

Tidenham Parish Plan

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Tidenham Parish Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Parish Plan document was developed during 2004 and 2005 following two periods of public consultation, a house to house survey which was undertaken in 2001 and a series of parish plan group meetings and public roadshows in 2005.

Tidenham Parish is a large Parish at the Southern extremity of the Forest of Dean District, in Gloucestershire, on the borders of Monmouthshire, close to the town of Chepstow and the Severn Bridge. The Parish has grown up at the confluence of the rivers Severn and Wye, at an important crossing point of these rivers, influenced by Ancient Britons, the Romans, King Offa, the Normans, Victorian engineers such as I K Brunel and in modern times by those who brought the Severn Bridge to the Parish.

The military influence has always been there throughout history, mainly due to the protection of the Wye crossing but also due to the ship-building industries and into the modern day with the Army Camp at Beachley.

For many centuries the parish was either a hunting ground or depended largely on agriculture, fisheries or the extractive industries of quarrying and timber. Following the opening of the Severn Bridge in 1966 to replace the Aust – Beachley Ferry and more recently the new A48 Bridge across to Chepstow in 1988, the parish has been the site of significant residential growth, with high levels of commuting to South Wales and the Bristol area.

The parish is a mixed community comprising a number of village settlements with over 2000 dwellings in total and both private ownership and rented accommodation (including Housing Association, MOD and private). There is a low proportion of young people in the 17 to 30 age group and a high proportion over 60 in the population of over 5000. There are low levels of unemployment and long-term unemployment compared to the district averages, high levels of car ownership but also of public transport use and high levels of degree qualifications. The communities are well served with local facilities, such as shops, doctor's surgeries, schools and public transport giving easy access to Chepstow and other locations. The conclusion which can be drawn from this is that Tidenham is a very attractive place to live.

The future of Tidenham Parish is very much tied in with its environment – both in the way we look after our villages to ensure that they continue to be well maintained – with safer and cleaner streets but also in the way we manage visitors to the Parish. With an AONB, SSSIs, nature reserves, walking routes, cliffs for climbing, caves for exploring, water for skiing & diving, (being only a few of the attractions mentioned in the Plan) as well as proposals for more – such as the Wye Valley Cycle Path Scheme - we must ensure that the inevitable increasing number of visitors are managed so as not to spoil the area for those who live and work here.

THE HISTORY OF TIDENHAM PARISH

Early Evidence of Settlement

The history of the parish of Tidenham has always been deeply influenced by its geographical position at the confluence of the rivers Wye and Severn, with

the need for early man to establish crossing points and settlements. The rivers, as well as being important routes provided an abundance of fish, while the forests teemed with game of many kinds.

The Broadstone at Stroath might have had religious significance but it was also probably a marker stone visible from river craft while other stones way marked forest routes for instance the Stoneway at Stroath. In the Iron Age the local tribes the Dobunni and the more warlike Silures built defensive settlements such as at Spital Meend at Lancaut. As agriculture developed assarts or reddings (forest clearances) increased, especially in the fertile lowlands for example at Beachley and Mopla.

The Romans arrived across the Severn from Aust possibly to establish a camp on Sedbury Cliff. They also drove a road south from Glevum (Gloucester) passing through Tutshill down to Castleford where it is generally thought that there is a Roman bridge, (featured on a Channel 4 documentary in 2005). With the exception of the villa at Boughspring and the discovery of an altar stone on the Chase little evidence has yet been found of other Roman settlements.

The rise of the Kingdom of Mercia saw the construction by King Offa of the great earthwork now known as Offa's Dyke which once and for all established the Wye as the border between England and Wales. By charter Beachley and Lancaut were left in Welsh hands.

Off Beachley Point can be seen the remains of an early Celtic cell perhaps established by a hermit, while at Lancaut stands the church of St. Cewydd also the site of a Celtic settlement, this church was later dedicated to St. James. The flourishing Celtic church in this area was supplanted by the Church of Rome with the coming of the Normans.

Lordship Influence and Civil War

The Saxon Kings had a well documented manor at Tidenham, originally Church End, which the invading Normans absorbed into their Marcher Lordship of Striguil (Chepstow). This Lordship made inroads into the royal hunting forest of the Dean which originally stretched south to the bridge at Chepstow. Tidenham Chase was the hunting ground of Chepstow Castle, while there was also a hunting park at Sedbury.

The growing political power of Striguil was matched in the early 12th century by that of the Church with the foundation of the Cistercian Abbey at Tintern, whose original lands had been granted by the Lordship, much of the northern part of the parish was in the hands of the Abbey. The acquisitive monks also held one third of the tithes of the parish church and appointed the vicar. They also held the fishing rights along the length of both the Wye and the Severn.

It was the lordship however that dominated the life of the parish throughout the Middle Ages until the establishment of the county system in the 1530s

when Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire were created out of the old Marcher Lordships. However the power of the Dukes of Beaufort continued right up until the end of the 19th century. Parish life continued much as it had done with life dependent on agriculture, fisheries and the river trade. The Reformation removed the influence of Tintern Abbey.

At the beginning of the 17th century the Marquis of Worcester's support for the King against Parliament brought the conflict of Civil War into the Parish, strategically situated as it was, on two major crossing points on the Wye and Severn. There were major conflicts at Beachley and Lancaut. Parliament subsequently had all standing buildings demolished on Beachley peninsula.

Agriculture and Fisheries

Tidenham Parish like most of Britain has seen huge change over the last two centuries, in the 1800s the majority of the local population were involved in agriculture, fishing, quarrying or brick making. Most people lived and worked in the local area, many working on tenant farms or smallholdings owned by the Duke of Beaufort, though there were other large scale landowners such as the Marling family for example who owned Sedbury Park. That estate was sold in 1921 and included twenty five farms in Tidenham, Hewelsfield and Woolaston.

Until the 19th century the parish consisted of scattered farms and the only concentrated settlement was at Beachley where the fishing and ferry led to a greater density in population. In the 19th century the development of large hamlets at Woodcroft and Tutshill changed the pattern of settlement, the prosperity of Chepstow as a port linked to Bristol meant that merchants and shipping entrepreneurs moved across the Wye to build their country villas. In the early 20th century William Royce Lysaght who lived at Castleford House was one of the chief landowners in Tidenham parish, his holdings were sold off after his death in the 1940s and by the 1970s most farms were owner occupied. It was not until the mid 20th century that the village of Sedbury was developed and Tutshill became a larger village. By the Second World War very few of the original dwellings in Beachley or Beachley Green survived but the infilling of the Loop at Loop Road re-established the previous settlement of Beachley Green where only five or six of the original cottages survive. The rest of the parish remains much the same, a few small hamlets such as Tidenham and Stroath and the Chase a scattered settlement of farms and cottages.

In the mid 19th Century there were over one thousand salmon putchers (cone, shaped baskets) in ranks in the Beachley area and nine stop boats fishing out in the bay, but by the 1990s the putcher ranks had ceased operation in Beachley Bay and around the same time the stop boats (then based in Chepstow) were also no longer being used.

Industry

In the mid 19th century Isambard Kingdom Brunel was living in Chepstow while his railway was being laid and a bridge constructed at Tutshill across to Chepstow, a unique tubular bridge which was opened in 1852 but remodelled

in the 1960s when the tubes were removed. There were brickyards at Tallards Marsh, Sedbury and at Elmdale, near Chepstow Bridge. The two brickyards made good use of local clay and were conveniently sited alongside the river Wye for easy distribution of the products, both yards were in production until the late 19th century. The use of stone for house building in the late 18th and the 19th centuries shows that there were quarries in the parish at that time, in 1815 there were five quarries allotted for road mending and in the late nineteenth century there were many small quarries especially in the Chase area. Quarrying at Tidenham quarry continued until the early 1990s and is now the home of the National Diving Centre.

Although no heavy industry has ever really been introduced into Tidenham Parish during World War I the National Shipyard No. 2 at Beachley was part of the war effort to replace the many ships lost because of German submarines. The villagers of Beachley were turned out of their houses with just a few days notice and experienced shipbuilders were brought in from the North East of England. No ship was actually completed at the Beachley shipyard though the War Odyssey was begun. Beachley Green was the site of the largest shed in Britain which was later dismantled and removed to Port Sunlight. The opening of Llanwern steelworks also saw a rise in the population of Tidenham and so in the fifties and sixties new houses sprang up in Tutshill, Sedbury and Beachley. Then in 1966 the opening of the Severn Bridge and the M4 motorway and increased car ownership saw more work opportunities away from the parish for local people and so there was more house building for those now employed in Newport, Bristol or beyond.

