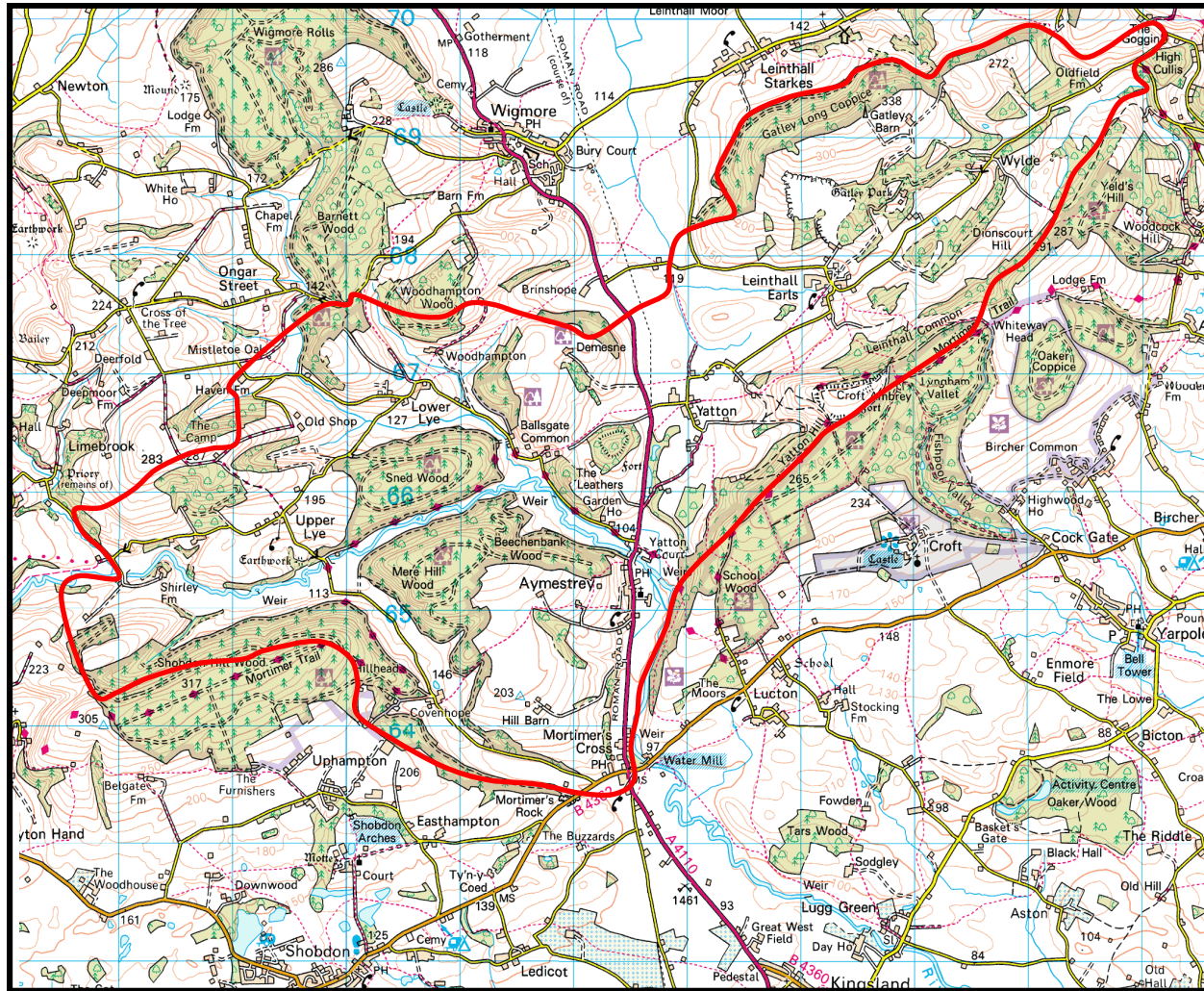


Aymestrey Parish Plan 2013



Our Parish



© Ordnance Survey

See page 30 for a pullout hand drawn boundary map of the parish by a local artist

Contents

In each section of this parish plan we have focused on the key topics and explained the current situation, what we would like to see in a long term 5 year plan and how we then achieve these goals.

We acknowledge that some funding and decisions are beyond our control but we have included all our ideas so they are recorded with the hope of influencing those who can make it happen.

This document is a living working plan and will be reviewed annually by the community with objectives being set and signed off for the following year.

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Parish Photographic Competition



Helen Hamilton



Ian Banks



Helen Hamilton



Ken Holland

Thank You

We would like to thank all the parishioners who contributed to this parish plan and to everyone who gave up their time to help put this document together. It is the people who make the parish such a wonderful place to live.



Claire Donkin

INTRODUCTION

Aymestrey parish is a rural, dispersed parish comprising the hamlets of Leinthall Earls, Yatton, Covenhope, Mortimer's Cross, Upper and Lower Lye and Aymestrey. Geographically it is one of the largest parishes in England, covering an area of over 6000 acres, agriculture being the main use of the land (see note opposite). There are also a number of village amenities including two historic churches, two public houses and a parish hall.



Ken Holland

According to the 2010 electoral roll the population of Aymestrey parish comprised of 282 adults and 46 children (under the age of 18) and 162 households.

The parish faces a number of challenges and opportunities over the coming years:

- Having one of the lowest incomes per capita in the country
- Being rural with a dispersed community
- Pressure on road use through Aymestrey village
- Young people leaving the parish after they have finished their education
- An unspoilt countryside with the population centres having a low impact on the surrounding countryside
- The effect of tourism on housing, services and the environment
- The availability of employment opportunities
- Housing needs

This parish plan looks at both the positive and negative aspects of living in this rural environment and sets out our view for the future to address the needs of the parish now and in the foreseeable future.



Ken Holland

Through questionnaires, priority setting groups, community presentations and feedback from initial findings, the plan reflects the current views of the people living and working in the parish as well as visitors comments.

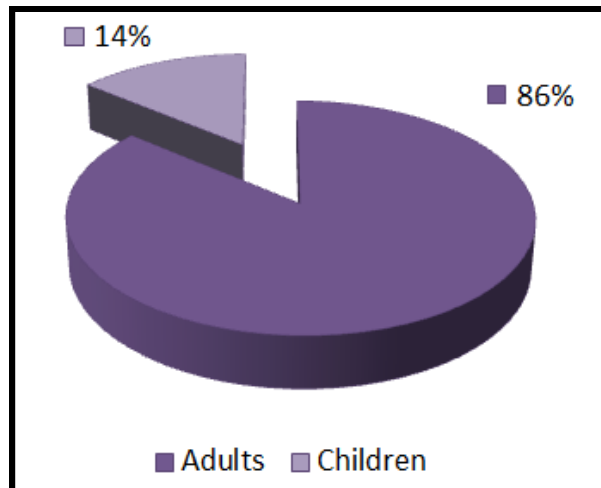
The parish plan has been divided into eight main sections. In each section we have looked at the key topics, outlined the current situation, defined our 5 year plan, objectives and specified actions that need to happen to achieve them.

