

Dorstone Parish Plan

June 2010



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Introduction

Dorstone Parish lies at the north western end of the Golden Valley, fifteen miles south west of Hereford and six miles east of Hay-on-Wye. The population of the Parish as recorded in the Census of 2001 was 318. *[A summary of key statistics for the Parish in 2001 is shown in Appendix E.]* It is reasonable to conclude that the population has risen since then owing to new housing that has been built in the village.

As this Report concentrates on the present and future issues facing the Parish, no attempt is made to describe Dorstone's long history, particularly as an excellent book on Dorstone over the period 1890-1990 was prepared in 1990 by Dorstone Village History Committee led by John Jones & June and Ernest Morgan. However the Parish has continued to evolve and change over the last two decades and the following, based on Census and Parish Plan Data, attempts to summarise the key characteristics of present day Dorstone:-

- ❖ Using 2001 Census figures, Dorstone has an age distribution which has proportionately slightly more older people (60 years+) – 32.7% than the County average over 60 of 25%. Its younger population 17 and under is slightly under-represented in the Parish – 18.6% compared with the County average of 23.1%. Questionnaire data based on 231 people continues to show the same age distribution – 19% aged 17 and under, 33% over 60. The “in-between years 18-59” are 48.8% in Dorstone, 53.3% in the County.
- ❖ 27% replying in the Questionnaire described themselves as employed full or part time, and 23% replied that they were self employed. 38% described themselves as either semi or fully retired.
- ❖ As a rural Parish, population density is much lower in Dorstone 0.15 persons per hectare compared with a County average of 0.80 according to 2001 Census data.
- ❖ The population of the Parish has continued to change with 38% of Questionnaire respondents having lived in Dorstone for 10 years or less. Only 9% (19 people) have lived in the Parish for over 50 years, 20% have resided here for 26-50 years.
- ❖ Owner occupation, at 83% of households, is the predominant form of tenure.
- ❖ Based on questionnaire returns, 32 households were one person. 58 – two people, 27 either 3 or 4, and 15 five persons and 1 six person.
- ❖ Overall, parishioners are very happy living in Dorstone, 63% of questionnaire respondents stated that they were very satisfied with Dorstone as a place to live, 36% fairly satisfied, with only 1% or 2.1 persons being dissatisfied.

The last bullet point sums up admirably the feelings of many parishioners who like the village, and above all, want to maintain the existing environment with its peace and tranquillity enjoyed by both young and old. The Parish continues to change but subjectively the overall conclusion from the Questionnaire results is that there is no need for any radical changes, in fact, in some areas of Parish life, people are very happy with the “status quo”. However, some changes are needed and this Report therefore concentrates on identifying the actions required by the Parish and County Council and village organisations to bring about those improvements.

Background to Preparation of the Parish Plan

The Parish Plan process for Dorstone started on March 14th 2007 with an Open Parish meeting organised by the Parish Council. A presentation on Parish Planning was given by Linda Wilcox of the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils who also led a “brain storming” session to identify issues which were important to parishioners. There was a general consensus that a Parish Plan was needed. A second Open meeting in early September 2007 led by Pauline Striplin of Community First agreed that a Parish Plan should be prepared and that a Steering Group should be established to undertake the task.

The Steering Group held its first meeting on September 19th 2007. The Group consisted of 3 members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk and parishioners who had volunteered at the second Open Meeting. The Group was chaired by Colin Thomas and John Platts became its Secretary/Treasurer, both of whom were not members of the Parish Council. A list of members of the Steering Group over the two years taken to prepare the Plan is shown in *Appendix B*.

The Group initially concentrated on applying for funding for the project from Herefordshire Council and this was successfully obtained in December 2007 with confirmation of a £1500 grant. The Plan “process” was launched at a general Parish Meeting on January 13th 2008.

Consultations

At an early stage, the Steering Group felt that the quality and success of the Plan depended upon everyone’s involvement. Therefore it was decided to conduct a parish wide Questionnaire would be the key stage of the process. In order to find out what the key issues were, the following process was adopted:-

1. The main issues had been flagged up at the initial meeting held in March 2007.
2. Prior to the Launch Meeting, parishioners were asked to complete a simple form outlining what they liked/disliked about living in Dorstone and what needed to be improved. Parishioners could also volunteer to attend a discussion group when these issues could be explored in more detail. This was done in early March 2008.
3. A display (about the Parish Plan) was organised at the annual Dorstone Plant Day in May 2008 with large scale maps inviting parishioners to place stickers indicating areas of concern or problems they felt should be addressed in the Questionnaire.
4. All village organisations were approached to determine their views on the issues that should be covered in the Questionnaire. These included the Village Hall Committee, the Playing Fields Committee, the Church & Chapel, the W.I., Shop Committee, Dormice Playgroup and Young Farmers. Their response was readily given, as the majority of these groups wanted to know what parishioners felt about the services they were providing to the community.
5. Consultations were also carried with Community First concerning a possible Housing Needs survey.

Taking all the information gathered in the above process, a draft Questionnaire was put together in May 2008 which was discussed by the Steering Committee and Parish Council. The assistance of the Herefordshire Council Research

Department was also sought on the layout and technical aspects of the Questionnaire and the input of Michael Brown from the Research Team was very valuable in completing the final version in July 2008. A separate Youth Questionnaire was also prepared for children and young people under 18 years. In addition, a second questionnaire on Housing Needs was prepared by Keith Parry of Community First.

The Questionnaire

To avoid the holiday season the Questionnaire was distributed in the first week of September 2008. This was done by a team of volunteers, each of whom was responsible for a "patch", delivering the questionnaire to 10-15 homes. Questionnaires were provided for each parishioner to complete individually. The same volunteers also collected the completed questionnaires during September. Parishioners were told that that a separate Housing Needs Questionnaire was available if they felt they had housing needs in the next 5 years. The Questionnaires included a form inviting parishioners to enter a cash prize draw (£50 first prize, £25 second and £25 for Youth Questionnaire) and also provide details of their email address, a potential aid to future communications.

The results were analysed by Herefordshire Council Research Team and the final report delivered just before Christmas 2008.

The support given to the Questionnaire by parishioners was excellent, aided by the hard work of the team of volunteers who carried out the distribution and collection. 136 households responded, with responses from 227 adults and 45 young people. As the Report states (p.3) "in terms of households, this gives a response rate of 85% which is an excellent response, considerably higher than is normally achieved in Parish Plans." No requests were received for the second Housing Needs Questionnaire.

The results were presented to a well-attended Open Parish Meeting on January 11th 2009, and also to a meeting of the Youth Club in respect of the Youth Questionnaire.

Using the Results

Following discussions with Chris Gooding, Herefordshire Council's Parish Planning Officer, the Steering Group decided to set up a number of sub-groups to concentrate on the major themes identified by the Questionnaire results. These were:-

- 1. Planning, Housing and Development**
- 2. Traffic and Transport**
- 3. Environment**
- 4. Village Facilities**
- 5. Communications**
- 6. Youth Issues**

Each Group examined the results in detail, sometimes drawing on the knowledge of other Volunteers from outside the Group. In particular, the Village Facilities group involved members of the Playing Fields and Village Hall Committees and the Church.

Discussions were also held with Officers from Herefordshire Council's Planning/Conservation Department and Highways as well as with the local Police in respect of Traffic issues.

A pro-forma for each of the main themes was prepared, with allocated priorities based on some agreed guidelines reflecting the results of the Questionnaire. The latest versions of the pro-formas are set out in *Appendix A* and the Priority guidelines are shown in *Appendix D*.

From the start of the process, the Steering Committee considered that the Action Plans were the most important part of the Parish Planning process. The rest of this Report is therefore devoted to a summary of the issues, questionnaire responses, conclusions and proposed actions for each of the major themes.

Throughout this period, the Parish Council was given a monthly update on progress. The draft Proposals were presented to two Open Meetings of parishioners in August 2009.

