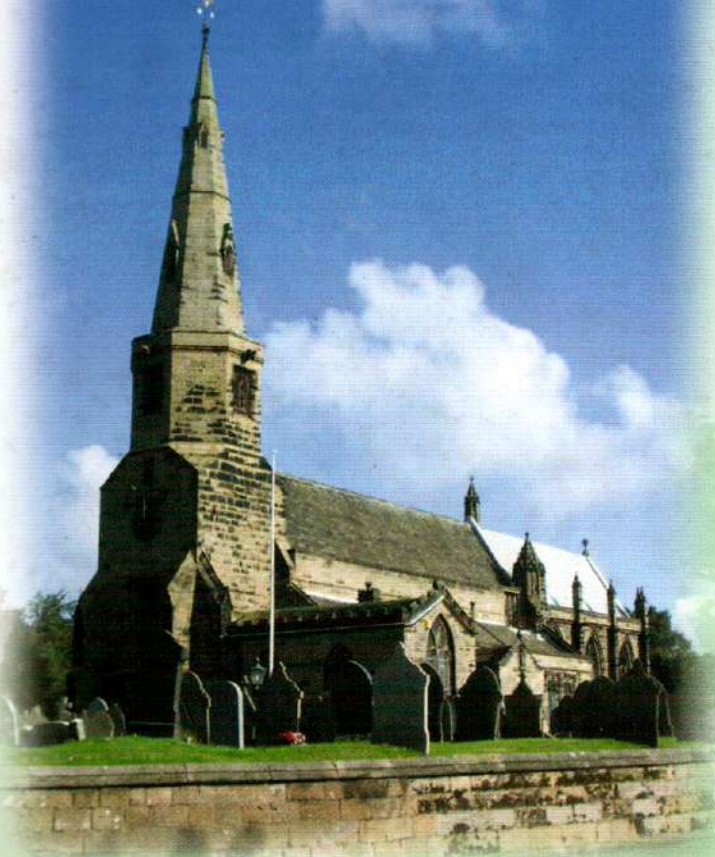


The Way Ahead



Halsall
Parish
Plan
2006

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to all the Residents of Halsall Parish for their involvement and the support for the Parish Plan. Whether this was by attending the original Public meeting or the Visioning Event (particularly the exhibitors who were of such interest to those who attended), completing the Questionnaires or just helping out when the need arose.

Thanks also go to the Parish Council for their support and to the members who also joined the Steering Group. The real enthusiasm that started every thing off and kept things running came from Martin Trengove at West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Services. He co-ordinated everything with his vast experience, absorbed some of the costs and helped obtain the main funding from the Countryside Agency.

The Steering Group have worked long and hard with a commitment to achieve something really worthwhile for their community and it has been a privilege to work with them and I thank all the people listed below sincerely:

Halsall Parish Plan Steering Group: *Maureen Allchurch, Enid Banks, Sylvia and David Corfield, Dorothy Howel, Paul Pilkington, Doreen Stephenson, Martin Trengove, Marilyn Westley, Elaine Woodhead.*

Lastly, can I also thank everyone who has taken the initial work on into the Action Groups and will hopefully make the difference in the future.

Ian Robertson

Chairman, Halsall Parish Plan Steering Group.

Prepared with support from



Halsall P. C.

Forward

- ❖ The Parish Plan is a vision for the future of our community. This is the first time that the people of Halsall have had the opportunity to say how they want the Parish to develop. Several important areas have been clearly identified and the results are truly representative of the needs of our community.
- ❖ This document will also provide the evidence required when we approach various levels of government, grant and funding bodies and local services for assistance.
- ❖ To enable us to turn your vision into reality we need your support. There are many ways in which you can help and any involvement will be valued and appreciated. You can give as much or as little time as you have available. Any ideas or skills you can contribute will help to further develop the plan.

Getting Involved.

- ❖ The Parish Plan is the result of information we received from the Visioning Event and Questionnaires and has been compiled through hours of dedicated work by the Steering Group. It is designed to form a base from which to attempt positive change and improvement in our quality of life. Some of the Action Plans will require external funding, but all will require community support if they are to be fully successful.
- ❖ It is hoped that this document will inspire many of you to help and together we can attempt to turn aspirations into reality.
- ❖ Please use the contact list for telephone numbers etc, at the end of the document, if you feel able to help?

