



# Binley Woods Parish Plan



**Version 1.0 - October 2013**



## **Foreword**

*by Mark Pawsey, MP*

It is an honour to be asked to present the first Binley Woods Parish Plan to the community of the parish of Binley Woods.

I am a Binley Woods boy. I grew up in the village and as our family grew we lived in a number of houses on Oakdale, Monks and Rugby Road.

I have supported the Parish Plan project from its outset, attending each of the open days in the Village Hall, and have watched with interest as the Plan developed over the years. The Parish Plan team and the army of volunteers, under the overall guidance of the Parish Council, have worked extremely hard on behalf of the residents of Binley Woods and we all owe them a great debt of gratitude.

The outcome of all this hard work is a practical and meaningful action plan for the future which will ensure that Binley Woods develops in a way that we can all support; retaining and enhancing those things that make the village a great place to live.

I commend the Parish Plan to all parties and look forward to seeing the benefits of it being realised over the coming months and years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Pawsey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Mark Pawsey,  
Member of Parliament for Rugby*

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## Illustrations

Parish Map	centre pages
Aerial photo of Binley Woods	back cover

E&OE. Binley Woods Parish Council has sought to ensure the information contained in this report and its associated publications is accurate and not misleading. No liability or responsibility is accepted arising from reliance upon the information contained in this report or in the survey results and analyses published electronically on our website.

## 1. Introduction

This document, the Parish Plan, is the main output from the Binley Woods Parish Plan project and sets out an Action Plan for the village based upon residents' wishes as expressed via a series of open days and survey questionnaires.

The document should be read in conjunction with the following:

- The Binley Woods Parish Plan Interim Report
- The Binley Woods Housing Needs Survey Results
- The Binley Woods Village Design Statement

All three documents are available from the Parish Plan website: [binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com](http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com).



The skateboard park which was installed following a request from the young people of the village

### 1.1 Parish Plan Background

In September 2011, Binley Woods Parish Council commenced the development of a Parish Plan and an associated Village Design Statement (VDS) and Housing Needs Survey.

An initial list of residents' issues was identified through a series of meetings with local clubs and community groups, including the Binley Woods Primary School, Youth Club and other groups focusing on our younger residents. This list was verified, amended and extended at the first Parish Plan open day in March 2012.

As part of the Parish Plan project, a Housing Needs Survey was undertaken for the village by Midlands Rural Housing between February and April 2012. The results were published in May of that year and displayed at our second open day in November 2012. The Housing Needs Survey report is available on the Binley Woods Parish Plan website and on the Rugby Borough website.

The list of residents' issues and the results of the Housing Needs Survey were used to develop a main survey questionnaire which was issued to all households in the village in September / October 2012 and we subsequently received 459 completed main survey responses, representing over 40% of households in the village. The additional list of young people's issues was used to create three on-line surveys covering ages 11-18, school years 3-6 and school year 2 and younger.

The results of all four surveys were analysed and a series of detailed results documents published via the Parish Plan website. Using the results of the surveys, a set of draft actions to address residents' concerns was then developed.

The summarised survey results and the draft actions were presented to the residents of Binley Woods in the Parish Plan Interim Report, delivered to all households in the village in April 2013. A copy of the Interim Report is available from our website.

The draft actions were made available for scrutiny and endorsement at the third Parish Plan open day (the 'Public Endorsement Meeting') on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013. They were subsequently incorporated into an Action Plan which was reviewed and agreed by both the Parish Council and a number of other parties associated with the project, for example Warwickshire County Council. The agreed Action Plan forms the core of this Parish Plan.

### 1.2 What is the Parish Plan?

The Binley Woods Parish Plan sets out a vision of how the community wants the village to develop and what it wants to conserve. It relates to everything that is relevant and important to the people who live and work in Binley Woods, with the community itself deciding through consultation, questionnaires and open days which issues are important.

The Parish Plan is a plan of action to achieve this vision. It does not reflect the views of any one individual or organisation; it reflects the views of the village as a whole.

### 1.3 Why Do We Need the Parish Plan?

The organisations which influence our lives can appear remote and perhaps insensitive to our needs as a community. This is often due to a lack of a clear statement of the community's needs, wishes, issues and priorities.

This Parish Plan should help to overcome that by providing background information, evidence and a series of locally agreed actions to support the development of community projects and environmental improvements.

The Binley Woods Parish Plan will influence the following when making decisions on matters directly or indirectly affecting Binley Woods:

- Local government, namely Binley Woods Parish Council, Rugby District Council and Warwickshire County Council
- Village-based organisations, for example the Primary School, Village Hall and Community Youth Club
- Other organisations associated with the village, such as Warwickshire Police and the NHS

The Binley Woods Parish Plan, and its supporting materials, is also designed to provide a clear local policy context which will help groups and organisations when applying for grant assistance in respect of community projects.

Readers should note that the Parish Plan can only cover the civil parish of Binley Woods and cannot have any direct effect on what occurs outside of the parish boundary (eg developments on the other side of the A46 in Coventry, or at the speedway stadium or former Oakdale Nurseries site in Brandon). However, the Parish Plan is designed to allow the Parish Council to produce authoritative statements on the impacts, costs and benefits to the Binley Woods community of any such neighbouring developments, for example in terms of increased traffic, parking problems or environmental concerns.

