

# Hawkesbury Parish Plan

Summary and Action Plan  
2007



# A parish plan for Hawkesbury

This document is a summary of the views and opinions of the people living in the parish of Hawkesbury about how they would like to see their local area develop in the future.

The action plan that you can see on the next pages includes initiatives to preserve the character of the parish and campaigns that will bring about changes that will benefit the local community.

Information on how you can help make some of these things happen can be found in the **What happens next?** section at the end of this document.

This parish plan has been put together by local volunteers after more than a year of information gathering, analysis and discussion within the

local community through the Hawkesbury Vision Project. As a result of this plan, it is hoped that future planned changes in the parish will be informed by the opinions of the people who live here.

The watchword throughout this whole process has been 'integrity'; all of the views recorded within this report are supported by carefully documented sets of evidence of community input.

This document is only a summary – the full parish plan contains more detailed information and encompasses all of the information collected throughout the Hawkesbury Vision Project. More information on how to access the full parish plan can be found at the end of this document.

## The process

1. The Hawkesbury Vision Project started with a number of open meetings to gauge the feelings of the community on the merits of developing a parish plan. The idea received a very positive response and many useful comments were received.
2. The next set of activities took place within three age-related streams with teams of volunteers given the task of finding out the key views and opinions of these groups.
3. The development of the questionnaire involved:
  - collating all of the information gathered
  - carefully wording questions so they were clear, unbiased and relevant
  - deciding how many questions to include
  - delivering the questionnaires to every household in the parish, and then collecting them back in again.
4. The analysis of the findings was recorded to produce an audit trail of the conclusions. The questionnaire was split into subject areas and each of these was allocated to a team to evaluate results based on documented evidence. The results were then subject to peer-review by the rest of the team.
5. The report and action plan were produced from these statements.
6. NEXT STEPS – the action plan needs to be realised, so the parish needs volunteers to help take these actions forward! **Could this be you?**
7. It is hoped that regular reviews of progress will take place over the next five or more years.

# Key findings

The majority of Hawkesbury parishioners do not object in principle to new **housing** developments to meet the needs of local people. However, there is a very strong desire to influence the size, type and intended use of any building or development.

**[see actions 1, 2]**

There is significant support for maintaining the look and 'feel' of the built **environment** by restricting the use of non-traditional building materials and through other initiatives, such as laying cables underground, restoring traditional types of lighting and traditional road signs. The survey found that the natural environment is very important to people in the parish, with particular value being placed on the wildlife, the Cotswold location, the unspoilt environment and the tranquillity.

**[see actions 3, 4, 15]**

Hawkesbury is a rural parish with limited public **transport** services. Very few people in the parish use the public or community bus services and those who do use them do so mainly for shopping or social and leisure purposes. A number of people have difficulty in getting to key places such as the hospital or the doctor's surgery. Two thirds of parishioners think that speeding traffic is a problem on the roads within the parish. Almost three quarters think that there are **traffic** danger spots within the parish. There is considerable consistency in the identification of traffic danger-spots.

**[see actions 5, 19, 21, 22]**

Whilst most of the parishioners surveyed think that the council-provided services are good or at least adequate, there is a significant number who think that some services could be improved. Over three

quarters of parishioners expressed a high level of satisfaction with water and electricity services. The majority of parishioners are interested in exploring a community-based **sustainable energy** scheme.

**[see actions 6, 7, 14]**

The survey found that local **commercial services**, such as the village shop, post office and pubs, are well used by parishioners on a regular basis. Parishioners are very keen to retain their local facilities, both commercial businesses and local community facilities. They are also keen to ensure that local business needs and employment opportunities are considered in planning decisions.

**[see actions 23, 24]**

In general, Hawkesbury parishioners are very content with the parish and the **quality of life** that it creates. A high percentage of people were not aware of the service provided by the **community police officer** and there was also very low awareness of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme running in the parish. Parishioners believe that the **sport and social activities** that take place in the community add to the richness of parish life. There is evidence to suggest that more activities would be supported should they be available.

