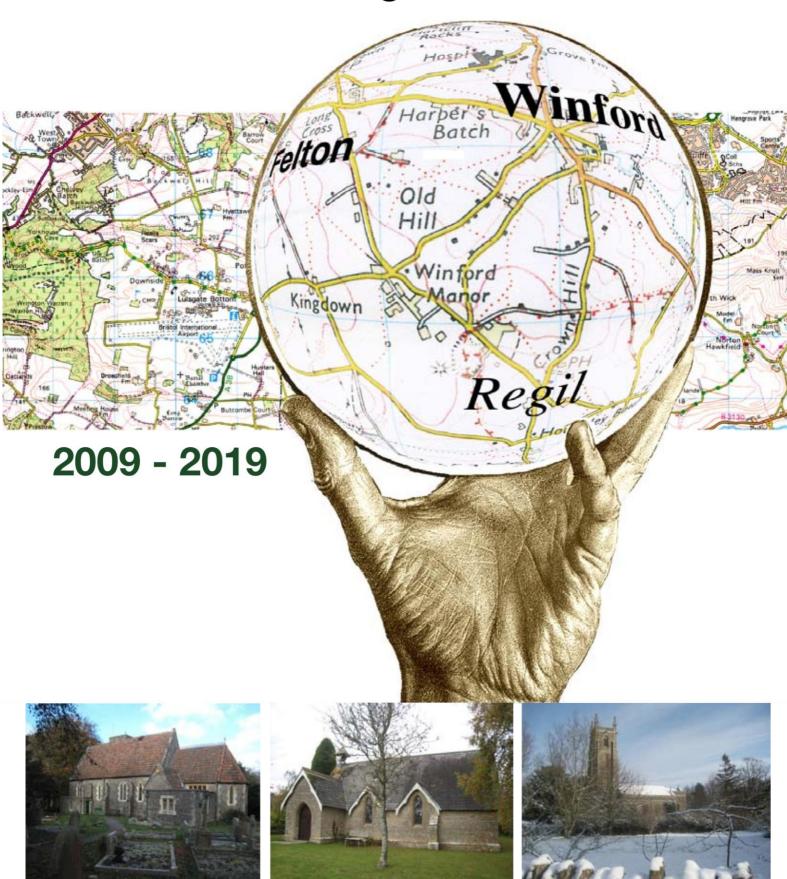
Wenfre Parish Plan

for Felton, Regil and Winford



THE PARISH PLAN

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1.0 Executive Summary

- The Parish Plan contained in this document is based on the views expressed by the residents of the civil Parish of Winford, comprising the villages of Felton, Regil and Winford, in replies to a Questionnaire circulated within the community.
- The questionnaires were delivered to 850 households in November 2008 and there were 399 completed, representing a reasonable 47% return rate.
- The opportunity within the questionnaire for written comments and suggestions meant that we had a copious amount of information which has been carefully inputted into a large database, analysed and returned to the community in the form of this plan.
- This database is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet containing all the statistical information, including the responses to each of the 50 plus questions and written comments. Although the respondents were, of course, anonymous, it is possible to view the returns by each of the areas in which the respondents live i.e. Felton, Regil, Winford, High Winford, Longcross. The database is available to view on request.
- Generally respondents feel content to live in the parish, citing the rural nature of their village, including the Church, Village Hall, Pub and Post Office as a positive part of their life and something which, they feel, is worth preserving. We hope this Parish Plan might help to develop a stronger feeling of community spirit; something which will be necessary if the pressures and demands of Bristol International Airport, increasing volume of traffic, demands for more housing and attendant attacks on the green belt are to be resisted and kept in sensible and sensitive proportions. Otherwise, within the next 10 years, this quality of life, which we all seem to value, might disappear.
- A wide range of issues were covered in the questionnaire and there was a special section dedicated to Youth.
- Issues relating to Roads and Transport generated the highest interest with the amount of traffic using our 'rural roads' creating some anxiety. There was overwhelming support for preserving the Green Belt and the rural character of the parish.
- The Plan reflects the aspirations and hopes of the residents but at the same time we
 have done our best to make the various actions achievable. However, successful
 implementation of these objectives and actions will depend on the willingness and
 ability of the community to constantly monitor the authorities who are likely to make
 the decisions that will impinge on our quality of life.
- We hope that our Plan will be adopted by the Parish Council so that together we can be an effective lobby for any current or future plans which might shape the development of our community.
- In order to take this Plan forward over the next few years, the Steering Group
 recommends that they are replaced by a new Forum, made up of representatives of
 the Parish Council, other community organisations and any members of the
 community who have been enthused by the potential for contributing to the
 aims of the Action Plan.

Background to the plan

- During 1998 our Parish, alongside others across North Somerset, had been involved in an initiative – a Millennium Appraisal of the Parish, resulting in the publication of a Winford Parish Character Statement. This document was adopted by the Parish Council and North Somerset Council and contained recommendations and aspirations regarding the planning and future development of the 3 villages; some of which have come to fruition.
- The concept of Parish Plans was a government initiative, contained in the "Rural White Paper" published in 2000. Money was made available by the Countryside

Agency, in the form of grants, which local communities could bid for. In 2005, the Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs ("DEFRA") took over responsibility for Parish Plans and further money was injected into the scheme. Our bid for funding from The Quartet Community Foundation, was successful and the process, which has resulted in the publication of this document, was started in February 2007.

 Parish Plans are being produced in all rural areas of the country and recent government guidance gives particular support to the involvement of local communities in the whole planning process. Parish Plans contain a valuable base of evidence, together with aims and objectives, which should underpin any planning decisions taken by local, regional and national government – we must hope that they take notice!

The Process

- At a well attended public meeting in April 2007 at the Prince of Waterloo, many people expressed an interest in getting involved in the development of the plan. A small Steering Group, with representatives from each village, was formed and this group has been meeting regularly to guide and review progress.
- At an early meeting there was concern amongst some members that participation from residents in the separate villages could not be guaranteed as the plan may be conceived as being solely concerned with Winford. To this end it was decided to refer to the Plan as the "Wenfre" Plan as this early name for the area appears in the Domesday Book and incorporates the letters of all 3 villages without giving precedence to one single village.
- During the succeeding few months views of the local community were sought through questionnaires, visits and presentations to the many 'groups' within the parish.
- The many verbal and written responses were analysed and Focus groups set up to prepare a range of appropriate questions.
- The resulting questionnaire was delivered to all households in November 2008 and responses recorded on a database during January – February 2009. The 'raw data' was available to view on the Parish Web site April 2009.
- The 7 Focus Groups analysed all the information relevant to their area, identifying key issues and suggesting a number of action points which appear later in this document.

