



The Parish Plan
for
Dormington, Mordiford
Checkley and Priors Frome



What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan gives everyone in the community an opportunity to say what they think about the issues affecting the Group Parish and how they would like to see things change in the future.

Parish Plans can cover everything that is relevant for the people who live and work in the community. They set out the improvements people would like to see over the next few years. They have the potential to influence the actions of a wide range of organisations, as well as setting out a programme of future actions by the Parish Council itself.

Why did we produce the Parish Plan?

- a. To identify what is special about the Parish, and outline the strategies envisaged to preserve and enhance these qualities.
- b. To involve the community and canvas and assess the needs of the inhabitants.
- c. To plan ways of representing the views of the P.C. to external bodies, in order to influence decisions at a higher level and to obtain help and funding.
- d. To propose and implement action plans that respond to local need.

How did we produce the Parish Plan?

- a. The Council referred to other Parish Councils' completed Parish Plans and benefited from their experience.
- b. A steering committee of members of the P.C. was formed. Subsequently several non - P.C. committee members joined this committee.
- c. A Parish Questionnaire was drawn up and distributed to every household, collected and analysed. 57% of forms were returned.
- d. Using Microsoft Access and other analytical tools, much useful information was obtained (see Appendix).
- e. From the data, several priority areas were identified and an action plan was developed for adoption by the full Parish Council and approval by Herefordshire Council.

Priority Topics

The priority topics determined from the Parish Questionnaire are detailed under eight separate headings:

- 1. Provision of New Affordable Housing**
- 2. Small Scale Development**
- 3. Post Office and Shopping Facilities**
- 4. Transport**
- 5. Road Safety and Parking Provision**
- 6. The Environment**
- 7. Policing and Crime and Disorder**
- 8. Tourism, Leisure and Social Activities**

Parishioners are welcome to inspect the 'raw' data from the Parish Questionnaire. Please apply to the Parish Clerk, Mrs Heather Jones (850806)

INTRODUCTION

The area making up the Parish

The following description is taken from Littlebury's Directory and Gazetteer of Herefordshire 1876-7 [*Transcribed by Rosemary Lockie in March 2004 from scanned images of an original edition in Hereford Central Library. See [Herefordshire GENUKI Service Providers](#) for contact details*]

MORDIFORD,

WITH THE HAMLETS OF CHECKLEY, FROOME, AND SUFTON.

MORDIFORD (anciently Mordesford) is a parish and pleasant village situated on the old road from Hereford to Worcester, and on the river Lugg, about a quarter of a mile from its junction with the Wye. It is distant 4¼ miles E.S.E. of Hereford, 10 N. of Ross, and 11 W. of Ledbury; is in Greytree hundred, Hereford union, petty sessional division, and county court district, and Fownhope polling district. The population in 1861 was 691; in 1871, 608; inhabited houses, 151; families or separate occupiers, 164; area of parish, 1,478 acres; annual rateable value, £2,576. Richard Hereford, Esq., of Sufton court, is lord of the manor and principal landowner. The Right Hon. Lady Emily Foley, of Stoke Edith park, is lady of the manor of Prior's court, and also a landowner here. The soil on the western side of the hill is a red loam, and that on the eastern side a brown clay. There are large limestone quarries at Scutterdine in this parish, where numerous fossils are found. A considerable trade is carried on in timber, bark, &c., the neighbourhood being surrounded by extensive woods. The other principal crops grown here are hops, wheat, beans, fruit, and pasture. The river Lugg, which the poet Drayton terms "more lovelie" than the Wye, is crossed by a massive stone bridge on entering the village, and adds greatly to the picturesque scenery of this locality

Mordiford is in the diocese and archdeaconry of Hereford and rural deanery of Ross; living, a rectory; value, £310, with residence and 14 acres of glebe; patroness, the Lady Emily Foley; rector, Rev. Robert Hereford, M.A., of St. John's College, Oxford, who was instituted in 1875. The earliest register is dated 1621. The church (name of patron saint unknown) is an ancient edifice with nave, chancel, south transept (rebuilt in 1852), porch, and square tower containing five bells. It was completely restored and a new north aisle and vestry added in 1869, at a cost of £1,771; architect, F. R. Kempson, Esq., F.I.B.A., of Hereford. The east window is of stained glass (by Gibbs, of London), the gift of the Hereford family; it is of three light and contains tastefully-executed representations of the Nativity, the Crucifixion, and the Ascension of our Lord. The transept contains a memorial window to Harriet, eldest daughter of Richard Hereford, Esq., of Sufton court. Here is an ancient monument, above which is an effigy kneeling in prayer, and on which is the following inscription:-

To ye memory of MARGARET,
Daughter of William Vaughan, of Courte Field, in ye County of Monmouth, Gent.,
And ye late Wife and Widdow of Will Brydges, of Upleadon,
In ye Parish of Bosbury, in ye County of Hereford, Gent.,
Who died at her prayers in ye form as you see her porttrature, in Lorports Court,
Uppon ye 14th day of April, 1655, aged 80 years."

