

Berwick Parish

Action Plan 2008



Berwick Parish consists of three distinct areas: Berwick Station, Berwick Village & Lower Berwick, all set within the gently rolling open countryside of the South Downs and the Low Weald. The Parish include a church, post office, shop, two pubs, garage, village hall, children's play area, zoo, wine centre and other businesses where people meet and congregate.

Berwick Station is primarily a residential settlement in a linear form along the C39, with a pub, Post Office, shop, garage and the village hall.

Berwick Village is located around the 12th century church St Michael and All Angels which is known for its brightly painted wall panels depicting biblical scenes. These were painted during World War II by Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, members of the Bloomsbury Group.

Lower Berwick is another linear development stretching from the "Drusillas roundabout" on the A27, to Winton Street. Drusillas Zoo and the Wine Centre are sited here, with Berwick Court Farm further south.

The benefits of an Action Plan:

- Gives opportunity for the residents to be heard and creates actions for improvement.
- Encourages understanding and working together in the community.
- Can provide a focus for the Parish Council and evidence of a need for future funding in the community.
- Can inform District and County Councils and other bodies of the community's views.

On September 28th 2007 we held an open meeting in the village hall to find out the concerns of the parishioners, which was attended by approximately 70 people. Subsequently a questionnaire was put together based on the issues raised at that event. We delivered an average of two questionnaires to every household in Berwick Parish (104) and sought the views of both adults and children. 94 were returned completed (nearly 50%) and the percentages within this plan are based on the responses to that questionnaire.

Community facilities



The “Parish News” provides a valuable source of information for its parishioners. The majority would like to see a community association formed and 12% offered to run a new activity. 51% of the respondents also supported the development of a voluntary organisation to provide a network to support older people and residents in need.

Plan of Action:

- Parishioners to form a community association, to identify and provide a sense of community for the residents. This is to form a social network within the village to organise events. The Steering group will advertise in the June Parish News for volunteers.
- Parishioners to develop a network of volunteers, for the support of people in need, within the parish. This will provide a bank of volunteers for errands such as shopping, transport or visiting. The Steering group will advertise in the June Parish News for volunteers.

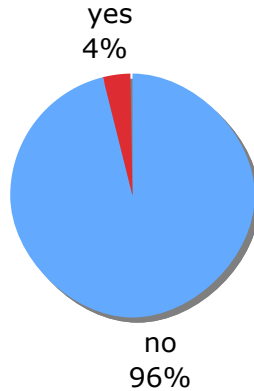
Housing



There are currently 104 households in Berwick Parish, spread between Berwick Village, Berwick Station and Lower Berwick. The Wealden District Plan to build between 4,700 and 7,000 houses as a new town was overwhelmingly rejected by 96%. 72% of people felt there should be no more than 20 new homes built. A need was identified by 62% for small, starter and retirement homes in the village.

Proposed building of between
4,700 & 7,000 houses by Wealden
District Council in Berwick Parish.

■ no ■ yes



Plan of Action:

- Berwick Parish Council to continue to act on behalf of the parishioners to object to the proposal of Wealden District Plan to build between 4,700 & 7,000 houses as a new town.
- Berwick Parish Council to work in partnership with the District Council planning department to investigate the provision of a limited number of small starter and retirement homes within the parish once the results of Wealden District Council's local development framework (LDF) results are announced.

Environment



Due to the natural regeneration of Berwick Brickworks, 37% felt that it should be designated as a protected wildlife reserve and remain unmanaged. A further 27% would prefer a managed wildlife reserve. 71% would like to see Berwick Parish included in the proposed South Downs National Park.

88% would like to see the Berwick Way completed as per East Sussex County Council plan authorised 31st May 2006. 27% would like to see local wild plants and trees established along the path. 89% would like to see the pavement from Berwick, Downsway extended along to the reservoir.

When asked about how the environment could be improved in general, 40% would like to see an improvement to the footpaths linking Lower Berwick, Berwick Village & Berwick Station. It was also felt that there should be improvement of the green and pond at Berwick Village (15%) and an ecological survey of the parish (18%).