**[see actions 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21]**

As an outlying part of the parish, the residents of **Little Badminton** appear to suffer poor levels of service in a number of areas. Residents are concerned about their isolation from the rest of the parish and many believe that this results in poor levels of service in comparison.

**[see action 18]**

<b>1 Housing needs survey</b>	Conduct an analysis of housing needs in order to establish the nature and size of any further housing development requirements.	Parish Council, South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)	Clearly defined housing requirements including numbers, types and completion time frame
<b>2 Building guidelines</b>	Engage with SGC and the Parish Council to draw up specific guidelines for developers and planners with regard to construction materials.	Parish Council, SGC	Guidelines adopted by planning authority leading to supplementary planning guidance
<b>3 Look and feel of the parish</b>	Establish a local action group to address areas of concern relating to: cabling, street furniture, dry-stone walls, dog fouling, Farm Pool, bus shelter, phone boxes, noise, light and litter pollution.	Parish Council, SGC, electricity companies, BT, local landowners	A noticeable improvement in each of the individual areas
<b>4 Restoration of the monument</b>	Engage with the Badminton Estate to consider the options for repairing the Somerset Monument; one of which would be to conduct a campaign to carry out repairs to the monument.	SGC, English Heritage, Parish Council, Badminton Estate	Access for parishioners achieved
<b>5 Traffic management</b>	Engage with SGC and the Parish Council to review the questionnaire results; conduct further analysis of traffic movements and hazards and consider possible solutions to identified risks.	SGC, Parish Council	Traffic hazards minimised, safer for pedestrians
<b>6 Service improvement</b>	Set up an action group to explore joint working to improve the following services: rubbish collection, recycling, pavements and roads. Establish and publicise clear communication routes for reporting problems.	Parish Council, SGC, SITA	A noticeable improvement in each of the individual areas
<b>7 Local utilities</b>	Pass questionnaire data to local utilities and service providers as appropriate for information and / or action covering: water supply, electricity, TV / radio reception, broadband coverage and mobile phone reception.	Local utility & service providers, Member of Parliament	A noticeable improvement in each of the individual areas
<b>8 Village hall improvements</b>	Pass data from questionnaire to village hall management committee.	Village hall management committee	Village hall management committee to produce an action plan to address the issues raised
<b>9 Tackling isolation in the parish</b>	Liaise with appropriate groups to identify reasons for isolation and possible solutions.	Parish Council, Community Action, Age Concern, schools, churches, parish community groups (e.g. youth group)	Reduced isolation
<b>10 Drop-in centre</b>	Draw up and publish a definition of a drop-in centre; consult with parishioners for their consideration of a drop-in centre to be located in the parish.	Parish Council, SGC	A decision made as to the appropriateness of a drop-in centre for the parish
<b>11 Community police officer &amp; Neighbourhood Watch</b>	Raise the profile of the community police officer and Neighbourhood Watch and improve accessibility.	Avon & North Somerset Police, local Neighbourhood Watch scheme	Increased awareness of Neighbourhood Watch scheme and increased visibility of community police officer
<b>12 Development of a parish website</b>	Set up a group to develop and manage a website for the parish.	Parish Council, SGC	Informative website set up and maintained, regularly accessed by parishioners

