

Moving Forward



Cressage, Harley & Sheinton



Parish Plan 2017

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Introduction

The Parish Plan has been compiled by volunteers, from the replies to a consultation questionnaire available to all residents of the three villages that make up the Community Parish of Cressage, Harley and Sheinton. This Plan updates and replaces our first Parish Plan of 2012.

Villagers' views on the present state of our community and their wishes for the future are summarised along with suggested actions to achieve an improved future for our Parish. Key issues remain as in 2012 – housing development and transport – but other important areas are dealt within the body of the Plan.

The Plan alone does not have the power to change anything but it is now recorded as the voice of our community and as such has to be taken into account by the Parish Council and Shropshire Council.

We all live in a time of social and economic change which impinges even on our small rural villages. Our ability as a community parish to influence or resist these forces is limited. The Parish Plan demonstrates that Cressage, Harley and Sheinton have a vision of how we would like our future to look.

Housing

The position relating to future development in the parish would seem to be positive. Although 23% of respondents were specific about there being no further development in any area of Cressage, Harley and Sheinton, a further 57% were in favour of only small development over the next five years (up to a maximum of 20 houses over 5 years).

Commercial and industrial development were also seen as possibilities for regeneration within the parish. The vacant garage site and Eagles car park were cited as areas suitable for small business development.

80% of responses highlighted Cressage as the ideal location for new development. Harley and Sheinton being seen as suitable only for the construction of single dwellings or conversion of redundant agricultural buildings for domestic use.

With respect to the positioning of new development within the parish, responses indicated the Eagles Pub site and the adjacent disused garage site were preferred by 70% of responses. The Vicarage and Glebe field option was considered by a further 15% and the remainder divided between Sheinton Road in the vicinity of the medical practice and outlying areas of the village close to Shrewsbury Road.



The Eagles Site

Responses as to what should happen to the Eagles site were varied. The majority was split between retaining/redeveloping the site for use as a pub or converting the whole site for housing. Other responses indicated a favour for some form of social amenity in the form of a restaurant, take away or post office.

Some interest was shown for re-developing the site as a commercial or business site. In the response to other suggestions, it was clear

that people felt if development should occur, pedestrian access that residents currently have across the site should be maintained.

The Garage Site



Here development of new housing was the most popular choice, however, a significant number of returns highlighted the opportunity for the site to be used as a small commercial enterprise or industrial park.

Some would prefer the site to be redeveloped as a garage. Those who responded specifically to the “other” category indicated use as additional car parking for Cressage Village Hall or the community in general. Some suggested additional community green space or allotments.

Types of Housing



Responses relating to types of housing raised a wide range of preferences. Starter homes and family homes were the most popular. Significant interest was also shown in the provision of bungalows within the parish. Sheltered housing and social housing were preferred the least. Most responses indicated that the current traveller provision within the parish was sufficient.

Actions

- Parish Council to develop a housing strategy based upon feedback from the survey respondents.

Transport and Highways

Across all villages the issue of speeding is a concern. The majority of respondents in Cressage indicated 30 mph was a suitable speed on the A458 through villages, though some thought a reduction to 20 mph was more appropriate. In Harley, there were many more responses than residents' questionnaires with almost all wanting a speed reduction through the village. Sheinton's 18 residents who responded were supported by 108 non-residents in their call for the implementation of a speed limit of 30 mph.



As featured in the last Parish Plan (2012), speeding through all the villages was a priority. Road surfaces and road maintenance were almost equal as the 2nd and 3rd priorities. For the majority of Cressage respondents, parking in inappropriate places without thought for other residents was a problem, coupled with parking and blocking pavements in Severn Way.

For residents of Cressage, parking on pavements and street parking are a concern in the following locations; Severn Way, Sheinton Road, outside the school, Raby Cottages and Cherry Arbor. (It is interesting to note, 66 respondents with vehicles in Cressage didn't feel there was an issue with on-street parking but 64 residents did.)



