

An aerial photograph of the Preston on Stour area. The image shows a cluster of buildings, including houses and larger structures, surrounded by trees and fields. A road runs along the right side, and a river or stream is visible in the upper right. The overall scene is a mix of built-up areas and natural landscape.

Preston on Stour **ACTION PLAN 2014** *Caring for our Environment*

Preston on Stour

ACTION PLAN 2014

A report from the Steering Group

This Action Plan focuses on issues raised during 2012/2013 in public consultations and in the response to a survey by 72 households (91% of the parish) and 27 local businesses (75% of those identified). It proposes action on these issues in the interests of the whole parish. Together with the accompanying Parish Plan and Village Design Statement, it is hoped that it will be adopted by the Parish Council who will

- Refer this Action Plan to Stratford on Avon District Council, Warwickshire County Council and other partner organisations as appropriate.
- Take steps to put it into effect and monitor progress on in coming years.

Actions raised in the Village Design Statement will be referred to Stratford on Avon District Council as material considerations to help determine its strategy towards planning.

Our recommendation is that the Parish Council includes the Action Plan as a regular item on its agenda, reports its progress to the community and sets up a working group of local people who are willing to help act on it. It might form the basis of a live document which is updated regularly.

Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the Parish Council. The Chairman is Will Spencer. The other councillors are Les Coulson and Mike Hirst. Dionne Sambrook is the Clerk to the Parish Council.

The Parish Plan Steering Group

Anna Corser Tel: 450778. Les Coulson Tel: 450897 (Parish Councillor). Ron Hoe Tel: 450214. Mick Jennings Tel: 450797. Elizabeth Jonsson Tel: 450006. Simon Kirby Tel: 450522. Roger Reed Tel: 450202. Dionne Sambrook Tel: 450870. John Smith Tel: 450172. Will Spencer Tel: 450204 (Parish Councillor). Michael Wyldbore-Smith Tel: 450277.

HISTORY				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
H	The recorded value placed on parish heritage.	To build on the considerable existing historical parish archive and where possible, put it onto the Preston on Stour website for easier access.	Interested members of the community.	3-6 months

PARISH ISSUES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
PI & ES 1	65% of those surveyed would prefer the speed limit through village of Preston reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph. An extension of speed limits beyond current boundaries (for example over bridge across the Stour) is supported by 33%.	Parish Council to make representations to the Warwickshire County Council, on behalf of Parishioners.	Parish Council. Warwickshire County Council.	3 months
PI & ES 2	54% believe that broadband speeds in the village are too slow, for example to encourage working from home.	Parish Council to lobby providers, to address the patchy and slow broadband service. Alscot Estate to clarify their intent/timing of implementation of superfast broadband service for Parishioners, to complement that provided for businesses.	Outreach. Residents and Businesses. Alscot Estate.	3 months
PI & ES 3	66% feel that mobile phone coverage in the village is poor.	Parish Council to discuss with providers the patchy mobile phone coverage.	SDC Economic Development Office. Ofel.	3 months
PI & ES 4	67% of households in parish would like to be connected to mains gas.	Parish Council to make representations on residents' behalf, to determine feasibility and cost.	Preston Parish Council. Warwickshire County Council. Transco ES Pipelines	6 months
PI & ES 5	36% thought more could be done to enhance crime prevention.	Resurrect the Neighbourhood Watch scheme; mechanism to be identified by which this can be done. Ie Parish Council to approach WRCC's Enabling Officer. Volunteers to be sought.	Parish Council. Residents. Community Police Team, Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch	3 months
PI & ES 6	During very wet weather persistent drainage problems exist at cross roads to south of village; waste water is sent down Cow Lane which erodes verges.	Highways Authority to investigate cause of poor drainage and rectify with appropriate authority.	Parish Council. Stratford District Council Severn Trent.	3 months
PI & ES 7	60% of respondents believe there is a need for cycle paths to Stratford and local villages.	Parish Council to investigate provision of cycle path to Stratford and local villages. Alscot Estate to be approached.	Parish Council. Stratford District Council. National Cycle Network.	6 months

