

Little Budworth Parish Plan

August 2014



LITTLE BUDWORTH PARISH



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Introduction from the Parish Council

Little Budworth Parish Council has supported the Parish Plan totally from the initial meeting called to completion. A general Parish meeting was organised in 2012 and from that a steering group was formed, also a children's competition was held to find the best design for a Parish Plan logo. Barley Jeffs was the lucky winner.

After many meetings, household and business questionnaires were produced and distributed to every household. There was a 70% response which showed the support they had in the Parish.

Many hours have gone into producing this Plan from just a few dedicated people and the conclusion is formidable. A brilliant outcome. I know this plan is going to benefit the Parish greatly.

With my thanks

Cora Cowap

Chairman of Little Budworth Parish Council.





Welcome to Your Parish Plan

The organisation and creation of this Parish Plan has been an interesting journey that began in 2012. The Parish of Little Budworth, despite only having 500 people on the electoral register, is an active and busy parish with a wide variety of activities and interests.



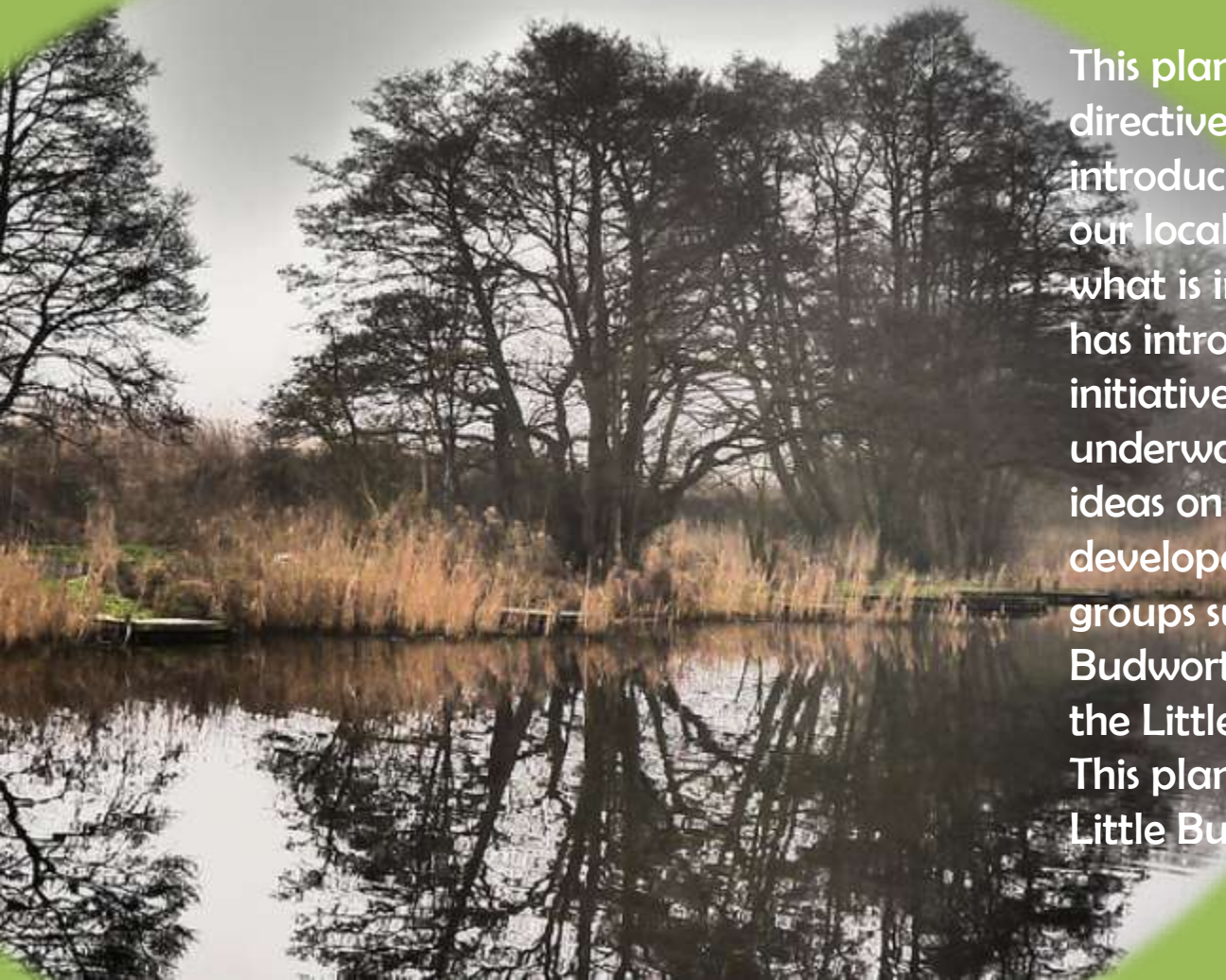
The Parish is characterised by beautiful countryside, woodland walks, four good pubs, polo grounds, a cricket club, and a vibrant and successful motor racing circuit.

