

Gorsley & Kilcote



Parish Plan 2003

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
BACKGROUND TO THE PARISH OF GORSLEY AND KILCOT	3
HOW HAS THIS PARISH PLAN COME ABOUT?.....	4
PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE	4
GORSLEY & KILCOTE PARISH TEN YEAR VISION.....	7
AMENITIES, DEVELOPMENT & LEISURE	9
AMENITIES.....	9
DEVELOPMENT.....	10
LEISURE	11
ROADS & TRANSPORT.....	15
ENVIRONMENT.....	23
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.....	23
COMMON LANDS.....	31
ENERGY SAVING, RECYCLING & LITTER.....	36
SERVICES & COMMUNICATION	39
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.....	49
APPENDICES.....	51
APPENDIX 1: B4221 ROAD ACTION GROUP REPORT	51
APPENDIX 2: OPEN LETTER TO GORSLEY AND KILCOTE PARISH COUNCIL.....	51
APPENDIX 3: MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS	53
APPENDIX 4: GLOSSARY OF TERMS	55
Road Traffic Problems on the B4221 and B4221 Action Group Report.....	52a/b/c/d

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Parish of Gorsley and Kilcot

The civil parish of Gorsley and Kilcot was formed in April 2000 and covers a scattered rural settlement of approximately 110 households falling within the jurisdiction of the Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire County Council. There is no natural "centre" to the parish, which is effectively bisected by the B4221. Furthermore, both Gorsley and, to a lesser extent, Kilcot fall partly in Gloucestershire and partly in Herefordshire. There are two public buildings in the parish - Christ Church, Gorsley, and the recently re-opened Kilcot Inn on the Newent side of the parish. A small meeting room within Christ Church is used for parish business and the church itself used for parish meetings and elections.



Christ Church, Gorsley

In addition to a garage and a builders' merchant at Kilcot Cross, there is a sub-post office and general store in Gorsley, Herefordshire. There are no other retail services. The Parish Appraisal carried out in 2001 showed that parishioners are highly dependent upon cars for both leisure and business purposes.

Within our Parish quite a high proportion of residents run their own businesses that in some instances employ other people. Such businesses include farming, professional services, holiday lets and bed & breakfast accommodation. There is also a coach hire business sited within the Parish.

The results of the Parish Appraisal provided a 'snapshot' of our community showing almost one-third of the population to be aged 45 - 59; with 20 aged over 75 and 21 under 15 years. People gave many reasons for living here: family, work, marriage - but amongst all these the love of village and country life was cited by 62% of respondents. Parishioners clearly valued living in the parish for its immediate countryside and associated pursuits such as walking, horse riding and cycling. However, concerns were strongly expressed about the impact of increasing volume and speed of traffic on the environment and the need to reduce speeding on all roads and lanes.

Residents of the parish have formed three Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. During the development of this Parish Plan a very active group have come together who are interested in protecting our two common lands as well as maintaining local rights of way.

How has this Parish Plan come about?

This document encompasses a wider range of issues than would normally be the case in a planning document. This Parish Plan has attempted not only to draw out and build upon the recommendations arising from the Parish Appraisal carried out in 2001, but also to cover issues that are likely to affect this community in the near future. The group writing this document has been widely representative of the parish and has attempted to ensure that the views expressed are broadly in line with those of the community.

Gorsley and Kilcot Parish Appraisal 2001

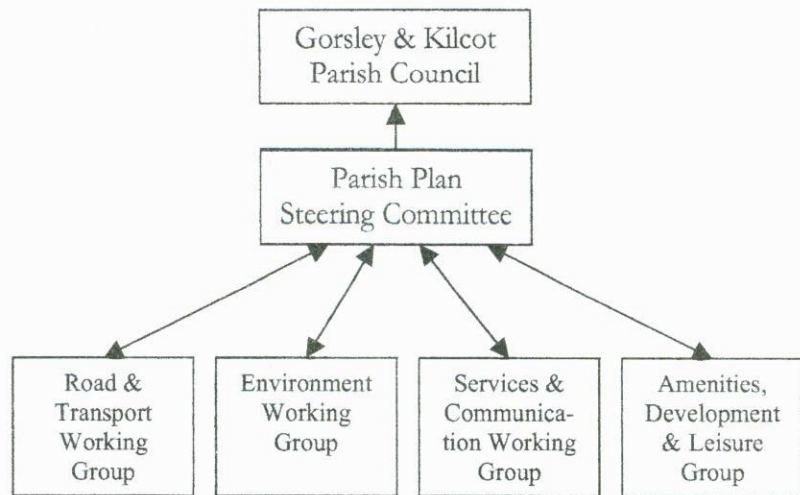
This detailed survey provided a "snapshot" of our community based on a response rate of over 80% of households in the parish. It gave a picture of who we are, how we live and how we view life in Gorsley and Kilcot. It has helped us to understand the concerns of parishioners for safeguarding and improving our environment. Also, it has informed the structure of this Parish Plan.

Parish Plan Steering Committee

On 16 January 2002 at an open, public meeting it was agreed that it would be beneficial to form a committee of general parishioners and parish councillors who could take the Parish Appraisal recommendations forward under the support being offered through the Countryside Agency Vital Villages programme. As a result, the Parish Plan Steering Committee came into operation in February 2002.

At the initial meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Committee we agreed to involve as many parishioners as possible in the decision making process. We did this by forming "working groups" whose remit was to gather information, consult with others and derive a plan of action in relation to their topic area for the next 5 - 10 years. Each of these working groups comprised some members of the Steering Group, to facilitate communication, and other parishioners interested in the topic to be covered by that group (see diagram on next page).

All groups met on a regular basis and provided input to the Steering Committee's discussions.



Community Plan Event

Over the two-day period of 6 and 7 September 2002 the Steering Committee organized an interactive display of materials put together by each of the Working Groups. Consultants involved with The Newent Town Initiative were invited to take part to discuss ways of improving Newent and the surrounding areas in the coming years. All residents of the parish were invited to drop in and add their comments to the draft Parish Plan. 53 parishioners attended (24% of the parish) representing 32 households (29% of the parish), with 24 adults from outside the parish representing 18 households, and 5 children.



Discussions at the Community Plan Event

Writing this document

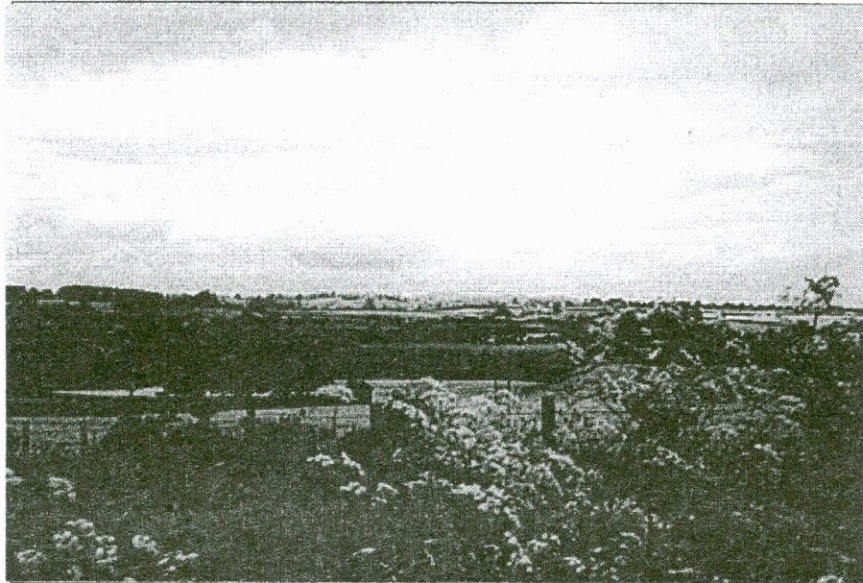
Members of each of the Working Groups adjusted and evaluated their plans in the light of feedback from the Community Plan Event. The Steering Group discussed these plans and the consensus reached forms the basis of this document.

Why develop a Parish Plan?

This Parish Plan in conjunction with the Parish Appraisal identifies what we specially value and wish to preserve. It also says what we wish to change. It helps us in our planning - for the Parish Council to judge planning applications within the existing planning framework - and for the community to influence what might happen in the future through this document being accepted by the Parish Council.

This document is written in the context of the Forest of Dean District Council Local Plan, which is at present being updated. Given the restrictions on new development within the Parish, the focus is on those issues which are pertinent to residents and which support the current policies, proposals and objectives of the Local Plan, such as environmental improvements, as well as identifying local views on issues that might change in the future.

...love of country life was cited by 62% of respondents to the Parish Appraisal...



The countryside we value

The tables that follow within the each of the sections contain the short-term action plans. Long-term issues are reflected in the body of the reports.

GORSLEY & KILCOTE PARISH TEN YEAR VISION

To enhance:

- the existing character,*
- the quality of life,*
- the sense of community,*

of our Parish

AMENITIES, DEVELOPMENT & LEISURE

Background

The basis for the Amenities, Development & Leisure group's approach has been the consideration of responses in the Parish Appraisal to those issues, which have been categorised into the headings below. Further consultation took place at the Community Planning Event on 6th and 7th September 2002 and these have been added to the earlier findings.

Amenities

1. Good Neighbour Scheme

There have been about 6 volunteers so this could be a viable proposition.

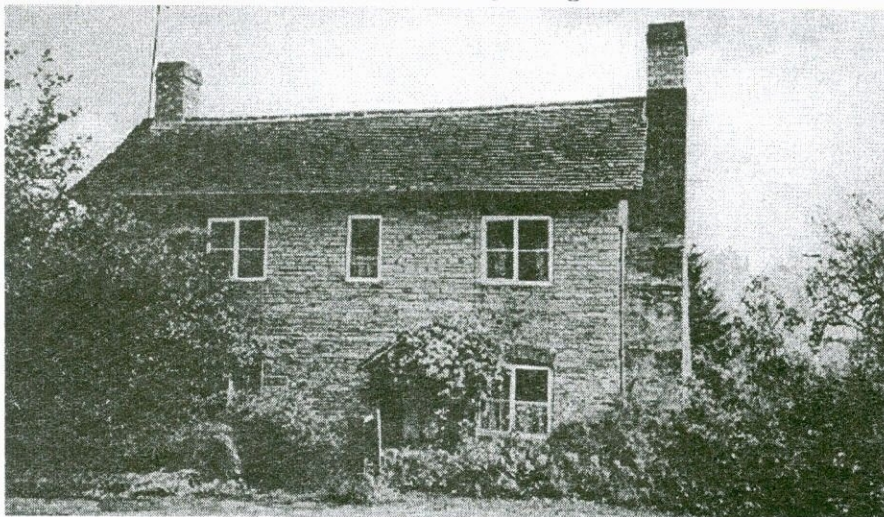
...45% of respondents to the Parish Appraisal identified a need for a Good Neighbour Scheme in the parish...