Communications

The ferries have been an important feature of Parish life over the centuries, the Old Passage between Beachley and Aust was in use for many centuries and was the chief route between England and Wales, though this was later challenged by the New Passage at St. Pierre. The tides and currents between Beachley and Aust (the passage is over one mile wide) made crossing a very dangerous activity and many boats were lost with all occupants. In 1825 James Jenkins and Oliver Chapman of Chepstow and Richard Jenkins of Beachley opened the Old Passage Ferry Company. They built new piers on both banks, introduced a steamboat and so stage coaches became a regular service with up to six a day passing through Beachley. The ferry declined however after the opening of the railways and closed by the end of the nineteenth century but the introduction of motor traffic saw it reinstated in the nineteen twenties by Enoch Williams who ran the company until its closure on the day that the Severn Bridge opened in September 1966. There were three ferry boats in the sixties, the Severn King, Severn Queen and Severn Princess who was a fairly new boat at that time. The King and Queen were both eventually scrapped but the Severn Princess is once again in Beachley where she is being restored as a museum. Other crossings existed between Pighole or Slimeroad and Sheperdine across the Severn.

The present iron bridge was built in 1816 by John Raistrick of Bridgnorth, prior to this there had been several wooden bridges on the site but these lasted fifty

years at most so there have been at least six bridges on this site. In the Civil war the bridge was deliberately destroyed and later rebuilt. The tides at Chepstow (now classed as the third highest rise and fall in the world) contributed to the bridge problems and the fact that it formed the county boundary meant that there were disputes as to who should pay for repairs, Gloucestershire or Monmouthshire. The road leading down to the bridge, Castleford Hill, was opened in the early nineteenth century replacing the Old Hill at the end of Mopla Road opposite the Old Hill was a turnpike house which was destroyed in the 1960s to widen the A48. The new bridge that now carries the A48 into Wales was opened in 1988.

Education and the Army

In the early nineteenth century there were only small dame schools or Sunday schools attached to the churches, at Penmoyle the Misses Phillips ran a dame school and also at Bridge House Miss Penn ran a school for girls. The Jenkins family established a school at Beachley alongside the chapel in 1840 and this was open until the population of Beachley were evicted in 1917. In 1841 the Tidenham National School was opened on a piece of land given by the Duke of Beaufort north of Tidenham Church and closed in 1953. The Tidenham Chase C. of E. School was opened around 1850 in a schoolroom which was built by subscriptions, this closed in 1949. At Tutshill a school was established in 1848 in what is now Church Cottage and then rebuilt on the present site in 1893. By the 1960s the population of Tutshill School had risen to over four hundred, as it was by then the only school in the parish taking junior children and the new estates at Sedbury and Tutshill had seen a large increase in the population. In 1967 a new infant and junior school was opened at Sedbury replacing the infant school in what is now Sedbury Village Hall a building which was part of the Sedbury Camp. In the nineteen seventies Wyedean Comprehensive School was opened, first in Lydney and then relocated to the present site, so ending the bus ride to Lydney for local secondary pupils.

After World War One the Boys' Technical School for apprentice tradesmen was opened by the War Office in 1924 and this became the Army Technical School in 1929. As many of the instructors were civilians there was a big impact on the population, Pennsylvania garden city was purchased for staff and their families and many of today's population are here because their families arrived over the years at what later became the Army Apprentices School.

During the Second World War the school received a direct hit from a German bomber and one apprentice was killed. In 1994 the Army Apprentices College as it was then called closed and the site remained empty for two or three years until it became a regimental base and so Beachley has since been home to several regiments of the British army.

During the First World War and again in World War Two, there were prisoners of war at Sedbury and Beachley, at Sedbury the last remaining buildings belonging to the P.O.W. camp can be seen in Grahamstown Road and in Beachley churchyard the graves of German and Italian prisoners can be seen. In WW1 the prisoners built houses at Pennsylvania and the camp buildings at Sedbury, this was the beginning of what is now Sedbury, the original settlement called Cingestune having been at the junction of the two Sedbury Lanes.

Recent History

Tidenham remains an essentially rural parish with a few villages and hamlets, farms which are mainly dairy or stock rearing and only small industries at Sedbury and Beachley. In the 1990s a successful and popular protest overturned plans to build a Chepstow bypass which would have brought massive development in both residential and warehousing with a road that would have destroyed our historic landscape. Communications and transport have always been the key to parish history and we can only guess at the what the future may bring.

TIDENHAM PARISH TODAY

Location & Government

Tidenham Parish is situated in the South-West Corner of Gloucestershire, within the Royal Forest of Dean District Council Area. Tidenham is the fifth largest settlement in the District, (after the four towns of Lydney, Coleford, Cinderford and Newent). The Parish is bordered by the River Wye to the West, which is also the Welsh border. There are four bridges across the Wye in or near the Parish; the Old Bridge and the New Bridge (A48) connect Tutshill to the town of Chepstow, the M48 Wye Bridge is not accessible from the parish even though it passes over the parish! The fourth is a footbridge (former railway bridge) just outside the Parish across to Tintern. Tidenham is bordered by the River Severn in the East the only bridge on this side is the M48 Old Severn Bridge (see above).

Tidenham Parish includes a number of distinct settlements, Beachley, Sedbury, Tutshill, Woodcroft, Tidenham, Boughspring, Stroat (including Wibdon) and Tidenham Chase. The Parish has a total area of 34km² of which 5km² are estuary. The highest point is in Clayton Woods on Tidenham Chase, 237m above sea level. The parish is 12km from North (Beech Knoll, 510

43.5'N) to South (Confluence of Severn and Wye streams, 51o 36'N) and 6.5km from West (River Wye at Lancaut, 2o 40'W) to East (Beacon Sands in the River Severn, 2o 35'W).

Tidenham Parish Council serves the whole of the parish the council has twelve councillors, elected every four years. Tidenham elects three district councillors every four years to the RFDDC and one County Councillor to the Gloucestershire County Council, (the county division of Tidenham also includes the neighbouring parishes of Woolaston, Hewelsfield & Brockweir, Alvington and Aylburton). The Parish is in the Forest of Dean Parliamentary Constituency and the South West of England European Parliamentary Area.

Bordering Tidenham to the north are two parishes also in the RFDDC area; Hewelsfield & Brockweir on the river Wye and Woolaston on the river Severn. Across the Wye the town of Chepstow and the communities of St. Arvans and Tintern to the north and Mathern to the south, all in Monmouthshire Unitary Authority area, this is in Wales. Across the Severn are the parishes of Oldbury-upon-Severn, Aust and Pilning & Severn Beach, all in the South Gloucestershire Unitary Authority area.

All but a handful of properties in the parish fall within the NP (Newport) Royal Mail postcode area and receive postal deliveries from Chepstow sorting office. Parts of some other parishes along the Wye Valley also have NP postcodes. The remainder of the Parish falls within the GL (Gloucester) postcode area. A number of examples of confusion arising from government and commercial organisations interpreting an NP postcode and Chepstow address as inferring that people live in Wales have arisen over the years.

In 2002 the Parish held a Poll, requesting Royal Mail to act to change the postcode. Royal Mail has done nothing since the Poll was concluded.

All properties in the Parish have Chepstow exchange telephone numbers. A number of complaints result from this in particular with regard to the speed of response to emergency 999/911 calls, which have to be diverted from Cwmbran to Gloucester, in particular for Police. The police are aware of the issue but believe that it does not impact upon their ability to respond.

Policing is provided by the Gloucestershire Constabulary, the police station in Tutshill is not used on a regular basis. The Forest Bobby bus does make regular visits to a number of locations within the parish.

Fire and rescue services are provided by the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, which has a base in Lydney, additional assistance is also provided by the Monmouthshire service which has a base in Chepstow.

Ambulance services are more usually provided by the Wales Ambulance Trust although both the Gloucestershire and Avon Trusts can also provide services, depending upon the hospital being attended.

Population and Households

The national 2001 Census reports the following data for our Parish, with comparisons for the District and Gloucestershire;

Parish (%) District County

Population

Total Population 5316

a. Males 2608 49.1 48.8 48.8

Females 2708 50.9 51.2 51.2

B. 0-15 yrs 1077 20.3 19.6 19.7

16-74 yrs 3748 70.5 72.2 71.7

75+ yrs 491 9.2 8.2 8.6

Health

Long-term illness 973 18.3 18.0 16.1

Poor Health 454 8.5 8.4 7.6

Providing unpaid care 491 9.2 10.6 9.9

Household Composition

Total Households 2078

People/Household 2.43 2.41 2.33

One person 497 23.9 25.7 29.4

Married couple 989 47.6 43.0 38.7

Cohabiting couple 116 5.6 8.2 8.6

Lone parent 141 6.8 7.7 7.8

Other 335 16.1 7.8 15.5

Housing

Total Homes 2161

a. Vacant 76 3.5 2.5 2.7

Second/Holiday 7 0.3 0.8 0.9

Owner occupied 1519 73.1 76.7 74.3

Rented 559 26.9 23.3 25.7

b. Detached 930 44.8 47.3 32.3

Semi-detached 805 38.7 35.7 36.1

Terraced 259 12.5 13.4 20.5

Flats 125 6.0 6.1 13.8

Temporary 42 2.0 1.0 1.0

c. Overcrowded 53 2.6 3.5 4.5

Employment*

Total Active 2580 68.8 68.2 70.3

Total employed 2469 95.7 95.3 96.0

Part-time 482 19.5 20.3 19.6

Full-time 1589 64.4 60.0 62.3

Self-employed 343 13.9 16.9 14.6

Full time student 60 2.4 3.4 3.9

Unemployed 106 4.1 4.4 3.7

Long-term 20 18.9 28.5 28.4

*Employees, Self-employed and Full-time students do not equal total

employed due to an element of double counting (e.g. students who also work part-time).