Brief introduction to the Parish

The civil Parish of Winford contains the three main settlements of Felton, Regil and Winford together with extensive rural and agricultural land and includes the ancient Common at Felton. The entire parish lies within the Green Belt and is bordered to the north by the slopes up to Dundry, to the west by the A38 and Wrington Parish, to the east by Chew Stoke and in the south it stretches as far as Strode and Plasters Green. There are a number of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the parish, reflecting the wide diversity of the geology, vegetation and wildlife on our doorstep.

Each village has a church, a pub and a village hall and there is a Baptist Chapel in Winford. There are 2 primary schools within the Parish both over 150 years old. There are currently plans to redevelop and increase the capacity of Winford Primary School to 150 pupils and to close St Katharine's School in Felton. The nearest secondary school is Chew Valley School on the outskirts of Chew Magna. There is now only one village Post Office and shop serving the Parish, the Felton PO having recently closed.







Winford Primary School

Felton Common

Old Signpost

There are a number of sports and social activities on offer mainly based in the village halls, though there are few activities aimed at children and young people. There is a snooker room in Winford and Felton is the base for a successful tug of war team. The Cricket Club with its new facilities based at High Winford is well supported by local adults and youngsters. Each village hosts their own flower and produce shows which are popular events promoting community participation. There are about 90 definitive rights of way within for those who enjoy walking, riding and cycling in the countryside. Local walks are regularly organised.

The area first appears in written records in the Domesday Book as Wenfre; however local evidence has shown that there have been people here for thousands of years. The main occupation has been farming with some mining, particularly around the Regil area, and a number of mills were constructed along the Winford brook as it flows to the Chew.

Until the 1950's, the three villages remained small, rural and practically self supporting, life being based mainly around local services, small industry and agricultural establishments. From the 1960's the local population increased as incomers moved into the Parish, many of them commuting to Bristol and Bath. A substantial amount of new housing and infill housing has been built since that time with the largest recent development being the housing estate built on the former Winford Hospital site. Despite all the new building work, there is still a good number of fine 16th and 17th century farmhouses and other buildings to be found throughout the parish together with numerous traditionally built houses and cottages.

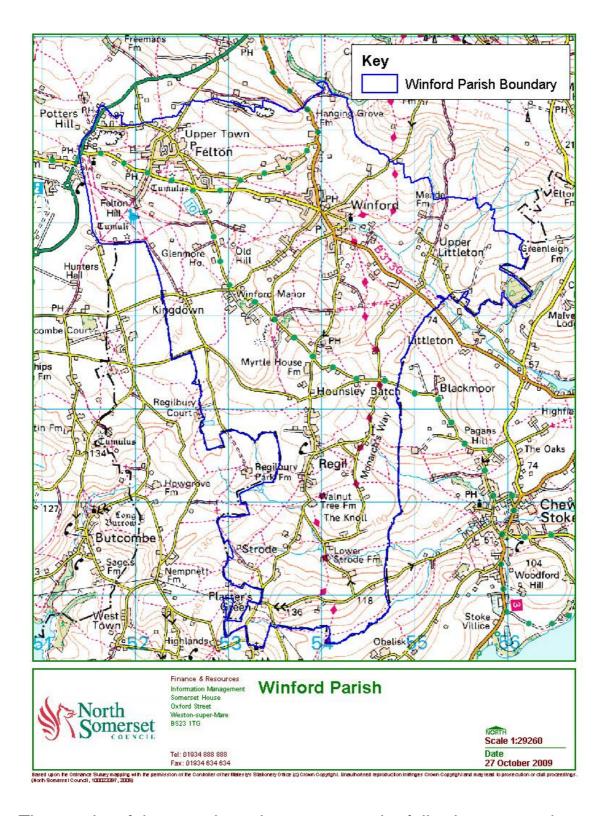
According to the 2001 Census, the Winford Parish had 1,955 residents living in 813 households. 1004 of those people between ages 16 and 74 were economically active. There are few local employment opportunities so most working residents have to commute outside the Parish, preferring using the car rather than the limited public transport services.

Bristol International Airport lies outside the parish boundaries within the neighbouring Parish of Wrington. The rapid growth and expansion of the airport over the last few years has had a huge impact on the peace of the local area, with the associated increase in noise, pollution and increased traffic flows particularly through Felton and Winford affecting local residents on a daily basis.



Following on from the last Village Appraisal some 10 years ago, a number of ideas were put forward and some have now been successfully implemented. There is a very successful Community Transport scheme and a Community Car scheme helping residents without transport. Oxhouse Wood, the Community Wood first planted in 1998, is maturing nicely and can be accessed along West Lane between Felton and Winford. There is a composting site at High Winford where residents can leave garden waste and the resulting compost can be bought locally. There is now a

cycle path along part of West Lane with plans for adding to the length. The centre of Winford has recently been developed with a planting, seating and paving scheme.



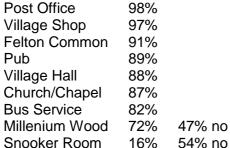
The results of the questionnaire appear on the following pages, the sections corresponding to the order in which they appeared in the questionnaire.

2.0 AMENITIES

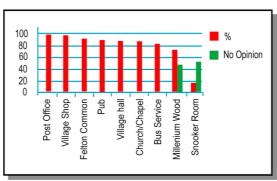
The current situation

The parish is made up of 3 villages in an attractive rural environment.

People who live here consider certain amenities to be of great importance to their quality of life; indeed many who have moved here in the last 30+ years may well have done so because they value a 'village' way of life. The responses showed that some amenities are more vital than others -



47% no opinion 54% no opinion



It would seem that the traditional amenities associated with living in a village – Post Office Shop, Pub, Church/Chapel, Recreational Space, are valued by the community but, of course, these will only survive if they are supported through regular patronage and a commitment to preserving these facilities. The recent demise of the Post Office/Shop in Felton has demonstrated what a hole has been left in the 'centre' of that particular village.

• Church, Chapel and a Caring Community

The responses further confirmed that most parishioners thought that having a church or chapel in their village was a good thing, but more as an historical focal point (87%) to be preserved for use on special occasions (92%) rather than a place of regular worship (44%).

In response to the question – "Should the church or chapel be contributing more to community life" and discounting the people who had no opinion, 61% seemed happy with the contribution to community life. However, of the 39% that answered 'yes' there was a range of suggestions e.g. more outgoing approach from church members and clergy; using the buildings for secular events (touring music/drama groups, flower shows etc.). All the written suggestions will be passed on to the church and chapel members for their consideration.