2. Post Office/Shop & Bank facility in the Parish

At the Community Plan Event no one suggested the provision of a bank or post office in our parish. The Parish Appraisal results showed that parishioners would seldom use such a facility. There is a shop/post office in the neighbouring parish of Gorsley, Herefordshire.

3. A public meeting place/Internet café/computing facility

The Parish Appraisal did not raise this issue. The Community Plan Event results show only three people requesting these facilities.



The character of the area is reflected in the buildings

Development

4. Tourism, Small Business Development & Small Scale Industrial Workshops

From the Parish Appraisal results, it appears that, overwhelmingly, the majority do not want to see development of tourism or any business development including industrial workshops in the Parish.

5. Accommodation needs of the parishioners

...although some change may be inevitable, the need for major development would detract from the ambience of life here...

The Parish Appraisal results are interesting because almost the same number of people have said that no further homes are needed as have said that we need homes for young people. The Community Plan Event results showed that housing for youngsters and for the elderly were the top priorities.

6. Types of housing

Although we are not in a Development Area (as defined by the current Forest of Dean District Council Local Plan) and no new building will be permitted, it should be noted that at the Community Planning Event parishioners made various suggestions that should be considered by the Parish Council when commenting on Planning Applications.

...conversion of redundant buildings is the most acceptable type of housing development...



Scattered developments in the Parish

7. Village Hall/Parish Room

The Parish Appraisal shows conclusively that Gorsley Village Hall (in the neighbouring parish) is thought to be adequate for the needs of our parish in the opinion of our parishioners (87%). However, a more pertinent question might have been "Would you like your own Parish Room?" Therefore it was decided that we should use the Community Plan Event to present the advantages and disadvantages of having our own Parish Room and to ask the question directly "Would you like your own Parish Room?" The results indicated that only 10% of the Parish voted "Yes" and 10% of the Parish voted "No". Therefore there is no overwhelming mandate actively to pursue this option at the moment. It will be reviewed.

Leisure

8. Sports Clubs/Activities/Social Events

The Parish Appraisal identified various activities that would be supported by members, together with considerable support for new clubs and activities, which may give some encouragement for the establishment of our own facility to hold such events.

9. Events in Christ Church, Gorsley

...50% of parishioners feel that Christ Church, Gorsley, is an integral part of the parish and the majority would like to see it used for a range of activities...

Christ Church is at present the only large, public building in our parish, with a small meeting room. It appears from the Parish Appraisal that a great many people would be happy for it to be used as a meeting place for a variety of activities, even some social events. There are differing views on the potential uses of Christ Church and therefore it is recommended that further consultation with the church authorities should take place.

Aims

- To foster a sense of community in the Parish by attempting to cater for the social and leisure needs of the Parish thereby bringing parishioners closer together.
- To understand and support the housing needs of the community whilst ensuring that the essential character of the Parish is protected and maintained.

Short Term Plan

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>	OUTCOME	FUTURE ACTION
Establish a Good Neighbour Scheme	September 2002 onwards	Seek volunteers through Community Plan Event	Volunteers from Parish and GKPC.	6 volunteers identified	GKPC to facilitate
Explore possibility of providing bank/Post Office/Shop facility in Parish	September 2002	Monitor responses from Community Plan Event to update Appraisal 2001	Parishioners	Limited positive response from Appraisal 2001. No suggestions for this at Community Plan Event 2002	No action at this time but to be kept under review by GKPC
Explore support for developing a Community (Parish) small hall/Room	September 2002 onwards	Monitor responses from Community Plan Event to update Appraisal 2001	Parishioners, PPSC and GKPC.	No clear outcome	No action at this time but to be kept under review by GKPC
Leisure & Social Activities in the Parish	September 2002	Monitor responses from Community Plan Event to update Appraisal 2001	Parishioners and PPSC and GKPC.	Substantial support identified in both 2001 and 2002. Existing indoor leisure activities and social events are publicised locally and in Parish Newsletter	Actively promote the formation of parish clubs and events and promote the use of Gorsley Village Hall and other local venues
Development – tourism, business, housing	September 2002	Monitor responses from Community Plan Event to update Appraisal 2001	Parishioners and GKPC and FODDC (Local Plan)	Local Plan limits new developments and has policies on tourism/business development to be complied with. Appraisal results indicate majority do not support any further tourism, small business or industrial workshop development within the Parish. There is some active support for housing for elderly or young people within the parish. Views on design and construction indicate concern for maintaining the essence of the rural environment.	GKPC to prepare reference points for future planning submissions. GKPC to liaise with FODDC when/if future housing/tourist/business development is proposed

Various abbreviations are used throughout, a glossary of terms can be found in appendix 4.

Recommendations

- Facilitate setting up Good Neighbour Scheme using the six volunteers identified.
- Parish Council should review position re Parish Room and shop /post office at regular intervals.
- Consultation with the church authorities should take place concerning the use of Christ Church.

ROADS & TRANSPORT

Background

The Parish of Gorsley & Kilcot is essentially a rural parish with the B4221 as the main road artery, connecting Gloucester and Newent with the M50 junction at Jays Green and on through to Ross, Monmouth and Hereford. Heavy traffic is experienced on the B4221, and the B4222 from Kilcot Cross to Lea.

There is a daily bus service along the B4221 connecting Ross, Newent and Gloucester. There is also a single journey Thursday bus service through Gorsley to Ross from Cliffords Mesne and similarly a Newent through Gorsley to Hereford bus on Wednesday. Apart from school buses and Dial a Ride there is no other public transport.

.... problems in relation to traffic and roads have increased over the past decade...

Problems in relation to traffic and roads have increased over the past decade with a major increase in volume, weight and speed of traffic. The B roads, particularly the B4221, are essentially serving as 'rat runs' for through traffic, which should be using the main trunk routes. This increase has caused a detrimental effect on the quality of life of local residents. The recent Parish Appraisal highlights the concerns of those directly or indirectly affected:

...the B4221 is a "rat run" for through traffic...

"The one subject, which caused the greatest concern by a potholed mile, was our roads: poorly maintained; made worse by heavy traffic and made dangerous by speeding. As well as the specific questions on the subject, when asked for "any other comments" four out of five replies mentioned the roads. While noise pollution and the volume of traffic were frequently mentioned, speed was seen as the greatest danger on both main roads and lanes."

"This road (the B4221) is a race track ... awaiting a serious accident. Big lorries travel so fast our house vibrates"

"Speed restrictions are not working effectively"

*"(We need) speed cameras along the B4221 through Kilcot and Gorsley and a weight limit to reduce the number of heavy lorries using it"
All lanes should have 30/40mph speed limits"*

And on a lighter note another despaired: "We are considering having a launch pad erected at our driveway to enable us to pull out on to the busy fast road!"

Within the questionnaire a massive 80 per cent of respondents felt that there were major danger-spots on the roads in the parish and when asked for details a third pinpointed Kilcot Hill/ Kilcot crossroads.

The state of the roads and verges also came in for widespread criticism. 101 residents thought the standard of roadside care and street cleaning was poor, compared to 28 who thought it was reasonable or good. "Highways, ditches and drainage pipes must be regularly maintained" was one of the milder comments.

...highways are poorly maintained...

Almost half of individual respondents wanted to see more pavements, over 40% wanted improvements to existing pavements and about the same number would like cycle paths. "How do we ensure our lanes are safe for children on bikes and people walking?" asked one resident.



...if you don't have access to a car, life can be difficult...

A large lorry using the B4221

There are 170 motor vehicles in the community or roughly one for every person over the age of 16! These include 139 cars and 19 vans so it is not surprising that 120 people cite "car or van" as their main means of transport to work or study. If you don't have access to a car, life can be difficult and a small but significant number said they "often or occasionally" experienced difficulties getting around.

Two out of five would like improvements to the bus timetables and almost as many complained about the cost of fares. "The bus service is unreliable, badly routed and expensive" was one damning comment. "Non-drivers are forced to rely on friends and neighbours for transport". Bus Stop location worried one in five respondents.

...parishioners would like to see improvements in public transport...

Some 48 people said they would use a voluntary car service on a regular or occasional basis and 30 car owners said they would be prepared to offer lifts.

Aims

To carry out the recommendations of the Parish Appraisal in relation to Roads/Traffic & Transport and in particular

- To address the major problems in relation to traffic management and safety.
- To achieve a reduction in noise, speed, volume and weight of traffic along the B4221/B4222.
- To improve the situation regarding the state of the roads with particular reference to road surfaces, drainage and verges.
- To improve the bus service in relation to cost, reliability, routes and timetables/communication of facilities.
- To improve the siting of bus stops with regard to safety, visibility and access.
- To promote the use of alternative methods of travel, e.g. bicycles or Dial a Ride.
- To set up a 'Voluntary Emergency Transport Scheme' for each area of the Parish.
- To set up cycle/pedestrian routes off-road to link the Parish with Newent.
- To improve and increase footways throughout and beyond the Parish to enable safe access to Schools/Pubs/Shop/Church.
- To work with local businesses to address any problems in relation to transport and roads.

