

Nettleton Parish Plan

July 2011



CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Preface | 2 |
| 1. Nettleton Parish | 3 |
| 2. How the Plan was Produced | 5 |
| 3. The Questionnaire | 6 |
| 4. Population and Employment | 7 |
| 5. Housing and Planning | 8 |
| 6. Countryside and Environment | 10 |
| 7. Community Safety | 12 |
| 8. Transport | 13 |
| 9. Road Safety | 14 |
| 10. Road Conditions | 16 |
| 11. Services: Energy, Broadband, Re-cycling | 18 |
| 12. Communication | 20 |
| 13. Leisure and Social Activities | 22 |
| 14. Community Facilities | 23 |
| 15. Acknowledgements | 25 |
| <u>Appendix:</u> Community Contact Information | 26 |

PREFACE

Role of the Parish Council

There are some 8,500 parish and town councils in England and collectively they represent the first tier of local government and the closest to the communities they serve. These local councils range in size from the very small, representing communities of a few hundred people, to over 30,000 people operating with a budget of over £1M and with full time staff.

All parish councils have a wide range of powers under different acts of Parliament. The majority of these powers are discretionary enabling a parish council to choose to do something rather than being required to do it. Almost all of the parish councils' powers are concurrent with those of the district or unitary council, i.e.: either the parish or the district or unitary council may exercise the power.

The activities of a parish council are funded by a precept (a mandatory demand) on the district or unitary council. The district or unitary council collects the precept as part of the council tax levied on taxpayers in the parish.

The parish council acts as a sounding board for local opinion and has important rights of consultation. A district or unitary council is obliged by law to consult a parish council on a variety of matters affecting the parish.

Given the variation in sizes of parish councils, the range of services and amenities they provide will vary enormously. However, no matter what the size, all parish councils have an important role to play in maintaining and improving local services and facilities, supporting local voluntary organisations and activities, and influencing and lobbying on local development.

Nettleton Parish Council


Since April 2008, when the four district councils in Wiltshire were replaced by Wiltshire Unitary Council, Nettleton Parish Council has conducted its role as the representative of this rural community of some 600 parishioners, concurrently with the Wiltshire Council.

Nettleton Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications affecting the parish and on changes to the strategic planning proposals affecting the northern area of Wiltshire. In common with other parish councils, the Nettleton Parish Council has sought to support and represent local bodies and organisations and to lobby for the retention, and where appropriate, the improvement of local services and facilities. The Parish Council is also responsible for the management of various parcels of land throughout the Parish.

Parish Plan

Parish Council has enabled and supported the detailed investigation of the views of the community on the variety of issues that have now been analysed and published in the Parish Plan. The Parish Council wish to record the appreciation for the commitment and hard work of the Parish Plan Steering Group that has resulted in the preparation of this document and we would hope that members of the Steering Group will continue to play an active role in our community.

The Nettleton Parish Council will treat the contents and conclusions of the Parish Plan as a 'material consideration' when assessing future proposals affecting the physical, economic and social development of this community.



Peter Broadhurst
Chairman, Nettleton Parish Council

1. NETTLETON PARISH

The Parish consists of three main villages: Nettleton, Burton and West Kingston, and has a total population of about 600. It is located south of the M4 motorway in North Wiltshire, with good access to transport links via junctions 17 and 18 of the M4 and also via Chippenham station for main line trains to London and the South West.

The Parish remains very much rural in nature with narrow lanes, footpaths and bridleways making up the majority of the infrastructure within the Parish itself. Agriculture and equestrian activities are dominant, although many other commercial and leisure activities take place within the Parish.

The three main villages each have distinct characters and to some degree varying needs and attitudes towards how best to maintain and protect the elements valued by residents as well as how to address future needs and requirements.

Nettleton: A mainly linear appearance in terms of properties grouped along the main road through the village. With some post war new build and a large proportion of period dwellings.

West Kingston: The smallest village by population. A most picturesque area set within a small valley with a brook running through it. The majority of properties are period in nature and well spaced.

Burton: The most densely populated village in the parish with the highest proportion of new build properties and situated in close proximity to a main road for a large number of its residents.

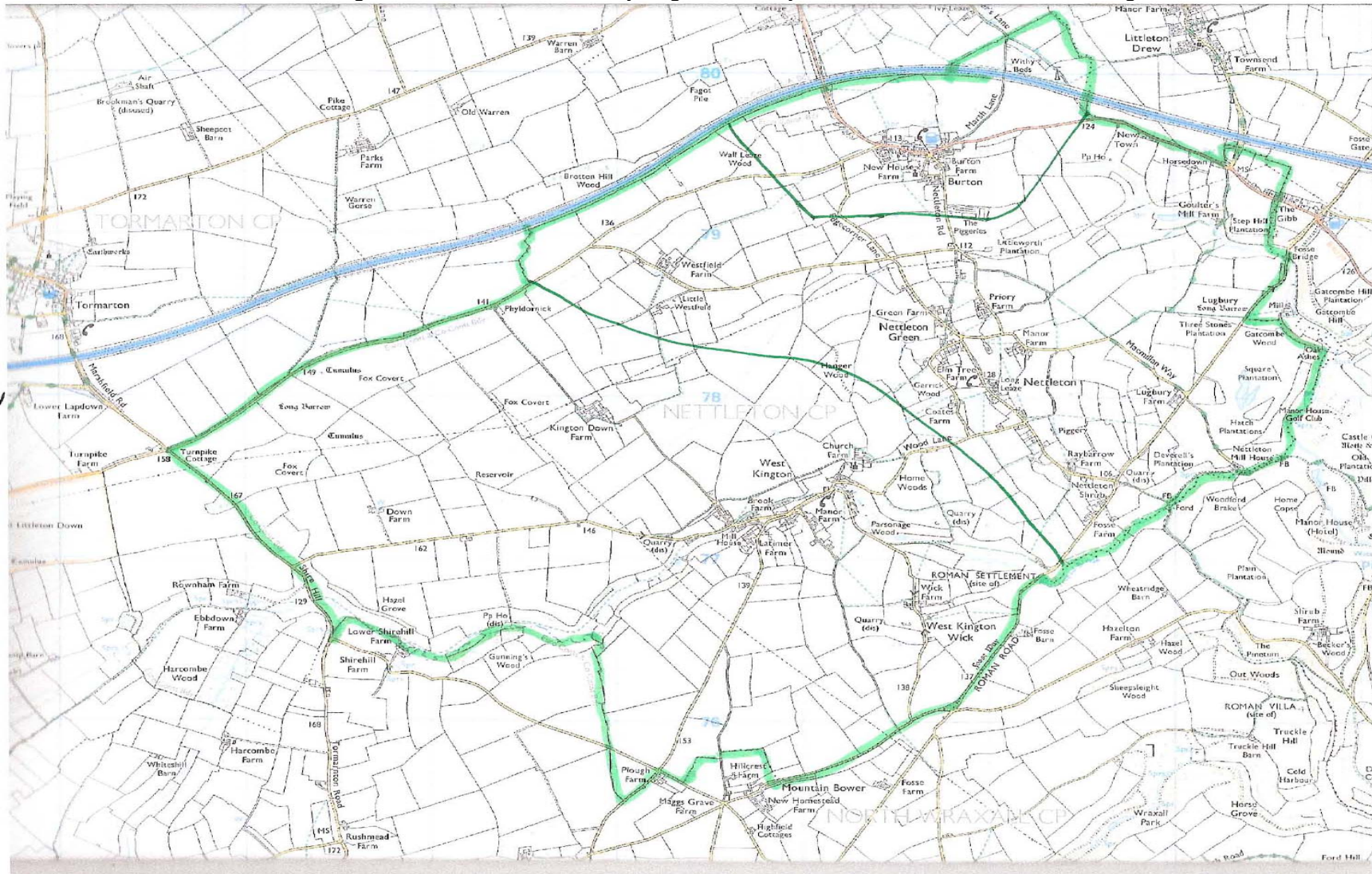
The three villages each have a long history stretching back hundreds of years and include many listed buildings. These include St. Mary's Church Nettleton & Burton, parts of which date from the Norman period, and West Kingston Church.