INTRODUCTION

** Agriculture has been the shaping hand of the parish, not only in land use and settlement pattern but also in the landscape that surrounds us. As farming is driven by commerce and the land is privately owned the parish plan is unable to directly dictate its direction and so it was felt that agriculture should sit outside the 5 year plan.*

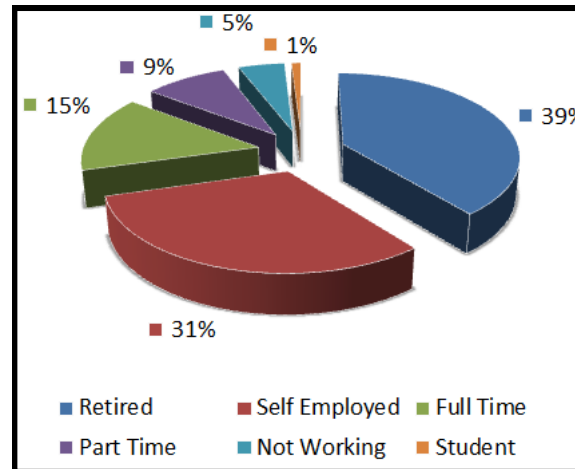
Nevertheless, farmers have many roles and one is as custodian of the landscape and in places this plan has touched upon this.

Population

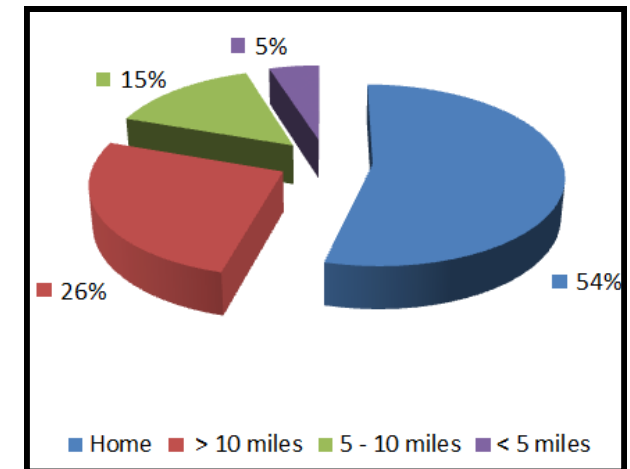


The above chart has been created from data taken from the 2010 Electoral roll.

Employment Status



Distance travelled to work

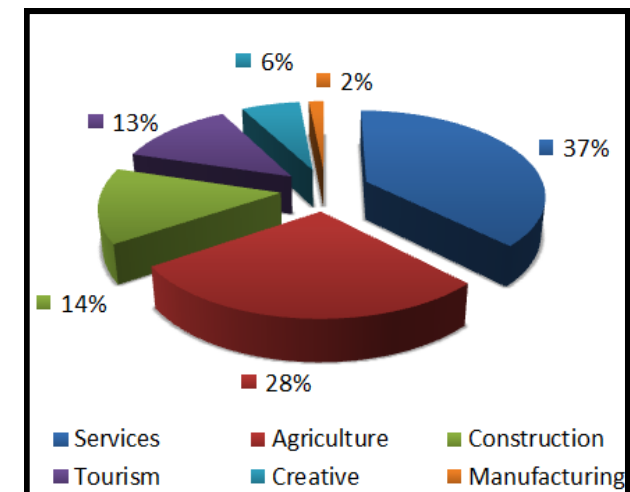


Data for these graphs has been taken from the Parish Plan Economics Survey carried out in 2011.



Helen Hamilton

Self Employed



COMMUNICATIONS

WHAT WE HAVE NOW	
Non Electronic Communication The community uses mostly physical, non electronic communication • Aymestrey Matters (Parish Newsletter) printed 4 times per year • External blackboards for communicating parish hall events • Notice boards	
POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Newsletter distributed to every household Blackboards highly visible and effective Not limited by access to technology	Newsletter has a cost to publish Published information dates quickly Only works as one way communication
Electronic Communication • Broadband • Aymestrey Website • Mobile phone	
POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Adequate infrastructure to enable working from home	Poor broadband speed and mobile phone signals are limitations for local business and home workers
OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS	
Retain and develop the existing physical and word of mouth methods of communicating but also put in place electronic systems which will allow more flexible and two way communication. Develop a visitor section to the Aymestrey website to help support tourists. Provide an information welcome pack to new householders in the parish. Encourage the improvement of infrastructure in the parish to achieve faster broadband speed, better mobile phone signals and enhanced digital TV and radio reception.	



Claire Donkin

We estimate that only half the parish have access to a reliable broadband service and so modern forms of communication are not used by the majority of people. Hence, at the current time, we cannot use e-mail and websites as the only forms of communication. Our strategy is to increase the use of these media but in tandem with the newsletter and notice boards.

COMMUNICATIONS

THE PLAN		
Project	Reasoning	Priority
Parish Plan	Parish Council to monitor, communicate and measure aims and goals of the parish	HIGH
Cross advertising of systems	Make sure notice boards and newsletter advertise the website to help boost registered users	HIGH
Develop the website and improve the numbers of registered users	To provide easily updated information and access to historical parish documentation	HIGH
Welcome Pack for new householders	To introduce newcomers to local facilities and the community	HIGH
Faster local broadband speeds	Improve the standard of local infrastructure to ensure local businesses and home workers have effective facilities	MEDIUM
Improved mobile phone reception	As above	MEDIUM
Local business section on the website and in the newsletter	Advertising could help cover costs of newsletter, on the website it would help promote local services	MEDIUM
Visitors section on the website	Up to date information on places to stay, local walks, events and activities	MEDIUM
Change newsletter formatting	Develop the newsletter so some sections can be printed in colour and have photographs included without excessive impact on cost	MEDIUM
Multiple event listing on the parish hall blackboard	Ensure passing traffic is reminded of upcoming events in good time	MEDIUM
Centrally issued email for all households in the parish e.g. thecottage@aymestrey.co.uk	Allows various groups in the parish to email information out easily by issuing the address ourselves without having to compile personal email address lists. Not a replacement for physical communication but could cut down production costs for the newsletter and as a reminder for local events	LOW



Ken Holland

Partners

- Parish Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Broadband providers
- Parish Hall committee
- Local businesses

SUMMARY

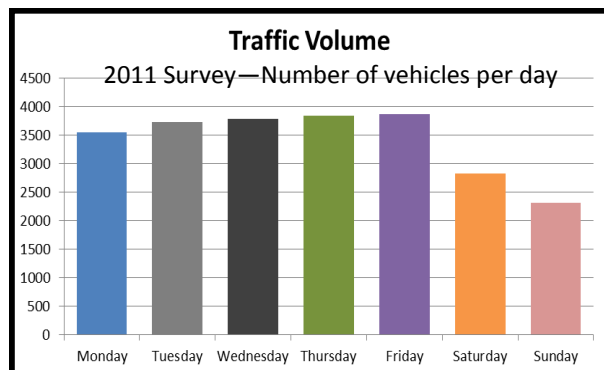
There are many aspects to better communication, some we can influence and improve, others rely on the development and expansion of third party networks. Communication is key to a well informed and thriving community and since elements of this section are continually advancing it needs to be reviewed continually to ensure we are making the best use of technology whilst not leaving parts of the parish behind.