A copy of the Hereford Research Team Report setting out the results of the Questionnaire is available on the Dorstone Community Web Site and a hard copy is available in Dorstone's Front Room.

Action Plans

1. Planning, Housing and Conservation

Issues

The future development of the village was seen as a very important concern of parishioners, both in terms of the scale and the nature and style of new housing. In addition, views were expressed on the design and appearance of both new houses and house extensions and modifications within the Conservation Area.

Responses

- ✉ Future Housing Needs were covered in Questions 6-9 and Planning and Conservation issues in Questions 10 and 11. The highlights of the responses are as follows:-
- ✉ 9% (12 people) said that they or an individual in their household was likely to need alternative accommodation within the next 5 years. 23% (30 people) answered that they might possibly need alternative accommodation. Although every household was given the opportunity to complete a second more detailed questionnaire on their future housing needs, no requests were received for this form.
- ✉ With regard to new housing, support was greater than opposition for all types of new housing. The strongest support, 73% was for privately owned homes, with about half supporting privately rented, or older persons housing or low cost housing for outright sale. 44% were in favour of rented Housing Association homes, with 30% being against.
- ✉ 63% of respondents identified a need for housing for couples and young families, with 46% saying there was a need for housing for older people, 39% for younger people.
- ✉ There was also strong support for small, infill developments within the village, with 73% being in favour. 65% supported developments of up to 3 homes.
- ✉ Support and opposition were roughly equally divided for development beyond the Conservation Area and for developments of 3-5 homes.
- ✉ There was strong opposition to developments of between 6 and 15 homes with 72% being opposed.
- ✉ 52% were not aware of current conservation conditions. Of those that did know the conditions, 74% were either very or fairly satisfied with those conditions, with 26% being fairly or very dissatisfied.
- ✉ 60% thought it was very important that new buildings matched existing styles, 33% thought it was fairly important.
- ✉ With regard to the use of materials, support was strongest for the use of stone, (98% in favour), slate roofing tiles (92%) and wooden window frames (89%). Opposition was stronger than support for

aluminium window frames (72% opposed) brick (51% opposed) and UPVC window frames (47% opposed).

Conclusions

- ★ There is support for some new housing within the Parish, although this varies according to the type and scale of new housing proposed.
- ★ There is some need for alternative accommodation in the next 5 years, although that need did not express itself strongly enough for those people to complete a second questionnaire on future housing needs.
- ★ There is support within the Parish for some small-scale infill new housing up to 3 units but strong opposition to large scale developments of 6 homes or more.
- ★ Conservation rules are not widely known but a clear majority of those that do know them are satisfied with their operation.
- ★ There are clear preferences amongst a majority of parishioners for certain styles of new building/extensions.

Proposed Actions

It is in this area that the policies and practices of Herefordshire Council are the predominant influence, with the Parish Council being a consultee in the Planning process. Therefore meetings have been held with Planning and Conservation Officers to explore the kinds of action that the Parish Council could take to reflect the views expressed by parishioners. From the Parish Council's point of view the information collected does provide a helpful basis against which they can judge new planning applications. To aid this process the following actions are proposed:-

1. To prepare some Parish Planning Guidance for new buildings and extensions to help individuals and developers prepare their planning applications including guidance on preferred building styles. **(High Priority)**
2. To prepare a short document outlining Planning and Conservation rules as they apply to Dorstone. Clarification has already been obtained on the boundaries of the Conservation Area and that previous "envelope" rules no longer apply. **(High Priority)**
3. To look at ways of making information more readily available on Planning Applications. *(Medium Priority)*
4. To carry out further communications to check whether there is a demand for more detailed housing questionnaires. *(Medium Priority)*

2. Traffic and Transport

Issues

Traffic issues in the Parish were most frequently mentioned during the consultative phase, both in terms of road safety and the maintenance of roads in the Parish. Comments on public transport and car parking were also received and were deemed worthy of inclusion in the questionnaire.

Responses

Traffic questions are covered in Questions 13 to 15 and questions on public transport and car parking are covered by Questions 16 to 22.

The highlights of the responses are as follows:-

- ☒ 64% replied that the general road conditions within the Parish were either poor or very poor. In addition there were three A4 pages of comments on the state of the roads.
- ☒ Further analysis of these comments revealed the following as the 7 worst locations for road maintenance (figures in brackets indicate number of references to problems at these locations in the Questionnaire):-
 - i Dorstone Hill (24)
 - ii Scar Lane (15)
 - iii The Bage & B4348 (27)
 - iv The village area and Pitt Lane (17)
 - v Mynydd Brith/Pont-y-Weston (5)
 - vi Gannols Pitch and the Gas Line Crossings (3)
 - vii Arthur's Stone Lane (3)
- ☒ 65% responded "Yes" to whether there were any traffic problems or safety issues with five A4 pages of detailed comments. It should be emphasised that the issue of speeding was mentioned 10 times more than the other comments and probably ranks as the most important concern on parishioners on any issue in the Questionnaire.
- ☒ In answer to what specific actions should be taken to make roads safer :-
 - i 80% said there should be a 30mph speed limit within the village area
 - ii 70% said there should be a speed limit on the B4348 within the Parish
 - iii 81% suggested a safe crossing to the Playing Fields
 - iv 90% wanted improved maintenance of ditches and drainage.
 - v 72% suggested use of mirrors to improve sighting on blind accesses
 - vi 71% proposed improved maintenance of roadside hedges and ditches.

- vii Only 21% supported the idea of speed humps with 73% saying No.
- ☒ The Transport Questions confirmed that the car was the main means of getting about. Use of the bus was important for students getting to College and School with 67% reporting that they thought the school and college bus services to be efficient. 54% of respondents never used the local bus service with 10% using it at least once a month or more frequently. In terms of different aspects of the service, 88% said bus shelter provision was poor.
 - ☒ 92% thought that car parking provision in Dorstone was either good or reasonable.
 - ☒ 39% said they would use a rail service if a station was opened at Pontrilas.

Conclusions

- ★ Excessive speed of traffic both in the village area and on the B4348 is the number one issue identified in the Questionnaire with overwhelming support for the introduction of speed limits and other actions to reduce speed.
- ★ The speed of farm traffic at times is also an issue of serious concern to some parishioners.
- ★ Road conditions in certain “blackspots” are considered to be poor and requiring further attention by Herefordshire and Parish Councils.
- ★ A safe crossing to the Playing Fields needs to be investigated.
- ★ Increased use of mirrors and improved signage at certain locations would also help road safety.
- ★ Generally, public transport arrangements were satisfactory for those that used them and maintenance of this service is essential for this group. A Bus Shelter in the village would be welcomed by bus users.
- ★ Car Parking arrangements are satisfactory within the village.

Proposed Actions

1. Following recent discussions with Herefordshire Council, the Parish Council has sent a formal request to Herefordshire Council to carry out a review of speeds etc. with a view to introducing a speed limit on the B4348 and within the village area. To support this action the following will also be done:-
 - i To gain the full support of the local District Councillor
 - ii To request that a traffic data collection procedure should be carried out this autumn, during the school term and holiday time and possibly potato harvesting time.
 - iii To seek suggestions from parishioners on possible locations to measure speed and volumes of traffic.
 - iv As part of the “speeding campaign,” the issue of providing a safe crossing to the Playing fields needs to be pursued.