It is interesting to note that the present day village of Burton was shown as Nettleton on 19th century maps. The present day map of the parish is shown on the next page.

Nettleton Parish: Map showing Burton, Nettleton and West Kington villages

The boundaries between the villages are indicative for analysing the survey results between the three villages



2. HOW THE PLAN WAS PRODUCED

The journey began back in 2009 and can be seen in the brief chronology shown below.

- May 2009: An open Parish meeting was called by the Parish Council at which the concept of Parish Plans was presented by Marion Rayner from Community First and the idea of producing a Parish Plan was discussed. Some of those residents interested in producing a Nettleton Parish Plan volunteered to form a working group.
- July-August 2009: The working group began regular monthly meetings with a membership that was broadly representative of the spread of age, gender, experience and geography across the Parish.
- September-November 2009: Information about the Parish was collated from existing sources. Also, a visual identity was designed to create a consistent and common theme for communications relating to the Parish Plan.
- November-December 2009: A consultation was launched across the Parish to identify areas of interest and concern.
- December 2009–May 2010: Funds for the production of the Parish Plan were raised from Wiltshire Council (Chippenham Area Board), Community First and Nettleton Parish Council.
- February-May 2010: A survey questionnaire was prepared based on the direction set by the consultation.
- June-July 2010: The questionnaire was delivered throughout the Parish by hand and returns were collected. The results were analysed in August/September 2010.
- October 2010: the Parish Council were presented with a summary of the survey results.
- November 2010: A public meeting took place at which the survey results were presented and Parish residents had the opportunity to comment and discuss the survey results.

- Jan 2011 – March 2011: Action proposals were developed to address the issues identified in the survey and then a draft Parish Plan was prepared.
- The draft was presented to the Parish Council in May 2011 for their review and, subject to some changes which have been made, the Plan was adopted by the Parish Council.



3. THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The creation of relevant and appropriate content for the questionnaire began with an analysis of information provided by residents who attended the initial public meeting in May 2009. This was refined by discussion amongst the working party and supplemented with a paper based “Have your say” consultation with Parish residents that took place in December 2009. The aim of this consultation was to further clarify the issues and needs of Parish residents.

Some 40 of the 260 households contained within the Parish completed this consultation and their input then helped to further focus the working party on the areas to address within the main questionnaire. The low response to this consultation may have been due to it being close to the Christmas period.

After many discussions on the questions that should be asked and on the structure of the document, a paper questionnaire was delivered to all households in June 2010 by the working group members.

The introduction to the Questionnaire explained that the purpose was:

- to provide background information about the households and residents in the parish;
- to cover the issues which are of most interest and concern to residents and thus ...
- to provide the information needed to develop a Parish Plan.

The questionnaire was divided into two main sections:

1. A section asking questions about the household as a whole.
2. A section which asked questions of each person (over 11 years old) in the household. This section comprised some 31 questions, separated into the following categories;
 - ❖ Roads and Traffic
 - ❖ Transport
 - ❖ Employment
 - ❖ Environment and Development
 - ❖ Parish amenities and social activities

Residents were encouraged to complete the questionnaire through articles in the local “Honeycomb” magazine, posters and email as well as by the working group members themselves during delivery and collection.

A total of 158 households, out of the 260 occupied properties in the Parish, completed the questionnaire. This level of response (61%) is deemed to be statistically significant, which provides credence and support for the use of this information by the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council.

A separate questionnaire was provided for 5 to 11 year old children to give their views. A colouring competition was included. 21 children responded to the questionnaire and there were excellent entries to the colouring competition. Prizes were awarded in two categories, 5 to 7 and 8 to 10 years old, and presented in September 2010.

Note that all percentages quoted in this document are % of respondents to the particular question or issue.

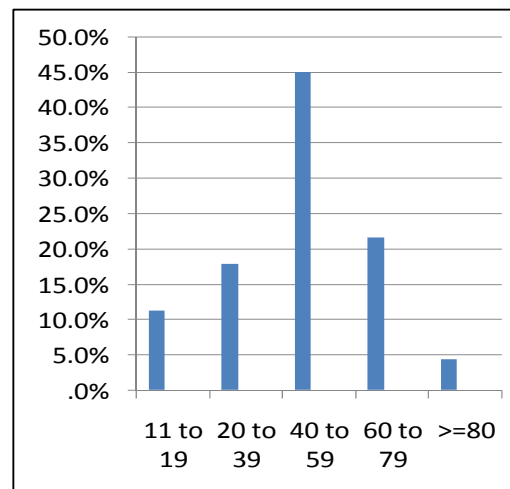
4. POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The age spread follows a fairly normal distribution across the Parish as a whole but as with some variations between the villages of Nettleton, Burton and West Kington.

