

# Myddle and Broughton Civil Parish

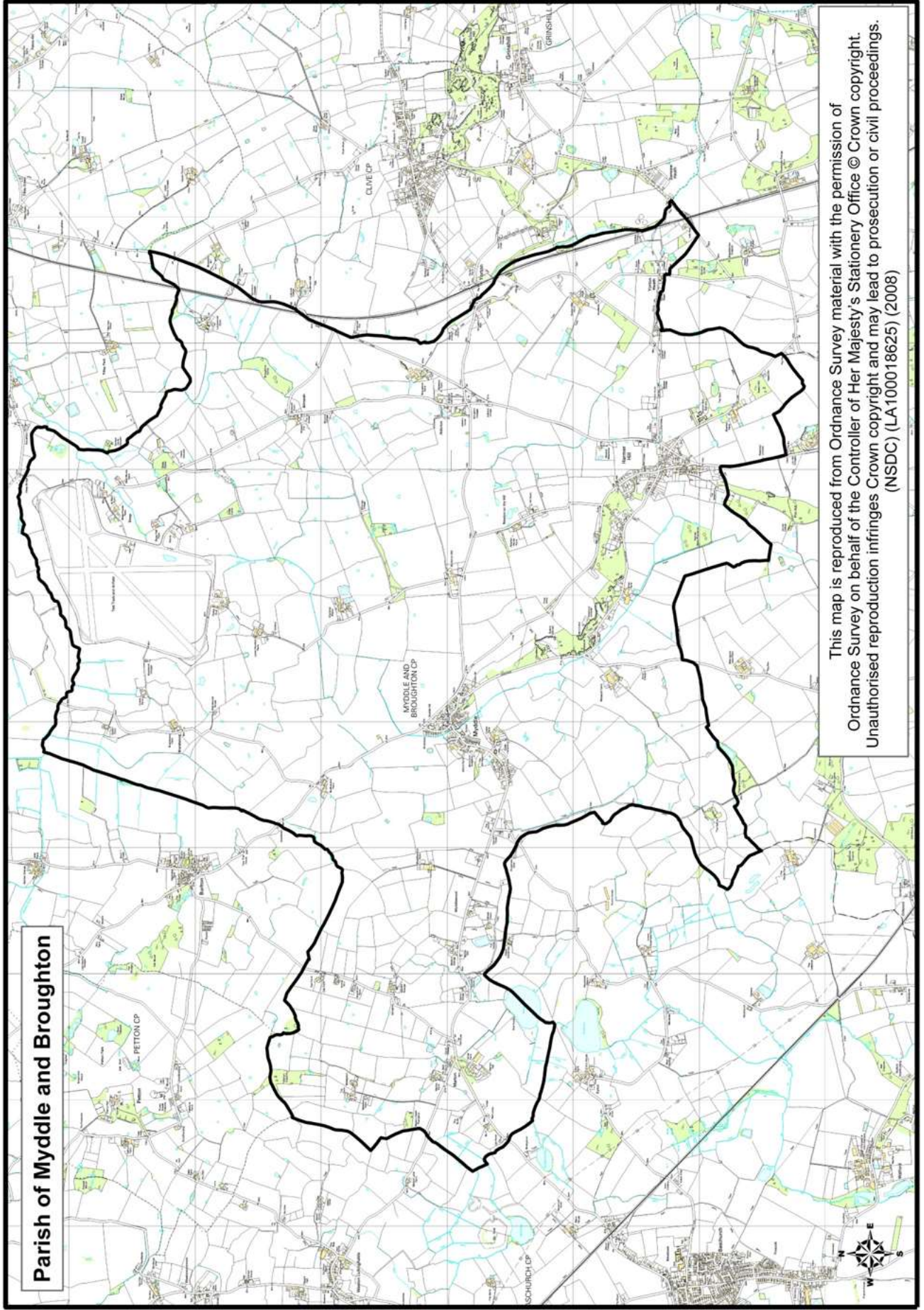
*incorporating Harmer Hill, Alderton, Balderton, Bilmarsh,  
Brandwood, Houlston, Marton, Myddlewood, Newton, Sleaf,  
Yorton, and Yorton Heath*

## Community Led Plan



**May 2013**

**Parish of Myddle and Broughton**



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## CONTENTS

Summary of Main Issues Identified .....	3
Section 1: Introduction .....	4
Section 2: General Information .....	5
Section 3: Housing and Building Development .....	6
Section 4: Public Transport, Traffic and Road Safety .....	7
Section 5: Services .....	14
Section 6: Community Spirit, Activities and Amenities .....	16
Section 7: Young People .....	18
Section 8: The Natural and Local Environment .....	20
Section 9: Business, including Agriculture .....	22
Section 10: Conclusion .....	23
APPENDIX: Report to Shropshire Council: Responses to questions on housing and building development ...	24

## **SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

The views of the population were ascertained through several public meetings and an extensive questionnaire which achieved a 46% response.

### **Housing and Building Development**

- A majority of respondents were home owners, who prefer to buy on the open market
- 53% were in favour of some new housing being built in the parish over the next ten years, with strong support for the building of affordable housing either to buy or rent
- A majority of people want no more than 20 houses built across the parish
- Building should take place within or around the edges of existing built up areas
- A majority of people would like to see new business, craft or industrial premises built in the parish

### **Public Transport, Traffic and Road Safety**

- Road safety within the parish is a major concern
- Speeding traffic is a problem, especially on the approaches to the two villages, and flashing speed signs are wanted in several locations
- There is concern about the number of HGVs driving through the parish, and the adequacy of side roads in particular to support them
- There is a perceived need to reduce the volume of traffic (especially heavy vehicles) on the winding road through Myddle village, which is used as a cut through from the A5 to the A49
- Particular problem stretches of road are identified throughout the parish

### **Services**

- Lack of good broadband connection is a major issue
- Access to medical and other health services is dependent upon good transport and is already, or is expected to be a problem for some as the population ages
- There is concern at the withdrawal of the collection of cardboard as part of the regular recycling service

### **Community Spirit, Activities and Amenities**

- People are generally satisfied with the community spirit within the parish
- People would like to see new community clubs, groups and societies set up, especially for children and working people
- Lack of volunteers to start new groups may be problematic

### **Young People**

- The young people of the parish seem generally happy, and the issues which do concern them are similar to those reported by adults

### **The Natural and Local Environment**

- Residents value a well maintained and nurtured local and natural environment
- Two major concerns which detract from this are dog fouling, and litter
- The most popular outdoor pursuit is country walking in the local area

### **Business, including agriculture**

- Nearly a fifth of all respondents are self-employed, and over half of these work from home
- Around two thirds of businesses provide employment for others
- A major issue for business success is the dependence upon broadband access, which is poor in parts of the parish

## **SECTION 1: Introduction**

In common with many other rural parishes throughout the country, the people of Myddle and Broughton Civil Parish have produced their Community Led Plan. This is a vision for the future direction and development of the parish and is based on the views of the whole community, from primary school children to our oldest residents.