Total Inactive 1168 31.2 31.8 29.7
Retired 574 49.1 47.0 47.8
Student 88 7.5 10.1 11.6
Home/Family 256 21.9 20.2 20.0
Sick/Disabled 147 12.6 14.9 12.6
Other 103 8.8 7.8 8.1

Travel to Work

Work from Home 278 11.3 12.1 10.7
Travel by: car 1609 65.2 72.6 67.7
public transport 91 3.7 3.3 4.6

Car Ownership

No car/van 312 15.0 16.2 18.7
1 Car/van 967 46.5 42 43.8
2 car/van 799 38.5 41.8 37.5

Education

No qualifications 869 23.2 29.9 24.9
Degree or higher 845 22.5 16.4 21.1

Health Services

Health services are provided by the West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT). There are two doctor's surgeries, both of which are branch surgeries of practices located in Chepstow. This complicates the funding of health services, as the patients are in Gloucestershire, whilst the doctors are based in Monmouthshire. No significant disadvantages have been reported as a result of this situation. The Vauxhall surgery has a branch on Coleford Road, Tutshill providing regular surgeries on at least three days per week. The Town Gate Practice has a branch on Beachley Road, Sedbury providing regular surgeries on each weekday.

Both practices provide dispensing to patients from outside the distance criteria for GP dispensing provision. There is a dispensing pharmacist in Sedbury and additional facilities in Chepstow. The eligibility criteria for free-prescriptions are different in Wales to that in England, on the basis of age. This will be extended to free-prescriptions for all in Wales next year. The impact this will have on our local dispensary facilities is uncertain.

Local Hospital Care and out-patient clinics are provided at Lydney Hospital and Chepstow Hospital. Full General Hospital including Accident and Emergency services are provided at: Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport; Gloucester Royal Hospital; Southmead Hospital, Bristol; Frenchay Hospital, Bristol and at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

A number of dental practices are available in Chepstow and in Lydney the

provision of NHS dentistry is limited and probably does not match the level of need.

Transport

Tidenham is well served by Transport, including good public transport. The A48 travels in a SW direction from Gloucester and Lydney through the Parish for 7km between Stroath and the new Wye Bridge at Tutshill. Much of the A48 follows the line of a roman road. After crossing the Wye into Chepstow, the A48 continues to Newport, Cardiff and Carmarthen in West Wales. The M48 and Old Severn Bridge are only 4km from the parish by road, providing quick access to the national motorway network. Cardiff, Tewkesbury, Swindon and Bridgwater are all within one hour driving time of Tidenham. The B4228 leaves the A48 at Tutshill and goes in a Northerly direction to Coleford passing through Woodcroft and Tidenham Chase for 8km. There are no other classified roads in the Parish.

Public Transport

A local service operates Monday to Saturday, hourly between 08:30 and 17:30 from Beachley to Chepstow, (Dukes Travel 761 is an un-supported service) and hourly from Sedbury to Thornwell (service W1) operated by Stagecoach, supported by Monmouthshire County Council. There is no service on Sunday. An hourly service is operated Monday to Saturday between Newport and Gloucester, serving Tutshill, Tidenham and Stroath along the A48, operated by Stagecoach as service 73. The first bus from Tutshill is at 06:06 to Gloucester and 07:27 to Newport. The last bus from Tutshill is at 17:26 to Gloucester and 17:37 to Newport.

One return journey from Coleford via Tidenham Chase, Woodcroft and Tutshill to Chepstow runs each day, providing a link back to St Briavels, Coleford and Clearwell. This is operated by Dukes Travel as service 707. The bus stops at Tidenham Chase Church at 10:05 in the morning with two return options each day leaving Chepstow at 12:20 and 17:55.

School services available for public use operated by Duke's Travel on Monday to Friday providing return journeys on schooldays only as follows:

729 Cinderford, Yorkley, Lydney - Wyedean School;

730 Soudley, Parkend, Bream, Lydney - Wyedean School;

731 Mitcheldean, Flaxley, Westbury-on-Severn - Wyedean School

All of these services leave Sedbury at 15:25 on the return journey.

Other local bus services operate from Chepstow to Bristol, Monmouth, Cwmbran, Pontypool and Express coach services to Heathrow, Gatwick and London in the East and Cardiff and the South Wales Valleys in the West.

Lydney Dial-a-Ride provided a service during 2004/2005 on a Tuesday for residents who do not have regular access to a car from the parish to Lydney

and Chepstow, unfortunately due to low demand and insufficient subsidy support the service was withdrawn.

Rail services operate at least every two hours from Chepstow to Cardiff, first and last trains at 06:19/23:27 M-Sat and 11:02/23:02 Sun, and to Gloucester, first and last trains at 06:49/00:05 M-F, 06:49/23:04 Sat and 10:52/23:09 Sun. Chepstow railway station is only 600m from the Parish. (Times based on timetable valid from 11/12/05 to 10/06/06).

Public Rights of Way

Tidenham Parish provides 65 km of Public footpath, but no Bridleways or Byways. The Offa's Dyke National Trail starts (or finishes depending on your direction of travel) in the parish at Sedbury Cliff and continues for 12km to Brockweir. The full trail is a 300 km path roughly following the line of the Offa's Dyke Historic Monument and Welsh border to Prestatyn on the Irish Sea coast of North East Wales. The Gloucestershire Way, a 120 km recreational path across Gloucestershire from Chepstow to Tewkesbury crosses the parish for 7km between the old Wye Bridge and Park Hill.

There are no recognised cycle paths in the parish. Sustrans have on a number of occasions proposed converting the old Wye Valley Railway Line between Tidenham and Tintern (including 7km within the parish) into part of the national cycle network. Their proposals would include the conversion of the 1km Tidenham Tunnel from Netherhope Lane to Tintern Quarry. Significant opposition to the proposals put forward by Sustrans in 2005 centred around the lack of appropriate parking facilities adjacent to the cycle route, unsuitable access routes from Chepstow, and likely impact this would have on unsuitable local minor roads. In general the community supports the idea of providing facilities for cyclists but would prefer to see more consideration be given to better access routes and parking facilities. More recently Sustrans have proposed a route between Chepstow and Cinderford, which is likely to include on-road sections within the parish.

Landscape and Biodiversity

The Parish includes five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), a Ramsar Site, a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), part of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and 10 Key Wildlife Sites. The Rivers Severn and Wye have the second biggest tidal range in the world, with a 14m difference between mean low and mean high water at the parish boundaries.

The following details are taken from a study undertaken as part of the Forest of Dean Integrated Rural Development (IRD) programme which has mapped the biodiversity of the whole district.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Severn Estuary 15,950 ha
Pennsylvania Fields, Sedbury 27.0 ha

'The site represents the only example of brackish pastureland overlying alluvial soils in Gloucestershire, including some nationally rare plant species.'

Poor's Allotment, Tidenham Chase 28.6 ha

Shorn Cliff and Caswell Woods, opposite Tintern 69.2 ha

Lower Wye Gorge, Woodcroft and Ban-y-Gor 29.2 ha

'The woodlands of the lower Wye Valley form one of the most important areas for woodland conservation in Britain (comparable with the Caledonian pine-woods, the oceanic oakwoods of western Britain, the New Forest and the mixed coppices of East Anglia), including a number of nationally rare plant species. These woods sit in a matrix of unimproved grassland and other semi-natural habitats, which together make the Wye Valley one of the most diverse, rich and attractive areas in southern Britain.'

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

River Wye 2,234 ha

Key Wildlife Sites

Lippets Grove GWT Nature Reserve, Tidenham Chase

East Wood Limestone Pavement, GWT Nat. Res., Tidenham Chase

Beachley Saltmarshes, Beachley Point

Beachley Grassland, River Wye floodplain, Beachley

Ridley Bottom GWT Nat. Res., Kelly's Lane, Tidenham Chase

Park Grove, Sedbury

Redding Well Alderwood, Stroat

Walter's Weir, Lancaut

James's Thorns, Wye Valley, Tidenham Chase

Ladysmith, Severn bank, Sedbury Cliff

The Countryside Agency has announced that at some point in the future it will consider again the designation of parts of the Forest of Dean as an AONB, the Parish Council will need to consider this carefully if it is likely to impact on the Parish, or if there is wish to see additional parts of the parish designated as such.