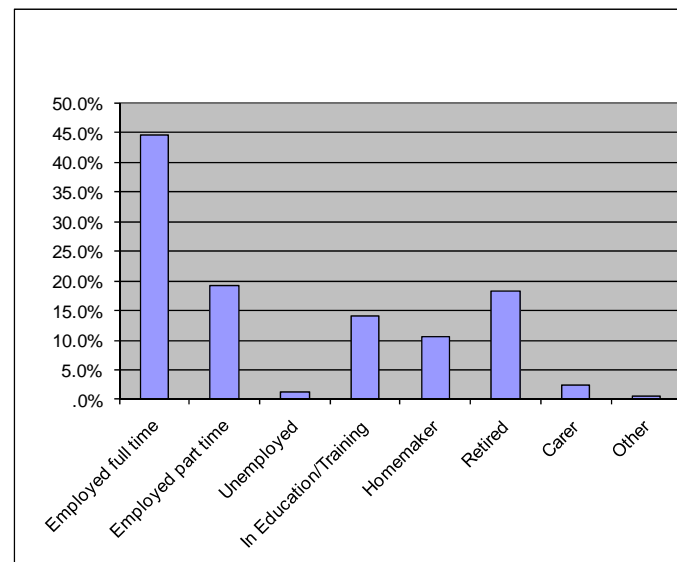
Contrary to some perceptions of rural areas as typically having a large proportion of elderly and retired residents, the Parish contains a substantial full time and part time employed population (65% of respondents) with relatively few describing themselves as purely retired.

There are also approximately 50 small businesses run from the Parish, Some are run from commercial premises but many operate from residents own homes. Numbers employed vary from 1 to over 30 in one instance.

Age profile of respondents in the Parish (aged 11+)



Occupations (% of respondents)



5. HOUSING AND PLANNING

The survey showed that some 85% of respondents in the parish owned their own homes. Nearly half of those responding have lived in the parish for less than 10 years; one third have lived in the parish for more than 20 years.

Opinion within the survey responses was divided as the parish sought to balance the need for any new development with the desire to protect its present character.

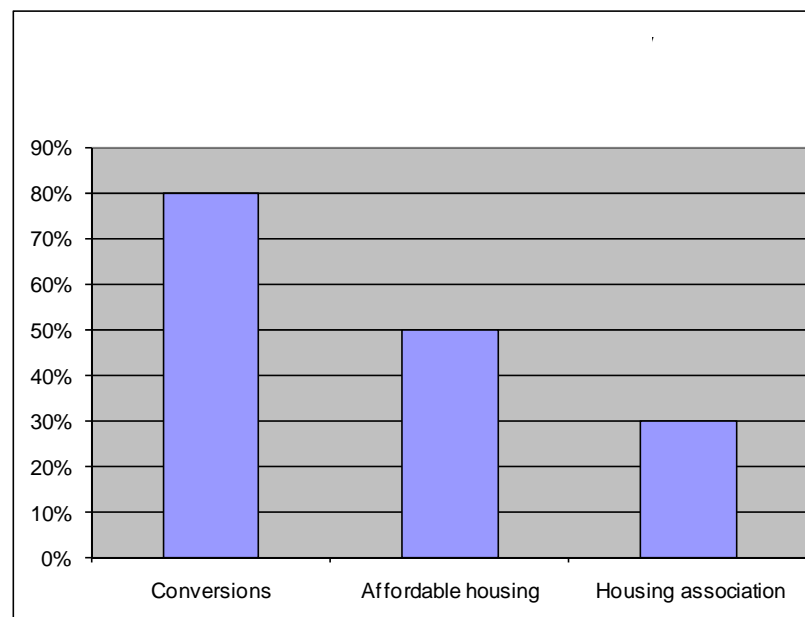
Half of the respondents did not wish to see any further developments in the parish. Of the half who supported any development, 78% supported the development of existing buildings, such as barns, for housing, 54% the development of affordable housing and 30% housing association property to rent. Residents indicated that any development should not destroy the character of the parish, should be sympathetic to the surrounding environment and should be limited to infilling.

There has been considerable development in Burton over the last 25 years, with limited development in Nettleton and West Kington. Under the North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011, Burton is shown as an area for residential development, whilst West Kington is a conservation area.

The perception of some respondents is that the Parish Council currently has limited influence in the planning decisions. However this could change as planning decisions are devolved to the local level under recent Government proposals. The Parish Council should use the survey to assist in determining its overall policy for the Parish.

While there have been housing developments in Burton, there has been no provision for public open space associated with these sites. The 2004 Planning Act allows the local authority to require a developer to make a contribution towards this provision but this was not imposed. The Community Infrastructure Levy, not yet enabled by Wiltshire Council, would allow the local authority to set a contribution level.

The 50% of respondents who supported some development favoured the following



5. Housing and Planning – ACTION PLAN

| Issue / Problem | Desired Result | Action Required | Action Parties & Supporters | Priority & Timescale |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| Parish Council lacks a defined local policy on development | Policy to take account of the response of the survey | Develop a Policy | Parish Council | High priority Ongoing |
| Future development to be limited in the parish | Future expansion which is sympathetic to the current environment | Ensure that proposals address the Policy issues and reject those that fail the Policy test | Parish Council Wiltshire Council Local Housing Associations | High priority Ongoing |
| Developments in Burton have not included any public open space – e.g recreation area | Open spaces to be incorporated into any future development | Reject proposals that do not make adequate provision for public open space. Require developer's contributions to be spent locally | Parish Council Wiltshire Council | High priority Ongoing |

6. COUNTRYSIDE AND ENVIRONMENT

96% of respondents were highly or moderately appreciative of the rural location and, for many people, this was the reason for moving to the area. Other areas of importance were the wildlife (95%), the traditional character of the buildings (88%) and rural footpaths (90%). A major priority of many residents was to maintain this environment and minimise any changes.

