

B50 PARISH PLAN

Barton

Bidford

Broom

Marlcliff



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FOREWORD

As Chairman of the Parish Council I would like to congratulate the members of the B50 appraisal group on a magnificent document. The village appraisal has enabled the residents of the Parish of Bidford to have a say on how they would like the villages to develop in the future. It has also helped the parish Council to push for improvements to the villages in relation to residential, business and recreational development.

As a Parish Council we have been able to say to various bodies this is what the residents of Bidford / Broom / Marlcliff and Barton want.

I am therefore pleased to see the final part of this process produced today.

Fred Hiscocks
 Chairman
 Bidford Parish Council
 December 2003

In November 2000, the parish council put on a Village Day in the Crawford Hall and invited residents to come and say what they thought of the village(s) and what sort of improvements they would like to see. Those who were willing to do something about it were asked to leave their names and addresses.

On 30th January following the Crawford Hall was again the venue, when the council asked residents from Broom, Bidford, Marlcliff and Barton to think about carrying out a parish appraisal, and to listen to experts from Stratford District Council and the Countryside Agency explaining what an appraisal is, and how to conduct it.

A parish appraisal is a systematic snapshot of the area, obtained at a particular time, by asking the population their views on the quality of life and services in the parish, and drawing conclusions from the responses received as to what changes and improvements are needed. The findings are passed to the local authorities (in this case, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council) for their attention.

About forty people showed interest, and over sandwiches and a glass of wine, discussed their own personal interests, and the kind of contribution they could make. Led by John Rigby, who at that time was a member of the parish council, they broke into small groups to map out the scale and breadth of the appraisal, what preliminary work was needed, and whether a full-scale appraisal of such a large parish was a practical proposition. They decided it was, and set up a steering group of eight members to manage the process.

This was the beginning of eighteen months' work putting a questionnaire together, testing and modifying it, distributing it to residents (and collecting it back), and then checking, analysing and interpreting the results. These were presented to the parish council and the public in November 2002 at a very successful Village Day event, which produced a lot of new and positive feedback.

At this point the appraisal became the Action Plan, and the new feedback was integrated with the questionnaire results to point up the lines of action local residents wanted to see taken, and by whom. This stage was completed by March 2003, when the action plan was presented to, and adopted by, the parish council. It was endorsed by Stratford District Council in June, and is now the official Parish Plan.

With very few changes, the steering group has stayed together throughout the three years it has taken to reach this point. Members have met regularly - at several stages as often as weekly - and I can't thank them enough for the tremendous amount of hard work they have put in.

On behalf of the Steering Group, it is my pleasure to present and commend the Parish Plan to you. Without your efforts it would not exist, and I want to thank you and all the other respondents for your thoughtful contribution. There are many others to thank as well, and you will find their names on other pages. I hope that you and they will find the Parish Plan a satisfactory expression of your opinions and the parish council's aspirations for the community, and that you will want to keep it handy.

Mike Gerrard
Chairman
B50 Appraisal Group
December 2003

The Issues

- ❖ Improving the quality and popularity of local bus services
- ❖ Connections in and around the villages
- ❖ Key destinations and comfortable inter-service changes
- ❖ Public transport information and advertising
- ❖ Meeting the cost of changes and improvements

Solutions

- ✓ Providing bus services to meet people's travel needs, making them user-friendly, reliable and competitive with other means of transport.
- ✓ Pinpointing the most popular destinations and ensuring that they can be reached by public transport.
- ✓ Co-ordinating local bus services with bus services in neighbouring towns and villages and with onward bus, coach or rail services to destinations further afield.
- ✓ Providing clean and comfortable waiting facilities and good quality information to enable users to plan their onward journeys.

Action

1. Review all the public transport services available from this area, looking at the usefulness of existing routes, timetables and fares, in relation to the most popular destinations in Stratford district and beyond; changing from one service to another, and travel costs.
2. Look into all grant aid opportunities to see which of them can benefit local transport.
3. Approach neighbouring parishes and community groups in the area regarding jointly funded community buses or sharing services to satisfy presently unmet transport needs.
4. Disability/wheelchair/pushchair-friendly buses to be brought into service.
5. Examine the case for a bus service connecting with the railway station at Honeybourne.
6. Publicise all improvements made to public transport and produce regular leaflets to let the public know about the services that are available.
7. Float the idea of "walking bus" schemes to ease traffic at Bidford school.
8. Campaign locally and nationally for improvements to the concessionary fare scheme.