<b>13 Clubs &amp; societies</b>	Publicise levels of interest in additional arts and sports clubs / societies that are not currently being addressed within the parish and ask for volunteers to take forward.	S.Glos sport & leisure groups, S.Glos rural arts touring scheme (Razzle), schools	Additional clubs / societies set up and well-supported
<b>14 Sustainable energy production</b>	Undertake a study to assess the full range of potential options for local sustainable energy production, likely take-up, costs and feasibility.	SGC, environmental groups	Costed feasibility report, capable of being implemented
<b>15 Rights of way</b>	Provide more information on rights of way in the parish.	Parish Council, SGC, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	More parishioners know and use rights of way
<b>16 Hawkesbury Show improvements</b>	Pass data from questionnaire to Hawkesbury horticultural society committee.	Hawkesbury horticultural society committee	Hawkesbury horticultural society committee produce an action plan to address the issues raised
<b>17 Café / meeting place</b>	Further explore the setting up of a café /meeting place in the parish and how this can be achieved.	Parish Council, Community Action, Age Concern, village hall committee, local businesses	Café/ meeting place organized and well used
<b>18 Little Badminton</b>	Work with parishioners in Little Badminton to reduce the feelings of isolation and remoteness from the rest of the parish.	Parish Council, Little Badminton residents	Parishioners in Little Badminton feel less isolated and remote from the rest of the parish
<b>19 Teenage transport</b>	Develop a local plan for a safe and accessible means of public transport to local leisure centres/meeting places/shops for teenagers and young adults.	Bus operators, community transport operators, local taxi firms, local groups with available transport, parents	Increased mobility and improved safety for teenagers and young adults
<b>20 Adventure playground, skateboard park, BMX bike track</b>	Explore the feasibility of meeting the needs of young people in the parish in relation to: a) an adventure playground, b) a skateboard park and c) a BMX bike track.	Parish Council, SGC, youth group, schools, village hall committee, young people	Feasibility study and consultation indicate which, if any, of the suggested activities is viable
<b>21 Discussion with bus companies</b>	Engage with the local bus companies to ensure that there is adequate disabled access on the local buses as required by law.	Bus operators, SGC	Access to bus services for all
<b>22 Transport survey</b>	Undertake further detailed survey to identify people who have difficulty getting to key places such as the hospital or doctor's surgery and the underlying causes; identify possible parish-wide solutions.	Community transport operators, bus operators, SGC	Access to key services made easier for all in the parish
<b>23 Local business network</b>	Establish a local business network for commercial benefit, mutual support and the exchange of ideas.	Business West, South West of England Regional Development Agency	Vibrant and connected local business community
<b>24 Local employment and local business planning</b>	Engage with planning authorities to develop policies that ensure local business needs and employment opportunities are considered in planning decisions.	SGC	A balanced community with increased local employment and accommodation for local businesses

# What happens next?

Despite taking over a year to come into being, the parish plan represents what is really only the first step in helping shape Hawkesbury for the future.

The action plan is a working, living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated. Timescales and priorities have not been set for these actions, as it was felt that this is something that should be left to the parish community, as a whole, to decide. However, some of the points raised in the questionnaire, such as plastic recycling and some of the changes in the village hall, have already been addressed

A special meeting will be organised to help you find other people who have an interest in any of the actions raised in the plan.

If you would like more information on how to get involved, then contact:

Alan Shewry  
01454 238 788  
alan\_shewry@msn.com

So, please take this opportunity to get in touch and help bring about the things you would like to see in the parish. You can volunteer as much or as little as you want – safe in the knowledge that you are helping make an important difference for the future.



Alongside each of these action points is information on the likely partners who could be associated with each of the proposed activities. As you will realise, many of these issues will need the active support of the local community if they are to happen....which is where you step in.

Anything that you have read in this report that you feel is important for the future of the area you live in needs your help to make it happen. But you needn't feel alone. The whole point of the Hawkesbury Vision Project, and this report, is to show the strength of feeling of the whole parish on issues that are important to us all.

This means that if one of the points raised in this document happens to be something that you feel passionate about - there are many other people in your local area who feel passionate about it too.

# Acknowledgements

The biggest thank you goes to the many volunteers from the parish who have made this plan possible.

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## The full parish plan

Only this summary of the parish plan has been distributed to every household in the parish, but getting your hands on the full 32-page report couldn't be simpler.

Copies of the parish plan have been lodged with groups and services throughout the parish so you can read everything in more detail.

You can also download and print off your own copy from the Hawkesbury website at: [www.hawkesburyupton.com/parishplan](http://www.hawkesburyupton.com/parishplan)