The most important leisure and social activity mentioned by respondents, in addition to village social events, was walking. Responsibilities for footpaths, bridleways and other rights of way are divided between Wiltshire Council, the Parish Council, the landowner or occupier and the user of the right of way.

Some 44% of respondents to the survey indicated that the state of some of the footpaths and bridleways could be improved.

21% of respondents stated that they would be willing to take part in a community project, such as tidying up the villages, clearing footpaths or possibly minor maintenance tasks, such as ditch and drain clearance.

Some respondents from West Kington indicated that the quality of the water in the brook had deteriorated in recent years and the reasons for this should be investigated.

Problems with litter, fly tipping and dog fouling were also mentioned by a few respondents.



6. Countryside and Environment – ACTION PLAN

| Issue / Problem | Desired Result | Action Required | Action Parties & Supporters | Priority & Timescale |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Footpaths and bridleways not always clearly marked or accessible | Improve access to countryside | Prepare status survey of current position; repair/replace broken stiles; maintain signage; liaise with local walking groups | Wiltshire Council Parish Council landowners | Medium priority Ongoing |
| Flooding of footpaths | Improve access to countryside | Prepare status survey of current position | Wiltshire Council Parish Council Landowners Environment Agency | Medium priority Ongoing |
| Quality of water in the brook at West Kington deteriorated | Improved water quality | Investigate the reasons for the deterioration in water quality | Environment Agency Parish Council Wiltshire Council | Medium priority Ongoing |

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY

The survey showed that three quarters of respondents feel that crime is not an issue in the Parish and also feel secure within their own homes.

The survey implied that there is a differing understanding and approach to crime prevention and community self-help in the three villages of the Parish. Most respondents of Burton and Nettleton know that there are active and effective Neighbourhood Watch schemes in both their villages, whereas about one third of the respondents of West Kington believe that there is a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in their village - although there is none and there are no plans at present to construct one. (The remaining two thirds of West Kington respondents know there is no NHW scheme in their village)

The purpose of the NHW scheme is to create a partnership between the local community & the Neighbourhood Policing team with the goal of reducing the level of crime in the parish by:

1. Sharing information about criminal activity in the parish and surrounding areas so everyone is aware, and can better protect themselves, from becoming a victim themselves. This is generally done by email/letter for non-urgent information and by phone for anything urgent.
2. Assisting our Neighbourhood Policing Team in their job of preventing and detecting crime by keeping an eye out and reporting any suspicious people/activity/vehicles in our villages.

3. Passing on crime prevention advice from the Police, organising visits from the 'Bobby Van' charitable trust (to vulnerable members of our community) and visits from the local crime prevention officer (for anyone who wants their home security arrangements checked).

Membership of NHW is free, although there are occasionally requests for optional donations to assist with running costs (e.g. NHW sign replacements etc). The more people in the parish who are members of their local NHW scheme, the more effective it can be.

In addition to liaising with the local neighborhood policing team, the scheme coordinators are invited to attend quarterly meetings with all the other coordinators from Chippenham and surrounding villages. These meetings are held in Chippenham police station and attended by the local Police Sergeant and there is the opportunity to share updates and best practice.

Police presence varies according to need. For example, if there is sudden increase in local crime, there will be more night time patrols.

See the Appendix for NHW and police contact information.

ACTION PLAN

Maintain and enhance the Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

8. TRANSPORT

The survey showed that over 90% of responding households have at least one car and that 75% have two or more cars. 80% of respondents said that they drive a car daily.

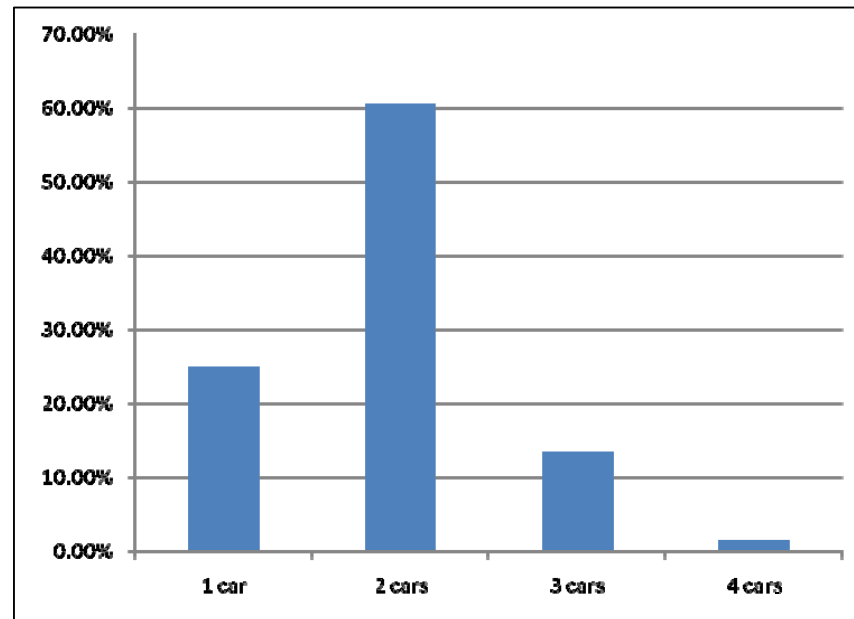
The majority of respondents said that parking is not a problem to them but some particular trouble spots were reported.

Relatively few people (some 5% of respondents) use the local bus service and few indicated that they would use the service in the future irrespective of any improvements. This survey result, combined with the high car ownership, suggests that any increase in bus service seems unlikely to be justified.

Village Link, a voluntary service provided by local car owners, is therefore important to those residents, both elderly and others, who do not have access to a car or perhaps are unable to drive. The survey did however show some lack of awareness of this service.

Village Link contacts are given in the Appendix.