Timescale

Starting now, and continuing from year to year.

Partners

Parish Council District Council
 County Council Countryside Agency
 Stratford Rural Transport Partnership
 Warwickshire Rural Community Council
 Bidford Community Group
 Bus, coach and rail companies



The Issues

- ❖ Traffic calming. Keeping to speed limits. Obeying traffic regulations
- ❖ Easing the movement of traffic at key road junctions
- ❖ Free movement of pedestrian, cycle and motor traffic throughout the parish
- ❖ Car parking in all areas, and especially at Bidford School
- ❖ Appearance and cleanliness of streets, pavements and footpaths.
- ❖ The future of Bidford High Street

Solutions

- ✓ Upgrading the traffic calming schemes in Bidford and adding new schemes on Salford Road and in Broom and Barton, with speed limits to make them enforceable.
- ✓ Improving visibility and priorities at main junctions to ease traffic flows.
- ✓ Making full use of the traffic capacity of Salford Road and Tower Hill to relieve congestion in Bidford High Street, opening up the possibility of environmental improvements and safer access for disabled and pedestrian users to the High Street shops and other facilities.

Action

1. Review all existing traffic calming schemes with a view to making them more effective; and create new schemes on Salford Road and in Broom.
2. Review all speed limits, with particular reference to Tower Hill, Salford Road and Welford Road, Barton, and identify locations for road safety cameras.
3. Measure traffic movements at key junctions and take the steps needed to improve traffic flows, with special attention to the Victoria Road/Salford Road junction.
4. Examine parking provision throughout the parish with the aim of balancing spaces against need in every area.
5. Look into the construction of a roundabout at the junction of Waterloo Road and Bidford High Street with Tower Hill and making that end of the High Street one way. Work out what environmental improvements to the High Street this action would make possible and consult with the public on putting the whole scheme into effect.
6. Keep street lighting, signs etc. in good condition and replace when necessary.
7. Ask the County and the Environment Agency to join a working group to look into the provision of a footbridge from Bidford to the Big Meadow.

Timescale

Permanent.

To start early in 2004, continuing through 2005 (items 4, 5 and 7).

Partners

Parish Council
 District Council
 County Council
 Police
 Warwickshire Casualty Reduction Partnership
 Environment Agency
 Local Bus Companies



The Issues

- ❖ Making certain that the refuse collection service covers all households in the parish
- ❖ More frequent recycling of a greater range of waste
- ❖ Litter and dog mess
- ❖ Improving the cleanliness of streets, paths and open spaces

Solutions

- ✓ Extending the full range of refuse collection services to every address in the parish and ensuring that all householders can play a full part in environmentally friendly waste collection and disposal.
- ✓ Extending the range of the household waste recycling scheme and providing environment-friendly containers for waste awaiting collection.
- ✓ Strengthening policy, education and enforcement measures on litter and dog fouling and upgrading the cleansing and maintenance of streets, footways and open spaces to the highest standards.

Action

1. Guarantee universal provision of all waste collection services including garden waste, and extend the scale and frequency of collection and recycling.
2. Introduce more environment-friendly containers than the plastic bags currently used for waste storage and collection
3. Put additional resources into cleaning and maintaining pavements, footpaths, cycle and bridleways, public open spaces and the Big Meadow.
4. Take steps to ensure that street lighting throughout the parish is adequate for public safety and is regularly inspected and maintained.
5. Put additional resources into the removal of litter and dog mess, providing more bins and better clearance and using educational and enforcement means to make the point.



Timescale

Permanent, starting immediately.

Progressive improvements during 2004 and 2005.

Partners

Parish Council
 District Council
 County Council

The Issues

- ❖ Protecting the village character in all parts of the parish
- ❖ The need for affordable housing throughout the parish
- ❖ Inadequate special housing provision for disabled and other handicapped residents
- ❖ Encouraging small-scale developments, including infill
- ❖ Development on Friday Furlong

Solutions

- ✓ No more large-scale developments.
- ✓ New housing estates only to be considered on the former school site and Friday Furlong. Otherwise find sites where single houses or small groups of houses can be built.
- ✓ Concentrate on houses and flats to rent; sheltered and starter homes and 3-bedroom houses to buy or for shared ownership.
- ✓ Use traditional materials and styles to give new houses a village feel.