34% of people who expressed an opinion, said that they would be interested in a 'good neighbour' scheme, particularly in Winford and Regil. This might be worth pursuing.

• Unchecked antisocial behavior and vandalism

14% of respondents felt that they experience unchecked antisocial behaviour. Although anyone experiencing this would give us cause for concern, the evidence shows that this is not a major problem. The Community Police Officer should always be made aware of any incidents. Contact Jackie McDonald on 0845 4567000.

Recreation

There were a number of useful responses to the question of Lulsgate quarry and it would certainly provide a valuable recreation/meeting area. Negotiations are on-going between the Parish Council and Churngold.

Village Halls

Each of the villages within the Parish has it's own hall, managed independently by a committee. Overall 88% of respondents felt their hall was important. Concern was expressed about the following:

- There should be more emphasis on programmes which cater for young people.
- There should be new events for the elderly.
- There is little variation in events and provision from year to year.
- Little publicity no published programme of events.

There is a need for the Village Halls to be made more available and accessible to the wider community. For this to be successful the three committees will need to work closely together in order to avoid duplication of some events.

The issue of how future events are publicised throughout the Parish needs urgent consideration.

There were some useful suggestions, as written comments, regarding social and educational events.

Village Post Office and Stores

The current situation has seen the demise of Felton Post Office and Stores. Although Winford Post Office and Stores compares more favourably in every respect, particularly in a helpful and committed staff, there can be no guarantee that, without genuine patronage from the local community, it would not follow the same path as Felton. This would result in the Parish having no shop or Post Office, the nearest then being in Chew Magna, to which there is no public transport.

All questionnaire results will be addressed by staff at the shop.

Communications

Currently information regarding events and facilities (even limited advertising) is available through the notice boards outside the shop, the Parish magazine, Regil's newsletter and fly-posting. From the responses to the questionnaire it would be worthwhile to explore the provision of a village calendar and to continue the development of the Parish web site, see www.winfordpc.co.uk

Conclusions and vision for the future

Although this section ranges over a variety of areas, the common denominator is 'village life' and 'community'. Most of the ingredients which characterise life in a rural environment (with the big city just over the hill!) are worth preserving, developing and jealously guarding – not only by the people who have been raised in the Parish but also by people who have recently moved here to specifically join a village community.

We cannot expect the Parish Council and North Somerset Council to do this for us. There are people and committees responsible for such things as the Post Office/Stores, Felton Common, Pubs, Village Halls, Churches/Chapel but we each have an individual responsibility to offer our support in any way we can – otherwise 'village life' may slowly die away and the 3 villages become a 'dormitory' for Bristol.

Actions

1. Improve communications by developing the Web site and a Parish calendar. *Timescale – within 6 months.* Owned by - Parish Plan group.

2. Pass on questionnaire results and comments to relevant groups/bodies for them to address.

Timescale – immediate Owned by – recipients and Parish Plan

3 Village Halls – a representative from each village hall committee to meet as a group and formulate a working document for each hall.

Timescale – within 3 months Action owned by – 3 village hall committees

4 Village Halls to explore ideas for funding and for a wider range of courses, by noting suggestions in the questionnaire and through contact with North Somerset Council, Community Action, Quartet, the Art Council and others.

Timescale for above – within 3 months. Action owned by – all village hall committees.

5 Monitor the situation regarding Lulsgate Quarry.

Timescale – on-going Owned by – Parish Council

< Cress beds & Winford church





BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

The current situation

There are a number of small local businesses i.e. Pubs, shop, estate agent, hotel, farms, hairdressers, engineering, building and associated trades, motor mechanics, repairs and auto engineers. These range in size from a single person in a self-employed situation to M. J. Patch who employ 40 people, the majority living within 10 miles of their work.

Issues raised

91% of those who gave an opinion supported the idea that local business opportunities and jobs should be advertised on community notice boards, web site etc.

When asked about travelling to work, 86% of those who responded said they would not be interested in using a car share scheme, although a few people commented that they have already made their own arrangements to share car journeys.

People were asked to indicate what type of new business they felt they would like to see being developed in the local area. Of those who expressed an opinion, 93% would prefer to see new agricultural/horticultural businesses, 84% would prefer craft businesses and 71% would like to see more small businesses. 70% would like to see more new business related to tourism and the leisure industry, 68% favoured more retail businesses within the area and a local bakery and small supermarket were suggested. The least popular option was for development of small industrial businesses with 45% being in favour.

As elsewhere in the questionnaire, comments were made that adequate car parking should be considered in plans for any proposed new business development. A few comments were made about poor Internet and phone reception in certain parts of the parish as this is likely to affect people who run businesses in the outlying areas.

Conclusions and vision for the future

The various local businesses need to be seen and supported by all. Everyone could be made more aware of the nature of the businesses and services on offer; this may encourage people to use them. There should be a known line of communication to named persons or departments at North Somerset District Council regarding funding, grants, planning matters. We need to support a more sustainable and sociable local community, providing more local jobs and thus reducing our carbon footprint.

Actions

 Develop an information pack, to be made available to existing local businesses (and those starting up), which will contain contacts re: funding, grants, advice and support services – e.g. North Somerset Enterprise Agency, Community Action, SW Regional Development Agency (Business Link).

Timescale – Immediate and ongoing.

Owned by – Parish Plan Business Group and Parish Council

2. Produce a Directory listing businesses and services available within the Parish and publish this information, including posting on the Parish Website.

Timescale – Immediate and ongoing.

Owned by - Parish Plan Business Group and Parish Council.







The George & Dragon, Felton

4.0 HOUSING & PLANNING

The Crown Inn, Regil

The Prince of Waterloo, Winford

• The current situation

The whole area of the parish of Winford, which includes the villages of Felton, Regil and Winford, lies within the Bristol and Bath Green Belt and development here is strictly controlled. The character of the villages has been gradually changing over the years from

rural communities based around agriculture and small local employment to commuter villages, where many of the population work, shop and socialise outside the parish area. Residential development over the last few years includes over 70 private family houses built on the site of the former Winford Orthopaedic Hospital, 10 affordable houses for local residents at The Ricklands in Winford and 11 eco friendly homes at Williams Yard in Winford. There has been numerous infill housing throughout the parish with individual private houses being built or extended. There now appears to be little capacity for increased housing development within the settlement boundaries of Winford and Felton. Business units are being developed on the former Avon Livestock Centre, which closed in 2004, and the former 'retreat' at Winford Manor has recently been redeveloped as a 22 room hotel. Most local planning applications are considered by Winford Parish Council who make comments as to whether they may support or object to a proposal. However it is only the Planning Department of North Somerset Council who make the final decisions.

