

# LUDDINGTON PARISH PLAN

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Included in the reference copies of the Plan to be accessed at the Parish or District Councils are the following:

- Commentary on the Survey Tables
- Survey Tables
- Survey Questionnaire
- Report on the Focus Groups
- Report on the Youth Group
- Report on the Business Interviews
- Leaflets used for consultation
- Nature Reserve Description

## **INTRODUCTION TO LUDDINGTON PARISH PLAN**

Parish plans are an initiative sponsored by the government to provide rural parishes with the opportunity to specify the present and future needs of the community including:

- the features of the Parish which people value most and wish to preserve
- the state of services within the community
- local problems and issues to be resolved
- needs and attitudes to housing and development
- social facilities and provision for young people
- communications and availability of information about activities within the Parish

The conclusions of the plan are expressed in an Action Plan which will be implemented under the guidance of the Parish Council.

It is important to realize that the Parish has several distinct parts which have some separate needs as well as those in common across the Parish.

When completed the Parish Plan can provide

- local community views to be used as a “material consideration” when determining planning applications, which, if adopted by Stratford District Council, would carry substantial weight through the operation of Local Choice Policy COM 1 in the Local Plan Review.
- information which can be used by the Parish Council in taking action
- information for the use of organizations within the Parish.
- the bases for various initiatives which might be taken by the Parish Plan Steering Committee / Parish Council or groups set up by them
- information for the whole Parish Community on what everybody wants as a basis for pursuing any needs not being met.

The Parish Plan was based on responses to a survey of the whole Parish with topics raised at two Parish meetings, two focus groups, interviews with businesses in the area, a group meeting for young people and individual inputs. Details are provided at the beginning of the commentary on the Parish Plan Survey.

The results of the Survey and likely topics for the Plan were presented to a Parish Plan Meeting in December 2005 and responses were taken into account in the Plan.

## **HOW THE LUDDINGTON PARISH PLAN WAS CREATED**

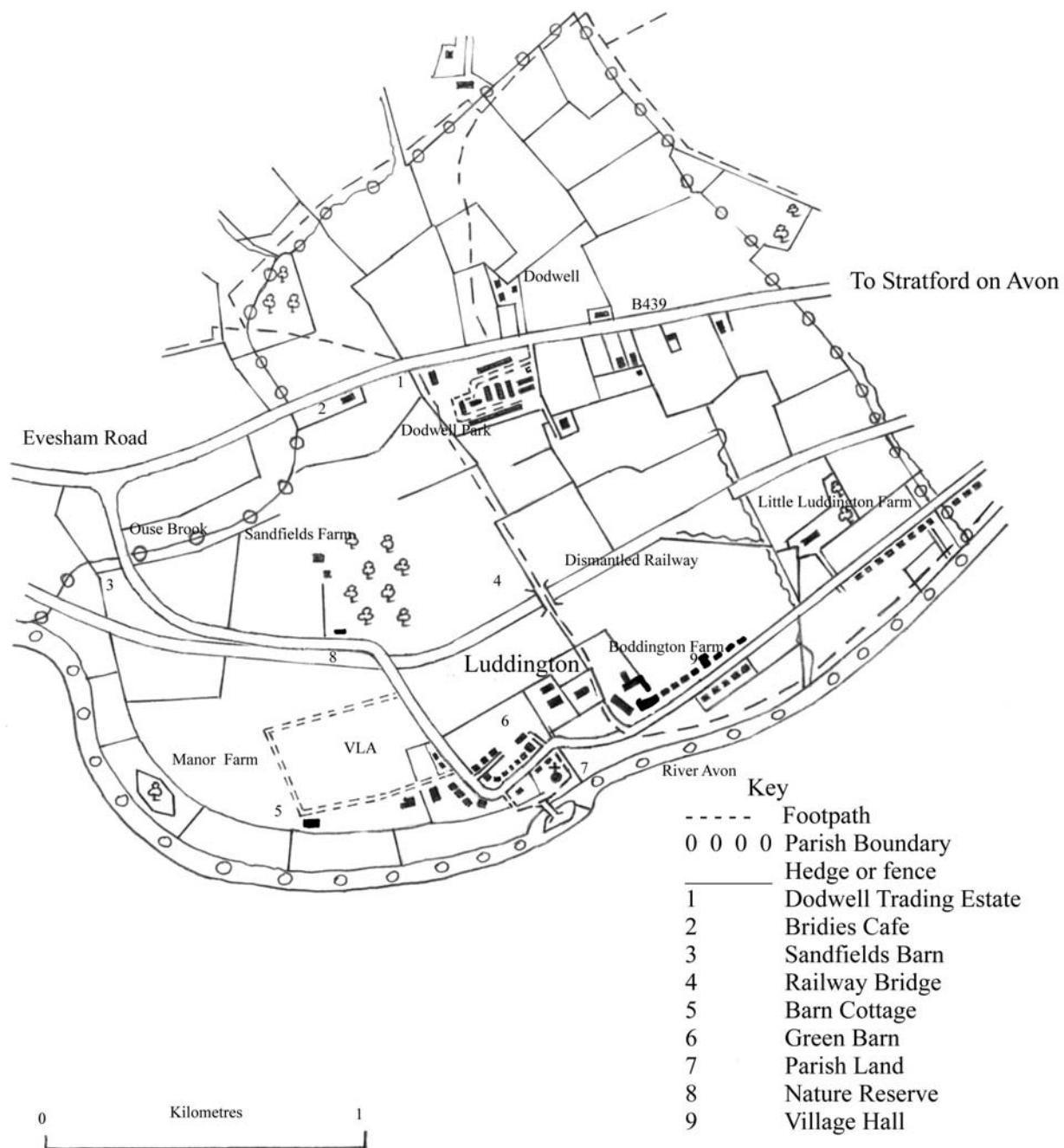
1. The Parish Council deputed three Parish Councillors to set up a Steering Committee to create a Parish Plan.
2. A Parish Meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2004, for which leaflets were distributed over the whole Parish.

Those who came, about 45, were asked to suggest topics for the Parish Plan Survey, under various headings and to suggest any further headings or topics to be covered. Refreshments were provided.
3. Following the Parish Meeting, the Steering Committee was formed with three Parish Councillors, volunteers from the meeting and people with relevant experience.
4. Two focus groups were held by a professional moderator to raise and discuss issues which concerned people. One group represented Luddington and the other Dodwell Park. (A report on these two focus groups is appended) .