Aside from on pavement parking in Severn Way the lack of pavement at The Eagles corner and the top of Harley Road was a significant area of concern, together with the lack of a footpath to Cressage Bridge.



Some stretches of the A458 were considered too narrow in Shrewsbury Road, the church area and Harley Road. Two respondents in Harley would like a footpath to the Plume of Feathers.



Actions

- Reduction in speed through all villages via:
 - Enforcing current speed limits on A458
 - Enforcing current speed limit on Sheinton Road
 - Introducing and enforcing lower speed limit on Sheinton Road
 - Taking action to introduce speed limits through Harley and Sheinton
- Road Surface and maintenance
 - Stronger persistent lobbying with Shropshire Council
 - Early identification of problem surfaces and potential hazards.
- Parking
 - Restrict parking on pavements in Severn Way
 - Restrict on road parking outside the school and Raby Cottages
- Road Junctions
 - The Eagles/War Memorial Junction requires safer more suitable pavements
 - Footpath to Cressage Bridge
 - Maintenance of access through existing Eagles site



Service and Infrastructure

Service/Infrastructure rating

Respondents graded a number of parish services/facilities to indicate how highly they rated each. Nearly all respondents completed this question with the majority appearing happy with the services/facilities listed. However, recycling points, Post Office, pubs and sports facilities have been identified by the Parish Plan Group as requiring improvements given the majority of respondents graded these as adequate or poor.



Internet

The vast majority of respondents have access to the internet with most using traditional copper broadband, 18% have access to fibre, 11% using mobile dongles. Just over half of respondents with access to the internet believe the download speeds they have available are not fast enough for their requirements. The majority indicated the speed and stability of internet services were very important to them although 40% indicated they regularly experience difficulties with the internet due to issues they believe are caused by their service provider's infrastructure.

A large number of respondents provided specific information relating to their internet connections which we hope can be discussed with Connecting Shropshire/OpenReach with a view to identifying root issues and providing a better service.

Village Halls

Almost all respondents said they felt the Village Hall facilities were important to the community, with more than half indicating they would or do make use of the Village Hall facilities.

A number indicated they wouldn't make use of the Village Halls because they had no need to or in the case of Cressage Village Hall because they felt it was in need of refurbishment and other local facilities such as Harley Village Hall were considered better.

Respondents indicated that improvement of the facilities at Cressage Village Hall was the most likely thing to encourage them to the Hall.



Dog Fouling

Dog fouling appears to be a localised issue with about half of respondents saying so. Respondents identified dog fouling areas as, the school area, play areas, the doctors' surgery area, The Moors and Severn Way.



Actions

- Look to improve post office opening times and available facilities within Cressage.
- Look to improve pub facilities within the village specifically with a view to The Eagles site and a public house being considered in any development plans.
- Recycling points should be made more readily available to encourage the recycling of waste.
- Improvements in sports facilities should be made. A parish working group should be established to look into sports facilities people want and what the parish could realistically deliver. A follow up questionnaire or a section in the Village Life could be a starting point.
- Contact OpenReach to discuss the findings of the survey relating to user postcode/phone number issues reported. Contact other local broadband infrastructure providers to discuss options for the entire community. Contact Connecting Shropshire to discuss their plans for the Parish.
- Discuss the feedback with the Cressage Village Hall Committee and look to make the facilities at the village hall more appealing to the community.
- Position more dog litter bins and more signs about dog fouling in areas specified by numbers of respondents. Encourage people to report to the council individuals who allow their dogs to foul in public places and publicise the fact that people can report abuse and how to go about it. Christ Church C of E Primary School could be asked to involve pupils in a competition to design some signs that could be made up and put in relevant spots around the village to remind people of their responsibility to clean up after their dogs.

Community

The questionnaire asked whether residents would like to see more organised village events and whether the monthly Village Life magazine is a useful publication.

Over the three parishes there were 153 responses and 52% would like to see more organised village events - these included more social activities in Cressage Village Hall; more activities for young people; and by more residents getting involved and supporting events. A most interesting suggestion was for the Parish to look at how Cound successfully organises its events, such as Fetes and 'Flicks in the Sticks'.



