

Ripple

RIPPLE PARISH UPDATE – AUTUMN 2008

*Serving the communities of
Ryall, Holly Green, The Grove at Ryall, Naunton, Uckinghall and Ripple*

Welcome to the first edition of the *Ripple Parish Update*

We hope you find this free publication a useful source of information on the key activities going on in our Parish. We plan to produce *Ripple Parish Update* twice a year – to coincide with the Annual Parish Meeting which takes place in May and during November to update on progress.

We will be pleased to hear any views you have on *Ripple Parish Update* whether these are positive or negative! Any resident living in the Parish is welcome to contribute articles to *Ripple Parish Update*, please send these to Lorna Gower, our Parish Clerk.

In this our first edition, we give you details of our exceptionally useful website (See below).

We also give you the summary results and recommendations of the recent survey of all households in the Parish as part of the Parish Plan. An amazing seventy-three per cent response to this survey makes it a crucial planning tool for the Parish Council for the next two to three years. We have a very good idea of what you want and, just as important, what you don't want for our community.

The full report on the Survey and results is on the Ripple Website: www.rippleparishcouncil.org.uk or paper copies are available from Lorna Gower, Parish Clerk on tel: 01684 594346 or email: clerk@rippleparishcouncil.net

Editor – Parish Council Team

Parish Profile

Ripple Parish is the most southerly of Worcestershire's parishes and borders with Gloucestershire. The nearest town is Upton upon Severn. Ripple Parish is made up of six distinct communities, The Grove, Ryall, Holly Green, Naunton, Uckinghall and Ripple and each community has its own identity and community spirit. Despite the Parish's long history, first mentioned in AD 678, today there is little real sense of community for the Parish as a whole. This may be because there are no shops or schools in the Parish. However, there are two pubs, The Railway Inn, Ripple and The Blue Bell, The Grove, two significant businesses, Cemex and



St. Mary's Church, Ripple

Cargill (Sun Valley) chicken farm, approximately twelve arable farms and several equine based businesses. There is also a Parish Hall and a small recreational area in Ryall. The historic and beautiful St. Mary's Church (C of E) in Ripple is currently the only place of formal worship in the Parish.

There are twenty-one kilometres of public footpaths in the Parish which are maintained by the Parish Council.

Ripple Website

The excellent and very useful website www.rippleparishcouncil.org.uk is available for use by residents in the Parish, visitors, local providers of goods and services and anyone who wants to find out more about this historic and beautiful area. The website includes up to date information on what is going on in the Parish and has a local directory and links into many other websites such as public transport timetables and services offered by Malvern District Council and Worcestershire County Council.

The website includes information on Parish Council responsibilities, its Council members and minutes of their meetings. It also carries maps of the area and includes public footpaths and bridle ways in the Parish.



Ripple Parish Community Plan Summary and Recommendations for Action October 2008

Purpose of the plan

- To identify the features and characteristics which are important to the residents of Ripple Parish.
- To protect and enhance the best features and to manage/improve upon the worst features.

Origin and organisation

- Ripple Parish Council initiated the Parish Plan and encouraged an independent Steering Group to be established to manage the process.
- Volunteers distributed leaflets to all households in the Parish which asked for comments from residents and invited them to a public meeting on 10th October 2007 to discuss whether there is a need for a plan.
- At this well attended meeting it was agreed to proceed with the Parish plan and volunteers came forward to serve on the Steering Group and to assist in other ways.

Survey questionnaires

- The Steering Group, advised by Community First, decided to draw up a questionnaire for adults and a separate one for young people aged seven to sixteen.
- It was agreed that the themes residents will be consulted on will reflect the Strategic Themes set out by Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council in Vision 21, ie:
 - Improving health and well being
 - Meeting needs of all generations
 - Safety and policing including traffic issues
 - Economic development
 - Environmental issues
 - Building a strong community



Parish Hall, Ripple

The questions and statements included in the questionnaires came from extensive consultation with local statutory and voluntary agencies and from other Parishes which had conducted similar surveys.

A further information leaflet was distributed by volunteers to all households during February 2008. This updated residents on progress and invited them to contribute any further questions or comments.