Halsall Parish Council 2006

Traffic and Road Safety

YOUR VIEWS

Serious concerns were expressed by residents about traffic issues including:

**Speeding traffic; Noise pollution; Traffic volume;
Danger to pedestrians and cyclists; “Rat runs”.**

There is overwhelming support for a reduction in speed limits together with implementation of effective traffic calming measures, enforcement of speed limits by the police, imposition of weight restrictions on bridges, safer pavements and finding ways to reduce noise pollution caused by heavy traffic.

YOUR VISION

“Safer roads”

THE WAY FORWARD

The Action Group has been set up to tackle traffic management issues in the future. The Group's aims are to explore opportunities for necessary funding and set up a consultation process with the County and District Councils and the Police.

The story so far

At the request of the Action Group, representatives from “Agenda 21” Road Issues Focus Group and West Lancashire Police Traffic Department have attended early meetings. Traffic counts have taken place in the areas of concern at peak hours for presentation to the County Council. The County Council will be requested to install their counting/speed recording devices in the areas of concern as a fore-runner to discussions regarding reduction of Parish-wide speed limits. A walk-through has highlighted particular danger spots and signage maintenance problems. This will be presented to the County Council for action.

As a result of lobbying by residents and the Action Group, the County Council has now agreed to reduce the height of “rumble strips” in Renacres/Heathey Lanes which have caused unacceptable noise to those living close by.

Traffic and Road Safety

THE ACTION GROUP'S AIMS

Short term:

- ❖ Gather evidence before requesting LCC to conduct traffic surveys
- ❖ Identify missing, poor and/or confusing signage throughout the villages and lobby for frequent monitoring and maintenance of traffic/speed signage throughout the Parish.
- ❖ Identify realistic improvements to pavements on our rural roads/improve pedestrian safety.
- ❖ Monitor the mini-roundabout plans at Gregory Garage through LCC and local councillor.
- ❖ Obtain preliminary funding for stationery, equipment etc.



Medium term:

- ❖ Obtain funding for the plans. Consider private funding as and when any possibilities arise.
- ❖ Reduce speed limits on minor roads throughout the Parish, e.g. 40mph to 30mph.
- ❖ Obtain funding for and set up a Parish-wide Community Road Watch scheme



Long term:

- ❖ A consistent speed limit throughout the Parish.
- ❖ Interactive speed feedback signs and 20mph zones where possible, i.e. outside the school.
- ❖ Identify possible sites for cycle paths.
- ❖ Monitor the proposed Ormskirk By-Pass – protect routes through our area.



Youth

YOUR VISIONS

“All the youth of the area to have social and leisure club”

“The promotion of a community spirit within the Parish”

“A centre for indoor and outdoor sports incorporating a youth club and night school classes.”

YOUR VIEWS

Residents supported youth facilities throughout the consultation process. However, when asked in the questionnaires would they help organising these, there was little support. Earlier initiatives have failed due in part to lack of support from the youth themselves. This perhaps suggests that what was provided did not catch their interest. The statistics show that no person under 20 years of age completed the questionnaires; therefore the feedback is most likely to be their parents' perception of what is required.

THE WAY FORWARD

There is very little by way of entertainment for the youth in the Parish, with the exception of the uniformed groups.

Originally, “*Youth and Youth Activities*” was put forward as one of the 5 most strongly supported themes; however, nobody with this interest at heart attended the open night when the Action Groups were set up. Therefore, the momentum for improving the situation will fall on the Parish Council unless willing individuals come forward.

The consultation indicated strength of feeling for provision of youth facilities and it is understood that there is funding available for employing suitable leaders and improving facilities.

The story so far

The Parish Council is looking into various new initiatives for youth activities and recreational equipment for older children is being considered within the grounds of the Memorial Hall. Anyone interested in this important project would be welcomed to come “*on board*” and help start an Action Group.

Public Transport

YOUR VISION

“An improved bus service to Ormskirk”

As in many other rural Parishes, public transport is very limited. The “Arriva” service No. 300 bus runs through the Parish on its route from Liverpool to Southport. Not only is the service inadequate but the buses used are not designed for elderly, disabled and mothers with prams to use. There is no railway or local taxi service. Recently funding for the No. 315 bus service from Formby to Ormskirk, via the Parish, has been withdrawn by the County Council. Withdrawal of funding was due to lack of use resulting in an unacceptable subsidy per person per journey. There is therefore no direct bus link to Ormskirk.

The consultation process has revealed that residents do not have enough information about how the very limited public transport available can get them to Ormskirk.