An excellent school, to accommodate 130 children, was erected in 1873 on a site given by Richard Hereford, Esq. The cost of building (about £1,340) was defrayed by Captain R. J. Hereford; architect, F. R. Kempson, Esq. The school is under the management of a committee, and has a certificated master. Children from the adjoining parishes of Hampton Bishop and Fownhope are allowed to attend this school. There is also an infant school. There are a few small charities belonging to the parish. Upon an eminence adjoining the village is *Sufton Court*, the seat of Richard Hereford, Esq., J.P. D.L., and Captain Richard James Hereford, J.P., D.L. The present mansion is of Bath stone, erected at the latter end of the 18th century, a few hundred yards from the site of the old house; the grounds are tastefully laid out, and command some beautiful and extensive prospects. **Sufton** has been the residence of the ancient family of Hereford from the beginning of the reign of Henry III. Blount's MSS. record that the Hereford family held this manor by the service of presenting the king with a pair of gilt spurs whenever he should ride over Mordiford bridge. **Froome** hamlet is distant 1 mile N.; **Checkley** is distant 2 miles N.E.

DORMINGTON is a parish and straggling village situated on the Hereford and Ledbury road, 5½ miles E. of Hereford, 9 W. of Ledbury, and about 2 S.E. of Withington and the same distance S.W. of Stoke Edith railway stations on the Hereford and Worcester branch of the Great Western railway. It is in Greytrees hundred, Hereford union, county court district, and petty sessional division, and Tarrington polling district. The population of the civil parish of Dormington in 1861 was 77; in 1871, 121; inhabited houses, 20; families or separate occupiers, 25; area, 970a. 3r. 20p.; annual rateable value, £1,411. (The ecclesiastical parish contained 219 persons in 1871, with 34 inhabited houses.) The Lady Emily Foley, of Stoke Edith park, is lady of the manor and principal landowner. The soil is red loam, with a substratum of marl, very fertile, and well cultivated; chief produce, hops, wheat, beans, and pasture. Dormington is in the diocese and archdeaconry of Hereford and rural deanery of Weston; living, a vicarage annexed to Bartestree chapelry; joint value, £239, with residence and 82 acres of glebe; patron, Lady Emily Foley; vicar, Rev. Langton Edward Brown, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, who was instituted in 1844. The church, dedicated to *St. Peter*, is an ancient stone edifice, with nave, chancel, porch, and tower containing two bells. Divine service is held on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. alternately. The earliest register is dated 1700. The charities for the use of the poor amount to about £5 10s. yearly. The children attend the new school at Tarrington, there being no Church of England school in the parish.



Detailed Findings Leading to the Action Plan

1. Provision of new housing in the Parish

Background

175 households of the 178 households completing the Parish Survey stated that their home in the Parish was their main residence.

29 households rent their home either from the Local Authority or privately. The vast majority of householders (137) own their own property. Six properties have shared ownership. Just one home is tied to employment.

29 households will be seeking alternative accommodation over the next five years. In nine cases the whole household is hoping to move, but in the remaining cases it is one or two members of the family who are wishing to move, usually the older children. In just one case, grandparents are wishing to move from the family home.

Reasons for moving are varied. Nine are moving away for educational reasons, eight are seeking employment, five households need a smaller house, six have to move for social reasons and three for medical reasons.

Nine households have found that there is a shortage of accommodation in the Parish to buy, and a further six have been unable to find accommodation to rent. Just five households say they wish to move within the Parish. Twelve would like to remain in the Hereford area. Nine would be happy to move elsewhere.

The type of accommodation searched for is quite varied. Eight require privately rented accommodation, and three Local Authority rented accommodation. Eight are looking for accommodation to purchase, with one of these hoping to share ownership. One household would like to move into sheltered accommodation.

Two bedroomed accommodation is most popular for people wishing to move house (11). Seven require just one bedroom. Three require larger houses with three or four bedrooms.

All parishioners were asked to indicate what type of additional accommodation they believed was required in the Parish. 59 households thought that homes for young people were required; eleven thought homes for single people were required. 25 believed there was a need for homes for the elderly. Just nine households thought more large family homes were necessary. Against these figures, 63 households thought that no further housing was required in the Parish.

Just two households believed there was a need for a large greenfield development. Others (18) believe that the housing needs could be met by small infill development.

The ownership of any new homes was also considered. 42 households believe that the housing should be low cost and available for sale. 29 households wish to restrict sales to local people. There was less demand for rented accommodation. 17 believe that the Local Authority should provide accommodation to let, whereas nine thought that private owners should provide such accommodation.

Eleven householders see the need for sheltered accommodation, and ten felt there was a need to provide accommodation for key workers (people employed in education, health, security and social services).

The Plan for providing new housing.

The figures given above do not suggest that a large building programme is required in the Parish. However there appears to be a need to provide some low cost housing for sale and to rent. Small infill projects could provide this with minimal change to the Parish, but there are many advantages in concentrating efforts in just one area. The provision of services and general amenities would be much more economic if new development was concentrated in one area.

Two greenfield sites could be considered for development. The first lies on the eastern side of the Mordiford to Fownhope road, lying between the old mill and West Wood. The land is gently sloping, and access would be safe, as the main road is quite straight in this section.

An alternative site for development is the parcel of land lying to the North of Sufton Rise and adjacent to it. A games field has recently been laid out on part of it.

Any such developments would need to be compatible with the Unitary Development Plan and subject to the usual planning constraints and procedures.

Possibly a preferable approach would be to revitalise brown-field sites such as was the case where The Maltings now is in Dormington and the recently approved plans to develop the old hop-buildings at Claston Farm.