The activities undertaken by parishioners are many and varied; The Church of St Peter's plays a strong role. The Mothers Union, Women's Institute, Bell Ringing and Model Engineering are well supported. Sports are equally varied; a wide variety of horse sports, cricket, motor sport, walking, particularly dog walking and cycling are to the fore.



In this report, you, the residents of this parish, have voiced your opinions on many aspects of Parish life. In the year 2000 the Government set out its agenda for the countryside in the context of the changes that are affecting rural communities in the Rural White Paper¹. This published plan represents the views of the Parish of Little Budworth recorded in our survey. This plan gives our rural community say in the changes that affect us. It can also be used as the incentive for the Parish take more control of its destiny.

This plan follows the Government directive, taking advantage and introducing this the opportunity for our local community to set down what is important to us. This plan has introduced and supported initiatives that are already underway and also publishes your ideas on new plans that may be developed in the future by working groups supported by the Little Budworth Plan Steering Group and the Little Budworth Parish Council. This plan forms part of the Parish of Little Budworth vision for the future.





This Parish Plan has no legal or formal status in the Town and Country Planning System. However, the information it contains can influence the wide range of organisations and processes affecting the dynamics of our rural community. Service providers will take the Parish Plan into account; particularly the Parish Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council, who are the statutory bodies responsible for our local affairs.

This plan will complement and help deliver local planning policies and frameworks. It has influence on local housing policies and land use strategies, as well as contributing to the way local services are managed and delivered.



This Parish Plan is a statement of how our community sees itself developing over the next few years.

The **full results** of our survey can be found at
www.littlebudworth.com

It reflects the views of the local community and identifies which features and local characteristics people value.

Over ***70% of households*** responded and provided their views and their proposals for the actions that can improve life for those of us living in the Parish.

The Plan identifies ***local problems and issues*** and will consider ***strategies for their resolution*** through a series of working parties that will establish principles and action points for the future.

Committee Members



(Back) Dave Lee, Peter Robinson, Malcolm Carnegie, Tony Hall, Andy Martell
(Front) Debra Jones, Barbara Icely, Cora Cowap, Joanne Jeffs, Barley Jeffs

The Parish, Village & Surrounding Areas

Little Budworth is a friendly and welcoming rural village with approximately 600 residents, the number of residents has remained more or less the same for many years. There are a mixture of long standing residents and those who are relatively new to the parish. A significant number of the elderly residents have moved into the parish in the last 5 years. It has businesses that range from farming and the renowned Hollies Farm Shop to the motor racing circuit that is Oulton Park.

The village is within easy reach of lots of villages, towns and cities namely Tarporley 4 miles, Chester 15 miles, Crewe Station 15 miles, Knutsford 17 miles, Liverpool 31 miles and Manchester 33 miles.



Little Budworth has a varied architectural style with a mix of historical (It has 14 Grade II/II* listed dwellings) and more modern homes. Most children in the village attend the nearby primary school in Eaton and secondary education at Tarporley High school, with the younger children having access to Little Budworth Pre-School which is run out of the village hall.



The village is served by 4 public houses: The Red Lion and The Egerton Arms which are at the heart of the village and The Fox and Barrel, and Shrewsbury Arms are situated on the edges of the Parish.



