

# Shawbury Parish Plan



**“What has been achieved and  
what is in the pipeline!”**




## Chairman's Introduction

A government initiative to consult within parishes was presented to the Parish Council in July 2007, which threw down the challenge to find out what the residents of the parish really wanted, for the future. Since then we have, as the Parish Plan Steering Group, sought the views of our parishioners, in several ways. The questionnaire achieved a 60% return rate, pat yourselves on the back Shawbury this was one of the highest rates in the county. Now the task is completed it is not the end, merely the beginning, as the Parish Council and our partners on Shropshire Council and the Police have much work to do in carrying out the actions in it. Several suggestions are already underway, including youth equipment and activities. A BMX bike track is to be built. The bonfire returned, walking groups have started, Shawbury now has an angling club. The moat renovation project continues. The highest priority from all age groups and certainly the most challenging was to reduce the reality and fear of anti-social behaviour. Much work has been done, often unseen, by the Police and Parish Council members in trying to tackle this. There is still a lot to do and only time will tell if the efforts have been successful. I am most grateful to all the members of the Steering Group for their enthusiasm, dedication, good humour and persistence. Without their efforts this document would never have been produced. It has been a great privilege to lead the Parish Plan Steering Group from its inception to the final document and look forward to the future of Shawbury with much enthusiasm.

Richard Bailey  
[Chairman]

### THE MAIN PRIORITIES FOR THE PARISH FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. More police and increased police presence
2. Reduce vandalism
3. Shawbury by-pass
4. Pedestrian Crossing at the shops
5. (joint) Play area for young children and reduce anti-social behaviour (equal)



**Welcome to the  
parishioners'  
guide to the  
Shawbury Parish  
Plan. The  
complete  
document will be  
available to view  
at the village  
library and  
[www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk)**



## Housing

The Parish Plan asked questions about what housing was wanted, if any! The results showed that most people did not want any more houses built. Residents who wanted new houses requested more affordable housing.

## Environment

The questionnaire showed that people were very concerned about the area in which they live and work. Areas at the top of people's thoughts included litter, Moat and dog fouling. One popular request was to convert the fields at the rear of the Glebelands into a place for everybody to use and the council is already looking into a nature trail situated in this area. The Parish Council is committed to projects like the Moat regeneration and general environmental improvements. It is working with other partners to enforce existing environmental laws on antisocial behaviour such as littering and dog fouling.



## R.A.F. Shawbury

People were asked a few questions about the R.A.F. Base, these included noise and their integration within the village.

- 86% said they had no problems with the noise from the aircraft
- 64% said that they would like more information on base activities.





## Shawbury Young People

### Police, Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

62% felt that the police presence was poor, 33% felt it was reasonable and 5% considered it was good. Suggested measures to reduce the concerns people have about crimes and antisocial behaviour included 22% wanting to see an increase in police presence, with 19% wanting to see CCTV at strategic points. Between 10% and 15% of the measures suggested included more speed enforcement, stricter controls on sales of alcohol and better consultation between police and local people. It should be noted that an increased police presence was identified as the joint second priority for action within the Parish. There were a number of comments about people's concerns regarding crime, anti-social behaviour and where they felt unsafe. 14% of all the respondents identified vandalism and graffiti as their main concern. Vehicles speeding, litter and criminal damage received between 10% and 11% of people's comments. Vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage are also considered to be the worst feature of the parish. 38% of people felt unsafe as they entered the centre of the village.

**"Shawbury News" 91.8% said that they received a copy. And 96.2% said they read it.**

Nearly a quarter of the young people said that they wanted more things to do with greater access to sports facilities (18%). 15% wanted more places to meet and 14% wanted better transport. There was a wide selection of responses to the question about what problems or worries do you have. The top two, each with 10%, were groups of young people hanging around and being bored with nothing to do. The young respondents identified Shawbury Parish's best feature as the library, with the shops, moat and football field/pitch joint second and playing field and chip shop/take-aways. The worst feature was youths hanging around, with vandals/vandalism second and the POD and nothing to do, joint third.

The three main priorities areas for the Parish were:

- Provision of sports facilities etc.
- Safer play areas and road crossings.
- Control of the few who cause problems within the Parish and give other youngsters a bad reputation.

Interestingly, when asked, young people expressed much the same concerns as the adults, with regard to the anti-social behaviour.