### 1.4 Contents of the Parish Plan

In summary, this Parish Plan contains:

- A record of how the Parish Plan project was conducted
- An overview of the village of Binley Woods, including a brief history of the village
- A summary of the findings of the residents' surveys
- An Action Plan for the future development of the community in line with residents' wishes

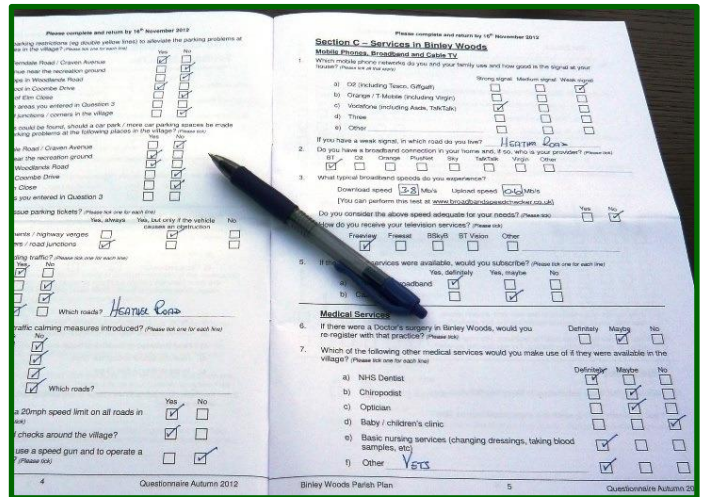
### 1.5 Way Forward

This Parish Plan is Binley Woods' voice and now it has been published it will not just gather dust or remain static. It is a document which will be used to influence those who affect our lives.

The Binley Woods Parish Plan sets out a series of agreed, prioritised actions for the future development of the village and identifies those who are responsible for undertaking them.

Binley Woods Parish Council has formally adopted the Parish Plan and is responsible for ensuring:

- The actions contained within it are carried out in line with residents' wishes
- Progress on achieving the actions is regularly reviewed and reported to residents
- The Parish Plan is periodically refreshed to reflect the changing circumstances, needs and wishes of the community



Village-wide survey questionnaire

## 2. Letter of Endorsement from Binley Woods Parish Council



Dear Resident,

It is now two years since that hot and sticky evening in the Village Hall when we embarked on the long journey to produce a Binley Woods Parish Plan. I can now inform you the process is complete.

We hope that all residents of Binley Woods see this Parish Plan as a practical way to address those issues you told us were uppermost in your minds. The resulting Action Plan aims to ensure that Binley Woods continues to thrive as a community. Strengthening aspects of life in the village that residents value, and making improvements in those areas you deemed to be a priority, is uppermost on the Parish Council's agenda. The development of the Parish Plan has involved us all, and the implementation of the Action Plan will, too, involve us all.

The Parish Plan is based upon the views of residents gained through consultation at our open days and via responses to survey questionnaires carried out throughout the village. Every resident had the opportunity to have their say and over forty per cent of you did so.

Volunteer working parties, guided by the Steering Group, put in many hours gathering information, organising open days, developing questionnaires, delivering survey forms door-to-door, analysing the responses, publishing results and formulating and agreeing the Action Plan. The Parish Council, and the community as a whole, owes this dedicated team a huge debt of thanks for all their hard work. Special thanks must, however, go to the Parish Plan Chairman, Ken Short, whose relentless drive and work ethic has guided the Group to produce a Parish Plan which has been noted as excellent by many higher authorities.

It has been inspiring for me and my colleagues on the Parish Council to see the community pulling together, especially in these challenging times, proving the community spirit within Binley Woods is thriving. The whole process has also had the added effect of cementing relationships in the Village.

Binley Woods Parish Council fully endorses the findings and way forward presented in the Parish Plan and we look forward to working closely with the community to deliver the actions presented in the Action Plan over the coming years.

Thank you for your interest in the Parish Plan and we look forward to an exciting and rewarding future for the community of Binley Woods.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Salisbury', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

*Paul Salisbury,  
Chairman, Binley Woods Parish Council*

### 3. How the Plan was Created

#### 3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

##### Steering Group

The Parish Plan Steering Group was a self-appointed body comprising those residents prepared to represent the village. Three Binley Woods Parish Councillors, Linda Harbour, Paul Salisbury and Ken Short, were on the Steering Group, as was the Borough and County Councillor for Binley Woods, Heather Timms. The officers of the Steering Group were:

- Chairman – Ken Short
- Secretary – Fred Harper (part of the project)
- Treasurer – Chris Bowen
- Web-master – John Stanley
- Press Liaison – Ann Tippett (part of the project)
- Volunteer Coordinator – John Henderson



Parish Plan Steering Group and Volunteers

A full list of Steering Group members who served for all or part of the project is:

Chris Bowen	Diane Henderson	Mark Pickles	Heather Timms
Avis Dolan	John Henderson	Brian Reeves	Anne Tippett
Andy Dowling	Doug Hodgkinson	Kath Salisbury	Barbara Wilson
Karen George	Evelyn Humphreys	Paul Salisbury	Viv Wood
Linda Harbour	Sherry Kayiatou	Ken Short	
Fred Harper	Janet Outhwaite	John Stanley	

The Steering Group met monthly in the Village Hall on the last Thursday of the month. Verbal progress reports were given by the Steering Group Chairman and Officers and the leaders of the Parish Plan Sub-groups at each Steering Group meeting. Key items were minuted in the Steering Group minutes, which were issued to all members of the Steering Group and Parish Plan volunteers, and copied to a number of parties associated with the Parish Plan project. Copies of the minutes were also loaded to the website.