This Community Led Plan document is available to individuals and community groups. It will be adopted by Shropshire Council and by Myddle and Broughton Parish Council, who will use it:

- *to provide evidence of housing need and influence building development*
- *to develop an action plan to help implement local projects*
- *as evidence to secure funding for community schemes*
- *to update the annual Wem and Surrounding Area Place Plan, which includes a list of infrastructure needs for the local area*

### **Background to the parish**

Myddle and Broughton Civil Parish lies in rural north Shropshire and is crossed by two main roads joining Shrewsbury to the towns of Wem and Ellesmere. The main centres of population are the villages of Harmer Hill and Myddle which are surrounded by several small hamlets, isolated farms and houses.

Education is provided by Myddle CE Primary School and Myddle Pre School which share a site in Myddle village, and the Secondary school for the catchment area is the Corbet School in nearby Baschurch.

Each of the two villages has a Village Hall with public social areas and well equipped kitchen. There is a regular weekly Youth Club in Myddle Village Hall. Each village also has a recreation ground, the Myddle site having children's play equipment and a tarmac area for cycling, skateboarding, etc.

There are Parish Churches in Myddle and Yorton, and a Presbyterian Chapel in Harmer Hill.

There is one village shop, built on a recent housing development in Myddle. There is no shop in Harmer Hill, and no post office in either village. Two public houses currently trade in the parish, both in Harmer Hill, and there is another very close to the parish boundary in Yorton. The public house in Myddle is closed at the time of writing, and up for sale.

Included in the parish is Sleaf airfield, the only civil aviation airfield in Shropshire, which has been home to Shropshire Aero Club since 1955. As well as serving the flying community, the airfield site has a café / restaurant located on the upper floor of the old WWII control tower building, and this is open to the public.

### **Consultation with the parish community**

The Community Led Plan was instigated by Myddle and Broughton Parish Council. A series of public meetings was held to explain its purpose, with support from the Community Council of Shropshire, and Shropshire Council. A Steering Group of interested parishioners was then set up, independent of the Councils or other community organisations, to carry out the formal community consultation.

Certain themes or issues of importance to adults in the parish quickly emerged from the early community-wide meetings, and these crystallised into seven key areas, each managed by a sub group of Steering Group members

- *Housing and Building Development*
- *Public Transport, Traffic and Road Safety*
- *Services*
- *Community Spirit, Activities and Amenities*
- *Young people*
- *The Natural and Local Environment*
- *Business, including Agriculture*

A questionnaire was then devised covering these themes, which was distributed to the community along with copies of the Development Boundary maps for the two villages. Each household or business was invited to complete and return at least one questionnaire. 286 responses were received, equating to a response rate of 46%.

## **SECTION 2: General Information**

### **Profile of the respondents**

The 286 responses came from all parts of the parish; 40% from Myddle village, 30% from Harmer Hill village, and 30% from the outlying areas of Myddlewood, Marton, Newton, Balderton, Houlston, Alderton, Yorton, Yorton Heath, Brandwood, Sleaf and Bilmarsch.

These 286 responses represent 474 individuals, whose age profile suggests that a predominance of older rather than younger people live in the parish. Indeed there are noticeably fewer residents in the 26 – 35 age group than in any other.

### **How did your household come to be in the parish?**

47% of respondents replied that they 'Liked the area and wanted to move here', 22% had come because of work, 17% had always lived here. The remaining 14% had moved to be close to other family members, or had retired to the parish, and five families had moved to the parish so that their children could attend a local school.

### **For how many years have you lived in the parish?**

Of our respondents, 88 have been resident for between 0-9 years, 109 between 10 – 29 years, 54 between 30 – 49 years. Only 29 households have been in the parish for 50+ years. Most, of course live in the two villages, with Myddle having 41 households living there for less than 10 years, presumably reflecting the new developments built over that time period.



## **SECTION 3: Housing and Building Development**

### **Introduction**

The Planning Department at Shropshire Council provided the Steering Group with a set of questions about future housing and building development. These were specifically designed by the Council to feed into the Site Allocations and Management of Development Plan (SAMDev) survey process.

In late March 2013 we learnt that the deadline for responding to these questions had been brought forward, so the detailed data gathered for this Housing and Building Development section was sent separately to the parish Council in time to meet the new deadline. A copy is available at the end of this CLP document as an Appendix, so that readers can see for themselves the differences between different parts of the parish. A summary of the main points follows.

### **Overall parish response - Current housing situation**

Across the parish, just over 85% of respondents were Home owners, and 15% rent their accommodation. Only 4(1.6%) were on the Homepoint Housing Register while 15.9% were unsure if they were or not.

If they could change their current housing, a majority of respondents (74) would prefer to buy on the open market, while 28 would like to buy or rent an affordable house, and a small number (5) would like sheltered accommodation with some element of care. This may indicate a modest need for extra affordable housing within the parish, which should be explored further.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Possible need for affordable housing in the parish	Survey to be taken to establish the need more precisely.	Parish Council	
	Suitable sites if required will need to be identified and secured	Shropshire Council	
		Rural Housing Trust	

### **Future housing and development**

Overall 53% of people were in favour of some new housing being built in the parish over the next 10 years, 30% were not, and 17% were unsure. However there were key differences in the three areas of the parish.

Except for respondents along the busy Higher Road, between the two villages, (who voted 5-4 against new housing), those in the outlying parts of the parish were more in favour of new housing over the next 10 years than those in the villages of Myddle and Harmer Hill, where building boundaries exist. 62% of respondents in outlying areas supported new development, though most favoured building within the current development boundaries, rather than across the whole parish. 56% of respondents from Myddle village, which has had two new developments within very recent years, supported new house building, and Harmer Hill village, which has also seen several new small developments and infill between existing buildings showed the lowest number in favour (45%) and the highest number against (44%), an almost equal divide.