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## Business And Employment

Most businesses had three or fewer or part-time employees. However, five had more than ten employees. Recruitment was mainly from the local area but few if any employees were recruited from the families of personnel serving at RAF Shawbury. When asked about the employment of young people, only 22% stated that they received some support and advice. Almost 30% of businesses stated that they would be prepared to offer “work experience” to young people, with a further 20% needing more information. These offers were spread across the Retail/Other and Agricultural section of the business community.

It was most encouraging to note that the vast majority of returns indicated that the businesses planned to expand or remain the same, with only one anticipating closure. The main area of anticipated growth was in the Retail/Other areas. In farming there had been some development of redundant farm buildings within the Parish and others were under consideration. Some farms had undertaken some form of diversification including: letting shooting/fishing rights, developing tracks for mountain biking/rally cross, horticulture, farm shop and growing renewable energy crops.

## Highways

Parking was not considered to be a major problem, although it was felt that better signing would help. The street lighting was considered adequate by three quarters of responders, with the main areas where improvements were requested being Wem Road (now completed by the Parish Council), A53 between the Mytton estate and Edgebolton, and Church Close. Over a third would like to see more or improved pavements; it is recognised that the absence, narrowness and condition of pavements causes difficulties for people with disabilities. The pot holes and localised flooding were also considered a high priority under road maintenance.

There were a number of concerns about pedestrian safety, the main one being the lack of a pedestrian crossing at the village shops. As regards traffic issues, the main concern was the speed of traffic, followed by the Elephant and Castle's access onto the A53 and the narrowness of the A53 in the village. The measures most favoured to address traffic speed and improve safety were vehicle activated speed indicator signs, 20 mph zones in residential areas and lower speed limits on the A53.

The volume, speed and size of vehicles with the associated safety issues of traffic travelling through the centre of the village, were of great concern to the community, with nearly two-thirds of responses in favour of a Shawbury by-pass. A by-pass was very high in the community's priorities for the Parish. It should be noted however that shops in the village were concerned about the potential loss of passing trade that could result from a by-pass.



## YOUR BEST AND WORST BITS ABOUT THE PARISH

The community identified Shawbury Parish's best feature as the local facilities/shops with the church second. The close knit/sense of community, friendly/helpful, community spirit, pride and people was third with the Village Hall and Post Office fourth and fifth respectively.

The worst features were the vandalism/graffiti/criminal damage (mostly to the Village Hall). Second were the railings around the Village Hall, with gangs of young people congregating third and litter fourth.

77 people said "they would help out with running the youth groups". But few have come forward after invitations in the newsletter.

If you can only spare 1hr a week this could help so many.