The Ricklands - Regil Lane

Issues raised

Informal consultation among various community groups earlier in the process had highlighted the

fact that many people are very concerned about the amount







and type of local house building and other development in the surrounding areas. There is great concern that the additional development is gradually eroding the separate rural characters of the villages.

People were asked to indicate what type of housing they would prefer to see built within the parish. Of those who expressed an opinion, 89% were in favour of housing for elderly people, 86% were in favour of

affordable housing, 85% supported starter homes and 71 % were in favour of more family homes. A couple of people pointed out that if housing for older people was provided, they could then sell on their larger homes to other local people. One person believed that any new housing in the villages should be restricted only for local residents or their offspring. Support for having more properties to rent was split fairly evenly, although it is noted that almost 50% of those who were given the opportunity did not express a definite opinion on this particular question. The least popular choice shows that 80% of those who gave an opinion do not think that any further executive style housing should be built in this area. Some residents expressed the view that there should be no more expensive housing developments, as these stretch the available facilities and are felt to be unsuitable for promoting village life.

99.8% of those who expressed an opinion said that it is important to them that the rural character of their village is protected and 99.8% also felt that it is important that the open spaces in the community are protected. 98% felt that it is important that the design of new and redeveloped building is appropriate for their local surroundings. A couple of comments were made to the effect that the rural character of the villages has already been ruined and that there should be no more housing built as the area is too overdeveloped already. Many residents also took the opportunity to express their strong opposition to the use of Green Belt land for any development, either for housing or business use. It was suggested that preserving the rural nature of the villages would be helped by organising strong local opposition against proposals to expand Bristol International Airport.

Throughout the questionnaire, and particularly in the section where residents were asked to give their own ideas for one improvement they would like to see above all, many suggestions were made about the old coach park site in central Winford, with several people commenting

that it is currently an eyesore. Among suggestions put forward were: car parking, a village social space, playground, school bus pick up area and a small mixed housing development with trees and seating areas.

Some people suggested general improvements that would help the villages to retain their rural character. Among these were suggestions to regularly maintain the brooks and hedgerows, to retain the village telephone boxes, to have a village green and pond in central Winford, to increase seating areas, to put overhead cables in Regil underground and to have



regular community social events. Additional comments were made about street lighting, with a number wanting more lighting and a number wanting less.

• Conclusions and vision for the future

People in this parish feel strongly about unchecked development in the area and want to maintain the rural character of their surroundings; however this is a challenge in today's economic climate. The ever increasing need to satisfy the demand for housing is leading to rural areas around the country being eroded by urban development. It is noted that our neighbouring parish of Dundry is currently opposing plans by the South West Regional Spatial Strategy to remove Green Belt status from areas around the A370 and A38. This would allow for the development of around 9,000 new houses and other buildings in the area covering from Long Ashton to the Barrow Tanks area of Dundry.

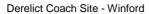
Since there is overwhelming support from the local community for protecting the rural character of the villages and retaining the open spaces in the community, it is vital that any applications for residential and commercial development within the parish and bordering the parish are carefully considered by the planning authorities to ensure that plans are aesthetically suitable for the position they are to occupy.

There is clearly support for provision within the Parish for housing for the elderly and for affordable/starter housing aimed at local young people and families. The Parish Council is aware of this need; however an area for suitable further development must first be identified.

The conditions of the former coach park in central Winford may continue to deteriorate as, at the time of writing, no further applications have been made since the last plans for mixed housing were refused in 2008. The land is in private ownership and current economic conditions may deter developers. Although one person suggested that the area should be compulsorily purchased by North Somerset Council for the use of the village, this is very unlikely to be considered given the constraint on public finances. It is interesting to note that in the 1998 village appraisal, similar strong feelings about the need for Winford to have a central public amenity area were expressed about the area of privately owned derelict land next to the coach park, which has recently had new houses built on it.









Livestock Market Site

Actions

Ensure that the scale, design and material proposed for any development within

the parish is appropriate to the area in which is due to be located.

Timescale - ongoing as planning applications are made

Action owned by - Parish Council, North Somerset Council

Further affordable housing development for local people should be provided within the parish subject to suitable areas being identified.

> Timescale - long term within 5 years Action owned by - Parish Council, English Rural Housing Association, North Somerset Council

Ensure that any proposals for development of the central site in Winford are in keeping with the character of a central village area and planned to include some







community.

Timescale - ongoing if further planning applications are made Action owned by - Parish Council, North Somerset Council

ROADS & TRANSPORT 5.0

The current situation

The Millennium Appraisal of June 1998, showed that more than half the population was satisfied with the general state of the roads in the parish. Now 94% express serious concern with road conditions and 83% are concerned about the volume of traffic.

Bristol International Airport's expansion has added greatly to traffic congestion, noise pollution and the deterioration of the local roads. In 2004 BIA handled 4.5 million passengers, and is planning to handle 9 million by 2015 and 12.5 million by 2030. This means that in 2004, 53,000 plane movements occurred, and by 2030 this will more than double to 108,000.

Traffic has increased considerably during the last few years and the local authorities have gone some way to alleviate the situation by the introduction of a 30mph speed limit through Winford and proposed Radar Operated warning signs along West Lane, Felton. However 91% of respondents want HGV restrictions and 78% would like speed limits throughout the Parish.

Parking in Winford is becoming increasingly difficult and hazardous, especially at school times.

Public transport is perceived to be poor.

Issues Raised

Traffic congestion on the A38, Barrow Lane (B3130)

83% of residents who expressed an opinion registered concern regarding increased traffic in our area 82% of residents registered concern regarding the junction at A38 and B3130

Conclusion

Given the high level of concern regarding traffic congestion, the introduction of traffic lights or a roundabout at the junction of Barrow Lane and the A38, would make movement safer and more efficient. The volume of traffic using the B 3130 has increased considerably, affecting local users, and will continue to do so until the construction of the new South Bristol Ring Road.

Traffic congestion at West Lane, A38 and Downside

94% of those who expressed an opinion registered concern regarding road surfaces in the Parish

91% of those who expressed an opinion would like HGV restrictions

78% of those who expressed an opinion would like speed limits

63% of those who expressed an opinion think radar operated warning signs would help

Conclusion

The construction of a one - way system at the junction of West Lane and the A38 and Downside, should prevent congestion and make it safer. The volume of traffic using the Bristol International Airport is bound to increase, in line with the airport's expansion plans – adding further congestion and an increased risk of accidents.

The largest number of comments in this section of the questionnaire concerned the poor condition of the roads (548); obviously the result of increased traffic. The Parish Council and North Somerset Council are in an on-going dialogue over this matter.