Any development should include one, two and three bedroomed houses, with a small group of sheltered accommodation. Some of the homes should be available for sale and some to rent, with local families being given the opportunity to apply for the accommodation before applications are accepted from others. The Parish Council would need to work closely with Herefordshire Housing to develop suitable opportunities.

In addition to providing houses, consideration should be given to the construction of four or five units to be used for retailing, hairdressing, as a doctor's surgery or general office accommodation. Flats could be provided above them, as low cost accommodation/starter homes.

Sufton Rise and the surrounding area would benefit by having these additional facilities in the vicinity.

2. Small Scale Development in the Parish

Background

115 households recognise that there is a need for development of small businesses and small-scale enterprises. The distinction between the two is not clear. Only ten households were against the idea of further development in the area.

Positive recommendations as to what, where and how such development should occur were made by only a few households.

14 respondents considered redundant farm buildings suitable sites for development, and eight mentioned the Claston Farm Project. (This has now stalled due to the change in ownership.) Forest enterprises, the old water mill, the old forge and the shop were also mentioned by a few households as being worthy of development and creating employment opportunities.

There are many small enterprises already operating in the Parish that should be given encouragement to develop further. A detailed survey of these enterprises should be undertaken to enable the Parish and Unitary Councils to support them appropriately.

The Plan for Small Scale Development in the Parish

New development in the Parish.

A number of sites should be considered for business development in the Parish, possibly including the following, if the circumstances allowed: -

The old water mill could be considered for redevelopment. It would be wonderful to have it re-instated as a working water mill as was planned some years ago. As the cost of this might be excessive, alternative uses are suggested. It would make a fine art gallery and display area, with a resident artist attending at certain times during the week. To encourage visitors still further, a small teashop could be provided on the ground floor. Parking spaces could be provided on land leading off Bell Lane as described elsewhere.

The old forge is also worthy of consideration. In the initial stages of development it could be used as a workshop attached to the Farriery Department of Holme Lacy Agricultural College. Metal work could be undertaken in the forge, where items such as garden ornaments and general hardware might be made.

Farriery

There has been a big increase in the horse population of the parish in recent years. The old forge would not be suitable for supplying farriery services for them, but consideration could be given to locating a farriery in unused farm buildings.

Livery

A big increase in the demand for livery services has taken place over the past two years. A number of farmers have fenced off paddocks for grazing, but little attention has been given to providing full livery services. This would involve housing, feeding, grooming and exercising horses. Capital investment is high but returns are good. Livery has high labour requirements and should be encouraged in the Parish

The new four or five retail units suggested in the housing programme would create employment and provide welcome services to Parishioners. There is potentially a need for shops selling groceries and green groceries. (The post office/shop in the village of Mordiford could become more involved with items for the visitor.) A hairdresser might

take advantage of a unit. Another unit could be used as a day clinic, with a nurse on duty and a doctor holding a surgery a number of times a week. Also, a unit might be used as an office for Local Government officers or other bodies.

3. Post Office and Shopping Facilities

Background

Local residents believe that the shopping facilities in Mordiford could be improved.

In the Survey, 19 households proposed a new shop and 12 believed that a farm shop was required. Other suggestions made include: -

General store (2), Video rental (1), Garage/petrol station (6), Off Licence (3), Newsagents (2), Bakery (2), Teashop (2), greater choice at the existing store (8) and longer hours at the existing store (4).

In the Survey just 37 households said that they never use the Post Office. 12 reported that they use the P.O. daily, 54 weekly and 36 monthly. A further 32 admitted that they use the P.O. infrequently. These figures indicate that the Post Office is valued and should be retained.

The Plan for the Post Office and Shopping Facilities

The provision of the new shops suggested in the housing and small development sections could come a long way to satisfying the demand from households for improvement in shopping facilities in the Parish. Two sites have been suggested for development and the one near Sufton Rise, because of the higher population density here, is probably the better option.

The existing Post Office / Shop suffers three major disadvantages at present. It has very little storage space, it has no customer parking space and access is extremely hazardous, whether it is on foot or bicycle, by pushchair or wheel chair.

The lack of storage space could be overcome by provision of a lockable container at the rear of the premises.

Parking could potentially be provided outside the school and in an area off Bell Lane (see details later under the section dealing with road safety).

Access could be greatly improved by resurfacing Bell Lane and providing a pedestrian crossing opposite the church entrance. The pathway through the churchyard leading from the car parking area outside the school would be a much safer option than the main street.

4. Transport

Background.

Figures taken from the Parish Plan questionnaire indicate that transport is an important consideration for most households living in the Parish. Most of the working adults travel outside the Parish to reach their place of work. Many families travel outside the Parish for leisure activities. Places visited for leisure activities include Hereford, Fownhope, Ledbury, Worcester, Ross, Leominster and Malvern. To reach these venues, most families travel by car.

The local bus service is used by only a few residents as the following figures show: -

Daily use of local bus service	14 households
Weekly use of local bus service	19 households
Monthly use of local bus service	15 households
Occasional use of local bus service	56 households
Those who never use the local bus service	78 households

There are reasons why better use is not made of the local bus service and, in the questionnaire, residents were given an opportunity of saying what improvements to the service are required.