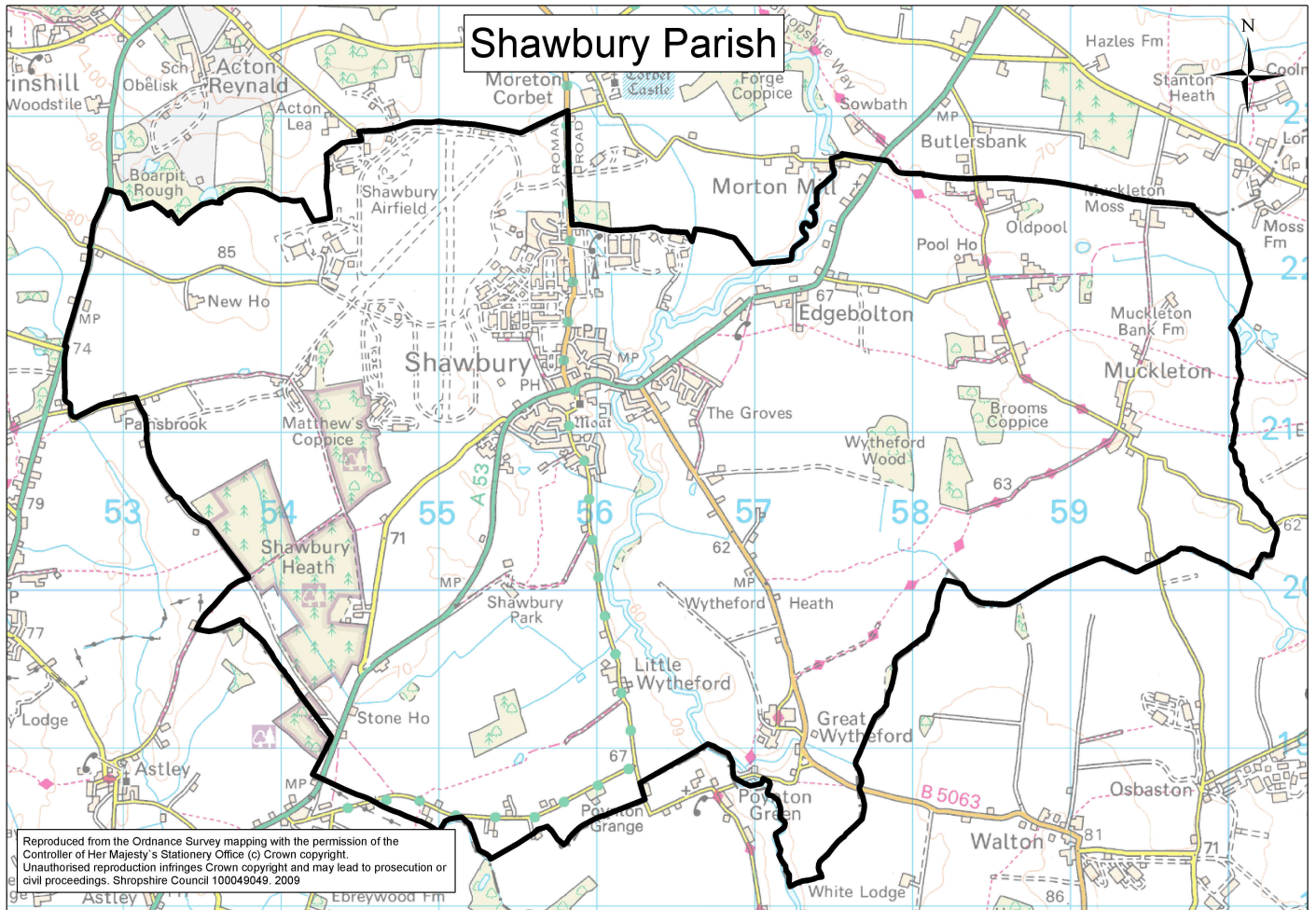


2008 Bonfire and firework display is back on the playing field!

WHAT YOU ASKED FOR	PROGRESS TO-DATE
563 Asked for Public Toilets	Public toilets are now available at The Elephant and Castle Public House during opening hours
The return of the bonfire to the Playing Field	Bonfire and Fireworks returned
To be able to fish in the river	Parish Council have obtained the rights for all to fish the river in the moat field and financial assistance has been given to a new angling club.
More seating around the Parish	Three new seats placed and more planned
A play park and improved Youth Shelter	The Action group raised the funds for the playground, Parish Council worked with the police to purchase the new pod.
To keep the Moat area tidy	The Moat Group has logged over 1000 hours improving the area
A pedestrian crossing at the village centre	Parish Council (P.C.) in re-negotiations with Shropshire Council (S.C.)
To feel safer around the village centre	CCTV is being discussed by the P.C. and they are seeking to improve police presence.
More Landscaping around the Parish	As a start Floral Gateways have been installed.
To start a Youth Club	A junior youth club is held on alternate Sunday afternoons
Provide a dirt BMX bike track	A track for bikes is funded and at the planning stage
More opportunities to walk	A walking group meets every Monday and is proving popular. A longer guided walk is available once a month and a group of volunteers to maintain the local rights of way has been formed
Improvements to the bus service	P.C. are seeking improvements with S.C.
Improved signage	P.C. have had meeting with S.C. over this
To reduce flooding on the roads	P.C. liaising with S.C. Highways ,drains have been jetted
To reduce speeding traffic	P.C. are looking at speed activated signs in target areas
More facilities for young people	P.C. liasing with RAF over use of sports facilities on base
Provision of adult education classes	A group interested in computers is meeting
A by-pass for Shawbury.	P.C. have discussed this with S.C.
To improve knowledge about the Parish Council	Posters explaining who the councillors are have been put up. A Parish web site is up and running <a href="http://www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk">www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk</a> . There will also be councillor surgeries bimonthly in the Village Hall.







## Thanks to

Shawbury Parish Plan Steering Group would like to record its grateful thanks to the Community Council of Shropshire for its advice and support during this process and RAF Shawbury for its assistance in printing literature etc. We would also thank all those who contributed and provided the much needed finance to support this process – The Community Council of Shropshire, The Midcounties Co-operative (Co-operative Community Funding) and Shawbury Parish Council. Finally, thank you to all those volunteers who gave their time to help in this process and to the parishioners who have filled in the questionnaire, answered questions or provided information.



“Shawbury is a great place to live and we should all be proud of the results this plan will help to bring about”