Cars per Household
(% of responding households)



ACTION PLAN

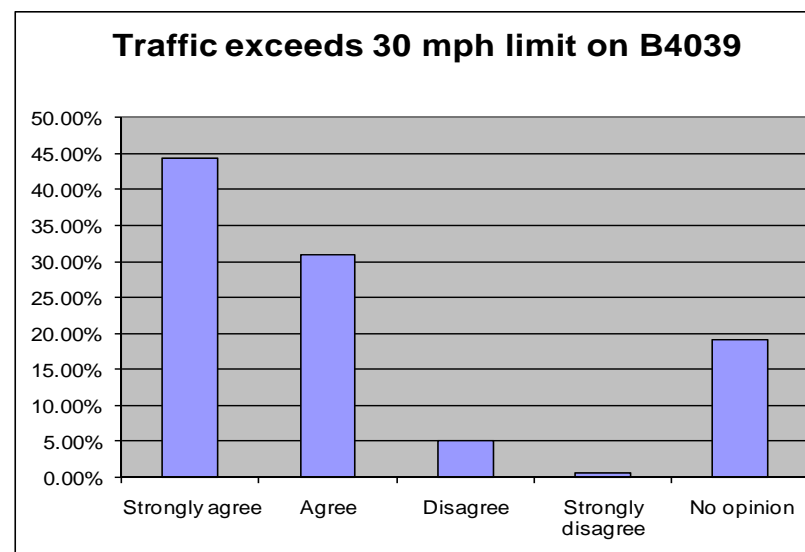
All interested parties to publicize the Village Link service and maintain support for it, in order to address the lack of public transport.

9. ROAD SAFETY

The main issues raised in the survey were:

- Speed of traffic through Burton: 75% of all respondents – and 90% of those who live in Burton - say that traffic drives too fast on the road through Burton (B4039). The police are aware of this concern but have said recently that ..*“based on the initial speed survey data, Burton does not now qualify for enforcement by the police but would meet the criteria for Community Speed Watch”*.
- Speed of traffic on single track roads: 80% of respondents say that some traffic drives too fast on the single track roads in the parish. Particular responses were:
 - A majority (70%), and also most children who responded, consider that safety of pedestrians and cyclists is put at risk by traffic.
 - A majority (60%) consider that safety of horses and riders is put at risk by traffic.
- Over-sized vehicles: The use of the single track roads in the parish by very large vehicles is of great concern. The vehicles involved are HGV's that are too long for the tight bends and farm contractors' vehicles that are too wide for the single track roads. The impact is on the safety of road users and also on damage to the roads and verges. The problem is acknowledged to be difficult. It will need detailed discussions with farmers and vehicle owners to identify potential practical means of reducing the impacts.

- Parking adjacent to the Old House at Home, Burton: Cars parked on the pavement result in the pavement being impassable to disabled users and to pushchairs, with the resulting safety hazard that they have to use the road. However, if cars are parked fully in the road, this could increase the likelihood of accidents due to speed of traffic. The issue is clearly very difficult but needs to be addressed.



9. Road Safety: ACTION PLAN

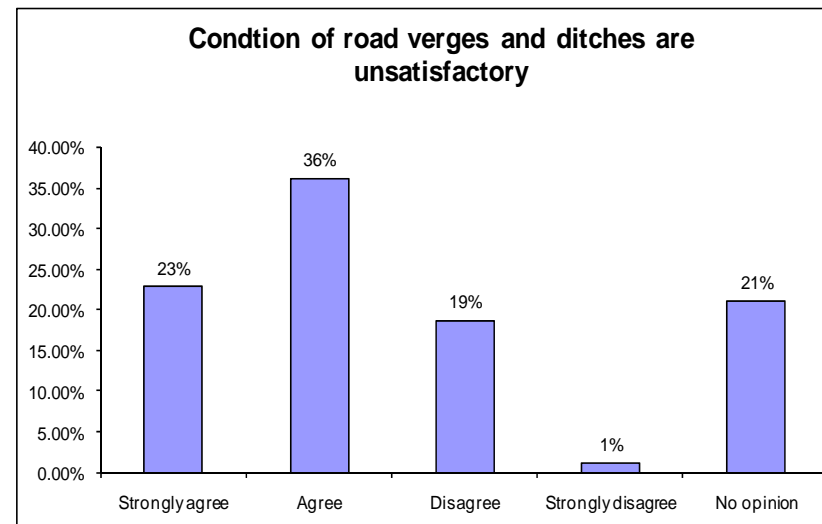
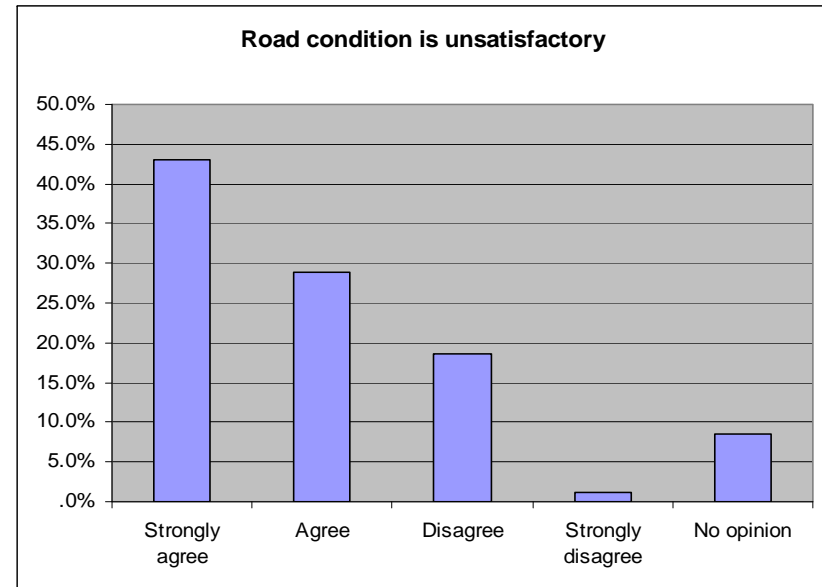
| Issue / Problem | Desired Result | Action Required | Action Parties & Supporters | Priority & Timescale |
|---|--|---|--|----------------------|
| Traffic speeds on B4039 through Burton exceed the 30mph limit | All traffic to comply with 30mph speed limit | Set up Community Speed Watch | Local residents Police | High priority & ASAP |
| Hillside at the entry to Burton from the West: Danger to pedestrians due to lack of footpath and traffic speeds | Reduced traffic speed and improved safety for pedestrians | Investigate options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Move 30mph limit to West ○ Improve footpath across fields | Wiltshire Council (Highways Dept) Parish Council | High priority & ASAP |
| Traffic speeds on single track roads endanger pedestrians, cyclists, horses and riders | Reduction in speeds to suit the road widths & visibility | Investigate options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30mph limits ○ Speed inhibiting devices | Wiltshire Council (Highways dept.). Police | High priority & ASAP |
| Over-sized vehicles <i>This is both a Safety & Road Conditions issue</i> | Improved safety for pedestrians and horses. Reduction in damage to road surface, verges & boundary walls | Investigate options via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Liaison with users ○ Survey of damage ○ Vehicle routing ○ Legal enforcement | Parish Council Local farmers Wiltshire Council (Highways dept.). Police | High priority & ASAP |
| Parking adjacent to Old House at Home, Burton | No obstruction to users of pavement. Safety of traffic through Burton. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Landlord to advise customers ○ Police enforcement ○ Reduce traffic speed through Burton | Landlord Police Wiltshire Council (Highways dept.) Parish Council | High priority & ASAP |

