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1. Foreword

The “BATTH PLAN” is the Parish Plan for the next 10 years for the future development of the combined community of Bednall, Acton Trussell, and Teddesley Hay. It has been prepared by a small group of volunteers following wide-ranging consultations throughout the Parish. As such the “BATTH PLAN” represents a shared vision for our Parish as a whole.



The Parish Medallion

Why should you or anyone else be bothered?

Because it's the place where you have chosen to live and the people you have chosen to live amongst, a place with heritage and history and importantly a place with a future. It's also a place that people aspire to live in, a place with an identity and a place to be nurtured and maintained. Critically it's a place where a sense of cohesion needs to be developed and our shared future and those of future generations embraced.

The Parish Plan has taken approximately two years to prepare. Under the Chairmanship of Simon Hake, its preparation has involved a lot of hard work and dedication from a Focus Group of volunteers.

I would like to thank all of the Focus Group for their persistence, patience and tenacity in preparing our BATTH PLAN. In particular I would like to thank Sue Calvert, Alan Rowland, and Elena Round for their hard work in carrying out the administration tasks, liaising with other groups, and helping to draft and edit the document. We are extremely grateful for the help, support and flair of the Acton Trussell and Penkridge Photographic Society and the Bednall Art Group for enhancing the presentation of the document.

Grateful thanks must also be given to the Parish Council for their help and support, particularly financial support throughout the process. Particular thanks go to the residents, of all age groups, who took part in the consultations.

Simon Hake

Chairman
BATTH FOCUS GROUP

2. Introduction

The government has outlined the importance of the community and its capacity to take initiatives within the local environment in its “Localism” Bill. It is intended to give parishioners opportunities to contribute to the improvement of social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of their own area. It is with this in mind that the BATTH Plan Focus Group is bringing together a Parish Plan. BATTH, is an acronym created by a young parishioner using the capital letters collectively from the names of the various villages, [B](#)ednall, [A](#)cton [T](#)russell and [T](#)eddesley [H](#)ay.

What is a Parish Plan?

In brief a Parish Plan enables a community to plan for the future. It is a shared vision for the parish as a whole over a ten year period. Important to the development of the community it covers all aspects of local life including social, economic, and environmental issues.

The plan represents the whole community. It sets out an action plan for future projects to be implemented together with the current main issues that require to be addressed to help fulfil the aspirations of the community. Guidance from the Association of Rural Communities (ACRE) including close liaison with Staffordshire Rural Community Council has been followed.

Why do we need a Parish Plan?

Acton Trussell, Bednall, and Teddesley Hay, the three main developed areas, are dominated by agriculture and woodland. Their distinctiveness and differences need to be recognised individually whilst integrating and developing together as one parish. To do this we need a clear statement of the combined communities wishes, needs, concerns, issues and priorities. This Parish Plan should help to overcome and celebrate the differences, build and develop them and yet to encourage the knitting together of the whole community for a more coherent future together over the life of the plan and beyond.



Acton Trussell Post Office and Shop
(Now a Private Residence)

Bednall Cyclist



What processes have we adopted?

The preparation of the Parish Plan commenced with the convening of a parish-wide meeting called by our South Staffordshire District Councillor in February 2012. From that meeting individuals volunteered to form a Focus Group. That Focus Group first met in April 2012 and subsequently decided to formalise as the BATTH Plan Focus Group under the aegis of a formal constitution as part of the Parish Council.

From this the following work has been carried out:

- Regular open public meetings were held with agendas and minutes published;
- Preparing and conducting a parish wide questionnaire survey including an online version of the questionnaire in consultation with the South Staffordshire Council;
- Organising and undertaking a series of public meetings during November/December 2012 to inform residents and to receive feedback;
- Undertaking specific consultation meetings with particular businesses and community groupings within the parish, including the “younger generation”;
- Collating, adapting and analysing the data collected;
- Drafting the Parish Plan;
- Keeping the Parish Council appraised on a monthly basis as to progress on an ongoing basis;
- Carrying out consultations on the draft Parish Plan and adapting as considered appropriate;
- Reviewing, finalising and publishing the Parish Plan;
- Establishing appropriate monitoring and review for the life of the Parish Plan including organising continuous public review.

What happens next?

There will be a period of regular monitoring and continuing review. Following formal implementation it is recommended that the Parish Plan is subject to continuous annual monitoring, with a full review every 3 years or so under the management of the Parish Council, or other delivery vehicles, that the Parish Council may decide. The Parish Council may also consider it prudent to use this Parish Plan as a basis for the development of a “Neighbourhood Plan”.

3. History and Identity

Heritage

The Parish has a rich heritage and a long colourful history stretching back to the Iron Age (approx. 4000 years). Now it is the subject of ongoing archaeological investigation by the Penk Vale Archaeological Group.

Particular parts of the Parish are mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) whilst other parts, have in the past, formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock (from before 1100).



St James' Church
Acton Trussell



All Saints' Church
Bednall

There are two churches in the Parish, St. James', Acton Trussell and All Saints, Bednall, are both on sites that originally date back to around 1200.

