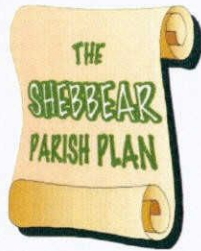


Shebbear Parish Plan



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Introduction

Shebbear is a parish in North Devon comprising approximately 360 households in an area of approximately 2400 hectares. Of the 360 households approximately 170 are in the village of Shebbear. The village is classified as a local centre in the Torridge District Council Local Plan and it has local facilities including a shop, public house, doctor's surgery and garage.

In January 2003 the Shebbear Parish Council decided to carry out a survey to determine the feelings and expectations of the residents about their community. This information to be used to create a plan to help guide the future development of the parish.

Initial consultation with the residents was carried out and the results of that consultation used to design a survey form for circulation to all households in the parish. Some 360 in number.

The survey was distributed and responses returned in April 2003.

The results were independently analysed and the findings presented to the residents in September 2003.

Of the 360 survey forms distributed 137 were returned. This represents 38% of the households in the parish. This is considered a representative sample for surveys of this type. As a further attempt to validate the results the age profile of the respondents was compared with that of the year 2001 census for the parishes of Shebbear and Langtree combined, Torridge, and for the United Kingdom and Wales. There was a strong correlation between the results thus giving further confidence to the survey results.

The survey findings were used to identify the issues of concern to the residents and, in consultation with various individuals and local groups, to develop a vision and action plans to help shape the future of the parish. The following Parish Plan is that "Vision for the Future".

The Plan is only the beginning. It is now up to the residents to support and assist with implementation. Some actions have been started by local groups (parish clean up, heritage group, road safety initiatives etc), others will take longer as they are largely under the control of other authorities.

We must recognise that change is inevitable. It is hoped this plan will help give us the change we want, not the change which is forced upon us by others.



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This plan has been created by the Parish Plan Working Group with the assistance of a grant from the Countryside Agency.

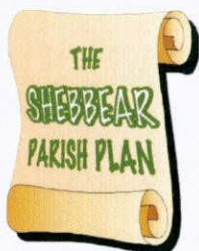


The Working Group has included:

Ian Handley, Barbara Clements, Neil Jeffers, Sandie Hillier, Richard Clark, Stephen Miller and Sheila Lott.

The Working Group would like to thank the residents who responded to the survey and the many people who have contributed information and ideas to the plan.

Published February 2005



Housing and Planning

Housing

New Housing

The Parish Plan Survey showed that the majority of the respondents were not in favour of any further housing development in the village other than affordable homes for local people.

There is no justification for further provision of market rate dwellings in the village. Local businesses are viable and the surgery is up to capacity. On the other hand there is severely limited employment, road safety and infrastructure problems and detrimental effects on the character of the village and quality of life of residents.

The 10 Year Forecast of Affordable Housing Need (revised Dec 2002) identified a requirement for about twenty low-cost homes in the parish. Some of these would need to be other than starter homes as larger homes would be needed as families grew thus leaving the smaller houses for re-occupancy.

The response to the survey also showed that many people felt that the village infrastructure and amenities such as parking and road safety should be taken into consideration and upgraded before any further housing development is considered.

Impact on the Community School

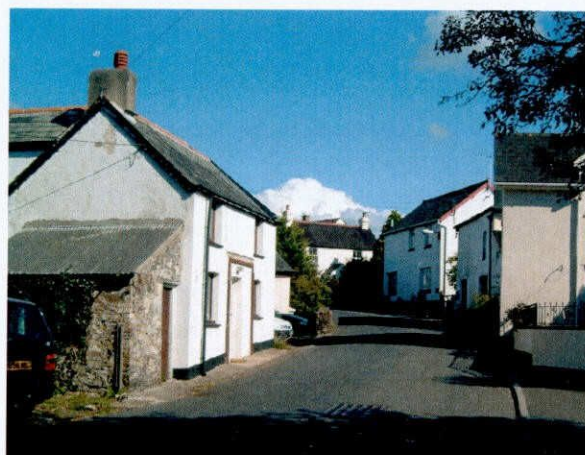
Discussion with the head of the village school following the survey revealed that there were fewer children entering the school at reception level than there were children leaving for secondary education. More affordable housing is necessary to ensure long term viability of the school.

The Vision:

- ⇒ To provide enough low-cost housing to encourage families to settle here which should bring more children to the village school.
- ⇒ To ensure that additional housing enhances the village environment, specific attention being given to architecture and density.
- ⇒ To ensure development plans contribute appropriately to infrastructure, road safety and amenity needs.
- ⇒ To remove from the village any eye-sores that spoil the aesthetic feature of the environment. e.g. overhead wires/cables.

The Issues:

- ♦ Only low cost homes for local people to be built.
- ♦ Village infrastructure and amenities to be upgraded.
- ♦ Road safety and parking to be improved.
- ♦ The future of the Community School.
- ♦ Street Furniture.
- ♦ Overhead Wiring etc.



Housing and Planning

Planning in Shebbear

The village of Shebbear is defined as a Local Centre under the Torridge District Local Plan 1997 - 2011 produced by Torridge District Council, the relevant authority for determining planning applications within the parish. As a Local Centre it is reasonable to expect some growth in the number of dwellings in the village and surrounding areas. This is defined by the Local Plan to be in the order of an increase of 54 within the village development boundary and a total of 89 within the parish during the life of the plan.

Up until January 2004, 64 new dwellings have been completed, are in construction or have planning approval within the development boundary. In this time there has been no significant improvement in the infrastructure, facilities or amenities of the village.

A housing needs survey conducted by Torridge District Council in 2001 and revised in December 2002 identified a need for low cost housing in the parish. To date no development has contributed to this need.