## **What type of housing should be built?**

There was a consistent order of preference across the parish, for the types of housing which should be built.

- affordable housing to buy or rent to local people (105)
- new build, open market housing for anyone to buy (83)
- affordable housing to buy or rent to local people and those from other areas (69)
- sheltered accommodation for older people to rent or buy, including Extra Care housing (66)
- new build, open market rented housing (41)
- serviced sites for gypsies and travellers (7)

Regarding size, there was a preference for 3-4 or 1-2 bed houses, or for bungalows, and only a small minority favoured larger, 5-bed or more properties.

## **How many new houses should be built?**

There was a clear indication that future house building should be limited. 183 respondents wanted no more than 20 new houses to be built across the parish, and fifty of these wanted no new building at all. 56 people opted for 21 to 50 new houses, and only 15 opted for more than 50 new houses.

## **Where should new houses be built?**

The largest number of respondents (151) wanted new building within the current development boundary, and 90 specified in-fill between existing houses. A fewer number (73) would like to see building around the edges of existing built up areas, and fewer still (37) building outside of the current development boundary. Only 14 respondents thought new buildings were OK anywhere.

## **Other development matters**

- 39% of respondents were in favour of allowing open market housing to help fund affordable housing, while 27% were against this, and 34% thought maybe
- a majority of people wanted new builds to be in keeping with their surroundings in both style and proportion, and to be built using local materials
- there was strong support for growth in business, commercial, industrial, or craft industries, and for encouraging planning applications that would bring employment or trade to the parish

## **SECTION 4: Public Transport, Traffic and Road Safety**

The parish has no post office, no surgery, and had the local authority had its way, there would have been no school. The latter is one of the largest employers in the parish. There are two active village halls and a small shop has opened in Myddle. There have been two recent housing developments and another is currently under way in Harmer Hill. These have, or are expected to lower the age profile marginally, but it is nevertheless clear due to the age profile and the current trends for younger drivers to drive less (there has been a fall of about 33% in the 16 - 29 age group) that for



now there should be good public transport links available to all. Due to the ageing population this need is likely to become greater over time.

The survey covered public transport, the use of cycles and road safety concerns together with an indication of preferred solutions.

Both villages are transit villages and it becomes clear from the survey that at the top of peoples' minds are safety concerns arising out of both the volume and the speed of traffic in general and Heavy Goods Vehicles and farm vehicles in particular.

**Buses** *"I use the bus to visit the town to avoid driving"*

The parish is served by two bus services, the 501 Ellesmere to Shrewsbury (frequency 10 return journeys Mondays to Saturdays with none on Sundays) and the 511 Shrewsbury to Wem (frequency 13 return journeys Mondays to Saturdays with none on Sundays). The last 501 bus departs Shrewsbury at 18.10 Mondays to Saturdays with none on Sunday. The 501 service is well used by 53% of respondents, mostly for shopping and social use and by a small but important minority for school and work. There is nevertheless a wish for more late night and weekend buses.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Late night, evening and weekend services.	Consider what steps can be taken to evaluate the need more precisely.  Enquire whether bus users of these routes in other parishes have expressed similar needs.	Parish Council  Shropshire Council  Neighbouring Parish Councils in Clive and Baschurch  Bryn Melyn and Arriva	

Several respondents would like the current routes through the parish extended or joined up with services in neighbouring villages. This would improve access to the doctors' surgeries and other amenities in Clive and Baschurch, and to the towns of Wem and Oswestry.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Extend/modify the bus routes to include other destinations:  Baschurch, Leaton, Battlefield, Harlescott, Wem, Yorton / Clive, Oswestry	Consider what steps can be taken to evaluate the need more precisely.  Enquire whether bus users of these routes in other parishes have expressed similar needs.	Parish Council  Shropshire council  Neighbouring Parish Councils in Clive and Baschurch  Bryn Melyn and Arriva	

**Train Services** *“More trains stopping at Yorton would be useful”*

To some extent this is an academic question; neither Myddle nor Harmer Hill has a train service. However, the attendance at a public meeting concerning the possibility of reopening the nearby Baschurch Station indicated strong support. The service from Yorton to Shrewsbury is used by a significant number of people. These two facts further strengthen the argument for providing improved transport links between Harmer Hill and Myddle and Clive and Baschurch.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Improved public transport links between Harmer Hill and Myddle and Yorton/Clive and Baschurch	Open discussions to explore whether the creation of such links would be possible.	Parish Council Shropshire Council Bryn Melyn and Arriva Parish Councils of Clive and Baschurch	

**Community and travel services** *“Very useful, helpful drivers, efficient”*

Whilst users of Shropshire Link and Dial-a-Ride services were few in number those that used the service were very positive. There was a significant minority of both car owners and non-car owners who would be interested in creating a voluntary car scheme. This issue is also discussed under Services - Medical access

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Additional transport facility outside of normal bus links	To consider giving greater publicity to the Dial-a-Ride and Shropshire Link facility	Parish Council Dial-a-Ride and Shropshire Link	
Volunteer transport scheme	To explore the extent of support for a Volunteer Transport Scheme	Parish Council Shropshire Council	

**Traffic and Road Safety** *“Very dangerous if your front door opens onto the road”*

Of all issues considered under Traffic and Transport, road safety was overwhelmingly the greatest concern. Some 85% regarded it as a problem or major problem.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
The overall issue of road safety was of such importance that special consideration should be dedicated to it.	Open up discussion to determine the best way to proceed. e.g. Permanent road-safety committee of the Parish Council.	Parish Council Shropshire Council	

**Speed control “NO speed bumps or sleeping policemen; they ruin suspension”**

Speed is an important issue but speed control signs, whilst helpful, are perceived to be of limited value. Flashing signs are considered to be the most useful traffic calming device, and a number of alternative measures such as chicanes, weight limits and restricted access at certain times are also worthy of consideration.

Locations of particular concern are –

- **Ellesmere Road in Harmer Hill, Junction of A528 and Lower Road, The Hollow, Shotton Lane**
- **Godings Lane to Yorton Heath, Wem Road in Harmer Hill,**
- **Baschurch Road, Myddle Hill, Lower Road**
- **Broughton Bank cross roads, Railway bridge to Clive,**

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Speeding traffic	Erection of flashing speed limit signs at entrance to villages and in a number of locations specified above.	Parish Council  Shropshire Council	One flashing sign will be erected on Baschurch Road entry into Myddle.  Two others, on the Ellesmere Road in Harmer Hill and at the Baschurch Road end of Myddle village are in process.