With regard to the Village Life magazine, 100% of respondents said that they read this, with 98% saying that they found the publication useful.



Actions

- Encourage more village events, especially in the evenings, by increasing the number of volunteers who enjoy event management, and who would be willing to assist setting up new community events for villages.
- Explore methods of other villages (e.g. Cound) for improving community spirit and organising activities.
- Encourage use of the Parish Website and develop a forum on it. The Parish Council could achieve this via Village Life or e.g. holding a photography competition, with the best pictures going on the website. A forum or blog could also be set up on the website to encourage ideas.
- Continue to support charity fund raising events featured on the Parish Website and in Village Life.
- Consult residents about becoming involved in village activities. This can be done by creating a 'Community Volunteer List' with a range of activities that residents can volunteer for.
- Encourage residents, via Village Life and the Parish Council Website to attend Parish Council Meetings.

Environment

Most respondents completed the questions relating to how happy they are overall with the village environments, with the majority indicating they were either happy or had a neutral opinion.

When asked what additions would improve the village environments, the top three responses were shrubs / flower beds / spring bulbs, seats and litter bins in that order, with the next most popular suggestion being a community litter pick but this was some way off the support for the three already detailed.



Individual comments were also recorded which are more difficult to group and report on, but common themes identified were around the need for increased dog waste & litter bins and also residents' gardens being well maintained especially hedges/trees over hanging roads/pavements.



Actions

- Parish Council to provide more planting of flowers and shrubs around the villages.
- Parish Council to provide more public seating around the villages.
- Parish Council to increase the provision of dog waste and litter bins.



Children and Young People

Respondents overwhelmingly value having a primary school which serves the 3 villages and the majority keep up to date with the school's activities through social media and the Village Life magazine. Almost all of the children and their families now benefit from the before and after school clubs introduced since the last Parish Plan.



Very few respondents had children of primary school age and below. Of these, a number choose childcare and pre-school education outside of the parish, mainly due to convenience of provision or proximity to places of work. A number are not aware of what is available in the parish for pre-school children. For a number of reasons some parents have chosen not to use their local school. A number of respondents would like to see a play group or mothers and toddlers established in Cressage Village Hall, to cater for children below the age of 2 years.



A range of play and leisure activities are currently undertaken including using the play area and recreation ground, brownies, guides, Sheinton Kids' Club, sport activities in Cressage Village Hall and the skate park. However, the majority of respondents would like to see a wider range of activities together with more family- friendly events and an improvement to the sports facilities that currently exist. A number of respondents indicated that anti-social behaviour on the part of some youths were stopping their children making use of the play area and sports ground. The majority also supported the skate park being updated; non-use at the moment was ascribed to it being unsafe, unsightly and littered by dogs etc.



Parents expressed concern for their children's safety caused by cars parked on pavements, some pavements not wide enough to take a buggy and a lack of connected pavements around the village. Predominance of dog excrement on the recreation ground and pavements was also cited as a concern.

Children in Christ Church C of E Primary School's Green Class have given their own ideas as to how to make their community a better place to live. These include reducing the speed of traffic, owners cleaning up after their dogs, better parking and improved sports facilities. They also thought it would be good to have a café in the village.



Actions

- Christ Church C of E Primary School to continue to promote its work and successes to the community
- Children's World Nursery to collaborate with the Parish Council in order to advertise more widely and communicate more effectively with parents of pre-school children
- The Parish Council, Children's World and local parents work together to establish a group which would cater for infants between 0-2years.
- Take into account results of the questionnaire and also work with young people via the schools to understand what activities/facilities they would like to have in the parish
- Maintain the play equipment and sports ground – curb anti- social behaviour with the help of community policing
- Update the skate park in consultation with the young people who use it.



Villagers' Priorities

When it comes to respondents' priorities for their village, a wide range of views is expressed.

However, there are some leading themes involving development and transport in particular.

Development

There is concern that the Eagles/former garage site should be improved by being developed in some way; and there is also concern that any development in the whole parish should be limited/controlled.