##### Volunteers

In addition to those residents who served on the Steering Group, a number of residents volunteered to help deliver newsletters, questionnaires and documents door-to-door across the village. Some also helped at open days and undertook specific tasks such as proof-reading documents.

The full list of Parish Plan volunteers is:

John Bandtock	Maureen Garcia	Dipa Parekh	Dee Short
Margaret Bourne	Liz Johnson	Gill Reeves	Mary Teeling
Rosemary Bradbury	Jill Kuhn	Anne Roberts	Hector Warr
Jill Cheverton	Georgina Leech	Kath Scally	Joan Watson
Pam Dennis	John Leech	Jane Sells	Pauline Woolley
Pat Docker	Pat Maddison	Phil Shakespeare	
Pat Fahey	Linda Maynard	Sandra Shakespeare	

## Sub-groups

A number of sub-groups were established to work on key aspects of the Parish Plan, including:

- **Parish Plan Sub-group**, responsible for developing and analysing the results of the main survey questionnaire and producing and publishing the Parish Plan itself.
- **Housing Needs Survey Sub-group**, responsible for liaising with Midlands Rural Housing over the development and execution of the housing needs survey and identifying the actions necessary to meet the local housing needs.
- **Village Design Statement Sub-group**, responsible for designing, developing, agreeing and publishing the VDS.
- **Youth Sub-group**, responsible for developing and analysing the three young people's survey questionnaire and the inclusion of the results and resulting actions in the Parish Plan.
- **Questionnaire Sub-group**, responsible for compiling, agreeing and printing the surveys.
- **Distribution Sub-group**, responsible for agreeing and arranging the distribution of questionnaires, printed reports and newsletters to the residents of Binley Woods.
- **Open Day Sub-group**, responsible for preparing and organising the Open Days.



Volunteers serve refreshments at the Open Day

## Parish Council

Binley Woods Parish Council oversaw the creation of the Parish Plan. Its role included the approval of all key documents, such as the questionnaires and reports, the authorisation of payments, and monitoring project progress and expenditure.

A written progress report was issued to the Parish Council ahead of each council meeting. The Parish Plan Steering Group Chairman attended council meetings to present the progress report, answer councillor's questions and accept instruction.

## 3.2 The Parish Plan Process

### Getting Started

In 2011, Binley Woods Parish Council decided to test residents' appetites for a parish plan. At a well-attended Launch Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011, residents were given a presentation showing the benefits of a parish plan, village design statement and housing needs survey and an overview of the process that would be followed. Attendees overwhelmingly endorsed the formation of a project to create all three documents. 21 residents agreed to join the Parish Plan Steering Group and a further 17 signed up as volunteers to help with deliveries around the village.

### Community Groups

At the start of the Parish Plan, a number of community groups were consulted to establish their views on the issues facing Binley Woods. These groups included the Over 60s Club, the Neighbourhood Project, the WI, Open Door, the Bowls Club, the Allotments Association and the Friends of Brandon Wood. Input was also sought from the younger members of the community, including the pupils at Binley Woods Primary School, the Reach Group, the Play Group, Footsteps, the Youth Club and the 6:58 Youth Group.

The input from each of the above groups was collated and analysed and the output from that analysis was used to draw up a 'top 20' list of residents' issues.



## Open Day – March 2012

The top 20 issues formed the core of our first Parish Plan Open Day on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Residents were asked to verify the list of issues gleaned from the community groups and were given the opportunity to add their own issues to the list.

For certain issues we were keen to identify if there were ‘hot-spots’ around the village. Residents placed coloured dots on large maps of the village showing where they experienced parking problems, speeding traffic, dog fouling, uneven pavements, poor mobile phone signal and low water pressure.

The results of the Open Day were analysed and, together with the previous input from community groups, were used to construct survey questionnaires.



Setting up the displays at the third Open Day

## Survey Questionnaires

The main village-wide survey questionnaire ran to some 16 pages. The topics covered traffic, parking and speeding, services, facilities, the environment, village life and the future development of the village. 1,140 questionnaires were delivered door-to-door to all residents and businesses throughout the village and we subsequently received 459 completed responses, 40.26% of households and businesses in the village.

Based primarily on the input received from the younger members of our community prior to the first Open Day, we developed three on-line surveys for the young people of the village. We received a total of 119 responses across the three young people’s surveys.

The results of both the main survey and the three young people’s surveys were analysed in depth and a number of possible actions to address residents’ concerns were identified.

## Open Day – November 2012

The second Parish Plan Open Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 allowed residents to view the results of the housing needs survey and view displays from a number of community groups in the village.

## Interim Report

The results of the four village-wide surveys, together with the proposed actions to address residents’ concerns, were presented in the Parish Plan Interim Report which was delivered to every household in Binley Woods in the second half of April 2013.

## Open Day – May 2013

The third Parish Plan Open Day on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 (the ‘Public Endorsement Day’) allowed residents to view displays of the survey results and the proposed actions. The actions were endorsed by those residents attending.