A church and a picturesque country park and woodland are part of this 'off the beaten track' village which is ideal for dog lovers, walkers and horse riders. Other leisure facilities within easy reach are Motor Racing at Oulton Park; Cricket at Oulton Park Cricket Club; Golfing at the Portal Hotel and Golf Club, Tarporley; Horse Racing at Chester; Polo at the Cheshire Polo Club; and horse riding.

The History of Little Budworth

As the Romans settled in mid-Cheshire they explored Delamere Forest for food and discovered underground salt in the area. The transport of salt led to roads being created in an otherwise wild area.



A settlement was founded in this open space by a Viking, Bodeur. The open space was called a 'wirth'. In the Domesday Book (1086), the village appeared as 'Bodeaurde' and is described as a 'waste' with woodland 'one league long and half a league wide' (approximately 3 miles by 1 ½ miles) and land enough for two ploughs.



The term 'common' does not, as some might suppose, mean that the land was in common ownership, rather it was an area of land upon which certain people had rights to use the land, primarily for grazing.

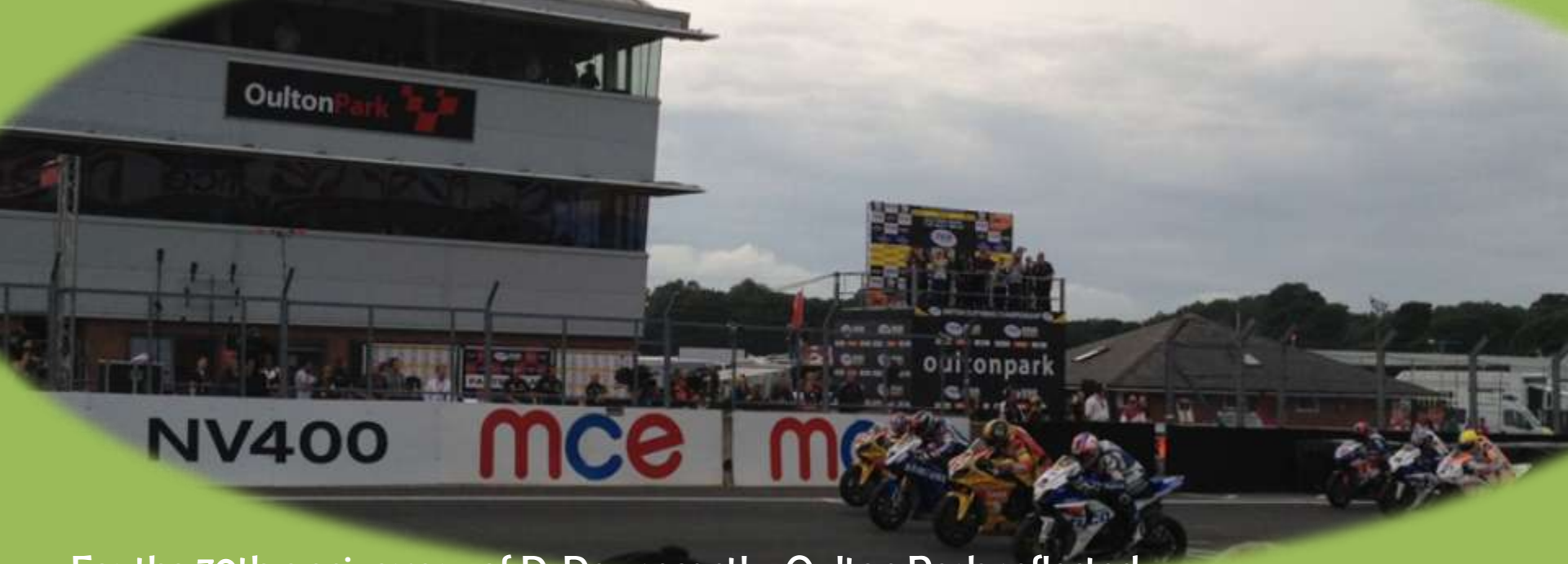


Records in 1561 show that there was an established Church in the village. There seems to be no date of the first Church but there was a tower, part of a chain of beacons to warn of the approach of Welsh raiders.