Transport

Control of speeding traffic and preservation of a bus service feature strongly.

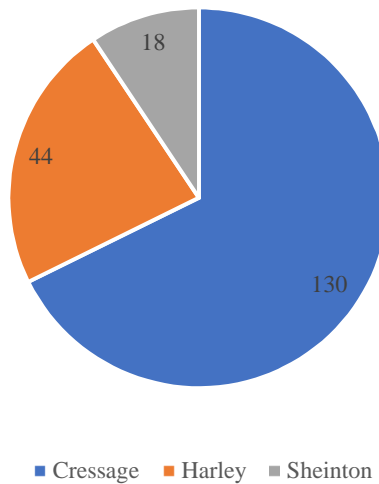


Without listing every individual's priorities, other themes include improving Cressage Village Hall and the play area; having some refreshment facility in Cressage; maintaining the rural environment; keeping a Post Office; and more and more varied community events/activities in Cressage.



Demographic Breakdown

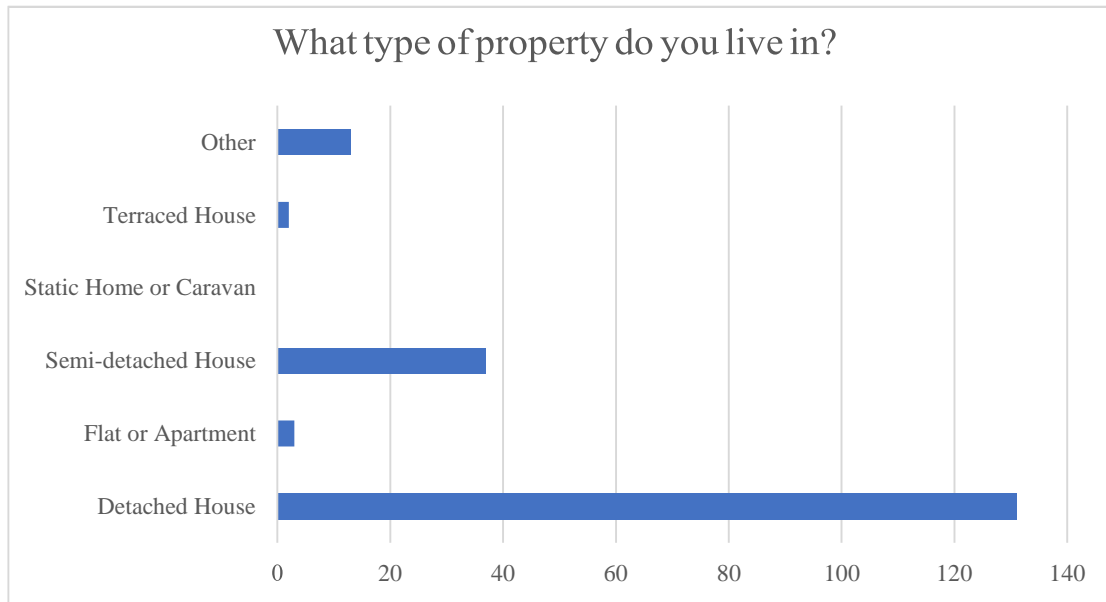
Number of Responses by Village
(Total number received 192)