A Youth group was also convened. Interviews were also conducted with all businesses in the Parish who were contactable.
5. The Steering groups went over the topics raised at the Parish Meeting together with the results of the focus groups and evolved a list of topics over a number of drafts.
6. The final draft list of topics in semi question form was put to a further Parish Meeting, advertised by leaflet in advance, at an evening session, which also included showing old films of the Parish from the 1940's and refreshments. The resulting comments were then taken into account.
7. A draft of the questionnaire was put together by a member of the Steering Committee who had professional experience of survey design and sent to Warwick Network who laid it out and printed drafts for approval. The final draft was approved by the Steering group and printed by Warwick Network
8. Using the census lists, all houses in the Parish were divided between the Steering Group and a number of other volunteers. Each of these was allocated a list of up to 20 addresses. They were then responsible for personally delivering the questionnaire to each house, explaining the importance of the survey and arranging to collect the completed questionnaire. The questionnaires were unnumbered and put into a plain brown envelope. When

- the volunteers called the completed questionnaires were posted into a sealed cardboard box with a slit in it, so preserving perceived and actual anonymity.
9. In addition to the anonymous questionnaires a form was also provided for Parish members to provide their names and telephone numbers where they were interested in helping with or participating in, a range of activities. The results from this are referred to in the commentary
  10. A questionnaire was provided for each household. Some questions required an answer from the household, some provided spaces for each individual in the household to reply.
  11. The response rate achieved was 88% of all occupied residences in the Parish.
  12. Following the collection of the questionnaires, the results were analysed by Warwick Network, creating tables as agreed with the Steering Committee.
  13. The results were written up, comprehensively and in summary by a member of the Steering Committee with appropriate experience and provisional action points extracted by the Steering Committee.
  14. The results were summarised in a Powerpoint presentation and shown at Parish Meeting with about 50 present, in December 2005. Likely action points were discussed with suggestions from the audience.
  15. The presentation was sent to the WRCC and Stratford District Council with the former making suggestions as to the form of an Action Plan.
  16. An Action Plan was then written and approved by the Steering Committee, following production and discussion of various drafts. This was again sent to WRCC and SDC.
  17. A complete Parish Plan was assembled including complete documentation for reference purposes. A summary version including the complete Action Plan will be distributed to every household in the Parish.
  18. Following adoption by the Parish Council and the Stratford District Council the Action Plan points will be progressed by the Steering Committee and groups set up by the Parish Council
  19. Finally the complete Plan and an account of progress to date will be presented to a Parish Meeting.

# SKETCH MAP OF THE PARISH OF LUDDINGTON





## LUDDINGTON PARISH

1. The Parish at the present time
2. Present lifestyle
3. Principal Parish developments
4. Employment within the Parish
5. Parish history
6. Trade and transport, past
7. Principal footpaths
8. Map of Luddington Parish  
Map of the Conservation Area and Key  
Plan of Dodwell Park  
Events and activities contacts  
Conservation contacts  
Reference books  
Bus Services – schools and WCC Bus Guide



## **1. The Parish at the present time**

The village of Luddington lies on the north bank of the river Avon, some three miles west from the centre of Stratford upon Avon. There are extensive views to the south towards the Cotswolds.

The population of the village has changed little over the centuries; however the population of the Parish has doubled within the last three decades with the expansion at Dodwell Park. This expansion has created a disparate Parish with two centres of population.



Most of the young children and those of school age live in or close to Luddington village and attend schools within Stratford District. There are no children residing at

Dodwell Park. A major attraction for those settling in the Parish is the excellent schooling and facilities within the district and living in the pleasant rural countryside, the river Avon and lock area.

Limited bus services serve both Luddington and Dodwell but unfortunately do not link the two 'centres' of population.



## **2. Present lifestyle**

The Parish is now a quiet rural retreat; life is centred around the 'new' church, built in 1872 and the Village Hall built in 1953, and this now has disabled access and facilities.

Indoor activities include art and dancing with outdoor including fishing, boating, canoeing, cycling, horse riding and walking in the peaceful surroundings and the passing of the annual runners taking part in the Stratford Marathon. There is a committed contingent of the WI in the village and events are organised by the Village Hall Committee for enjoyment by the whole Parish, together



with private parties, and re-established annual Parish events including the Summer Fete, Flower Show and Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve.

Dodwell Farm, on the north side of the B349, has occasional Motor Cross meetings on part of their land during the summer months.



The Luddington News (distributed quarterly) initiated by Friends of All Saints Church, has been a very important means of communication to Parishioners during the preparation of the Parish Plan.

Services are held at All Saints Church each Sunday:

1st Sunday	Family Communion
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	Evensong
4th Sunday	Holy Communion
5th Sunday	Holy Communion (1662)

Parish Office: 01789 266316

Details and times are posted on the Church noticeboard and adjacent to the 'overnight' mooring for canal users.



### **3. Principal Parish developments at Luddington and Dodwell**

The opening of the Horticultural Research Station (MAFF) in 1953 established a main source of employment. The offices were in the centre of the old village, now Church Close, and the dwellings at the western end of the village were built at that time, including Manor Leys, Crossways and Manor Farm Cottages.

The offices were relocated to Manor Farm (west) opposite the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (built in 1993) which superseded them.

Bomfords Limited, an international company of growers and packers of vegetables, principally to the major retailers, with a multi £M turnover, purchased Manor Farm from MAFF in 1993. They gradually built up their operation at Manor Farm over the next four years and the noise, increased intensity of traffic and the damage caused to Luddington Lane was dangerous, and of great concern to parishioners as well as Weston on Avon residents.

In December 1998 Bomfords applied for planning permission to set up their HQ and central refrigeration, packing and distribution centre at Manor Farm. After considerable local opposition, the application was rejected by Stratford on Avon District Council. Their appeal resulted in a Public Inquiry/High Court Action/Public Inquiry which rejected the application. A further Public Inquiry/Enforcement Action followed by an uncontested High Court action, finally led to the cessation of Bomfords national/international operations at Manor Farm, on 31st October 2005.

During the 1950s, a caravan park was established at Dodwell, south of the road. In the early 1960's Dodwell House was built; it included a shop and an office. At the same time the site was increased in size to approximately 60 homes in roads known as The Park and The Circuit. There is also an area for touring caravans.

In 1984 Dodwell Park was updated and is now predominantly twin units providing a total of some 109 homes\* sited along Rose Crescent and Sunset Drive, as well as the original roads The Park and The Circuit.



\*The total of homes is subject to variation as old properties are dismantled, and new houses are erected.

#### **4. Employment within the Parish**

Farming is still the main activity within the Parish, together with the thriving businesses at Dodwell Trading Estate and the Veterinary Laboratory Agency mentioned above. Other businesses include a farrier at Boddington Farm and organ maintenance in the old Methodist Chapel.

There is also the seasonal passage of canal and other craft both passing through and mooring at the lock, managed by the Avon Navigation Trust. The major work of restoration of navigation on the river Avon from Tewkesbury to Stratford upon Avon was completed by them (from 1969) and opened in 1974.



## **Businesses in the Parish**

### **Luddington Village**

- 1) Veterinary Laboratories Agency
- 2) Farrier
- 3) Organ building and repair

### **Dodwell**

- 1) Caravan storage
- 2) Dodwell Park - Park Homes and Touring Caravans
- 3) Dodwell Trading Estate:
  - a) Antiques and Interiors
  - b) Stratford Kitchens and Bathrooms
  - c) Joinery
  - d) Packaging suppliers

### **Farms**

- 1) Boddington Farm
- 2) Little Luddington Farm
- 3) Manor Farm
- 4) Sandfields Farm
- 5) Dodwell Farm



## **Businesses - Interview Survey**

In addition to the Parishioners survey it was thought appropriate to interview all the businesses in the Parish and a Questionnaire/ Interview Guide was prepared.

Businesses were allocated to members of the Steering Committee to set up interviews with the principals of the organisations.

The response was excellent with some 90% + and the main points relating to life in the Parish and possible future developments are summarised, with more detailed responses in the appendices:

Business Questionnaires, October 2004, analysis.

Principal points relating to the life in the Parish and possible future considerations.