Short Term Plan

PUBLIC TRANSPORT – BUSES

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Investigate the possibilities of improving bus services – time/frequency/routes	February 2002 onwards	Contact GCC Rural Transport Partnership for advice	Countryside Agency - Parish Plan grant GKPC	Transport & Roads Group, GKPC
	April/May 2002	Consult with parishioners via sample oral questionnaire of 25% key users as to their needs/ problem areas		Parish Clerk, GKPC
	May 21 st 2002	Hold public meeting – Focus on Transport & Roads		Environment Department, GCC
	August 2002	Send detailed questionnaire to all households to ascertain use of public transport & changes preferred		Rural Transport Partnership Officer, GCC
	September 2002	Community Plan Event – analyse results in relation to transport needs. Pass on recommendations to Rural Transport Planner		Rural Transport Planner, GCC
	October 2002 onwards	Transport Group to pass on recommendations for future action by GKPC		Transport & Roads Group, GKPC
Improve publicity re bus routes/time-tables.	September 2002	Distribute bus timetables to all households	GKPC	Parish Clerk & Newsletter Distributors
	October 2002 onwards	Include details of routes/timetables on Parish notice boards and at bus stops	GCC Public Transport Unit	GCC Public Transport Unit
Improve location and visibility at bus stops.	September 2002	Liaise with the Passenger Transport Officer, GCC	GKPC	Parish Clerk, GKPC

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Encourage/ facilitate the use of alternative transport.	August 2002	Liaise with Dial a Ride Distribute Dial a Ride leaflets	Dial a Ride Newent	Transport Group/Dial a Ride Newent
	September 2002	Lobby for local taxi service		Newent Market Towns' Initiative representative
	September 2002	Appeal for Volunteer Emergency car drivers (embryo Good Neighbour Scheme)	Countryside Agency grant	All parishioners via Community Plan Event and Parish newsletter
	April 2003 onwards	Distribute details of volunteers in relevant geographic areas.	GKPC	Parish Clerk and Transport Group
	October 2002	Transport & Roads Group to pass on recommendations for future action by GKPC.		Transport & Roads Group, GKPC

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Improve highway maintenance throughout the Parish	January 2002 onwards	GKPC to meet with GCC Highways Authority representatives to highlight needs of Parish	GCC Highways Authority	GKPC & Parish Clerk
	July 2002 onwards	GKPC to continue to campaign for more funding from GCC to remedy past defects	GKPC	GKPC
	September 2002 onwards	GKPC to set up regular monitoring of all Parish roads by Councillors, reporting back to Parish Clerk, who will liaise with GCC.	GKPC	Councillors GKPC & Parish Clerk, GCC Highways Authority
	September 2002	List of roads allocated to each Councillor published at Community Plan Event shown on Parish Notice boards	GKPC	Parish Clerk
	October 2002 onwards	Continue to encourage individual parishioners to report defects/potholes to GCC directly – publish details of contact numbers in Parish Newsletter and on Notice Boards Transport & Roads Group to pass on recommendations for future action to GKPC	GKPC	Parish Clerk & Parish Newsletter Co-ordinator Transport & Roads Group, GKPC

FOOTWAYS/FOOTPATHS/CYCLE ROUTES

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Address the problems highlighted in the Appraisal relating to B4221/B4222	January 2002 onwards	Continue to support and liaise with the B4221 Action group: i) Directly by communication with MP, GCC, relevant Parish Councils & parishioners ii) Indirectly by Council representation on the Action Group See attached Summary from Report of B4221 Action Group – Appendix 1 Consider improving access to existing shop/post office facility in Gorsley, Herefordshire, through the provision of a continuous footway from Kilcot to Gorsley	GKPC – grant to B4221 Action Group Countryside Agency – funding for Community Plan Event Investigate grants available – possibly through the Newent Market Towns Initiative.	GKPC 2 Councillor representatives GCC – Area Traffic Manager Local MP – Diana Organ Newent Town Council
Investigate the feasibility of cross country footpath/ cycle routes	July 2002 September 2002 October 2002 onwards	Initial contact with SUSTRANS and GCC Transport Group to identify possible routes for Community Plan Event Map representation and opportunity for feed-back from the Parish at Community Plan Event Initial contact with Newent Market Towns' Initiative Further contact with SUSTRANS, Countryside Agency, GCC and MP	Parish Plan Grant Investigate costs – identify possible grants	GKPC, Transport Group. Rural Field Worker, Newent Town Council, SUSTRANS, Countryside Agency, GCC, MP

Footnote: It is noted that the shop/post office in Gorsley, Herefordshire, could benefit from improved parking facilities. We would encourage GKPC to liaise with the appropriate authorities.

NB: Footway – pavement alongside a road, Footpath – path across a field.

Recommendations

Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council to continue the work of the Roads and Transport Working Group in relation to:

- Support of B4221 Action Group.
- Liaison with Rural Transport Planner, Gloucestershire County Council re bus services.
- Liaison with Passenger Transport Officer, Gloucestershire County Council re bus stops.
- Increasing the number of footways in the Parish and improving existing footways.
- Gorsley/Kilcot to Newent Link for walkers and cyclists.
- Monitoring highway maintenance.
- Setting up Volunteer Car Drivers Scheme.
- Resurfacing of B4221 to be done in modern noise reduction material.
- Involving the people in the Roads and Transport Working Group to retain their expertise and interest.

ENVIRONMENT

Public Rights of Way

Background

After the formation of the new Parish of Gorsley & Kilcot in April 2000, the Parish Council met with the Gloucestershire County Council Footpaths Officer for advice on management of footpaths and decided to review the condition of all the footpaths and RUPPs (Roads Used as a Public Path) in the Parish and to take any necessary action to improve access for parishioners. This was in line with the national target that 'All rights of way should be legally defined, properly maintained and well publicized' (Countryside Commission CCP 234/1987). A Lead Member for Footpaths was appointed and voluntary wardens from within the Parish began to monitor footpaths. Although some initial assessment was carried out of all the paths, very little progress was made in the following months, due to the Foot & Mouth outbreak.

...if every household was given a map of parish footpaths we could get about more and know where we can walk safely...

The Parish Appraisal highlighted the enthusiasm amongst parishioners for improved access, maps and way marking of public rights of way. Walking was shown to be the most popular activity with 63% of respondents wanting it to be developed in the parish, followed by horse riding (38%) and off-road cycling (30%). 82 people stated that they were willing to work to maintain the countryside with 30 people willing to clear ponds, footpaths, bridleways etc. The state of footpaths provoked a high response and while 51% knew where local footpaths were, 40% said they could not be used without difficulty, the most common reasons being overgrown bushes or nettles and excessive mud or puddles.



Refreshments at the end of the second circular walk.

When work began on the Parish Plan in 2002, an Environment Group was set up together with a Footpaths Sub-group. This sub-group has worked with enthusiasm to provide input to the Parish Plan and at the same time to begin the task of clearing/monitoring all Rights of Way in the Parish. Two Circular Walks have been cleared as part of the process and two successful guided Sunday afternoon walks around these two routes have been held.

The Environment Group has now been encompassed into a more permanent Environment Working Group, which has been set up by the Parish Council to advise on all issues relating to Common Lands, Public Rights of Way, and environmental issues and to continue to facilitate footpath clearing.

Aims

- To monitor all Public Rights of Way in the Parish
- To encourage the use of footpaths and bridleways and improve access to them
- To publicize the Public Rights of Way in the Parish

Short Term Plan

MONITORING FOOTPATHS/RUPPS

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Review present procedure for monitoring footpaths	April 2002	Consult Countryside Agency survey forms	N/A	Environment Working Group - Footpaths Sub-group
Pilot scheme – assess footpaths	May 4th 2002	Walk RUPP 13 - assess (using survey forms)	N/A	4 members of Footpaths Sub-group
Continue assessing and clearing footpaths/ RUPPs through out the Parish	May 2002 onwards until complete	Adapt Countryside Agency survey forms. Copy for use. Set up working groups to carry out assessment and clearing	GKPC - copying costs. Paid expert help for more difficult tasks	Environment Working Group, Footpath Group, volunteers from Parish and paid experts
Contact land-owners and GCC	May 2002 onwards	Inform all landowners of proposed actions and contact individual landowners with problem paths	GKPC clerical costs	Parish Clerk (liaise with Chairman Environment Working Group), GCC

SET UP CIRCULAR WALKS

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Prepare a circular walk in Gorsley	May 2002	Clear RUPP 13 and publicise new walk	Cost of publicity Parish Plan Grant	Volunteers from Footpaths Sub-group
Circular walk and informal discussion meeting	July 21 st 2002	Lead walk and meet at Christ Church for refreshments and discussion	Hire of room and refreshments Parish Plan Grant	All interested parishioners and Environment Working Group - Footpaths Sub-group
Prepare a circular walk in Kilcot	August 2002	Clear footpaths on Kilcot Green, identify problem areas, contact landowners	Parish Plan Grant	Environment Working Group - Footpaths Sub-group, Parish Clerk
Designate 'less mobile' walks	September 2002	GKPC to sanction use of Appraisal money to fund kissing gates on Circular walks 1 and 2. Contact landowners and Gloucestershire County Council	Residual from GKPC Parish Appraisal grant and GCC and other sources	GKPC and Parish Clerk and Chairman Environment Working Group and GCC
Continue to set up circular walks	January 2003 onwards	Identify/prepare all suitable walks within and into surrounding parishes	GKPC and GCC Other Sources	Environment Working Group - Footpath Sub-group and volunteers and GKPC and GCC

ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH RELEVANT GROUPS/ INDIVIDUALS

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale</i> <i>Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs</i> <i>Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or</i> <i>Consulted</i>
Contact all relevant footpath groups/ advisors	May 2002 onwards	Appoint liaison members for footpaths/bridle paths/ cycle paths	Telephone/Clerical costs GKPC	Environment Working Group - Footpath Sub-group Liaison members
Establish regular monitoring system of footpaths	July 2002 onwards	Use adapted version of survey forms and Footpaths Sub-group	Cost of printing GKPC	Environment Working Group - Footpaths Sub-group and Parish Clerk and GCC
Report back from contacts	July 2002	Follow up/meet with key contacts/set up links where appropriate	Meeting room/clerical costs GKPC	Environment Working Group - Footpaths Sub-group
Set up representation on local footpath organisations	September 2002	Appoint North Dean Rights of Way representative	N/A	Environment Working Group and Liaison members