10. ROAD CONDITIONS

The key issues raised in the survey were:

- Condition of roads: 70% of respondents considered the condition of roads to be unsatisfactory. It should be noted that the survey was carried out before repairs were carried out following the severe winter of 2009-2010. However, this remains an issue to many people in the parish.
- Condition of road verges and ditches: 60% of respondents considered the condition of verges and ditches to be unsatisfactory. The damage to verges appears to result from: a combination of:
 - car and lorry drivers using verges as passing places
 - over-sized vehicles, especially very wide farm contractor's vehicles
- Condition of hedges: Opinion was divided on condition of hedges. However, it should be noted that the poor state of ditches relates to the methods generally used in cutting of hedges in which the cuttings are not collected but left to rot where they land which, typically, is in the ditches.
- Flooding: a number of specific locations were noted as needing attention.

Proposed actions to improve the condition of roads, verges and drainage are shown in the action plan on the next page. See section 9, Road Safety, for the Action Plan regarding oversized vehicles.



10. Road Conditions: ACTION PLAN

| Issue / Problem | Desired Result | Action Required | Action Parties & Supporters | Priority & Timescale |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Road surface conditions are unsatisfactory | To fill in pot holes in accordance with the Standards laid down by Wiltshire Council. | Make more effective use of Parish steward resource | Parish Council Wiltshire Council | High priority Ongoing |
| Road verges & ditches: are unsatisfactory | Reduction in damage to road verges. Ditches clear enough to drain adequately | Discuss options with WC. Could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surfacing to lay-bys ▪ Check responsibility for clearance of ditches on each road | Parish Council Wiltshire Council | Medium priority Ongoing |
| Road flooding problems in specific locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dark Lane ○ Road to Nettleton Manor Farm ○ Nettleton Road in Burton (rain water leads to ice forming) | Rainwater to clear from roads within say 1 to 2 hours of heavy rain | Check responsibility in each specific location. Notify Parish steward of problems Consider local residents action option | Parish Council Wiltshire Council | Medium priority Ongoing |
| Winter snow & ice on roads resulting in dangerous conditions | Adequate supply of grit & salt at known problem locations | Establish responsibility for each salt bin. Consider option of snow clearance by local farmers | Parish Council Wiltshire Council | High priority Ongoing |

11. SERVICES: Energy, Broadband, Re-cycling

Energy

The survey showed that 40% of responding households rely on oil as their main fuel for heating and 35% use wood or coal.

There is no gas supply in the parish; however there is a wish among residents of Burton to lobby British Gas to install a gas supply in Burton.

Renewable energy use is very low. A third of responding households have considered installing a renewable energy system but most consider the cost to be too high. Provision of information on support available through the new feed-in tariffs would be a useful to residents.

Broadband

Over 80% of responding households have broadband internet. However, 40% are unhappy with the speed and / or quality of their connection.

Typical speeds of connection in the Parish are in the range 0.1Mb to 0.5Mb, with Nettleton and West Kington villages having the lowest speeds. This is too slow to receive many of the services now being offered through the internet. (These speeds are to be compared with quoted figures of up to 20Mb which are theoretically available from providers, subject to suitable phone lines)

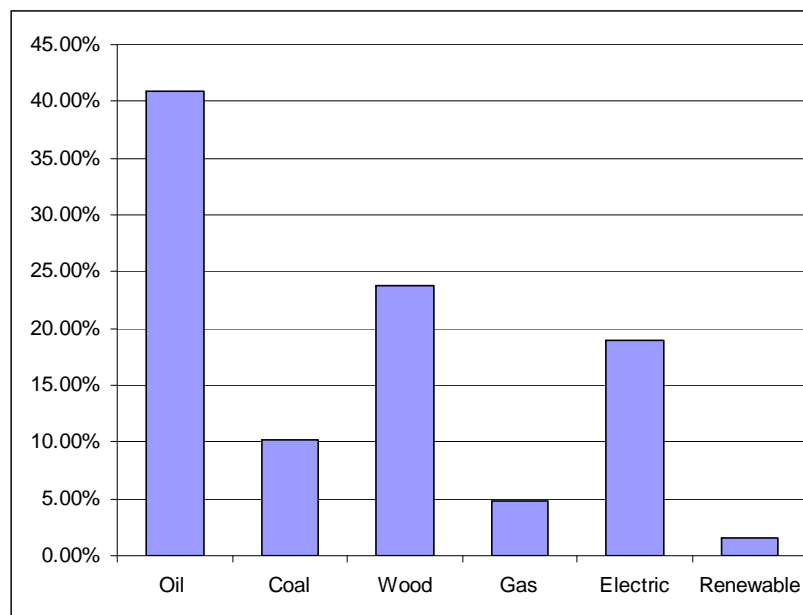
BT is reported to have no plans to improve the service at present. There seems to be a need to lobby BT to remedy this situation.

Re-cycling

70% of responding households are dissatisfied with current household recycling collections. Most residents would like plastics and cardboard collection and a few think that garden waste collection (which is available for an annual fee) should be free.