Any future development within the village must only be approved after due consideration of all relevant policies in existence at the time, and:

- The need for low cost housing for local people.
- The need for improvements to the road system.
- The need for improvements to the presently inadequate parking provision in the village.
- The character of the village and scale of surrounding development.
- Requirements for additional amenities and facilities.
- Infrastructure requirements.

Any future proposals to extend the development boundary of the village must be based on provision for the identified need for affordable housing.

It is important that proper use of the planning process be followed at all times. Applications for retrospective planning consent should be discouraged and only approved if supported by a valid reason for the requirement and subject to demonstrated compliance with building regulations.

Policy Statement

Torridge District Council should facilitate consultation between applicants for planning consent and representatives of the parish to ensure proposals are consistent with the character and scale of the village and surrounding area and provide for affordable housing for local people, infrastructure and amenity needs. Proposals not complying with these requirements should not be approved.

Applications for planning consent should not be approved unless they comply with all relevant local, district and county policies in force at the time.

Retrospective planning consent should not be granted without substantial justification.

The development boundary of the village should not be extended other than to provide for affordable housing.

Torridge District Council to adopt a more flexible approach to planning to facilitate provision of low cost housing outside the development boundary, including the conversion of redundant farm buildings.

Torridge District Council to give due regard to submissions from the Parish Council in respect of applications for planning consent in recognition of local knowledge, understanding of the impact on the community and views of residents.

Housing and Planning

Other Issues

Infill Development

The infill development in Shebbear has been traditionally on a very small scale. As the land that has not been developed is very limited recent developments are now on a scale with urban density. This is now at a stage where the attractive character and style individual to the village is being lost.

Local authorities should develop a shared vision with their local communities of the types of residential environments they wish to see in their area and articulate this through their development plan policies and supplementary planning guidance.

Good design and layout of new developments can make best use of undeveloped land by improving the quality and attractiveness of residential areas. In seeking these objectives authorities and developers should think imaginatively about design and layouts which make efficient use of land without compromising the quality of the village and its environment.

Policy Statement

Proposals for infill development must provide sufficient design information at the outline planning approval stage to allow assessment of the impact of the proposal on the surrounding community.

Traditional building styles should be incorporated in new development.

A Design Statement should be provided to guide future development.

Street Furniture

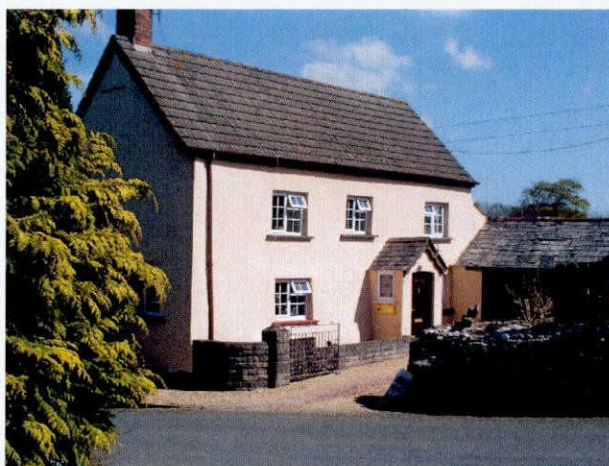
This was not an issue directly dealt with in the survey. However several respondents indicated that enhancing the environment in which they lived was very important. Speed signs, traffic calming measures, information signs, power supplies etc., should be planned with great care so as not to destroy the essential village feeling. Too many signs, road-markings, etc., would give an urban atmosphere.

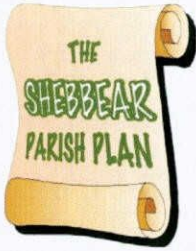
Policy Statement

Design and installation of street furniture must be adequately controlled to ensure the character and appearance of the village and surrounding area is not degraded.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Request these policies be accepted by Torridge District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- ✎ Investigate options for provision of low-cost housing.
- ✎ Become actively involved in current initiatives to encourage the construction of affordable housing in rural communities.
- ✎ Prepare a design statement to guide the future development of the village for acceptance by Torridge District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance.





Traffic and Road Safety

Traffic Hazards

The results of the Parish Plan Survey showed 83% of respondents considered road traffic to be a problem in the Parish.

The problems related to excessive speed, high volume and parking.

A number of locations were identified in the survey as danger spots. These included:

- School Corner
- Shop/Surgery
- CS Garage
- Smokey House
- Battledown Cross
- New Inn Cross

Traffic calming measures favoured by respondents included:

- 20 mph speed limit through village
- 30 mph Speed limit from Rosehill to New Inn
- Speed bumps
- Flashing signs.

It is recognised that there are severe limitations on the extent to which road widths, visibility and other hazards can be improved due to the structure of the village and the cost of making changes. The most benefit will be obtained by creating an environment that will be conducive to better driver awareness of the hazards and limitations of the roadways within the parish.

The Issues:

- ♦ Excessive speed.
- ♦ Inappropriate speed limit.
- ♦ Serious danger spots.
- ♦ Volume of traffic at critical times.
- ♦ Congestion due to parked cars.

The Vision:

- ⇒ Creation of a road safe environment for the parish.
- ⇒ Elimination of hazards where practicable.
- ⇒ Improvement in driver awareness of hazards within the area.
- ⇒ Reduction in speeding problems.
- ⇒ Improvement in parking.



Traffic & Road Safety

Structure of Village

The village of Shebbear has developed largely during a period where road traffic was not the problem it is today. Hence the arrangement of buildings and property boundaries places severe limitations on the potential to improve traffic and pedestrian provisions.

In the areas identified as danger spots there is not sufficient space for the creation of wider roads or footpaths, or the cost of such provision would be excessive.

Major Danger Spots

School Corner

The hazards at this corner are largely related to road width, lack of a footpath and poor visibility. Site limitations would preclude any significant improvement to the roadway. The problem is worst at beginning and end of school day with parents dropping off or collecting children.