HIGHWAYS

WHAT WE HAVE NOW	
The main issues are the volume and speed of traffic and its impact (safety and perception of safety) on local residents, visitors and tourists, particularly in Aymestrey village.	
POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Good road access to and from the parish	Speeding Noise Pollution Safety

The parish is divided north/south by the A4110 road. This is the main route for lorries to and from the quarry at Leinthall Earls. The B4362 passing through Mortimer's Cross is an east/west route for traffic to/from the Midlands to Shobdon Industrial Park and on to mid-Wales.

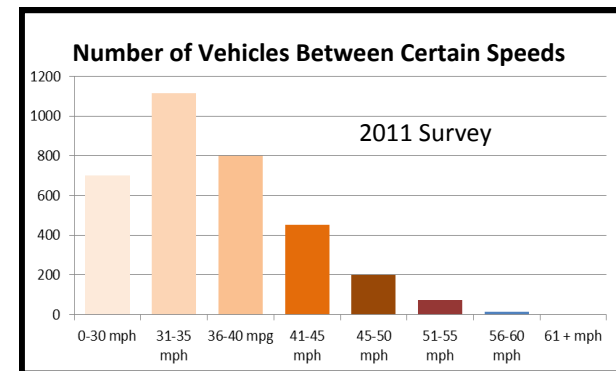
Independent surveys show that exceeding the legal speed limit is a problem and the parish-



ioners who live next to the A4110 also suffer with noise and pollution.

A survey in November 2011 conducted on behalf of Safer Roads Partnership in West Mercia included detailed data of 3,355 vehicles. 21% complied with the 30mph speed limit meaning 79% exceeded it. The data also showed that, of those 3,355 vehicles, 22% exceeded 40mph. During the survey period 23,909 vehicles travelled though Aymestrey in one week (refer to the two graphs).

Other than the A4110, most of the roads in the parish are narrow lanes.



An Aymestrey bypass is considered an unrealistic option, similarly lorry weight restrictions are considered impractical as the A4110 is an A-road and services the quarry.



Ian Banks

HIGHWAYS

THE PLAN		
Project	Reasoning	Priority
Install 'Welcome to Aymestrey' signage at both ends of village and both sides of road with location of current signage to be reviewed	Encourage drivers to recognise they are entering a village, to promote safety of residents, visitors and tourists	HIGH
Aymestrey to be a Community Concern Site	Encourage drivers to respect and comply with the legal speed limit	HIGH
Install 'countdown' marker signage at each end of Aymestrey. Maintenance of 30mph signage and road markings	Warn drivers to reduce speed and comply with the legal speed limit. Improve visibility to drivers of all signage.	HIGH
Introduce visual impact features to indicate entry to Aymestrey village through installation of a chicane and gate and planter together with associated traffic calming measures	Encourage drivers to respect and comply with the legal speed limit	HIGH
Permanent solar powered flash-up speed warning devices thanking safe drivers	Encourage drivers to respect and comply with the legal speed limit	MEDIUM
Identify places where walkers on the highway are at risk and if there are any actions required	Safety for pedestrians	MEDIUM
Install pavements at both sides of the highway/narrow the highway at the regularly used road crossing points in Aymestrey village	Safety for pedestrians	MEDIUM
Resurface the A4110 through Aymestrey with quieter road surfacing	Reduce noise pollution for residents and visitors	MEDIUM
Improve speed enforcement; speed cameras, speed checks	Encourage drivers to respect and comply with the speed limit	MEDIUM

Partners

- Herefordshire Council
- Police
- Amey – Road Maintenance

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Introduction of comprehensive traffic calming measures to encourage compliance with the legal speed limit.



Helen Hamilton

SUMMARY

The popular Mortimer Trail passes through Aymestrey village and the measures proposed would make it a safer and more pleasant environment for both parishioners and visitors. These measures would help Aymestrey village to be less dominated by fast traffic.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

WHAT WE HAVE NOW	
Most households have their own transport but the local bus services are well utilised. Old and young, walkers and tourists need a reliable public transport service. • Limited bus service • Community Wheels system operating in Herefordshire • Numerous footpaths and walks • Some pavements	
POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Limited daytime bus service to Leominster Weekly bus service to Hereford Many footpaths and by-ways provide good access throughout the parish	No public transport link to local hub* villages of Kingsland, Shobdon and Wigmore No public transport service in evenings No tourist/visitor system Community Wheels system only available to those without access to other transport Lack of pavements in busy key areas



Lugg Valley Transport



Ken Holland

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS
Retain the existing services, encourage wider use through better communication of the bus timetables. Address youth and tourist transport links, including service to local hubs. Improve road safety and access with pavements in key areas.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

THE PLAN		
Project	Reasoning	Priority
Local bus timetable in every household and holiday let	Promote use of public transport available	HIGH
Bus shelter in Yatton	Proposed as the “Participatory Project” 2010	HIGH
Install pavement from the Lingen lane to The Riverside Inn	This lane is in frequent use to access footpaths and Mortimer’s Trail and to link the properties on the Lingen lane with Aymestrey village. Lack of pavement presents a safety hazard	HIGH
Display a summary of bus services on Aymestrey website and notice boards	People need to know what bus services are available	MEDIUM
Shuttle buses to provide link to local ‘hub’ villages	To provide a link for the parish to the hub villages as well as providing a useful service for walkers/ tourists in the area	MEDIUM
Footpath from the south of the village along the A4110 to Mortimer’s Cross	Ease of access and joining up of parish. Lack of a pavement is a safety hazard	MEDIUM
Lych gate ‘bus stop’ to have a light installed and a notice board to display bus timetables	Light for use during the winter months and notice board for timetable details	MEDIUM
Encourage more footpaths through Countryside Stewardship Scheme	To support tourism and increase the footpath network for local users	LOW

SUMMARY
A review of users has found that most people prefer a regular scheduled bus service but like most rural parishes there is a problem with the lack of public transport. People find it easier to use their own vehicles and hence it is not economically viable to provide a more comprehensive public service. There are some members of the community who cannot drive or have no access to private transport and for whom it is important to maintain a scheduled public service.

*Hub villages are local centres that Herefordshire Council has earmarked for development and to support surrounding communities.