Only 7% of residents responding to the questionnaires do not have access to a car but for them the provision of some form of public or private transport is vital. The Health Care Action Group has undertaken to explore the possibility of setting up a “community car” scheme to try to address this problem for the disadvantaged minority. Your support for this scheme is needed.

Crime and Safety

YOUR VISION

“A zero tolerance approach to crime in the villages in rural areas”

The fact is that serious crime rates in our Parish are very low. The consultation process indicated that residents wanted:

Better street lighting; Increased Police presence; A neighbourhood watch scheme; CCTV cameras; Speed restriction measures; More information on crime prevention.

74% of those who responded to the questionnaires indicated that they had not been victims of crime over the past 12 months. However, when asked how comfortable people felt when walking alone after dark 42% felt unsafe. 48% were worried about being mugged or robbed. Overall, the other statistics gathered do not support these fears. Therefore the problem in the Parish appears to be the fear of crime rather than actual crime occurring. The ideas put forward for improvements by residents, if they are achieved, may reduce their fears.

Health Care

YOUR VIEWS

Health care provision is inadequate and the majority of residents are unhappy with the situation. Residents who have regular access to a car accept travelling outside the Parish for their health needs but the small minority who do not have access to a car have a very difficult problem because of a lack of adequate and suitable public transport; particularly to Ormskirk.

Residents would like to have:

- ❖ A GP and a dentist in the village;
- ❖ A local prescription filling and delivery service;
- ❖ Better public transport or a “community car scheme” for those in need.

YOUR VISION

“To have a local GP and District nurses working out of a local health centre”

THE WAY FORWARD

On the present criteria, we have insufficient numbers to sustain our own GP or dentist. The surrounding Parishes are in the same situation. A collective approach by their Action Groups will have the best chance of achieving a local “drop-in” health centre operated by a practice nurse with visiting GPs, if possible. The location of the centre will, in the short term, be dependent upon the most suitable facility already in existence.

Better public transport and/ or the setting up of a community car scheme, particularly for health care, is needed for those without access to a car.

The introduction of “GP restricted catchment areas” will mean that existing arrangements with GPs outside the Parish will be in jeopardy. The Action Group will monitor this.

Health Care

The story so far

Positive progress has already been made by the Action Group. The specific areas of concern have been brought to the attention of the relevant agencies. Representatives of the PCT, County Council transport department and the service providers have attended Action Group meetings. The “*drop-in*” centre initiative is underway with leading members of the surrounding Parishes’ Action Groups and this is encouraging.

Since the consultation process, a dispensing Chemist has obtained a license to operate in Halsall and the location of this new and most welcome facility is now under review.

Names are being collected with a view to setting up a community car scheme, possibly in conjunction with surrounding Parishes. Funding will be required from the County Council and/or NHS for their respective responsibilities because a Co-ordinator is necessary to make such a scheme possible. Any help with the Action Group would be welcome.

THE ACTION GROUP'S AIMS

Short term:

- ❖ Prescription delivery services for sick and non car users;
- ❖ Improve access to GP for those unable to drive;
- ❖ Improve access to hospital for those unable to drive;
- ❖ Promote care/companionship for older people.
- ❖ Community Car Scheme.

Medium term:

- ❖ Local Health Centre with practice nurse.

Long term:

- ❖ Local GP.





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Environment and Conservation

YOUR VISION

“A cleaner, more environmentally friendly, and nature rich Parish for the enjoyment of the community”

THE WAY FORWARD

An environmental action group (SHREW) has been in existence for a number of years in the Shirdley Hill area. An Action Group was set up to further encourage SHREW's aims and form a complimentary group in Halsall Village. Funding initiatives will be pursued by the Action Group to help in furthering their aims.

The story so far

SHREW carries forward its work and now the long-standing problem of draining and improving the Shirdley Hill Village Green looks certain to be dealt with by a combination of private and County Council funding.

The Halsall Village conservation group has been set up and is now active in litter picks and improving the “grot spots” in the village.

These lively groups always welcome new members. This is not an onerous obligation, donating even an hour a month of your spare time would make a real difference to enhancing the environmental beauty of the Parish.



Environment and Conservation

THE ACTION GROUP'S AIMS

Short term:

- ❖ Detail problems caused by traffic on the environment and start long term action;
- ❖ Maintenance of footpaths should start but, as an ongoing problem, needs constant attention;
- ❖ Form an environment group for Halsall;
- ❖ Reduce dog fouling problems;
- ❖ Publicise all aspects of "*Clean Neighbourhoods Act*";
- ❖ Identify "*grot-spots*" and deal with solutions;
- ❖ Quickly identify illegal transportation and depositing of unregulated waste;
- ❖ Co-ordinate the maintenance of roadside verges;
- ❖ Follow installation of canal statue;
- ❖ Improve the Haskayne Nature Reserve in the Halsall area.