The head of the Community School is trying to encourage alternatives to the use of cars to get children to school and to discourage dropping off children at the gate on school corner. A new entrance at the east end would help reduce congestion in the village hall car park. Pedestrians should be encouraged to use Barn Close rather than the main road.



Shop/Surgery

Narrow road width, no footpath and parked vehicles cause congestion in this area with resulting hazards, particularly to pedestrians.

Encouragement to park in the square or village hall car park would help reduce the problem.

CS Garage

Parked cars on road awaiting attention reduce road width and create hazards for pedestrians and motorists.

Project to provide off street parking needs to be completed as a matter of urgency.

Rosehill, Battledown Cross and New Inn Cross

Narrow road width at Rosehill and limited visibility at Battledown and New Inn create traffic hazards.

A 30mph advisory speed limit between Rosehill and New Inn would help to reduce speed of vehicles. Improved signs would help draw attention to hazards associated with this section of roadway, particularly the insufficient road width to allow two vehicles to pass safely and restricted visibility at Smoky House.

Policy Statement

Initiatives to mitigate hazards associated with danger spots should be encouraged and supported by the community.

Traffic & Road Safety

Traffic Calming

As most of the traffic problems are caused by excessive speed, the use of well designed traffic calming measures would seem to be the most effective way of improving road safety on our roads across the Parish, not just at recognized danger spots.

The use of speed bumps is not encouraged by highway authorities due to the problems created by them for emergency vehicles, farm vehicles and other mobile plant. The impact of noise on surrounding residents is also a factor to be considered. Rumble strips are considered to be a better alternative.

Implementation of a 20 mph speed limit in the village and a 30 mph speed limit between Rosehill and New Inn Cross would help encourage drivers to travel more slowly.

Driver consciousness of speed and the hazards would be enhanced by the provision of:

A traffic actuated speed warning sign	Rumble strips at village entrances
Appropriate warning signs	Improved signs warning of hazards
Gating of the entrances to the village	Mini roundabouts

Policy Statement

Greater awareness of hazards and speed limits within the community to be encouraged by implementation of appropriate traffic calming measures.

Speed limits within the village to be lowered.

Parking

The congestion caused by parked vehicles is a significant factor in creating some of the danger spots identified by the survey.

Parking could be improved by encouraging customers at the shop/post office and the surgery to park in the square or at the Village Hall. Delineation of parking spaces in the square would contribute to more effective use of the available space. This would need to be done in a sensitive way, perhaps by the use of cobbles rather than painted lines, to avoid detracting from the appearance of the square. The use of signs outside the shop etc would also encourage drivers to use the square. This would also facilitate the dropping off of the aged and infirm at the surgery.







Provision of additional parking facilities in development proposals would help alleviate the parking problem.

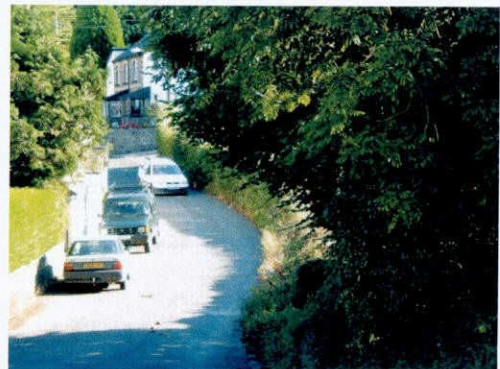
Policy Statement

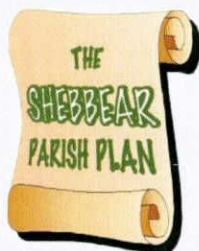
Drivers should be encouraged to park in areas which do not obstruct roadways.

Provision of additional public parking should be a requirement for any development proposals

Action Plan:

-  Request Devon County Council implement a 20 mph speed limit for Shebbear Village.
-  Encourage alternatives to vehicle use.
-  Design and implement a traffic calming scheme.
-  Eliminate danger spots where practicable.
-  30 mph advisory speed limits from Rosehill to New Inn.
-  Encourage alternative parking locations.





Environment

General

The survey showed a large majority of residents place a high level of importance on our environment and its care and preservation.

Those features identified as having particular importance included:

- ♦ Landscape character
- ♦ Woodlands
- ♦ Hedgerows and Devon banks
- ♦ Streams and rivers
- ♦ Meadows and fields

The importance of the farming community in maintaining landscape character and preserving the environment was also recognized.

With regard to waste management it was felt that services for disposal of general household waste were good and recycling provisions were well supported.

There is a continuing problem with litter and general untidiness in the parish, particularly in the village. The answer to this was thought to be by education and example to promote more positive attitudes.

The recreational aspects of the environment were important to the majority of respondents with a high level of interest in footpaths and bridleways. The number of horses in the parish is increasing and provision for this has been raised as a concern.

Most dwellings in the parish are fitted with basic energy conservation measures including double glazing, loft insulation and lagged hot water systems.

The Issues:

- ♦ Control of litter.
- ♦ Promotion of more positive attitudes to community appearance.
- ♦ Access to footpaths and bridleways.
- ♦ Energy management.
- ♦ Recycling provision.
- ♦ Preservation of trees.

The Vision:

- ⇒ Achieve a parish which is free of litter and pollution.
- ⇒ Enter a "Best Kept Village" competition within 3 years.
- ⇒ Improved local knowledge and awareness of footpaths and bridleways.
- ⇒ Kerbside recycling implemented throughout the parish.
- ⇒ Maintain character of the rural landscape.



Environment

Recycling

Kerbside recycling is currently available only in the village with a recycling pavilion for the use of other households in the parish. Kerbside recycling should be extended to the rest of the parish and business premises to encourage the already positive attitude to recycling.

Garden waste is unlikely to be included in recycling schemes. Home composting would be a sensible approach to this problem as would a chipping service to avoid the need to burn larger cuttings. Compost bins can be purchased at a reasonable cost from Torridge District Council.