Between 1153 and 1160 the manor was granted by the Third Earl of Chester to Robert le Grosvenor whose descendant held the village for Edward the First. Certain lands remained in the ownership of the Grosvenors. In the reign of Henry VIII it passed to the ancestors of the Earl of Shrewsbury.



Philip Egerton, esquire, of Oulton Hall (1694-1766) was responsible for adding to and improving the family estates: it was he who about the year 1752 enclosed the park at Oulton.



For the 70th anniversary of D-Day recently, Oulton Park reflected on Oulton Park's role in WWII. The grounds of Oulton Hall were used as an army staging camp in preparation for the invasion, and General Patton was based here. His PT instructor, Joe Louis, was the Heavyweight Champion of the World and gave exhibition bouts in the valley at Deer Leap.



On the approach to
Druids a GI once left
his mark on a tree
beside the track.





Another significant building is Dodd's Alms houses on Vicarage Lane. Dame Isabella Dodd's will dated 1720 bequeathed money to purchase a freehold manor and the rents from this would go to pay for the alms houses. In 1731 the land was purchased and the house built to house six men and six women.



In 1860 the village was known as Budworth-in-the-Frith, this eventually became Little Budworth.

There are many interesting sites in the parish.....

One being The Pinfold, near the Edgerton Arms. The terms "pinfold" is Saxon in origin. It was normally an enclosure or high walled and lockable structure it served several purposes; the most common use was to hold stray sheep, pigs and cattle until they were claimed by the owners, usually for the payment of a fine or levy.



The second is the "plague stone". This is situated on Longstone Lane and it was used for food to be left for people suffering from plague, in the 17th century. It consists of a square stone with a hollowed top, thought to have been a wayside cross and also a plague stone.

The Parish Plan **Survey**

Find the full results at www.littlebudworth.com

We Asked

You

A Number of

Questions

About The

Parish



And This
Is What

You

Told Us

You Said.....

Old website not
used, not kept up to
date and not valued

Noticeboards well
read but could do
with more especially
in outlying areas

*The Parish (Church)
Magazine well subscribed to
– main source of local
information for the majority
of people*

COMMUNICATIONS

We responded.....

New Website created
www.littlebudworth.com

Newsletter / non-
electronic
communications
being worked on
for wider
distribution

Additional
noticeboards
being considered in
outlying areas

Information Kiosk
(old telephone box)
being discussed



Email notifications of key events



You Told Us

High participation in local
activities and events –

Churches

Village Hall

Rural Touring Arts

Oulton Park Villagers Day

Christmas Fair

*Large number of small
but thriving societies –*

Women's Institute

Mothers' Union

Cricket Club

Polo Club



Activities, Clubs & Societies



We
are
looking
at.....

Lots of people expressed
interest in –

Bridge

Gardening

Film Club

and many more.....

To Be Evaluated

Our Survey Said.....

High levels of participation in ...

Walking

Cycling

Dog Walking

Motor Sports

Bird Watching

Horse Riding



Footpaths & Bridleways felt to be well maintained with adequate signage



So.....

Village Green Committee to evaluate potential improvements to play equipment



Team to review options for recreational facilities for all age groups



Sports & Recreation



Environment.....

When asked whether they were happy with the Parish environment, residents overwhelmingly stated that they were! There was overwhelming feedback that the character and size of the village and surrounding housing stock should be maintained while allowing a small amount of development to meet the needs of local people.

Most respondents believed that Little Budworth Common should be restored and important habitats re-established, but any development should be limited to improvements to natural habitats to encourage bio-diversity and general maintenance.



You expressed
concerns about.....

Environment

Road Maintenance

Drainage Maintenance

Footpath & Pavement
Maintenance in specific areas

High demand for maps
of local footpaths and
bridleways within local
area

Litter Picking

Road noise is major concern
for outlying residents

What defines our “Spirit of Place”?



farmland, rural
setting



beautiful woodland
on our doorstep



sense of peace



beautiful vistas, rural
approach to the village



English village
remains almost
unspoilt

You said

Green energy and major
changes to the area - not
wanted



Conversion of redundant buildings
– supported

Planning & Housing

Opinions **divided** over the need for more
housing in the Parish but strong indication
that preference would be for **affordable,**
small family housing



*Significant new
applications for
planning and
development
applications may have
changed opinions since
the survey conducted*

*This Parish Plan influences local planning
and development. Our survey illustrates
local opinion*

Mixed opinions on provision of local services.....