Helen Hamilton

Partners

- Local transport companies
- Footpath Officer
- Parochial Church Council
- Parish Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Parishioners / user groups

TOURISM

WHAT WE HAVE NOW	
• Various types of tourist and visitor accommodation • Various local attractions	
POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Source of employment and potential growth Source of income for the area	Uses housing stock that might be used for local people May contribute to increasing house prices Puts pressure on the community to preserve the quality of the environment

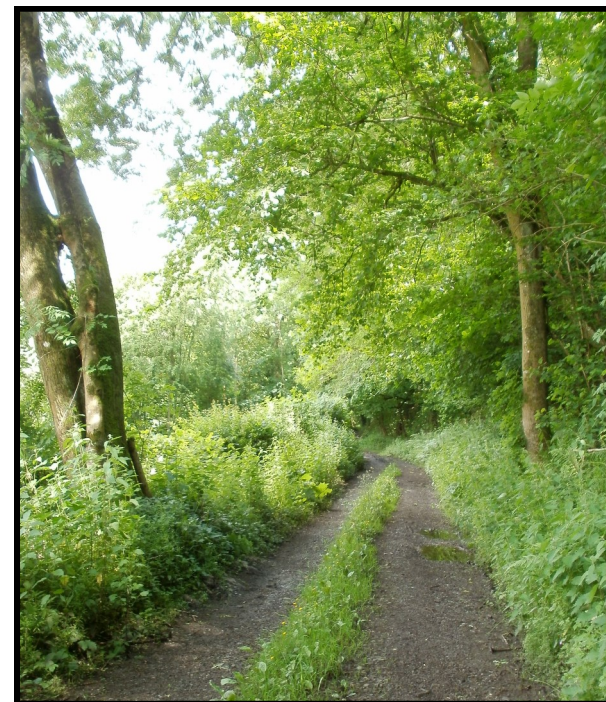
The parish is well equipped to cater for the accommodation needs of tourists. Tourism is the fourth largest employer in the parish after Services, Farming and Construction. The parish can offer accommodation for more than 110 people at any time (the permanent resident adult population is 282).

Tourism is a major contributor to the economic activity of the parish and surrounding area. In addition to its two pubs both of

which serve food and have accommodation, Aymestrey parish has a number of bed and breakfast businesses, holiday lets, and a campsite with onsite café.

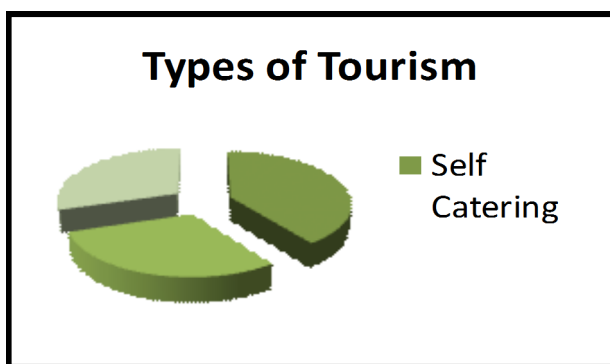
The tourism survey showed visitors come here to enjoy the relaxed country life and beautiful setting. Tourists mainly comprise of families and retirees and their views echo those of many locals who agreed with the statement in the parish plan questionnaire that *“our biggest asset is the beauty of the local countryside and any changes should be carefully executed to retain this”*.

What is clear from the tourism questionnaire that was sent to all providers in the parish is that while accommodation for tourists has grown in the last 10 years, supporting facilities have not. Given that



Ken Holland

tourism is now well established within the parish it is time to re-address this balance and the following table highlights needs identified by tourists themselves. Many of these suggestions would also benefit parishioners.



OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Maintain a balance that does not jeopardise the attractions of the area either for tourists or those living in the parish.

TOURISM

THE PLAN		
Project	Reasoning	Priority
Promote replacement of traditional stiles with gates	Ease of access to the countryside particularly for those with limited mobility	HIGH
An Aymestrey Guide Book e.g. a brief history, local shops, facilities and local amenities	Visitors and tourists to have one reference document	HIGH
A National Trust notice board detailing local wildlife and circular walks	Promote access to local footpaths and shows what is available locally	HIGH
A pamphlet with sketched maps detailing local walks and distances	Help promote and improve access to local countryside	MEDIUM
Walks clearly sign posted/way marked	As above	MEDIUM
Develop local places of interest and history e.g. churches, fish pools , etc	Highlight and promote local attractions and history	MEDIUM
Create new low impact circular walks with gated stiles	Help improve access to local countryside	MEDIUM

Partners

- Parish Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Local tourism businesses
- Footpath Officer



Ken Holland



Paul Ball

SUMMARY

Many residents of the parish see tourism as an inevitable part of living in a beautiful area. They are proud of their parish but would like to see better facilities and information that would benefit everyone. Tourism puts pressure on housing availability. Many survey respondents wanted a local village shop, better bus links and mobile phone reception, these issues are covered elsewhere in this document.

HOUSING

WHAT WE HAVE NOW	
• High house prices in relation to household income • Lack of lower priced properties • No 'affordable' housing • High % of holiday accommodation in comparison to residential properties • Many properties in rural and isolated locations • Designated open countryside so limited possibilities for residential development	
POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Restrictions on property development maintain the appearance of the parish Tourism helps to support other local businesses	Difficult for young people in the parish to get on the property ladder Migration of older and young people to population centres such as Leominster Economics drive available housing to be used for tourism

Many of the houses in the parish are older detached properties, including black and white and thatched houses and there are few small, lower end properties for rent. There is no affordable housing in the parish and this lack of housing for young or older people and those on low incomes has been frequently raised throughout the parish plan process.

The parish plan survey found 19 householders had left the parish because of the lack of housing and 9 would like to return. The survey identified a requirement for 6



affordable homes. Herefordshire Council's Wigmore Area Housing Needs survey in 2009 found 2 households in the parish in need of affordable housing.

Herefordshire Council's current policy is that affordable housing needs for our parish can be met in Wigmore, but many local people consider this unsatisfactory. The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which came into force in March 2012 encourages local authorities to permit housing within rural settlements to meet affordable housing needs and permits parish councils and other local groups to produce Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders, effectively granting their own planning consents.

Neighbourhood Development Orders have to comply with the local authority's own development plan and Herefordshire Council has deemed Aymestrey to be "open countryside" and not available for development. Herefordshire Council has to produce a new Local Plan to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework and it is hoped this will bring about a change of thinking on residential development in rural parishes. Aymestrey parish only requires a small number of houses to satisfy local need.

There are already some opportunities for new housing in the parish: for agricultural workers and what are known as windfall

Paul Ball

HOUSING

sites, meaning land that has previously been developed.

A Neighbourhood Development Order would have to be approved by Herefordshire Council and receive the support of half the parish in a referendum.

The main parish plan recommendation would be to produce a Neighbourhood Plan that would investigate and seek to address housing needs in the parish. This might state that a planning application to turn holiday accommodation into permanent residences may only be granted if the property is to become affordable housing and that windfall sites should be used only for affordable housing. It could also identify specific sites for the development of new affordable housing and seek to make these the subject of a Neighbourhood Development Order.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The needs of the community must be balanced against business interests as these must also be supported. Tourism is not the main employer but consumes most of the new housing resources of the parish. To redress this balance a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to favour affordable housing over holiday accommodation.