In October 2005, as part of the implementation of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, in the West of England, including Gloucestershire, areas of Open Countryside and Registered Common Land become open to public access. In our parish this covers the natural heath area of Poor's' Allotment. Poor's Allotment is managed by an independent charitable trust. Some of the area is rented for livestock grazing, adjacent to Park Hill Lane. The natural Heath area is managed by English Nature and is home to a number of significant species – both flora and fauna. Income from the Trust is used for the relief of need in the parish

Quarrying

The parish has a history of Limestone Quarrying, the largest being the Tintern Quarry at Tidenham Chase, which has outstanding permission for extraction, but is restricted to removing the majority by rail and only limited amounts by road. A Public Local Inquiry in the early 1990s turned down a request to increase the amount which could be extracted by road. Alternative routes between Tidenham Chase and the A48 have been suggested in more recent years, associated with the potential of additional sites in Hewelsfield being identified for quarrying in the Gloucestershire Minerals plan.

The other large quarry at Tidenham Village has now been flooded and converted into an outdoor activity centre – the National Diving and Activity Centre, providing quality deep inland diving opportunities and other associated activities.

There are no active quarries in the parish. Neighbouring quarries can still create disturbances due to blasting, crushing and visual amenity, the Livox Quarry on the opposite bank of the Wye, in Monmouthshire, is particularly visible from some parts of the Parish. The Parish Council is committed to continuing to oppose new quarrying proposals which would significantly intrude into the landscape in or around the parish or increase movements of stone on roads in the parish and will continue to assess issues with neighbouring quarries. The Parish Council will ensure it is fully involved in any future revisions of the County Minerals Plan.

Development

The Parish contains over 2000 dwellings, of these some 64 are listed buildings/structures, including two grade I structures:

- i. The Old Severn Bridge/M48
- ii. Chepstow Bridge , crossing the Wye from Tutshill and four Grade II*
- iii. The church of St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham
- iv. Stroat Farmhouse
- v. Sedbury Park
- vi. Mead Farmhouse

Many of the Grade II listed structures are grave memorials and milestones, others include: pump & spring at Tidenham Church, Philpots Court, Wibdon Farm, Stroat Farm, Stroat House, Tippets Barn, Day House Farm, Powder House Farm, St Luke's Church, Church Cottage, Archway – Woodcroft, Pen Moel House, St John's Church Beachley & School, Beachley House, Severn Lodge, Tutshill Lodge, Buttington Stone, St John's on the Hill School, St. Twrog's Chapel, Ty-Gwilym, Wirewoods Green Manor, Gloucester House, Lancaut Farm, St James Church ruin, Tutshill Lookout Tower, Wyecliffe, Bridge-End Cottage, Mead Barn, Bishton Farm, Wye Railway Bridge and M48 Wye Bridge. The parish council has full details for all of the listings.

Over 100 new homes have been completed in the parish since the 2001 census, mainly on the Bigstone development in Tutshill. Outstanding permission has also been obtained for the Berto-pak site in Sedbury.

The parish council's development policy is to support small scale in-fill development to cater for local needs and to oppose large scale extensions of village boundaries or any new development in open country. In that part of the parish in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty development should and will be more restricted.

District and Regional Planning

The District Council was, at the time of production of the Parish Plan close to concluding its discussions with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) regarding modifications to the District Local Plan which will lead to publication. No significant development sites within the parish are identified in the latest draft or likely to be included in the final document.

Significant development at Lydney is likely to have an impact on vehicles using the A48 through Tidenham Parish. The speed of development at Lydney is likely to be limited as part of the final modification. The Parish Council will need to consider the implications for the parish of significant increases in A48 traffic.

In the 1990's the Parish Council with local groups objected to proposals for an outer by-pass of Chepstow, (which would have been built mostly within the parish, crossing Beachley, Sedbury and Tidenham including a new bridge across the Wye) and associated large scale development, including over 2000 houses, successfully removing such proposals from revisions of the County Structure Plan.

Recent suggestions of a third Severn Crossing between Over and Beachley (probably in the Lydney/Sharpness area) could provide some relief for the A48, providing that tolling is equitable with the existing crossings. Further developments will need to be closely monitored by the Parish Council.

The District Council is now in the process of formulating its Local Development Framework (LDF), which will replace the District Plan. The South West Regional Assembly is also currently reviewing the Regional Spatial Strategy, which will determine the levels of development which will be allowed within the District in the period 2006 – 2026.

Education

There are a number of pre-school providers within the parish:
Tutshill pre-school, at the Tidenham Memorial Hall in Tutshill.
Sedbury pre-school, at the Village Hall on King Alfred's Road in Sedbury.
Beachley pre-school, MOD community rooms, Wyvern Road, Beachley.
Riverside Nursery, Tutshill.
St. Johns on the Hill School Nursery, Tutshill.

There are three primary schools in the Parish:
Offa's Mead Primary, Sedbury. – Gloucestershire County Council.
Tutshill Church of England Primary, Tutshill – Gloucestershire County Council.
St John's on the Hill, Tutshill - private preparatory school.

Other Primary schools are in Chepstow, St. Briavels and Woolaston.

There is one Secondary School in the Parish:

Wyedean Secondary School and sixth form centre, in Sedbury. Wyedean has maths and computing specialist status.

Other secondary schooling is available in Chepstow and Lydney.

Alternative tertiary education is provided at Chepstow Comprehensive School, Five Acres College, Newport College and Filton College near Bristol.

Evening classes are available at Wyedean School and at Chepstow School.

Library services

Gloucestershire County Council Mobile Library provides a service to most parts of the parish on a regular basis. There are libraries in Lydney and Chepstow and at the Community Village Shop in neighbouring Brockweir.

Sports and Recreation

Wyedean School sports facilities are available for community use out of school hours, providing a range of activities in the main sports hall as well as fitness room, tennis courts and grass pitches. Other facilities are available in Chepstow and Lydney, both providing Swimming Pools. Tidenham recreation ground provides a football pitch, used by Tidenham AFC. Other successful football teams play at Wyedean (Sedbury Strollers) and Beachley Camp (British Legion). The primary schools also have grass pitches available for their use, including facilities for Rugby and Cricket used by St. John's School.

There are six equipped children's play areas in the parish two are within the Army development at Beachley. The other four are all supported by the Parish Council at: Dane's Hill, Sedbury; Wyebank Road, Sedbury; Recreation Ground, Tutshill and at Woodcroft. There is also a Skate Park with Youth Shelter and grass pitch on Buttington Road, Sedbury.

The parish provides for a wide range of outdoor activities:

Quad Biking – at Sedbury and on Tidenham Chase.

4X4 off-road driving at Severn Dale.

Equestrian Centre at Severn Vale.

Sub-Aqua Diving at the National Diving Centre in Tidenham Quarry, providing the deepest inland diving facility in the UK, used by members of the public as well as Emergency Services and Military from many parts of the country.

Climbing at Wintour's Leap in Woodcroft and some other locations.

Abseiling at Wintour's Leap and the National Diving Centre.

Caving in the Wye Valley at Ban-y-Gor cave and on Tidenham Chase at Miss Grace's Cave Complex.

Walking throughout the Parish, including the Offa's Dyke National Trail (see 'Public Rights of Way' below).

Sailing on the Severn, Water Skiing on the Wye and occasionally rafting.

Whilst all these activities are taking place, unfortunately occasionally accidents can happen. Sedbury is home to the Severn Area Rescue Organisation (SARA) - the second largest marine rescue organisation after the RNLI -. SARA has bases in other locations along the Severn and Bristol Channel. At Sedbury they are unique, as the only organisation providing Marine, Cliff and Cave rescue in the UK.

Community Buildings

In addition to local school and church facilities there are five public houses (Ferry Inn at Beachley, Fisherman's at Sedbury, Cross Keys and Live & Let Live both in Tutshill and Rising Sun at Woodcroft), a British Legion Club and four community halls in the Parish:

Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury
Is owned by the Parish Council as custodian trustee, following purchase of the site and building in early 2005 from Gloucestershire County Council. The hall is managed by a Charitable Trust Management Committee. Activities include: Dog training, Sedbury and Beachley Women's Institute, Bingo and Pre-school.

Tidenham War Memorial Hall, Coleford Road, Tutshill
Also owned by the Parish Council as custodian trustee, following transfer from a private committee in 2002. The hall is managed, along with the Recreation Ground by a Charitable Trust Management Committee. Activities include: Tutshill Women's Institute, Club 98, Tidenham Old Folks Club, Pre-school and Mother's and Toddlers. Changing room facilities for the Recreation Ground are also sited within the Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall buildings also include a flat, rental income being used to improve facilities at the Hall.

Tidenham Chase Old School, Rosemary Lane
Is owned and managed by an independent charitable trust. Activities include: Tidenham Gardening Club and Tidenham Chase Women's Institute.

Alexandra Hall, Beachley Camp
On Wyvern Road, is owned by the Ministry of Defence and managed by Army staff and families, providing a range of activities for Army families and other members of the local community including Youth Club and Cafe. The pre-school is operated from a separate building to the main hall

Churches

There are nine church buildings in the parish:

Five Church of England – St James Lancaut (ruin), St James Beachley (closed), St Mary & St Peter Tidenham, St Luke Tutshill and St Michael and All Angels Tidenham Chase

A Roman Catholic Church in Sedbury.