Improvements requested –
Shop / Post Office
Bus Service
Roadside Maintenance



Bus service not heavily used but residents would use it more if there were improvements to frequency and routes available.



Bus timetable to be published on littlebudworth.com

Utilities & Services

Toilets to be maintained on Little Budworth Common but no requirement for additional ones within the village

Mixed mobile phone coverage across the area – continually improving



High percentage of residents have broadband / internet access and strong support for high speed fibre initiative – already in progress

You told us.....

People generally feel safe in the village

Good access
to medical
and dental
care

SAFETY

Narrow lanes around the parish with
poor road surfaces.

Many of our roads are now used as
“Rat Runs”

Main roads good but high
volume, high speed traffic

Support for traffic calming measures in certain areas (speed limits not cameras)

Local Business

Large number and variety of businesses, some of which are major employers

We also surveyed the businesses based in the Parish and this is what they told us

Over 50% of local businesses have been trading in the parish for more than 10 years

Little Budworth is not a dormitory!
300 people come into the village to work each day

High demand for local information and for advertising in local directories and websites

Parish Council seen as very supportive to local business

(Utilities and telecoms providers less so!)

Logistics impacted by road maintenance, speeding traffic and road signage

(street names, especially on A49 & A54, and house names not numbers)

Same concerns as residents over Broadband and Mobile Phone coverage



So

What

Have

We

Achieved

So Far?



Friends of Little Budworth Common

Formed initially in response to a threat to public access to the Common, Friends of Little Budworth Common has become a vibrant action group helping the maintenance and development of the common in conjunction with the local council.



Volunteers of all ages and skills form regular working parties to assist the Ranger in restoring and maintaining important habitats, including scrub clearance on the endangered lowland heath areas and hedge laying.



Working parties are held on the second Saturday of each month – meet at 10am in the Car Park



Little Budworth **Snow Angels** are now up and running!

This is a scheme where a coordinated team of volunteers, who have received training, will call on elderly residents in the Parish to ensure that they are keeping warm in winter and are able to look after themselves.

We have 9 wonderful volunteers from the village, shovels and hi-viz waistcoats distributed, salt bin stocked, DBS checks returned, and ID badges supplied. We have a small group of customers registered and are ready to go!



keepingwell
in west cheshire

The logo for 'keepingwell in west cheshire' features the text 'keepingwell' in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, with 'in west cheshire' in a smaller, blue, lowercase, sans-serif font below it. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a sun with rays and a snowflake.

Little Budworth Website



www.littlebudworth.com

is the place to find everything you need to know

- Events Calendar
- Community Groups
- Clubs & Societies
- Parish Activities
- Local Businesses

Email distribution of important events, notifications and general information.

One of the key initiatives was the creation of the website to increase the availability and distribution of information throughout the Parish.



High Speed Broadband

Active campaigning undertaken to have Little Budworth included in the roll out of superfast broadband in conjunction with Connecting Cheshire.

Fibre
broadband
is coming
here soon

Roll out now in progress with the majority of the village being connected via the Exchange during 2014

Outlying residents will have to wait a little longer while feasibility studies for best method of delivery undertaken



Activities in Planning:



Footpath
Maintenance



Litter
Picking



Street
Furniture
& Lighting



Footpath &
Bridleway Maps

The survey identified *these new activities*.
We have a volunteers list but we are looking for
people to come forward who have an interest in
getting things moving in these areas.