PARISH ISSUES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
PI & ES 8	65% of respondents feel country footpaths are an important feature with almost half (49%) favouring more footpaths in the Parish with 90% wishing to include access to the river.	Alscot Estate invited to express their views on provision of more footpaths. A written response would be ideal. Parish Council to liaise with Alscot Estate.	Warwickshire County Council. Stratford District Council. Alscot Estate.	6 months
PI & ES 9	10% of respondents are dissatisfied with the cleanliness and maintenance of the bus shelter.	The bus shelter needs refurbishing and regular cleaning. Volunteers to be sought.	Parish Council. Warwickshire County Council. Bus Company. Rural Transport Partnership.	3 months
PI & ES 10	18% of respondents feel that the village salt bins are poorly maintained and 19% feel similarly about the telephone box.	Parish Council to act/address.	Warwickshire County Council.	2 months
PI & ES 11	36% thought that the current arrangements for snow clearance and road gritting are inadequate. There is strong belief that municipal support to the village in these conditions is poor.	Parish Council to look into why road snow clearance is a problem and how it can be improved. A Snow Warden service might be considered/implemented.	Stratford District Council. Warwickshire County Council. Residents.	3 months
PI & ES 12	31% feel that the current flood management is poor and there was a lack of flood warning signs on approach to bridges over the Stour.	Parish Council to discuss with WCC the establishment of flood warning signs on approaches to bridges over the Stour.	Parish Council. Warwickshire County Council.	3 months
PI & ES 13	Grass verges are sometimes being damaged by vehicles parking or turning round.	Parish Plan Steering Group to investigate how the destruction of the verges can be avoided. Volunteers to be found to repair verges.	Parish Council. Stratford District Council. Residents.	3 months
PI & ES 14	34% of respondents feel that dog fouling is a problem.	Raise awareness of issue. Parish Council to look into provision of dog bins, and mechanism by which these can be provided. As a last resort, enforcement officers to be appointed?	Parish Council. Dog owners.	3 months
PI & ES 15	86% of respondents never use the bus service. 46% would use the public bus service more if the timetable of Stratford buses is more convenient. 37% confirmed they would use it more if there was a service to/ from Stratford in the evening.	Parish Plan Steering Group to discuss with the provider the possibility of re-scheduling the bus service. Provision of community bus service to be investigated.	Stratford District Council.	6 months
PI & ES 16	79% would like there to be a defibrillator installed in the village.	Parish Council to investigate the provision of a defibrillator.	British Heart Foundation.	6 months

PARISH ISSUES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
PI & ES 17	There was support for the provision of a Community orchard (50%) and for the re-introduction of allotments (39%).	Parish Council to investigate the provision of a Community Orchard and of allotments.	Small Holdings and Allotments Act (1908).	6 months
PI & ES 18	48% would support a volunteer 4-WD transport scheme during periods of bad weather.	Parish Council to investigate willingness of 4-WD owners to participate.	Parish Council. 4-WD owners.	By November 2014

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
FD1	Great concern exists about preservation of the uniqueness of the village and its surroundings. Two thirds of respondents thought there should not be new building within the conservation area. But 50% of respondents thought some new houses should be built in the wider Parish; 41% of all respondents did not.	Organise a public forum where guidelines for building in rural areas and associated issues can be explained and discussed with parishioners and businesses. Parish Council to invite the Warwickshire Rural Community Council Enabling Officer to do a survey of need and type of housing.	Parish Council. SDC Housing Dept. Warwickshire Rural Community Council. Enabling officer, Alscot Estate.	6 months
FD2	75% of residents and 50% of businesses want to see existing derelict buildings in the Parish converted into houses; a high proportion also favoured workshops, community buildings and agricultural use.	Parish Council to request Alscot Estate to supply information relating to their plans and timescales for refurbishing these buildings.	Parish Council. Stratford District Council. Warwickshire Rural Community Council.	6 months

ENVIRONMENT				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
E 1	A very great deal of concern was expressed about Preston-on-Stour and its surroundings being spoilt by detrimental developments.	Parish Council and Stratford District Council to support the recommendations contained within the Village Design Statement and to take them into account when consulted on planning.	Parish Council. Stratford District Council.	3 months
E2	72% of residents and 90% of businesses feel the Parish should consider the effects of climate change when planning for the future and also 93% of Parishioners favoured making houses more energy-efficient. There was also a great deal of interest shown in alternative sources of energy production.	Parish Council to ask Alscot Estate to indicate their further plans to make their properties more energy efficient. Also Parish Council to invite Community Energy Warwickshire and Transition Stratford Energy Champion and Action on Energy to give presentation on these topics and individual consultations on request.	Parish Council. Alscot Estate. Community Energy Warwickshire. Transition Stratford. Action on Energy.	6 months