2. Parish Council to carry out consultations with local Farmers and Young Farmers' Groups to make them aware of Parish concerns.
3. Work with Youth Club and parents to increase awareness and educate on road safety issues.
4. Continue and enhance the current work undertaken by the Parish Council to improve road conditions, utilising the Highways Department new system. Email problems to **streets@herefordshire.gov.uk**. Or by telephone to Hotline 01432 261800
5. Encourage greater Parishioner involvement in road maintenance issues, possibly using the Community Fix web site, whereby direct reports on road maintenance problems can be made directly to Herefordshire Council. Links to this web site could be established via the Dorstone Web site, which could also be used to report progress on work undertaken in the Parish. **www.communityfix.co.uk** [Copies of messages sent under 4 & 5 could also be sent to the Parish Council to avoid duplicated effort - *Chris Hendy - clerkdorstonepc@aol.com, tel 550652*]
6. Parish Council to carry out a survey of road signage and measures to improve visibility, which might involve the introduction of mirrors, noting that Herefordshire Council does not support their extended use owing to the liability risk.
7. Parish Council to investigate cost and possible site of a Bus Shelter in the village Centre.
8. The Parish Council Scheme to have a new Car Parking opposite Brook Cottage/Brook House has been stopped in view of the response of parishioners that car parking facilities were reasonable/good in the village.

All the above actions are considered to be of **High Priority** from a Parish perspective, although it is clear that the process to introduce a speed limit is a protracted one and may take several years. The Parish Council should pursue this objective vigorously.

3. Environment

Issues

A range of Environmental issues were raised throughout the consultative process, reflecting the raised awareness and concerns over climate change and the willingness of the individuals to make some contribution, however small, to improving the environment both locally and nationally. In addition, there were some specific local issues which caused parishioners concern. The opportunity was also taken to test out support for some of the ideas being pursued by the Golden Valley Environmental Group.

Responses

This area is covered in Questions 23-28.

The highlights of the responses are as follows:-

- ☒ Various ideas to protect and enhance the local environment were put forward for support or otherwise. Those receiving a significant "Yes" or "No" were as follows:-

- Extended re-cycling collections throughout the Parish - 82% yes
 - Bottle Bank within the village - 76% yes
 - New and renovated buildings to have minimal carbon emissions - 70% yes
 - Litter Bins - 62% yes.
 - Solar Lighting Schemes - 61% - yes
 - “Dog Poo” containers - 54% yes
 - More street lights - 75% no
 - Tree on village green - 61% no.
- ☒ In addition, there were majorities in favour of the development of water turbines along local rivers and a sewerage scheme for the village in place of septic tanks. Increased tree planting and community composting also won majority positive support. There was no clear majority in favour of 1 or 2 Community Wind Turbines with 36% in favour 40% against and 24% having no opinion. No questions were asked on Commercial Wind Farms in the area.
- ☒ Footpaths and Bridleways were generally regarded positively in terms of knowing where they were and their signposting, 48% being able to use them without difficulty.
- ☒ 58% of respondents thought cycle and walking paths should be developed and 49% said “Yes” to the idea of the introduction of “Quiet Lanes”.
- ☒ There were 30 homes affected by flooding mainly in their gardens or outhouses.

Conclusions

- ★ There are a number of specific actions that should take place in response to the views of parishioners on environmental issues. Some of these are relatively straightforward changes in or enhancement to service provisions. Others are long-term projects involving other Agencies and would require further investigations and potentially need significant resources and grant aid.
- ★ There are some proposals which are seen as uneconomic and not viable.
- ★ The Golden Valley Environmental Group has already started work on a possible cycle and walking path from Pontrilas to Hay. Dorstone Parish Council could play a positive role in this scheme by offering support and, if necessary, some limited funding.

Proposed Actions

1. Extended re-cycling throughout the Parish, to include glass, will be introduced by Herefordshire Council in November 2009 and will largely meet the needs of parishioners in this regard. **(High Priority)**
2. The Parish Council should continue to look at the provision of a litter bin within the village. Funds have been set aside but agreement could not be reached with the Shop Association to site the bin in the Shop area. A decision needs to be made whether the litter problem is sufficient to warrant a litter bin. If a decision in favour is made, alternative sites should be examined. *(Medium Priority)*

3. Increased tree planting should be encouraged through individual action, recognising that schemes are available to provide apple trees at discount prices. Tree protection orders could also be considered for existing trees.
4. Community Composting is not considered feasible due to the lack of common ground to provide a space for this activity. However individual actions to compost should be encouraged and advantage taken of the cheap compost bins available from Herefordshire Council. *(Low Priority)*
5. Provision of Dog Poo containers is expensive (Peterchurch PC sets aside over £1000 p.a. for their scheme) and therefore a general scheme is not considered economic. The onus should rest with individual dog owners to deal with the excrement of their dogs. *(Low Priority)*
6. Solar Lighting for the Village Hall/Village Light should be investigated in conjunction with the Community Sustainable Energy Programme and other funding agencies. *(Medium Priority)*
7. More energy efficient street lighting should be investigated, possibly with lights being turned off automatically after 12midnight. Views of house owners within the Village Green area on the need for a new Village Hall light should be sought before further expenditure is incurred on a new light. *(Medium Priority)*
8. Further investigations should be carried out on the possibility of a sewerage scheme for the village. *(Low Priority)*
9. A water turbine scheme is not considered to be possible due the inadequate speed of flows of the two local streams.
10. Support should be given to the Golden Valley Environmental Group schemes for a cycle and walking path from Pontrilas to Hay. *(Medium Priority)*
11. Further investigations should be carried out with Herefordshire Council and CPRE to determine the feasibility of declaring the back road to Peterchurch and road around Snodhill as a "Quiet Lane". "Quiet Lane" status for the whole of the village area may also be an option for dealing with speeding issues within the village. *(Medium Priority)*
12. Minimal Carbon emissions for all new and renovated homes should be included in the Planning Guidance Notes to be prepared for the Parish Council. **(High Priority)**
13. The Parish Council should continue with their work in dredging the areas around bridges on the Pont-y-Weston as a means of reducing flooding at times of high water in the stream. *(Medium Priority)*

4. Village Facilities

Issues

Village facilities include the Village Hall, Playing Fields, St Faith's Church, Chapel, Post Office and possible future use of the Village Shop. Questions in this area were partly generated by requests from parishioners for new or improved services from these bodies, but also a desire from those responsible for running them to find out what their "customers" thought about the services provided.

Responses

This area is covered in Questions 36-57 under the headings Parish Facilities and Leisure and Parish Services.

The highlights of the responses are as follows:-

- ✉ 92% rated the Village Hall facility as good or reasonable
- ✉ Many comments were received that Village Hall facilities should be up-rated with 7 comments suggesting that a completely new facility was required.
- ✉ 11% used the Playing Fields once a week/29% never used the facility
- ✉ The main use of the Playing Fields was attending events (61%), walking and exercising (24%) and children's playground (22%)
- ✉ 47% viewed the Children's Playground as poor/43% as reasonable
- ✉ There was a long list of new activities (**top 10** of which are listed in *Appendix E*) which parishioners would like to see offered at both Village Hall and Playing Fields, for example dancing classes and tennis courts. A limited number of individuals indicated a willingness to organise these activities.
- ✉ St Faith's Church was generally seen as important to parishioners, particularly as a historical building and a focal point of the community. 45% thought the Church should be more of a community facility. Music events were suggested by many as events which would receive support. Many suggested that the Church required toilets and kitchen facilities. Dorstone Chapel was not seen as important by 66% of the respondents.
- ✉ The decision to close the Post Office was made before the Questionnaire results were published. They reflected mixed views on the impact of closure from those on whom it had no effect to those that closure would represent a major impact.
- ✉ Alternative uses for the Village Shop were suggested from Community Shop to Coffee/Tea Shop/Tourist Information Centre. 64% were willing to support a Community oil purchase scheme.

Conclusions

- ★ The Village Hall is in need of refurbishment with a minority suggesting that a new building is required – the latter option would however require substantial fund raising.
- ★ The Children's Playground is in need of a complete overhaul.

- ★ The PCC has welcomed the responses from the Parish that the church building should be used more as a community facility.
- ★ There is a demand for more activities at the Village Hall, Playing fields and Church. The Committees of these bodies are responsible for the management of these facilities and the onus is clearly on parishioners to get together to organise activities with encouragement and support from the respective Management Committees.
- ★ The Village Shop could be/is being developed as a community facility.
- ★ For some people the Post Office was a key facility and hopefully the provision of a mobile Post Office is partially meeting this need.
- ★ There is a need for these bodies to continue to voluntarily work together, as they do currently for example in organising the Plant Day. There appears to be little demand for any over-arching Community Association.