Unfortunately, HGV restrictions are unlikely to occur until the South Bristol Link road network north of Dundry is completed, since there are no other routes in our area linking the A37 from east to west.

Radar warning signs are already in hand for West Lane and should be implemented soon. Apparently there are not enough houses or junctions to warrant full speed restrictions and would be difficult to police, according to North Somerset Council.

280 people (166 of whom live in Felton) would like a pavement between The George and Dragon and the Felton Village Hall. Plans are in existence; the Parish Council has, for some time, been in negotiation with North Somerset Council, British Telecom, SUSTRANS and others, in an attempt to make this happen.

Traffic congestion on the B3130 (Winford)

403 people expressed concern. There were many comments, including some from the Youth Section, regarding parking, safe crossing for children, the reintroduction of a Lollipop person, pavements, and a coach pickup point. There is particular concern regarding crossing the B3130 near the right-angle bend at the bottom of Regil Lane; visibility is limited and it is dangerous for everyone, but particularly for old people and children.

Conclusion

The Parish Council has been talking to North Somerset Council regarding the possible extension of the pavement to the crown of the bend and improving overall visibility. Car parking in Winford is a major problem, both for users of the Post Office and the Village Hall and also at the beginning and end of school.

Bristol International Airport

74% of residents who expressed an opinion, feel that BIA expansion will have a negative effect on the community. 26% of residents who expressed an opinion feel that BIA expansion will have a positive effect on the community.

Conclusion

From further written comments, many people feel that our local community is affected by the airport, through increased traffic which leads to congestion, damaged road surfaces, rogue airport parking, danger when walking and danger to school children at school times. Some people are affected by noise and air pollution. A high proportion of the community feel that Airport expansion would be detrimental to their quality of life.

Public Transport

44% of residents who expressed an opinion think public transport is adequate 56% of residents who expressed an opinion think public transport is inadequate

From written comments:

- 41 people feel that public transport is infrequent, unreliable, has poor timetables and routes for commuters
- 22 people would like a bus to Chew Magna
- 17 people would like a bus to Regil
- 17 people would like a bus to Weston (NB Bus 121 to Weston is working now).
- 55 people from the Youth Section would be likely to use Public Transport to a variety of places, 5 would like more bus services and 2 would like links to Bath.

Conclusion

An extension of Bus Route 121 from Weston to Chew Magna could provide Bus links to Bristol, Bath and the Valley, as well as improving access to Chew Magna and helping to alleviate the parking situation there. Also Mini Buses could provide more frequent services and be able to access Felton and Regil. Many in the community use their cars because there is no alternative.

Actions

1. Pursue the feasibility of introducing traffic lights or a roundabout at the junction of Barrow Lane and the A38.

Timescale – 2012 in conjunction with North Somerset Transport Plan. Owned by – Parish Council. North Somerset, Roads & Transport.

2. Pursue the feasibility of constructing a one way system at the junction of West Lane and A38 and Downside.

Timescale – 2012 in conjunction with North Somerset Transport Plan. Owned by – Parish Council and North Somerset Transport Plan.

3. The School Patrol Officer – attempt to fill this position, either through the advertised post or by a group of volunteers.

Timescale – as soon as possible.

Owned by – Winford School, Parish Council.

4. Liaise with the Parish Council and offer help to improve the visibility and safety of the corner of the B3130 and the bottom of Regil Lane.

Timescale - ongoing.

Owned by - Parish Council, North Somerset Roads & Transport,

5. Monitor any plans emanating from Bristol International Airport and liaise with relevant parties, including the Parish Council.

Timescale – on-going.

Owned by - Parish Council. North Somerset Council, MPs.

6. Pursue with North Somerset Council (Senior Transport Policy Officer) the possible extension of Bus Route 121 to Chew Magna.

Timescale – as soon as possible.

Owned by - Parish Council, Bus Company.

6.0 COUNTRYSIDE & ENVIRONMENT



The current situation

Walking above Winford

Old Cider House, Regil

Footpath from High Winford to Winford

The three villages of Felton, Regil and Winford are in a very rural setting. Felton has the Common and all three villages are surrounded by fields. The main commercial activities of farming, light industry and haulage are well established and have become an accepted part of the environment.

Issues raised

Rural character of villages Most people (90%+) value highly the rural character of the area and are very concerned about any threat to this rural character and about possible intrusions into the Green Belt.

Maintenance of rural character 90% + wish to maintain the rural character by planting





trees, looking after waterways and maintaining hedges.

Footpaths 75%+ use footpaths (though it is likely that some people included pavements in this). About a fifth of users listed problems, mainly

blocked/overgrown/unsigned paths and difficult or dangerous stiles, and a few cases of dog or other animal problems.







The 15th century 'Court'

Regil

Rural Scene with Winford Church

Recycling High satisfaction (80%+) with kerbside collection and the recycling facilities at the Prince of Waterloo. The main areas of concern were (a) lack of kerbside collection of plastic, (b) a need for a plastic recycling facility nearer than Backwell.

Composting 75%+ were satisfied with the composting facility. There are however major operational problems – access, dumping, management (volunteers at present)

Renewable Energy Moderate interest; 65% are interested, but not if expensive or obtrusive.

Litter Not considered a problem by 70% of respondents. This may show that the volunteer litter collection in the lanes is effective, or that most people are not worried by litter.

Conclusions & vision for the future

- 1. The rural character of the area must be preserved, with the Parish Council having a loud voice and effective powers to stop any unsympathetic new developments.
- 2. Footpaths across the fields need to be accessible with stiles and gates in good repair.
- 3. The recycling facilities need to continue to improve.
- 4. Compost site has difficult operational problems.
- 5. We should consider renewable energy looking to the future.
- 6. Volunteer litter picking should continue.

Actions

1. Maintenance/protection of Rural Character, farmland and hedgerows; oppose intrusion into Green Belt.

Timescale – on-going.

Owned by - Parish Council & North Somerset Council.

2. Active private maintenance of rural character by planting trees, maintaining waterways/hedges.

Timescale – on-going.

Owned by - Landowners and individuals working with them.

3. Footpath problems: blocked paths, broken/awkward stiles/paths, dogs, litter, brambles.

Timescale – on-going







Felton Village Green

Regil Village

The Brook, Winford

Owned by – Parish Council to continue liaison with North Somerset Enforcement officer, and enlist volunteers for maintenance work.

4 Recycling - plastics recycling facilities needed closer than Backwell. *Timescale – 18 months*

Owned by - WPC to press NSC to provide a parish facility – possibly next year when they review their contract.