THE PLAN		
Project	Reasoning	Priority
Produce Neighbourhood Plan for Aymestrey with a view to creating Neighbourhood Development Orders	To ensure that new housing satisfies an identified need for affordable homes	HIGH
Include recommendation in Neighbourhood Plan that only affordable housing is permitted on windfall sites	as above	MEDIUM
Include recommendation in Neighbourhood Plan that change of use of holiday homes is permitted for affordable housing only (where practical)	as above	MEDIUM
Include recommendation in Neighbourhood Plan that affordable housing is given precedence over holiday accommodation in planning decisions	as above	MEDIUM



Helen Hamilton

Partners

- Parish Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Housing Associations

SUMMARY

The lack of affordable housing has resulted in an unbalanced population in the parish. While tourism contributes to local employment, planning policies have allowed this sector of the local economy to expand to the detriment of people who want to live and work in the parish.

ENVIRONMENT — THE RIVER

The parish has a diverse environment that includes managed woodlands, a quarry, the River Lugg, commons, natural woodlands, arable and livestock farms. There are numerous tracks that are used for leisure and management. Concerns were raised about the visual and environmental impact of the quarry and some woodland and agricultural management practices in the parish.



Helen Hamilton

WHAT WE HAVE NOW

The River

The stretch of the River Lugg which runs through the parish is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under UK legislation as well as having the European Union's Habitat Directive status of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Due to this status we are fortunate to have a number of bodies responsible for overseeing the guardianship of the river

- Environment Agency (Natural England)
- Campaign to Protect Rural England (C.P.R.E.)
- Wye and Usk Foundation

The Environment Agency is embarked on the preparation of a River Basin Management Plan which will include the River Lugg and will emphasise conservation of the biodiversity of the river. To date this plan is not yet published.

The major characteristic of this part of the river could be described as natural, wild, undiscovered and undeveloped which is why it contains the biodiversity it does. Threats include disturbance of wildlife, run-off of chemicals used on farmland and fly tipping.

The river is protected by guidelines set down by Natural England and as a parish we can monitor to ensure that these guidelines are followed.

There is a network of existing footpaths for walkers which relieve other areas of the river of public access. It is essential to maintain these undisturbed areas to protect the river and its wildlife which, amongst others, includes a healthy population of otters.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Private fishing Good management by various bodies Provides employment Major wildlife habitat	The banks of the river are not being maintained Increase in tourists risks the environment they have come to enjoy Spread of highly invasive Himalayan Balsam

ENVIRONMENT — THE COMMONS



Ken Holland

WHAT WE HAVE NOW

The Commons

Total area - 89.48 Hectares, 221.1 acres

Common land in the parish of Aymestrey represents a significant wildlife habitat resource.

Experience with Yatton Hill Common shows that people are willing to work together to improve common land, but that progress can be hampered by the need to agree priorities among people with different interests. Compromise needs to be sought between farming, wildlife, walkers, tourists, conservation and archaeology. In addition, with such a small population, resources - people, time, money etc - to implement and sustain long term plans are scarce. Opportunities for the larger commons of the parish include improving the quality of fencing to enable more stock to graze, controlling bracken and gorse growth to encourage grass and improve biodiversity. The provision of way marking and information points could encourage walkers and tourists and their appreciation of the area. Other possibilities include developing the amenity of the commons for other leisure activities such as horse riding, game shooting and orienteering, but these could clash with efforts to improve biodiversity.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Adds to the beauty of the area Biodiversity Important historic / social areas	Management of commons can be poor and requires community collaboration



Kayleigh Luscot

ENVIRONMENT — WOODLANDS

WHAT WE HAVE NOW

Woodland

Almost all of the Forestry Commission woodland in Aymestrey is designated as Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). These are historic woodlands that the Forestry Commission acquired during the first half of the 20th Century to secure British timber supplies after World War I. The native trees were felled for timber and the sites replanted with commercial fast growing conifers. Today the majority of Britain's timber is imported and timber is no longer a strategically important material.

The Forestry Commission is committed under national and international conservation legislation to revert PAWS back to native woodland. The community has an important role to play in lobbying the Forestry Commission to implement this policy in our parish. To date the Forestry Commission's attempt to cut costs have meant that the restoration of native woodland has failed in most areas.

The Forestry Commission woodlands are open to the public under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and provide recreational space with many tracks and some open spaces.

There are also several hundred acres of woodland owned by the National Trust or in private ownership.

The woodlands with their footpaths and trails are a valued feature and asset of the parish, used by many local people and offering an attraction to tourists.

POSITIVES

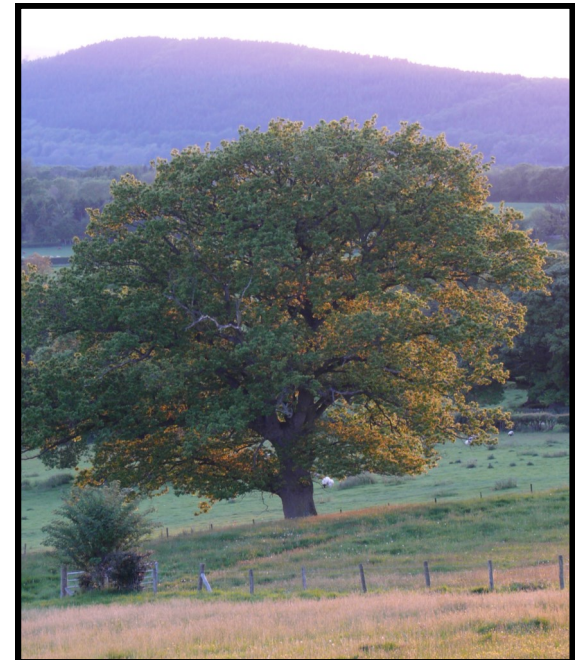
Brings employment
Habitat for wildlife
Leisure facilities for tourism

NEGATIVES

Commercial plantations do not provide the biodiversity of broad leaf woodland
Felled plantations are unsightly and inhibit natural woodland re-growth and access



Alan Johnston



Mary Heale

ENVIRONMENT — QUARRY

WHAT WE HAVE NOW

Quarry

The quarry at Leinthall Earls is the only aggregate quarry in operation in Herefordshire and is central to Herefordshire Council's obligation to ensure a supply of aggregate. The quarry is owned by Gatley Estate and has been actively worked since before World War II.

Contributors to the parish plan appreciate the importance of the quarry and the need for aggregates supplying crushed rock for the country's road and construction industry.