Proposed Actions

1. All Committees to advertise facilities and to encourage individual and group activities. One group is already starting to look at the possibility of tennis courts and art classes and keep fit classes have been organised in the Village Hall. Progress in this area however is heavily dependent on the willingness of individuals/groups to organise events/activities and attract continued support from parishioners.
2. The PCC is reviewing how the Church could become more of a communal facility and has taken a first step in the purchase of chairs, sponsored by churchgoers. Improvements to the building to provide toilets and a kitchen are being discussed, and this is in its very early stage. Further progress is anticipated when the new Rector has arrived. *(Medium Priority)*
3. The Village Hall Committee is looking to commission a feasibility study for improved insulation and sound proofing as well as the possibility of a new kitchen. The Committee accepts the need for better facilities but this will involve significant cost and should be seen as a long-term project. Negotiations are proceeding for an extension of the current lease for the retention of the Village Hall at its current site.
4. An application has been made to “Awards for All” for grant aid to fund a new playground, improve drainage at the bottom end of the fields as well as new fencing and car park. The initial application was refused but will be re-submitted in a modified form.
5. Dorstone’s Front Room has been established to provide a range of services and can be regarded as an “early win” for the Parish Plan process. Numbers attending are good and potential financial viability of the DFR is promising. Plans are being finalised, subject to funding, to further improve the facility including a craft/artist display area for local artists/crafts persons. A bulk oil purchase scheme is now operational.

The majority of the above proposed actions are seen as **high priority**, although time scales in some cases, Village Hall refurbishment, Playing Fields works and any agreed Church modifications are likely to be take years not months.

5. Communications

Issues

In the consultative exercise, parishioners raised the issue of communications about events and developments within Dorstone. In addition, organisers of events and the Parish Council wanted to know how parishioners felt about the quality of existing communications and how they could be improved. It was also felt essential to check on the use of the internet and find how many homes were linked to web.

Responses

This area is covered in Questions 29-35 under the heading Communications.

The highlights of the responses are as follows:-

- ✉ 81% of respondents felt that information about Dorstone events was either good or reasonable
- ✉ The main sources of information were Word of Mouth (mentioned by 71%); The Link/Golden Valley News (51%/50%) Notice Boards at Post Office (50%); Hereford Times (48%) and Village Hall Notice Board (48%)
- ✉ 65% said they would like to receive a newsletter explaining the work of the Parish Council.
- ✉ 51% of newcomers to the village in the last 3 years had not received the Welcome Pack from the Parish Council, but of those that did 82% found it useful.
- ✉ 80% of respondents to this question (192 people) had access to the Internet at home (78% using broadband) – 47% however thought speed was insufficient.
- ✉ 78%, at the time of the questionnaire, had not accessed the Dorstone Community Website. However, there were large majorities in favour of using the website more extensively for a wide range of information listed in Q35.
- ✉ As part of the Prize Draw for returning the Questionnaire, respondents were asked to provide their email addresses and 74 did.

Conclusions

- ★ As a relatively small community, communications about events and other developments are reasonable. However, given that nearly 200 people have access to the Internet at home, improvements could be made utilising both the Dorstone Community Website and email.
- ★ Broadband speed is considered to be slow by about half of users.
- ★ The Parish Council has funded the establishment of the Community Website. Through the excellent work of Tony Usher the site has developed considerably since the Questionnaire was completed. There is still ample scope for increasing the range and usage of this web site.

- ★ Communications from the Parish Council – the twice-yearly newsletter and Welcome Pack were well received, but attention needs to be given to effective delivery.
- ★ Existing “hard copy” communications, (Hereford Times, Link, Golden Valley News etc) were valued by parishioners, particularly those without home computers, but depend on regular contributions from village organisations/individuals to remain effective.
- ★ Greater use could be made of the Dorstone Community Website as a source of information for “outsiders” about the tourist attractions of the area and the businesses that operate within it.

Proposed Actions

1. The Council should look at future funding arrangements and consider the scope and purpose of the website to ensure that the various kinds of information suggested for inclusion in Question 35 are provided. This could include consultations with businesses that operate within the Parish to determine their views on greater use of the website to promote their interests and that of the area in general. This could be done either through the provision of “links” or the development of a business section funded by modest contributions from those businesses. **(High Priority)**
2. A voluntary email circulation list could be established on the DFR Computer using the email addresses collected already, and anyone else who wishes to be included on the list. This could be used for circulation of information about events within Dorstone. Permission would be sought from individuals who have already provided their addresses that they would want this service. *(Medium Priority)*
3. Representations to BT should be made by the Parish Council to improve broadband speed. *(Medium Priority)*
4. The Parish Council should consider placing their newsletter on the website or via email circulation list as the main means of delivery. A one-off exercise to determine those households who want a hard copy of this communication should be carried out. *(Low Priority)*
5. The “Reminders Board” at the DFR is an excellent innovation and should be maintained. *(Medium Priority)*
6. Use of the Village Section of the Hereford Times, the Golden Valley News and the Link should continue as a good method of letting Parishioners know about forthcoming events etc. **(High Priority)**

6. Youth Issues

Issues

The presence of a significant group of young persons and children in the Parish was seen as requiring a separate questionnaire to find out what they felt about living in Dorstone, their views on facilities provided and to provide an opportunity for this important section of the population to register any concern or problems that they may encounter.

Responses

The Youth Questionnaire comprised of 15 questions including data on age/sex/educational status. The highlights of the responses are as follows:-

- ✉ 44 completed replies, 48% male/52% female; 49% 11 years or under 51% 12-17 years,
- ✉ 73% attended school – predominantly in Peterchurch Primary or Fairfield High, (59%), and 16% at Clifford Primary.
- ✉ 27% attending College – predominantly Hereford Sixth Form College (73%), 9% each at Holme Lacy and Hereford Technical College.
- ✉ Spare time activities comprised mainly of visiting or having friends round, (82%) watching TV (78%); playing computer games (56%); meeting friends outside (51%) and bike riding (51%) or playing sport (51%).
- ✉ A large proportion described the village as a friendly place (84%) and over half felt it was a safe place to live and just under half thought it was neighbourly.
- ✉ Other positive things about living in Dorstone were the general peaceful and beautiful environment, typical comment were “Lots of friends, Lots of space, it’s calm” and “it’s quiet but still close to Hereford and Hay.”
- ✉ Negative comments focussed on a lack of activities and speeding traffic. Travel arrangements are a critical part of young people’s lives not only to School and College but also to support their social lives. The bus service supported 30% of journeys to local towns for leisure activities but there was a heavy dependence on car lifts from family and friends.
- ✉ Tennis was the most popular option for new activities (67%) followed by provision of a mountain bike circuit (52%).
- ✉ 58% would like to see a wider choice of things to do and 47% wanted more activities for them in the Village Hall.

Conclusions

- ★ It is perhaps not surprising that the concerns expressed in the youth questionnaire overlap to a degree with the adult survey and that speeding traffic is a big concern.
- ★ It is encouraging that the “quality of life” in Dorstone is much appreciated by the young people, although a minority have concerns about isolation and boredom.
- ★ Lack of facilities and activities was registered as an important issue for this group. Since the questionnaire was completed a new monthly Youth Club has been established which is now flourishing with 30-40 members.

Proposed Actions

It is worth stressing that, in dealing with the issues raised by young people and children, the responsibility largely rests with adult parishioners, particularly parents, to address their needs and concerns.