### Dodwell

- 1) B439 speed restrictions and controlled crossing to bus stop.
- 2) Bridie's Café site, travellers, fly-tipping, break-ins at Dodwell Trading Estate, real concern.
- 3) Electricity supply unsatisfactory.

### Luddington

- 1) Maintenance/re-making of Luddington Lane.
- 2) The bus service through the village is affecting recruitment potential at the Veterinary Services Agency.
- 3) Social and/or low cost housing was noted as a requirement for a small business in the village.
- 4) Concordia students, up to 500 seasonally, will remain at Manor Farm West, Barn Cottage, until the future use of the site is determined - Bomfords.  
The future use of the Manor Farm site is now under consideration; a public meeting was called by Bomfords on 19th December 2005, when the company put forward their ideas, ranging from light industrial to a farmstead homes development on the footprint of the agricultural buildings. This situation is ongoing, with a 'follow up' action plan.
- 5) Electricity supply to be underground.  
(See also appendices giving further information on the business surveys.)

## **5. Parish history**

On the 1831 map of the area Luddington had only one 'd'. Both Luddington/Dodwell names are of Saxon origin, which having well documented personal names, are easy to define:

Luddington is 'Luda's Farmstead'

Dodwell means 'Dodda's well or spring'

Dodwell was a farming hamlet, straddling the Stratford upon Avon to Bidford on Avon road, west of Bordon Hill.



The original 'road' to the village was along the line of the footpath from Dodwell to Luddington village green and then on southwards via a forded crossing of the river Avon to Milcote, which was once a moated manor house and 'village'.

The Avon was at a lower level before the first enterprise in the mid-1600s to make the Avon navigable from Tewkesbury to Stratford upon Avon, completed in 1662.

The oldest building in the village is part of Boddington Farm, the easternmost building in the 'village' dating from 1600; it is also the eastern boundary of the village conservation area. There is reference to Robert Simcock's (Simcox) sixteenth century Luddington barn being emptied by marauding troops of its 'carefully stored apples' during the Civil War.

Other principal buildings of note include Sandfields Farm, now Luddington Grange, the Manor and the Cottage (now renamed The Old House) - the site of the original church is shown in the front garden of 'The Cottage' on large scale O.S. maps. Several



other timbered and thatched dwellings are listed and dwelling numbers 194 - 205 run from east to west on the north side of the road (the 'Methodist Chapel' is adjacent to and set back from number 199) and numbers 206 - 209 from west to east on the south.

Other more recent buildings are listed and 204/205

had a pig sty in the rear garden and was allocated to Sandfields Farm; other dwellings in the village were also allocated to farm estates. To celebrate the Millennium a footpath directional 'tablet' was erected in the centre of the village, the village green, which is the only remaining land owned by the Marquis of Hertford of Ragley Hall at Arrow.



## **6. Trade and transport, past**

The Avon was navigable from Tewkesbury to Stratford upon Avon in 1662, at the time there were two locks at Luddington. The lower lock (opposite the old MAFF pumping station) of conventional construction with adjacent weir, the upper of rare type, a round lock of 70-75 ft diameter, adjacent and to the north of the present lock. Coal and grain were the principal cargoes, though there is reference in 1825 to the 'river not being in good navigational condition' its prospects looked good with Gloucester becoming an inland port. However, in the mid 1800s, Stratford Canal Company agreed to sell to the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway (OWWR).

The river transported cargoes were transferred to the rail network to speed up deliveries and the Upper Avon was abandoned in 1875 and reverted back to nature. The OWWR line, through the Parish, ran just south of Sandfields Barn (now derelict) into a cutting under Luddington Lane (now a site for wildlife), the underbridge on the sharp bend (near Sandfields Cottages) and then on towards Stratford passing under bridge number SJT199, carrying the farm access and footpath (with views to the Malverns and Holy Trinity Church) from Dodwell to the village green, referred to earlier. The bridge has recently been saved from demolition by Warwickshire County Council. The railway line, then owned by LMS, was closed in 1963 in the Beeching era.



## **7. Principal footpaths**

The footpaths from/to the village include the village green to Dodwell, the church entrance down to the lock area and back up the lane (regrettably there is now no link across the river Avon to the Avon Valley footpath) and the river footpath from Boddington Farm eastwards to Stannells Close and onwards, joining Monarch's Way, passes the racecourse to Lucy's Mill and Holy Trinity Church in Stratford upon Avon.



## Luddington Conservation Area Plan Key

### Buildings (\* listed)

1. Cartshed at Boddington Farm
2. Wagonshed at Boddington Farm
3. Boddington Farm \*
4. Stable and Hayloft at Boddington Farm
5. Stable at Boddington Farm
6. Thatched Cottage \*
7. The Forge
8. The Cottage \*
9. The Barn
10. Luddington Manor \*
11. 194/195 Luddington
12. 196 Luddington
13. 209 Luddington \*
14. All Saints Church \*
15. 207/208 Luddington
16. Ye Old Cottage (206) \*
17. 197/198/199 Luddington \*
18. The old Chapel
19. Vintage (201)
20. 202 Luddington \*
21. 203 Luddington \*
22. 204/205 Luddington \*