FUNDING & PROCEDURE

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale</i> <i>Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs</i> <i>Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or</i> <i>Consulted</i>
Set up Environment Committee	August 2002	GKPC Formalise the management of 'Environment' issues by Committee	N/A	GKPC, Parish Clerk and Environment Working Group
Investigate funding available	July 2002 onwards	Contact appropriate funding bodies: DEFRA, Countryside Agency, Forestry Commission, British Horse Society, SUSTRANS	GKPC - Clerical/ telephone costs. Other sources to be identified.	Parish Clerk: Footpaths/Bridle paths/Cycle paths representatives, GCC and GRCC Rural Adviser
Apply for grants	July 2002 onwards	Identify funding needs: way marking/clearing/ publicity	GKPC - Clerical costs	Parish Clerk and Environment Working Group

MAPS & COMMUNICATION

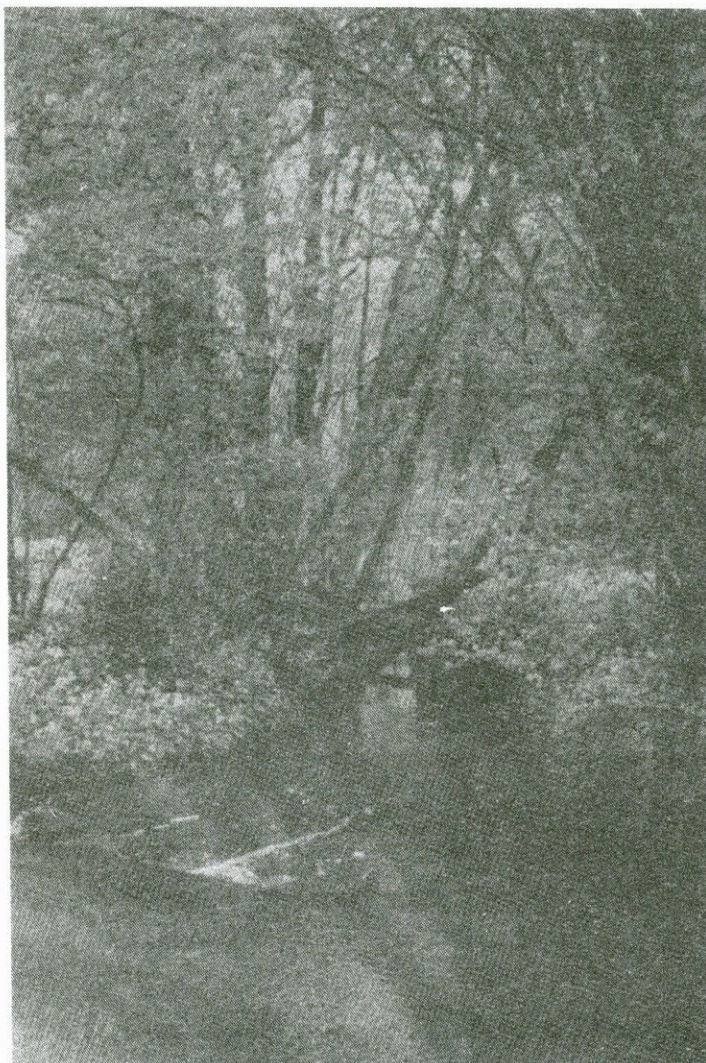
WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Liaise with GKPC, Parish Plan, Transport & Roads Group	May 2002 onwards	Establish pedestrian/ cycle/bridle transport routes to key areas of parish and surrounding areas.		Parish Plan Transport Group, Environment Working Group, GCC, Herefordshire Council and relevant advisory bodies.
Produce maps showing footpaths and walks.	January 2003 onwards	Prepare draft maps and details of walks. Liaise with professional printer. Prepare draft booklet with brief descriptions (historical/geological data).	GKPC -production and printing costs and grant. Other sources	Environment Working Group, voluntary artist, Parish Clerk, provider of grant and printer.
Produce booklet	January 2003 onwards	Liaise with Gorsley & Kilcot history group and interested members of footpaths group.		

BRIDLEWAYS & RUPPS

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Prepare leaflet alongside footpaths group showing off road riding/ cycling available though Gorsley & Kilcot connecting May Hill to Forestry Commission Queens Woods	June 2002 ongoing	Prepare draft maps. Liaise with footpaths group to prepare draft booklet showing rights of way and places of interest. Create Local Riders Association. Negotiate permissive rights of way as required. Liaise with FOD Rural Community Field Worker on possible sources of funding to help produce maps	GKPC production and printing costs. Possible FODDC project monies.	Environment Working Group Volunteer riders from Parish and surrounding areas, Forestry Commission, GKPC, FOD Rural Community Field Worker, Other relevant Parish/Councils e.g. Aston Ingham, Newent ...
Clear all RUPPs in Parish alongside footpaths group	July 2002 ongoing	Set up working groups to carry out assessment and clearing. Advise County Highways Authority of work needed	GKPC Voluntary working parties. GCC Highways Authority	Volunteers from Parish and surrounding areas GCC Highways Authority
Warning signs "HORSES CROSSING" along B4221 at suitable crossing points	June 2002 ongoing	Inform all horse riders and encourage them to contact Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department GKPC requests the sign in writing. Identify crossings points such as junction of RUPP 16 with the B4221, and also at the end of RUPP8 and at either crossing of the lanes. Liaise with British Horse Society Rights of Way Officer on associated safety issues.	GCC Highways Authority. GKPC administration costs	GKPC Environment Working Group
Set up Local Riders Association in conjunction with Forestry Commission	June 2002 onwards	Contact all relevant horse riders via Forestry Commission and adverts in local press	Forest Enterprise GKPC re publicity costs	Forest Enterprise, GKPC, Environment Working Group
Contact local British Horse Society Rights of Way Officer	June 2002 onwards	Set up correspondence links where appropriate	GKPC Admin.	Public Rights of Way, BHS – Rights of Way Officer
Establish a system to monitor bridleways, RUPPs and Forestry Commission tracks.	July 2002 onwards	Contact all riders and report back to Environment Working Group Footpaths/ Bridleways Sub-group	Forestry Commission, GKPC, British Horse Society	Local Riders Association Liaising with GKPC and Forestry Commission Volunteers from Parish

Recommendations

- Liaise with Gloucestershire County Council, in maintaining all Public Rights of Way within the Parish according to the recommended procedure.
- Liaise closely with the Environment Working Group.
- Continue to support the setting up and publicising of circular walks, bridle ways and off-road cycle routes
- Where necessary provide financial support for carrying out the above, either directly from Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council or by supporting grant funding from other sources.



Conserving and enhancing our countryside

Common Lands

Background

Gorsley and Kilcot Parish Council are responsible for two parcels of Common Land: Kilcot Green, 1.7ha, registration number VG139; and Aston Common, 0.55ha, registration number CL304 (see attached maps). The Common Lands were passed over to the new parish when it came into being on 1 April 2000 - they were previously the responsibility of Newent Town Council and had been unmanaged for many years.

...Common Land supports plentiful wildlife at present – perhaps all that is required is a pathway towards a seat from where the wildlife may be enjoyed...

Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council commissioned a Survey and Management Plan of the Common Lands in the spring of 2001 with grant aid from the Forestry Commission. Jeremy Doe of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust carried out the survey on 23 May 2001, and produced two reports - one for each parcel of common land. Rob Spence of the Forestry Commission made a site visit to Kilcot Green and Aston Common on 27 September 2001, to approve the survey and enable the release of the funding. He also attended the Environment Group's meeting of 13 May 2002 to advise the group on the way forward and the grant aid available; and met with representatives of the Council on 1 August to advise about the completion of the grant forms. The proposals below are made in the light of the recommendations contained in the reports by Jeremy Doe of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and the advice from Rob Spence of the Forestry Commission.

Over the past few months, the Clerk to the Council has also been investigating the exact legal position with respect to the Common Lands, and has discovered that whereas the Council actually owns Kilcot Green, Aston Common is 'ownerless'. The different status does affect what the Council can and cannot do lawfully on each of the commons.

With respect to Aston Common, the Council has no duties, but it does have certain powers, which it may choose to exercise or not, at its discretion. It has the power to protect the Common against unlawful interference, for example, against encroachment, trespassing, litter dumping, and the like, and it may carry out work such as the erection of barriers in pursuance of this power. The Council cannot give any individual or body permission to carry out works on Aston Common but it need not take any action if works are carried out which are beneficial; for example, if an individual or voluntary body were to carry out work to improve the common, such as path clearance, the Council lawfully need not take any action, but they cannot give any such work their formal approval. The Council does not have the power to incur expenditure on improvements, except under Section 137 (see glossary in Appendix 4).

It should be noted that Kilcot Green has three public footpaths across it; Aston Common has a permissive path across it (see maps). Kilcot Green used to be, in living memory, an actual green with two ponds on it, rather than the current mix of woodland and scrub.

Commoners' Rights (Kilcot Green only) are held by two local people. The rights attach to the land owned by them. A copy of these rights is available. Neither of them exercises their rights at this time. They will be kept informed of any work to be carried out.

Aims

The aims of any improvements are to encourage public access, to promote nature conservation, and to enhance the landscape, by managing the previously unmanaged woodland and encouraging the growth of native flora and fauna.