Village
Shop



Societies Festival

Detailed Action Plan



Ref	Issue	Specific Action	Measureable	Status	Comment
1	Communication could be improved in the parish.	Create communications team	Team of at least 4 people	Completed	Team in place.
	Existing website not frequently accessed.	Re-launch website	Website available	Completed	Completed. Advertising banners in place May 14
	Those in outlying areas find it hard to know what's going on.	Provide newsletter	Newsletter available	In Planning	Ideally distributed electronically
	(COMMUNICATIONS)	Increase quantity of noticeboards in parish	Noticeboard quantity increased from 1 to 3	In Planning	Sites to be determined (near Shrewsbury Arms, Hollies?)
		Convert telephone box in village to information point	Phone box is an info point	Being Considered	Requires a volunteer to lead this action and maintain contents. Need to gauge potential opposition.
2	Survey feedback indicated the desire for more clubs to operate within the parish. (SPORTS & RECREATION)	Organise 'Society Festival' to promote and encourage clubs within the parish	Society festival held	Needs Volunteers	Requires volunteers to get clubs created.
3	Those in the 60+ range expressed a desire for more activities as well as those in younger age ranges. (SPORTS & RECREATION)				

Ref	Issue	Specific Action	Measureable	Timeframe	Comment
4	There was strong support for an upgrade of the facilities in the children's play area on the village green. (SPORTS & RECREATION)	Re-launch village green committee	Committee established	In Planning	Requires volunteers. Need to fully evaluate costs and viability.
5	Residents would like to see improvements in road maintenance. (ENVIRONMENT)	Parish council to identify specific council member with responsibility for this issue	Council member indentified	In Planning	
6	Residents would like to see improvements in footpath maintenance. (ENVIRONMENT)	Form community action group to carry out footpath maintenance	Team of at least 4 people	Needs Volunteers	Requires a volunteer to lead this action. Need to evaluate how this would operate.
7	Residents would like to see maps of footpaths and bridleways put up in the village. (ENVIRONMENT)	Form community action group to design, procure and maintain maps	Team of at least 4 people	Needs Volunteers	Requires a volunteer to lead this action.
8	Residents would like to see improvements in street furniture and lighting. (ENVIRONMENT)	Create sub-committee to address this issue	Team of at least 4 people	Needs Volunteers	Requires a volunteer to lead this action.
9	Residents would like to see a village shop and post office. (UTILITIES & SERVICES)	Create sub-committee to address this issue	Team of at least 4 people	Needs Volunteers	Group will need to establish viability of shop and post office in the parish

Ref	Issue	Specific Action	Measureable	Timeframe	Comment
10	Residents would like to see improvements to the bus service. (UTILITIES & SERVICES)	Create sub-committee to address this issue	Team of at least 4 people	To Be Considered	Group will need to establish viability of an improved bus service in the parish
11	Need for improved internet service. (UTILITIES & SERVICES)	Engage with Connecting Cheshire to promote the availability of fibre broadband	Upgrade completion date available	In Progress	Date available; Summer 2014. However not all properties on the LB exchange will be connected.
12	Traffic problems prevail; narrow lanes, excessive speed and use of 'rat runs'. (ENVIRONMENT)	Parish council to liaise with relevant authorities.		To Be Considered	
		Create action group?	Team of at least 4 people	To Be Considered	
13	There is strong support for a 'Snow Angels' network. (UTILITIES & SERVICES)	Create a group	One co-ordinator identified	Completed	Group leader identified. Group in place.
14	There was strong support for continued maintenance of LB common. (SPORTS & RECREATION)	Establish a working group	Working group in place with at least 4 members	Completed	Group leader identified. Group in place.
15	Expand plan to meet the needs of local groups and societies. (SPORTS & RECREATION)	Get engagement from representative sample of local societies on further development of the plan	Team of at least 4 people	In Planning	



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the many people involved in creating this plan

The Parish Plan Committee:

*Andy Martell, Malcolm Carnegie, Tony Hall, Barbara Icely, Debra Jones,
Joanne Jeffs, Peter Robinson, Peter Patel, Stuart Robinson,
Cora Cowap, Dave Lee*

Survey development, execution and analysis:

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Support, encouragement and guidance:

*Eveleigh Moore-Dutton (Councillor)
Sarah Baron & Claire Jones (Cheshire Community Action)
Little Budworth Parish Council*

Photographs & Graphics:

Dave Lee, Paul Wilcox, Malcolm Carnegie, Tony Hall

And everyone within the Parish who complete one of the surveys!



For more information about
Little Budworth and the Parish Plan
please visit

www.littlebudworth.com



And don't forget to subscribe for email notifications of local event and activities!