Wiltshire Council did announce plans to implement additional re-cycling collections but was put on hold in 2010. It is understood that they now propose to implement these plans in 2011-2012.

Fuels used for heating (% of households responding)



11. Services: ACTION PLAN for Energy, Broadband, Re-cycling

| Issue / Problem | Desired Result | Action Required | Action Parties & Supporters | Priority & Timescale |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| No gas supply available in the parish. Households rely on oil & wood for fuel. | Mains gas supply for Burton | Burton households to establish sufficient support for gas supply to satisfy British Gas that demand exists to justify a new supply line. | Burton residents group Parish Council British Gas | Medium priority for Burton Ongoing |
| Renewable energy options as an alternative to, or in addition to, oil & wood are not well understood | Clear information on feasible renewable energy options | Provide information on feed-in tariffs and on planning permission | Local action group Parish Council Wiltshire Council | Medium priority Ongoing |
| Broadband internet connections and speeds are poor in all 3 villages. Also, there are insufficient lines into the villages for all to access Broadband | Broadband available to all households at speeds sufficient to access services now being promoted. | Approach BT showing the numbers of residents who are unhappy with the service available. Note the effect on local businesses. | Parish Council Wiltshire Council Local action group | Medium priority Ongoing |
| Recycling of household waste currently inadequate | Door step collection of plastics and cardboard, and free collection of garden waste | Review implementation of timetable | Parish Council Wiltshire Council | Wiltshire Council plans to implement this over the period Winter 2011 - Spring 2012. |

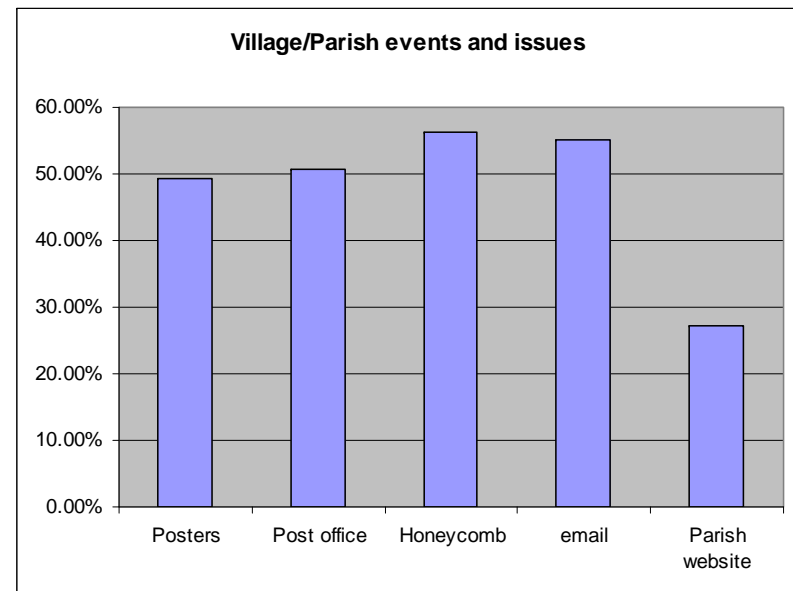
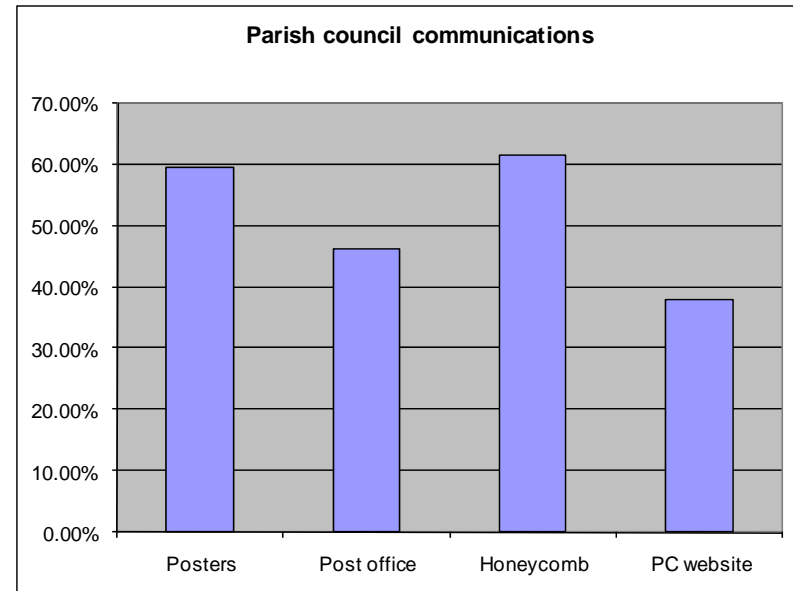
12. COMMUNICATION

The survey showed that residents want improved communication with the Parish Council and that there are a significant proportion of residents who feel that improvements need to be made in terms of the following:

1. Clarity over the remit and role of the PC as well as channels of communication into them.
2. Provision of information and decisions resulting from PC meetings.
3. Local engagement activity relating to PC policy formulation

The survey showed that all of the existing methods of informing residents of village events and issues – posters on notice boards and at the Post Office shop, Honeycomb and e-mail – are popular.

Support for a Parish website was lower. However, the use of (and critically the promotion of) the Nettleton Parish Council website, as a central source of information and advice as well as for resident engagement, coupled with e-mail and traditional posters, could be a positive step to address a number of the issues raised. In addition clarity over the PC role and also that of the Parish warden could perhaps be promoted via case studies or a “day in the life of” content hosted on the site.



12. Communication: ACTION PLAN

| Issue / Problem | Desired Result | Action Required | Action Parties & Supporters | Priority & Timescale |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Perceived need to improve communications between the Parish Council and residents | Improved communications between the Parish Council and residents | Review current position and policy going forward including use of website | Parish Council | Medium Ongoing |
| Lack of understanding of Parish Council policy in certain areas | Improved communications between the Parish Council and residents | Formulate policy in certain areas | Parish Council | Medium Ongoing |

13. LEISURE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The survey showed that the leisure and social activities which are most important to residents are village social events and walking. Gardening, art and craft and agricultural events were shown to be of medium importance.

Opportunities to take part in these activities are summarised below.