COMMUNITY				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
COM 1	Six Parishes Magazine remains a vital source of information for Parish information; it needs to be supported more.	Parochial Church Council & Parish Council to be informed of importance of the magazine to the community. Circulation to all residents to be maintained.	Volunteers; Village Hall Committee; parish Councillors.	3 months
COM 2	Requirement for a Parish Directory.	Parish Council or specific community group to be set up to produce a Parish Directory.	Stratford District Council. Parish Council. Other parishes with directories (e.g. Ilmington)	6 months
COM 3	The current provision for elderly people needs to be assessed along with consideration of improvements. Appropriate housing, transport and social events have been highlighted as needed.	Parish Council and Stratford District Council to assess the current provision of services/ facilities.	Stratford District Council. Age Concern.	3 months
COM 4	Awareness of parish groups or activities is variable.	Parish directory or improvements to parish communications (newsletter, parish magazine or parish website) will help with this.	Web-site to be updated more regularly. Further web-site training to be organised.	6 months
COM 5	Interest in new groups, such as walking/rambling group, local history group, horticultural society, additional social events.	Parish Council asked to provide seed funding for parish organisations. Village hall committee to be notified. Steering Group to assist setting up new voluntary groups.	Parish Council; Volunteers.	6 months
COM 6	Shop opening hours and range of goods/services requested to be extended.	Liaise with Village Shop.	Alscot Estate.	Opening hours extended already as trial
COM 7	Desire for managed wildlife walk.	Discuss options with Parish Council, Alscot Estate, WRCC.	Stour Valley Wildlife Action Group. WRCC.	6 months
COM 8	Village tidy-up day strongly supported.	Wider advertisement of arrangements for annual tidy-up by volunteers to be undertaken by Parish Council.	Volunteers.	3 months
COM 9	Promotion of heating oil buying syndicate to improve awareness.	Syndicate co-ordinator to add information to website, parish newsletters/parish magazine.	Warwick Rural Community Council. Parish Council.	3 months
COM 10	Concern that parish is becoming an increasingly elderly community with a lack of opportunities and housing for younger people and families.	Raise concerns with Alscot Estate regarding provision of appropriate housing. Organise Housing Needs Survey.	Parish Council. Warwick Rural Community Council. Stratford District Council.	3 months
COM 11	Concerns that the cost of living, particularly prices of rental properties in Parish, are becoming too expensive.	Raise concerns with Alscot Estate regarding rental prices.	Parish Council. Warwick Rural Community Council. Stratford District Council.	3 months

COMMUNITY				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
COM 12	Lack of affordable housing (to buy or rent) in the parish.	Raise concerns with Alscot Estate. Consider provision of affordable housing in the parish.	Parish Council. Warwick Rural Community Council. Stratford District Council.	6 months
COM 13	Lack of integration of new residents.	Provide a parish welcome pack with information on village facilities and events for all new residents.	Volunteers.	3 months

LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
LG 1	Further information needed by some (34%) parishioners regarding the parish council and its activities/ responsibilities.	Findings to be forwarded to the Parish Council; Parish Council to make greater use of website to publicise its activities.	Warwick Rural Community Council.	6 months
LG 2	Very low number of respondents know how much money is spent by the Parish Council. Greater transparency is sought.	Parish Council encouraged to publicise its finances and details of spending. The website is a resource by which this could be done.	Parish Council.	3 months
LG 3	Slightly more than 33% of respondents stated that decisions and activities of all tiers of local government (parish, district and county) are poorly publicised.	This result to be disseminated to the relevant authorities.	Parish Council. Stratford District Council. Warwickshire County Council.	3 months
LG 3	Slightly more than 33% of respondents stated that decisions and activities of all tiers of local government (parish, district and county) are poorly publicised.	This result to be disseminated to the relevant authorities.	Parish Council. Stratford District Council. Warwickshire County Council.	3 months

YOUNG PEOPLE				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
YP 1	The vast majority of young people value playing outside, e.g. on the greens (90%) and having easy access to the countryside (85%). But safety is a concern, e.g. speeding cars (80%). Some areas are hazardous, and waterfront access is limited for playing.	Petition Stratford District Council to place a restriction on speed of vehicles in the village: reduce this to 20mph. Lobby Alscot Estate to continue with restoration works for derelict buildings. Unsafe areas to be identified and volunteer groups sought to make safe.	Warwickshire County Council. Stratford District Council. Parish Council. Alscot Estate.	3 months
YP 2	There is a perceived lack of activities and opportunities for youngsters to meet and interact.	Organise some youth-themed events, for example at the Village Hall. Investigate use of Village Hall in winter for youth-orientated events making use of adult volunteers. Organise a street party specifically for youngsters, e.g. www.streetparty.org.uk and seek funding to make this happen. Organise a community meeting to seek volunteers to organise events, e.g. drama, dance, sports, wildlife/nature club.	Village Hall Committee. Volunteer Groups.	6 months
YP 3	Some young people wish for a dedicated space for playing outside to include infrastructure such as swings.	Investigate whether a small area could be identified within the village for an outside play area. Liaison with Alscot Estate to determine feasibility. If positive, seek volunteers to work up a proposal and determine associated costs. Carry out fundraising activities.	Preston Parish Council. Alscot Estate. Volunteers. Fair Play for Children.	6 months

THE NEXT STEPS				
REF	ISSUES	ACTION	HELP/ADVICE	TIMESCALE
I	Implementation of Action Plan.	Parish Council to appoint a sub-group to assist it in implementing the Action Plan.	Parish Council. Parish Plan Steering Group.	As soon as the Action Plan and Parish Plan are ratified by the PC and SDC.