5 Compost Site: improvement will need more volunteers or possibly a paid manager *Timescale – on-going*

Owned by – Parish Council to reappraise the viability of the project in view of operational difficulties, and investigate how to improve things.

6 Promotion of use of Renewable energy

Timescale – ongoing but felt important to make it a key item in the new school building project.

Owned by - Parish Council to encourage and assist the school, village halls and others to use renewable energy where possible.

7 Litter

Timescale – on-going

Owned by - Litter picking volunteers should continue. Everybody to stop dropping litter!

Y.0 YOUTH ISSUES

• The current situation

There are a number of regular activities already available to young people within the Parish: the North Somerset Youth Bus has been visiting central Felton twice monthly, although this arrangement is currently under review. There is a large Recreation Field at Vee Lane Felton including an outdoor shelter, a skateboard park and football field. The Parish Council spent a substantial amount of money on updating the facilities for older children in 2007/8, and there is now a Parish Council Working Party looking at further refurbishment of the recreation area and other facilities, and in particular to update the play equipment for the younger age group.

A small play area for young children has been provided at the new housing development in High Winford. A Brownie group and a Karate group meet in Winford village hall. There is a Cricket Club providing modern facilities for several adult and youth teams. There are also a small number of clubs run by church and chapel, and one contributor praised the 'excellent Baptist Friday club' which is aimed at 7 to 11 year olds.

Issues raised

The questions in the 2 pages of the separate Youth Section of the questionnaire were based on the issues raised during the community consultation taking place in early 2008 where many residents expressed great concern about the perceived lack of facilities and activities for young people, particularly the teenage group.

The views of 43 males and 49 females under 18 were represented with 54 responses from Winford, 22 from Felton, 8 from High Winford and 8 from Regil. Three age categories were used and there were 17 responses between ages 0 and 4, 38 between 5 and 11 and 37 between 12 and 18.

Play Facilities

Of the 53 respondents who said they knew about the Vee Lane recreation area in Felton, their main reasons for not making use of it were stated to be due to vandalised or old equipment, poor behaviour of other users and because it was too far to get to. A couple of people commented that the play area should be got rid of altogether because 'it is nothing but a trouble spot'; however there were many more comments supporting young people and various suggestions were made for improvements to the area such as seating, swings,



Vee Lane play area

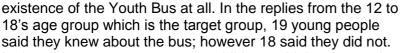
roundabouts, slides, more outdoor sports pitches and more skate park obstacles. In the informal community consultation earlier in the year, many people expressed the view that a park or social leisure space in central Winford was important to them. 68% of those who expressed an opinion said that they would use a play park in central Winford. While there is clearly support for provision of a public area in central Winford where children can play, a safe and accessible area needs to be identified. There is already a small play area for young children in High Winford, but concern has already been raised about the difficulty of accessing High Winford estate via the Market Place steps, particularly with toddlers and pushchairs although at the time of writing there are plans to improve access. There would seem to be little interest in using a public play area in Regil with 64% of respondents stating

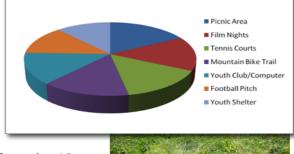
that they would not use a play park in central

Regil.

Youth Bus

The Parish Council has been paying annually for the services of the Youth Bus which visits Felton fortnightly and provides activities aimed at 11 to 19's. When asked about their knowledge of the service, 57% of those who gave an opinion were not aware of the





High Winford play area

In the age 5 to 11 age group, 11 children said they knew about the bus, but 23 did not. It maybe that these 11 who did know about the Youth Bus are the same 11 who said they were too young to use it! They may be likely to use the service once they reach the target age. Several children commented that they did not use the bus because they were busy doing other activities, and one child said that they do not use it because the bus does not visit Regil.

Activities for young people

Young people were asked to comment on whether they would be likely to take part in a range of activities if suitable facilities were available locally. Of those who expressed an opinion, the following activities are listed in order of the best supported:

Picnic area	79%
Film nights	70%
Tennis courts	68%
Mountain bike trail	68%
Youth club-games/computers	64%
Football pitch	59%
Youth shelter outdoor structure	54%

The responses show there is support for a wide range of activities including an organised youth club although many of the respondents presumably did not feel strongly enough about the selected activities so left the section blank. The most popular suggestion was for a picnic area, with the majority of the respondents in the 0 to 4 age group being in favour. This could be addressed with picnic benches or seating in the recreation area. A mountain bike trail/area is a popular suggestion, however it would need a particular kind of area set aside. There are bike trails in a number of local areas, the nearest is in Brockley Combe which is reasonably easy to get to from the parish. There is a football pitch and an outdoor seating area already sited in the Vee Lane Recreation Park and an area of rough terrain which could be used for riding bikes. The current Churngold Quarry site in Felton might provide a suitable place in due course as a site for tennis courts. Film nights were also suggested elsewhere in the questionnaire as an activity that could take place in one of the village halls. At least 5 people commented that they just want somewhere to go to meet friends. The last question asked young people whether they would be likely to travel to particular places such as Hengrove cinema, Backwell pool and Bishop Sutton youth club if transport were available. 69% of respondents were interested and evidence shows that 36 of those who replied were in the 12-18 age group. This is the age group most limited by lack of rural transport just at the age when they need to become independent. Some also commented that they would like to get to other places such as other Chew Valley villages and Bath. Children from Regil commented on the lack of any public transport to their village.

Conclusions and vision for the future

Play facilities: The Parish Council spent a substantial amount of money on updating Vee Lane facilities with skateboard ramp etc in 2007/8, and currently there is a Parish Council Working Party looking at further refurbishment of the park's social and play facilities, particularly for the younger age group. There is funding available from a variety of sources including DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) through the Play Builder project and this should be accessed to help fund the refurbishment. The Vee Lane recreation area has been identified by North Somerset Play services as one of the 22 recreation areas throughout North Somerset which needs refurbishment; therefore support from the County Council is assured.

In the 1997 Parish Appraisal, the lack of a play area within central Winford was highlighted as a matter of concern and this has clearly not changed as the responses to the recent question demonstrate continued support for an open space in central Winford to be available for all residents including children. A suitable, safe and accessible area needs to be identified. It is noted that, elsewhere in the survey, there are many suggestions about using the old coach park site in centre of Winford to provide a village amenity rather than more new housing.

Youth Bus: The Parish Council have been paying annually for this service which visits fortnightly and is aimed at 11 to 19's, however at the time of writing the provision of the service is under review. As over half of the respondents to the question were not aware of the existence of the Youth Bus at all, the activities and arrangements should be advertised using local contacts such as parish website, local magazines and flyers to schools. As there were 11 responses saying they don't use it because they were too young, the service providers may wish to consider extending the age range.