Action

1. The results of the parish appraisal have been given to Stratford District Council who are the local housing authority, and have themselves endorsed this plan.
2. Both the district and the parish councils now have a policy in favour of social and sheltered housing, starter homes and small family houses, and small developments of between one and five dwellings.



Timescale

The recommendations of the parish appraisal are already being put into practice by the District Council.

They form part of the Local Plan, and are thus in place until the year 2011.

Partners

Parish Council
 District Council
 Local Housing Associations and Developers
 Voluntary Organisations concerned with housing, homelessness, disability and related issues.



The Issues

- ❖ Better work opportunities within the parish
- ❖ Remove obstacles to obtaining employment
- ❖ Better prospects for school leavers and young people
- ❖ Development of new activities and visitor attractions



Solutions

- ✓ An increase in general activity in the parish will help in improving local employment opportunities.
- ✓ More shops, more businesses, more crafts, even more voluntary activity may have an employment spin-off.
- ✓ Many people in the parish believe that the attractions of the villages are underrated, and putting some effort put into making them better known is likely to be reflected in new part-time work.
- ✓ Agencies with an interest in employment need to be reminded of the needs and potential of this parish.

Action

1. Draw the attention of the authorities and government agencies in Warwickshire to the difficulties some residents have in getting work, and agree action programmes with them.
2. Alert these authorities and agencies to local interest in small-scale craft and industrial workshops as a source of possible employment.
3. Set up a working group in the parish to advise on increasing the impact of local visitor attractions; new attractions that could be developed, and the potential for new employment.
4. Review youth employment and training policies and practices, recognizing that young people are looking for attractive work in this area.

Timescale

Starting early 2004, continuing through 2004 and 2005, and after that for as long as it takes.

Partners

Parish Council District Council
 County Council Local Voluntary Agencies
 Department of Employment
 Youth Employment Service
 Local Businesses, Trade Associations and Trade Unions



The Issues

- ❖ More up to date information, more easily available
- ❖ Better information service from the Parish Council
- ❖ More complete local information service from the councils, the utility companies, public bodies and voluntary organisations

Solutions

- ✓ Encourage the wider spread of official, public and general information in every part of the parish setting up new information points and using the latest technology as well as the traditional methods to give out information.
- ✓ Encourage people to ask for information and offer local individuals and voluntary groups the opportunity to advertise their own interests, activities and achievements in the community.

Action

1. Make public information more widely available in the parish by means of the library, website and notice boards, and keep it up to date.
2. Set up local information points in shops and/or other suitable premises in each of the villages, and make sure that the full range of information is available there.
3. Put details of local development applications in each of the information points, with comment sheets to be fed back to the Parish Council.
4. Put copies of the meeting dates, agendas, and minutes of the parish council in the library, on the website, on notice boards and in local information points.
5. Make sure that the website is run and maintained to a professional standard, and that its existence is known as widely as possible in the community.
6. Publish a leaflet describing the parish and its interesting features.
7. Ask Bidford Community Group to consider publishing their newsletter on a regular cycle and more frequently if possible.
8. Draw the attention of ministers of religion to the appraisal results of interest to them.
9. Ask the police to consider putting out a regular newsletter to every household in the parish, perhaps in association with the Community Group.
10. Draw public attention to the parish council residents' parking scheme on the Big Meadow.

Timescale

Permanent. To start at the beginning of 2004, with all items in place by the end of the year.

The parish council to receive a report annually on the effectiveness of the measures adopted.



Partners

Parish Council	District Council	County Council	Police
The Countryside Agency	Local Press	County Library	Local Tourist Organisation
Bidford Community Group		Local Voluntary Organisations	

The Issues

- ❖ Preservation and improvement of the historic and scenic features of the parish
- ❖ Flood prevention and defence
- ❖ The Avon and the Arrow as environmental assets
- ❖ Facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders
- ❖ Protection, upkeep and improvement of open areas and landscaped features



Solutions

- ✓ Understanding that sites of historic or special interest are assets to the community.
- ✓ Identifying their locations and providing descriptive or explanatory signs for them.
- ✓ Setting up an information centre in the parish and promoting general interest.
- ✓ Acknowledging the asset value of the rivers and keeping them free of debris and obstructive growth. Using them for riverside walks and other recreation, and for a broader range of aquatic activities.
- ✓ Using flood defence and water drainage regulations to control development in areas vulnerable to flooding; offering advice and practical assistance to residents, and creating an emergency team to help them whenever necessary.
- ✓ Making footpaths, cycle and bridleways more attractive, and treating them as special interest locations. Extending the network in keeping with other environmental policies.
- ✓ Maintaining an environmental taskforce of volunteers to take care of trees, hedges, streams, verges and wildlife habitats.