Policy Statement

Present positive attitudes to recycling should be encouraged by provision of kerbside recycling across the parish and by introducing initiatives to extend recycling options.

Footpaths and Bridleways

A number of footpaths within the parish and in adjoining parishes together with quiet lanes provide for recreation and peaceful enjoyment of the landscape. The footpaths are maintained by landowners facilitated by the Parish Paths Partnership between the Parish Council and Devon County Council. There is a need for more information for path users on location of paths and for promotion of walker's awareness of their responsibilities when using the paths. There is also potential to extend the footpath network to access scenic and historic areas in the parish.

The continuing growth in the number of horses in the parish needs to be addressed in terms of provision of a safe riding environment. A number of equestrian centres are being established but the number of bridle paths is very limited and there can be problems where horses and cars have to share roads and narrow lanes. Horse riders would benefit from provision of more bridleways.

Policy Statement

Opportunities to improve the provision of footpaths and bridleways in the parish should be investigated in consultation with landowners. More information to be provided on footpaths.

Parish Appearance

Shebbear is a beautiful parish but the community needs to work together to remove litter and clean up areas which are allowed to become neglected or untidy. Regular clean up days are necessary to maintain a clean and tidy environment and to encourage responsible disposal of litter. Additional litter bins at critical locations would help the litter problem.

Entry into a "Best Kept Village" is seen as an effective way of promoting awareness and involvement in the appearance of our community. It is expected to take three years to prepare for this.



Policy Statement

Awareness and involvement in the appearance of our community to be promoted by regular clean up days, and an entry in a "Best Kept Village" competition.

Environment

Landscape

Hedgerows, Devon Banks and woodlands are considered very important. Together with the streams and rivers these features shape our local landscape and must continue to be managed with care and kept free from litter and pollution.

Wildlife is dependent on these features which form corridors and stepping stones enabling wildlife to move from one area to another. Important wildlife corridors and areas within the parish should be identified and protected to enrich the biodiversity of the area.

Equally these features are significant to the landowners/occupiers and the needs of this part of our community who also have the responsibility to continue to maintain these important assets must be considered.

Policy Statement

Landscape features to be maintained to encourage native birds and animals consistent with the needs and obligations of the farming community.

Energy Conservation

An added risk to the appearance of our landscape is the presence of man made structures such as wind turbines and communication masts both within our parish and in surrounding parishes.

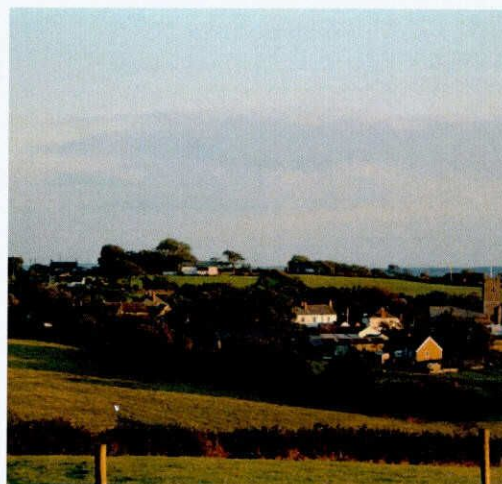
The incorporation of energy saving features in new and existing homes needs to be encouraged. This includes the use of solar panels, solar collectors and individual wind turbines to satisfy local demand and possibly contribute to the national energy grid.

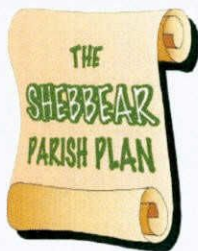
Policy Statement

Incorporation of energy saving features and equipment in new and existing houses to be encouraged.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Regular clean up days to be arranged to promote better attitudes toward litter and pollution.
- ✎ Entry in a "Best Kept Village" competition to be targeted for 2007.
- ✎ Lobby Torridge District Council for extension of the kerb side recycling scheme across the parish including commercial premises.
- ✎ Promote the use of composting bins.
- ✎ Encourage recycling initiatives.
- ✎ Provide additional litter bins.
- ✎ Provide local footpath maps.
- ✎ Investigate the possibility of additional footpaths and bridleways.
- ✎ Encourage traditional maintenance of hedges and banks where practicable.
- ✎ Assess trees which are worthy of a preservation order.





Sport Recreation and Leisure

Requirements

Responses to the survey indicated a high level of interest in a wide range of sporting, recreational and leisure activities. Some of these are currently provided within the parish but others would need to be initiated.

The more popular sporting activities not currently active and or requiring facilities included badminton, tennis, squash, netball etc.

A majority of respondents said the parish needs its own sports field whilst a significant number said the parish should have its own sports centre.

There was strong interest in social groups and clubs, most particularly those for young, and older children. In particular a youth group, cubs, scouts, brownies, guides and after school clubs.

Requirements for evening classes included employment and training, arts and crafts, local history, languages, orchard and wildlife management, business start up etc. The Village Hall, Shebbear College and community school were the preferred locations for evening classes.

A heritage centre was seen to be important to 60% of respondents, with significant interest being shown in provision of a library facility, local information point and all day café.

Suggestions to improve the Village Hall included the addition of a committee room, refurbishment or a complete rebuild.

50% of respondents favoured provision of public toilets in the village.

The Issues:

- ♦ Recreational facilities for young people.
- ♦ Organised groups for children of all ages.
- ♦ Information on sporting activities in the parish.
- ♦ Information on sporting facilities at the College.
- ♦ Improvement of parish amenities.
- ♦ Provision of childcare.
- ♦ Provision of evening classes in Shebbear.

The Vision:

- ⇒ Provision of a range of sport, recreation and leisure activities as identified by the parish survey.
- ⇒ Improvement of the available facilities.
- ⇒ Provision of recreational activities for the young people in the parish.
- ⇒ Co-ordination of facilities to optimize usage.