## Action Plan

The actions from the Interim Report, updated to include the feedback gained at the Public Endorsement Day, were documented in the form of an Action Plan which was issued to the external parties impacted, directly or indirectly, by the proposed actions. Those third parties were asked to confirm their agreement to the actions and to provide comments where applicable.

The Action Plan is presented in Chapter 7.

## Parish Plan

The output from all the consultation with residents, including the feedback gained at the open days and through the survey questionnaires, has been used to create this Parish Plan.

## Keeping Residents Informed of Progress

Progress was reported to residents via Parish Plan newsletters, which were published every three to four months during the project, and in Binley Woods Parish Council newsletters.

## 4. Parish Plan Diary

### 4.1 2011

#### January – August

The Parish Council floats the idea of producing a parish plan in Parish Council newsletters but there seems to be little appetite from residents.

#### September

Events in the village, including the potential closure of the library and the youth club and the planned conversion of the former Pope's Garage into a funeral home, increase awareness of the value of a parish plan amongst the residents of Binley Woods.

The Parish Council decides to test the water once more and organises a parish plan public launch meeting, which is heavily advertised across the village.

The Public Launch Meeting is held in the Morrison Room at the Village Hall. The meeting is extremely well attended and the room is full to overflowing, with some residents forced to watch proceedings through the windows. Despite the heat (the village hall heating went into overdrive on the hottest September day for decades) everybody listens to the presentations attentively and many join in the subsequent discussions. There is unanimous agreement to forge ahead with a Parish Plan, Village Design Statement and a Housing Needs Survey and a number of residents come forward to form a Steering Group or volunteer to help out.

#### October

The first Steering Group meeting is held in the Village Hall and a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are elected. The Steering Group decides to push ahead with all three major components of a Parish Plan (the Parish Plan itself, a Housing Needs Survey and a Village Design Statement) and sub-groups are formed to take each component forward. The Parish Plan website, [binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com](http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com), is created.

#### November – December

The sub-groups start work:

- The Parish Plan Sub-group draws up an initial list of issues and identifies community groups who can be approached to gather their members' views on village life, issues and future development.
- The Village Design Statement Sub-group decides the approach to producing the VDS and commences a village-wide analysis of our housing stock.
- The Housing Needs Sub-group meets with Richard Mugglestone of Midlands Rural Housing (MRH) and receives the good news that MRH will undertake our housing needs survey at no cost to the village (it will be paid for by Rugby Borough Council). Work commences on drawing up a Binley Woods-specific housing needs questionnaire covering affordable housing, sheltered housing for the elderly and market housing. A £50 prize is to be offered as an incentive for residents to complete the questionnaire.

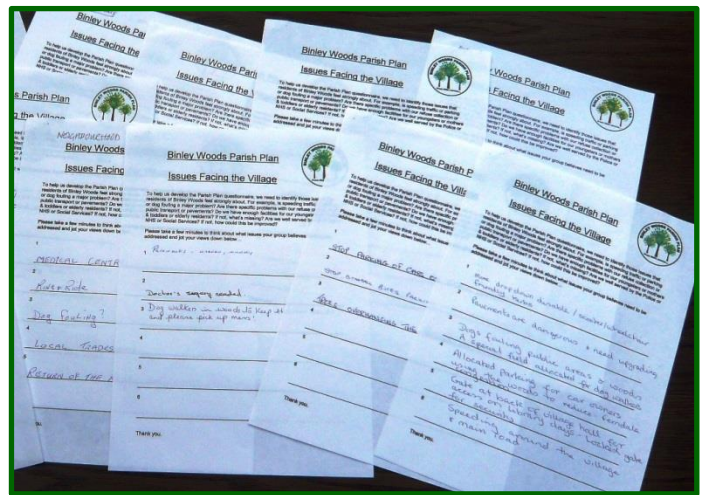
### 4.2 2012

#### January – February

A number of community groups are invited to submit lists of the most important issues facing the village. The Village Design Statement Sub-group completes the initial analysis of the village's housing stock and produces a series of maps showing how the village grew up over the course of the 20th century. The Parish Council approves the Housing Needs Survey questionnaire.

The date of the first Parish Plan Open Day is set for Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012, conveniently avoiding both the Grand National and the Boat Race. Posters are displayed around the village encouraging residents to complete their Housing Needs Survey questionnaires and to come along to the Open Day.

At a well-attended get-together on 20<sup>th</sup> February, volunteers are given an overview of the Parish Plan project and the arrangements for the delivery of the Housing Needs Survey questionnaires and the upcoming open day.



Issues raised by community groups in Binley Woods

## March

Volunteers deliver the Housing Needs Survey questionnaires plus the first Parish Plan newsletter to every household in the village.

The first Parish Plan Open Day on 24<sup>th</sup> March is a great success with over 200 residents attending. The displays of historical documents, maps and old photos are particularly popular. Several new issues are raised by residents.

## April

Wendy Ricketts of Daneswood Road wins the £50 Housing Needs Survey prize draw.

A volunteer's get-together in the Village Hall reviews the distribution of the Housing Needs Survey questionnaire and the organisation of the open day and sets out some lessons for the future.

Two new sub-groups are formed:

- Youth Sub-group to work on the three young people's questionnaires - 'Youth' (ages 11 to 18), 'KS2' (school years 3 to 6) and 'KS1' (up to year 2)
- Questionnaire Sub-group to consolidate the input from the Parish Plan, Village Design Statement and Housing Needs sub-groups and produce the main survey questionnaire

## May - August

The Parish Plan and Village Design Statement Sub-groups develop sets of questions for the main survey questionnaire. The Youth Sub-group commences drafting the three young people's questionnaires.