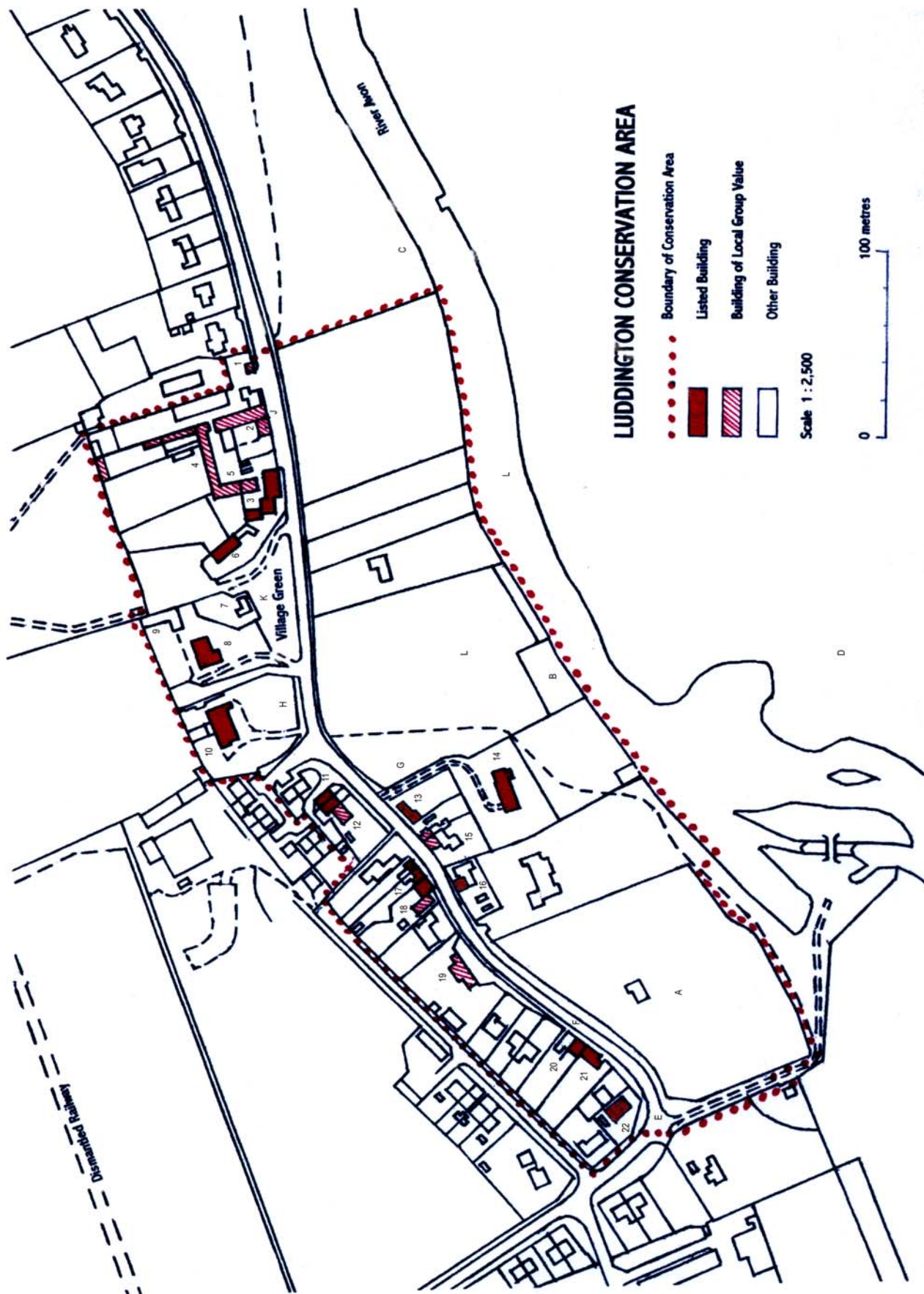
### Landscape

#### Tree groups

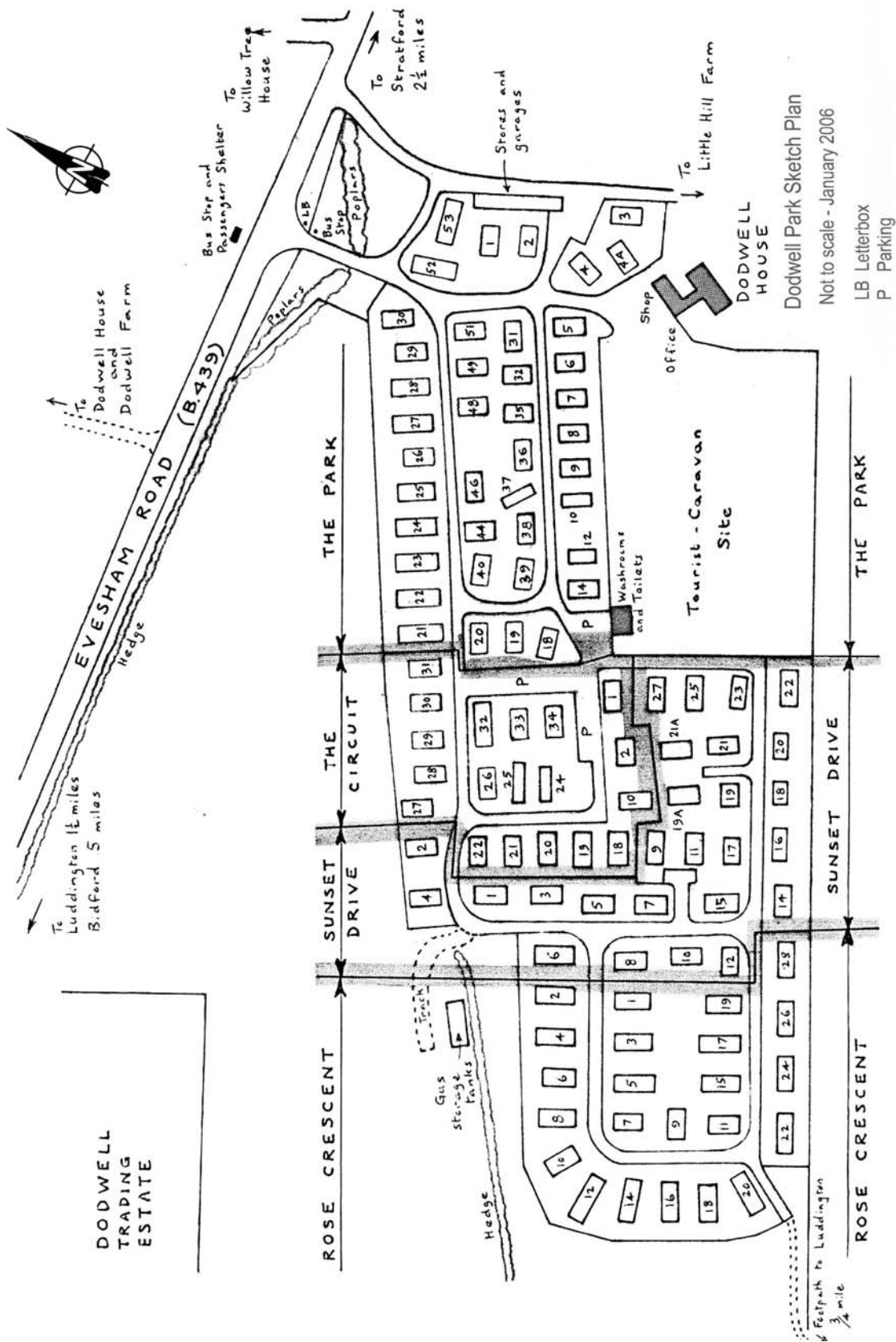
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A | Garden of Avonvale contains cedar, ash, yew, lime, horse chestnut, maple, beech and willow |
| B | Riverside swathe from alder to more ornamental species                                     |
| C | Riverbank poplars  |

#### Landscape Features

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| D | From the south across the river                               |
| E | Palisade fencing  |
| F | Main Street from the west                                     |
| G | Lime walk to the Church                                       |
| H | Yew and cedar trees   |
| J | Stone wall and capping Boddington Farm                        |
| K | Village Green forming a centre to the village                 |
| L | River Avon forming southern boundary to the conservation area |



# Dodwell Park Sketch Map



### Events and Activities Contacts

For up to date indoor events and activities and outdoor activities consult the contacts/organisations below:

- 1) Luddington Village Hall
- 2) Stratford upon Avon District Sports and Leisure  
Directory and Centre
- 3) Warwickshire County Council Libraries and Heritage  
Community Groups and Services
- 4) Stratford on Avon District Council - Arts Development:  
art:flick
- 5) The Racecourse, Luddington Road (bridge nights)

### Conservation Contacts

For information on listed buildings, the conservation area, (certain restraints on buildings, trees and hedges) and tree preservation orders contact:

Parish Clerk

Stratford on Avon District Council



Learning how to lay a hedge on the Nature Reserve.