A number of ideas were put forward: -

Improvement in the bus service routes
Improvement in the timetable
More frequent service
Reduced fares
Improved reliability
Better bus stop location
Better access to buses for the disabled
Cleaner buses

Some specific improvements were also mentioned: -

- An early morning and late evening service is required for shift workers.
- A Sunday service should be provided.
- The service should be extended to include such points as Dormington, Fownhope Surgery, Bishop's School and Pentaloe Close.
- Buses should be smaller to operate along narrow lanes.
- The 2.00pm service should be reinstated.

Just 21 families in the Parish do not own a car. Most families own several cars. Details given: -

Families owning no cars	21
Families owning one car	63
Families owning two cars	75
Families owning three cars	15
Families owning four cars or more	4

Less than half the car owners, 77, share their vehicles with others. 101 owners never share their car.

Lifts are offered by those willing to do so, to travel to college or schools, 27, to travel to work, 9, for shopping, 27, and for social activities, 39.

A large number of car owners, 51, would be prepared to take part in any voluntary transport service that might be set up.

The Plan for Transport

A **voluntary transport scheme** may be well worth considering.

A volunteer is required in each village to co-ordinate the scheme. They would be required to record offers of lifts and those requiring them. Drivers willing to offer a lift would ring the co-ordinator as early as possible, and give details of the journey to be undertaken. People requiring a lift would contact the co-ordinator and say what was required. If a lift had been offered for that journey, the telephone number of the driver would be given so that arrangements might be made. The co-ordinator would only need to receive calls. It would be left to the person requiring the lift to make final arrangements.

An alternative idea is for a village to actually purchase and insure a car, with villagers booking its use with a central co-ordinator when required.

Local bus service.

It is unlikely that the company operating the service will improve it without the prospect of increased returns. Until the service is improved, it is unlikely that greater use of it will be made. A downward spiral appears to be operating. As passenger numbers fall, the service deteriorates further.

The Parish is fortunate in that a local service continues to operate between Hereford and Fownhope via Mordiford and Sufton Rise. Encouragement could be given to the provider of this service in the form of a (further?) subsidy, for a short period. This subsidy would allow the company to extend its catchment area, increase the number of journeys and provide links to other bus services.

A regular service operates between Hereford and Ledbury, passing through Dormington. It would be feasible to link this service with a new service running between Hereford and Ross on Wye, passing through Mordiford and Fownhope. The Hereford to Holme Lacy service could be extended to reach Fownhope.

The existing service operating between Hereford and Fownhope via Mordiford, could provide the link between Dormington and Fownhope with an extension to Fownhope Surgery, Woolhope and possibly Checkley. A small bus terminus could be developed at Fownhope to provide the ‘hub’ for these services.

To summarise. The services required to provide the network are: -

Hereford to Ledbury via Dormington (existing service).

Hereford to Ross on Wye via Fownhope (new service).

Hereford to Holme Lacey extended to Fownhope (existing service).

A local service linking Dormington to Woolhope and Checkley via Mordiford and Fownhope (modified existing service). The Hereford part of this link would be provided by the other three services.

The times of each of these services would need to be examined to ensure that connections are possible.

Early and late services are required, together with some Sunday working.

5. Road Safety and Parking Provision.

Background

Many ideas were put forward in the Parish Survey to improve road safety in the Parish, including: -

Extend speed limits

Enforce speed limits

Use digital ‘slow down’ signs

One way operation on Mordiford Bridge

Traffic calming system set up in Mordiford

Double white lines near Sufton Rise

Widen Dormington Road

Widen footpath on Dormington Road

Extend footpaths beside main roads

Set up cycle lanes

Provide proper parking spaces

Extend parking restrictions

Maintain road and ditches

Have a proper hedge cutting programme

Apply salt as needed to reduce risk of skidding in frosty weather

Prevent road flooding

Provide street lights where necessary

Zebra crossing required at Sufton and in Mordiford

Reduce amount of traffic in village by enforcing weight restrictions

Bus stops should be more safely sited

Junction at Dormington should be made safer.

Traffic warning notices should be increased

Road markings also need to be extended

Visibility at Larport Lane junction should be improved

Dip in road at Dormington should be corrected

Bend in main road at Moon Pub needs correcting to prevent bridge damage/widen bridge?

Mud should be removed from the road surface.

52 households believe that a pedestrian crossing is required in the Parish. Those believing one is necessary have identified the following sites: -

Mordiford School	24
By Post Office	7
On main street of Mordiford	11
At the Moon Pub	3
At The Maltings in Dormington	5
On Dormington Road at Sufton Rise	5

Most households, 97, believe that too much traffic passes through the Parish when one takes into account the width of the roads, the road junctions, the winding nature of the roads and the layout of the villages themselves. The whole Parish was laid out when horse and foot traffic was the norm. Very few changes to the roads have been made since then. The Dormington Road and the Fownhope Road have become part of the Hereford relief road without anyone

assessing their suitability. Until a new Hereford Ring Road is constructed, traffic flow through the Parish can only increase.

119 households believe that **speeding** is a problem through the Parish. 32 drew attention to speeding within Mordiford Village and a further 62 drew attention to speeding along the Dormington Road. 10 households drew attention to speeding along country lanes in general. Parishioners presented ideas as to how the problems of speeding and the volume of traffic could be overcome. 68 households wanted further weight restrictions in Mordiford Village and over the Lugg Bridge. Other areas suggested for weight restriction include Dormington Road, Sufton Lane, Larport Lane and Claston Lane.