Medium term:

- ❖ Continue work on traffic effects and maintenance of local footpaths;
- ❖ Identify local wildlife that is at risk in the Parish and protect them;
- ❖ Further action to combat fly-tipping using a "*prosecute all offenders*" policy;
- ❖ Publicise the dangers of dogs' fouling passing on disease;
- ❖ Identify hazards including asbestos, farm chemicals and bio waste.

Long term:

- ❖ Continue to reduce impact of traffic on the environment;
- ❖ Defend Greenbelt and recover Brownfield sites;
- ❖ Educate children through schools and families providing support;
- ❖ Find a way to provide a "*Lengthsman*" in Halsall.

Housing

YOUR VISION

“To have affordable housing for local people to buy or let”

YOUR VIEWS

The majority of the homes in our Parish are owner-occupied, including small terraced or semi detached houses, farm cottages and executive family houses/farmhouses and barn conversions. There was little support during the consultation process for building more new executive homes and/or allowing more conversions of existing buildings for this purpose.

Rising house prices have effectively priced young people out of the Parish and there is presently no provision for the elderly who wish to sell their family houses but stay here. Residents expressed a strong desire to see affordable housing for the future needs of our young and older residents.

THE WAY FORWARD

Affordable housing in the Parish is needed and an Action Group was set up. However, controversial issues may arise over locations for “affordable” housing. Unfortunately, the perception can be that “affordable” will really mean “poor quality” and/or “outsiders”.

This raises important concerns amongst residents:

“Fine, but not on my doorstep”;

An increase in the already unacceptable traffic flows;

Drainage issues arising;

Fair allocation of the restricted number of units.

These perceptions must be taken seriously and be properly addressed by providing information about suitable sites.

Housing

The story so far

A site in Halsall was put forward for a development but serious concerns were raised by those living nearby. Residents need to be consulted and given full and proper information or problems will obviously arise on that or any alternative site.

Future housing development within our historic and beautiful Parish certainly merits a formal “*Village Design Statement*”. With this purpose in mind it should be possible to canvass and give value to the opinions of all residents about this very sensitive issue, which will affect our future. Representatives from the Parish, old and new, are invited to put themselves forward to sit on a Steering Group to take this idea forward.

THE ACTION GROUP'S AIMS

Short term:

- ❖ Look at existing Village Design Statements (VDS);
- ❖ Examine infrastructure drainage issues.

Medium term:

- ❖ Consider ways of providing affordable housing for local people;
- ❖ Consider ways of providing suitable accommodation for those who wish to downsize and for the elderly.

Long Term:

- ❖ Planning for local people – prepare a Village Design Statement

Community Activities and Amenities

There are currently a variety of community based recreational facilities and community amenities for residents at the Memorial Hall Pavilion and the Playing Fields, Parish Centre in Halsall and St. Aidans Village Hall in Shirdley Hill. Senior citizens are well provided for by the White Heather Club and the Sunshine Club and transport is provided by the White Heather Club for members.

Pre-school children and uniformed groups are well catered for in the Parish. However, despite efforts of local residents and the Parish Council there is no longer any other youth provision in the Parish other than that offered by the sporting clubs using the Memorial Hall and Playing Fields.

A number of recreational, leisure pursuits and evening study groups transferred to the neighbouring Parish of Downholland when their new Village Hall was opened in 2002.

Many suggestions for recreational facilities have been put forward during the consultation including tennis courts, a skate park for the youth of the village, organised games for children, the provision of a youth club and even a Casino! Other suggestions included the provision of a centre for indoor/ outdoor sports, incorporating a youth club with night school classes, a running track around the field, a bowling green and adventure playgrounds. Clear support was shown for upgrading the village halls and for setting up a local history society.



Employment and Local Business

In the 1950 and 1960's, local agriculture and support businesses employed a considerable number of people from within the Parish. However, this has declined to only approximately 27 farmers (tenants and owner-occupiers) with working farms in the Parish. Consequently employment prospects in farming have declined. There are approximately 40 other business activities within the Parish.

The consultation process showed the make-up of our Parish in the 21st Century regarding employment and business with those responding to the questionnaires indicating:

- ❖ 35% are retired or not in paid employment and less than 1% unemployed.
- ❖ Over 30% travel further than 2 miles outside the Parish for their employment.
- ❖ 20% are already self- employed or would consider setting up their own business.