POSITIVES

Brings employment

Potential to provide additional support to the community

NEGATIVES

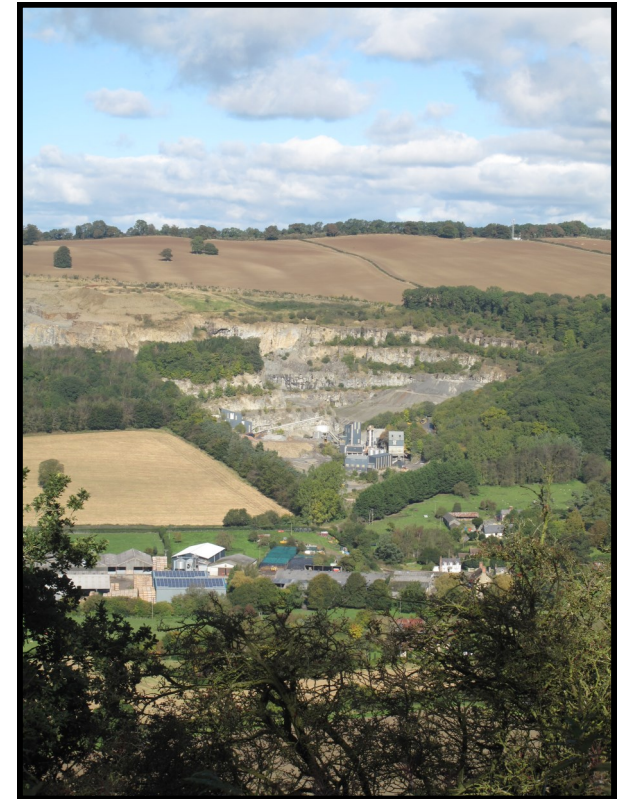
Increase in heavy traffic through the village
Increase in pollution, noise and dirt
Views of quarry 'spoil' the countryside
Potential for increase in negative impact



Chrissie Lawson

The parish recognises the importance of the quarry to the economy of the area and the role it plays in providing materials for the aggregate industry. However it impacts on many of the topics in this plan and is a major concern to many residents, specifically:

- Traffic
- Noise
- Visual impact
- Environment



Chrissie Lawson

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

In the future the parish will now be consulted regarding any further plans in connection with the quarry e.g. expansion.

Going forward the community would like greater interaction with the quarry management together with increased consultation on any proposed changes.

ENVIRONMENT

THE PLAN		
Project	Reasoning	Priority
WOODLAND		
To lobby Forestry Commission to keep tracks open and clear sightlines from national trails	For local amenity and tourism	HIGH
Parish Council to be consulted before any large projects take place that will impact the environment	To ensure community involvement in actions that affect the amenity value of the parish	HIGH
Encourage the maintenance of trees, hedges and footpaths	To improve access and the look and beauty of the parish	HIGH
To monitor activities of Forestry Commission and private landowners and raise queries if PAWS/ASNW are not being managed or restored	Maintain and enhance the environment and biodiversity, and actively take part in decision making	HIGH
To periodically monitor changes in wildlife population, conduct wildlife survey	Ensure environment continues to support native wildlife	MEDIUM
To maintain contact with the National Trust to ensure that their Management Plan is implemented and then extended in 2014	Ensure woodlands and their use are monitored and reviewed	LOW
QUARRY		
Parish Council to communicate regularly with quarry owners	To facilitate meaningful consultation between the community and quarry	HIGH
COMMONS		
To seek funding/volunteers to supply notice boards/ maps of the area displayed in suitable locations	Provide information for better access	HIGH
Develop a wish list of improvements that benefit the commons and its stakeholders	To improve the condition of the commons	HIGH
To have seating logs in several suitable locations e.g. along popular walks	Better facilities for parishioners and visitors	LOW
RIVERS		
Annual/regular river based activity, cleaning etc organised by the parish	To encourage involvement and interest in the management of the river	LOW

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

We would like to see positive management locally as well as from all stakeholders. A good environment is a positive for the parish; it brings employment, visitors, wild-life and a good quality of life. We would like to see that this balance is monitored and actively managed to preserve and enhance our environment.

Partners

- Parish Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Natural England
- Forestry Commission
- Local businesses
- Environment Agency
- Leinthall Quarry
- National Trust

SUMMARY

As a rural parish the environment is at the core of our community and we seek to maintain and enhance it through increased dialogue and participation with all stakeholders.

CRIME

There is minimal crime in the parish: In recent years lead has been stolen from the church roof; households have suffered power tool thefts and there have been incidences of fly tipping in lanes throughout the parish. Littering and fly tipping are a particular problem in lay-bys and pull-in areas. 'No littering' signs might persuade some people to take their litter home but

additional signage is not favourable in areas of beautiful countryside..

Partners

- Parish Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Police
- Community

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Monitor and liaise with police to help increase crime awareness/methods of prevention/deterrents.

Publish on the Aymestrey parish website policing reports and tips on crime prevention.

Fly Tipping



Ian Banks

WHAT WE HAVE NOW

The crime rate is low due to the remoteness of the area and single tracks around the parish make unknown people and vehicles stand out. The main concerns are with theft and break-ins.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Low rate of all crime	Isolation of older people Isolation of properties

THE PLAN

Project	Reasoning	Priority
Collate crime spree data with updates available on parish website	To increase awareness of crime and any criminal activity	HIGH
Arrange annual police liaison meeting updating parishioners on crime and crime prevention measures, e.g. Partners and Community	To increase awareness and deter crime	MEDIUM
Neighbourhood Watch schemes	Help reduce/ deter crime	MEDIUM

SUMMARY

The parish has low crime rates. Monitor and ensure we play our part in keeping crime to a minimum.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES — CHURCHES

The parish has a number of community facilities, these are:

- Two Churches - Aymestrey & Leinthall Earls
- The Parish Hall
- Two Public Houses
- Phone Boxes
- Post Boxes

The churches, parish hall and the two public houses are the main focal points of community activity.

The Churches

The churches are run by the Parochial Church Council with three active church wardens. Both churches are still in use for church services of which there are two held per month but there are also Easter, Harvest and Christmas services. In addition, Aymestrey church has over recent years established itself as a musical concert venue.



“Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls are both ancient manors appearing in the Domesday Book as Elmodestreu and Lentehale and there were probably Saxon churches on each site. Leinthall Earls church is dedicated to St Andrew and the core of this church is over 800 years old. It is quaint and rustic, small and unpretentious and there is beauty in its simplicity. “

WHAT WE HAVE NOW	
POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Active community churches Used for more than worship	Lack of adequate facilities (toilets, kitchen) Maintenance is an issue