36 households are in favour of greater use of **speed controls**. 25 wish to extend the stretches of roads with speed limits. Roads suggested for inclusion are in Mordiford Village, the Dormington Road, Ledbury Road, Claston Lane, Woolhope Road and Fownhope Road.

Further measures to control the speed of traffic are required at Sufton Rise junction, Dormington junction at The Maltings, at Mordiford Post Office, at Mordiford School and at Priors Frome.

Parishioners were asked to identify road **junctions which were hazardous**. 39 households named the Larport Cross Roads as being particularly dangerous. 15 mentioned the junction at Dormington on to the Ledbury Road, 11 the junction at Priors Frome, 15 the junction at The Moon Pub, 7 the junction near the school and 9 the junction at Sufton Rise.

Footpaths, Pavements and Pedestrian Crossings.

Many Parishioners approved of the plan to construct a footpath from Mordiford to Fownhope (82) and a further 86 liked the idea of extending the Mordiford to Sufton Rise pavement as far as Dormington.

Just 19 households thought these footpaths were unnecessary.

71 parishioners were in favour of the plan to construct a footbridge across the Lugg at Mordiford. 107 were against this idea.

25 households drew attention to the difficulty of using wheel chairs and push chairs on certain pavements in the Parish. 12 considered the pavement along Mordiford Street to be extremely hazardous. Other places mentioned were Mordiford School, 2, church entrance, 1, by the Steppes, 2, the pavement leading to Sufton Rise, 6.

The need for ramps at crossing points were also mentioned.

126 households do not believe that a pedestrian crossing is required in the village but 52 disagree. 24 require one at the school, 18 at the Post Office.

Car parking

Parishioners were asked about the need for parking restrictions in the Parish. 37 households thought that further parking restrictions were unnecessary and 10 were positively against the idea. Just three thought that there was a need for further restrictions.

59 parishioners feel the need for additional parking in the Parish, whereas 20 thought it would be unnecessary.

A number of places were suggested where additional parking was required. 39 households proposed further parking at the school and 12 needed at the Post Office. 16 households did not see the need for further parking.

The Plan to Improve Road Safety and Provide Further Parking.

All the suggestions made by parishioners to improve road safety should be considered by the Parish Council.

Traffic Management.

Larport Lane

Visibility at the Larport Lane Cross Roads is poor in each direction. Some attempt has been made to correct it with the erection of a convex mirror at one corner. In fact this often confuses drivers. The effect of the mirror is to make vehicles appear to be travelling on the wrong side of the road. Also it is not obvious to a driver unfamiliar with the junction, which way the traffic is travelling.

To improve safety at this junction some landscaping is required. The hedges need to be removed and replaced with open fences such as post and rail. The high banks on each corner should be cut back to road level. The final step would be to erect stop signs on each of the minor roads.

Sufton Rise

The Dormington Road is comparatively straight as it passes Sufton Rise and allows some freedom for motorists to overtake slow moving vehicles. This places drivers leaving Sufton Rise in some danger.

To reduce the danger a slim traffic island could be erected at the entrance to Sufton Rise to prevent overtaking at this section of the Dormington Road. Keep left bollards should be erected at each end of the island. The island would be similar in form to the one at Sudbury Avenue on the Hampton Bishop Road.

Mordiford Village

To make the village street safer, it is suggested operating a single line system continuing over the Lugg Bridge. This would be arranged by installing traffic lights on the approach to Lugg Bridge on the Hereford side and another set at the approach to the village on the Fownhope Road at the site of the 30mph warning notices.

These 30mph warning notices at the entrance to the village on the Fownhope Road are too near the village boundary. They should be moved further up the hill towards Fownhope.

Footpaths, pavements and pedestrian crossings.

It is proposed to consider two pedestrian crossings. One would serve the school and provide a link to the pavement leading to Sufton Rise and the other would allow safe crossing from the church to the Post Office.

The pavement through the village is extremely dangerous. It is very narrow and it is broken by the steps leading down to each of the houses making up Primrose Row. It is impossible to guide a wheelchair or push chair along it. Vehicles passing by might easily brush pedestrians as they negotiate the uneven, narrow pavement.

There will be less danger if the single line traffic system through the village is implemented, potentially allowing the widening of the footpath, but pedestrians should be encouraged to use the path through the churchyard. The provision of the two pedestrian crossings would make this route more attractive.

It is also suggested to construct a pavement leading from the school to the Moon Pub to link up with the Woolhope Road pavement. This would reduce the need to cross the dangerous main road at the pub.

The Woolhope Road pavement disappears as it passes 'Gower's House' but continues again as far as Pentaloe Close. It would be worth examining the possibility of constructing this missing section of pavement.

Much concern has been expressed at the narrowness of the pavement leading from Mordiford to Sufton Rise. On investigation it was found that the pavement was constructed to adequate specifications but over the years debris from passing farm vehicles has collected on the hedge side of the pavement and this has allowed vegetation to encroach across it. A clean up operation would correct the situation. A regular sweeping would prevent reoccurrence of the problem.

An investigation should be conducted into the possibility of extending this pavement as far as Dormington. The section of the Dormington Road without the pavement is extremely dangerous for pedestrians and there has already been a fatality at Prior's Frome.

A footpath between Mordiford and Fownhope already exists but it does not follow the road. It requires regular maintenance if pedestrians are to use it frequently. A pavement along the road is what parishioners really require, thus encouraging greater use of the village shop by people staying at the local caravan park.