1. Urgent progress is needed to deal with the concerns over speeding and safety issues as outlined in the Traffic Section. Liaison with local farmers is proposed to raise awareness of the presence of young children in the village. It should also be recognised that parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children do not play on the main roads through and around the village. **(High Priority)**
2. Refurbishment of the Children’s Play Area is required as outlined in the Village Facilities Section. **(High Priority)**
3. The possibility of tennis and mountain bike facilities needs to be investigated by interested groups. *(Medium Priority)*
4. Parish organisations should encourage greater involvement by, or consultations with, young people in the village to ensure that their views are heard on an on-going basis. **(High Priority)**
5. Event Planners should include more activities for young people, for example on-going consultation with the Youth Club on possible films for “Flick in the Sticks”. *(Medium Priority)*
6. The Youth Club requires continued support for its various activities from the general community and Parish bodies.

Appendix A

Dorstone Action Plans - Summaries

Planning /Housing/Conservation

Required outcome or issue to be addressed	The Action	Who will do it	Partners/ dependencies	Time Scales	Cost	Funding Source	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ Evaluate Progress	Priority (H, M, L)
Future Development of the Parish [2.1]	Agree Parish Planning Guidance for future Planning Applications for New Buildings	Parish Plan S.G./PC	Parish Council & Herefordshire Council	3 months	nil			Parish Council	H
Housing Needs [2.4]	To carry out further communications to check whether there is a demand for more detailed housing needs questionnaires	PC		6 months	nil			Parish Council	L
Better information on Planning and Conservation Issues [2.2]	To prepare a short document outlining planning and conservation rules as they apply to Dorstone	P PSG/PC	Herefordshire Council	3 months	nil			Parish Council	H
Building Styles & Scale [2.1]	Agree Parish Guidance for preferred Building styles as indicated in the Parish Questionnaire	PPSG/PC	Herefordshire Council	3 months	nil			Parish Council	H
Better information on Planning Applications [2.3]	To look at ways at making information on Planning Applications more accessible	PC		6 months	nil			Parish Council	M

Traffic & Transport

Required outcome or issue to be addressed	The Action	Who will do it	Partners/dependencies	Time Scales	Cost	Funding Source	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ Evaluate Progress	Priority (H, M, L)
Reduced speeding through village and surrounding roads. [2.1]	Fully investigate this issue, Apply for review of speed to HC requesting data collection & analysis, examine all options. Gain support of District Cllr.	Parish Council	Police, Highways Dept,	12 months		Herefordshire Council	Parish Council	Parish Council	H
Reduced speed of farm vehicles- especially during harvest season [2.2 & 2.3]	Contact all local farmers inc Young Farmers groups and make them aware of the Parish concerns a, Get their co-operation and buy in at an early stage and continue to work with them to sustain crew awareness. Also work with Youth Club to raise awareness on road safety.	Parish Council	Police, Local farmers, Young Farmers groups	3 months	None	N/a	N/a	Parish Council	H
Improved maintenance of roadways and ditches etc with particular emphasis to improve the 7 worst "blackspots". [2.4 & 2.5]	Improved visibility of the work currently being done or logged as required on the Highways new system and also using Community Fix and possible link to Dorstone web site. Encourage parishioners to be involved.	Parish Council (Road surveyor)	Highways Dept, Parish Lengths men, Web Administrator	6 months	None	N/a	N/a	Parish Council	H
Improved usage of	Complete a survey of where	Parish	Highways Dept,	9			Parish	Parish	H

Traffic & Transport - cont.

Required outcome or issue to be addressed	The Action	Who will do it	Partners/dependencies	Time Scales	Cost	Funding Source	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/Evaluate Progress	Priority (H, M, L)
mirrors and signage where appropriate [2.6]	these are appropriate and feed this back to the Parish. Then take forward to Highways and pursue.	Council	Parish Lengthsmen	months			Council	Council	
Possible provision of Bus Shelter [2.7]	PC to investigate cost and possible site.	Parish Council		12 Months				Parish Council	M
Cessation of Car Parking Scheme [2.8]	Parish Council stopped proposal to lay out new car park at Brook Cottage/House	Parish Council							

Environment

Required outcome or issue to be addressed	The Action	Who will do it	Partners/dependencies	Time Scales	Cost	Funding Source	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/Evaluate Progress	Priority (H, M, L)
Extended recycling – bottle bank [3.1]	Covered by Herefordshire Council	HC		Nov 09					H
Litter Bins [3.2]	Decision required by PC whether bin is required.	PC	Village Shop Assc.- Village Hall	3 months		PC			M
Increased Tree Planting [3.3]	Individual Action/	Individuals				PC/LA Grant	Individuals	PC	L
Community Composting [3.4]	Provision of Individual Composting Bins	Individuals/ HC			£9 per bin	Individuals	Individuals		L
Dog Poo Containers – too expensive [3.5]	Recommendation requires confirmation by PC	PC			Approx £1040 p.a.	PC		PC	L
Solar Lighting Village Hall/and or Village and more energy efficient street lighting [3.6 & 3.7]	Possibility of using PV panels for solar lighting. Investigate more limited hours for existing street lights and requirement for light on Village Green area	VHC & PC	Community Sustainable Energy Programme and other funding agencies	1year+	£56k		VHC		M

Environment - cont.

Required outcome or issue to be addressed	The Action	Who will do it	Partners/dependencies	Time Scales	Cost	Funding Source	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/Evaluate Progress	Priority (H, M, L)
Development of local water turbines [3.9]	Not feasible	PC	GVEG	1 year+	£20k for full survey	CSEP			L
Sewerage Scheme [3.8]	Investigate need or desire for this with Parishioners	PC	Environment Agency & Welsh Water	1 year +	Not known	WW/Individuals PC		PC	L
Minimal Carbon Emissions for all new renovated homes [3.12]	Planning Guidance Note for adoption by PC	PC/PPSG	HC Planning	3 months				PC	H
Cycle and Walking Paths [3.10]	Investigate feasibility	GVEG	Sustrans & HC	1 year +	£20k	Sustrans/HC/PC	GVEG	PC & GVEG	M
Introduction of Quiet Lanes on back road to Peterchurch and Snodhill lanes [3.11]	Investigate idea with HC and Peterchurch PC	PC	HC/Peterchurch PC	1 year +		HC	HC	PC	M
Minimise flooding for homes at risk [3.13]	Continue dredging work at village bridges	PC		On-going		PC		PC	M

Village Facilities

Required outcome or issue to be addressed	The Action	Who will do it	Partners/dependencies	Time Scales	Cost	Funding Source	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ Evaluate Progress	Priority (H, M, L)
More activities in village hall, church, playing field. [4.1]	Advertise facilities encourage individual initiative	Initially Committees facilitate then the villagers themselves			Depends on activity		individuals	committees	H
Continuation of Dorstone's Front Room [4.5]	Continued support from Parish Council/Parishioners	DFR Committee	Nexus	6 months	£4k	Nexus	DFR Committee	DFR Committee	H
Use of Church – PCC to review results and decide the degree to which it wishes to become more of a communal facility. [4.2]	Further discussion within PCC.	PCC						PCC	M
Village hall refurbishment [4.3]	Lease renewal, new kitchen, insulation	Hall Committee, underway		On-going	High		Hall committee	Village Hall Committee	H
Playing field improvements [4.4]	Drain lower field, new playground, fencing and car park	Playing field committee ongoing		On-going	High	Various Grants	Field committee on-going	Playing field committee	H

Communications

Required outcome or issue to be addressed	The Action	Who will do it	Partners/dependencies	Time Scales	Cost	Funding Source	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ Evaluate Progress	Priority (H, M, L)
Communication -. more needed. [5.6]	Use the Dorstone section in the Hereford Times on a regular basis. Use the DFR and website	Activity reps	Parish Council if website used	Immediate	nil			The Parish as a whole	H
Possible extension of use of Dorstone web site. [5.1]	PC to assess future role and funding of website in light of questionnaire responses and internet availability.	Parish council		6 months	low	Parish Council/ possible advertising revenue	Parish Council	Parish Council	M
Improve e mail communication for village events etc [5.2]	Establish a voluntary email listing on DFR Computer	DFR Committee	PC and Internet Users in Parish	6 months	nil			DFR Committee-	M
Improve broadband sp[5.3]	Representations to be made to BT to improve speeds	PC	BT	9 months	nil			PC	L
Easier circulation of Parish Council Newsletter. [5.4]	Either place on Dorstone web site or use voluntary email listing. Check out who wants hard copy.	PC	DFR	12 months	Not known	PC		PC	L
Ensure Reminders Board on DFR is kept going [5.5]	Village rroups/individuals to keep DFR informed of events etc	DFR/ Village groups		On-going	nil				M