**Heavy Goods and Farm Vehicles “too big for the lanes”**

Whilst private car drivers can cause problems HGVs and heavy farm vehicles were of particular concern. Many people would like the numbers of these travelling through the parish reduced or restricted, though they questioned how feasible this would be, particularly regarding farm vehicles.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Heavy Goods Vehicles and farm vehicles. This is a combined issue of speed coupled with size, width and weight.	Enter discussions to consider what actions might be taken to alleviate this problem, e.g. weight and size/width limits	Parish Council  Shropshire Council	
Better maintenance of hedgerows and trees which obscure road signs/vision.	Specify locations and contact Shropshire Council	Parish Council  Shropshire Council	

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Inadequacy of some local roads for HGVs and heavy farm vehicles	Consider whether it is possible to impose weight restrictions of Heavy Goods Vehicles and farm vehicles throughout the parish (except the A528).	Parish Council Shropshire Council	
	Consider restricting entry of HGVs and farm vehicles except for access on Brookside, Lower Road and Houlston Road, The Hollow, Shotton Lane.	Parish Council Shropshire Council Local farmers	
	Consider insertion of more passing places along Lower Road.	Parish Council Shropshire Council	
	Consider restricting farm vehicle movement to off-peak times.	Parish Council Shropshire Council	

**Through Traffic** *“HGV vehicles use Myddle as a cut through”*

Currently the road through Myddle village is used as a cut through for traffic from the A5 to the A49. This leads to many large vehicles driving down the winding road through the village, and turning by mistake (presumably guided by ‘satnav’) into the cul-de-sac roads on the new developments. It also channels vehicles through Harmer Hill village.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Need to reduce traffic through Myddle village.	Explore ways in which the route via Burlton (on Baschurch Road) can be encouraged e.g. more prominent signage and priority road markings.  Restrict access by erecting ‘No Entry’ signs except for access on The Hollow and Brookside.  Note: Whilst there was a majority opposed to the erection of ‘No Entry’ signs this should be a matter for local residents who should be consulted.	Parish Council Shropshire Council	

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Imposition of weight limits on HGVs (majority in favour 55%)	Explore the possibilities of imposing a weight limit on through traffic.	Parish Council Shropshire Council	
Weight and width of farm vehicles. Note: 25% of respondents would support the imposition of a weight limit on farm vehicles.	Whilst a minority would support the imposition of a weight limit, a majority would not. Heavy farm vehicles remain an issue and discussion should be opened with the local farmers to see in what way the problem might be alleviated.	Parish Council Shropshire Council Local farmers	
Other suggestions to alleviate the traffic issues	Imposition of 20 mph limit by Myddle Village Hall and School.	Parish Council Shropshire Council	
	Traffic light controlled crossing by Myddle Village Hall and school.	St. Peters Myddle Primary C of E school  School Governors regarding Safe Schools initiative	Discussions on-going
	HGV and farm vehicle restricted movement at school opening and closing times.	Local farmers  St. Peters Myddle Primary C of E school	As above
	More prominent signage on Baschurch Road for direction to Shrewsbury.	Parish Council Shropshire Council	
	Creation of pavements in specific areas - Yorton to Clive.	Parish Council Shropshire Council	

**Cycling** *“put new tracks behind hedges to keep cyclists off the roads”*

As is noted in the Environment Section, over 50% of respondents already enjoy cycling, and the general tenor reflected a desire to do more. However, people were deterred by road safety issues and the lack of usable and adequately maintained cycle paths and tracks in the area generally.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Unsafe road conditions a deterrent to cyclists	Cross refer to responses concerning road safety  Consider whether it is possible to institute signed cycle paths in some parts of the village and possibly create a link to Shrewsbury	Parish Council  Sustrans	
Maintenance/opening up of practicable cycle paths within the parish	Creation of a voluntary group, perhaps in conjunction with walking groups to maintain clear/practicable cycle paths	Parish Council  Parish Paths group	
Erect cycle racks	Erect cycle racks at bus stop Harmer Hill; pubs/village halls and shop	Parish Council	

**Parking** *“get rid of grass verges on Hillside so there is more parking space”*

Taking the amount of comment caused by parking issues it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that although not specifically raised in the survey, additional car parking facilities will be required in Myddle in the medium term. This issue should be discussed at a Myddle and Broughton Parish Council Meeting. Whilst there was not a majority in favour of parking restrictions the issue evoked numerous comments. These are itemised below for further discussions.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Car parking by the church is mentioned frequently especially on the occasion of weddings and funerals.	Discuss whether HGVs should be diverted on such occasions.	Parish Council  St. Peter’s PCC	
Car parking restrictions along the stretch of Baschurch Road which includes the church.	Discussions to be entered into.	Parish Council  St. Peter’s PCC	
Two comments which related to lack of visitor car parking space on Alford Gardens and Well Meadow.	Explore whether in future developments provision can be made for more visitor parking space.	Parish Council  Shropshire Council	

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
As the village grows there will inevitably be a need for additional public car parking spaces.	Consider where extra parking facilities can be made available	Parish council Shropshire Council	

### **Pedestrian Crossings** *“needed where children meet the school bus”*

Many respondents said that crossings were needed by Myddle school and village hall, at the cross roads at the top of Lower Road near the bus stop in Harmer Hill, and on the Wem Road near Shotton Lane where children catch the school bus.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Need for Pedestrian crossings	Supply details of requests for pedestrian crossings to Parish Council.	Parish Council	Not started

## **SECTION 5: Services**

A wide range of services was surveyed. In general, service provision or access is viewed as satisfactory to good, but with notable exceptions.

### **Communications** *“broadband speeds are so low, yet companies still charge the same”*

Over 50% of households complained about slow broadband speed. Mobile phone reception is also reported poor in low-lying areas right across the parish – but most notably at Yorton hamlet.

Since the questionnaire was distributed, Shropshire Council, in partnership with BT, has announced its intention to deliver ‘Connecting Shropshire’, a project to bring faster broadband to 93% of households across the County by 2016. This could potentially improve the situation within the parish.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Broadband Connection (Slow Speed)	Keep in touch with the Connecting Shropshire project, and lobby Shropshire Council on behalf of the parish	Parish Council Shropshire Council	

### **Packaging Waste** *“Manufacturers are to blame, as there is too much packaging”*

It is evident from comments and responses that there is overwhelming support for recycling, and considerable issue that cardboard can no longer be recycled. The council recently advised households that cardboard must not be put in the compostable recycling bins (concern about pollutants contained in printing ink thereon).