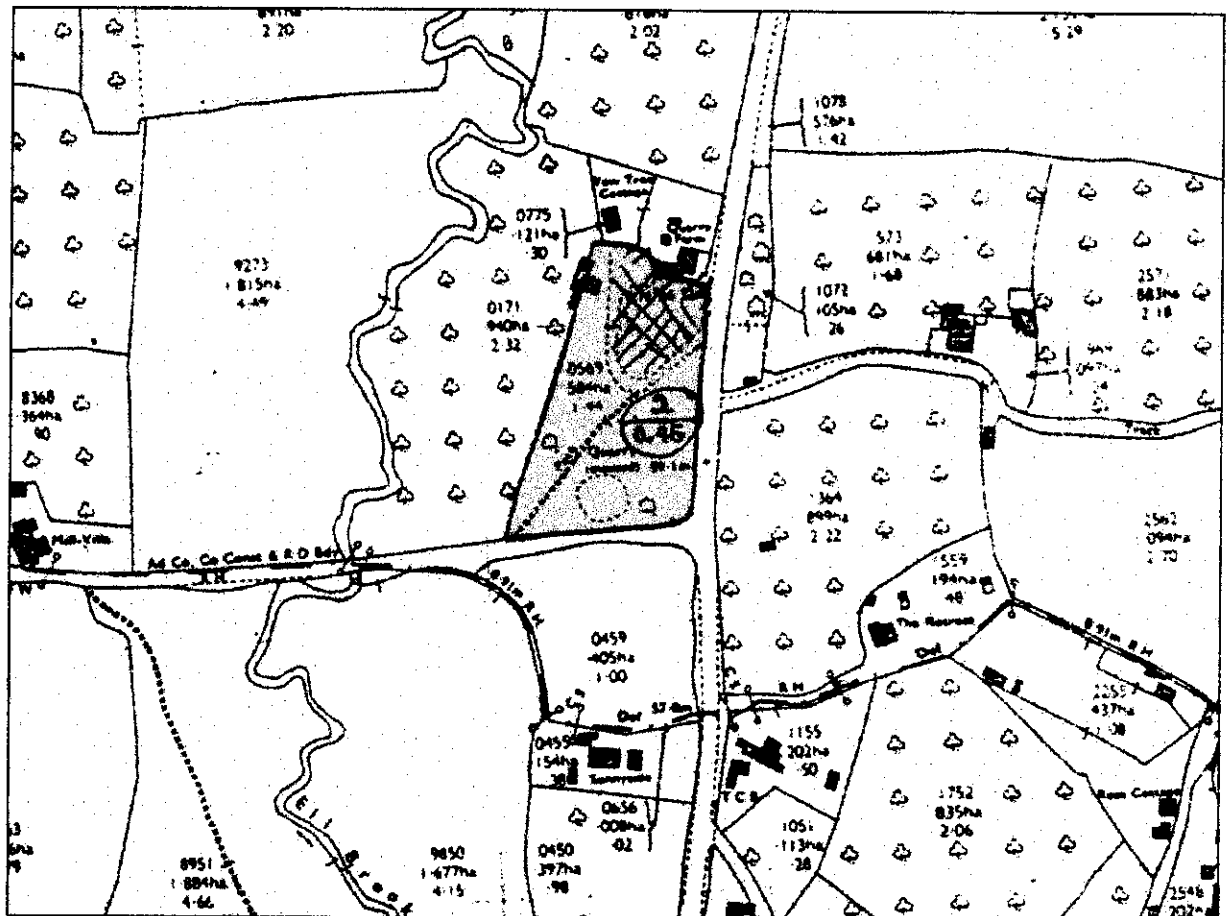
Proposals

Grant Application

Much of the work outlined below is the subject of a current grant application to the Forestry Commission. However, the grant application for Aston Common has had to be limited because of the legal restrictions upon it, as 'ownerless' common. The grants applied for are a Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG), over the financial years 03/04 and 04/05, for which 50% of the total funding applied for is available; and an Annual Management Grant (AMG), over the first 5 years, for Kilcot Green only, which is £35 per hectare per year, payable in a lump sum at the end of financial year 2. The other 50% for the WIG can be made up of volunteer help or donated materials - a cash contribution is not required. The Forestry Commission simply monitor that the work has been completed satisfactorily before releasing the funds.

Aston Common Plan

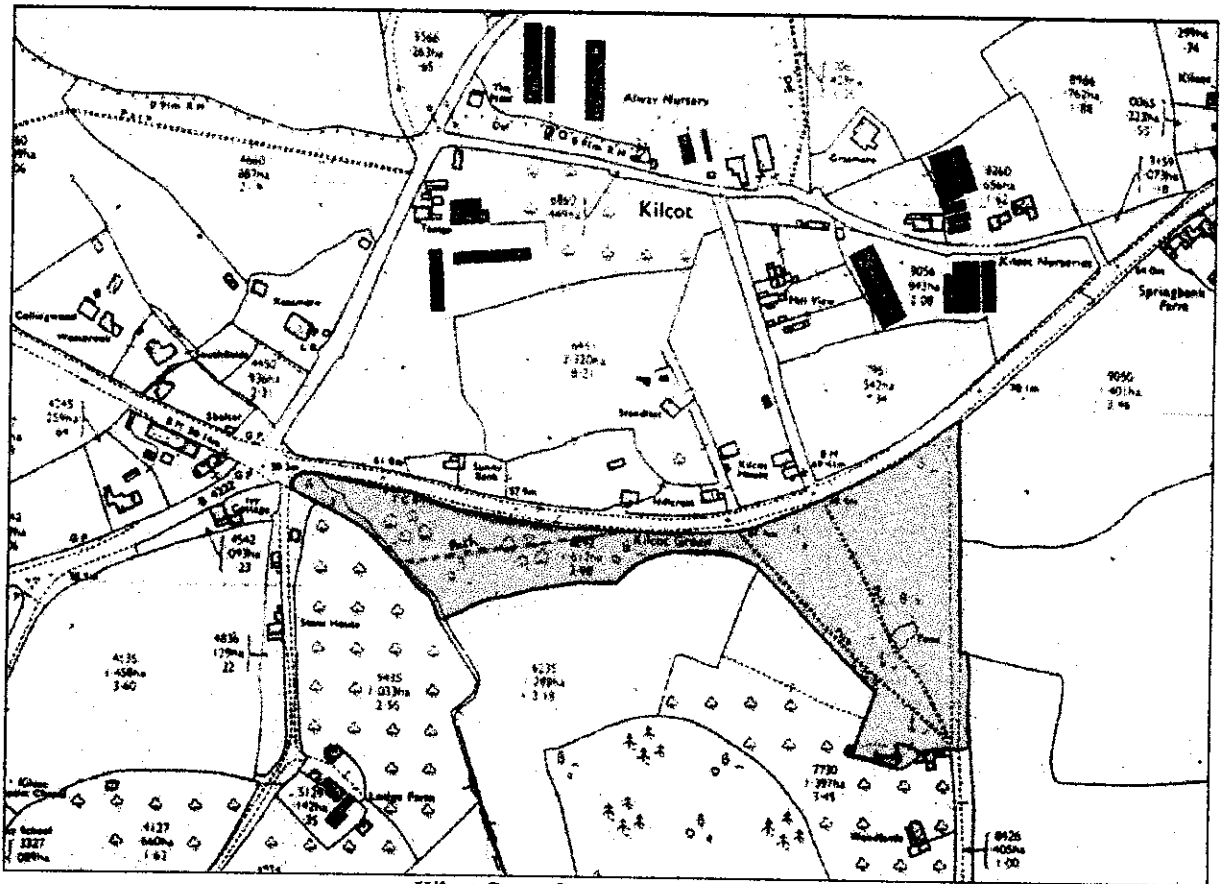
PRIORITY	WHAT	WHEN	FUNDING/ WHO
1.	Clarify ownership, boundary and associated legal matters, and check ownership of boundary hedge bordering field.	Current	Clerk - GKPC/ NALC
2.	Clear site of rubbish tipped (hire skip), and create vehicle barrier with post and hinged pole	Financial year 03/04	WIG with volunteer help
3.	Monitor wild daffodil, breeding bird populations, and possible dormice. Count and map plants and establish baseline data.	Annually, over 10 years	Local naturalists /local schools



Aston Common Land (Shaded)

Kilcot Green Plan

PRIORITY	WHAT	WHEN	FUNDING/ WHO
1a	Clear the 3 public footpaths of scrub, and coppice edge shrubs to a total of 3 metres width; trim footpaths after clearing, and maintain.	Spring 2003, and annually in Spring	WIG and AMG, with volunteer help
1b	Herbicide treatment (Roundup or similar) of Snowberry and Sycamore regeneration, and hand weeding of garden escapees – mainly along roadside, eastern and northern edges.	Spring 2003 and annually until eradicated	WIG and AMG, with volunteer help
1c	Clear rubbish – hire skip	Autumn 2003	WIG with volunteer help/labour
2a	Coppicing of Birch and Willow scrub in selected areas - along road and eastern end. (20% to 30% in regeneration phase at any one time).	Financial year 2003/04	WIG with volunteer help
2b	Erect picnic bench and table, in clearing near footpaths eastern end (access from Briery Lane).	Financial year 2003/04	WIG with volunteer labour
3a	Pollarding of mature willows	Financial year 2004/05	WIG for Forest Craftsman with chainsaw
3b	Create vehicular barrier along eastern edge (Briery Lane) with treated rustic posts at 2m intervals (as on B4221 roadside edge)	Financial year 2004/05	WIG with volunteer help
3c	Tree safety inspection and remedial work	Annually, starting Autumn 2005	Tree Warden Scheme via GKPC
4	Erect notice-board with information leaflets about walks and common lands near picnic table eastern end (access from Briery Lane)	2005/06	Apply for a second WIG
5	Monitor wild daffodil, breeding bird populations, and wet woodland changes. Count and map plants and establish baseline data.	Annually, over 10 years	Local naturalists/schools
6	Re-instate ponds	Years 5 to 10	Volunteer help



Kilcot Green Common Land (shaded)

Recommendations to Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council

- Boundary and associated legal matters concerning Aston Common to be clarified via Clerk to Council.
- The two 'Commoners' for Kilcot Green to be informed of proposals, via Clerk.
- The Council to consider the appointment of a Tree Warden for the Common Land (voluntary post - training is available).
- The Council to implement and monitor the operation of the grant scheme via the Clerk and the Environment Working Group.

Energy Saving, Recycling & Litter

Background

In the Parish Appraisal 2001 there was a relatively high (60%) response to questions on these topics, indicating a good level of interest.

Energy Saving

...strong support for an energy-saving group...

The Parish Appraisal Household Survey showed that while most households had loft insulation (86%), a lagged water tank (87%) and double glazing (72%), less than half used low energy light bulbs (44%) and even fewer had other energy saving features in their homes. The majority of respondents (69%) supported the idea of a parish energy saving/renewal group.

Recycling

...residents are keen to separate rubbish for recycling...

The vast majority of parishioners (88% of respondents) would be prepared to support special recycling collections by separating their waste. While 39% thought local waste disposal facilities were adequately publicized, 40% did not.

Litter

Litter was perceived to be a problem in the parish by 62% of respondents.

Aims

- To help parishioners translate these expressions of interest into positive action and provide the support necessary to achieve worthwhile results.
- To seek the active support of the statutory authority, in this case the Forest of Dean District Council, and its agents.