Sport Recreation and Leisure

Existing Facilities

Shebbear has been designated a local centre by Torridge District Council

It has a doctors surgery, general village store and post office, a gift shop, public house, garages and water garden centre. There are three churches (Methodist at Lake and Rowden Chapels and Church of England at St Michael's).

It also has a good range of public facilities which are used to meet many of the requirements of the community as identified in the survey, although some could do with updating. These include the Village Hall, St Michael's Church room and Lake Schoolroom. It is felt that these facilities could be enhanced to encourage further usage, particularly the Village Hall as it is near the centre of the village and offers most scope for enhancement.

There are two play areas in the village especially designed for younger children and another in the grounds of the Village Hall for older children. The latter is also in need of updating. A skate ramp is proposed for the grounds of the Village Hall.

Shebbear College is well provided with excellent sporting venues and other facilities and is willing to share these with the village. The availability of these facilities is subject to their not being needed for college activities and only at times when the security of students is not compromised.

The Community School also provides an opportunity for village use for evening classes etc. Subject to the same constraints as the college.

Most public buildings have disabled access.

The parish also has had the use of a field for a football pitch for many years by courtesy of a local resident.

Usage of Existing Facilities

Existing facilities in the parish are used or could be used as follows:

Shebbear College:

- Tennis courts may be used by residents outside school hours, free of charge, when not in use by students.
- The village cricket team uses the college oval
- Shebbear Shooters use a field belonging to the college.
- The fitness centre may be used by arrangement subject to a modest annual fee.
- The primary school sports hall could be made available for badminton, netball etc.
- The memorial hall could be made available for dramatic productions and other activities.
- The computer centre could be made available for training purposes.



Sport Recreation and Leisure

Usage of Existing Facilities (Cont'd)

Community School:

- After school clubs.
- Facilities for evening classes.
- School and community functions.

Village Hall:

- Community events and social functions.
- Short mat bowling.
- Skittles.
- Women's Institute.

Lake School Room:

- Church and community functions.
- Sunday School.
- Adult education classes.
- Circuit choir.
- Majorettes.
- Newton St Petrock Male Voice Choir



St Michael's Church Room:

- Church and community functions.
- Parish Council and Parish Lands meetings.
- Mothers Union.
- Rock Solid Christian youth group.
- Keep fit group.

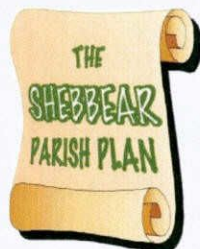
Historical Society/Heritage Centre

It is encouraging that a group of people have come forward to progress the gathering of historical information, and look for ways to make this available to the community.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Facilitate the provision of identified amenity needs in conjunction with managers of the available venues.
- ✎ Investigate the need to update existing facilities to broaden and promote their use.
- ✎ Provide information on available recreational venues and activities.
- ✎ Facilitate access to grant aid for aspiring village groups.
- ✎ Promote the establishment of core groups to develop new activities.





Health Services

Access to Health Services

The survey results showed that while most people had no difficulty accessing local health services, a significant number had some difficulty accessing a dentist, chemist or hospital.

A significant number of comments reflected the dependence of some residents on their own transport for access to health services.

A majority of respondents indicated they would register with a NHS dentist if one were available.

The Issues:

- ♦ Continuity of local medical practice in the longer term.
- ♦ Lack of access to NHS dentist.
- ♦ Out of hours primary care.
- ♦ Difficulties in accessing hospital and pharmacists.

Local Health Services

The parish has a GP surgery in the village which serves most of the community's primary care needs. There is continuing national pressure to absorb single handed practices into larger group practices and there is always a risk that single handed practices will not be as attractive to younger doctors who prefer to work with colleagues. There are three doctors with single handed practices in Hatherleigh, Black Torrington and Shebbear, all of whom are in their early 50s. We need to consider what may happen in ten years time, or sooner.

Policy Statement

Strongly support the retention of a local medical practice in Shebbear.

Access to Hospital and Chemist

Problems with getting to hospital or chemist is an inevitable result of Shebbear's distance from any main town but also because the local surgery is unable to sell over the counter medicines which are also prescribable.

The Vision:

- ⇒ Long term provision of a local medical service for the community.
- ⇒ Improvement in provision of dental services.
- ⇒ Adequate medical emergency response provision.
- ⇒ Adequate provision of hospital transport services



Health Services

Out of Hours Primary Care Provision

From October 2004 responsibility for provision of Primary Care between 6pm and 8am and at weekends has been the responsibility of the Primary Care Trust in Barnstaple. For the time being this care is provided by local GPs but it is anticipated that increasingly some of this care will be provided by nurses with support from paramedics from the West Country Ambulance Service. It is of concern that in the Shebbear area ambulance response times are well in excess of the national standard of 18 minutes for a 999 call. West Country Ambulance Service achieves this standard by a better response time in urban areas. It is important for the community to lobby the health services to ensure a more rapid response time if there is greater reliance on paramedic care.

Policy Statement

Strongly support actions to monitor and ensure an adequate medical emergency response time for our community.

Dental Care

The difficulty in accessing a dentist appears to be a reflection on the national shortage of NHS dentists which has been highlighted in the press and is the subject of a government initiative to solve. It does, however, take several years to train a dentist and it seems unlikely this issue will improve in the near future.

Policy Statement

Support any initiatives to improve the provision of NHS dental care.





Hospital Transport

Many elderly patients rely on the hospital transport system to enable them to attend outpatient clinics. The use of friends or family is preferred wherever possible because the cost of hospital transport takes money away from the provision of services within the hospital. There are several outreach clinics which take place at Holsworthy which the community should be keen to encourage and keep. However, we need to monitor the provision of a hospital car service as this will always be under threat whilst the need will become greater as our population ages.