Action

1. Establish an information centre in the parish with the potential to develop into a small museum. Erect an explanatory sign at the site of the Anglo-Saxon burial ground.
2. Set up an inter-authority group to agree schemes for keeping the rivers clean and clear; increasing the recreational use of the rivers, and illuminating Bidford Bridge as a river feature.
3. Apply the new flooding and drainage regulations to all new developments. Provide information on local flood defence arrangements where they exist and an advisory service to the public on flood protection.
4. Set up a volunteer group to assist in emergencies such as flooding or gale damage.
5. Extend the network of foot, cycle and bridleways in line with these policies, with maps and descriptive leaflets for users (especially advice for those with access problems), and directional or explanatory signs where necessary.
6. Adopt an active policy on hedge, ditch and verge management; tree planting and habitat conservation, and create a voluntary taskforce to carry it out.
7. Protect allotment sites, and create new public open spaces wherever possible.

Timescale

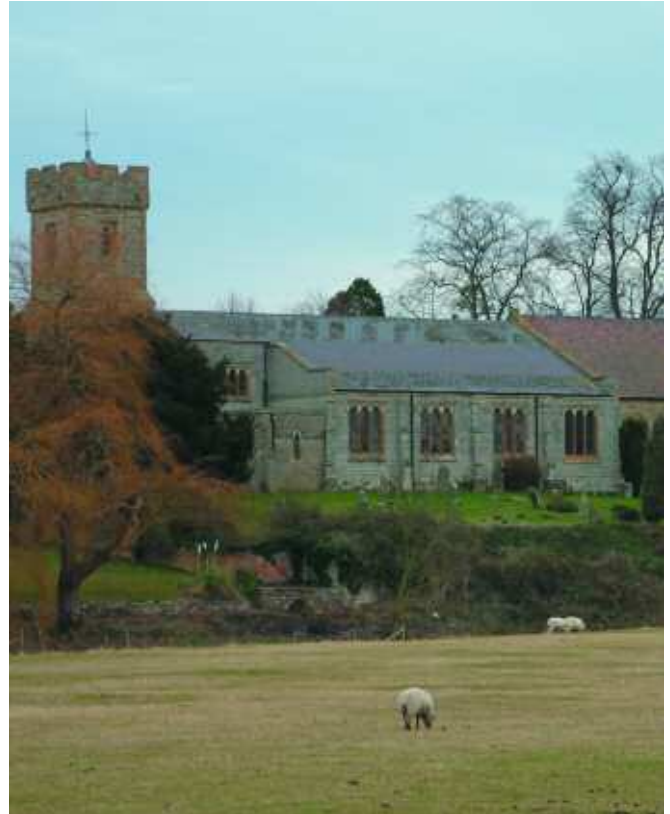
Permanent.

To start immediately, with progress reports during 2004 on items that can be achieved in the short term.

Subsequently, a report on all items to be made to the parish council annually.

Partners

Parish Council District Council
County Council Local Residents
Environment and Countryside Agencies
English Heritage
Warwickshire Rural Community Council
National voluntary organisations



The Issues

- ❖ Halting the trend towards urban-style development in the parish
- ❖ Emphasising the rural characteristics of the villages
- ❖ Retaining and if possible increasing the variety of shops
- ❖ Permissible commercial and industrial development
- ❖ Desirable housing developments and their location
- ❖ Use of "Planning Gain"

Solutions

- ✓ To ensure that Stratford District Council as Planning Authority adopts a policy that safeguards the village qualities of the parish and rejects the urban-style development characteristic of recent years.
- ✓ The planning authority should use its development control powers to support retailers in Bidford High Street and to open the way for new retail development.
- ✓ Policies already set out in the Local Plan review should be implemented in order to limit the amount of development possible and to eliminate shortages, eg. in public open space, leisure provision, and services to meet the needs of young people.