Three Evangelical – Stroat Mission, Grahamstown Road Mission and Woodcroft Christian Centre

Settlement Summaries

The remaining information in this section; 'Tidenham Parish Today' is contained in a series of descriptions of each settlement within the parish.

Beachley

Retail Public House - Ferry Inn

Industry Limited manufacturing activities

Land Agriculture - mainly pasture
Area of Agricultural Improvement (Tip)

Residential Ministry of Defence 200 dwellings
Park Homes 55 dwellings
Other 110 dwellings

Development Further MOD land could be developed (Crown immunity from planning permission means the MOD area is excluded from the Local Development Framework).

Community Severn Area Rescue Association
Disused Church and closed churchyard - managed by the parish council
Bus service to Chepstow (hourly)
MOD facilities include; Community Hall, Pre-school, sports, two children's playgrounds and church.
Four royal mail collection boxes – Old Ferry Inn, Church Cottages, Beachley Camp and Loop Road.
BT Callbox at Old Ferry Inn/Old Coach Close.

Landscape Leisure use of Severn and Wye, managed by Gloucester Harbour Trustees (GHT).

Ramsar Site – Severn Estuary

SSSIs – Severn Estuary, River Wye and Pennsylvania Fields

Sedbury

Retail General Store with external auto-teller machine

Newsagent

Pharmacy

Hair Salon

Haberdashers

Post Office

Butcher
2 x Hot Food Take-Away outlets
Public House – The Fisherman's.

Industry A number of engineering activities.
Car Maintenance

Land Quad biking
Racehorse training
Agriculture - pasture, dairy, livestock, forage/feed woodland and arable

Residential Nursing Home 75 persons
Other 730 dwellings
A significant proportion of which are Housing Association
Bed and Breakfast

Development The Bertopak site has residential permission.

Community Doctors Surgery
Council Office/CAB (King Alfred's Centre)
Primary School
Secondary School with sixth form centre, adult education and Leisure Centre
Grass Pitch, skateboard park and youth shelter
Two children's play areas
Evangelical Church on Grahamstown Road,
Catholic Church on Grahamstown Road
Village Hall, parish notice board
British Legion
Half-hourly bus service to Chepstow.
2 Royal Mail collection boxes - Sedbury Post Office and Upper Sedbury Lane.
BT Telephone Box at King Alfred's Road

Landscape Start of Offa's Dyke National Trail
Ramsar Site – Severn Estuary
SSSIs – Severn Estuary, River Wye and Pennsylvania Fields
Tumulus indicated in Sedbury Park
Buttington Tump
Tutshill

Retail General Store
Post Office – closed, seeking sale or replacement?
Butcher etc
Car Sales x 3
Public Houses - Cross Keys and Live and Let Live

Industry Motor Maintenance x 3
Building Services

Land Agriculture - mainly pasture, dairy
Horticulture

Residential Nursing Home 32 persons
Wyebank and The Martins 320 dwellings
West of Railway Line 560 dwellings
(Includes Bigstone Meadow development 100)

Community Doctors Surgery
Primary School with grass pitch
Fee-paying Primary School with playing fields
Half-hourly Bus Services to Chepstow
Hourly Bus services to Gloucester and Newport
Daily bus service between Coleford & Chepstow
Police Station
Village Hall with changing rooms
Football Pitches
Children's play area
Church of England (St. Luke's) with closed churchyard – managed by the
Parish Council
Fee-paying Nursery/pre-school
Five Royal Mail collection boxes – Wyebank Road, Beachley Road,
Gloucester Road, Sedbury Lane and Elm Road.
Two BT telephone boxes at Sedbury Lane and Coleford Road
Parish Notice board

Landscape Offa's Dyke National Trail
Gloucestershire Way
SSSI – River Wye
AONB – Wye Valley
Historic Lookout Tower (Tut)
Access land between Mopla Road and river Wye
Conservation Walks between School and Elmdale
Woodcroft and Lancaut

Retail Public House - Rising Sun

Industry None

Land Agriculture dairy, livestock, pasture and forage
Former Quarries

Residential Incl. Broadrock 130 dwellings

Community Children's play area
Evangelical Centre
Daily bus service between Coleford and Chepstow
Royal Mail collection box at Woodcroft Close.
BT telephone box at Woodcroft Close.

Landscape Offa's Dyke National Trail
Gloucestershire Way
SSSI – River Wye and Lower Wye Gorge
AONB – Wye Valley

Broadleaved woodland
Lancaut Peninsula including Spital Meend Fort, permissive paths and the remains of St. James' Church.
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve – Lancaut and Ban-y-Gor.
Wintour's Leap overlooking Wye Valley

Tidenham and Boughspring

Retail NONE

Industry Farm Dairy and engineering at Bishton Farm

Land Agriculture - pasture, livestock, forage, arable incl. organic dairy
National Diving Centre
Livery Stables/Equestrian Centre
4x4 driving

Residential Incl. Bishton 100 dwellings
Development – Tidenham House and diving centre

Community Hourly Bus services to Gloucester and Newport
Church of England (St Mary & St Peter) with closed churchyard – managed by the Parish Council
Five Royal Mail collection boxes – Tidenham Lane/Gloucester Road junction, Tidenham village, Coleford Road/Netherhope Lane junction, Coleford Road/Boughspring junction, Boughspring/Hanley Lane junction.
One BT telephone box in Tidenham Village, due to be removed.
Parish notice board

Landscape Offa's Dyke National Trail
Gloucestershire Way
Ramsar Site – Severn Estuary
Broadleaved woodland
AONB – Wye Valley
SSSI – Severn Estuary, River Wye, Lower Wye Gorge

Stroat and Wibdon

Retail NONE

Industry NONE

Land Agriculture (Pasture, forage and arable)

Residential 50 dwellings

Development Outstanding permission for farm diversification

Community Hourly Bus services to Gloucester and Newport

Evangelical Church – Stroath Mission
Royal Mail collection box - Stroath Lay-by
BT telephone box at Stroath Lay-by

Landscape Ramsar Site – Severn Estuary
SSSI – Severn Estuary
Broad Stone indicated in Stroath

Tidenham Chase

Retail NONE

Industry Commercial vehicle depot and poultry processing

Land Agriculture – poultry raising, livestock, pasture, forage and feed
Forestry soft wood and hard wood
Closed quarry with permission for further extraction
Various small closed quarries
Quad Biking

Residential 55 dwellings
Bed & Breakfast

Development None

Community Daily bus service between Coleford and Chepstow
Church of England (St Michael & All Angels) with parish burial ground.
Royal Mail collection box - Miss Graces Lane.

Landscape Offa's Dyke Path National Trail
Gloucestershire Way
Nature Reserve
SSSIs – Poor's Allotment, Lower Wye Gorge, River Wye, Shorncliff & Caswell Woods
AONB – Wye Valley
Mixed Woodland – including Shorn Cliff, part of the Ravine Woodlife project.
Site of Roman Building in Boughspring
Hut circles indicated at East Vaga
Monument in Parson's Allotment
Poor's Allotment, including an area of managed Natural Heath which will be Open Access land from October 2005.
The Forestry Commission are also managing The Park – an area on the other side of the Coleford Road from Poor's Allotment to extend the total area of Natural Heath in the Parish.

THE FUTURE OF TIDENHAM PARISH

Questionnaire - 2001

In 2001 Tidenham Parish Council conducted a door to door questionnaire survey of the whole parish, over 500 households responded to the survey. Some of the results from the survey are shown below:

Is anybody in need of alternative accommodation?

3.0% Yes
95.8% No

How many bedrooms are needed?

31 Bedrooms
1.48 Bedrooms per dwelling

If unable to move to accommodation of the type needed, is it due to?

4 Price
1 Lack of suitable stock to buy
11 Lack of local authority/housing association houses
1 Lack of private rented accommodation
1 Lack of physically accessible stock
2 No suitable sheltered housing
2 Not able to get a job
5 Unable to afford the cost of moving
5 Other financial commitments
3 Other

How well does the parish council publicise its decisions and activities?

4% Very well
39% Fairly well
31% Badly
26% No opinion

Do you think the centre of Sedbury could be improved by?

40% Traffic calming measures
9% Pedestrianization
35% Other ways of improvement
16% It does not need improvement

What should be done to protect and enhance the environment?

24% Roads/verges/footpaths
19% Development control
29% Clear litter/rubbish
18% More police & vehicle control
7% Youth activities
3% Dog control

The full results are available in Appendix 1 of the full Parish Plan document. Since then the Parish Council has been pursuing a number of the priorities which were identified from the survey:

Regular Parish Newsletters delivered to all households.
Traffic calming in Sedbury.
Dial-a-Ride.
Improvements to litter clearance and provision of dog-bins.

A further consultation in Sedbury and Beachley supported the Parish council's purchase of the Village Hall site on King Alfred's Road, which was completed in 2005.