Youth Issues

Required outcome or issue to be addressed	The Action	Who will do it	Partners/dependencies	Time Scales	Cost	Funding Source	Who will apply for funding	Who will monitor/ Evaluate Progress	Priority (H, M, L)
Refurbishment of the Children's Play area. [6.2]	Plans to be drawn up	Playing Fields Committee		12 months	£40k	Awards for All	Playing Fields Committee	Playing Fields Committee	H
Safety of Road crossing [6.1]	Investigate provision of safe crossing to Play area.	PC	Herefordshire Council	12 months				PC	H
Tennis [6.3]	Possibility of tennis court		Willing Volunteers to lead effort						M
Mountain bike track [6.3]	Find site in village		ditto						M
Organised activities [6.5]	Family events/sports/BBQ/under 12 film shows.		ditto						M
Community Involvement and continued support for Youth Club [6.6]	Have youth representatives on Parish Groups/ support from Parish Council and other village groups for Youth Club		PC/Other Committees						H

Appendix B

Membership of the Steering Group

Throughout preparation:-

Colin Thomas – Chair
Simon Gaze*
Chris Hendy**
Mary Hession*
Toni Birchenough
Bryn Brooks
Penny Platts
Eileen Smith
Violet Smith
Pat Rye*

Members for part of the preparation:-

John Platts Secretary/Treasurer (for all apart from last few months
and still provided IT assistance for all the period)
Julian Reeves***
Vanessa Hembling***
Matthew Swindale
Emma Beddall
Russell Goodwin

* Members of the Parish Council

** Clerk to the Parish Council

*** Remain members of the Group as at September 2009

Appendix C

Dorstone Parish Plan – Determination of Priorities

The following was used as general as working definitions for each of the priorities – high/medium and low.

- ❖ **High** - Issues where there was an overwhelming view (defined as over 70%) in the Questionnaire that an improvement was required and/or where there is an important safety issue involved.
- ❖ **Medium** – Issues where over 50% are in favour of an improvement and/or where there is a minor safety issue involved.
- ❖ **Low** – Issues where there was less than 50% in favour but there was a clear majority in favour of an improvement.

In considering allocation of a priority due account should be taken of the number of replies given to the question and the % where no opinion is expressed.

In addition it was recognised that on some issues parishioners were happy with the status quo or showed no support for a suggested change.

In summary the leading examples in each category were as follows:-

High Priority

1. 30 mph speed limit within the Village, supported by many comments on the speeding issue (80% saying yes to this proposal)
2. Improved maintenance of ditches and drainage (90%)
3. New homes should be small infill developments within the Village (73% in favour)
4. Extended Re-cycling facilities (80%)
5. Stone Materials should be used in New housing (98%)

Medium Priorities

1. Developments of up to 3 homes – 65% in favour – 21% against
2. Importance of new building styles match existing styles – 60% thought very important.
3. Not aware of current conservation conditions – 52%
4. Solar lighting schemes – e.g. street lights/village hall – 61% yes
5. Support for oil bulk purchase scheme – 64% - yes

Low Priorities

1. More location signs – 45% yes 36% no
2. Community Composting – 47% in favour 31% against
3. Development of water turbines – 47% in favour 27% against
4. Sewerage scheme for Village – 42% in favour – 25% against
5. Support for “Quiet Lanes” initiative – 49% in favour 26% against

Status Quo – Opposition

1. Use of aluminium window frames 72% against – 8% - yes.

2. Speed restriction measures such as speed humps – 73% - no 21% yes.
3. More pavements - 50% - no 33% yes
4. Tree on Village green – 61% no – 24% yes
5. Car Parking facilities rated as good by 36%, reasonable by 56%.

Appendix D

Top 10 Requested Activities

The following number of adults answered that they would take part in the following activities if they were provided – figures in brackets = those willing to organise:-

1. Keep Fit – 63 (3)
2. Dancing – 50 (1)
3. Tennis – 44 (6)
4. Gardening Club – 44 (5)
5. Art Classes – 42 (4)
6. Badminton – 42 (6)
7. Computing Classes 37 (4)
8. Photography – 36 (2)
9. Natural History Society – 35 (1)
10. Boules – 30 (0)

In the Youth Questionnaire the top 3 responses to the same question were as follows:-

1. Tennis – 28
2. Mountain Bike circuit – 22
3. Cricket - 5

Appendix E

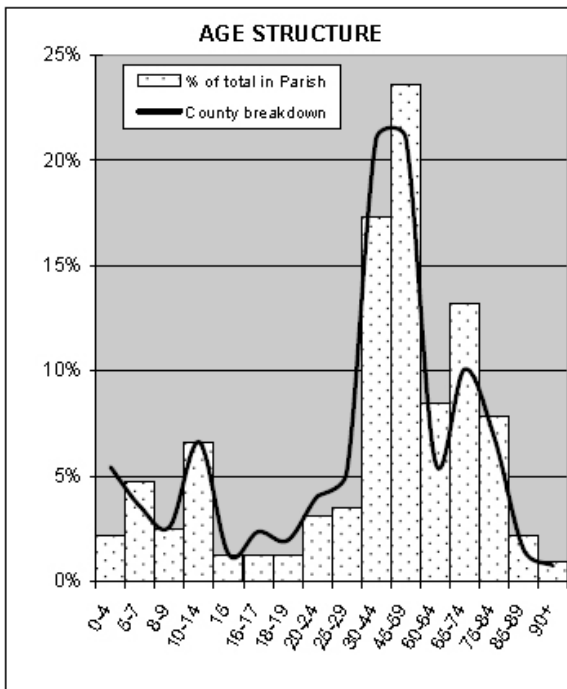
Parish Data

POPULATION CENSUS 2001			
Age	No.	% of total in Parish	County breakdown
0-4	7	2.2%	5.4%
5-7	15	4.7%	3.6%
8-9	8	2.5%	2.6%
10-14	21	6.6%	6.6%
15	4	1.3%	1.3%
16-17	4	1.3%	2.4%
18-19	4	1.3%	2.0%
20-24	10	3.1%	4.0%
25-29	11	3.5%	5.2%
30-44	55	17.3%	21.0%
45-59	75	23.6%	21.1%
60-64	27	8.5%	5.7%
65-74	42	13.2%	10.1%
75-84	25	7.9%	6.9%
85-89	7	2.2%	1.5%
90+	3	0.9%	0.8%
Total	318	100.0%	100.0%

POPULATION DENSITY		
<i>Persons per hectare</i>		
	Parish	County
Area (ha)	2,172	217,973
Population 2001	318	174,871
Density	0.15	0.80

PARISH WITHIN WARD

GOLDEN VALLEY NORTH WARD



Please note that the age groups shown are **not** of equal size. This chart is designed to illustrate differences between the age distribution of the area and that of the county as a whole.

