more viable to create bigger holdings. The council began consolidating its holdings into bigger units as tenants retired and later began the process of selling them to the tenants if they wished or to the public. Only two holdings remained in 2003 as council holdings but

three former council holdings, which were sold, were still farming.

Services came to Withington slowly. Electricity was pre-World War 2, Water in the late 1950s, Sewerage in the early 1970s and Gas in the early 1990s. These services were a necessary precursor to development. In the 1970s new building took place in gardens along Caernarvon Lane and Sunnyfields was sold to a builder. This eventually resulted in development along Caernarvon Lane. The Woodlands land was sold in the early 1960s and building commenced in Woodlands Close in 1985. The style of houses built reflected the different lifestyles of the new residents and the advances of our expectations. Three Withington house owners had built swimming pools by 1990.

Although Withington is a more affluent community than in the 1960s it still retains its village pattern developed around a green central field; this is clearly seen on aerial photos. From the 1960s onwards there were gains and losses in terms of rural life. On the retirement of the last vicar of Withington the parish was joined to the parish of Upton Magna, then to Uffington and is now part of a team ministry. Although these changes work well, it has meant several adjustments for longer stay residents. In 1982 the shop and post office closed and there have been problems maintaining a bus service to



Detail of 1902 Map of Withington



The Village Post Office and stores, Hare & Hounds pub, 1981



The Village Post Office and stores, 1981



Withington, Hare & Hounds, 1987



Woodlands Close, 1987



Garden Cottage, 1987



Cooper's Cottage, 1987

both Shrewsbury and Telford. However newer residents continue to give new life to the church and take leading roles in it and the wider community through the Parish Council and local societies. They have helped to keep the school open at Upton Magna.

The pub, the church and Parish Room still survive and there are local shopping and post office facilities in neighbouring villages.

The pub is now a Free House as it has recently been bought by the previous landlady's family and is under a programme of refurbishment. The Church and Parish room continue to thrive and are in regular use. The Parish is also now home to the Bowbrook Archery Club located at the end of Caernarvon Lane.

A major achievement in 2007 was the Parish Council's acquisition of the land in

the centre of the village to develop into a village green. An intensive programme of development has taken place with the aid of donations from Veolia Environmental Trust and Ron Coulson who at the time lived in The Shrubbery and donated part of his land to form the entrance to the green opposite the village pub. The village green is now in constant use for sports events, the village fete, bonfire night and the occasional wedding party.

Parish properties



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48	Blandings	17	Damson Cottage	43	Kavala
95	Brick Kiln Cottage	14	Dayborn	70	Laburnum Cottage
68	Brookside	49	Field House	27	Lees Equestrian Centre
40	Burton Cottage	73	Fields Cottage	85	Magenta
66	Canal Cottage	51	Garden Cottage	74	Manor Farm Cottage
		67	Gate Lodge	75	Manor House Farm
				88	Marford
				91	Meadow Croft
				76	Millbrook House

50 Mythrandir
 93 New House Farm
 79 No1 Caernarvon Lane
 62 Orchard House
 61 Paddock Grange
 86 Penates
 83 Puddle Cottage
 89 Rosedale
 78 Rowan House
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 69 Sandy Lane Cottage
 46 Sega
 24 Shooters House
 20 Oak Tree House
 54 Smithy House
 13 Sunnyfields 2/3
 19 Sunnyside Farm
 55 Taliesin
 87 Tangalooma
 81 The Bungalow
 80 The Cottage
 26 The Dale
 71 The Gate House
 39 The Meadow
 25 The Oaklands
 52 The Old Barns
 92 The Old Cottage
 59 The Old Hall
 56 The Old Post Office
 44 The Old Vicarage
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17	Damson Cottage	63	Wayside
18	Bakehouse Yard	64	Runnimede
19	Sunnyside Farm	65	The Villa
20	Oak Tree House	66	Canal Cottage
21	The Parks	67	Gate Lodge
22	Villa Farm	68	Brookside
23	Barkers House	69	Sandy Lane Cottage
24	Shooters House	70	Laburnum Cottage
25	The Oaklands	71	The Gate House
26	The Dale	72	Snowdrop Barn
27	Lees Equestrian Centre	73	Fields Cottage
28	Walcot Lees 1-6	74	Manor Farm Cottage
34	Walcot Lees Farm	75	Manor House Farm
35	Walcot Road Farmhouse	76	Millbrook House
36	Walcot Road Farm Cottage	77	Yew Tree Cottage
37	Hucksters Cottage	78	Rowan House
38	The Paddock	79	No1 Caernarvon Lane
39	The Meadow	80	The Cottage
40	Burton Cottage	81	The Bungalow
41	Arbutus Haven	82	Hawthorn Cottage
42	Arbutus	83	Puddle Cottage
43	Kavala	84	Coopers Cottage
44	The Old Vicarage	85	Magenta
45	Wrekin View	86	Penates
46	Sega	87	Tangalooma
47	Withington House	88	Marford
48	Blandings	89	Rosedale
49	Field House	90	Tus Nua
50	Mythrandir	91	Meadow Croft
51	Garden Cottage	92	The Old Cottage
52	The Old Barns	93	New House Farm
53	The Shrubbery	94	Hollowdene
54	Smithy House	95	Brick Kiln Cottage
55	Taliesin	96	Banhadlog
56	The Old Post Office		
57	Hare and Hounds (PH)		

Public Rights of Way in Withington Parish

The Parish Council encourage responsible use of public footpaths and bridleways in Withington Parish.