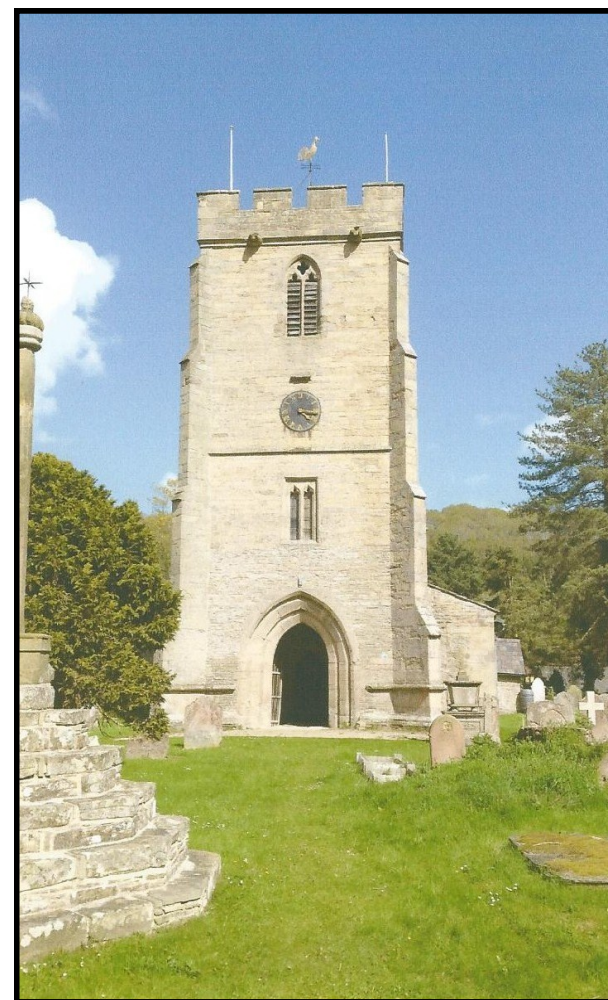
COMMUNITY FACILITIES — CHURCHES

THE PLAN		
Project	Reasoning	Priority
Explore the possibility of holding art exhibitions in Leinthall Earls church e.g. H.Art	Encourage the use of the church as a community facility	HIGH
Provide an area at the rear of Aymestrey church exhibiting tourist/local information	For visitors/tourists to promote interest in the local area e.g. church's proximity to the historic site of the Battle of Mortimer's Cross	HIGH
To increase the number and variety of concerts/events	The churches have excellent acoustic qualities	HIGH
Encourage a new group of bell ringers in the parish	As the first stage of a project to restore the bells and promote campanology	HIGH
Chalk boards on the roadside gates promoting events	To advertise to passing motorists, cyclists and walkers	HIGH
Promote "Caring for God's Acre" scheme	To increase local involvement and enhance and preserve ancient churchyard and wildlife habitats	HIGH
Remove the large trees to the east and west of Aymestrey church	For public safety	HIGH
Kitchen & toilet facilities added/incorporated at Aymestrey church	To improve facilities for concerts and events	MEDIUM
Re-lime wash/re-plaster as appropriate at Aymestrey church	Make good and safe internally following rain damage	LOW

Partners

- Parochial Church Council
- Parish Council
- Community

"Aymestrey Parish Church dedicated to St John the Baptist and St Alkmund nestles in the hills of Aymestrey valley and dates back to medieval times. It is a grade 1 listed building and has one of the finest examples of a Rood screen. Circa 1540."



Becky Manuel

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Both churches to be maintained and utilised with a greater diversity of activities.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES — PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall was built on land kindly donated by the Weavers, the then residents of Aymestrey Court, and opened on the 26th June 1930. It has charitable status under the Charities Act, is held in Trust for The Parish by the Trustees and is managed by a committee.

The Parish Hall is at the heart of many of the social activities of the parish. Throughout the year there are dances, quiz nights, comedy, talks, bowls etc., it is a vibrant and well utilised facility. As one of the key assets of the parish we are keen to see it develop and be used for the benefit of everyone.

From the evidence gathered through the process of the parish plan : surveys, open days etc, a list of ideas from parishioners has been collated.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The plan encourages the community to continue to support and utilise the Parish Hall.

WHAT WE HAVE NOW	
The parish hall is the only secular meeting place within the parish.	
POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Centre of parish activity Good location Ample parking Well utilised in the evenings	An older building requiring on-going maintenance Relies on the community to manage and get involved Under-utilised during day time The facilities are inadequate, e.g. poor kitchen and toilet facilities



Helen Hamilton

COMMUNITY FACILITIES — PARISH HALL

THE PLAN		
Project	Reasoning	Priority
New extension	Improve hall facilities and bring the hall up to current catering standards, ensuring the future of the hall	HIGH
Monthly Film Club	Diversifying the use of the hall and encourage community activity	HIGH
Energy Review	To make the hall a more sustainable building and keep its running costs to a minimum	HIGH
Wi-Fi Capable with PC & Internet	Increase available facilities at the hall and allow access to the internet for those without broadband or PC	HIGH
Signage	Aesthetically pleasing and providing information	MEDIUM
Give the hall a front porch	Protect the main entrance from rain water damage and improve sound proofing	MEDIUM
Improve the appearance of the static notice boards to give them a “wishing well” top	Prolong the life of the notice boards	MEDIUM
Place a sign on the boundary fence identifying the Parish Hall	Advertise the hall and provide hire details	MEDIUM
Bar Olympics events	Encourage community involvement	MEDIUM
Large countdown sign promoting up and coming events	More effective communication of forthcoming events	MEDIUM
Weekly Lunch Club	Encourage social networking and encourage community activity	MEDIUM
Cider Events	Celebrate the uniqueness of the region	MEDIUM
Alter/ improve stage area	Improve / enhance usable space	LOW
Introduce mobile bank	Expand community facilities	LOW
Small community playing field	Will provide a green area for recreation	LOW

Partners

- Parish Hall Committee
- Parish Council
- Community

Note – Ideas suggested throughout the process but not detailed here but have been noted for future references and these are – keep fit (e.g. Pilates), festivals, theatre groups, amateur dramatics, mobile shop or post office



Claire Donkin

COMMUNITY FACILITIES — OTHER

WHAT WE HAVE NOW

Phone boxes located at

- Mortimer's Cross
- Aymestrey Village (this one is listed)
- Leinthall Earls
- Upper Lye

These should not be lost as they are landmarks of the local countryside and provide a local emergency service in an area of poor and unreliable mobile reception.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES
Working Lit	Neglect of the phone boxes Do not accept coins

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Retain the existing phone boxes and service provision, ensuring that the service providers continue to recognise the importance of this community facility.

THE PLAN

Project	Reasoning	Priority
Follow up with BT to renovate existing boxes	Preserve in good working condition	HIGH
Encourage parishioners who are local to a phone box to 'adopt' it	Be the contact to inform BT/ Parish Council of any maintenance needed	HIGH
Explore options for a village shop	Often requested in parish plan process but queries over viability in a sparsely populated parish	MEDIUM

Partners

- British Telecom
- Community
- Parish Council



Helen Hamilton

CONCLUSION

It is acknowledged that some decisions and funding are beyond our control but nevertheless these views have been included in the parish plan to ensure that the authorities responsible for making these decisions are aware of the wishes of the parish.

This document is a living working plan and will be reviewed by the Parish Council and the wider community on an annual basis to

make sure it remains current and continues to guide the development of our parish.

The parish plan aims to encourage the community to work together to expand our facilities and enhance and preserve those we already enjoy.

Key to this is the community being active participants in developing our future.

The plan has taken stock of what we have now as a community and has set some objectives to be implemented over the next five years to enhance and improve our community. For this to happen parishioners must get involved to put these proposals into action and to work to influence the authorities whose decisions have an impact on our parish.