At the time of the survey there are approximately 590 occupied properties with about 1550 residents. To ensure a good response rate it was decided to ask volunteers to deliver the questionnaire to each household in the Parish and to collect them. The distribution and collection of questionnaires took place over a two week period in May 2008 and resulted in 430 adult questionnaires (73%) and thirty-seven young people's questionnaires being returned for analysis. 73% is an excellent response rate by any standard.

The data was analysed by a professional analyst to ensure independent consistency and quality and is the basis of the Parish plan.

Other initiatives

Using questionnaires is only one way to seek out the views of residents and other events were held to encourage further local participation and interest such as:

- Launch Public Meeting 10th October 2007
- Annual Parish Meeting 23rd May 2008
- Fun Event 12th July 2008

Media coverage

- Several articles appeared in *The Malvern Gazette* about the Parish Plan and its development
- Local radio reported the other supporting events which were organised
- The newly commissioned Ripple Parish Council website gave prominence to the Parish Plan's progress and reinforced its message.

For full details contact

The full report of the Ripple Parish Plan will be posted on the website. www.rippleparishcouncil.org.uk

Hard copies of the full report are also available from The Parish Clerk, Mrs Lorna Gower, Syrnga, Green Lane, Naunton, WR8 0PY email: clerk@rippleparishcouncil.org.uk

Summary of results of Ripple Parish Plan survey

The overall consensus of residents is that having highlighted some areas for development and improvement, they are largely satisfied with the present level of services and the primarily rural environment. They wish these standards to be maintained without the impact of any major changes or developments.

The key concerns which will require significant resources and /or attention are:

Flooding

Land drainage issues
Flood defences
Community Emergency Planning

Planning decisions

Maintain rural environment
Limit all development
Enforcement of planning conditions

Security and Traffic

Neighbourhood Watch
Police presence
Enforce speed limits

Recycling

Maintain current MHDC service
Provision of skips
Energy conservation awareness

Leisure Facilities

Footpath use and maintenance
Children's play facilities
Provide cyclepaths

Residents of Ripple Parish believe that they enjoy a good quality environment in which to live and bring up their children and in which to grow old. Neighbours are friendly and helpful and there is currently little crime or vandalism.



Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Ripple Parish Community Plan could not have been produced without the assistance of many individuals and organisations. Our particular thanks go to:

Ripple Parish Council
Ripple Community Plan Steering Group

John Leask, Chairman
Veronica Silber, Secretary
Lorna Gower, Treasurer

Nicholas Blake
Gordon Hill

David Parsons
Moir and Bob Holmes
Linda and Brian Marsh

Sue and John White

Colin Slocombe, Fun Day Facilitator

All volunteers who helped with the distribution of information Leaflets and distribution and collection of questionnaires

Karen Humphries – Community First

Richard Levett – Worcs CALC

U3A

Worcestershire Council Voluntary Youth Services –
Dena Falk

Tony Rowley – Cemex

Roger Finch

Tarik Al Rasheed – Malvern Gazette

Anne Cherry and Martin Caulkin

May Caulkin

Peter Carney – Model Railway Exhibition

Peggy Booth

Local Parish Plans for examples and information

Nick Harknett and Sons

Lucy Rowbottom and Clive Griffiths
West Mercia Police Authority
Upton Police Team

Simon Bartlett – Parish Lengthsman

Ian O’Neil Bluebell Inn, Ryall – Sponsorship
of the Fun Day competitions

The Railway Inn – Ripple

Ripple Parish Tree Warden & volunteers

Rachel Silber – Analysis of questionnaires

Neighbourhood Watch

Members of Ripple WI

Nita and Jag Dhaska

Malvern Hills Coppice Network

Worcestershire County Council
Composting Volunteers

Worcestershire County Council
Archaeological Department

Worcestershire PCT

Beechwood Residential Home

Reverend Radcliffe

St Mary’s Church Ripple

Upton Dental Practice

Upton Surgery

Duckworth Worcestershire Trust

Upton Marching Band

Upton Community Pride

Upton Garden Club

County Air Ambulance

Pershore Print

Ripple Parish Hall committee

Thanks most of all to the residents of Ripple Parish for your co-operation in making the Parish Plan a great success by providing us with so much useful information which will help shape the future of our community

Ripple Parish Community Plan Steering Group