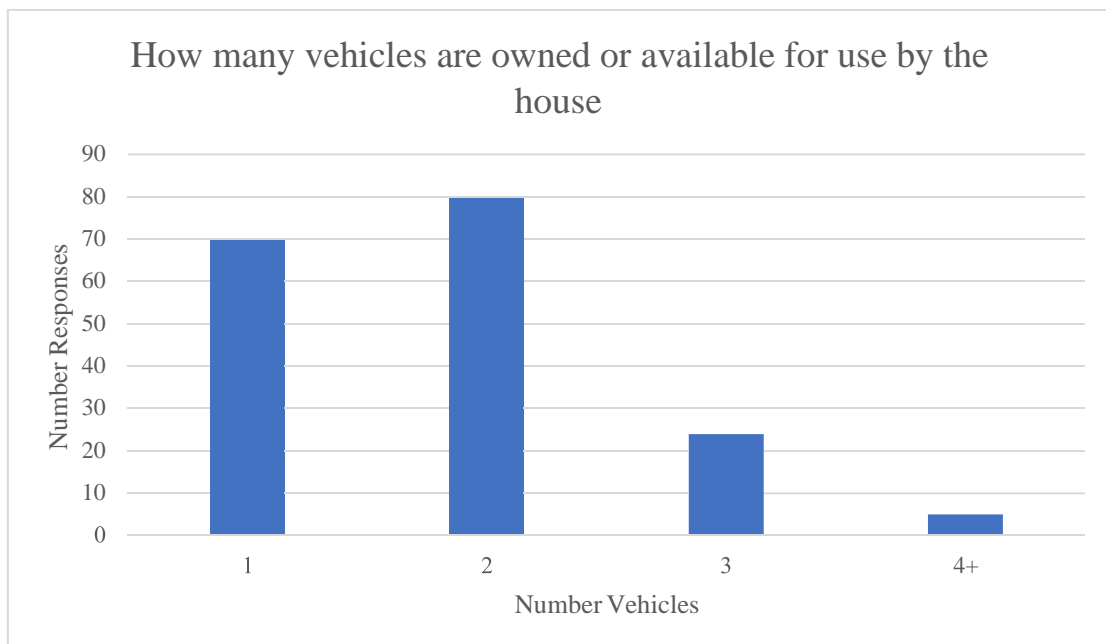
How long have you lived in the Parish?



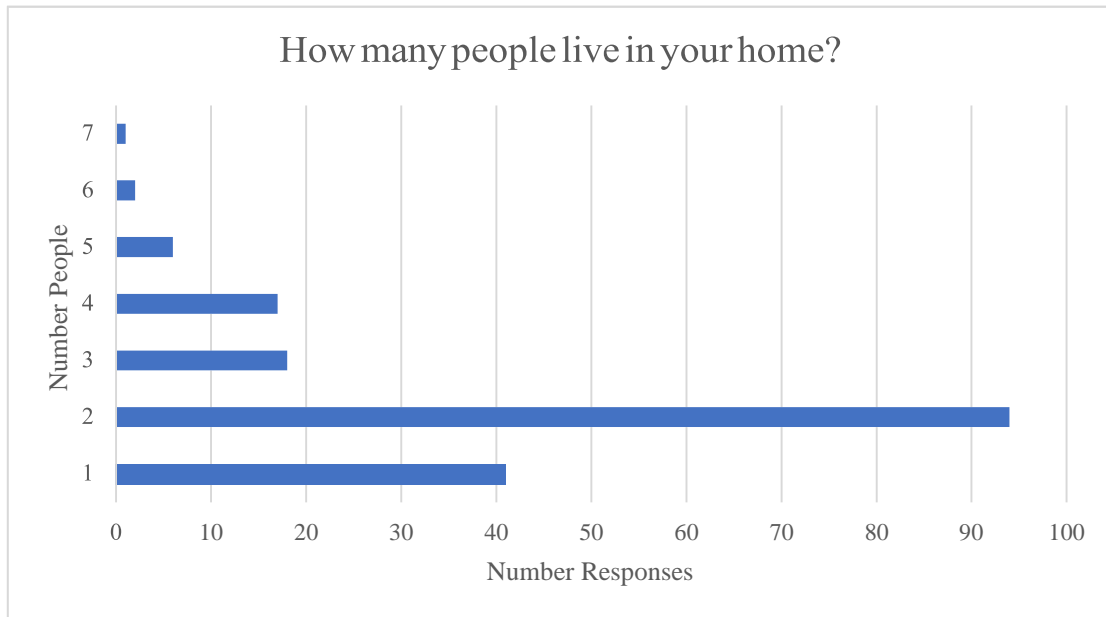
When asked “How long have you lived in the parish?”, the highest number of responses came in the 11-20 years category and notable was that 17.9% respondents have lived in the parish for 5 years or less.