Activities for children and young people: It is clear that there is great concern throughout the whole community about the perceived lack of facilities/activities for young people, particularly the teenage group. It has been noted that the Government's own recent review of children's play defines play as "what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas, in their own way and for their own reasons". There is support for a Youth Club, however provision of a regular youth club needs a suitable building and involves a high level of adult support and commitment, and is likely to involve health and safety checks, insurance and child protection issues, which may deter volunteers from getting involved.

Many people commented in the main part of the survey that the village halls should offer more activities for children and young people. Activities to supplement the facilities offered by the Youth Bus could take place in the village halls with events aimed at different age groups such as craft activities, film evenings, social meeting place etc. Ideally children and young people should be the ones to choose and organise their activities with support from adults/older children. There are at present a small number of volunteers willing to get involved in this project however more support from parents and other members of the community will be needed to help keep activities going.

There are currently plans to redevelop Winford Primary School to cater for 150 pupils and to include children from St Katharine's School in Felton, which has been recommended for closure in 2010. Since the proposals state that the new school should be a community asset, it would be ideal to plan for improved school facilities that could be used for the benefit of local residents and young people out of school hours.

Although all age groups expressed the need for more transport to a wider range of destinations, the replies in the youth section show that the independence of those in the 12-18 age group is particularly affected by limited rural public transport. There is currently a successful community bus service serving the parish which provides a variety of short and long trips for shopping/social activities aimed at older people/non drivers. It may be feasible to see whether a similar service may be viable for a younger age group, perhaps for trips to cinema or swimming pool. The proposals for the new school in Winford also mention the use of a mini bus, which could be made available for after school and community activities.

Actions

Ensure that the information from the questionnaire is passed to the Parish Council
working group which is currently considering refurbishment of Vee Lane playing
facilities. Notify them of the current funding available via N Somerset for play
facilities refurbishment.

Timescale - within 6 months
Action owned by - Parish Plan youth focus group.

2. The Parish Council and County Council planning groups, when considering future local planning applications, should take into account the desire for provision in central Winford of a space that children can use.

Timescale - ongoing as applications are made. Action owned by - Parish Council & N Somerset planning department.

3. Pass on findings from the questionnaire to the Parish Council and Youth Bus Service provider and recommend that the YB is advertised more widely locally, ideally to coincide with the start of September school term.

Timescale - by the end of August 2009 Action owned by - Parish Plan youth focus group. 4. Ensure that information from the questionnaire is passed to the bodies looking at the provision of the new Winford School. Highlight the fact that school facilities such as recreation hall, mini bus could be used out of school hours for both youth activities and wider community activities.

Timescale - within 3 months.

Action owned by - Parish Plan Youth & Schools and Play focus groups.

5. Investigate booking a local facility to set up a social evening/film night aimed at 12 to 18 age group to get young people involved in suggesting and running their own events.

Timescale - mid 2010 Action owned by - Parish Plan Youth focus group.

6. Investigate whether the community bus scheme could be extended to include trips for young people.

Timescale - investigate by end of 2010. Action owned by - Parish Plan Youth focus group.

SCHOOLS & PLAY

The current situation

Schools

Winford has a thriving primary school (with about 120 places) at the centre of the village and a thriving preschool with a professional staff. The primary school is a state school, and the pre-school is a charity with a management committee of unpaid Trustees. The preschool is located on the primary school site. There is a formal partnership agreement covering the practical and strategic arrangements for sharing the site and working together to ensure children get a great start to their school life, and a successful transition from pre-school to primary school.



Winford C of E Primary School

Regil does not have a school.

Felton has a primary school on the outskirts of the village, on the main A38 road and very close to the airport. It now has less than 25 children. Its pre-school has recently closed. North Somerset Council is currently consulting on closing the school, and is working very closely with both Felton and Winford school governing bodies to increase the capacity of Winford Primary school with a major refurbishment of existing buildings and some new buildings.

The vision for the new Winford school is agreed, and plans for the refurbishment and new building are progressing well. The plans will include purpose designed space for the preschool. Funding for the work is secured, and final decisions and firm timescales are expected by the end of 2009.

Play

There are no play facilities in Winford village. There is a small play area for very young children at High Winford. There is a play area with a range of equipment in a play area off Vee Lane (a lane on the outskirts of Felton.) This has been subject to a range of vandalism and maintenance issues over many years. There are plans to refurbish this play area, with significant funding from the Parish Council.

Issues raised

Listed below are the main issues raised from the feedback on schools and play from the Parish Plan survey.

- People like the thriving village school and its excellent staff, and they like the new pre-school facilities and very much value having an excellent pre-school in the community.
- There is some concern over road safety for children.
- There is significant concern that play facilities need improving, and there is also some concern that there are no play facilities for younger (age 3 to 11) children in the centre of Winford. Vee Lane is too far for away from the centre of the villages for younger children.
- There is some demand for additional hours and places at the pre-school.
- And some demand for extended school services such as an after-school club.

Links to other focus groups and feedback from the survey

- Access to services and things to do for teenagers is poor. Public transport, especially for young people, is poor.
- The villages lack flexible, modern, secure, large buildings for community use and extended schools use, and there is demand for new activities that relate to children and young people and to other people in the communities: youth club, community cinema, other clubs, cultural and drama activities, holiday play schemes, adult education, keep-fit and children's indoor play.
 See also www.winfordpc.co.uk/plan-comments.htm

Conclusions and vision for the future

Winford Primary School

The School is currently developing its design brief for the total redevelopment of the school buildings and site. The brief will include flexibility in the design to accommodate use of the buildings and grounds by and for the local community. (The jargon terminology for this is 'the extended schools agenda', and is needed in all new schools or re-development of existing schools.)

As the issues from the schools and play focus group are based on recent consultation with the local communities through the parish plan survey, we can feed these community views into the school and ask that the issues are taken into account in the design brief AND in the new school's operational plans.

School Transport

North Somerset Council (as the Education Authority) and Winford Primary School will need to provide additional transport facilities for children. In reality this will be additional Local

Authority run buses, or a mini bus operated by the school. We should make sure the primary school and the Council is aware of the existence of trained volunteer mini bus drivers in the communities already, which might improve the viability, usefulness and value for money of a community or school based mini bus service.

Actions

1. Share issues and conclusions about community activities with Winford Primary School Governors.

Timescale – by 30 November 2009.

Owned by – Focus group to write to governors.

Share issues about transport with North Somerset Council and Winford Primary School Governors.

Timescale - by 30 December 2009.