The possibility of creating a footpath or pavement leading from Mordiford to Hereford was not mentioned in the Survey but it could be extremely desirable. The route for such a pavement appears more promising than the route to Fownhope.

Car parking

Most parishioners feel the need for additional parking in the village of Mordiford. It is proposed to investigate the construction of two small car parks to meet this need.

The first one would be mainly for the use of village residents who, at present, are obliged to park on the road opposite the school entrance. The car park for such residents could be provided on a small area of land off Bell Lane, creating part of a Village Green (see below). This would be large enough to accommodate approximately six cars. A small bridge would be constructed over the Pentaloe Stream to improve access to the car park for pedestrians. This proposed bridge will be considered later under the section dealing with 'The Environment'

The second car park would be provided near the school. A narrow strip of the school playing field would be lost to allow this development to occur. The road ditch will be replaced with a culvert. Parking for up to 20 cars could be provided on this strip of land. This would be of great benefit to parishioners and parents of school pupils. This car park could be used for church and school functions and also for access to the Post Office. The Parish Council will discuss this proposed project with the school head teacher and governing body.

6. The Environment

Background

Most households are satisfied with the Parish as a place to live. All parishioners recognised the importance of protecting environmental features. They were listed in the questionnaire: -

Woodlands
Orchards
Hedges
Ditches
Meadows
Farming
Ponds
Waterways
Listed Buildings
Common Land

Many ideas were expressed as to how the environment in the Parish could be improved: -

Maintain hedges and verges in correct season	11
Maintain ditches and drains	5
Regular litter collection	7
Provide more litter bins where litter is a problem	1
Restrict the burning of plastic and other rubbish	1
Maintain roads and pavements and provide more pavements	4
Improve road drainage to prevent flooding	2
Keep roads free of mud and other farm debris	3
Extend network of footpaths and maintain them	6
Provide cycle paths	1
Bury cables	1
Reinstate broad leaf woodland	1
Plant trees along river banks	2
Develop village green in Mordiford Village	6
Keep Priors Frome common tidy with proper maintenance	2
Provide decent Information Boards in Villages	3
Reinstate Mill and Smithy in Mordiford Village	2
Stop shooting on Sufton Estate	3
Reduce traffic passing through the villages	3
Restrict future building development	1
Provide a petrol station	1

The results of the questionnaire showed that there are a number of areas in the Parish where **litter** is a problem, including road sides, verges and ditches, the Dormington – Mordiford Road, Swarden Quarry, Mordiford Bridge and Haugh Wood. However, a total of 68 households did not believe litter was a problem in the Parish.

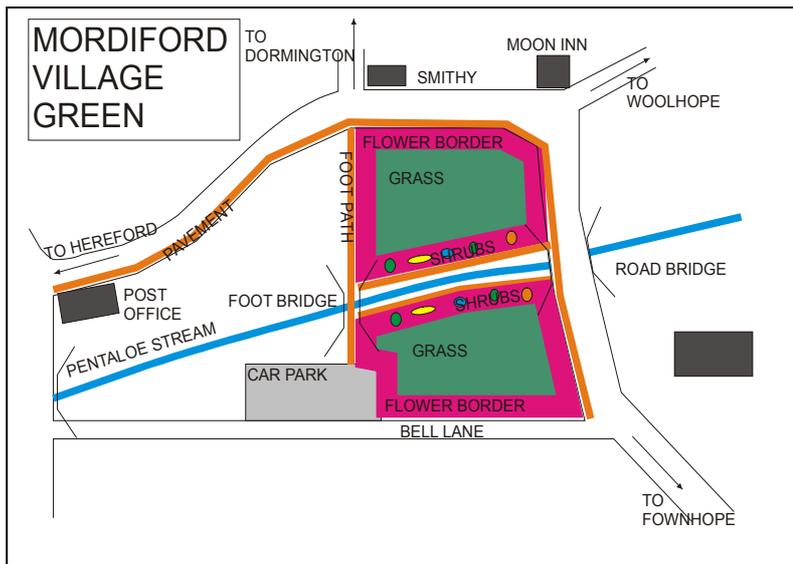
Dog fouling was considered a problem in a number of areas, but particularly the Sufton Estate. However, a total of 89 households did not believe that dog fouling was a problem.

The Plan to Improve the Environment

A number of actions can be taken to improve the environment in the Parish. Such measures as controlling the flow and speed of traffic, providing adequate parking spaces, providing new pavements and pedestrian crossings, improving existing pavements and footpaths have already been mentioned.

The Parish environment would be greatly improved if attention were given to **Mordiford Village Green**. At present it is an overgrown block of land surrounded by a damaged, rusty, linked fence. The Pentaloe Stream flows through the middle of it with steep banks covered with tangled weeds and small trees.

The current landowner has agreed in principle to release the land for the benefit of the Parish and initial proposals are as follows:-



The fence should be removed and landscaping work carried out. Some levelling will be necessary to construct a small car park adjacent to Bell Lane. Vehicle access to the car park will be from Bell Lane.

A small footbridge should be constructed over the Pentaloe Stream to provide access to the car park from the main street. A short path will be needed on each side.