For information about the Nature Reserve, and how you can help with its' maintenance contact Carol Cholerton (269236) or Jo White (296542)

### Reference books

*The LMS in the West Midlands*

P B Whitehouse (1984)

*Waterways to Stratford*

C Hadfield & J Norris (1962)

*The Warwickshire Village Book*

Warwickshire Federation of  
Women's Institutes (1988/2000)

*A History of Warwickshire*

T Slater (1997)

*Stratford upon Avon 1196-1996*

- 1 Luddington Road, Village, Luddington Lane  
i) School buses are routed through the village in both directions, taking pupils to Bidford and Alcester and from Alcester and Bidford to Stratford-on-Avon schools.
- 2 Warwickshire County Council Bus Times Guide @ 11 April 2005.  
(Times correct at time of printing – please check up to date schedule)

Luddington Village

- i) No 27 service Monday to Saturday  
Stratford – Luddington Church – Welford Maypole – Long Marston – Broad Marston – Pebworth New Inn and returns along the same route  
07.37 am first bus Luddington to Stratford, then every 2 hours  
18.07 pm last bus from Stratford (Wood Street) to village  
18.05 pm last bus from Stratford (Bridge Street) to village

Dodwell

- ii) No 28 service Monday to Saturday  
Stratford – Dodwell Park – Bidford – Salford Priors – Harvington – Evesham and return.  
09.29 am first bus to Stratford then hourly  
19.25 pm last bus from Stratford (Bridge Street) to Dodwell

iii) No 166 service on Sundays

- Worcester – Evesham – Bidford – Stratford  
10.46 am first bus to Stratford then three hourly to 19.46 pm  
17.00 pm last bus to Dodwell from Rother Street

- iv) Bus services 212 Tuesdays and Fridays and the H3 on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays appear to pass Dodwell Park , but it appears not to be a scheduled stop (both very limited services).

## LUDDINGTON PARISH PLAN SURVEY

### SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

The list of conclusions and action points here deals with issues which cover separate parts of the Parish as well as those which relate to the whole Parish.

#### **(1) What people like about living here**

People in Dodwell Park were most concerned about retaining peace and quiet, with the countryside as a secondary consideration with safety and neighbours and the community also important.

For the rest of Dodwell and Luddington the primary concerns are tranquil location in the countryside with easy access to a town, and the rural community. The preservation of these issues is therefore of paramount importance to people and developments which undermine either the peaceful security of Dodwell or the rural environment of Luddington, separated from Stratford, are to be resisted.

#### **(2) What people dislike about living here**

There are far fewer dislikes than likes. For Dodwell Park, the main issue is the safety of the B439 with some concern about internal disputes. For Luddington the main concern is traffic through the village, problems with Bomfords (hopefully recent problems have been resolved) lack of a pub or meeting place, lack of facilities for the young and accessibility of Stratford.

#### **(3) Crime and Neighbourhood Watch**

Whilst crime is low in the Parish apart from external thefts in Dodwell there is great concern about the lack of visible policing and there is a lack of knowledge about Community Policing. Contact has already been made with a new Community Police Officer but publicity and visibility for policing is clearly necessary.

There is support for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Luddington, (beyond the present one) and in Dodwell Park.

#### **(4) Existing Household Services**

##### Mains Electricity:

A high level of complaint in Luddington related to power cuts. Some reference also in Dodwell.

##### **Mains Gas**

This is generally unavailable. See below for levels of interest

##### **Mains Water**

Some ratings of poor relating to pressure in Dodwell Park and taste/quality in Luddington.

##### **Mains Sewage**

Poor ratings and concern by some in Dodwell Park, relating to systems backing up.



**TV Reception**

Significant complaints of poor reception and lack of availability of channel 5 in Luddington. This is dependant upon transmitter receiver and could benefit from greater publicity.

**Telephone Landline**

Few ratings of poor

**Telephone mobile**

Substantial ratings of poor in Luddington which are not just a matter of supplier. Could be discussed with suppliers.

**Policing**

High ratings of poor everywhere all relating to lack of visibility (see above)

**(5) Access to Internet**

Nearly half the Parish had access to the Internet at home; more in Luddington than Dodwell Park. Some people are finding Broadband (recently introduced) unreliable. There is a need for more information and possibly discussions with suppliers.

**(6) Specific Requirements in Relation to Possible New Household Services****Mains Gas**

A majority see a need for mains gas

**Electricity Cables to be put underground**

Majority support in Luddington, less in Dodwell Park. This should be investigated separately for Luddington and Dodwell.

**Cable Television**

More feel that this is unimportant although there is minority support across the Parish (26%) This information may be useful to cable companies

**Electricity to be supplied directly by electricity company.**

This only applies to Dodwell Park where a majority regard this as important. This is an issue to be discussed with the site owner.

**(7) Mobile Library Service**

This service is used by a minority. However among these there is a need for more convenient times and better publicity about how it operates.

**(8) The Village Hall**

Levels of dissatisfaction were low, although some in Luddington advocated refurbishment and various specific improvements (already subject to grant applications). There was interest in additional uses to include Yoga/ Keep Fit, Youth Club and various social activities.

**(9) Existing Parish Events**

Most Parish events had interest and support from Luddington. Enthusiasm in Dodwell Park was low although the majority enjoyed the Fete. A noticeable feature of the response was a general lack of interest from the rest of Dodwell.

There was interest in possible new events; a Street Fair, Open Gardens (re-started in 2005) and social evenings, less in dances.

The support for events is obviously of importance to the organisers of them.

Overall however the main conclusion must be a need to involve the rest of Dodwell and Dodwell Park in events via better publicity and participation. There is also a need for more events aimed at the young.

**(10) The Village Green**

The majority would like to see no change although a minority would like more facilities for children

**(11) Luddington Parish Land**

The majority would support keeping it wild with some tidying up.

**(12) The Lock Area**

Although not widely known about, there is a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Circular Lock there. There is support for restoring this and for tidying up around it and possible display boards and diagrams.

**(13) The Luddington Nature Reserve**

Protected Species means that this requires a degree of privacy. There is nevertheless widespread support for it and offers of help from a number of people.

**(14) The Conservation Area**

This is part of Luddington Village. This was emphatically regarded as a good idea although knowledge of it was low. There was support for extending the Conservation Area to a number of specific areas, which can be investigated.

**(15) Communications about Parish Events**

There is dissatisfaction in both Dodwell and Dodwell Park and obviously a need for improvement. The issue of communications about Parish Events, the activities of the Parish Council all need reviewing (this could cover the possibility of a Parish Council Newsletter and a Parish website)

**(16) New Developments in the Parish**

A number of suggested new developments were in effect put to the vote

Pavements and Street Lighting in Luddington:

The majority in Luddington were against

Security Barrier and Illuminated Plan at Dodwell Park:

The majority of those expressing an opinion in Dodwell Park wanted these.

Acquisition of Land for Sports and Games:

Many people offered no opinion, of those who did, a majority support the idea although cost is important to many.

A Footbridge over the River:

There is general support across the Parish but this is dependant upon cost for many. More people in Luddington Village are against it compared with the rest of the Parish.

**(17) Suitable Developments for Specific Sites**

Many of these sites attracted low levels of response suggesting lack of knowledge or interest.

Bridie's Café: Support for a pub, craft workshops etc with similar number against development.

Parts of Bomfords site: The majority of those who answered favoured no development.

Dodwell Park: The majority of those who answered favoured no development.

Other Parts of Dodwell: The majority of those who answered were against development particularly the rest of Dodwell. The latter group however had 34% supporting some kind of housing development.

Redundant Farm Buildings: Smaller numbers were against any development. Craft workshops had more support followed by a farm shop and family housing.