Village social events

Regular events held in Burton include:

- Pancake evening at Old House
- Village day (with Teddy bear parachuting from the Church tower)
- Village barbeque in the church grounds
- Christmas Supper at Grittleton Village Hall or Old House
- Lunch Club in the church
- Mother and Toddler group in the Church (open to carers and their Toddlers)

Regular events in held in Nettleton include:

- Village events

Regular events held in West Kington include:

- Open Gardens

Walking

There is a walking group (Bybrook Walkers) that meets on the last Sunday of the month.

Gardening

There is no gardening club in the parish. There is the bi-annual Open Gardens event in West Kington.

There are no allotments in the parish.

Art and craft events

Some of the village events include a chance to show art and crafts.

14. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Importance of existing Facilities

The survey showed that local facilities are much valued by residents of the parish.

- Over three quarters of respondents regard the shop/post office as being of high importance. However, it was noted in discussion that the number of residents who actually use the village shop is much lower than this.
- Roughly a third of respondents regard places of worship as being of high importance to the parish.

Need for new Facilities in the Parish

The survey showed that:

- Half of all respondents – and the proportion is nearer two thirds in Burton - would like a play area for children. All the children who responded also want a play area.
- About one third of respondents would like a recreation area
- About one third of respondents would like a village hall / community centre

The support for a children's play area is particularly strong in Burton. This fact, combined with the higher density of housing in Burton compared to Nettleton and West Kington, suggests that a location in Burton should be investigated.

A recreation area would need a rather larger land area and therefore availability of land seems to be the first and key issue to be investigated.

Opinions are divided as to whether a case could be made for provision of a village hall / community centre. Several other

parishes in the area have their own village halls and/or community centres. On the one hand it can be argued that these facilities can be hired for use for Nettleton events but, on the other hand, if these other facilities are viable then perhaps a village hall / community centre in our parish could also be viable. Clearly, a detailed investigation would be needed covering potential uses, facilities required, land and, not least, funding. Funding for initial construction and especially the responsibility and funding for ongoing operation and maintenance is likely to be challenging.

It should be noted that some parts of the church buildings are also available for use as a community facility. In particular Nettleton church has recently been modified to provide a community space.

Funding for New Facilities

Respondents to the survey indicated that funds for the new or improved facilities should come from one or more of the following sources:

- Fund raising in the parish - 60%
- Parish council - 40%
- Voluntary contributions from parishioners - 40%

If there are any further developments in Burton, then developers should be required to pay the Community Infrastructure Levy (see section 5 Housing and Planning)

Various grant giving bodies could also be approached for funding according to the nature of any new or improved facility.

14. Community Facilities: ACTION PLAN

| Issue / Problem | Desired Result | Action Required | Action Parties & Supporters | Priority & Timescale |
|----------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Community centre | New community centre, including funding for both construction and running costs | Interested local residents to set up a study group to investigate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o potential demand o facilities needed o land availability o funding options. | Local residents Parish Council Wiltshire Council | Medium priority Medium timescale |
| Children's play area | Provision of a play area (most likely in Burton) | | Local residents Parish Council Wiltshire Council | High priority for Burton and ASAP |
| Recreation area | Provision of a play area (most likely in Burton) | | Local residents Parish Council Wiltshire Council | Medium priority Medium timescale |
| Parking area | Provision of a parking area in Burton (associated with play and recreational areas) | | Parish Council Wiltshire Council (Highways dept.) | Medium priority Medium timescale |

15. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The financial support received from the following organisations is gratefully acknowledged:

- Wilshire Council - Chippenham Area Board
- Community First,
- Nettleton Parish Council

The working group wish to acknowledge the assistance of the following individuals:

- Marion Rayner of Community First for her advice throughout the process of preparing this Parish Plan.
- Andy Snell for creating the logo.
- Oonagh Read for creating the children's art competition
- The landlord of The Salutation Inn, Ian Whitmill, for allowing use of his pub for a Parish Meeting
- Russell Hayes – data analysis
- David and Sue Pearce for providing the original meeting venue in June 2009

The members of the Parish Plan Working Party were:

- David Kerr (Chairman)
- Sallie Belcher
- Marje Caie
- Chris Meier
- Oonagh Read
- Fleur Shanahan (up to September 2010)
- Derek Trubody
- Sue Pearce (representing the Parish Council)

APPENDIX: Community Contact Information

Nettleton Parish Council

Chairman:

Mr P Broadhurst (Burton) – pjb1951@gmail.com

Vice Chairman:

Mr K Herniman (Nettleton) – kevin.herniman@fbu.org.uk

Councillors:

Mrs D Bell (Nettleton)

Mrs J Bush (West Kington)

Mrs A Flint (Nettleton)

Mr M Harvey (The Gibb)

Mrs S Pearce (Nettleton)

Mrs A Trubody (Burton)

Mr J Wright (Burton)

Clerk: Fleur Shanahan – clerk@nettletonparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council website: www.nettletonparishcouncil.co.uk

Village Link

“Village Link” provides transport for people who are unable to access conventional public transport services for a variety of reasons including mobility difficulties, lack of public transport, cost etc.

Village Link covers the villages of Acton Turville, Alderton, Badminton, Biddestone, Burton, Castle Combe, Ford, Grittleton, Kington St Michael, Littleton Drew, Nettleton, North Wraxall, Slaughterford, The Gib, West Kington and Yatton Keynell.

The coordinators can be contacted on 07590 720836.

Neighbourhood Watch

The villages in the parish with a NHW each have their own scheme co-coordinator who can be contacted as follows:-

Burton: Alistair Caie, Tel. 01454 218072

e-mail: acaie@burtonwilts.org.uk

Burton NHW bulletins are posted on the Burton website www.burtonwilts.org.uk and on the Community News notice board in the church, in addition to being circulated by email and letter

Nettleton: Ian Luddington, Tel. 01249 782 927

e-mail: ian.luddington@bt.com

Nettleton NHW has a 'Telephone Cascade' for use in case of an emergency.

Neighborhood Police Team

There is one Police Constable and two PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) allocated to the Parish.

It is possible to meet the PCSO at the Nettleton Village Shop or at the monthly Library Van.

The Police phone number for reporting non-urgent information is 0845 408 7000 and for urgent items it is '999'.