A low wall should be constructed on each side of the stream to contain the stream when it is in flood. Below these walls, narrow paths should be constructed linking the old road bridge with the proposed footbridge. The walls can be backfilled on the upper sides to provide beds for shrubs. A narrow flower bed can be created along the boundary of the development. A large board for Parish notices and tourist information should be provided opposite the old Smithy workshop. Two or three benches should be obtained from which to admire the view. Most of the area will be covered with grass so upkeep will be kept to a minimum.

To complete the Village Green, two further items of interest could be added: -

The first would be a large boulder with a plaque attached. The plaque might contain the words already displayed on a memorial found in the Church: -

"On Monday, the 27th of May, 1811, between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m., the village of Mordiford was visited by a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, wind, and rain, by which the little river Pentaloe was swollen in some places to an extent of 180 feet in width, with a depth of 20 feet. In passing the village, it swept away a large barn and cider-mill, and a cottage adjoining, when William Husbands, miller, Ann Evans, his niece, Elizabeth Greenly, widow, and her infant child, Jemima, were drowned just above the said village, on the road leading to Woolhope. Many hundred tons of rock were blown up and carried through the said village, by which several of the houses of the inhabitants were much injured, and the gardens nearly destroyed. A subscription was promoted for the principal sufferers, and a sum of £80 was collected and distributed among them, in proportion to their respective losses."

A second item might be a piece of sculpture to commemorate the slaying of the dragon on the banks of the River Lugg. An ancient report of the incident reads: -

The pretty village, nestling under the timbered slopes of Backbury Hill, was, 'once upon a time,' the scene of a mighty conflict between a winged dragon, or serpent, and condemned malefactor, who was promised a free pardon on the sole condition of compassing the death of the formidable monster, which had inflicted serious loss on the good folks of the country-side. The man caused himself to be enclosed in a barrel and placed at a spot where the dragon was in the habit of coming down to drink at the river, whereupon the prisoner shot the monster through the bung-hole; but at the same time the poisonous breath of the dying dragon, puffed through the aperture, proved fatal to his unlucky assailant. In witness of the veracity of this surprising history a huge web-footed dragon formerly appeared upon the western gable of the church, and we are told that quite recently two old village dames, espying a couple of newts of unusual size disporting themselves upon the church font, decided that they must be the progeny of this notorious monster, and at once killed them to prevent further mischief.

This memorial would be a suitable replacement for the large green dragon, with expanded wings and webbed feet, which at one time was displayed in pictorial form on the west end of the church. The image on the church was featured in a poem written by a local poet: -

"Who has not heard - of Herefordian birth -
Who has not heard, as winter evenings lag on,
The tale of awe to some - to some of mirth -
Of Mordiford's most famous huge great dragon?
Who has not seen the figure on its church,
At western end outspread to all beholders,
Where leaned the beggar-pilgrim on his crutch,
And asked its meaning - body, head, and shoulders
There still we see the place, and hear the tale,
Where man and monster fought for life and glory;
No one can righteously the fact assail,
For even the church itself puts it before ye."



THE DRAGON OF MORDIFORD.

7. Policing and Crime and Disorder

Background

102 households report that they are unaware that there is a Community Support Officer working in the Parish but 143 households are aware that the Parish has a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Not everyone believes that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is successful, and 97 households are dissatisfied with it. 67 households regard police coverage in the Parish as poor. 54 describe it as satisfactory with only 6 describing it as good.

A number of ideas were expressed as to how crime and disorder could be reduced in the Parish. 47 households believe that a greater police presence is required and a further 46 thought that better consultation between the police and local people was necessary. 47 households believe that more activities for young people should be arranged to keep them 'out of mischief'. Further drug and drink education was recommended by another 15 households.

There was no general agreement as to what are the main concerns of parishioners regarding crime and disorder.

Concerns expressed include speeding (4 households), unauthorised assembly of youths (4), Burglary (3), Vandalism (2), Petty Theft (2). Other incidents mentioned include poaching, fly tipping, drug use, use of mobile phones whilst driving, out of season fireworks, noise pollution and use of untaxed vehicles.

Parishioners believe that these matters can be tackled by the following: -

Having a local police officer (3), reducing response time from the police (2), ensuring a police follow up when a crime has been reported (3), increasing membership of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (3), recording registration numbers of suspicious vehicles (1), improving vigilance (1), installing personal security (1), providing street lighting on the Woolhope and Dormington Roads (2).

The Plan for Policing and Crime and Disorder

Feelings about the increase in crime and disorder and the lack of confidence in the Police Force are not confined to the Parish. The plan for the Parish of Mordiford, Checkley, Priors Frome and Dormington is part of a major plan which will affect the whole of England and Wales. It is known as Local Policing.

What is Local Policing?

- It is based upon the Home Office guidelines given in their publication: - “Professionalising the Business of Neighbourhood Policing”
- It has the vision of a Police service that is accessible and responsive to the citizen needs.
- It builds on the work of the Reassurance Policing programme.
- It identifies Neighbourhood Policing as the key to reform.

Government promises to deliver Neighbourhood Policing teams in every community by 2008. It will be supported by up to 24,000 Community Support Officers.

Why do we need Local Policing?

- Crime has fallen every year since 1995
- But two-thirds of people believe crime has risen.
- Public concerns about drugs, youths, damage and ASB.
- Lack of public confidence and satisfaction with the Police.
- Lack of confidence and sense of insecurity is damaging to local communities.
- We need to create neighbourhoods that are safe and feel safe.
- We need to do this to improve public confidence in the police and make people feel safer in the areas where they live.