Action

1. Develop an action plan to support local retailers and to make the creation of new retail businesses an attractive proposition.
2. Support the establishment of a teashop/restaurant in Bidford High Street and a new tearoom and toilets on the Big Meadow.
3. Assess the desirability of siting one or more neighbourhood shops in the St. Laurence Way /Friday Furlong area of Bidford
4. Clean up Friday Furlong preparatory to development.
5. Confirm that Friday Furlong and the former primary school site are the priority areas for new housing development, and ensure that flood prevention and water drainage regulations are fully observed in these and all other developments to which they are relevant.
6. Do everything possible within the policy to assist the Bidford medical practice in moving to more satisfactory premises.
7. Keep the need for new sports and recreational facilities in the parish firmly on the agenda in negotiations concerning new developments and potential developer contributions.

Timescale

Action on many of these items has been started during 2003.

It is likely that progress towards their achievement will continue to be made in 2004, but it is still important to see and act upon them at every stage as matters of priority.

Partners

Parish Council
District Council



The Issues

- ❖ Demand for high quality services to the latest technical standards
- ❖ Equal access to services in all parts of the parish
- ❖ Influencing the utility companies

Solutions

- ✓ Begin regular working meetings with the utility companies and keep in touch with them through the county and district councils and through direct contact.
- ✓ Present an imaginative and well thought out case to maximise local influence.

Action

1. Use contacts with the utilities to advise them of public opinion regarding their services and to monitor the quality of their repair, maintenance and restoration works.
2. Press constantly for more modern and reliable products, with particular reference to electricity power cuts, low water pressure and poor telephone reception.
3. Develop the case for underground cabling for electricity and telephones on service quality, environmental and public safety grounds.
4. Raise issues of water quality, continuity of supply, drainage and sewerage with the water company and press for improvements in these aspects of the service.
5. Find out the economics of new mains gas connections for parts of the parish which are not at present connected to mains gas.
6. Remember the Broadband experience: direct action by determined individuals can pay off, provided that it is backed by good information and effectively presented.

Timescale

All these issues will take time to work through, and it can be trickier to deal with private companies than with other elected bodies.

However all firms have to take reasonable account of their customers' opinions, and Broadband is a recent case where pressure from customers was successful.

The process should be started immediately, and should continue on a permanent basis.

Partners

Parish Council	District Council
County Council	Countryside Agency
Warwickshire Rural Community Council	
Aquila	British Gas/Transco
British Telecom	Severn Trent Water



The Issues

- ❖ The likely relocation of the Health Centre away from Bidford High Street
- ❖ Two-way communication with Bidford Medical Practice
- ❖ Non-availability of NHS dentistry for new patients

Solutions

- ✓ Develop a working relationship with the Bidford Medical Practice to enable effective consultation with and feed back from the public on the intended location of the new health centre and the services to be available there.
- ✓ Assist the practice in providing its services from the new location, by doing everything possible to ensure that the present efficient liaison between the doctors and the Bidford Pharmacy is not adversely affected by the move.

Action

1. Leave South Warwickshire NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) in no doubt of the need for careful planning of the health centre relocation, and the importance of the present linkage between the medical practice and the pharmacy.
2. Request the PCT to approve the inclusion of a NHS dental treatment room in the new medical centre when constructed.
3. Meet annually with the medical practice to discuss questions of public interest such as surgery and dispensary hours, the range of services available, the appointments system, reception and waiting arrangements, plans for the coming year, and public satisfaction with the service given.



Timescale

Actions 1 and 2 to be taken as soon as possible in 2004, and to be followed up as needed until the new health centre is operational.

Action 3 to be permanent.

Partners

Parish Council
 District Council
 County Council
 South Warwickshire NHS PCT
 Bidford Medical Practice



The Issues

- ❖ Suitability of buildings and public areas in the parish for disabled access Crawford Hall and disabled users
- ❖ Restoring the meals-on-wheels service for elderly, disabled and housebound people
- ❖ Additional voluntary support and assistance for people in these categories

Solutions

- ✓ Survey buildings and places used by the public to see how far they meet peoples' needs and give advice on access where necessary.
- ✓ Increase the number of parking spaces for disabled people and ensure that "disabled parking" in the parish is effectively policed.
- ✓ Take the needs of people with disabilities or limited mobility into account in all new street, traffic or access planning, and critically review current provision in public places.
- ✓ Organise voluntary assistance for residents in need of help in their homes, and press the county social services to upgrade their performance to meet proven need.