The Luddington Conservation Area: Almost all those answering were against development

The Rest of Luddington: The majority of those replying were against development but there was some support for a pub and a general shop

The Lock Area: Almost all those answering were against development

Water Meadows: Almost all those answering were against development

These views are all relevant to any specific planning applications.

**(18) Specific Housing Needs**

This was a complex question that asked, for each of a series of housing types, whether a family member had a need for it, where locally it would be approved or whether people were wholly against it.

Low Cost Starter Homes

There were 15 people saying that a member of their family needed housing of this kind. The most favoured one was Stratford District. A substantial proportion of people were against such development.

#### Small Family Homes

Few family needs were expressed; Stratford District was the most favoured location.

#### Large Family Homes

Few family needs expressed, the majority of those who answered were against this kind of development.

#### Retired Homes

There were 7 people expressing a family need with 30% of the Parish against this type of development and 18% approving it in Stratford District.

#### Sheltered Accommodation

Similarly 30 % of the Parish were against this type of development and 19% approved it in Stratford District. There were 4 people expressing a family need.

#### Park Homes

This is primarily a Dodwell Park issue. Of the 7 people with a family member needing it 5 came from Dodwell Park. Within Dodwell Park 33% were in favour for Dodwell and 20% against, with 41% expressing no view. There were six people who specifically suggested the tourist site at Dodwell Park as suitable to build new Park Homes

#### **Overall Comment**

Only a small number of people expressed housing needs in their family. The highest number was for low cost starter homes. Many people were against most of these possible housing developments. The most approved site is Stratford District. Given that Dodwell Park is based on Park Homes and that Luddington is a Conservation Village, whereas there is much new housing in Stratford, this is not surprising. There are, however, some sites associated with Bomfords which might be eligible.

#### **(19) Road Safety**

##### B439

There is major concern in Dodwell about the safety of the B439 with support for any measure which would slow down the traffic including lower speed limits, traffic lights and a crossing.

There is one small exit road from Dodwell Park (111 households) onto a fast moving road below the brow of a hill.

Possibilities should be discussed with Warwickshire County Council

#### **Luddington Lane/ Luddington Road**

There is concern about speeding traffic through Luddington (speed limit 30mph) and the rest of Luddington road.

In Luddington, there is support for traffic calming in general but most possibilities have more people against than for, apart from flashing signs, speed cameras and more active policing. Possibilities should be discussed with Warwickshire County Council and further local consultation may be needed.

**(20) Parking**

Most concern was expressed about difficulties and dangers of parking in Luddington, but no real solutions offered. Perhaps there should be consultation with the Police.

**(21) Local Footpaths**

Most concern is about maintenance of the Dodwell / Luddington footpath with somewhat less concern about the river footpath to Stratford (much of which lies outside the Parish)

**(22) Local Cycle Routes**

There are concerns about the cycle route along the B439 and the need for such routes in Luddington Lane. If pursued this requires consultation with Warwickshire County Council.

**(23) Local Bus Services**

These are used to some extent by 40% of the Parish. In Dodwell there is a need for earlier buses and improvements in frequency and Sunday services. Luddington is partly served by different buses and again some people would like more frequent buses, earlier and later buses. Reinstatement of a service to Evesham is also mentioned. These points can be discussed with the bus companies.

**(24) Medical Services**

Only minorities are dissatisfied with the availability of medical services the most being for "Health Professionals" (primarily dentists) 10% and hospitals 8%, where there is more concern about getting there, 11%

For a minority there is a real problem getting to medical services particularly hospitals. There are within the Parish a number of people who say they are prepared to operate a volunteer service to take people to medical services or get prescriptions. This should be followed up.

**(25) Colleges and Courses**

Out of 70 people answering a question as to whether they were happy with college courses in Warwickshire only 8 said they were not. Those dissatisfied wanted a wider range of foreign language courses, and complained lack of information and no courses in the Village Hall.

**(26) Interest in possible facilities/activities**

This was approached two ways; on the anonymous questionnaire and on a separate sheet for names and addresses of volunteers.

There was interest in various activities listed in the commentary. Top of the list was a walking club but second was adult learning classes which ties in with the previous item.

The extent of interest and volunteers could be used to inform local committees, Village Hall, Village Fund etc but also for organizations running adult education programmes. The Parish Plan Group could also take some initiatives in pursuing some of the clubs of interest e.g. Social Club, Youth Club.

**(27) The Parish Council**

Whilst the results on awareness of the Parish Council and the degree to which they understood peoples' problems and could be communicated with were fairly positive, it is clear that the Parish Council needs to publicise its activities and provide information more widely and accessibly, possibly giving consideration to a website and a newsletter.

**(28) Families with children**Need for Child Minding / Nursery School Facilities

Probably not enough support (2 families) for viability

Satisfaction with Primary Schools

These are outside the Parish. Most relevant families satisfied with availability, two families concerned with class size.

Satisfaction with Secondary Schools

These are also outside the Parish. Whilst the majority were satisfied with availability there were four families out of 16 commenting on the lack of availability of secondary school places in Stratford. This should be referred to relevant authorities.

Good and Bad things about Bringing up Children in Luddington

The positives were very enthusiastic about the countryside environment and Village community.

The negatives related to the lack of facilities for children and poor transport.

These are issues for the plan to pursue

**(29) Omissions from the Survey**

People were asked if there were issues not covered. There were few points not already covered.

**(30) Priorities for Action from the Parish Plan**

For Dodwell Park: the dangers of the B439 were top priority with some mention of mains gas, preservation of the countryside, better integration of the community, security and maintenance of the footpath.

For Luddington: preservation of the environment, protection from building were highest, with the footbridge over the river, Bomfords, traffic problems close behind. Other mentions included the need for a pub, shop, mains gas, play areas / sports field and Youth Club.



<b>Action Plan</b>				
<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<p><u>Why people want to live here:</u>  <u>Luddington</u>            People value the country, the river, wildlife, peace and quiet, proximity to Stratford and the community life.            They regret having no play area, shop or pub; don't like the poor bus service, the speeding traffic from the racecourse and most of all, Bomfords!</p>	<p>Parish Council to lead on setting up project to celebrate local heritage and distinctiveness (see website of Common Ground <a href="http://www.england-in-particular.info">www.england-in-particular.info</a> or tel: 01747 850820) and Local Heritage Initiatives for ideas and funds (<a href="http://www.lhi.org.uk">www.lhi.org.uk</a>)            PC investigating extra transport provision, traffic calming and play areas</p>	<p>Parish Council            County Arts Advisor and            SDC Leisure Services            Interested parishioners</p>	<p>Possible Local Heritage Initiative or Heritage Lottery Fund            WCC Community Development Fund and            SDC Funding Advisor</p>	<p>Medium term</p>
<p><u>Dodwell</u> has similar likes but is troubled by traffic and the entrance to Dodwell Park</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Medium term</p>
<p><u>Dodwell Park</u>            Values the countryside, safety, peace and the quiet of being a child free zone. But there are transport and traffic problems, a lack of some basic services and the constraints of living on a privately owned site</p>	<p>Dodwell should be included in any history or interpretation project. The Parish Council is investigating ways to improve access to services. Residents' grievances related to the site itself can only be referred to the owner and the Citizens Advice Bureau</p>	<p>Site owner and the            Citizens Advice Bureau</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Medium term</p>