Bednall School, linked to All Saints' Church, is over 150 years old.

Teddesley Hay is now a hamlet within the Parish but in 1252 it was part of the Parish of Penkridge for tithe purposes and was part the Royal Hunting Forest of Cannock Chase.



The Teddesley Stag

Location

The parish of Acton Trussell, Bednall, and Teddesley Hay is situated some 3 to 5 miles south of the centre of the County Town of Stafford and is close to Junction 13 of the M6 motorway.

The Parish is also close to the large village of Penkridge which is situated some 2 to 3 miles to the south east. It covers a large area (approx 2000 acres) and comprises mainly farmland, two villages, Acton Trussell and Bednall, together with the hamlet of Teddesley Hay. The Parish borders the village of Brocton to the east and Penkridge to the west. Part of Cannock Chase, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) also forms part of the Parish. To the north of the Parish there is an important conservation area known as Radford Meadows Nature Reserve associated with the flood plain to the River Penk that also forms an important feature within the Parish boundaries.

Overall the Parish can be categorised as a green and pleasant land in a semi-rural location close to the major cities of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stoke on Trent, and Manchester, by virtue of the M6 motorway.

The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, the only canal wholly completed by James Brindley, runs to the west of Acton Trussell. The towpath and the network of local footpaths give a variety of local walks in, around, and through the parish.



Mill Lane
Flood Plain



The Round House
Teddesley Hay

The Identity of the Parish Today

The Parish has two churches, St James' Church in Acton Trussell and All Saints' Church in Bednall, and a small primary school linked to Bednall church.

Cannock chase, the canal and nearby River Penk provide the opportunity for recreational activities such as walking, cycling, horse riding and fishing to name but a few.



Teddesley Canal Bridge



The River Penk



The Moat House

The Moat House in Acton Trussell was originally a farmhouse. It has been owned by the Lewis family since 1955, and it is now a luxury hotel and conference centre.

The construction of the M6 motorway in the 1960's and the close proximity of junction 13 has resulted in building development and an increase in the population of the Parish.

The motorway also led to the development of several businesses around the junction, including a Motel, a Public House, a Restaurant and the Argos Distribution Centre



Acton Trussell behind the M6 Motorway

However, despite the residential, commercial and business developments, agriculture and farming are still the most significant and prominent aspects of the Parish.

Along the A34 several businesses have set up or expanded. There is a farm shop, a saddler, and an animal feed merchant. The Seven Stars public house and Play Barn provides refreshment and recreation for both adults and children.



Bednall Farm Shop, Saddler, and
Animal Feed Merchant



The Seven Stars Pub
And Play Barn

Burrows provides agricultural machinery and Buxtons, on the opposite side of the road, provides farm and forestry machinery products, and is also the site of a small business park with a selection of shops and services.



Spring Slade Café and Camp Site

Across the A34 and within the boundary of Cannock Chase there is a working gravel quarry, a café and camp site, a riding centre, and forestry workings.

Many of the old farm buildings have been renovated/rebuilt to provide a variety of housing, particularly in Teddesley Hay.



Teddesley Hay – Modern Housing in an Old Setting

A Few Interesting Facts About the Parish

The demographics for the parish, taken from the results of the 2011 census and updated on 30th January 2013, suggest several important facts that are material to the BATTH PLAN. These include the following:

- Total resident population in the parish is 1248. Male 644. Female 604.
- The age profile for the parish shows the percentage of residents over the age of 59 is above national average.
- The figures for the general health of the residents show that approximately 80 percent are in the very good or good categories. This is above the national average.
- The total number of houses in the parish is 528, of which 396 are in council tax bands E, F, or G. This indicates that the majority of residents of the parish are, financially, in the above average income grouping.
- Of that 528 households, 346 have only one or two people living in them i.e. 65.5% of the parish population.
- Total land area of the parish is 21,485,460 square metres, of which 20,088,950 square metres are designated as Greenspace. In percentage terms this means that 93.5% of the land is not built upon and is mainly agricultural.

4. Community

The three villages in the Parish are very different in both size and make up. There are factors which are common to all three but also factors which are diverse in range.

The Parish Community Centre and Recreation Field located to the north end of Acton Trussell provides the majority of the sport and leisure facilities for all communities within the Parish. However there is a lack of age appropriate equipment to suit the demographics of the whole population. The community centre has an ongoing plan for improvements. The centre is extensively used during the week and weekends. The Parish has a small shop located in Bednall together with the farm shop adjacent to the A34.

There is a mobile library service every three weeks in Acton Trussell and Bednall.

Acton Trussell, as the largest village, is more diverse and aspires to a greater sense of community cohesion. Whilst various groups exist within the village they generally fail to represent and/or appeal to the village as a whole. Bednall provides the best example of village cohesion within the Parish. Activities and events are organised for the whole community on a regular basis. Bednall's activities are the "Friends of Bednall". Teddesley Hay which includes a private estate known as Teddesley Park is a more remote population that tends to be somewhat scattered and separate from the rest of the Parish. In recent years many of the old farm buildings on the estate have been renovated to provide residences, and the population has expanded considerably.