Owned by - Focus group to write to governors.

3. Ensure other Parish Plan focus groups, and the Parish Council Vee Lane play area group, are aware of issues.

Timescale – by 31 July 2009

Owned by – Share action plan with other Parish Plan focus groups.

THE NEXT STEPS

This Parish Plan is based on the views of the residents of the Parish and contains a number of action points that are aimed at improving life in the community over the next few years. It is important that the information in the Parish Plan is taken into account by District Councils and other Authorities who are involved in making decisions which may impact on the local community; therefore copies of this document will be distributed shortly to the appropriate individuals and Authorities.

The principle behind the Parish Plan is to provide an inclusive process which will bring together the Parish Council, community representatives and local people to work towards common goals. It must be stressed that the creation of the Parish Plan is only a first stage and it is vital that members of the community get involved in the next stage to help tackle the important issues that have been raised in the Action Plan.

There are already a number of small groups involved in on-going projects supported by the Parish Council. More local volunteers will be needed to help take forward the Plan into the next decade and to help monitor it's progress. Details will be circulated to explain how to get involved.

Further updates can be found on the Parish website www.winfordpc.co.uk - select the link to the Parish Plan.

Acknowledgments

Many people have contributed to the production of this Parish Plan since the original idea was put forward. The Steering Group are grateful to the following for their help and support throughout the process:

Quartet community foundation who provided the funding for the project

Community Action, Long Ashton particularly Jacqui Ward

Fay Powell, North Somerset Parish Plans Officer

Hugh Gregor and Bridget Smith for getting the process started and for their continued support

Winford Parish Council

Dave Nevitt, Dundry Parish Plan Group

All those local residents who volunteered to deliver and collect questionnaires

Winford and Felton village shops for holding questionnaire return boxes

All residents who took the time to complete and return questionnaires

The many local clubs and societies who allowed members of the Steering Group to attend their meetings and events to publicise the Parish Plan

The Prince of Waterloo and the Crown for allowing the use of their premises for meetings. The committees of Winford, Felton and Regil Village Halls for the use of the halls.

Ann Parsons and Angela Heard who included Parish Plan information in both Parish Magazines

Chew Valley Gazette who published articles about the Parish Plan.

Printers

Mike Teggin for his hard work on data analysis and his computer expertise and support.

All those in the steering group and the focus groups who volunteered their free time over many months.

Photographs by Denise Poole, Judy Kiernan, Jenny Davis, Martin Oakhill.

Design by Mike Davis.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

	SUMMART OF ACTION FOINTS		
	AMENITIES	TIME SCALE	ACTIONED BY
1	Improve communications by developing the Web site and a Parish calendar.	Within 6 months	Parish Plan group
2	Pass on questionnaire results and comments to relevant groups/bodies for them to address.	immediate	recipients and Parish Plan
3	Village Halls – a representative from each village hall committee to meet as a group to formulate a working document for each hall.	within 3 months	3 village hall committees
4	Village Halls to explore ideas for funding and for a wider range of courses, by noting suggestions in the questionnaire and through contact with North Somerset Council, Community Action, Arts Council, Quartet and others.	within 3 months.	all village hall committees
5	Monitor the situation regarding Lulsgate Quarry	on-going	Parish Council
	BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT		
1	Develop an information pack, to be made available to existing local businesses (and those starting up), which will contain contacts re: funding, grants, advice and support services – e.g. North Somerset Enterprise Agency, Community Action, SW Regional Development Agency (Business Link).	Immediate and ongoing.	Parish Plan Business Group and Parish Council
2	Produce a Directory listing businesses and services available within the Parish and publish this information, including posting on the Parish Website.	Immediate and ongoing.	Parish Plan Business Group and Parish Council.
	HOUSING AND PLANNING		
1	Ensure that the scale, design and material proposed for any development within the parish is appropriate to the area in which is due to be located.	ongoing as planning applications are made	Parish Council, North Somerset Council
2	Ensure that the scale, design and material proposed for any development within the parish is appropriate to the area in which it is due to be located.	ongoing as planning applications are made	Parish Council, North Somerset Council
3	Ensure that any proposals for development of the central site in Winford are in keeping with the character of a central village area and planned to include some facilities available for the use of the local community.	ongoing if further planning applications are made	Parish Council, North Somerset Council

	ROADS AND TRANSPORT	TIME SCALE	ACTIONED BY
1	Pursue the feasibility of introducing traffic lights or a roundabout at the junction of Barrow Lane and the A38.	2012 in conjunction with North Somerset Transport Plan	Parish Council. North Somerset, Roads & Transport.
2	Pursue the feasibility of constructing a one way system at the junction of West Lane and A38 and Downside.	2012 in conjunction with North Somerset Transport Plan.	Parish Council and North Somerset Transport Plan.
3	The School Patrol Officer – attempt to fill this position, either through an advertised post or by a group of volunteers.	as soon as possible.	Winford School, Parish Council.
4	Liaise with the Parish Council and offer help to improve the visibility and safety of the corner of the B3130 and the bottom of Regil Lane.	Ongoing	Parish Council, North Somerset Roads & Transport, James Twine
5	Monitor any plans emanating from Bristol International Airport and liaise with relevant parties, including the Parish Council.	on-going	Parish Council. North Somerset Council, MPs
6	Pursue with North Somerset Council (Senior Transport Policy Officer) the possible extension of Bus Route 121 to Chew Magna.	as soon as possible.	Parish Council, Bus Company.
	ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTRYSIDE		
1	Maintenance/protection of Rural Character, farmland and hedgerows; oppose intrusion into Greenbelt.	on-going.	Parish Council & North Somerset Council.
2	Active private maintenance of rural character by planting trees, maintaining waterways/hedges.	on-going.	Landowners and individuals working with them.
3	Footpath problems: blocked paths, dogs, litter, Broken/awkward stiles/paths, and brambles.	on-going	WPC to continue liaison with NSC Enforcement officer, and enlist volunteers for maintenance work
4	Recycling - plastics recycling facilities needed closer than Backwell.	18 months	WPC to press NSC to provide a parish facility – possibly next year when contracts are reviewed
5	Compost Site: improvement will need more volunteers or possibly a paid manager	on-going	WPC to reappraise the viability of the project in view of operational difficulties, and investigate how to improve things.
6	Promotion of use of Renewable energy	on-going but felt important to make it a key item in the new school building project.	Parish Council to encourage and assist the school, village hall etc to use renewable energy where possible.
7	Litter	on-going	Volunteers should continue. Everybody to stop dropping litter!

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SCHOOLS AND PLAY	6	scheme could be extended to include		Parish Plan Youth focus group.
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