The Questionnaire Sub-group decides the overall format of the main survey questionnaire, which will be issued to residents in paper form. The youth questionnaires, however, will be made available on-line. A 'volunteer sheet' will be issued to enable residents to express an interest in helping with local clubs and organisations.

The Housing Needs Survey report is received from Midlands Rural Housing and, on 20<sup>th</sup> June, Richard Mugglestone from MRH presents the report to the Parish Council and members of the Steering Group. Volunteers deliver the second Parish Plan newsletter giving summarised results of the Housing Needs Survey to every household in the village. The full Housing Needs Survey report is made available on the Parish Plan website.

The main survey questionnaire and the three young people's questionnaires are finalised and then authorised by the Parish Council. The printed main survey questionnaires, volunteer sheets and pre-paid envelopes come back from the printers, all stuffed into envelopes ready for delivery.

## September

At a well-attended volunteer's get-together on 13<sup>th</sup> September, Steering Group members and volunteers are given an update on Parish Plan progress and informed of the arrangements for the delivery of the main survey questionnaires and the second open day on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Posters are put up around the village advertising the main survey questionnaire and the three young people's questionnaires. Volunteers commence delivery of the main survey questionnaires and the third Parish Plan newsletter to every resident in the village. The young people's questionnaires are released on SurveyMonkey. 72 completed main survey questionnaires are received by the end of the month and the team commences entering the data into the analysis spreadsheets.

## October

Volunteers complete the delivery of the main survey questionnaires and newsletters to every resident in the village. Posters advertising the Open Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> November are put up around the village.

A further 285 completed main survey questionnaires are received during the month.



Binley Woods residents at the first Parish Plan Open Day

## November

The second Open Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> November is a success with over 200 residents coming along. Attractions include Neighbourhood Watch, the Friends of Brandon Wood, 'Village Map' artist Lynsey Cleaver and a number of community organisations.

Posters reminding residents to complete their questionnaires by 16<sup>th</sup> November, and advising that the prize draws will take place at the Parish Council meeting, are displayed on the village noticeboards.

One week after the cut-off date, the flow of completed main survey questionnaires has dried up.

In total, we receive 459 responses together with 79 volunteer sheets. The Youth, KS2 and KS1 on-line surveys are closed; we receive a total of 120 responses across the three surveys.



Community tables at the Open Day in November 2012

At the Parish Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November, the survey prize draws are held. The winners are:

- Main Survey - Mrs Jane Toms of Rugby Road
- Youth Survey - Thomas Ricketts of Daneswood Road
- KS2 Survey - Lottie from Year 5 at Binley Woods Primary School
- Foundation Stage / KS1 Survey - Isobel Davidson-Hunt of Sir Winston Churchill Place

By the end of the month, all the survey responses have been entered into the analysis spreadsheets and detailed analysis begins.

## December

Analysis of the main survey questionnaire and the three young people's questionnaires continues and detailed analyses are sent to members of the sub-groups. On 5<sup>th</sup> December, three weeks after the cut-off date, a further completed main survey questionnaire is received, but unfortunately it is too late to be included in the analysis.

## 4.3 2013

### January

It is a hectic month with seven sub-group meetings. The Parish Plan, Village Design Statement, Housing Needs and Youth Sub-groups each undertake detailed reviews of the relevant results of the surveys and identify draft actions to be included in the Interim Report.

The Steering Group sets the date of the third Parish Plan Open Day or 'Public Endorsement Day' for 18<sup>th</sup> May, avoiding the public holidays at the start and end of the month and the FA Cup final. The Parish Council agrees to give each household attending the open day a free coloured A3 print of the 'Parish Map' painting.

### February

The draft Interim Report is reviewed and agreed by the Steering Group and is issued to the Parish Council for review. Letters to relevant third parties (mobile phone companies, BT, Borough and County Council departments, local businesses and community groups, etc) are sent out notifying them of the survey results and asking for their feedback. The Village Design Statement Sub-group agrees the draft structure and content of the VDS and work starts on drafting the document.

### March

The Interim Report is authorised by the Parish Council. A first draft of the Village Design Statement is reviewed by the sub-group and a number of enhancements are suggested. A first draft of the 'Action Plan', which will form a key section of this Parish Plan, is drafted and sent to members of the Steering Group for review.

A new Open Day Sub-group starts detailed preparations for the 'Public Endorsement day' on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Our MP, Mark Pawsey, agrees to attend the Open Day and to officially unveil the 'Village Map' painting.

## April

Volunteers distribute the Interim Report and the fourth Parish Plan newsletter to every household in the village. Feedback from residents is extremely positive.

Sub-groups continue to develop the Action Plan and the Village Design Statement. Preparations for the forthcoming Open Day gather pace and posters advertising the event are displayed around the village.

## May

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, the results of the young people's surveys are displayed at Binley Woods Primary School, drawing interest from both the pupils during the day and their parents at going-home time.

The third Open Day, or 'Public Endorsement Day', on 18<sup>th</sup> May is a great success with nearly 200 residents and guests attending. There is general endorsement for the draft actions previously presented in the Interim Report. Mark Pawsey MP officially unveils the Parish Map painting. Free prints of the Parish Map are given to attendees.