There were many further comments in support of more recycling generally, and specific concern that more kinds of plastics and metals, Tetrapaks, and batteries should be included in recycling collections

Linked with the recycling issue were comments pointing to excessive packaging by retailers.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
No Cardboard recycling Wish for improved recycling opportunities	Copy this section of report to Shropshire Council with covering letter and invite response	Parish Council Shropshire Council	
Excess Packaging	Invite a lobby group to initiate action and to promote ways the parish may be declared 'green'	Parish Council Shropshire Council Myddle Messenger Editorial Volunteers?	

#### **Access to Medical and Health Services** *"May have problems when we can no longer drive"*

A small number of people (15-20) reported difficulty accessing medical and health services – doctor, dentist, and getting to Shrewsbury hospital. Although this is not a wide issue, it is a significant difficulty for those concerned. The comments indicate the problem is transport rather than where located – the particular responders are located within the two villages where most people live. Access is difficult because of a lack of a private vehicle and the limited public transport, as well as mobility or age disability. This could be remedied.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Access to medical and other health services	Investigate Community car Scheme: possible issues are awareness and means to publicise and level of available service	Parish Council Shropshire Community Council Myddle Messenger Editorial	

#### **Maintenance of roads, verges and street lights** *"near Myddle church is quite dark"*

The survey indicated some dissatisfaction with conditions and maintenance of Roads and Verges, with a 25% response to that being the case for roads, but no specific stretches mentioned. Road users should report potholes or particular problems to their Local Councillor and/or Shropshire Council, and the Parish Council may wish to become involved if the issue becomes more widespread.

There were varied but not compelling views about street lighting, and no strong consensus. But there was mention of places where it was thought lighting should be improved – particularly on the stretch of unpaved road between Yorton railway station and nearby houses, and near Myddle church. Several respondents wanted lights switched off late at night. The Parish Council will be given the full list of comment should they wish to review the street lighting provided.

## **SECTION 6: Community Spirit, Activities and Amenities**

On the whole people were satisfied with community spirit, activities and amenities in the parish. Whilst they were happy with the Village Halls and churches in the area many would like to see more events, clubs and new community groups.

### **Communication** *“The Myddle Messenger for local news”*

Most people found out about parish news and events via the local Newsletter, The Messenger. This free publication is delivered to approximately 97% of households in the parish ten times a year. The Messenger was the main source of parish information for most households. Other information sources were public notice boards in Harmer Hill, Myddle and Yorton, and the Myddle Village Shop window and notice board, where notices and advertisements can be posted for a small fee. Both of the villages have a dedicated website, and the Myddle.net site was the better known of the two.

A number of people commented on the need to provide local information for newcomers to the parish. A ‘Parish Guide’ was suggested, and the revival of the successful ‘Welcome Evenings’.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Better information needed for newcomers to the parish	Organise newcomer’s welcome evening	Community group	On-going
	Create a Guide to local services	Parish Council	

### **Community meeting places** *“A pub is central to local life in a village”*

Myddle shop emerged as a key general meeting place and people are anxious that the shop (which is currently up for sale) should remain open in the future.

The village Halls and the two pubs in Harmer Hill were also important social meeting places. Many people commented that the closure of the village pub in Myddle was a big downside. A vibrant pub was viewed as central to local life. Two other ‘missing’ community amenities were a doctor’s surgery and a post office.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Concern over the future of Myddle Shop	Encourage the shop to increase stock and improve promotion of new ventures	Community Group	Action taken
Concern over the future of Myddle Pub.	Ensure that the building is not sold for use for any other purpose, but remains a pub.	Parish Council	Pub still up for sale at the time of writing.
Need for a GP surgery in the villages	List of local surgeries to be included in Guide	Community group Parish Council	On-going
Need for a Post Office in the parish	Enquire of Royal Mail. Location of local post offices to be included in Guide	Community group Parish Council	On-going

**Clubs and other Social Groups** *“I would like to meet up with people for a chat over coffee”*

The different clubs and societies that meet in the village halls were important to many, though some people commented that they tended to be more suited to older people and those at home during the day. They would like to see more for families, especially those with very young children, and more evening and weekend activities to fit around work commitments.

There were many enthusiastic suggestions for new clubs, societies and one-off social events for all ages, ranging across sport and exercise, music and dancing, concerts and shows, fun runs, quiz nights, car boot sales, and much else.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
New Clubs and community activities	Contact volunteers from questionnaires. Provide guide for the parish with a list of Brownies, Cubs etc. which are all available in Wem.	Community group	On-going
Lack of sporting facilities	Research and present guide to facilities available nearby.	Community group	On-going

The main obstacle to setting up new groups and activities is that only a very small number of people are actually willing to give up their time to do this. A good example is that although 104 respondents out of the 116 returns for Myddle said they attended Myddle Village Fete every year, the future of the Fete is now in jeopardy because of the lack of volunteer helpers.

Only 23 people said they attended the Harmer Hill Horticultural Show every year. Perhaps a change of date away from the Bank Holiday Monday may help to increase the attendance.

**Shropshire Aero Club** *“It’s amazing to have this so close. It’s not posh but its brilliant”*

Only one person in the parish was a member of Shropshire Aero Club, but over a hundred said they visit the airfield and the café, and 85 had also visited the museum. People appreciated the friendly atmosphere, were interested in the history and liked the good value (if rather basic) food and drink. They also suggested that the airfield would be a suitable venue for events, concerts and fairs.

A number of people did not know about the airfield, and suggested that the business should advertise itself more visibly and widely. A few respondents commented that aircraft noise and low flying aircraft over the villages caused a nuisance.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Sleep airfield, café and museum needs to be advertised and promoted better	Give details of The Messenger and The Wemian community newsletters to staff at Sleep	Community Group and Aero Club staff	Done.
Aircraft noise(flying too low)	Raise concern with Aero Club staff. Ask Parish Council to write to Aero Club	Parish Council	On-going

## Schools and social places for young people and families “very important to the community”

The primary school and pre-school were viewed as ‘important’ and ‘very important’ particularly to families with school age children. However the provision of after school care at the primary school would be an asset for working parents. Myddle Youth Club was highly valued, though 133 respondents thought that more facilities and activities were needed for under 16s in the parish. Suggestions included a range of sports, brownies/cubs/guides/scout groups, a toddler play area, musical activities and family/children’s films. Again, the success of these activities would depend upon sufficient volunteers coming forward to lead and help.