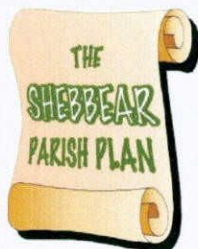
Policy Statement

Strongly resist any moves to discontinue the hospital transport system.

Action Plan:

-  Lobby for improved dental service in the area.
-  Monitor the ambulance response time.
-  Monitor the hospital car service.
-  Lobby for more outpatient clinics at Holsworthy Hospital.





Education

Schools

Shebbear is fortunate to have a community school, pre-school group and a private college within the parish. All show a positive and progressive approach to the needs of pupils.

Shebbear Community School

The survey results stressed the importance of the community school to the parish. The school provides education for primary school aged children as well as after school clubs and facilities for evening classes and other parish activities.

The long term viability of the school is a concern. Although the number of houses in the parish is increasing the number of children attending the school is decreasing. The high cost of housing in the parish would seem to be discouraging younger families who would favour the community school for their children. This problem will get worse as the present pupils move on to secondary education and the shortage of affordable housing prevents young families from settling in the parish.

The Issues:

- ♦ Future viability of the community school.
- ♦ Safe access to the schools.
- ♦ Provision of evening classes in the community.
- ♦ Provision of child minding facilities.
- ♦ Provision of after school & holiday activities for young children.

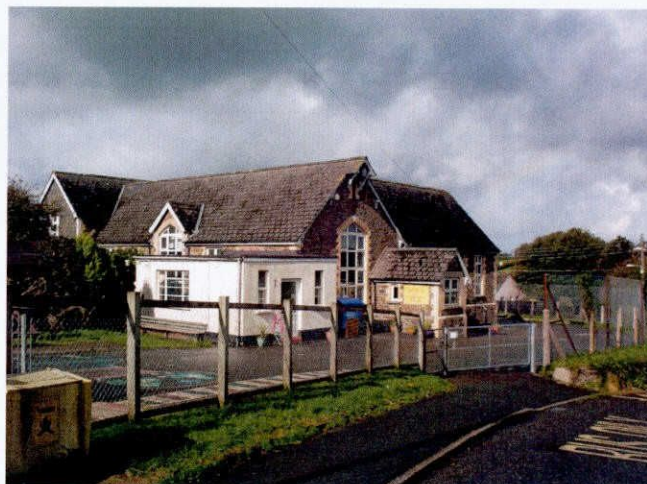
Little Bears Pre-school Group

As with the community school the survey results showed the Little Bears Group as playing an important role in the parish.

This group operates on the community school site and plays a valuable part in preparing the under fives for more formal education.

The Vision:

- ⇒ Ensuring the community school remains viable.
- ⇒ Provision of adult education/common interest group opportunities in the parish.
- ⇒ Improved availability of out of school hours activities for younger children.
- ⇒ Improved child minding facilities.



Education

Schools (Cont'd)

Shebbear College

Shebbear College is a Methodist independent educational establishment providing primary and secondary education for students from the surrounding area, the United Kingdom and other countries. The college is currently trying to encourage students from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

The college offers a broadly based curriculum, extensive facilities for both day pupils and boarders, and after school clubs and activities. Some facilities are offered to the surrounding community for adult education, sporting activities and local functions.



Secondary Education

Secondary education is provided at either Holsworthy or Great Torrington with access provided by bus or private car.

Policy Statement

Local educational facilities are an important part of the parish. Development of housing and amenities must take into account the needs of young families to ensure the sustainability of the community schools.

Evening Classes

Adult education classes are available in Holsworthy, Bideford, Great Torrington and other surrounding towns. There are also short courses made available within the parish from time to time.

The survey showed a considerable interest in evening classes run within the parish for subjects including, local history, arts and crafts, languages, and orchard and wildlife management. Initially some of this demand could be satisfied through self help groups sharing knowledge, skills and experience.

Child Care & Activities

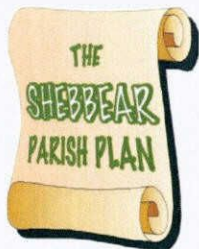
The survey revealed a need for after school, holiday and playgroup activities in the parish for younger children. The provision of activities for younger children outside school times and within the area needs to be encouraged.

The need for registered child minders and day care was also raised. In many families there is a need for both parents to work and the provision of childminding facilities needs to be addressed.

Viability of these facilities may be improved by encouraging surrounding parishes to become involved.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Provision of housing for young families. (See Housing & Planning)
- ✎ Approach the Local Authority offering local facilities for adult education.
- ✎ Inform DCC of traffic risks to school pupils.
- ✎ Support the local school and pre-school group.
- ✎ Encourage residents to train as child minders or youth leaders.



Services

Shebbear is fortunate to have a shop, post office, garage, surgery and public house within the parish. The importance of these services to the community cannot be overstated and it is critical that every effort be made to ensure their continuing viability.

Shop and Post Office

Most local residents use the shop and post office and value the service provided for general shopping, postal services, banking, TV licence and paying bills, benefits and for information.

The importance of supporting the local shop is recognised and customers appreciate the convenience for last minute items, not having to travel and the shop as a focal point for social contact.

The proprietors have significantly expanded the range the range of services and products since the survey.

The business also provides much needed employment opportunities for local residents.

Public House

The Devil's Stone Inn has changed hands and has been extensively refurbished since the survey. The new owner is focused on providing for the needs of local residents with the provision of a convivial atmosphere for food and beverages and on attracting visitors to the area for local recreational pursuits.

These efforts are being well supported by the community.

The Issues:

- ♦ Adequacy of storm water and sewage systems
- ♦ Long term viability of local businesses
- ♦ Provision of identified additional services
- ♦ Lack of police presence.

The Vision:

- ⇒ Provision of a high standard of local services.
- ⇒ Resolution of drainage problems.
- ⇒ Broader range of local services.
- ⇒ Provision of community advice services.