Following the Open Day, the Action Plan is reviewed and some minor amendments made to reflect residents' wishes. The draft Action Plan is sent to the Parish Council and the Rugby Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for comment.

## June - August

Work on the Village Design Statement continues, and the first draft is sent to the Planning Department at Rugby Borough Council for review. The team starts drafting the Parish Plan (this document).

In July the team receives comments on the Action Plan from the Rugby LSP and the document is issued to a number of external parties for formal review. In early August, following detailed review and a number of changes to the document, the team receive confirmation from Rugby Borough Council Planning Department that they are happy with the VDS and it is also issued for formal review.

Binley Woods' resident John Connolly sends us a number of aerial photos of the village, taken from his paraglider. Paul Salisbury flies over the village in a helicopter, courtesy of Patriot Aviation at Coventry Airport, and takes a further set of aerial photos. One of John's photos is used for the back cover of the VDS and one of Paul's for the back cover of the Parish Plan - thanks, gents.

Work on the Parish Plan gathers pace with a number of contributors writing various chapters and Andy Dowling draws a map of the village for the centre pages. By the second week of August the first complete draft is ready for review. The Action Plan is authorised by the Parish Council.

## September

Following completion of their review cycles, the Village Design Statement and the Parish Plan are authorised by the Parish Council and sent to the printers. Both documents are made available on our website.

Rugby Borough Council incorporates the Village Design Statement into their processes for assessing planning applications.

## October

The Village Design Statement and the Parish Plan come back from the printers and copies are delivered to every household in Binley Woods.

The Steering Group holds its final meeting and passes responsibility for the implementation of the actions contained within the Parish Plan to the Parish Council.



Residents attend the May 2013 Public Endorsement Day

## 5. The Village of Binley Woods

Binley Woods is a 20th century Warwickshire village in the Borough of Rugby. The village lies on the A428, approximately seven miles west of Rugby and five miles east of the centre of Coventry, although the western edge of the village is only a couple of hundred yards from the eastern boundary of the City.

The developed area lies along and to the south of the A428, *“like a chrysalis hanging off the Rugby Road”*. Future expansion is constrained by the Green Belt on all sides. The village lies on poorly-drained, heavy clay soil.

The wider Binley Woods Parish includes woodland and farmland to the north and south of the A428. The parish’s western boundary runs along the A46 from the B4027 in the north to the main Coventry-London railway line in the south. The southern boundary is marked by the original boundary of the Craven Estate at the edge of Brandon Wood, and to the north-east the boundary runs between New Close Wood and Birchley Wood.



Map of the Coombe Abbey Estate taken from the 1778 survey (© Warwick County Archives)  
NB Red line shows the current parish boundary

### 5.1 A Short History of the Village

The site of the current Binley Woods was originally part of the Coombe Estate. Coombe was a Cistercian Abbey and its estates date back to July 1150. The estate changed hands several times over the centuries though its boundaries remained very much the same. It ceased to be a monastery in 1539 with the dissolution of the monasteries and was then bequeathed to various lords and earls over the years. It came into the possession of the Craven family in October 1622. The southern and part of the eastern boundaries of the current parish are set on the original boundaries of the Coombe Estate.

When the estate was auctioned off in 1923 following the premature death of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Craven, John George Gray bought a large part of the land including the Abbey which he bought to live in. He was a builder, property developer and shrewd businessman. Some of the estate was farmed, such as the area around Old Lodge Farm and what was then Roseycombe Farm (now Cottages). Parts of both of these date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

However, a large part of the area to the south was woodland containing valuable hardwood timber and lay alongside the main Coventry to Rugby road, so John Gray had the trees felled, sold the timber and then sold the land off for building. Also a large portion of land was bought by Samuel Gorton, who died shortly afterwards, and that land was subsequently sold on to John Todd of Northallerton. Another section of land, around what is now Woodlands Road, was sold to a Mr Hanson, a builder who was an uncle of John Hanson, a famous singer; as a result Woodlands Road was originally known as Hanson’s Drive. John Gray sold the land he still held, principally to the western end of the village, at £50 an acre, to anyone interested. By 1939 there appears to have been no more than around 200 houses in the village, principally along the Rugby Road and Woodlands Road, plus the Roseycombe pub which was built in 1935.

During World War Two, as Coventry people were bombed out of their homes or chose to escape from the bombing, they came to this area looking for lodgings or accommodation. Many bought or rented a part of the one-acre plots and built their own wooden shack or put an old tramcar, bus or caravan on the site. There were a great many of these sites in the village, mainly along Heather Road and Monks Road. After the war and during the 1950s, when the owners wanted to replace them with a brick built home, they ran into planning restrictions. This led to the speculative buying up of these sites by various builders.

At the end of the war, in 1945, Vera West was running the Post Office at her parents’ home at 179 Rugby Road. She was the youngest Post Mistress in Britain. There were very few shops in the village, the majority being opened in the front rooms of houses on the main road. In properties to the south of the area several families ran small holdings growing and selling plants and produce.