Roadshow - 2005

As part of the Parish Plan Process, the Parish Council organised a series of consultation meetings with people representing as many community groups in the parish as possible during 2004. These meetings identified a number of different ideas and issues which people put forward as priorities for the future development of the parish. These ideas were grouped into five categories and put forward to public consultation at a series of road shows around the Parish during May 2005. Road show events were held at the following locations:

Alexandra Centre, Beachley.
Wyedean School – during school breaks for pupils and staff.
War Memorial Hall, Tutshill.
Tutshill Carnival, Recreation Ground.
Parish Annual Meeting, Wyedean School, Sedbury.

The consultation was open to all people involved in the parish, not just people living here, but those visiting and working in the parish. Consultees were presented with the ideas identified at the meetings and some background information on display boards. Each person was given eight coloured sticky dots, they were asked to place these against the idea which they supported. They could indicate priority by placing as many of their dots on any single or combination of separate ideas. The five categories and three proposals in each are described as follows:

A. Communication

The Parish Council distributes a Parish Newsletter to each household four times per year. The Parish Council has started to include items of interest from other local groups, schools etc. Many organizations with an interest in, or which organize activities in the Parish have Web-Sites, including schools, businesses, District and County Councils, neighbouring town and parish councils, social groups etc.

Do you support better communications within the Parish?

1. Newsletter: The Parish Newsletter should be expanded further to include

news from all groups in and around the Parish of interest to the community. There should also be a welcome pack for new residents giving information about the parish and services available in and around the parish.

2. Web-site: The Community should develop a Parish newsletter through a Web-Site, providing links to other web-sites of interest to the community?

3. Parish Office: The Parish Council should have an office where the public could access council services?

B. Visitors to the Parish

The following activities are currently undertaken in the Parish: Diving, Rock Climbing, Water-skiing, Caving, Walking, Abseiling, Off Road 4x4 Driving, Quad Biking, Orienteering and Equestrian.

Do you support the provision of additional facilities for visitors to the Parish:

1. Facilities in Woodcroft: Toilets and car parking in Woodcroft for rock climbers and other visitors.

2. Cycle Path Scheme: The Sustrans proposals for the Wye Valley Cycle Path along the old railway line from Tidenham to Tintern including using the Tidenham Tunnel, including adequate car-parking for visitors.

3. Old Hill: Improvements to the Old Hill in Tutshill to provide a better welcome to many of the visitors to our Parish, including clearing overgrowing shrubs & trees, signposts, benches etc.

C. Community Facilities

The Parish is well served with community facilities, many of which are supported by or managed with the assistance of the Parish Council, others are provided by the MOD, schools and voluntary groups. In 2005 the Council completed the purchase of the Village Hall in Sedbury. In 2004 the Parish Council secured funding for a skate-park in Sedbury and following public consultation it was sited at the Buttington Road recreation ground, the Parish Council provided funds for the fencing of the area. The Sedbury and District Leisure Gardeners manage the allotments in Sedbury and currently are letting all plots and have a waiting list.

Do you support further investment in community facilities?

1. Sedbury Village Hall: Re-building of the King Alfred's Road site to provide a new Village Hall in Sedbury

2. Buttington Road Recreation Ground: Improvements to the Buttington Road

recreation round, to include better fencing, seating, football pitch, etc.

3. Allotments: Provision of additional allotments in another area of the Parish.

D. Transport

Tidenham Parish is well served by public Transport: Direct buses to Chepstow, Newport, Lydney and Gloucester; services from Chepstow to Cardiff, Bristol, London, Heathrow and Gatwick Airports; trains from Chepstow to Gloucester and Cardiff. The Parish Council secured a Dial-a-Ride service for people who have no car-access. Traffic is an issue in a number of locations in the Parish. The traffic calming on Beachley Road Sedbury is nearly complete.

Do you support improvements to public transport and road safety?

1. Dial-a-Ride: Investment to secure the continuation of or extension of the Dial-a-Ride facility?
2. Traffic Calming in Tutshill: Further traffic calming on Beachley Road in Tutshill and on Coleford Road, particularly around Tutshill School?
3. A48 Speed Reduction: Extension of the speed limit From Chepstow to Tidenham on the A48?

E. Development

The Parish has seen infill development in a number of areas and larger scale development at Bigstone Meadow in Tutshill. The Bertopack site in Sedbury is awaiting development. The Parish Council policy is to support small scale development, particularly of affordable homes throughout the Parish, and to oppose large scale developments. There have been a number of proposals for workshop type development of farm buildings within the parish.

Do you support the development of more buildings in the Parish?

1. Tidenham Quarry: Development associated with the National Diving and Activity Centre at Tidenham Quarry.
2. Affordable Homes: Affordable homes in small groups and in-fill development, to enable local people to live locally, supporting schools and shops.
3. Commercial Development and Farm Diversification: More commercial development to provide workshops and offices for small business, including farm diversification.

The Results & Action Plan

Over 300 people took part in the public consultation. The following table shows the rank for each proposal from each event and the overall rank.

No	Subject	B	W	C	T	S	Overall
A1	Newsletter	10	7	14	4	1	8
A2	Web-site	12	9	12	7	11	13
A3	Parish Office	4	13	10	12	11	12
B1	Facilities in Woodcroft	6	9	8	11	1	6
B2	Cycle Path Scheme	2	3	1	6	6	2
B3	Old Hill	6	11	5	3	10	6
C1	Sedbury Village Hall	8	7	9	12	4	9
C2	Buttington Road Rec.	8	4	11	12	7	10
C3	Allotments	10	15	15	15	14	15
D1	Dial-a-Ride	2	14	7	4	1	4
D2	Tutshill Traffic Calming	1	12	2	1	11	3
D3	A48 Speed Reduction	12	2	3	7	7	5
E1	Tidenham Quarry	12	5	13	9	15	14
E2	Affordable Homes	5	1	3	2	4	1
E3	Commercial Development	12	6	5	10	9	10

Key

B – Beachley Community Centre
W – Wyedean School
C – Carnival, Tutshill Recreation Ground
T – Tutshill Memorial Hall
S – Sedbury – Annual Parish Meeting

e.g. At Wyedean the most dots were applied to the “Affordable Homes” suggestion and least dots to the “Allotments” suggestion.

The overall ranking resulted in the following identification of priorities:

Very High

Three proposals generated Very High support, ranking first second or third at three events:

i. Affordable Homes

The Parish Council will work with local housing associations and the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) to identify the level of local need for affordable housing and potential sites for additional development and will ensure larger scale developments include appropriate levels of affordable homes.

ACTION: Parish Council Planning Committee and GRCC.

ii. Traffic Calming in Tutshill

The Parish Council will work with the governors of Tutshill School to implement their Travel Plan and with Gloucestershire County Council to secure restrictions on the Coleford Road, including more appropriate signage at the junction of Gloucester Road and A48. The Parish Council will also continue to lobby the County Council to improve Bream Road junction, Lydney to enable de-classification and weight restriction of the Coleford Road between Tutshill and Trow Green.

ACTION: Parish Council Highways Committee and Glos. County Council.

iii. Wye Valley Cycle Path Scheme

The Parish Council supported in principle the proposal for the conversion of the Wye Valley Railway for use by cyclists, walkers and horse-riders. The Parish Council is concerned that the Sustrans' preferred route from Chepstow to Bishton Bridge is unsuitable and that appropriate parking for those arriving in Tidenham by car to access the route is provided to avoid inappropriate use of local roads. The Parish Council will continue to support well thought out proposals for cycling in the parish.

ACTION: Parish Council.

High

Two other proposals are rated High, having ranked first, second or third at two events:

iv. Dial-a-ride

The Parish Council should continue to lobby the County Council to continue/re-instate the dial-a-ride service in Tidenham Parish.

ACTION: Parish Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Lydney Dial-a-Ride.

v. A48 Speed reduction

The Parish Council will continue to lobby the County Councils and Police to reduce speed limits on the A48 between Tidenham Lane and Chepstow Bridge.

ACTION: Parish Council Highways Committee, Gloucestershire County Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Medium

These three proposals received Medium levels of support, ranking 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at one event:

vi. Newsletter

The Parish Council will continue to develop the newsletter, to include news for the wider community. Other community groups will support the Parish Newsletter by providing news and information for inclusion in the newsletter. The Parochial Church Council will develop their existing welcome pack into a comprehensive information pack for new residents.

ACTION: Parish Council, Parochial Church Council and all community groups.

vii. Improvements to the Old Hill

The Parish Council will continue to press the County Council to improve the Old Hill, through maintenance of walls, steps, benches, lighting, handrails and clearance of overhanging vegetation, wall tops and verges. As this is part of the Offa's Dyke National Trail the Countryside Agency's Access and Recreation division should be able to assist with this project.

ACTION: Parish Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Countryside Agency.

viii. Visitor Facilities in Woodcroft

The Parish Council will investigate the needs and potential to provide facilities: toilets, car-parking etc.

ACTION: Parish Council, Wye Valley AONB, Climbing Club, County and District Councils.

The remaining proposals will be reviewed at some time in the future as appropriate. The full results from the roadshow events are available in Appendix 2 of the Parish Plan Document.