Parish Data

CENSUS 2001 DATA - KEY STATISTICS				
POPULATION CENSUS 2001				
Age	No.	% in Parish	County %	
0-15	55	17.3%	19.5%	
16-59	159	50.0%	55.6%	
60+	104	32.7%	24.9%	
TOTAL	318	100.0%	100.0%	
		Parish	County	
No. of students living away from home:		7	2,607	
No. of residents in communal establishments:		0	1,998	
ETHNIC GROUPS				
		% in Parish	County %	
	White	99.1%	99.1%	
	Mixed	0.9%	0.4%	
	Asian or Asian British	0.0%	0.2%	
	Black or Black British	0.0%	0.1%	
	Other	0.0%	0.2%	
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION				
% of households comprising:				
		Parish	County	
	Lone pensioner	12.3%	15.4%	
	Other single person	11.5%	13.3%	
	One family - All pensioners	16.2%	11.6%	
Married couple:				
	- without children	16.9%	15.2%	
	- with dependent children	18.5%	17.7%	
	- all children non-dependent	9.2%	5.8%	
Co-habiting couple:				
	- without children	3.8%	4.3%	
	- with dependent children	0.0%	3.2%	
	- all children non-dependent	0.0%	0.3%	
Lone parent:				
	- with dependent children	2.3%	5.37%	
	- all children non-dependent	3.1%	2.82%	
Other households:				
	- with dependent children	0.0%	1.6%	
	- all students	0.0%	0.1%	
	- all pensioners	2.3%	0.6%	
	- other	3.8%	2.8%	
TOTAL No. of households:		130	74,282	
MARITAL STATUS				
% of people aged 16 and over:				
		Parish	County	
	Single (never married)	19.8%	24.5%	
	Married	55.9%	46.9%	
	Re-married	8.7%	8.9%	
	Separated (but still married)	1.1%	1.9%	
	Divorced	6.5%	8.8%	
	Widowed	8.0%	9.0%	
HEALTH				
Limiting long term illness = long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits daily activities or work				
		Parish	County	
% of people with limiting long term illness:		16.7%	17.9%	
% of working age people with limiting long term illness (working age = 16-64M/16-59F):		11.1%	12.9%	
In the 12 months before Census day, % of people whose health was:				
		Parish	County	
	Good	73.6%	68.7%	
	Fairly Good	21.1%	23.0%	
	Not Good	5.3%	8.3%	
PROVISION OF UNPAID CARE				
		Parish	County	
All people providing unpaid care:		43	17,577	
% of people who provide unpaid care for:				
	1-19 hours/week	65.1%	71.2%	
	20-49 hours/week	14.0%	9.9%	
	50+ hours/week	20.9%	18.9%	
TENURE				
% of households:				
Owner occupied:		Parish	County	
	Owns outright	62.5%	35.8%	
	Owns with mortgage or loan	23.4%	34.9%	
	Shared ownership	0.0%	0.9%	
Rented from:				
	Social rented	0.0%	15.2%	
	Private landlord or agency	8.6%	9.1%	
	Other (inc. 'tied' homes)	5.5%	4.1%	
CARS & VANS				
% of households with various numbers of cars or vans:				
		Parish	County	
	None	5.4%	18.2%	
	One	40.0%	44.8%	
	Two	40.0%	28.5%	
	Three	11.5%	6.4%	
	Four or more	3.1%	2.2%	

Parish Data

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		
	Parish	County
All people aged 16-74 years:	228	124,824
% of people aged 16-74 years:		
Economically active:		
Employees Part-time (= <30 hrs)	13.6%	13.6%
Employees Full-time (= >31 hrs)	25.4%	36.1%
Self - employed	31.6%	13.7%
Unemployed	1.3%	2.7%
Full-time student	1.3%	1.9%
Economically inactive:		
Retired	14.9%	16.1%
Student	1.8%	2.9%
Looking after home/family	6.6%	6.2%
Permanently sick/disabled	1.8%	4.3%
Other	1.8%	2.5%
INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT		
	Parish	County
No. of people in employment	163	81,289
% of people aged 16-74 in employment working in:		
Agriculture, hunting, forestry	19.6%	6.7%
Fishing	0.0%	0.0%
Mining & quarrying	0.0%	0.2%
Manufacturing	12.3%	17.4%
Electricity, gas & water supply	0.0%	0.5%
Construction	9.2%	7.7%
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	6.7%	18.4%
Hotels and catering	3.7%	4.8%
Transport storage & communication	5.5%	4.7%
Financial intermediation	3.7%	1.9%
Real estate, renting & business activities	14.1%	9.5%
Public administration & defence	4.3%	5.0%
Education	9.2%	7.4%
Health and social work	8.6%	11.6%
Other	3.1%	4.3%
TRAVEL TO WORK		
	Parish	County
% of people who work mainly at or from home:	33.1%	15.2%
% of people aged 16 - 74 in employment who usually travel to work by:		
Public Transport	1.8%	3.5%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.0%	1.0%
Driving a car or van	50.0%	57.8%
Passenger in a car or van	7.2%	5.7%
Taxi	1.8%	0.3%
Bicycle	1.8%	4.2%
On foot	4.2%	11.7%
Other	0.0%	0.5%
% of public transport users in households:		
With a car or van:	100.0%	76.9%
Without a car or van:	0.0%	23.1%

National Statistics - Socio-economic Classification (NS-Sec) replaces 'social class of households'		
	Parish	County
% of all people aged 16-74 years		
Large employers & higher managerial occ's	6.2%	3.0%
Higher professional occ's	8.8%	4.1%
Lower managerial & professional occ's	16.8%	17.7%
Intermediate occ's	7.1%	7.1%
Small employers & own account workers	22.6%	12.1%
Lower supervisory & technical occ's	2.7%	7.6%
Semi-routine occ's	10.2%	13.3%
Routine occ's	5.3%	9.0%
Never worked	0.0%	1.6%
Long-term unemployed (since 1999 or earlier)	0.0%	0.8%
Full-time students	3.1%	4.7%
Not classifiable	17.3%	19.1%
<i>occ's=occupations</i>		
QUALIFICATIONS		
	Parish	County
% of all people aged 16-74 years		
No qualifications	26.3%	28.5%
Level 1: 1+ 'O' Level passes; 1+ CSE/GCSE (any grades) NVQ level 1/Foundation GNVQ.	9.2%	16.7%
Level 2: 5+ 'O' Level passes/grade 1 CSEs 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C); School Certificate; 1+'A'/AS' Level NVQ Level 2; Intermediate GNVQ	22.4%	21.0%
Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels; 4+ AS levels; Higher School Certificate; NVQ level 3; Advanced GNVQ.	7.9%	7.3%
Level 4/5: First or Higher degree NVQ levels 4 and 5; HNC; HND Qualified Teacher or Medical Doctor Qualified Dentist or Nurse; Midwife; Health Visitor.	28.1%	19.3%
Other qualifications or level unknown	6.1%	7.2%

For further information, contact the Research Team
E-mail: researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01432 260498

Appendix F

Dorstone Parish – Parish Planning Guidance

Introduction

The development and implementation of Planning and Conservation policy, as it applies in Dorstone Parish, rests with Herefordshire County Council Planning Department. These policies are presently contained in the Herefordshire Unitary Development Policy, (UDP adopted in 2007) and in due course this will be replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF). This document sets out to augment these policies reflecting the views of Parishioners, as expressed in the Questionnaire, and the Parish Council, with regard to the nature and scale of future development(s) in the Village and surrounding countryside. This Parish Planning document will be used by the Parish Council to guide their recommendations on Planning Applications submitted to them, as part of the Planning consultation process.

This document does not set out to be a definitive guide to Planning and Conservation issues in the Parish. For detailed guidance, contact should be made with the Planning Department of Herefordshire Council or by using its web site.

Key Features of the Unitary Development Policy as applied to Dorstone Parish

The Unitary Development Plan is a substantial document and no attempt is made here to repeat all aspects of the Plan as it applies to Dorstone and individual planning applications. However there are certain key points of context which are summarised below and are worthy of repetition.