The local town of Stafford and the village of Penkridge, together with Cannock Town, are accessible by bus and car, where the majority of relatively local services and facilities exist.

In Acton Trussell there is an hourly bus service, except on Sunday, but Bednall only has one bus a day.

As a result of consultations and work undertaken by the BATTH PLAN Focus Group, the Parish Council re-entered both Acton Trussell and Bednall into the appropriate categories of the 2013 "Best Kept Village" competition. This helped engage village communities in a sense of pride in the appearance of their respective villages. It also encouraged the Parish Council to invest in appropriate facilities to maintain a better outlook. As a result greater cohesion was noted. Bednall came third in their category and Acton Trussell was highly commended, a credit to both villages. This will continue to be encouraged in future years.



The New 'Old' House in Bednall

Areas to be Addressed

- Currently there are no community meeting places in either Bednall or Teddesley Hay.
- Many parishioners express a desire for greater community spirit. However, within individual villages community spirit is acknowledged.
- Many parishioners would like an additional shop, particularly those in Acton Trussell.
- There is a need to develop the provision offered by the community centre, including outside equipment for the younger people, children of the parish and adults.
- The Parish is in need of a children's play area for a range of different ages.
- Dog fouling and litter remains an issue in the Parish.
- Some parishioners feel that affordable housing is needed, but this is outside the scope of a Parish Plan

Communication



Bednall Telephone Box

Telephone services are reasonably good. However broadband connections are at best extremely variable. Whilst recent improvements by BT have led to better fibre optic connections, particularly in Acton Trussell, full connectivity throughout the Parish is still variable.

This variability leads to problems for home working, small businesses, and general communications throughout the Parish.

Recently, as part of the Parish Plan, moves are being made by the Parish and District Councils to formulate, produce and maintain an appropriate parish-wide web site. However, a number of residents have again expressed concern regarding the lack of speedy broadband communication.



Acton Trussell Telephone Box



The church produces a monthly magazine for the whole parish, to which residents are invited to submit information.

The Parish Council has notice boards in all three villages.

The “Friends of Bednall” have organised a village-wide e-mail distribution network for organising events and posting comments. A similar arrangement is being developed(aka “The Grapevine”)

St James’ Church Acton Trussell

Areas to be addressed

- Better and quicker communication within and throughout the Parish.
- Improvements in broadband connectivity throughout the Parish.
- Develop internet communication via a web site.

Links within our Parish



The road network within the Parish is largely rural and comprises of narrow country lanes. The nearby M6, the A449, and A34 are intrinsic to the connections to major towns and cities, but they sometimes experience serious congestion particularly during rush hour. When this occurs there is a negative impact on the road system in the Parish.

Given the rural nature of the Parish, most of the roads are lacking pavements which can be an issue for some residents.



Arriva provide an hourly bus service to Stafford and Perton from Monday to Saturday, morning to early evening, via Acton Trussell. Bednall has one bus a day, Monday to Friday. There is no bus service to Teddesley Hay.



There is a good series of footpaths that traverse the Parish, some across farmland, some based around the canal towpath, and many on Cannock Chase (AONB), part of which lies within the Parish boundary.

Tranquillity on the Chase

NOTE To avoid confusion 'pavement' refers to hard-standing walkways along roads.
'footpath' refers to Public Footpaths within the Parish.

Areas to be addressed

- Speeding and possible ways of slowing down the traffic.
- The increasing number of large vehicles travelling through Bednall and Acton Trussell along narrow roads that were never built to take them.
- The lack of pavements in much of the Parish.
- The repair and maintenance of the roads.
- Speeding through the Parish on roads that link the A34 to the A449 and Junction 13 of the M6.
- Improve the accessibility of public footpaths.

5. The Younger Generation

The leisure facilities presently available within the Parish for those of 0 to 18 years of age are virtually non-existent.

In Bednall children use the playground within the school ground and in Acton Trussell children have to use the large field to the rear of the community centre. This has goal posts and a basketball net but nothing else.

Access to the community centre is via Acton Hill Road, which does not have a full run of pavement or street lights. Consequently anyone approaching the centre on foot has to walk on an often busy and narrow road.

None of the villages have provision for specified outdoor play equipment. There are no social groups/clubs running for the young people of the Parish.

Areas to be addressed

- The lack of outdoor play facilities.
- Safety in terms of pedestrian access to the community centre playing field. There is a need for appropriate street lighting and/or a continuous pavement.
- The desire for more clubs, social groups and events aimed at the young generation.



The Community Centre Field

What Happens Next?

The next four pages are the **Action Plan** needed to deliver this **Parish Plan**. It is designed to show the concerns that the parishioners identified, and the time scale over which it should be fulfilled.

Bednall , Acton Trussell and Teddesley Hay Parish Action Plan.

- **Community .**

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Bednall , Acton Trussell and Teddesley Hay Parish Action Plan.

Communication.

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Bednall , Acton Trussell and Teddesley Hay Parish Action Plan.

Links within our Parish.

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Bednall , Acton Trussell and Teddesley Hay Parish Action Plan.

[illegible]

Younger Generation.

Issues:

[illegible]