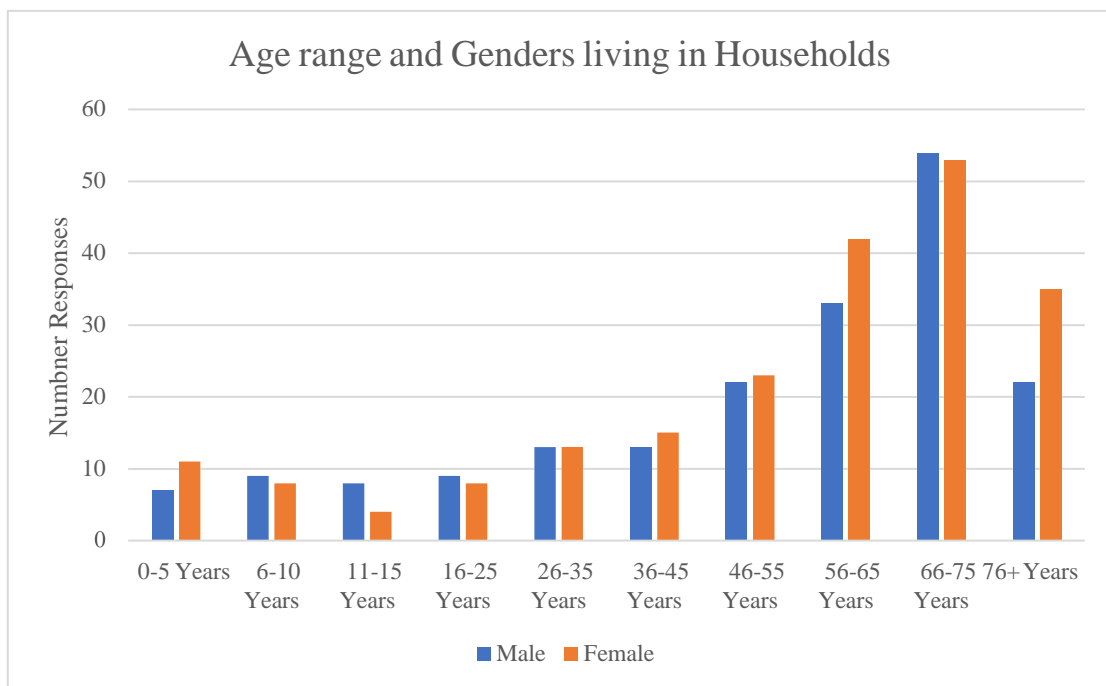
The majority of respondents (70.4%) live in detached houses and whilst 37 respondents live in semi-detached houses, most of these (34) live in Cressage which is indicative of the availability of types of property in each village. 3 respondents said flat/apartment, 0 static home/caravan, 2 terraced house and 13 other (some of these may be bungalows). When asked whether respondents owned or rented their accommodation, 90.4% (169) said owner/occupier.



13 respondents skipped the question about car ownership/availability for use suggesting they may not have access to a car. 70 responded with 1 car, 80 with 2, 24 with 3 and 5 with 4+.



The majority of respondents (52.5%) said that 2 people live in the home as their main residence. 22.9% of respondents live on their own, 10% have 3 or more residents and 26 respondents (14.5%) said 4 or more people live in their home.



Of the people that responded to the survey, they indicated a range of young people living in the parish with an evenly distributed mix of young males and females at pre-school, primary and secondary ages. The even distribution continues throughout most of the age categories with the most notable exception being in the 76+ category where there 22 men compared to 35 women.

The Parish Plan Group would like to thank all those who responded to the questionnaire and a big thank you to all those involved in the distribution/collection of it.



Raw data results can be found at the Parish website:

<http://www.cressageharleysheinton.co.uk/>



[Make use of your Parish Council's website
www.cressageharleysheinton.co.uk](http://www.cressageharleysheinton.co.uk)