It was felt by 56% that street lighting should not be installed.

When questioned about preferences for recycling, 56% wished to be included in the Wealden District Council Recycling Scheme.

Plan of Action:

- Berwick Parish Council to voice the views of the parishioners for the recognition of the Berwick Brickworks as a designated Wildlife Reserve.
- Berwick Parish Council to encourage inclusion of Berwick Parish in the South Downs National Park.
- Berwick Parish Council to continue to press for completion of the Berwick Way as per East Sussex Council's 2006 plan.
- Berwick Parish Council to approach East Sussex County Council Highways department to press for an extension of the pavement from Downsway to the reservoir.
- Berwick Parish Council to approach East Sussex County Council Highways department regarding improving the pavements linking the parish.
- Steering group to inform Berwick conservation group to take the points forward regarding the suggestion of a green at Berwick Station, improvement of the green and pond at Berwick Village and the conducting of an ecological survey.
- Berwick Parish Council to act on behalf of the parishioners when future issues of street lighting are addressed by stating that the majority were against further street lighting within the parish.
- Community Association and Berwick Parish Council to approach Wealden District Council for inclusion in their kerbside recycling scheme, as soon as possible.

Transportation



Berwick Parish is served by Southern main line trains, the Cuckmere Community Bus and bus services by both Brighton & Hove and Countryliners along the A27.

91% use the train and of these 23% are frequent users. The majority of these use it for leisure with 26% using it for work. 48% felt the train was over crowded at peak times. 55% would like more off peak connections to and from London and 63% would like to see more stopping trains in the evenings and weekends. Most residents felt that the car parking facilities were adequate. 48% thought that there was insufficient information indicating walks and directions to local attractions.

97% are aware of the “Cuckmere Community Bus” and 32% use the service. 59% felt they would like to see a better bus service along the A27.

The current cycle path runs along the A27 as far as Ripe Lane, Firle. 65% would like to see the cycle path extended between Firle and Polegate.

The A27 is a single carriageway between Beddingham and Polegate. 62% of parishioners agree that this should be widened to a dual carriageway.

Plan of Action:

- Berwick Parish Council to create an information board located at Berwick Station providing information on local amenities.
- Community Association with the support of the Parish Council to contact local bus services to improve bus connections to and from Berwick Station.
- Community Association with the support of the Parish Council to contact “Southern” to improve rail links to and from Berwick Station.
- Berwick Parish Council to raise with ESCC the extension of the cycle path between Firle and Polegate.
- Berwick Parish Council to raise with ESCC the plans for widening of the A27.

Speed Management

Currently the speed limit along the C39 is 40mph through Berwick Station. All other roads through the Parish operate at the national speed limit. 68% are in favour of a lower speed limit on the C39, although many parishioners commented that they would like to see the existing speed limit enforced.

53% would like to see traffic calming installed on the C39 through Berwick Station and 66% were in favour of a speed camera. 72% are in favour of a flashing speed indicator on the C39.

When questioned about the installation of a safe crossing 35% stated that the crossing at the village shop should be improved. 27% would like to see a pedestrian crossing established at the A27 junction with Berwick Village. 22% felt there should be one near the village hall.

Plan of Action:

- Berwick Parish Council to press for a lower speed limit along the C39 through Berwick Station.
- Berwick Parish Council to ensure that the existing speed limit is enforced.
- Berwick Parish Council to investigate the possibility of traffic calming and the installation of a speed camera or flashing speed indicator along the C39 in Berwick Station.
- Berwick Parish Council to develop a strategy to improve road safety along the C39 from Lower Berwick to Berwick Station and at the junction of the A27 with “the village” at Berwick Village.

Summary of Actions to be taken.