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<u><b>Crime and Policing</b></u> Crime is negligible except for minor vandalism at Dodwell Park and trading estate, but there is a major concern about the lack of visible policing. Substantial minority of public wants more community policing. Parts of the Parish not already covered would like to join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Liase with police to raise the profile of community and regular policing. Invite local Inspector to Annual Parish Meeting to explain staffing and organisation of service.	Parish Council and Police	No funding implications for the Parish Council	Immediate
	Ask Community Beat Officer to attend or send crime report to each PC meeting.	Parish Council and Police	No funding implications for the Parish Council	Immediate
	Get Neighbourhood Watch to hold public meetings for volunteers and agree to set up Email ring to pass on crime warnings	Parish Council, Police, Neighbourhood Watch and local volunteers	Negligible funding implications for the Parish Council	Soon
<u><b>Utilities</b></u> Electricity Complaints about power cuts from almost quarter of the Parish. Majority would like power lines underground. Dodwell Park almost two thirds unhappy that site owner supplies electricity <u><b>Gas</b></u> Over half the parish requested mains gas	Parish Council to seek support from MP, District and County Council to lobby supplier to make improvements	PC, WCCouncillor SDCouncillor and MP	No funding implications for the Parish Council	Soon
	PC to research costs and feasibility PC to apprise owner of residents concerns.	PC and Electricity supplier  PC, Dodwell Park residents and site owner	Costs likely to be high  N/A	Research soon – outcome long term  Soon
	PC to contact alternative suppliers (like ES Pipelines) to determine how many customers would trigger a gas supply and what the costs were to individuals	PC and alternative suppliers Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Agency	No funding implications to the PC but costs to the consumers	Soon

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<u>TV Reception</u> Minority of households get poor reception and no channel 5	Often the fault is with the orientation of the householder's aerial publicise <a href="http://www.ofcom.org.uk">www.ofcom.org.uk</a> for information on reception and channel 5 problems	PC and Parish newsletter	No funding implications for the PC	Soon
<u>Mobile Phones</u> Particular problems in Luddington with mobile phones	Phone reception problems may be due to poor coverage by one supplier. Advise public to check this and if necessary move to another provider. Could suggest to the majority supplier that a new mast would solve the problem. Eg Orange pay £2000 fees to site a mast on your property (Village Hall?)	PC and Parish newsletter	No funding implications for the PC	Soon
<u>Broadband</u> Problems with broadband reception in Luddington	PC to publicise alternatives and hold discussions with suppliers	PC and British Telecom	No funding implications for the PC	Soon
<u>Library</u> <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> aware of mobile library but few use it. A number found the times inconvenient especially for children	PC to advertise times of Mobile Library and make housebound aware of delivery service. Discuss possibility of different times	PC and Desmond Heaps at Warwickshire Library Services	No funding implications for the PC	Immediate

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<u>Village Hall</u> Most people were satisfied with Village Hall but there was support for other social events to be arranged. Within Luddington there was support for refurbishment	PC and Village Hall to further research needs and follow up those who volunteered to help run social events. Look into the possibility of providing transport for Dodwell residents to the Hall	PC and Village Hall Committee College for courses Age Concern for minibuses and volunteer driver or local residents organised to give lifts	Events ought to be self funding  Transport costs to be paid by individuals  Grant application for refurbishment	Short to medium term   Soon
<u>Community Events</u> Obvious that the rest of Dodwell do not participate. Could be lack of interest, publicity or transport. The remainder of the Parish enjoys socialising	PC to ensure that Dodwell residents know about and are encouraged to participate in all community events. PC to investigate transport provision as above. Continue to provide social outlets for all	PC, Dodwell Park owners, Parish Newsletter, Village Hall Committee, Village Fund Committee, Age Concern, other local organisers of events	Small cost for publicity and some cost, possible for individuals, for transport	Short to medium term
<u>Local Amenities</u> Substantial support restoration of 17 <sup>th</sup> Century lock and for interpretation of its history. Most people knew the Parish Land and Village Green but wanted more maintenance of the land. A minority wanted more facilities on the Green A few suggestions for a seat and or a bus shelter on the Green.	PC to look into Local Heritage Initiative and other Heritage Lottery Grants for this long term project. Complete SDC Funding Search Form  PC could employ a caretaker to maintain the Parish Land or organise Volunteers to do the job  PC to review, could apply for Kitty Fund grant towards cost of bus shelter	Avon Navigation Trust, PC, volunteers and Heritage Lottery. WCC Libraries and Heritage and SDC Leisure  PC and volunteers  PC and Simi Brach from WCC	Potentially from the Heritage Lottery or LHI <a href="http://www.lhi.org.uk">www.lhi.org.uk</a>  From Precept  Kitty Fund and Precept	Long term but start now   Soon and ongoing  Soon

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<u>Nature Reserve</u> There was major support for this although it was known by less than a third and two thirds never visited. The presence of protected species prevents extensive visiting	Nature Reserve experts to organise tour to show local people the wildlife Use could be made of potential volunteers Publicise that the reserve has been designated a "Site of Importance for Nature Conservation"	Nature Reserve Management Group: Carol Cholerton (269236) and Jo White (296542), Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and County Ecologist	Maintenance and improvements require grants and volunteers	Tour? Spring / summer Ongoing running of reserve
<u>Conservation Area</u> Only one third of the Parish knew of the Conservation Area but it was generally supported and most wanted it extended to the lock area and the footpath to Dodwell including the old railway bridge. The village, river bank and water meadows were suggested for inclusion	PC to check with John Marshall, Conservation Officer at SDC on extent of Conservation Area and the potential to extend to include the natural heritage areas. Talk to Ecologist about designations to protect natural heritage (SSIs etc)	PC and SDC, possibly Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and County Ecologist	Not necessarily a cost to the PC but maintenance and interpretation may have a cost	Soon and ongoing
<u>Communications</u> Dodwell and Dodwell Park need better notice of events, All need more notice of events	Noticeboard at Park to be used more. Website set up, annual events publicised well in advance and diary produced giving details of open events in Village Hall eg art classes	PC, Newsletter, Dodwell Park and event organisers Free newspapers and radio advertising events. WCC will host website for free	Possible extra cost to expand newsletter and diary	Begin to use notice boards now and newsletter. Diary soon Investigate website soon
<u>Development</u> The majority wanted no development in the Conservation Area or Water meadows and a substantial minority opposed development elsewhere	The Parish Council needs to make clear to parishioners what the Planning Status of the village and elsewhere in the parish is at present, to reassure them	PC, Parish Newsletter and SDC Local Plans Section	No substantial cost	Next issue of the newsletter