Details of public rights of way can be found on the Shropshire Council website www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk. The site provides information on walking, cycling, horse riding, parks and activities in Shropshire. To view the definitive map the user needs to:

- Click on “walking”
- Scroll down the page and click on “interactive map”
- Select “Rights of way and other access” on left hand side
- Tick “footpath”
- Zoom into “Withington” on the map.

The Countryside Code

Below are the key points from the Countryside Code as they relate to members of the public using rural roads, footpaths and bridleways. There are also sections relating to the duties for landowners and managers who are advised to ensure they are fully aware of these, particularly the sections relating to walker/user safety and the duties to keep footpaths/bridleways open. The full code is available on the Natural England website. Leaflets are also available from tourist offices.

Respect for local people

- Respect the needs of local people eg don't block driveways with your vehicle
- When riding a bike or driving a vehicle slow down for walkers, horses and farm animals.
- Be cooperative with people working in the countryside eg keep out of the way when farm animals are being gathered or moved and follow the animal handlers' directions.
- Maintain slow speeds as busy traffic can be unpleasant and dangerous

Leave gates and property as you find them

- Only follow footpaths and bridleways –there are no open access areas within the parish
- Leave machinery and farm animals alone –if you think an animal is in distress alert the farmer
- Use only designated gates and styles -climbing over/under fences weakens them and can allow animals to escape.

Protect the natural Environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter /left over food and drink home with you-litter is dangerous to wildlife and farm animals.
- Don't damage, destroy or remove rocks, plants and trees – etc they are there for all.

Keep dogs under effective control

- This means keeping it on a lead or in sight at all times, ensuring it does not stray off the path or into an area you have no right of access to and also being confident it will return on demand.
- Clean up after your dog -dog mess is unpleasant for other walkers and may contain infections such as worms which can affect wild life and farm animals.
- Keep dogs away from farm animals –however if animals come after you/your dog it is safer to let your dog go and move yourself to a place of safety before calling your dog back. (Natural England advice)

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, you are responsible for your own safety and others in your care.
- Remember both farm and domestic animals can behave unpredictably maintain awareness at all times.

Village amenities & contacts

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES			
Village Green	Football	Matt Lewin	709615
		Denis Jones	709538
	General booking	Wayne Thomas	709344
Parish Room	Women's Institute	Kath Neville	351602
	Yoga	Jon Scutt	709236
	Tai Chi	Brenda Marshall	709236
	General booking	Jon Scutt	709236
Val Nolan		709698	
Church	Enquiries	Jon Scutt	709236
Bowbrook Archers	Archery	Sam Dixon	709243
Hare & Hounds	Pub/meals	Dave Buswell	709446
Village Defibrillator	Located outside Hare & Hounds	Neil Maxwell	709333

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS				
Chairman	Phil Heath	709430	07789 915323	Phil.heath@hotmail.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Martin Timmis	510236	07951 098662	mrfiresafetyltd@gmail.com
Councillor	Alan Williams	709282	07739 694723	Williamsalan999@gmail.com
Councillor	Lesley Stone	709105	07801 569372	Lestone1@aol.com
Councillor	Neil Maxwell	709333	07970 464530	neil@nandgmaxwell.uk
Clerk/RFO	Denise Roscoe	709603		clerkwithingtonpc@gmail.com

GENERAL CONTACTS	
Shropshire Council: general	03456 789000 / customer.services@shropshire.gov.uk
Shropshire Council: roads & fly tipping	03456 789006
Arriva bus timetables	03448 004411
Mobile Library	01743 255024
Withington Oil co-operative	01743 709676
St John the Baptist Church, Team Rector: Rev Andy Ackroyd	01952 252078 / Revandy320@btinternet.com
Police – Emergency / Non Emergency	999 / 101
Police – Shrewsbury Station	03003 333000
Police – Local Officer: David Walton	07870 512813
NHS – Emergency / Non Emergency	999 / 111
Severn Fields Medical Practice	01743 281950
Wellington Medical Practice	01952 226000
Whitehall Medical Practice	01743 273780
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital	01743 261000
Princess Royal Hospital Telford	01952 641222

Useful websites

Withington Community website	www.withingtonparish.co.uk
St John the Baptist Church	www.wrockwardinedeanery.co.uk
Bowbrook Archers	www.bowbrook-archers.co.uk
The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust	www.cms.snct.co.uk
Shropshire Council	www.shropshire.gov.uk
Trading Standards Accredited	www.tsaccredited.co.uk
West Mercia Police	www.westmercia.police.uk
Clinical Commissioning Group Shropshire	www.shropshireccg.nhs.uk
Severn Fields Medical Practice	www.severnfields.co.uk
Wellington Medical Practice	www.wellingtonmedicalpractice.co.uk

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