Many residents living in the community travel out of the Parish to their place of employment. We are conveniently situated close to several large towns providing a wide variety of work opportunities.

Education

The Parish has one Primary School, St. Cuthbert's, partly funded by the Church and had almost universal approval. Secondary Education, of any sort, is located outside the Parish and some of these schools provide bus transport. Education is very important for families and the consultation process shows that education needs are acceptably well catered for in the Parish and the surrounding areas.

The questionnaires dealt mainly with Adult Education of which there is very little provision, with the exception of local associations and groups. During the Visioning Event "*More local education and training opportunities*" failed to attract a single vote on the "*Stick a Star*" chart. 12% of those who responded are involved in adult education with 12% indicating that they were interested in courses. Leisure, rather than career related courses were favoured.

Transport to schools will need to be addressed in the future. The Traffic and Road Safety Action Group will be tackling traffic management issues.

Contacts

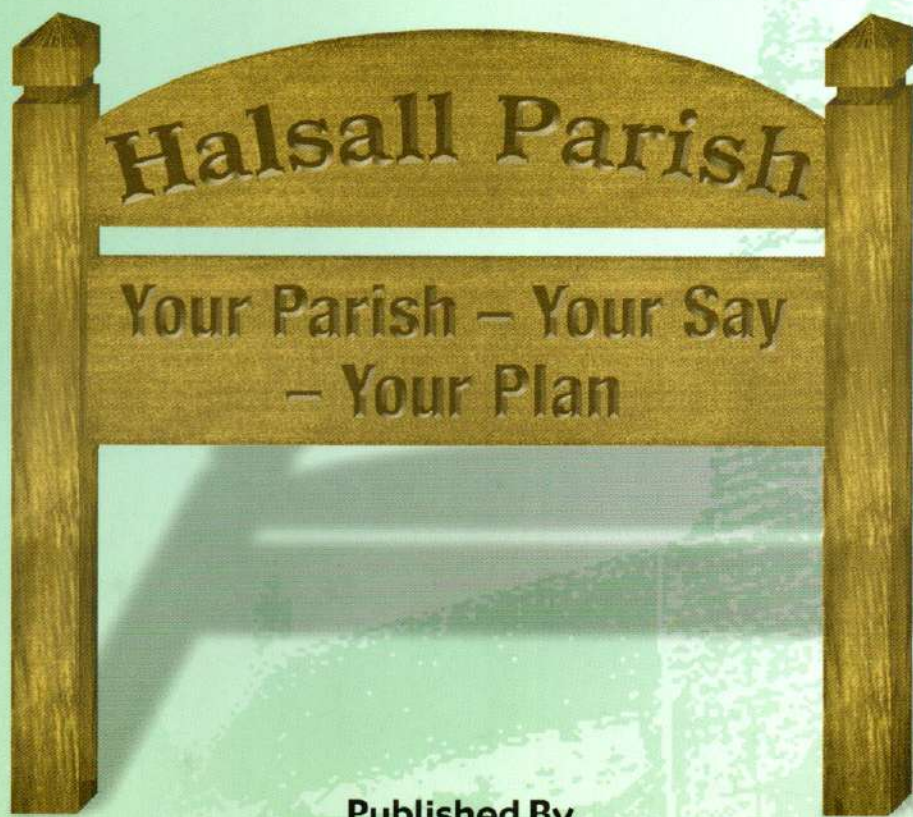
Parish Plan Groups

Chairman of Groups -	Ian Robertson	01704 841818
Traffic and Road Safety -	Maureen Allchurch	01704 841900
Environment and Conservation -	David Corfield	01704 840705
Health -	Dorothy Howel	01704 840405
Housing -	Doreen Stephenson	01704 840635
Youth -	Paul Pilkington	01704 841319
Education -	Ian Robertson	01704 841818
Employment and Local Businesses -	Enid Banks	01704 567654
Community Activities & Amenities -	Doreen Stephenson	01704 840635

Members of Halsall Parish Council – Chairman Ray Brookfield,
Councillors:- John Stephenson, John Allan, Robert Derbyshire, Peter Lea,
Doreen Stephenson, David Westley, Marilyn Westley, Jason Whitelaw, Darren Wilson.
Contacts for the Parish Council – Parish Clerk David Dalgoutte, telephone **01695 424720**.
All the latest contacts can be found in the monthly '*Halsall News*'

The Way Ahead





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