The playing field in Myddle was an important facility, but it seemed that the one in Harmer Hill was less used, and indeed several residents did not know it existed. There was concern about the amount of dog mess on Myddle playing field.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Some Harmer Hill residents are unaware of the playing field	Advise on need for advertising	Parish Council Harmer Hill village website	On-going
Dog fouling on Myddle Playing field	Extra dog mess bins needed around the parish Liaise with dog warden service	Parish Council Shropshire Council	On-going

## **SECTION 7: Young People**

Young people aged 6 to 17 from the parish were asked for their views on village life as it is now, and what they would like to see in the future.

Two surveys were conducted; one at Myddle Primary School and the other at Myddle Youth Club, both attended by children from within the parish. There were 56 responses from the Youth Club and 44 responses from the school. In addition to completed questionnaires, tape recorded discussions took place at both the Youth Club and Myddle Primary school. What follows is a summary of the results:

Overall, it was encouraging to note that when asked what they liked best about living in the parish the youngsters held similar views to the adults: they liked the people, the open spaces, the freedom and security.

### **Positives:**

**Play Area:** Of the 100 children surveyed 26 were happy with the play area in Myddle but would like to have more equipment to play on. They particularly requested an area for skate boards as there was nowhere in any of the villages to use them safely. As a result of our survey, thanks to the financial support of local businessmen and the parish council, Myddle village has since had a smooth tarmac surface laid in the play area which can be used for skateboarding and other sports.

Other positive results showed that 23 enjoyed having friends close by, 20 liked having the village shop, 9 were very positive about the bus service and two of the children commented on having the visiting Fish and Chip van once a week!

The Myddle Youth Club is very popular and very well attended weekly by many of the young people in the parish.

There were very many positive comments about how they loved living in the countryside.

### Negatives:

The negative issues identified most strongly by the young people were:

- Dog fouling, particularly in Myddle (38)
- The proliferation of litter, broken glass and drinks cans around the villages (34)
- Intimidation of younger children by the antisocial behaviour of some teenagers. (19)
- Traffic problems, including speeding through the villages in the parish (10)
- Two children wanted traffic lights and speed bumps in Harmer Hill.

Only two children of the 100 surveyed said they were bored and that there was nothing to do in the parish.

### Conclusion

The young people were generally positive, and, happily we can already point to resulting action on their behalf. We must ensure that any facilities we provide offer amenity to both pre-teens and young adults and do not become just teenage hangouts.

### Improvements for the future:

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Dog fouling	Extra dog mess bins needed around the parish  Liaise with dog warden service	Parish Council  Shropshire Council	
Litter	Contact Myddle School to ask about the children doing a 10 minute litter pick in the playground once a week	Myddle litter picking group.  CLP volunteers	On-going
A lack of equipment in the play area. Popular mentions were: Skate Park (19), Zip wire (18), Bike Track (4), Monkey Bar (3), Football pitch (2), Go-Kart track (2).	Skate Park – issue resolved (see above). Provision for other equipment is dependent on availability of local funding and grants. Contact Local Joint Committee.	Local Joint Committee	Part completed  On-going
Lack of clubs, i.e. Brownies, cubs, dance classes.	See 'Community' section above		
One child mentioned the lack of Allotments in the parish	See 'Environment' section below		

## **SECTION 8: The Natural and Local Environment**

### **Introduction** *“The parish is a lovely place to live”*

For the many of the residents in the Parish of Myddle and Broughton, the beauty of the countryside and its habitat were a major factor in attracting them to the area.

### **Natural Environment.**

The well-being and maintenance of the natural environment was of great importance to the vast majority of respondents. 90% or more wanted well maintained hedgerows and rights of way, and protection for trees, hedges and green spaces. Several people would like more spring bulbs planted along roadside verges and around the community areas.

Many local inhabitants recognise the wealth of history that is associated with the parish and wanted this to be more actively promoted to visitors.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Local places of interest are not well promoted	Encourage promotion through communication with relevant local authorities.	Tourist Information Centre, walking groups (Ramblers), Wildlife Trusts etc.	Not Started

### **Local Environment – Outdoor pursuits** *“some stiles have been replaced – good job done”*

The area is well known for walkers and is promoted through the ‘Gough Walks’, a pack of six mapped local routes with history notes taken from the ‘History of Myddle’ written by Richard Gough in the early 1700s. Major cycles routes are nearby and large parties of cyclists can be seen riding through the parish at weekends throughout the year. There are also several local landmarks, including Sleaf, the WW2 airfield and its wartime museum; and a number of historic churches .

**Country walking** proved to be the most popular outdoor activity, and 277 people stated they walked either regularly or on an occasional basis. **Cycling** was popular with 140 people, and 197 people visited local churches, the airfield etc. regularly or occasionally. It was noted though that a few farmers perceived a ‘lack of respect’ for their farm land on the part of the public.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Ensure local footpaths are being maintained on a regular basis, and that signage is in place and in good repair.	Advise Council of poor path condition and any hazards.  Advertise for local community support.	Shropshire Council Countryside team  Local walking group	on-going
Set up a cycle club	Engage in publicity to determine extent of interest and if significant in number to consider a grant to help with its formation	Parish Council  Shropshire Council  Consult with adjacent parishes	

**Local Environment – Litter** *“I usually pick up litter on Shotton Lane when walking my dog”*

Litter and fly tipping are clearly a major annoyance, in the country areas, along main roads through villages, and by the shops, pubs, and community areas. Some individuals clear up litter as a matter of course. A small volunteer litter picking team is already in place and has been very successful in collecting cans, bottles and general rubbish from around the parish. The team liaises with Shropshire Council’s Environmental Maintenance Group, who have provided equipment and assistance. As a direct result of the CLP Questionnaire many more people have volunteered to help keep the parish tidy, and an inaugural ‘Parish Litter Pick’ has been held.

Encouraging young people not to throw away litter, use of more litter bins and community spring clean days were some of the comments made by respondents.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Litter in the villages and countryside.	Build on the experience of the existing litter picking team by creating other local community litter pick groups.  Advertise litter pick sessions  Promote and advertise litter – free areas.	Community  Parish Council  Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance group	Community litter pick campaign started

There were also several complaints about wheelie bins being left out on pavements for too long on litter collection days.