Initial inquiries have met with a positive response as the District Council is conscious of the targets set for recycling and energy saving.

Short Term Plan

ENERGY SAVING

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Publicise Energy-Saving Advice Centre and services to Parish	Winter 2002 onwards	Information in Parish Newsletter Winter edition Speaker from energy advice centre at public meeting	GKPC	GKPC Parish Newsletter editor, Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Investigate support for setting up energy-saving group in parish	Winter 2002 onwards	Publicity in Newsletter and at meeting	GKPC & FODDC	
Establish group if practicable	2003	Take names and discuss at meeting	GKPC & FODDC	

RECYCLING

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Publicise existing services and sites. Publicise new services and sites	FY 2002/03 as available	Liase with FODDC on publicity. Use Newsletter leaflets and posters	GKPC	GKPC, FODDC Recycling Officer
Establish need and site for recycling site and composting site	Winter 2002 onwards	Feedback from Parish Plan Events followed by meeting with FODDC and possible public meeting	GKPC & FODDC	GKPC, FODDC Recycling Officer

LITTER

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Bins at Kilcot Cross, by phone box and bus stop	ASAP	Contact FODDC	GKPC & FODDC	GKPC. FODDC.
Organize a "tidy-up" day	Spring 2003	Publicity locally (Newsletter, posters, NEW-AD etc)	GKPC	GKPC. Volunteer help.
Establish volunteer "Litter wardens" for small litter and publicize FODDC service for large items, hazardous waste, car batteries, etc.	Ongoing	Establish regular "Litter watch" service in parish. Publicise through newsletter and direct leaflets	GKPC & FODDC	GKPC. Volunteer help. FODDC. Environment Working Group.

Recommendations

- Gorsley and Kilcot Parish Council to establish links with the Forest of Dean Recycling and Waste Management Departments.
- Publicise existing and new sites and arrangements for recycling through the Parish Newsletter and utilise publicity material from the District Council.
- Nominate an annual 'clear up' day each spring for litter collection and seek volunteer "litter wardens".
- Establish contact with Energy Efficiency Advice Centre and publicise services in the Parish Newsletter.

SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

Background

This part of the Parish Plan covers the areas of communication (both within and without the parish); renewable energy sources, mains gas and mains sewerage. These areas were researched and considered by the main committee of the Parish Council, with the support of the Clerk to the Council. The areas covered are those highlighted in the Parish Appraisal that are not dealt with elsewhere in the Parish Plan and which have not been dealt with since the Appraisal.

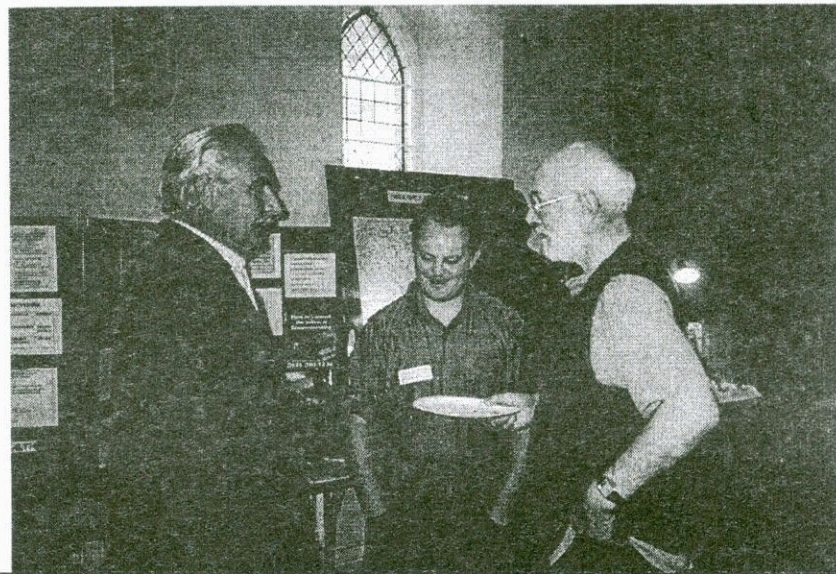
In the Parish Appraisal, high levels of satisfaction were expressed over most public services although some concerns were expressed about policing (where burglary was the most feared crime), and about access difficulties to GP and Dispensary. 'Policing' and 'Health' are not included in the Parish Plan Services section, as the matters raised generally only need on going monitoring, for the reasons outlined below.

Since the Parish Appraisal was carried out the local Surgery has improved its access arrangements by replacing the 'sit and wait' emergency surgery with a telephone consultation and same-day appointment system (effective from 17 June 2002). The new system will be monitored and feedback sought from parishioners via the open Annual Parish Meeting. There is still some concern about out of hours/weekend cover with particular regard to referrals to Tewkesbury Community Hospital and this situation will continue to be monitored.

Burglary is the crime which is most feared. During the year to April 2002 there were 9 recorded offences in the parish. There are now three Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in operation within the parish: Kilcot, Gorsley (Glos.), and Kilcot Mill Lane NHW- the latter was introduced in January 2001 in addition to the two earlier schemes. One representative from the three parish NHW groups also attends the Newent & North Forest Crime Prevention Panel meetings. A Car Watch Scheme was set up in July 2001 for this and neighbouring parishes across the county divide. The Rural Beat Officer visits the parish regularly with the mobile police-van office, and this ensures good communication and awareness of problems as they arise. Again, the effectiveness of all these schemes will be monitored, but no further action is felt necessary at this time.

In terms of communication, the New-Ad and Parish Council Newsletter were cited in the Appraisal as the main sources of information for within the parish. A parish web-site has since been set up through the auspices of a local volunteer with the appropriate technical knowledge, and his expertise and advice will continue to be sought. Future plans concern the addition of data to the website, and the consideration of further communication for both within and without the parish under the headings of notice boards, maps, information services, and media contacts. A parish map has been commissioned and produced.

In March 2001, under the auspices of Neighbourhood Watch, Graham Ayling, Severn Wye Valley Energy Agency made a presentation on Energy Saving to parishioners. Information on renewable energy sources formed part of this presentation. Following on from this the Parish Appraisal findings indicated strong support (69% of households) for an energy-saving group, and at the Parish Plan consultation event held on 6 and 7 September 2002, interest in the matter was further expressed by 9 parishioners – all sufficient to justify exploring the matter further. Consultation with outside bodies and parishes in a similar position to ours form part of the plan.



Talking about improvements in the Parish

The Appraisal results also showed that the majority of households not on mains gas or mains sewerage would welcome these connections. At the Parish Plan Event, interest was again expressed in exploring the possibility/feasibility of installing mains gas and mains sewerage in the area. At the moment no households in the parish are connected to mains sewerage, whilst mains gas is currently only readily available to households in the parish that are situated along the B4221 from the Newent direction as far as Kilcot Cross, and along the Aston Ingham Road. Initially, other parishes in the locality will be consulted about the possibility of joint projects, and the relevant utility companies approached for further information, before any detailed costings are prepared, as necessary, and the possibility of feasibility studies considered. Parishioners will be consulted and informed at each stage.

Aims

- To ensure that systems are in place, which will facilitate good communication both within and without the parish; these systems will be monitored and updated regularly, as appropriate.
- To investigate renewable energy sources and their applicability within the parish.
- To explore the feasibility of making mains gas and mains sewerage available to all households in the parish.
- To monitor the local health cover and seek feedback through the Parish newsletter
- To work closely with the Rural Beat Officer.

Short Term Plan

COMMUNICATION

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>	
Parish Website	January - July 2002	Skilled voluntary help to set up Website in consultation with Parish Council and Clerk.	GKPC	GKPC	
	June 2002	Add to data on Website. Parish Clerk to discuss with IT Consultant - include Minutes/ Agenda/ Newsletters/Maps of Parish/ Reports of events/ Tourist facilities/Local businesses			Parish Clerk, IT Consultant.
	2002 onwards	Publish details of Website in Newsletters. Include Website in Council websites. Add to: VitalVillages.co.uk and glosnet@gloscc.gov.uk			www.ukvillages.co.uk, GCC, www.gorsleyandkilcot.freemove.co.uk GKPC Parish Newsletter editor

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Notice Boards	January 2002 onwards	Review effectiveness of existing notice boards	GKPC and Grant from Delegated Project Fund	GKPC and Community Plan Event, Parish Clerk FODDC
	April – October 2002	Obtain designated notice board from Enterprise Training Services, Cinderford, to make board free of charge		
	November 2002	Erect new notice board with map of parish		
	January 2003 onwards	Decide on need for further notice boards and positioning (Maps of footpaths etc)		
	April 2003	Purchase and erect new notice boards (if needed)		
Maps	January 2002	Produce Map of Parish showing main features and new road names and adverts from local sponsors	GKPC Delegated Project Fund. FODDC	GKPC Chairman, Parish Clerk, Forest of Dean District Council (Road names)
	October 2002 onwards	Review GK Community Plan Event – determine need for further maps Consider: Map of Footpaths (large) Small map to each household showing road names/footpaths	GKPC Appraisal funds for related projects	GKPC, Environment Working Group, Parish Clerk, Forest of Dean District Council
	January 2003 onwards	Large map of Gorsley & Kilcot from Newent to M50. Possible situation by PO to be investigated.	Possible future transfer of funds from Gorsley and Kilcot Millennium Committee	Millennium Committee, GKPC, Gorsley Village PO/Stores

Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Plan

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale</i> <i>Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/costs</i> <i>Possible sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or</i> <i>Consulted</i>
Information Services	January 2002 onwards	Include in Newsletters/ Mailshots to each household/on Notice boards: List of Leisure Activities, Bus timetables and Dial a Ride leaflets, Addresses/details relating to Key Services i.e. Highways/Roads/ Transport/Buses/ Footpaths/Health/Police/ MP FODDC/GCC	GKPC	GKPC, Parish Clerk, FODDC, GCC, MP
	April 2003	Parish Handbook to be produced	GKPC	GKPC and Parish Clerk
	December 2003	Parish Calendar	GKPC	Voluntary help with graphics & production
Media Contacts	January 2002 onwards	Report/Advertise Parish activities Meetings/Decisions in local Press	The Forester, The Citizen, Ross Gazette, New Ad, The Chimes	GKPC
Parish Database	September 2002	Contact all households by letter (Transport Group Questionnaire) asking for telephone numbers and email addresses		Clerk GKPC
	October 2002	Use electoral roll and above to set up database. Use information to ascertain target groups and address lists		Clerk GKPC
Newsletters	January 2002 onwards	Increase input into Newsletter. Appeal for advertising from local businesses and leisure/tourist groups. Include useful contact addresses (Transport) (Highway Maintenance). Advertise footpath walks. Advertise local functions. Encourage letters from Parishioners	GKPC Advertisers	Councillor with responsibility for communications and Clerk GKPC

Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Plan

WHAT	WHEN <i>Timescale Priority</i>	HOW <i>Details</i>	FUNDING <i>Needs/ costs Sources</i>	WHO <i>Responsible or Consulted</i>
Mains Gas	August 2002 onwards	Contact any local parishes that have recent experience of such installations. Contact TRANSCO. Contact local parishes re: their possible requirements or joint action.	Clerical costs funded by GKPC Costs of installation by individual householders	Clerk GKPC Other Parish Clerks TRANSCO
	April 2003	Prepare costings/ feasibility study for GKPC to decide way ahead. If agreed, consult all parishioners by letter. If results show sufficient interest contact TRANSCO and all other interested parishes to instigate installation.		GKPC

Recommendations

- Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council should implement those actions identified within this plan and within the time scales suggested.
- Actions already instigated should be monitored for continuing acceptability by the Parish Council.
- Communication channels already developed should be maintained and improved upon as necessary.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this plan in their various ways.

The implementation of the ideas contained within this document is not solely within the gift of Gorsley and Kilcot Parish Council. The onus for realizing our plans will equally be on residents to come together to work on projects and to find resources for implementation with assistance from outside bodies as appropriate. We feel confident that the energy and commitment already shown by parishioners will ensure that this happens.

Monitoring of Progress

This plan will be updated and reviewed as necessary by means of a standing item in the Parish Council's Agenda.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1: B4221 Road Action Group Report

Please see inserted document.

Appendix 2: Open Letter to Gorsley and Kilcot Parish Council

On behalf of all the people who have actively taken part in the creation of this Parish Plan, we, the members of the Steering Committee, recommend to you the contents of this document.

This detailed plan has been clearly based on the views of parishioners elicited during the Parish Appraisal, through membership of various working groups, and at public meetings. As appropriate we have consulted with outside agencies and have welcomed their advice and input to our plan. We feel strongly that the ideas contained herein represent a cross-section of opinion and as such should be formally accepted in full by the Parish Council as a working document for the near future.

We would also like to record our thanks to The Countryside Agency for financially supporting the creation of this plan and to Sarah Owens, GRCC Rural Advisor who has ably supported us since starting this project in February 2002. Also, thank you to Christ Church for allowing us to meet there.

*Parish Plan Steering Committee
February 2003*



Road Traffic Problems on the B4221: An Executive Summary on behalf of members of the local communities

- Problem:**
- * Volume: 6,400 vehicles per 24 hours)all impact upon safety and
 - * Speed: all speed limits violated)the environment.
 - * Size of vehicles: 500-600 HGVs daily.)
 - * Unsuitability of road to cope with: volumes, speeds and vehicle size.
 - * Over half the traffic and goods vehicles use the road as a 'rat run' daily.

Government Policy: The 1997 White Paper:

1. States: "The efficient distribution of goods and services must be weighed against concerns about the quality of urban and rural environment for the people who live there.....**Lorries should not travel on unsuitable roads unless they have to use them for collection or delivery. There is an established network of primary routes which lorry routing should follow.**"
2. Identifies: "a core trunk road network for England". **The B2215/B4221 route is not a part of the core network but is being used as such.**
3. Acknowledges the need for: "tackling transport noise"
"Keeping unsuitable lorries off unsuitable roads", and
"decision-making on transport to be more accountable to local people".

Local Transport Plan (LTP):

Government Policy requires that all Local Authorities (LAs) "prepare and instigate local transport strategies". Differences in the Gloucestershire and Herefordshire LTPs leave the problems of the B4221 unaddressed. Gloucestershire traffic officials have provided statistics to the Group which now seeks action to meet its' aims. Herefordshire Council, whilst recognising problems associated with inappropriate traffic, does not acknowledge the volume, weight and speed of traffic on the B4221 or the concerns of the communities along it.

Both LAs are urged to accept their own findings and to make progress in bringing forward their strategies as outlined in the Government White Paper.

Our Vision? Is the reinstatement of a quiet country road.

- Our strategy:**
- * Effective traffic calming
 - * Reduction in volume, weight and speed of traffic
 - * Avoidance of any improvements that might generate or encourage more traffic
 - * In the longer term, an alternative route to the M50.

It is time for a NEW DEAL for the B4221

We expect to be taken seriously- we expect to be heard-we demand effective and urgent action.

REPORT UPDATE, August 2002

Meeting with Local Authorities

Our report 'Road Traffic Problems on the B4221' was issued in December 2001. Subsequently, the action group met with representatives of the two local authorities, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, together with our MPs, Diana Organ and Paul Keetch. The meeting was attended by Richard S Waters, the Area Traffic Manager for the Forest, representing Gloucestershire County Council and John Colyer Transportation Manager for Herefordshire Council. The main outcomes of the meeting were that;

- a. The report was accepted by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) as part of the consultation process for the Local Transport Plan (LTP).
- b. In response to a suggestion by Paul Keetch MP, GCC has tasked a private contractor (Halcrow) to carry out 'Through Route Road Safety Audit of the B4215/B4221' from the A40 to junction 3 on the M50 to identify the problems and options. Herefordshire Council has agreed to pay for the portion of the study falling within their county.
- c. GCC agreed that the B4221/B4215 is used as a trunk road and Herefordshire recognises the B4221 as a 'principal route'.
- d. GCC are considering the installation of speed cameras at Picklenash School and Kilcot.
- e. GCC have carried out a traffic flow survey of junction 3 of the M50. The purpose of this survey is to enable them to measure the through traffic problem on the B4215/B4221. This will be the first time the GCC has recognised this problem. We look forward to their assessment.
- f. GCC agreed that traffic calming is appropriate on other parts of the route and will discuss this further with the group.

Traffic Survey

We carried out our own survey of the flow of commercial vehicles on the B4221 in May. Our main conclusions were that about a 1,000 commercial vehicles used the B4221 in both directions. About 70% of these were using the road as a through route. About 45% of the total was lorries and 70% to 80% of these were through traffic. 50% more lorries were heading towards the M50 than towards Gloucester. This probably reflects the avoidance of the westbound tolling regime across the Severn Bridge. The survey showed that the B4221 between the M50 and Newent is extremely busy with commercial vehicles, the overall average for the day was one commercial vehicle every minute. The B4221 is a long way from the quiet country road of the past, and the Road Action Group's vision for the future.

Signing Policy

We have discovered that the Highways Agency's signing policy is that traffic between Gloucester and the M50 should use the A417. Local authorities are supposed to take account of this and sign other roads accordingly. Unfortunately, in Herefordshire the signs on the A417/A4172 direct traffic heading from Leominster to Gloucester down the B4215 via Dymock instead of via the Ledbury bypass and the A417. This explains the additional volumes of traffic joining the B4221 at Newent crossroads and heading east along the B4215 towards Gloucester. We have asked GCC to take this up with Herefordshire and to ensure that a consistent signing policy is adopted across the two local authorities.

We do not wish to deny free movement of traffic on the roads but we do have a right to expect through lorries to follow government policy and use the trunk road network and we also have a right to expect the rest of the traffic to respect the speed limits and the interests of people living and working along the route including the children in our schools.

Local Authority Cooperation

It is evident from the Local Transport Plans that the two authorities do not share the same views or policy regarding transport and particularly lorry traffic. This is a constant underlying problem that we believe contributes significantly to the

problems on the B4221/B4215 and complicates any attempt to alleviate them. We can only hope that the Through Route Study (see below) will overcome this problem.

Through Route Road Safety Audit of the B4215/B4221

This study is perhaps the most important development in the campaign since hopefully the product will be the authorities own version of our report. It is therefore extremely important that it contains details of the problems that we all know exists on the route. If they are recognised by the authorities it makes it easier to campaign for solutions to them. It is therefore extremely important that as many people as possible provide an input to the study but unfortunately, as yet, GCC is unwilling to fund a public consultation exercise. They are consulting parish and town councils and the action group but we want wider consultation with the people living and working in the communities along the route. The contractor, Halcrow, has emphasised the importance of local knowledge to their study. So we intend to contact as many people as we can in the hope that they will write to Richard S Waters, Area Traffic Manager (Forest), Environment, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TH, and ask him to include their comments in his input to Halcrow's study.

Support

Finally, our thanks goes to all those who have so generously supported our campaign by contributing to our report, writing letters, making generous donations and simply by being interested.

Brian Collier, for the B4221 Action Group

B4221 ACTION GROUP
UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2003

On 3 February members of the Action Group met with Senior Traffic Managers from Shire Hall in advance of their receiving reports pertinent to the B4221 from their consultants, Halcrow. Together we discussed both short term issues and longer term strategy affecting local transport.

As you may know, a signalled crossing is soon to be installed at Picklenash School with similar installations at the Newent crossroads. The Area Traffic Manager, Richard S Waters, advised that it is likely that one of the outcomes of the recent Safety Study for the B4221 (commissioned after our meeting with officials and MPs in January 2002) is the placing of a 'speed' camera near Picklenash School in the near future.

Recent data collected from specialist equipment placed at Picklenash and Kilcot Cross, shows that traffic speeds are well over prescribed limits supporting claims by residents along the road. The Group intends to make further analysis of the data (provided by Shire Hall) in consolidating our aims for reductions of speed, weight and noise. At the meeting we expressed our concerns about the lack of similar information relating to locations at Gorsley Goffs School and Christ Church. We subsequently understand that Linton Parish Council may be taking action to monitor speeds along the Gorsley stretch of the 4221.