Services

Other Local Services. (Existing)

Shebbear has a number of other local businesses which contribute to the provision of services within the parish. These include:

- Garages.
- A craft & gift shop.
- Water garden centre.
- Engineering businesses.
- Building construction and allied services.



Other Local Services. (Needed)

Respondents to the survey indicated they would like a local library in addition to the existing mobile library. It would seem the mobile library service is not well used. A local information point and café were also seen as desirable.

Other services suggested included benefits advice and a Citizens Advice Bureau. It is acknowledged it would be impractical to provide these on a permanent basis but a visiting service could be feasible.

Nearly half of the respondents indicated there is a need for public toilets in the village.

Policy Statement

The provision of local services is critical to the lives of residents in parishes that are some distance from large towns and must be supported by the community and local government.

Utility & Emergency Services

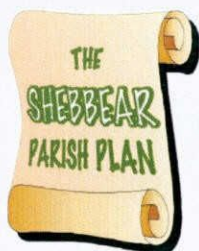
The survey responses show the majority of residents are happy with electricity and water supplies. There are some concerns regarding drainage particularly with continuing development of housing in the village.

The fire brigade rates well but not so the police. It should be pointed out the incidence of crime is very low in the parish and the limited police resources tend to be concentrated on areas with greater need.

Most respondents were satisfied with the telephone and postal services within the parish.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Investigate provision of additional services including CAB, café, public toilets etc.
- ✎ Approach drainage authority to resolve drainage problems.
- ✎ Facilitate close relationships between service providers and community.
- ✎ Encourage participation in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
- ✎ Encourage use of local service providers.



Information and Local Gov't

Sources of Information

The survey showed residents placed a high level of importance on information sources to keep them informed on activities and events around the parish.

Most important included:

- Reflecting Shebbear, the bi-monthly parish magazine. Survey respondents almost unanimously felt Reflecting Shebbear provided a useful service in providing local news and information on events and activities.
- Word of mouth.
- Notice boards. There are notice boards providing information of interest to residents in locations including the village store, opposite the doctors surgery, new inn, the church and chapel and village hall. The notice board erected outside the village shop attracted many favourable comments as a source of general information.
- Post office.
- Local papers.

Electronic Media

The survey showed there are more than 50% of residents connected to the internet.

This is expected to increase over time and a show of community interest recently resulted in broadband being made available in the area.

Local Government

The survey showed most residents felt the Parish Council were well aware of local concerns and feelings. This was not the case with other levels of local government. Only 20% felt the District Council were well informed and 5% felt the County Council were well informed.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Production of a Parish Directory.
- ✎ Inclusion of Parish Council information on TDC website.
- ✎ TDC and DCC to be kept informed of local issues.
- ✎ Continued support for Reflecting Shebbear and local information points.

The Issues:

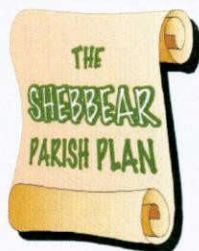
- ◆ District and county councils not well informed on local issues.
- ◆ Many people not aware of Parish Council activities.
- ◆ Information on local services.

The Vision:

- ⇒ Raised awareness of local issues by District and County Councils.
- ⇒ Raised awareness of Parish Council work.
- ⇒ Ready access to information on local services.

Comments from the survey and since indicate the community are not well informed on the activities of the Parish Council. The agenda for council meetings has recently been displayed on notice boards to help residents understand the issues being considered by the council.

Torridge District Council have made provision for Parish Councils to include information on their website which would further improve the visibility of council activities.



Transport

Being some distance from larger towns and employment centres places a high level of dependence on transport. The survey results indicated most households have a least one car and for 71% of respondents this was their primary means of transport to places of employment.

Use of buses was generally low with 80% of respondents never using the bus services available.

Currently the only regular bus service travels to Barnstaple via Great Torrington. Many respondents would prefer a regular service to Bideford or Holsworthy, the nearest larger towns.

A review of bus services is necessary to determine the most suitable routes to satisfy the needs of residents and encourage more usage of public transport. Interconnection with other bus routes (eg to Exeter) may also help the viability of alternative routes. Revised services could be adopted for a trial period to help determine the optimum arrangement.

There was good support for the provision of a community bus for local events, day outings, shopping services and commuter links to other services. This would require further investigation to determine feasibility.

Car sharing is another initiative which would help reduce dependence on private transport and the number of cars using our road system as would the use of bicycles and walking for shorter journeys. Provision of cycle routes would encourage cycling for shorter journeys.

Any revision of the transport provisions must take into account the residents for whom private transport is not an option.

The Issues:

- ♦ Usage of public transport services.
- ♦ Provision of transport for those without alternatives.
- ♦ Excessive use of cars.
- ♦ Bus routes.

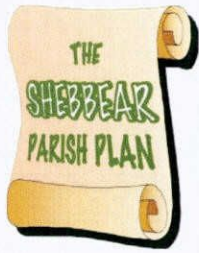
The Vision:

- ⇒ Provision of a local transport structure to satisfy community needs and encourage alternatives to private vehicle use.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Request DCC to review the present bus service arrangements in line with identified local needs.
- ✎ Investigate provision of a community bus.
- ✎ Encourage and support initiatives to reduce the number of vehicles on our roads. Eg. walking, cycling, car sharing etc.
- ✎ Publicise the ring and ride scheme.





Employment

According to the survey 43% of residents are in employment with the other two significant groups being 23% retired and 16% in education. A significant number of those in employment work locally.

The significant employment groups are, agriculture and horticulture, retail and services, local government and construction.

Historically the numbers employed in agriculture and horticulture have declined due to mechanisation and more efficient work practices. Opportunities for greater employment in this sector are dependent on continued diversification and growth.