Paul Ball

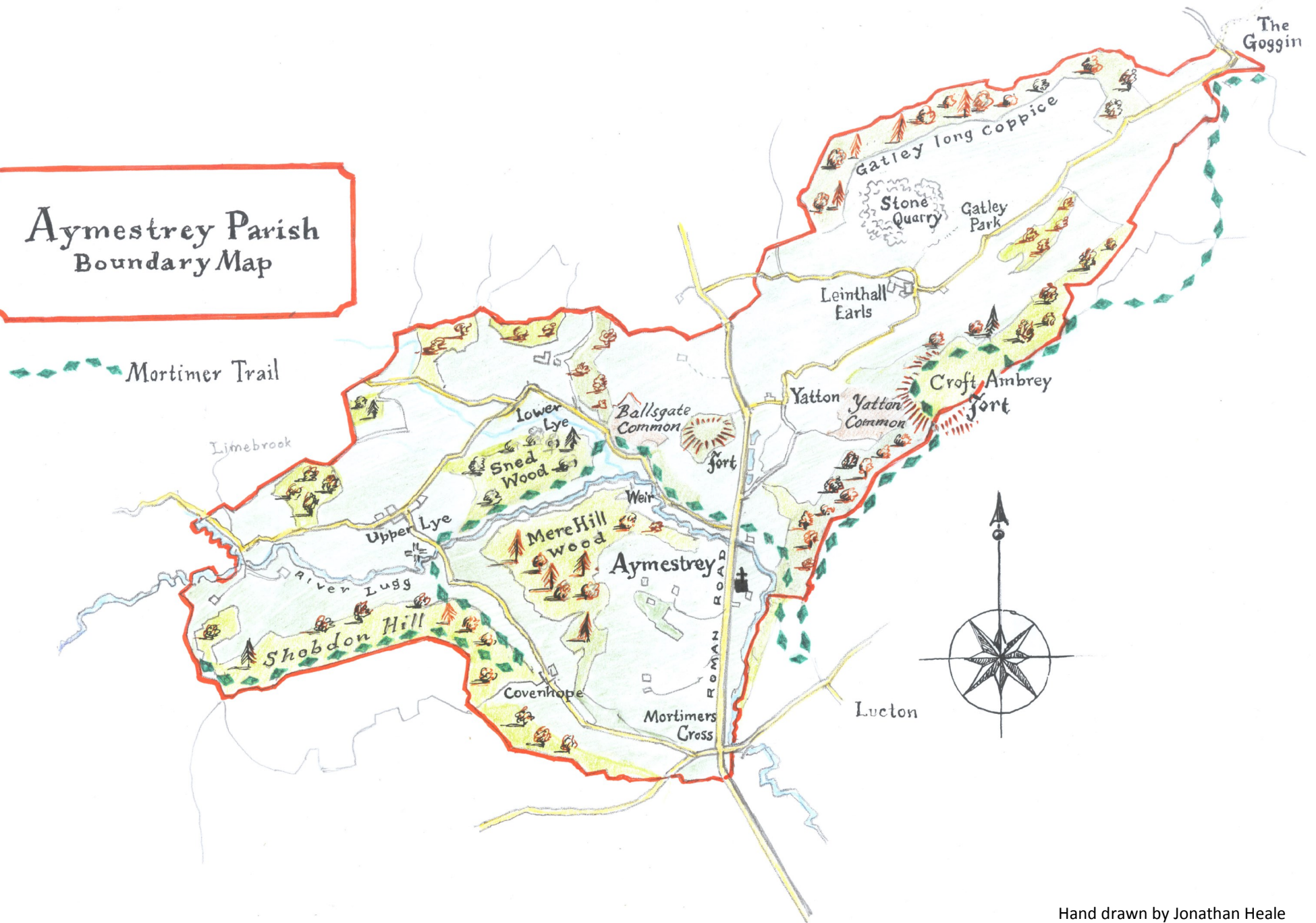
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / DATA

Parish Plan Sections	Source Data	Conducted/ Owned By	Year Conducted	People Contacted	Re- sponse Rate %	Comments
Communica- tions	Economic Survey	Parish Plan Committee	2011	Every household in the Parish		
Access & Transport						
Highways	Traffic volumes from data collected from the centre of Aymestrey	Safer Roads Partnership		Data collected for West Mercia Safer Roads Team		During the period 4 th to 15 th November 2011
	Speed Data supplied on a tranche of 3,355 vehicles	Safer Roads Partnership		Data collected for West Mercia Safer Roads Team		During the period 4 th November 2011 to 15 th November 2011
Crime	www.westmercia.police.uk/ crimestatistics/	West Mercia Police	2011 / 12	N/A	N/A	-
	www.police.uk/crime/	West Mercia Police	2011 / 12	N/A	N/A	-
	www.herefordshire.gov.uk	Herefordshire Council	2011 / 12	N/A	N/A	-

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / DATA

Parish Plan Sections	Source Data	Conducted/ Owned By	Year Conducted	People Contacted	Response Rate %	Comments
Tourism	Tourism Questionnaire	Parish Plan Committee	2011	Every provider of tourist accommodation in The Parish	50%	Over 60% of the data were tourists' comments
	Economic Survey	Parish Plan Committee	2011	Every Household in The Parish	36%	
Housing	Parish plan questionnaires	Parish Plan Committee	2010	Every household in the parish	60%	
	Wigmore Area Housing Needs Survey	Herefordshire Council	2009	Wigmore & Aymestrey parishes random sample		Final report findings data used
Environment	Residents Survey Leinthall Quarry	Parish Plan Committee	2011	Random residents sample		
Community Facilities	Parish plan questionnaires	Parish Plan Committee	2010	Every household in the parish	60%	
	Two open events - weekend of 5th/6th June & the Parish Fete 17th July	Parish Plan Committee	2010	Potentially the entire Parish	30%	Data used by two focus groups to turn wish lists into action plans

Aymestrey Parish Boundary Map



Hand drawn by Jonathan Heale

CONTACTS

Our Community

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Church

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Parish Website

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www.aymestrey.org

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Leominster Rural LPT

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adam.harris@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Herefordshire Council Representatives :

Highways & Community Services

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Herefordshire Council

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cwhall@herefordshire.gov.uk

Housing Needs and Development Officer

Homes and Communities

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T: 01432 261588

ngriffiths1@herefordshire.gov.uk

Other

Campaign for The Protection of Rural England (CPRE)

www.cpre.org.uk

National Trust

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Natural England

www.naturalengland.org.uk

Forestry Commission

www.forestry.gov.uk

Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

British Telecom

www.payphones.bt.com

Wye & Usk Foundation

www.wyeuskfoundation.org

Amey

www.amey.co.uk

Ken Holland



Debbie Brown



Lisa Sparks



Parish Photographic Competition—Sample of Entries



Claire Donkin



Ian Banks



Kris Johnston



Pam Smith