1. Dorstone has been classified as a smaller settlement in terms of Housing development. Policy H6 therefore states that:- “proposals for residential development on plots arising from the infilling of small gaps between existing dwellings within the settlement will be permitted where:-
2. the dwelling is limited to a habitable living space of 90sq.metres (3 bedroom house) or 100 sq. metres (4 bedroom house)
3. the plot size is limited to a maximum area of 350 sq. metres and
4. the infill gap is no more than 30 metres frontage.
5. Proposals for housing development outside smaller settlements such as Dorstone will not be permitted unless they comply with certain conditions laid down in Policy Number H7 of the UDP. Key clauses of this policy, in terms of relevance to Dorstone, are that housing development will not be permitted unless:-
 - i the development is clearly necessary in connection with agriculture or forestry and complies with policy H8.
 - ii it is a necessary accompaniment to the establishment or growth of a rural enterprise.
 - iii It results from the re-use of a rural building
 - iv it is a replacement for an existing building
 - v it is an extension to an existing dwelling

- vi it is a rural exception housing such as affordable housing/
6. Policy DR1 Design of the UDP lays down certain minimum criteria with which all developments should comply. In relation to Dorstone, which includes a Conservation Area, it is particularly important to note that all developments will be required to
- i “promote or re-inforce the distinctive character and appearance of the locality in terms of layout, density, means of access and enclosure, scale, mass, height, design and materials” .
 - ii “retain and where possible incorporate existing site features contributing to the quality of the local environment, including landscape, historic and natural elements such as wildlife habitats and species.
 - iii “respect the context of the site, taking into account townscape and landscape character and topography, including the impact of the proposal on urban vistas, longer distance views and ridgelines”.

Future Housing Development

The response in the questionnaire, supports the view set out in the UDP, that any future housing development should comprise small infill developments within the Village, supported by 73%. Similarly 72% of the replies were opposed to any developments involving 6-15 homes. Small developments of up to 3 homes were also supported by 65%. Support for developments beyond the Conservation Area was evenly divided.

Therefore in considering new Planning Applications the Parish Council will take the following factors into account:-

1. The size of the development, favouring individual or development of 3 homes or less, taking a close and critical view of developments of 3-5 homes and opposing larger developments of 6 homes or more.
2. Any developments outside the Conservation area will be carefully considered in line with Policy H7 referred to previously, but will give detailed attention to the impact on both the Village and surrounding landscape.
3. Very careful and critical consideration will be given to any developments which lead to a significant loss of open spaces immediately adjacent to and within the conservation area.
4. Planning applications will be equally welcome for proposals involving privately owned homes, privately rented housing, older person’s housing, low cost housing for outright sale, housing association and shared ownerships.

Building Style

The Parish Council’s view on future developments will reflect the response that 93% of respondents thought that it was important the new buildings matched the existing styles of surrounding buildings. It is recognised that there is no predominant style of building throughout the Parish but in considering any new

application strong emphasis will be placed by the Council of the styles of adjacent buildings. Proposals for building extensions should also be in keeping with existing and adjacent buildings. The impact on the landscape of new buildings will also be taken into account.

The Parish Council appreciates that the use of building materials is sometimes an issue of individual preference, design and cost. However, in so far as possible, support for individual schemes will be given for new buildings which incorporate some or all of the following materials:-

- ★ Use of stone, either in terms of total or partial use (rendered with stone edging).
- ★ Slate roofing tiles
- ★ Wooden window frames
- ★ Use of wood cladding
- ★ Rendered finish
- ★ Clay and concrete roofing tiles.

All these materials were supported by a majority of respondents in the questionnaire.

Whilst it is unable to stipulate that other forms of materials cannot be used the Parish Council will give detailed and critical consideration to applications which involve, brick construction, aluminium window frames, and UPVC frames. In the questionnaire the use of these materials was opposed by a clear majority of respondents. In considering future applications the Parish Council welcomes innovative quality designs which incorporate the preferred building materials

Conservation Area Boundaries/Rules

The conservation area boundary is shown in the attached Map of the Village. There is no settlement boundary as such, although the Parish Council considers that the Conservation area boundary should be considered the settlement boundary and that applications outside this area should be governed by UDP policy H7 referred to above.

Conservation Areas are defined by central Government as “areas that include important examples of our social, cultural and aesthetic history that must be safeguarded from indiscriminate or ill considered change. However, it is not always enough to protect these building in isolation. Their surroundings and general environment are often of equal important and conservation areas are intended to protect that environment. We have a responsibility to ensure that the character of these issues is not diminished in our lifetime.” [Directgov – home and community website]. The Dorstone Parish Council agrees with this statement and has in the past and continues to take its responsibility for the Conservation Area very seriously.

Detailed rules governing Conservation Areas are contained on both UK Government and Herefordshire web sites. The following is a short summary of some important rules as they apply to the Dorstone Conservation Area;

1. Conservation Area consent is required for the demolition in whole or part of most buildings and structures, including walls and outhouses. An exception to this rule is that consent is not required to demolish a building which does

not exceed 115 cubic metres or take down a wall, gate or fence which is less than one metre high where abutting a highway or less than 2 metres elsewhere.

2. Six weeks notice must be given to Herefordshire Council before work is carried out to fell, lop or top or uproot certain trees. Tree Preservation orders, of which there are ? in Dorstone, involve additional restrictions.
3. The siting of a satellite dish on the chimney stack or on the roof or elevation fronting the road requires consent of the Council
4. Alterations to roofs and cladding of building proposals to change the profile of a roof, for example with the provision of a dormer window or to clad a building with a different material require consent from Herefordshire Council.
5. The size of residential extensions which may be carried out without the need for planning permission is also reduced. For example no permitted development for rear extensions of more than one storey and no side extensions are allowed. Restrictions also apply to roof extensions.
6. Rules relating to outbuildings, for example sheds, greenhouses and garages are more restrictive in the Conservation area. For example such buildings sited at the side of properties will require planning permission.

It is strongly recommended that Herefordshire Council's conservation team is consulted if consideration is being given to changes involving the above.

In addition to the above there are 10 sites/buildings which are Grade II buildings within the conservation area:-

- ★ Barn around 15metres south of Bridge Cottage
- ★ The Court House
- ★ Church of St. Faith Grade 2*
- ★ Jones Memorial (in churchyard)
- ★ Morris Memorial (in Churchyard)
- ★ Dorstone Court
- ★ Cowhouse about 20m east of Great House Farm
- ★ Cart Shed about 10m east of Great House Farm
- ★ Cross Shaft and Sundial (formerly listed as Village Cross)
- ★ The School House

Grade 2 are buildings of special interest, warranting every effort being made to preserve them. Grade 2* (St Faiths) are regarded as being particularly important and of more than special interest. Listed buildings are subject to Listed Building Control which applies to the building in its entirety, meaning that both exterior and interior are protected.

Consultation on Planning Matters

Dorstone Parish Council has made every attempt in the past to consult on Planning Applications with neighbouring properties. This is carried out by Parish Councillors contacting and discussing any proposal with those immediately affected by an Application. Recognising that there is considerable interest in planning matters within the Parish the following additional methods of consultation are proposed:-

1. Listing Planning applications on the Dorstone Web site with links to the Herefordshire Council web site where the full application can be viewed.
2. Maintaining a list of Planning applications in the Dorstone Front Room, where the full application can be viewed on line using the DFR Computer. Help will be provided for those unfamiliar with using a computer.
3. Reporting back via the Dorstone web site on the results of Planning Applications as reported to the Parish Council.
4. As now a designated Councillor(s) will be responsible for consulting with neighbouring properties. In addition that Councillor(s) will monitor the progress of the application, with the Clerk, and report back to neighbouring properties and to the Parish Council, any important issues which arise as the Planning Application is processed by Herefordshire Council.

Housing Needs

Further consideration has been given to the identification of future housing needs within the Parish. Given that the issue of housing needs is an important feature of the proposed Local Development Framework, it is considered that any further local work on this issue is postponed until the rural policy elements of the LDF are more fully developed.

Working with Herefordshire Council Planning Department

The Parish Council wishes to establish a positive relationship with both the District Councillor for Golden Valley North, and Herefordshire Planning Department staff in order to be able to influence decisions made about planning applications. The Parish Council hopes that these guidelines will form the successful basis of that relationship.

June 10th 2010