Action Plan	How	Implemented by:	Timescale/Target
Form a community association,.	Advertise in the April Parish News for volunteers.	Steering Group	April/ May 2008
Parishioners to develop a network of volunteers, for the support of people in need, within the parish.	Advertise in the April Parish News for volunteers.	Steering Group	April/ May 2008
Oppose the proposal of Wealden District Plan to build between 4,700 & 7,000 houses as a new town.	Berwick Parish Council to submit action plan results to Planning Dept	Berwick Parish Council	With immediate effect
Investigate the provision of a limited number of small starter and retirement homes within the parish.	Berwick Parish Council to work in partnership with the district council planning department	Berwick Parish Council	Once the results of WDD's local development framework results are announced

<p>Investigate inclusion in their kerbside recycling scheme.</p>	<p>Community Association and Berwick Parish Council to approach Wealden District Council for inclusion in their kerbside recycling scheme as soon as possible</p>	<p>Community Association and Berwick Parish Council</p>	<p>April/May 2008</p>
<p>Press for recognition of the Berwick Brickworks as a designated Wildlife Reserve.</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council to liaise with East Sussex County Council and/or Sussex Wildlife Trust</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council</p>	<p>Before September 2008</p>
<p>Berwick Parish Council to act on behalf of the parishioners when future issues of street lighting are addressed by stating that the majority were against further street lighting within the parish.</p>		<p>Berwick Parish Council</p>	<p>As and when needed</p>

<p>Berwick Parish Council to encourage inclusion of Berwick Parish in the South Downs National Park.</p>			
<p>Berwick Parish Council to continue to press for completion of the Berwick Way as per East Sussex Council's 2006 plan</p>			
<p>Berwick Parish Council to approach East Sussex County Council Highways department to press for an extension of the pavement from Downsway to the reservoir.</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council to approach East Sussex County Council Highways department</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>
<p>Improve the pavements linking the parish.</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council to approach East Sussex County Council Highways department</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>
<p>Investigate the development of a green at Berwick Station, improvement of the green and pond at Berwick Village and the conducting of an ecological survey.</p>	<p>Contact the conservation group with parishioners responses</p>	<p>Steering Group</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>

Create an information board located at Berwick Station providing information on local amenities.	Berwick Parish Council to obtain estimates and produce the information board.	Berwick parish Council	With immediate effect
Improve bus connections to and from Berwick Station.	Community Association with the support of the parish council to contact local bus services	Community Association	When established
Improve rail links to and from Berwick Station.	Community Association with the support of the parish council to contact local bus services	Community Association	When established
Investigate the extension of the cycle path between Firle and Polegate.	Berwick Parish Council to raise with East Sussex Highways	Berwick Parish Council	Within 6 months
Support the plans for widening of the A27	Berwick Parish Council to raise with East Sussex Highways	Berwick Parish Council	Within 6 months

<p>Press for a lower speed limit along the C39 through Berwick Station.</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council to liaise with ESCC, the police and LSP</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>
<p>Ensure that the existing speed limit is enforced.</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council to investigate speed enforcement measures, including Speed Indicator Device or speed camera with ESCC Highways and police</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>
<p>Improve road safety along the C39 from Lower Berwick to Berwick Station and at the junction of the A27 with “the village” at Berwick Village. Investigate the possibility of traffic calming and the installation of a speed camera or flashing speed indicator along the C39 in Berwick Station.</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council to liaise with ESCC Highways and the LSP</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council together with County Council</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>
<p>Investigate the possibility of traffic calming and the installation of a speed camera or flashing speed indicator along the C39 in Berwick Station.</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council to liaise with ESCC Highways and the LSP</p>	<p>Berwick Parish Council</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>

Acknowledgement

The preparation of the Village Plan has been led by a Steering Group comprising of the following people, who have given their time to produce what we hope you will agree is a document representing the views of the Parish as a whole.

Lyn Hayward

Anne Howard

Sue Whitehead

Kathy Martyn

David Lumsden

Sarah Scott

Mark McTaggart

Prepared by the Berwick Village Action Plan Steering Group with the approval of Berwick Parish Council. The action plan will be kept under continuous review to ensure that all elements of it receive appropriate attention as and when the need arises.

This document is available in large font upon request.

Completed May 2008

and presented to Berwick Parishioners on Friday 16th May 2008.