In the late 1940s the most popular playing place for the children was an area that is now roughly at the end of Sir Winston Churchill Place. They called it 'The Beeches' and it consisted of three ponds, some large beech trees and a patch of grass. Nearby, at what is now the corner of Birchwood Road and Craven Avenue, the Roseycombe Rockets cycle speedway team had their cycle track. As the area was subsequently developed, these were lost; but the Parish Council acquired the land where the cycle track was situated for a playing field which was officially opened as the Village Recreation Ground on the 6th April 1963.



Residents celebrate the opening of the village hall, converted from an air-raid shelter, on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1949

In the 1930s and 40s, when the residents of the area wanted to hold a function they had to use the Co-op Hall, at the junction of Willenhall Lane and Brandon Road, or St Bartholomew's Church Hall. During the war a concrete air-raid shelter had been built on land at the south side of Rugby Road and on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1949 a public meeting was held at Binley School to propose that this air-raid shelter be adapted as a temporary village hall, and also to proceed at once with raising funds for the erection of a purpose-built hall on that site. The local vicar, the Reverend Kenneth Bell of St. Bartholomew's, purchased the site and kindly presented it to the village.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1949 the air-raid shelter was officially opened as the temporary village hall. After considerable fund-raising from whist drives, dances, raffles and fetes, a new village hall was built to replace the converted air-raid shelter and this was opened on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1957. One of the village hall's prime functions was to serve as a Church and Sunday School meeting place.

Over the years the Hall has been home to many village organisations including the Townswomen's Guild, the WI, the Over 60s Club, Playgroups, Cubs and Brownies, the Dog Club, the Parish Council, the Ratepayers Association, a Youth Club, Prampushers, the Board Walkers, the Neighbourhood Project and many others. It has also been used for whist drives, dances, dog shows, bingo, and numerous birthdays and weddings. Other organisations in the village, such as the Friends of Brandon Wood, the Wine Circle, the Roseycombe Rockets, and the village Football Clubs, have held their AGMs in the Hall.

As late as 1950s, only the main Rugby Road was made up. Heather Road and its connecting roads were still muddy, rutted tracks, and vehicles frequently became stuck. Residents taking the bus to work would walk to Rugby Road in their wellington boots, change into their normal footwear and hide their wellies in the hedge until they returned that evening. In some cases residents were charged £200 (the equivalent of almost £4,000 today) by Warwickshire County Council to have their roads made up to adoption standard; in other cases residents grouped together and employed a contractor to undertake the work. Electricity, gas, piped water and sewerage were extended south of Rugby Road.

As the number of children in village grew it required its own school and in 1953 the first school was opened - the '*Roseycombe Junior & Infants School*', which was built on a site previously intended to be a continuation of Monks Road.

In 1961 it was decided locally that the village needed its own dedicated name to differentiate itself from the Coventry suburb of Binley. After a local ballot the name 'Binley Woods' was chosen, and on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1961 the new road sign at the western boundary of the village was ceremonially unveiled. Subsequently the local school was renamed '*Binley Woods Junior & Infants School*'.

In a period of just twelve years starting in 1962, the size of the village doubled. Whilst the pattern of further in-fill on the existing roads continued, the significant expansion occurred on the southern edge of the village where a number of builders purchased larger plots of land and proceeded to erect more properties. The almost undeveloped Craven Avenue and Court Leet became a hub of building activity. A number of new roads from Norman Ashman Coppice and Elm Close in the west to Coombe Drive and Friars Close in the east were created. Many of these new developments consisted of semi-detached and terraced houses, although they also included detached properties, maisonettes and three storey blocks of flats.

According to the census returns, the population of Binley Woods more than doubled from 1,404 in 1961 to 2,964 in 1971. To cater for this population explosion a row of shops was built at the southern end of Woodlands Road.

In October 1973 a new Middle School (now Binley Woods Primary School) was opened at the eastern end of the village, the existing Junior and Infants School having been converted into a First School.

In 1967 a library was opened on the corner of Monks Road and Birchwood Road replacing a mobile library. That library was subsequently closed in 2012 and we reverted back to a mobile library service.

Since the designation in 1973 of Green Belt in the Shire counties surrounding Birmingham and Coventry, Binley Woods has continued to develop, but only within the Village's previously-defined Development Boundary (see Village Design Statement, Fig. 12). In-fill and the replacement of older properties in the village has continued and there have been some small-scale new developments, most notably Ashdale and Spinney Close, the redevelopment of the old First School site off Craven Avenue and the development of five bungalows in Oakdale Court.

In July 1980 the 'Friends of Brandon Wood' was formed in response to the proposed sale of Brandon Wood by the Forestry Commission. Their objective was to prepare and implement a management scheme, which they were able to do, having first secured the active co-operation of the Commission and the backing of a large section of the Villagers. Subsequently, in 2000 the 'Friends' were able to purchase the freehold of Brandon Wood in furtherance of these aims, securing this ancient woodland as a publicly accessible amenity.

Also in 1980 the Parish Council purchased the eastern extremity of the wedge of farmland between Brandon Wood and Binley Woods village. The western half formed an extension to the established Recreation Ground, providing a pedestrian connection between the heart of the village and Brandon Wood, now often referred to as the Back Field. The eastern half was formed separately into a 40-plot Allotment Garden accessed from Woodlands Road and managed on behalf of the Parish Council by a Committee of Plot Holders.

In May 1988 the County Council declared the long Craven Avenue frontage of the First School surplus to its needs and proposed to sell it off for building plots. This was challenged by the Parish Council and, after much negotiation, in January 1989 the land was leased to the Parish Council at a peppercorn rent. This land, which became known as 'the Village Green', was to be used as a play area for the younger children of Binley Woods and as a venue for village fêtes.