Small business development, small scale industrial workshops and small agriculture - related industries were preferred as opportunities for employment growth. There are a number of successful local businesses operating within the parish either as sole traders or employing others. Small businesses need to be encouraged to start up within the area although only a very small number of respondents indicated they were likely to follow this path in the next twelve months. Lake Industrial Estate provides opportunities for small workshop activities. Information on business start up grants and similar support may help encourage small business development.

The retail and services sectors provide employment for young people and those in other age groups. Support of these local services will help ensure continuing employment for local people.

Availability of employment is a critical factor in keeping young families in the area. All initiatives to improve employment opportunities need to be encouraged and supported. Employment opportunities should be advertised locally.

The Issues:

- ♦ Employment for local people.
- ♦ Business development.

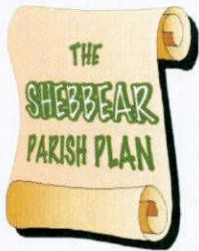
The Vision:

- ⇒ Improved local employment opportunities through growth of small businesses as appropriate for the area and nature of our community.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Encourage and support local small business development.
- ✎ Seek information on small business start up grants and support.
- ✎ Encourage and support existing local businesses and services.





Young People (Under 11's)

A section of the survey was directed toward young people under 11 years old.

The majority who replied attended the Community School with others going to Shebbear College and a few to schools outside the parish.

Most popular play areas were at home/in the garden and other nearby open spaces including the Village Hall area. Many took part in clubs and other organized activities, most of these being outside the parish.

Respondents valued the small, friendly and caring nature of the community, the open spaces and the surrounding countryside.

Not surprisingly the young people in this group shared the same concerns as other residents, including:

- Speeding cars.
- Lack of safe places to walk and cycle.
- Litter and appearance of the village.
- Lack of public open space.
- Lack of organised recreational activities within the parish.

The Issues:

- ♦ Road safety.
- ♦ Litter
- ♦ Organised activities outside school hours.

The Vision:

- ⇒ Provision of a safe and stimulating environment for our young people.

Action Plan:

- ✎ Investigate opportunities for further activities for young people.
- ✎ Road safety improvements. (See Traffic & Road Safety)
- ✎ Completion of the skateboard ramp.
- ✎ Village cleanup. (See environment)





Action Plan & Timeframe

1. Housing and Planning

	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Request TDC to accept policies as Supplementary Planning Guidance.	Parish Council TDC	██████	██████	
Prepare Design Statement.	Parish Council TDC		██████	
Investigate options for low cost housing.	Parish Council TDC MCTi		██████	██████
Become involved in current initiatives for low cost housing.	Parish Council TDC MCTi	██████	██████	██████

2. Traffic and Road Safety

	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
20 mph speed limit for village.	Parish Council DCC			██████
30 mph advisory speed limit from Rosehill to New Inn.	Parish Council DCC			██████
Design and implement traffic calming scheme.	Parish Council DCC YOU		██████	██████
Eliminate danger spots where practicable.	Parish Council DCC YOU			██████
Encourage alternatives to vehicle use.	YOU	██████	██████	██████
Encourage use of alternative parking locations.	YOU	██████	██████	

3. Environment

	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Regular parish clean up days.	YOU	██████	██████	██████
Enter "Best Kept Village" competition.	YOU			██████
Extend kerb side recycling scheme.	TDC		██████	
Promote use of composting bins.	TDC YOU	██████	██████	
Encourage recycling initiatives.	TDC YOU		██████	██████
Provide more litter bins.	Parish Council TDC		██████	
Provide local footpath maps.	YOU		██████	
Investigate new footpaths and bridleways.	Parish Council DCC			██████
Encourage traditional maintenance of hedges and banks.	DCC YOU		██████	██████
Assess trees worthy of a preservation order.	Parish Council		██████	

Action Plan & Timeframe

4. Sport Recreation and Leisure	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Provision of identified amenity needs.	Committees			
Investigate need to update existing facilities.	Committees			
Provide information on available recreational venues and activities.	Committees			
Facilitate access to grant aid for aspiring community groups.	DCC CCD			
Promote establishment of core groups to develop new activities.	YOU			
Establish Heritage Society.	YOU			
5. Health Services	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Lobby for improved NHS dental service.	YOU			
Monitor ambulance response times.	YOU			
Monitor the hospital car transport provision.	YOU			
Lobby for more outpatients clinics at Holsworthy Hospital.	YOU			
6. Education	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Approach the local authority offering local facilities for adult education.	Parish Council			
Advise DCC of traffic risks to school pupils.	Parish Council			
Support the Community School and Pre-school.	YOU			
Encourage residents to train as child minders or youth leaders.	YOU			
7. Services	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Investigate provision of additional services.	YOU			
Facilitate close relationships between service providers and community.	Service Prov. YOU			
Encourage use of local service providers.	YOU			
Encourage participation in Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	YOU			

Action Plan & Timeframe

8. Information and Local Government	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Include Parish Council information on TDC website.	Parish Council			
TDC and DCC to be kept informed of local issues.	YOU Parish Council			
Continued support of Reflecting Shebbear and local information systems.	YOU			
Production of local directory.	YOU			

9. Transport	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Review of bus service routes.	DCC			
Investigate provision of community bus.	YOU			
Encourage and support alternative transport initiatives.	YOU			
Publicise ring and ride.	NTCTA			

10. Employment	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Encourage and support small business development.	Parish Council YOU			
Provide information on small business start up grants and support.	DCC CCD			
Encourage and support local businesses and services.	YOU			

11. Young People	Responsibility	Now	Short Term	Long Term
Investigate opportunities for activities for young people.	YOU			
Completion of skateboard ramp.	Committee			

Legend

YOU	Residents of Shebbear
TDC	Torridge District Council
DCC	Devon County Council
CCD	Community Council of Devon
MCTi	Market and Coastal Towns Initiative
Committee	Group managing the facility
NTCTA	North Tamar Community Transport Association

Timeframes

Now	3 Months
Short Term	12 Months
Long Term	Beyond 12 Months