The Transport Planning Officer for Gloucestershire, Colin Knight, talked about future planning for Glos' roads. It was agreed that the Group will meet with the Traffic Managers again, once the consultants' reports are available. To ensure that B4221 issues are addressed we see that it is necessary to maintain contact with officials in order that the problems of through HGVs, excessive speeds and noise pollution on this road are not forgotten.

If you would like to join the Group please let us know. Alternatively keep writing to Richard S Waters (Area Traffic Manger FOD), or Lawrence Elcocks (Area Transportation Manager) expressing your views and concerns regarding traffic issues. Both RSW and LE work at The Shire Hall.

Val Collier
Newent 828393
15 February 2003

Appendix 3: Membership of the Steering Committee and Working Groups

Parish Plan Steering Committee

Molly Boughton, Jenny Carling (Chair), Sheila Clarke, Tom Clarke, Dave Crowhurst, Martyn Davy, Peter Duke, Vivien Ferguson, Graham Price, Pat Scott, Judy Sleet and Martyn Vick.

Amenities, Development & Leisure

Dave Crowhurst (Chair), Peter Duke, Pat Scott and Martyn Vick.

Environment

Gill Bebb, Molly Boughton, Sheila Clarke, Tom Clarke, Deborah Davy, Martyn Davy, Sarah Davy, Jill Errett, Richard Errett, Jim Ferguson, Vivien Ferguson, Cathy Garlick, Lee Hines, Henry Lane and Barry Sleet (Chair).

Transport & Roads

Jenny Carling, Tom Clarke, Sheila Clarke, Deborah Davy, Graham Price, Malcolm Riggs, Judy Sleet (Chair) and Tony Williams

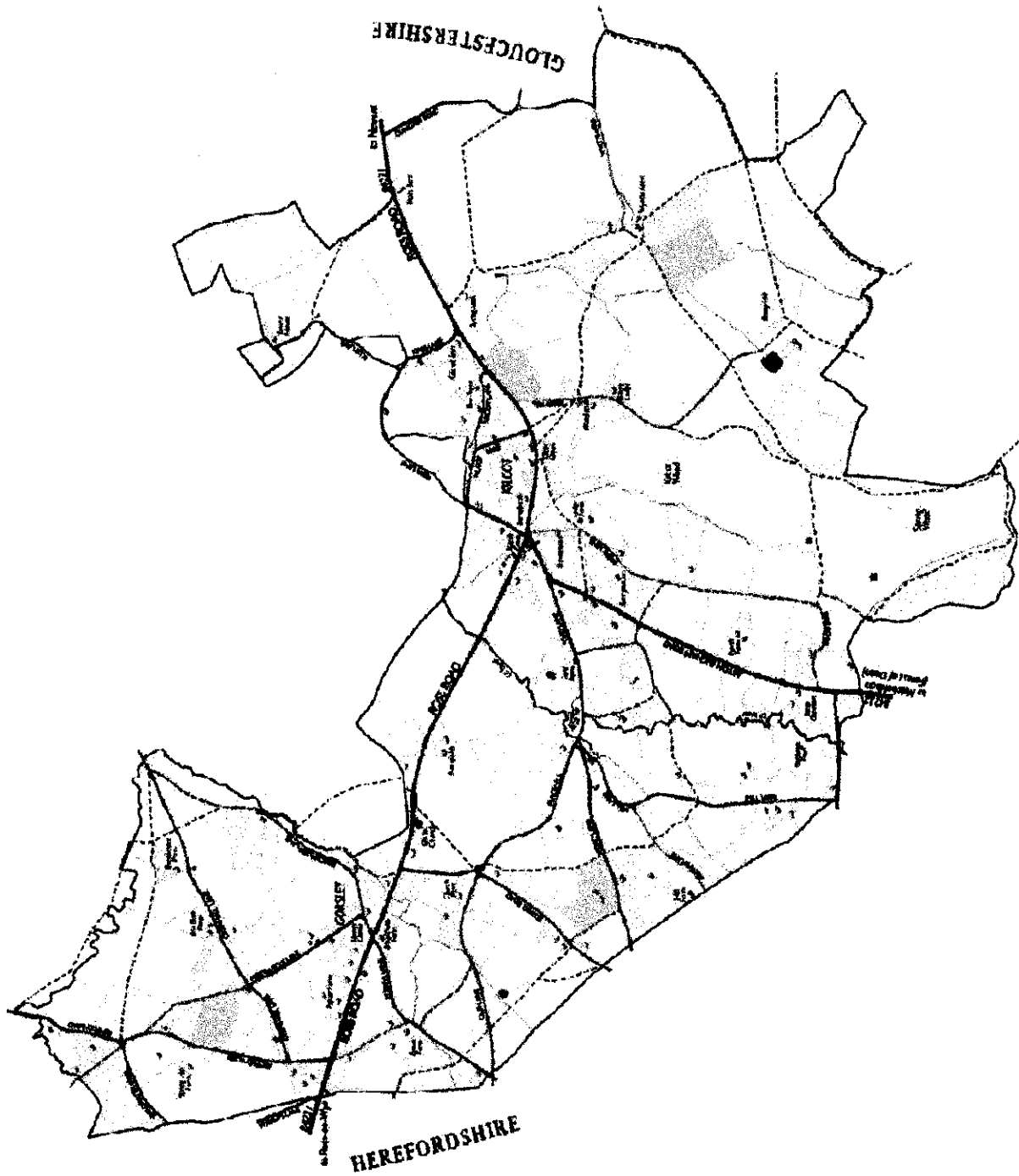
Services and Communication (undertaken by GKPC)

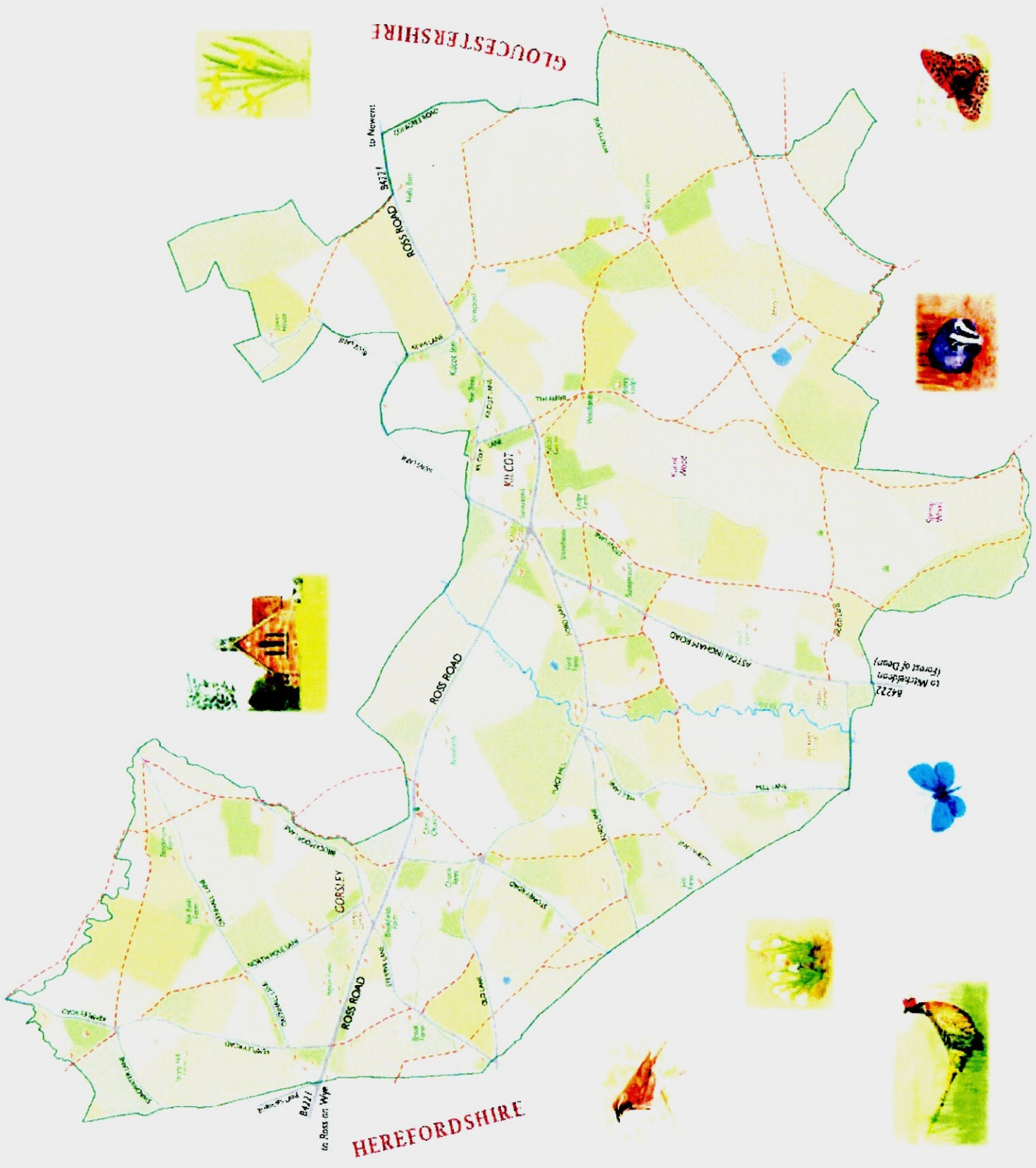
Molly Boughton, Dave Crowhurst, Vivien Ferguson, Graham Price, Pat Scott, Judy Sleet (Chair) and Martyn Vick



Appendix 4: Glossary of Terms

GKPC	Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council
FODDC	Forest of Dean District Council
GCC	Gloucestershire County Council
GRCC	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
GRCC Rural Advisor	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Forest of Dean Rural Advisor
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
HC	Herefordshire Council
Section 137	Local Government Act 1972 S137, which allows a Parish Council to spend £3.50 per elector on anything, which in the opinion of the parish council is in the interests of the parish, but for which the parish council, does not have a specific power.
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
WIG	Woodland Improvement Grant
AMG	Annual Management Grant
NewAd	Fortnightly newspaper of advertisements and notices distributed in the Newent Area.
PO	Post Office





GLoucestershire

HEREFORDSHIRE

to Newport

to Ross on Wye

to Mirkton (Forest of Dean)