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<u>Improvements</u> A majority reject street lighting and pavements in Luddington, but Dodwell Park supported a barrier and an illuminated plan	Parish Council to convey requests to owners of Dodwell Park	Dodwell Park owners and residents	Awards for All	Medium term
There was some support for a sports field and more for a footbridge over the river	PC to negotiate with WCC Rights of Way for a footbridge to be their priority for future years	PC, WCC Rights of Way and landowners	From WCC Rights of Way budget	Long term
<u>Housing</u> The survey showed a small need for new housing in the parish, mainly low cost or for older people	PC to work with SDC Housing Department and Charles Barlow, Housing Enabler to undertake a full Housing Needs Survey	SDC, PC and WRCC Charles Barlow (02476 217 343)	No substantial cost to Parish	Soon
<u>Highways</u> Safety Major concern is B439 at Dodwell where residents suggest an island, traffic lights or pedestrian crossing Problems of Luddington Lane surface perceived by majority of residents to be caused by Bomfords In Luddington, speed limits and traffic calming demanded but more against each option than for except for flashing signs and active policing. Some concerns about parking	PC to bring concerns to the attention of Highways Department and clarify what, if any improvements could be made and what the accident record is PC to ask Accident Reduction Unit to monitor speed through village and Highways Dept to assess dangers. Environmental Design to be requested to provide alternative traffic calming using landscaping	PC and Accident Prevention Unit at WCC  PC, Bomfords, WCC Highways and Accident Reduction Unit plus Jerry Birbeck from Environmental Design (01926 412640)	All options suggested by residents would be very expensive and long term  Environmental Traffic Calming would require substantial PC input	Investigation soon Improvements long term  Investigation soon Improvements long term



<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Footpaths Third want better path maintenance especially Dodwell to Luddington	PC to inform WCC	WCC	No implication to Parish	Soon
Cycle Routes Well used but concerns for safety of children	PC to work with WCC Cycling Officer to make routes to school safer	PC and WCC neighbouring PCs	No implication to Parish Council	Soon
Bus Service Six out of ten people never use the bus but 40% do use it. 22% are dissatisfied with the service	Contact WCC and Bus companies to ascertain whether the services can be improved	PC, WCC bus operators	No implication to Parish Council	Soon
<u>Medical Services</u> An aggregate of 19% of people have difficulty in accessing health services. Six out of ten people at Dodwell Park and four out of ten people in Luddington want a volunteer prescription service and transport to appointments	A small number of people were willing to volunteer to help with a prescription service and / or transport to health services. PC to work with potential volunteers and the Volunteer Bureau to co-ordinate and set up a prescription service and to investigate whether the Parish needs its own voluntary transport service or can use the VB one or tap into Stratford District's new transport initiative	PC, volunteers and Clarissa Roberts at the Volunteer Bureau and Chris Mitchell , Stratford District's Poverty Officer	Precept, grant aid, funding from SDC and potential grant from Awards for All (0121 200 3511) <a href="http://www.awardsforall.org.uk">www.awardsforall.org.uk</a>	Start soon Medium term implementation
<u>New Clubs</u> Lots of interest and a significant number of volunteers. It is important to do something quickly to bring them together and help initiate projects	PC to contact volunteers and set up meetings for each of the ideas at which it will promise start up funding and support	PC and volunteers	Potential for using Section 137 to give "seed corn grant" to set up new clubs	Soon

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<u>Youth</u> There were concerns that the young people had no youth club, play group, meeting place or playing field, and that they were dependant on lifts to access facilities elsewhere	PC to contact the Depot and Chris Mitchell to investigate possibility of providing youth outlets. Contact SDC Community Funding Officer and complete SDC Funding Search Form For the longer term the PC will continue to look for land suitable for a playing field	PC, Depot, Chris Mitchell, WCC Youth Service	PC to precept for some funding for youth provision and in the long term for funding and grants to set up Playing Fields	Soon for research Long term for playing field
<u>Elected Members</u> People thought their Parish Councillors most aware of their concerns and their MEP the least aware, but only a third knew when and where the PC meets and a quarter how it is elected. Yet four out of ten knew who their councillors were. A few from Dodwell did not know who their Cllrs were and some expressed dissatisfaction	Respondents from Luddington suggested the PC should publish more information. A quarterly report of the PC actions, comments on planning applications etc could be printed in the Parish Newsletter. Rotating the Chairman is already happening. There is an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for the public to voice concerns – this could be better publicised	PC and Newsletter	PC could pay a fee to the newsletter for the space it uses	From the next PC meeting
<u>Education</u> Lack of choice for secondary schools. No preschool playgroup	PC to look into these concerns	PC and WCC Education Authority	None	ongoing

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<u>Church and Chuchyard</u> Increased area adjoining footpath Maintaining lime tree avenue Grass mowing and maintenance	Transferring land to the church – this is in the process of being completed Pollarding permit as trees have a TPO “Friends” team on a rota basis	Church friends and PC	Negligible funding to Parish Council	Soon
<u>Bomfords</u> Manor Farm redevelopment West – Barn Cottage East – Green Dutch Barns Concordia students (500)	Maintain liaison with Bomfords following the open meeting 19/12/05 called by Mr Roberts Future use Relocation away from the Parish	Parish Council SDC Bomfords	No funding implications for PC	Ongoing
<u>Dodwell Trading Estate</u> Common concerns re Bridies Café site, fly tipping and considered a location which causes breakins at Trading Estate	Contact SDC planning enforcement team with complaint about site. SDC enforcement investigate site and take appropriate action to address all these concerns	SDC planning enforcement team PC	No funding implications to PC	Soon

#### Acronyms

PC Parish Council  
WCC Warwickshire County Council  
SDC Stratford District Council  
TPO Tree Preservation Order

MP Member of Parliament  
MEP Member of European Parliament  
VB Volunteer Bureau  
SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest  
LHI Local Heritage Initiative

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### **Luddington Parish Council**

#### **Luddington Parish Plan Steering Committee**

Tony Twyman (Chairman)

John Luchford (Deputy Chairman)

Dave Heyworth (Secretary)

John Madge (Treasurer)

Rod Barnett

Ann Jackson

Chris Lea

John Marsh

Ray Thornhill

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# Luddington, 2000 years of history

AD47	Roman Conquest
AD60	Romans driven back by Bodicea
c. AD300	Romano British settlement (on Bomford's site)
c. AD400	Anglo Saxon settlements possibly under Ludda
c. AD600	Part of Kingdom of Hwicce
AD700	Part of Kingdom of Mercia
AD825-827	Given to the diocese of Worcester by King of Mercia - then lost to the diocese in Canute's reign for non-payment of Danegeld
AD1066	Held freely by 4 thanes as two manors
AD1086	Doomsday Book: Land of Count de Meulan: Four knights, 20 villagers, 9 smallholders (probably about 145 people, same as now)
AD1166-1360	Manor held by de Val family from the Earl of Warwick
AD1235	Second manor held by William de Luddington
AD1485	Luddington passes into the ownership of the Conway family.
AD1541	Held by John Walsh from Bishop of Worcester
AD1580	Luddington Riots - dispute between supporters of John Conway and Fulke Greville, over land ownership
AD1582	William Shakespeare probably married in Chapel at Luddington
AD1664	Rare round lock on Avon built by Yarrington
c. AD1760	Chapel destroyed
c. AD1850	Part of Marquis of Hertford's estate
AD1871/2	Building of All Saints' Church
AD1873	S.M.J.R. railway line opened
AD1920	A.H.Bullen English scholar buried in churchyard with dog 'Fay' close by (established Shakespeare Head Press)
c. AD1940	Nearest enemy action, German plane fires on train in Milcote Station
c. AD1950	Luddington get mains electricity
AD1953	Establishment of Horticultural Research Station
	Village Hall built
AD1963	Closure of L.M.S. Railway by Beeching
AD1970	Avon re-opened to navigation
AD1981	World Coarse Angling Championship - 10,000 spectators
AD1993	Opening of Luddington Veterinary Investigation Centre
AD1999	A beautiful village mostly peaceful
AD2000	Millennium Stone placed on village green