Other Comments

Consultees were also able to put forward their own ideas. Some of these also attracted the support of others by having additional sticky dots applied to them. Those attracting more than ten dots were:

Bring Back Tutshill Post Office – 45 dots

Remove road markings and traffic calming – 27 dots

Off-road motorcycling for youngsters – 16 dots

The Parish Council will need to consider how it can help to achieve the reinstatement of Post Office facilities at Tutshill.

ACTION: Parish Council and Royal Mail.

The reaction to traffic calming on Beachley Road, Sedbury may be due to them recently having been completed. Given that more traffic control measures featured highly in the main part of the consultation, there is clearly support for such measures. The Parish Council will need to ensure that any schemes receive popular support, through good design and wider consultation prior to implementation.

The parish council has worked hard to develop facilities for the youth of the parish, but there obviously appear to be other demands which are not being satisfied.

ACTION: Parish Council to consider other issues as appropriate.

The full list of additional comments can be found in Appendix 3 of the full Parish Plan Document.

Acknowledgments and Contacts

Thanks should go to the following:

Tidenham Historical Group and in particular Liz McBride and Keith Underwood for writing the first Chapter "THE HISTORY OF TIDENHAM PARISH". Details of the Group can be found on the following Web link:
<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CommunityDB/details.aspx?id=283>

Tidenham Parochial Church Council (PCC), in particular Julia Parsons for the contribution to the Parish Plan meetings and their work on the Parish Welcome Pack.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO), Office of National Statistics (ONS) and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) for the reproduction of Census Data for Tidenham Ward, under the following Government Click-use Core licence:

Licence Number: C02W0008190

The Census data for Tidenham can be accessed via the following Web link:
<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5899>

Councillor John Powell for some of the photographs.

Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground, Sedbury Village Hall and Wyedean School for providing rooms for meetings and public consultation events.

Traveline South West for the detailed information on public transport services. Full details of all the services are available on their web site:
<http://www.travelinesw.com/>

The Forest of Dean Integrated Rural Development (IRD) and Building on What's Special (BOWS) programmes in association with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) for the Biodiversity and Landscape designation details. Full details of designated landscape can be found on the English Nature web-site: <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/DEFAULT.ASP>

Details of GWT sites on their web-site at:

<http://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/index.php?section=places:reserves>

The BOWS web-site is within the District Council at:

http://www.forestofdean.gov.uk/content.asp?Parent_Directory_id=254&nav=522

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) and Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) for their support and grant aid towards the development and production of the plan.

Details on their web-sites at: <http://www.acre.org.uk/>

http://www.grcc.org.uk/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

Councillor Steve Ford for coordinating the Parish Questionnaire in 2001.

Clive Hooper, Clerk to Tidenham Parish council since 2001 and
Liz Avery-Brown, Clerk until 2001

Councillors Ashley, Birch, Blunt, Bowshall, Dunbar, Edwards, Ford, Gregory, Harrison-Higgins, Hopkinson, Hobbs, Hossack, Lunn, Martin, Powell, Seager and Telfer, who have all served the Parish Council at some time between 2001 – 2005, during which the work on the Parish Plan has been undertaken, for their help and support.

All those who filled in their questionnaires in 2001 and took part in the 2005 public consultation, and everyone who lives in, works in or visits our parish for making it such a great place to be.

Parish Plan Coordinator – Lance Allan

Other web sites of interest:

District Council: <http://www.fdean.gov.uk/>

District Tourism and Visitor Information: <http://www.fweb.org.uk/dean/>

Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club: <http://www.rfdcc.org.uk/>

Outdoor Activities: <http://www.ndac.co.uk/>

<http://www.ukclimbing.com/databases/crags/craginfo.html?id=51>

<http://www.chepstowoutdooractivities.co.uk/Findus.htm>

<http://www.offasdyke.demon.co.uk/>

<http://www.severnvale-equestrian.com/>

Police: <http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/index/1.html>

<http://www.gwent.police.uk/>

Schools: <http://www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk/>

<http://www.stjohnsonthehill.co.uk/>

<http://www.tutshillcofeschool.co.uk/>

<http://www.offasmead.ik.org/>

<http://www.chepstowschool.com/welcome.html>

Beachley Army Camp: <http://www.boba-beachley.org.uk/index2.html>

<http://www.homestead.com/armyapprenticescollege/>

<http://www.army.mod.uk/greenhowards/>

Businesses: <http://www.theoldferryinn.co.uk/>

<http://www.ajdairies.co.uk/>

<http://www.ucarewecare.com/monmouthshire/chepstow-nursing-homes.php>

http://www.sedburypark.co.uk/the_belfry.htm

Doctors: <http://www.near.co.uk/doctors-chepstow/317>

The official J K Rowling: <http://www.jkrowling.com/>

Appendix 1

Full Results from the Questionnaire - 2001

How many people responded?

566 Households

1302 People

2.30 People per household

Age and gender distribution

People	0-4	5-10	11-15	16/17	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Total
Male	20	32	26	19	31	105	149	74	95	53	12	616
Female	26	35	43	11	24	115	178	75	100	64	15	686
Total	46	67	69	30	55	220	327	149	195	117	27	1,302
per Yr	0-4	5-10	11-15	16/17	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-64	65-74	75-84	85+	
Male	4.0	5.3	5.2	9.5	4.4	5.3	9.9	14.8	9.5	5.3	1.2	
Female	5.2	5.8	8.6	5.5	3.4	5.8	11.9	15.0	10.0	6.4	1.5	
Total	9.2	11.2	13.8	15.0	7.9	11.0	21.8	29.8	19.5	11.7	2.7	

(There appears to be an unusual distribution of genders in the 11-17 groups!)

Age Distribution (over 11)

67	5.8%	11-15
28	2.4%	16-17
52	4.5%	18-24
212	18.5%	25-44
313	27.2%	45-59
147	12.8%	60-64
190	16.5%	65-74
113	9.8%	75-84
27	2.3%	85+
1149	100%	Total

Gender

609 Female
562 Male

How many bedrooms per dwelling

1655 Bedrooms
2.92 Bedrooms per dwelling

Is anybody in need of alternative accommodation?

17 3.0% Yes
542 95.8% No

How many bedrooms are needed?

31 Bedrooms
1.48 Bedrooms per dwelling

What sort of housing is needed?

10 House
3 Flat or maisonette
1 Specially adapted home
2 Sheltered accommodation
0 Mobile home
5 Bungalow
0 Other

If you/they are unable to move to accommodation of the type needed, is it due to?

4 Price
1 Lack of suitable stock to buy
11 Lack of local authority/housing association houses
1 Lack of private rented accommodation
1 Lack of physically accessible stock
2 No suitable sheltered housing
2 Not able to get a job
5 Unable to afford the cost of moving
5 Other financial commitments
3 Other

Where did respondents live?

229 41% Tutshill
126 22% Sedbury
93 16% Beachley
54 10% Woodcroft
30 5% Tidenham
13 2% Boughspring
12 2% Stroat
7 1% Tidenham Chase
564 100%

(This reflects where respondents live, not where everyone in the parish lives.)

Employment type

17 1.5% Unemployed
30 2.6% Employer
58 5.0% Self-employed
2 0.2% Training
113 9.8% Education
79 6.9% Unwaged
397 34.6% Retired
34 3.0% Disabled
293 25.5% Full Time
126 11.0% Part Time

1149 100.0%

Employment location

239 44% Chepstow
4 1% Cinderford
31 6% Lydney
9 2% Coleford
34 6% Newport
4 1% Cwmbran
26 5% Cardiff
72 13% Bristol
2 0% Bath
125 23% Other
546 100%

If any of you answered "In full-time education" to question 11 please list below which schools

No results are available for this question

Means of Transport

540 71% Car driver
37 5% Car passenger
37 5% Public Bus
27 4% Private Bus
5 1% Taxi
10 1% Bicycle
12 2% Motorcycle
11 1% Train
74 10% Walking
7 1% Other
760 100%

Use of Public Transport

335 26% Bus
228 18% Train
145 11% Coach
564 44% None
1272 100%

Are Traffic Speeds a problem?

660 59% Yes
353 32% No
98 9% No opinion
1111 100%

This means that nearly half of us never use public transport!

Pavements for disabled/pushchairs are?

47 4% Good
345 31% Reasonable
421 37% Poor
314 28% No Opinion
1127 100%

What housing development would be acceptable in the parish?

329 None
368 Single dwellings
301 Small groups(under 10)
51 Larger Groups
445 Conversion of redundant buildings
30 Expansion of the edge of the Parish
8 Other

At which locations would you prefer to see development?

25 7% Beachley
90 24% Sedbury
45 12% Tutshill
30 8% Woodcroft
14 4% Tidenham Chase
16 4% Tidenham
11 3% Stroat
5 1% Boughspring
10 3% Other
136 36% None
382 100%

Would you object to housing for local people?

300 27% Yes
593 53% No
223 20% No opinion
1116 100%

Which types of commercial/industrial development would you support?