**Dog fouling** *“I have three dogs and always clean up after them”*

This issue attracted most negative comment, (including from responsible dog owners); 90% of the 262 respondents said this was a problem. Horse fouling on tarmac footpaths and pavements also annoyed some residents.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Dog fouling	Extra dog mess bins needed around the parish  Liaise with dog warden service	Parish Council  Shropshire Council	

**Local Environment – Public Seating.** *“Is there any along paths in the woods?”*

Although some people thought that public seating might attract anti-social behaviour, there was particular support for seating at bus stops. Benches would also be welcome in play areas, so that mothers could sit while watching their young children play, and a variety of scenic locations alongside footpaths.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Lack of public seating.	Consider requests for public seating.	Parish Council	Not started



### **Growing your own food** *“perhaps we could offer plants exchange”*

Buying locally grown food produce was popular with over 80% of people though only around 60% actually grow their own. Over 60% of people collect rainwater for re-use, and slightly fewer compost their garden and kitchen waste. 23 people would like help cultivating their garden

Only two respondents currently had an allotment, although 29 people (plus the one child mentioned in the Young People report) said they would be interested in renting one in the parish or nearby.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Need for allotments	Report to Parish Council for consideration	Parish Council	

### **Community volunteer groups** *“I’m too old!”*

Ten people indicated they were already members of a litter collection group and 40 others were interested in helping. Similar numbers are interested in joining the footpath maintenance group and 21 said they would join the 15 existing churchyard maintenance group. All of these people will be contacted soon.

## **SECTION 9: Business, including Agriculture**

Businesses in the parish featured to an unexpected degree and have a significant presence. Agriculture and other businesses are wealth generators and employment providers of considerable importance.

Nearly a fifth of the total questionnaire respondents reported as self-employed, running a farm or other local business (60); this order of importance was already becoming apparent in the 2001 census.

Around half of all the businesses in the parish who responded are home based in residential property; but despite agriculture being the greatest land use, farmers number less than one third, with other businesses accounting for the remaining 2/3 of the self-employed respondents .

Concerning the employment businesses provide, around 1/3 (21) of business operate as ‘sole traders’, but just under half (27) are small enterprises that employ up to five persons. The remainder comprises 6 businesses that employ five or more people, and 5 businesses that employ over ten people. This suggests that the businesses within the parish could provide either direct income or employment for about 170 people. That is a substantial number.

Around half of the ‘employer’ respondents said their location was important, and that they depended on suitable people or a sufficient work force and/or suitable premises. Just a few businesses reported some concern about premises or location being limited should they wish to expand in the future.

The overwhelming majority of businesses trade locally or within the larger district, but 14 trade nationally or internationally. Three businesses have premises in the parish but the respondents (business owners) live elsewhere.

As with respondents generally, a common issue of concern was poor broadband speed; a third of businesses reported that this hindered trade. In addition, just a few reported telephone service problems.

ISSUE	ACTION	PARTNER	STATUS
Broadband speed too slow	Keep in touch with the Connecting Shropshire project, and lobby Shropshire Council on behalf of the parish	Parish Council Shropshire Council	

A mixed economy and lively trading is normally highly desirable as a local generator of wealth and employment. The results of this survey are encouraging, and sustainable business development should be supported whenever desirable opportunities arise.

This sector should be investigated again in the future, not just to see if growth continues, but also to obtain more exact and useful information to inform local policy makers.

## **SECTION 10: Conclusion**

The Community Led Plan Steering Group presents this Plan document to Myddle and Broughton Parish Council, to Shropshire Council, and to the people of Myddle and Broughton Civil Parish with the wish that the information herein is of both use and interest to all. It reflects the views and opinions of the 286 people of the parish, who took the time to complete and return the questionnaire, and we give them our grateful thanks.

We would also like to thank everyone in the parish who attended the many public meetings, or who helped Steering Group members in any way.

Particular thanks are owing to Myddle School and Youth Club, Myddle and Broughton Parish Council, Shropshire Rural Community Council, Shropshire Council, and our Shropshire Councillor, for their participation and support.

Finally, of course, thanks for all their hard work to the core Steering Group members:-

Sheila and Owen Booker, Sue Cheslett, Julia Clarke, Jad and Geoff Harding, Margaret and John Heath, Liz Hodge, Linda and Bob Jeffrey, Roger Jones, Ruth Lund, Margaret and Brendan Markland, Liz and Jim Needham, Angie and Bill Penney, Russell Purslow, Jenny and Colin Ruck, Hilary Sommers

## APPENDIX

### Myddle and Broughton Parish Community Led Plan

#### A report to Shropshire Council

March 2013

#### Responses to questions on Housing and Building Development

#### Collected on behalf of the Council by the Community Led Plan Steering Group

The data in the tables below gives the number of responses to each question asked by Shropshire Council. Figures are shown as the total for the parish, and then detail for the two villages and the outlying areas of the parish (namely Myddlewood, Marton, Newton, Balderton, Houlston, Alderton, Yorton, Yorton Heath, Brandwood, Sleaf and Bilmarsh). The Comments included under certain questions, and at the end of the tables are taken from the final question asked by the Council, which simply asked for 'any other comments'.

#### Q1 Your housing situation – Please tick which kind of house you live in

	Total number of responses (out of 286)	Harmer Hill (out of 85)	Myddle (out of 116)	Outlying areas (out of 85)
Rented from Landlord	18	5	6	7
Rented from Council / Housing Association	19	3	14	2
Home Owner	237	73	92	72
Tied accommodation (provided by employer)	3	0	1	2
Other	6			

The 'Other' category responses included 'owned by children', 'shared ownership', 'small holding', 'tenant council farm holding', 'was tied accommodation'.

#### Q2 Are you on the Homepoint Housing Register?

	Total number of responses (out of 286)	Harmer Hill (out of 85)	Myddle (out of 116)	Outlying areas (out of 85)
Yes	4	0	4	0
No	207	60	86	61
Unsure	40	11	17	12

**Q3 Please tick any problem if it applies to your housing**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
Needs improvement / repair	39	11	12	16
Too costly to heat	28	8	9	11
Too large	14	7	3	4
Too small for us	5	0	2	3
It affects health of household member	2	0	1	1
Rent / mortgage too expensive	5	3	1	1
Other	9			

The 'Other' category included 'Leasehold and therefore expensive', 'communal living', and 'need central heating'. Other respondents repeated the categories above.