PACT will become the keyword of the new system of Policing in the Community

What is the meaning of PACT?

Key points: -

- Partners And Communities Together.
- Is owned and run by the community, Not the Police.
- There is a ‘Panel’ made up of key partners including the Police who can action priorities set.
- Based on holding regular public meetings open to all.
- Public set priorities and vote on their top three for the Panel to deal with.
- Panel must report back to the next meeting, on progress.
- Is a key way of engaging with communities, involving them in policing activity and communicating with them
- Is a key way of ensuring joint problem solving with partners and action on basic ‘quality of life’ issues.

Critical Success Factors.

Where PACT has been trialed, the response has been very positive BUT this is dependent on:

- Extensive publicity and informal but personal invitations to attend are required to ensure interest from the public.
- Local Authorities, Councillors and other partners MUST be fully briefed on the PACT concept and their role before the first meeting.
- PACT meets the Governments joint sector obligations.
- Partners MUST agree to action priorities set for them and report back to subsequent meetings.
- Media interest in and reporting of meetings can be extensive and requires ongoing commitment and support.
- Sustainable frequency of meetings and easily accessible locations.

Chief Constable Paul West’s has four additional requirements: -

- Every person has a named point of contact – Beat Manager – and is able to contact him. There will be a Beat Officer for each Ward.
- Every Beat Manger has the support of, and access to, sufficient resources to do their job – it will be known as the Local Policing Team.
- Every Local Policing Team has a dedicated supervisor – Community Sergeant.
- The integral position of schools within the community is recognised and supported by the Beat Manager and Local Policing Teams.

What is in it for the public?

- Access - to local policing services through a named point of contact.
- Influence - over policing priorities in their neighbourhood.
- Answers - on what the police and other local services are doing for them.
- Be safe and feel safe.

Some steps should be taken in the Parish to improve security and to improve the public’s sense of security.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes should be extended to cover the whole Parish, including Mordiford. Residents should be approached to see if they would agree to become a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator so that a scheme could be established here.

Existing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have experienced some difficulty. There has been no police presence at Neighbourhood Watch meetings and it has become difficult to communicate with them. Things should improve when the new Local Policing Policy is introduced.

Plans should also be implemented to keep young people 'off the streets'. They will involve setting up clubs or societies which would meet regularly in the Parish – perhaps at Mordiford School. These clubs or societies could provide a suitable venue for discussing such subjects as drug and alcohol abuse. These plans are considered below.

8. Tourism, Leisure and Social Activities

Tourism

Perhaps surprisingly, the majority of households questioned believed that tourism should **not** be positively encouraged in the Parish (98 v 80). However, as part of the county-wide initiative to develop 'controlled' tourism and linking in with people's views about protecting the environment, it is the subcommittee's view that existing footpaths, stiles, gates etc should be kept in good condition and be well sign-posted. In addition, local information should be provided for tourists such as a local map, showing footpaths, pubs, B&Bs, guest houses, hotels and places of interest. The proposed 'development' of the area opposite the Moon at Mordiford would be a good site for such an information board and an area where tourists can park before embarking upon walks..

Leisure and Social Amenities

Most families tend to travel out of the Parish, primarily to Hereford, for their leisure activities. The Parish questionnaire has shown that there is interest in many leisure activities, if these could be provided in the Parish. Several respondents referred to the lack of a village hall, but it should not be forgotten that Mordiford village school should be regarded as a village resource (playing fields, halls and classrooms) and the Governors of the school are keen to encourage suitable wider use of the school facilities by the local residents.

- **Parish Events**

The recent 'Dragon Day' held at Mordiford school and jointly run by the Courtyard/Council and the school's PTFA had been a great success, both from enjoyment and financial viewpoints. In previous years, a 'Five Villages' Sports/Fun Day event had been held and was popular. It is thought that these events (even without Courtyard assistance) could alternate and perhaps be linked with the school's annual fete. This will require volunteers to come forward, particularly from the PTFA. The Governors are happy for the school field to be used for such events and if local groups e.g. soccer group, wish to use the field on a regular basis, as the Archery Club does now.

- **Clubs and Classes**

It is recognised that for more passive activities to be based at the school, i.e. clubs, societies and further education, the provision of 'adult' chairs needs to be made. John Bentley, Chair of the Governors, has agreed to discuss this with the governing body; looking into possible funding and storage.

Since the school has been refurbished it offers good facilities such as a small kitchen, hall suitable for 40-50 people seated (good flooring) and, potentially, class-rooms with computer-linked white-boards.

There is already Mordiford Dragons' Play Group (this needs to be better publicised) and the school is in the final process of setting up an After School Club – both facilities meeting the Parish's indicated requirements from the questionnaire. Interest was also expressed in activities such as arts, keep-fit, yoga, dance, language courses, computing courses, photography and drama. Mr Bentley has already had contact with Dr Paul Oliver of Herefordshire Life Long Learning. Dr Oliver is based at the Tech college and appears to act as a facilitator introducing people willing to conduct classes with organisations looking for such classes. There is very good correlation between what is on offer and that which the Parish questionnaire indicates is required. It would be the Parish Council's intention to arrange a meeting with Dr Oliver to explore this further.

Other activities such as Youth Clubs or Scouts were considered, but there did not seem to be a demonstrable need for either and it was doubted that within the Parish there would be sufficient 'critical mass' to warrant pursuing these ideas.