221 19% Workshops
249 22% Sheltered workshops
226 20% Light industrial/commercial
457 40% Shops/offices

1153 100%
How good do you regard police coverage of the parish to be?

27 2% Good
259 23% Reasonable
715 63% Poor
140 12% No opinion
1141 100%

Where do you usually get information about events taking place in the Parish?

185 11% Notice Board
573 35% Free paper
396 24% Local paper
285 17% Post Office
202 12% Other
1641 100%

Have you ever attended the Annual Parish Meeting?

250 23% Yes
854 77% No
1104 100%

How well does the parish council publicise its decisions and activities?

50 4% Very well
440 39% Fairly well
355 31% Badly
290 26% No opinion
1135 100%

Would you like more information about the Parish Council?

856 76% Yes
215 19% No
53 5% No opinion
1124 100%

How do you think the results of this survey should be made known?

274 By a public report
101 By a public meeting
876 By an information sheet through every door

Do you think the centre of Sedbury could be improved by:

444 40% Traffic calming measures
106 9% Pedestrianisation
392 35% Other ways of improvement
181 16% It does not need improvement
1123 100%

Where do you regularly do your Shopping?

462 57% Chepstow
149 18% Sedbury
60 7% Bristol/Cribbs
37 5% Newport
28 3% Tutshill
25 3% Lydney
12 1% Cardiff
41 5% Other
814 100% Total

Why do you shop in Sedbury

105 8% Good Value
307 22% Support local
76 6% Social contact
233 17% Saves Time
138 10% Transport cost
25 2% No transport
437 32% Late Items
49 4% Other
1370 100%

Which of the following do you think would improve the parish?

465 Flowers and shrubs
267 More seating
392 Tidier Shop fronts
186 Other
373 Swimming pool
240 Bowling green

What should be done to protect and enhance the environment of the parish?

64 24% Roads/verges/footpaths

51 19% Development control
 80 29% Clear litter/rubbish
 50 18% More police & vehicle control
 18 7% Youth activities
 9 3% Dog control
 272 100% Total

What do each of you think could be done with the local roads, lanes and paths to make the countryside more attractive?

1 2 3 4 5
 658 154 56 17 5 Remove litter
 420 239 135 85 20 Tidy Verges
 117 120 133 298 33 Wildlife Verges
 322 183 200 85 46 Stop verge damage
 243 228 276 33 26 Repair stiles
 14 13 32 525 97 Close footpaths
 204 120 186 199 73 Open more ROW
 233 128 138 231 47 Reduce traffic
 145 92 225 231 67 Remove signs
 503 255 119 11 6 Keep footpaths

1 very important
 2 important
 3 worth doing
 4 not necessary
 5 don't know

Sum of (1) Very Important & (2) Important

868 Remove litter
 877 Keep footpaths
 794 Tidy Verges
 747 Repair stiles
 705 Stop verge damage
 510 Open more ROW
 499 Reduce traffic
 462 Remove signs
 370 Wildlife Verges
 59 Close footpaths

Appendix 2 - Full Results from the Roadshow 2005
 Number of Dots Applied
 No Subject Beachley Wyedean Carnival Tutshill Sedbury Total

A1 Newsletter 2 32 47 15 14 110
 A2 Web-site 0 31 50 12 5 98
 A3 Parish Office 12 22 56 2 5 97
 B1 Facilities in Woodcroft 4 31 63 3 14 115
 B2 Cycle Path Scheme 14 58 203 13 10 298
 B3 Old Hill 4 29 75 16 6 130
 C1 Sedbury Village Hall 3 32 57 2 11 105
 C2 Buttington Road Rec. 3 53 52 2 8 118
 C3 Allotments 2 11 41 1 3 58
 D1 Dial-a-Ride 14 17 74 15 14 134
 D2 Traffic Calming in Tutshill 25 24 146 28 5 228
 D3 A48 Speed Reduction 0 120 111 12 8 251
 E1 Tidenham Quarry 0 52 48 10 2 112
 E2 Affordable Homes 7 158 111 24 11 311
 E3 Commercial Development 0 44 75 9 7 135
 90 714 1209 164 123 2300
 people 11 89 151 21 15 288
 8 dots per person
 Percentage of Dots Applied at each event
 No Subject Beachley Wyedean Carnival Tutshill Sedbury Total
 A1 Newsletter 2% 4% 4% 9% 11% 31%
 A2 Web-site 0% 4% 4% 7% 4% 20%
 A3 Parish Office 13% 3% 5% 1% 4% 26%
 B1 Facilities in Woodcroft 4% 4% 5% 2% 11% 27%
 B2 Cycle Path Scheme 16% 8% 17% 8% 8% 57%
 B3 Old Hill 4% 4% 6% 10% 5% 29%
 C1 Sedbury Village Hall 3% 4% 5% 1% 9% 23%
 C2 Buttington Road Rec. 3% 7% 4% 1% 7% 23%
 C3 Allotments 2% 2% 3% 1% 2% 10%
 D1 Dial-a-Ride 16% 2% 6% 9% 11% 45%
 D2 Traffic Calming in Tutshill 28% 3% 12% 17% 4% 64%
 D3 A48 Speed Reduction 0% 17% 9% 7% 7% 40%
 E1 Tidenham Quarry 0% 7% 4% 6% 2% 19%
 E2 Affordable Homes 8% 22% 9% 15% 9% 63%
 E3 Commercial Development 0% 6% 6% 5% 6% 24%
 100% 100% 100% 100% 100%

Rank
 No Subject Beachley Wyedean Carnival Tutshill Sedbury Overall
 A1 Newsletter 10 7 14 4 1 6
 A2 Web-site 12 9 12 7 11 13
 A3 Parish Office 4 13 10 12 11 9
 B1 Facilities in Woodcroft 6 9 8 11 1 8
 B2 Cycle Path Scheme 2 3 1 6 6 3
 B3 Old Hill 6 11 5 3 10 7
 C1 Sedbury Village Hall 8 7 9 12 4 11
 C2 Buttington Road Rec. 8 4 11 12 7 11
 C3 Allotments 10 15 15 15 14 15
 D1 Dial-a-Ride 2 14 7 4 1 4
 D2 Traffic Calming in Tutshill 1 12 2 1 11 1

D3 A48 Speed Reduction 12 2 3 7 7 5
E1 Tidenham Quarry 12 5 13 9 15 14
E2 Affordable Homes 5 1 3 2 4 2
E3 Commercial Development 12 6 5 10 9 10

No Subject Sum of Ranks Rank of Ranks Sum+Total Rank Super Rank
Category

A1 Newsletter 36 8 14 7 Medium
A2 Web-site 51 13 26 13 Low
A3 Parish Office 50 12 21 11 Low
B1 Facilities in Woodcroft 35 6 14 7 Medium
B2 Cycle Path Scheme 18 2 5 3 Very High
B3 Old Hill 35 6 13 6 Medium
C1 Sedbury Village Hall 40 9 20 9 Low
C2 Buttington Road Rec. 42 10 21 11 Low
C3 Allotments 69 15 30 15 Very Low
D1 Dial-a-Ride 28 4 8 4 High
D2 Traffic Calming in Tutshill 27 3 4 2 Very High
D3 A48 Speed Reduction 31 5 10 5 High
E1 Tidenham Quarry 54 14 28 14 Low
E2 Affordable Homes 15 1 3 1 Very High
E3 Commercial Development 42 10 20 9 Low

Appendix 3

Other Comments from the Roadshow - 2005

The following comments attracted multiple dots, which when added to the 2300 dots applied to the main questions, these 132 dots make a total of 2432 dots, which at 8 dots per person means some 304 people took part in the exercise.

Bring Back Tutshill Post Office – 45 dots
Remove road markings and traffic calming – 27 dots
Off-road motorcycling for youngsters – 16 dots
Swimming Pool – 7 dots
Village Notice Board in Boughspring – 6 dots
Reinstate bollards at end of Mopla Road – 6 dots
Storm drains in Boughspring – 5 dots
Better play equipment at Tutshill Rec. – 5 dots
Health/fitness - slimming, exercise, running club – 4 dots
Speed limit and traffic calming on Castleford Hill – 3 dots
Toilets on Tidenham Chase – 2 dots
Reduce 50mph to 40mph on Beachley Road – 2 dots
Condition of pavements on Coleford Road – 2 dots
Improve re-cycling - 2 dots

The following comments were also made:

Parish Councillors should make themselves available to discuss issues with the public.

Building on Tutshill Rec. for AFC

Road condition on Miss Grace's Lane

Condition of footpaths on Castleford Hill

Restrict HGV using Coleford Road

Better Security at Allotments

Dog and Litter bins on Buttington Rec. –

Sedbury Village Hall is OK, no replacement required

Make more of JK Rowling angle

All properties should have green waste bins

Improve transport to school from Beachley

More litter clearing and dog bins

Availability of taxis and transport from Beachley in evenings

Traffic calming in Beachley 30mph area

Street lighting from Sedbury to Beachley

Telephone box at Beachley camp

More facilities for horse riders