**Q4 If you could change your housing, please tick what your preference would be**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
Buy (open market housing)	74	27	26	21
Rent (open market housing for rent)	1	1	0	0
Buy an affordable house	21	2	11	8
Rent (affordable housing for rent)	7	2	4	1
Sheltered accommodation including extra care	5	1	1	3
Other	19			

The 'Other' category included 'move into Shrewsbury / town', 'extend / convert / develop / build house and sell current one', 'buy bungalow / build retirement bungalow', 'move to ordinary sheltered accommodation', 'need space for extra parking / shed'.

**Q5 Do you own property or land and have interest in creating affordable housing?**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
Yes	20	8	6	6
No	219	66	92	61
Possibly	17	5	3	9

**Q6 Your opinions on local housing – Should there be some new housing in the parish over the next ten years?**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
Yes	150	37	63	50
No	83	36	29	18
Unsure	47	9	21	17

**Q7 If yes, what type of housing should it be? Tick all that apply**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
Affordable housing to buy or rent to local people	105	24	45	36
Affordable housing to buy or rent to local people AND from other areas	69	18	26	25
Sheltered accommodation for older people to rent or buy including Extra Care Housing	66	17	24	25
Open market housing for anyone to buy (new houses)	83	18	35	30
Open market housing for anyone to rent (new houses)	41	6	14	21
Serviced sites for Gypsies and Travelling people	7	1	1	5

**Q8 If more houses are built, what size should they be? Tick all that apply**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
1 or 2 bedroom properties	153	36	65	52
3 or 4 bedroom properties	158	42	68	48
5 or more bedroom properties	27	8	11	8
Bungalows	123	33	55	35

*Comments included*

- *A need for small bungalows for elderly people wishing to ‘downsize’, particularly as this would free up larger properties for families (several comments)*

**Q9 Tick how many new houses across the parish you think would be right in the next 10 years**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
None	52	23	18	11
1 to 5	15	7	5	3
6 to 10	39	11	19	9
11 to 20	77	14	31	32
21 to 50	56	18	23	15
More than 50	15	6	4	5

*Comments included that*

- *New buildings are essential to ensure the viability of the shop, school, churches and pubs*

**Q10 If new houses are built, where should they be? Tick all that apply**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
Within the current development boundary	151	43	60	48
Outside of the current development boundary	37	12	11	14
Around the edges of existing built up areas	73	18	30	25
In-fill (open spaces between existing houses)	90	25	32	33
Conversions are OK anywhere	78	22	28	28
New buildings are OK anywhere	14	3	6	5

**Q11 Do you think it is right to allow some open market housing to be built to help fund affordable homes**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
Yes	103	28	41	34
No	72	26	28	18
Maybe	89	23	38	28

## Your opinions on other development matters

**Q12 What are your views on the design of new buildings? Please tick any statements you agree with**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
All new builds should use local materials in sympathy with surroundings	133	39	54	40
All new builds in style and proportion, should be in keeping with surroundings	187	61	72	54
A reasonable proportion of new builds can vary in style, proportion and materials	57	16	21	20
It's stimulating to have a large variety of building styles with different proportion and materials	36	8	20	8
Some buildings, when exceptionally designed and built can be a stunning attraction when different to their surroundings	58	16	25	17

*Comments included*

- *That using 'local materials' might mean extending the quarries, and that this would damage the countryside*

**Q13 What are your views on business and commercial development?**

**Please tick any statements you agree with**

	<b>Total number of responses (out of 286)</b>	<b>Harmer Hill (out of 85)</b>	<b>Myddle (out of 116)</b>	<b>Outlying areas (out of 85)</b>
There is enough business, commercial and industrial development within the parish	49	15	20	14
There could be some growth in business, commercial and industrial development within the parish	113	29	46	38
There could be much more growth in business, commercial and industrial development within the parish	28	9	10	9
The locality could have a few more developments suitable to attract small business or craft industries	103	28	36	39



	Total number of responses (out of 286)	Harmer Hill (out of 85)	Myddle (out of 116)	Outlying areas (out of 85)
The locality could have more houses with workshops or yard areas attached suitable for small business or craft industries to be run from 'home'	83	22	30	31
Planning authorities should look favourably first on development applications that would bring employment or trade to within the parish	86	22	32	32
The parish should see if there is the possibility of a small scale business park development anywhere	40	10	17	13

*Comments included*

- *A suggestion of creating a small business development / park at Sleaf*
- *Harmer Hill needs a village shop (several comments)*
- *New small businesses should be encouraged, but should not be sited where they might cause a nuisance to householders*

**Q14 Renewable Energy – Using natural resources such as sunlight, wind and rain to produce 'renewable energy' is one way of reducing our dependency upon fossil fuels. With that in mind, please tick any statements you agree with**

	Total number of responses (out of 286)	Harmer Hill (out of 85)	Myddle (out of 116)	Outlying areas (out of 85)
The installation of solar panels on new properties in the parish should be encouraged	203	58	77	68
The installation of small-scale wind turbine generators on domestic properties in the parish should be encouraged	88	26	37	25

*Comments included concern that*

- *wind turbines should not be allowed in the gardens of houses where they would be overlooked by neighbours*
- *there is little point in being concerned about the types of materials used for house roofs, if they are covered with large solar panels*

**Q15 If you have any other comments about local housing and building development, please write them here**

*Comments included*

- *Concern that further development would detract from village and community identity*
- *A need to retain safe open space close to houses for children to play*
- *A need to retain houses with gardens for future generations – i.e. not to build in garden space/ infill*
- *A need to retain existing green belt and agricultural land as it is, and not spoil it with housing developments (several comments)*
- *A feeling that enough green space has already been taken for housing developments (particularly in Harmer Hill)*
  
- *Several statements that the property market is currently so slow that new properties may not sell, or that existing properties have been on the market for a long time without selling, or that there are already too many empty houses in the parish*
  
- *Concerns about the capacity of the existing infrastructure (particularly sewers) to cope with more new buildings*
- *The hope that permission for any new development would include a requirement to provide funding for infrastructure or community facility improvements*
  
- *Concerns that the parish is losing young people who cannot afford to buy here, so are moving elsewhere (several comments).*

*Concern that*

- *Planning application forms are too complex and the planning process too slow*
- *Insufficient help and support is available to applicants*
- *Shropshire Council ignore the wishes of local residents when new developments are planned*
- *The views of local people and the Parish Council should be taken into greater account when planning decisions are being made*
  
- *Concern that affordable housing, or housing association housing may attract people who do not pay taxes or contribute to society*