Action

1. Ask the County Council to undertake a thorough access survey and to give advice on how to meet the demands of the new disability law.
2. Ask the police to enforce disabled parking provisions, and Budgens to put up notices reminding customers that the marked spaces are strictly reserved for disabled people.
3. Keep a constant eye on all aspects of provision for disabled users at the Crawford Hall.
4. Make access for people with disabilities or mobility problems a priority when making improvements to Bidford High Street, public transport, and access to the Big Meadow.
5. Organise appraisal respondents willing to help elderly or disabled neighbours, with guidance from specialist local voluntary agencies. Include Meals-on-Wheels in the scheme.
6. Set up a B50 Disablement Group or Committee.
7. Press the County Council to upgrade the range and response level of its social services.

Timescale

Items 1 and 2 immediately.

All other actions to be initiated during 2004 and to be regarded as permanent.

Partners

Parish Council	District Council
County Council	Local residents
Stratford Council for Voluntary Service	
Warwickshire Rural Community Council	
Local Voluntary agencies	



CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE LEISURE and RECREATION

The Issues

- ❖ Care services and activities for children of school age and below
- ❖ Channelling the energies of young people
- ❖ Need for new sports and social facilities
- ❖ The future of the Crawford Hall complex

Solutions

- ✓ Use the talents and initiative of local people to produce a range of homegrown schemes which can be brought quickly into effect.
- ✓ Get assistance and guidance on sources of grant aid and other fundraising from voluntary agencies.
- ✓ Press the District Council to accept its responsibility as leisure authority and give practical support including funding to new developments.

Action

1. Set up or encourage groups willing to provide out-of-school care for children
2. Consider setting up a holiday activity scheme for children of all school ages
3. Sponsor a youth council to advise on the needs and wishes of young people and practical ways of responding to them
4. Create one or more evening meeting places for young people
5. Set up a meeting to discuss possible new social and recreational activities and identify volunteers to organize them.
6. Continue the modernisation of the Crawford Hall. Link this development with plans for new sports facilities and an internet café.
7. Ask the District Council to take account of the local demand for a swimming pool in making their strategic plans for the district.

Timescale

All action to be taken during 2004 and 2005.

Partners

Parish Council
 District Council
 Countryside Agency
 Local Residents
 Warwickshire Rural Community Council
 Stratford Council for Voluntary Service
 Local Youth Agencies
 Bidford Community Group



The Issues

- ❖ Inadequate Police Presence
- ❖ Public Protection and Law Enforcement
- ❖ Formation of Neighbourhood Watch schemes

Solutions

- ✓ Increased police presence, especially in sensitive areas, to revive and cement public confidence.
- ✓ Stronger enforcement measures in all areas of policing.
- ✓ Use of up-to-date technology to assist in police work, and an end to the apparent neglect of a rural parish, which shares many of the familiar public order problems often associated with town and city locations.
- ✓ The installation of CCTV cameras in Bidford High Street is welcomed as a start.

Action

1. Greater police presence required in the villages, and on the Big Meadow.
2. Police to enforce road traffic regulations in respect of speeding, parking, vehicle noise and emissions.
3. Police to enforce age restrictions on the sale of tobacco and alcohol.
4. Make the streets of the parish an alcohol free zone.
5. Refer appraisal information on drugs usage to the police for action as necessary.
6. Promote the formation of new neighbourhood watch schemes in the parish.

Timescale

Items 1, 2 and 3 are of the greatest long-term importance and should begin immediately.

The action on drugs usage (item 5) should also be taken without delay.

With these actions in place, progress should be made on item 6 during 2004. At the same time, the Parish Council can determine the degree of urgency for item 4.



Partners

Parish Council
 District Council
 County Council
 Warwickshire Constabulary



The B50 Appraisal Steering Group: Julie Crawshaw, John Daffern, Mark Dixon, Mike Gerrard (Chairman), Jim Langridge, John Rigby (Chairman to January 2002), Brian Tafft, Andy Tooth.

Mo and Peter Johnson, who printed the Appraisal questionnaire.

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B50 Parish Plan

Barton Bidford Broom Marlcliff

JANUARY 2004