

 Executive – 3rd September 2014		Agenda Item No. 10B
Title	Endorsement of Parish Plan for Shrewley	
For further information about this report please contact	Bernadette Allen Tel: 01926 456020 Bernadette.Allen@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Shrewley	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	Yes/ No If yes state why	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Bernadette Allen Tel: 01926 456020 Bernadette.Allen@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Background Papers	Joint Protocol for WCC/WDC involvement in responding to Parish Plans, Parish Appraisals and Village Design Statements	

Contrary to the policy framework:	Yes/ No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	Yes/ No
Key Decision?	Yes/ No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes/ No
Equality and Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes/ No (If No state why below)
No equality and sustainability impact assessment was undertaken by Warwick District Council as the report is about endorsing Parish Plans, which falls within the responsibility of Parish Councils to implement.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	31/07/14	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	31/07/14	Jenny Murray
CMT	12/08/14	Chris Elliott/ Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	31/07/14	Andrew Jones
Finance	12/08/14	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	14/08/14	Cllr Les Caborn
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Relevant Officers representing potentially impacted service areas in the District and County Council have been asked to comment on the proposed actions in the Parish Plan.		
Final Decision?		Yes/No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Parish Appraisal/ Planning Process is a well-established way of articulating the needs and aspirations of rural communities. This report is seeking to inform Executive of the actions included in the completed Parish Plan for Shrewley Parish.
- 1.2 The Warwick Rural West Community Forum considered the Parish Plan for Shrewley and supported the plan.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Executive endorses the Parish Plan for Shrewley.
- 2.2 That the Executive note the actions detailed in the Parish Plan summarised in appendix 1.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 3.1 In September 2012 the Executive agreed to adopt a 'Joint Protocol for WCC/WDC involvement in and responding to Parish Plans, Parish Appraisals and Village Design Statements' (see appendix 2). The Protocol defines the support available from Warwick District and Warwickshire County Councils to Parish Plan Groups in developing their appraisals/plans and sets out the process for the Executive's consideration and endorsement of the plan.
- 3.2 A number of issues have been identified by the Shrewley parish during the production of their parish plan. The issues identified were:
 - Ensure transport links from all areas of the Parish to local schools are maintained
 - Investigate the impact of the Warwick Fire Station closure on fire service response times to Shrewley parish and communicate these to residents
 - Find ways of educating dog owners within the parish the importance of clearing up dog waste
 - Results of the Household Survey to be communicated to officers and Councillors responsible for the local plan
 - Discuss with Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council ways in which information about their services could be better fed back to residents in rural communities
- 3.3 The Joint Protocol requires that 'following presentation at the relevant community forum, all Parish Appraisals/ Plans/VDS should be reported to the District Council Executive and the County Council's *executive body/person* for endorsement, full or part thereof'. In compliance with the Protocol it is recommended that the Council's Executive endorses the Parish Plan for Shrewley

4. **Policy Framework**

- 4.1 The development of Parish Plans can be linked to the Council's Corporate Business Improvement Plan (Fit for the Future). The Plan can provide information about our customers in rural communities.
- 4.2 Improving the capacity and confidence of rural communities through closer working with Parishes in the development of Parish Plans is a key element

within the Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Rurality is one of the key cross cutting themes of the SCS.

- 4.3 Under the Localism Act 'neighbourhoods' will be able to use Neighbourhood Development Orders to grant planning permission in full or outline for new buildings. This is through the developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan which is prepared by local communities. However any Neighbourhood Development Plan needs to conform to both a Parish Plan and the District Council's Local Plan.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 Parish Councils can apply to the District Council for a grant to help them fund the development of their Parish Plans and assist in the implementation of actions that align with community forum priorities. Shrewley have received a grant contribution for the Parish Plan Fund to assist with the development of their Parish Plan.
- 5.2 The Council may provide support within existing resources to support Parishes to implement actions identified in their Plans. There is no impact on existing budgets identified from the parish plans.

6. Risks

- 6.1 The Local Council's Charter for Warwickshire is a framework to support a mutually beneficial working relationship between all tiers of local government. The risk to the Council, if it chooses not to endorse the Shrewley Parish Plan, is that the Council can be seen to work against this framework and therefore it may prove difficult to influence future plans and developments in Shrewley.

7. Alternative Option(S) considered

- 7.1 No alternative option was considered as the Protocol was developed to ensure Parish Councils feel included and connected to other key structures and decision making processes.

8. BACKGROUND

- 8.1 Community consultation and involvement is increasingly important to the life and development of rural communities. Consultation processes help to find out how a village or town feels about itself, its strengths and weaknesses and how its residents want it to develop in the future. Central to the consultation process in rural areas are three consultation mechanisms that are key elements of the Government's rural policy:

- **Parish Appraisals**

A Parish Appraisal takes a detailed look at life in a Parish. The appraisal is devised and conducted by local residents, creating a snapshot of community life at a point in time. Often information obtained in the Parish Appraisal process is used as a foundation for a Parish Plan

- Parish Plans

Parish Plans take a snapshot of community life in a Parish provided by the appraisal, highlighting needs and aspirations, enabling the Parish council to devise an action plan for the short to medium term

- Village Design Statements

The third element of this range of rural policy mechanisms is a Village Design Statement. These relate to the physical design and layout of a settlement and may be adopted by the local planning authority as supplementary planning documents, provided there is close involvement with officers in Development Services. They primarily relate to the district council as the local planning authority, although in certain circumstances, they do address traffic management and highway design issues that are responsibilities of the county council

- 8.2 The District Council in the previous Corporate Strategy (2007 -2011) set a priority around encouraging the development of Parish Plans. As a result within the District there are 2 completed Plans in addition to the 4 proposed here, a further 8 are currently at different stages of development.
- 8.3 Parish Councils/ Parish Plan Steering Groups are encouraged to engage with elected members/ public sector partners on issues identified in Parish Plans. The Joint Protocol allows both Councils to respond to actions identified in the Parish Plan. In the following areas there are budgetary constraints which means that support in implementing identified actions is limited in:
- Maintaining transport links
 - Changing speed limits