In 1996, following a reorganisation of the county's education system, the former Middle School in Coombe Drive became a Primary School and the First School off Woodlands Road closed, with the land sold off for housing development. The Village Green was reshaped and acquired permanently by the Parish Council. A memorial stone commemorating those from the village who gave their lives in the service of their country in the Second World War was subsequently installed there in 2005.

In 1989 the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass was opened: the new road ran through the western end of Binley Woods. Later, in 1994 the A46 became the new western Parish Boundary.

In 2001, Broad Street Rugby Club moved from their previous site on the Coventry side of the Eastern Bypass, to a new purpose built site at the western end of the village, with floodlit pitches and a clubhouse. It was officially opened by Martin Johnson, captain of England's Rugby Team.

Binley Woods has associations with many celebrities: John Hanson, already mentioned; David Moorcroft, who lived in Craven Avenue when he won his Olympic Gold; Allen Lloyd, founder of Lloyds Chemists grew up at a house on the Rugby Road; and actors Martin and John Marquez, who have made television appearances in programmes such as 'The Bill', 'Doc Martin' and 'Hotel Babylon'. It is also rumoured that Sir Winston Churchill slept in the village one foggy night, but we have not been able to confirm this. However, quite possibly Binley Wood's greatest claim to fame came in the early 1990s when a bungalow in Heather Road was used as the setting for Hyacinth Bucket's house in the TV comedy 'Keeping Up Appearances'.



The 'Bucket Residence' in Heather Road



## 5.2 Binley Woods Today

### Geography

The modern built-up area of Binley Woods occupies almost the entire area of the former Binley Common, save for a small section which remains at the western end of the village, south of Rugby Road. The village retains the rectilinear pattern of roads established when Binley Common was sold off for development in one-acre plots some 90 years ago.

Note: “*Binley Common*” is actually a misnomer as the land was privately owned and was never ‘common’ land.

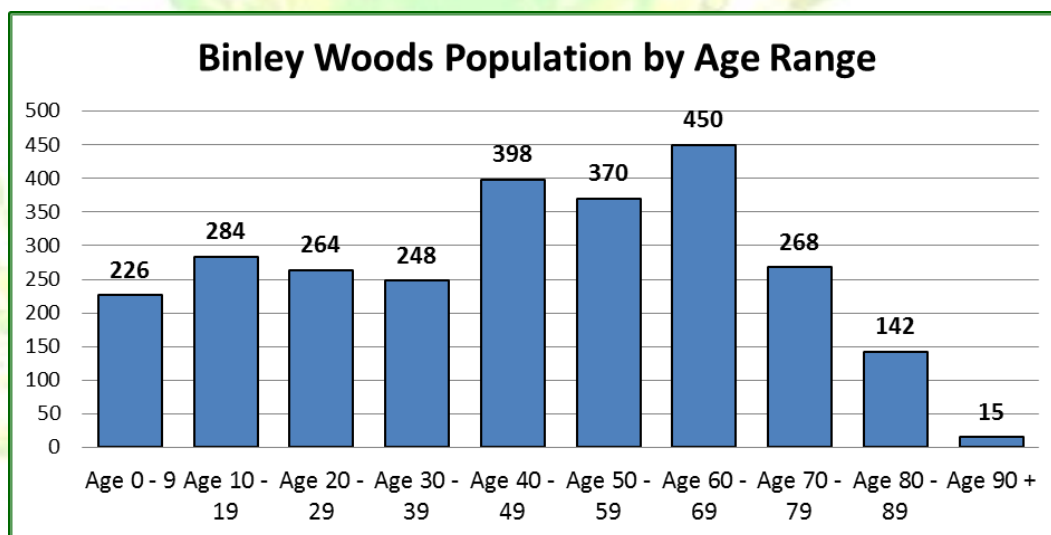
The wider parish of Binley Woods stretches from the B4027/B4428 ‘Brinklow Road’ in the north to the main Coventry-London railway line in the south and incorporates the built up area of the village surrounded by farmland and a number of stretches of mature woodland. Old Lodge Farm, to the north of Rugby Road, is the location of the two oldest buildings in the parish, both of which are Grade II listed: the farmhouse itself and a barn, which both date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



Old Lodge Farmhouse and Barn

### Population

According to the 2011 Census, there are 1,150 residential properties in the village (2001; 1,103) of which 1,115 were occupied at the date of the census. The population of Binley Woods is 2,665 (2001; 2,607), and this is broken down into 10-year age bands as follows:



The following two tables show the ethnic and religious make-up of the village:

Ethnicity		
White: British	2,396	89.9%
White: Irish	32	1.2%
White: Other	36	1.4%
Mixed race	24	0.9%
Asian: Indian	109	4.1%
Asian: Other	35	1.3%
Black/African/Caribbean	27	1.0%
Other ethnic group	6	0.2%

Religion		
Christian	1,908	71.6%
Buddhist	6	0.2%
Hindu	42	1.6%
Muslim (Islam)	7	0.3%
Sikh	70	2.6%
Other religion	4	0.1%
No religion	460	17.3%
Not stated	168	6.3%

Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.

## Local Democracy

Binley Woods is part of the Rugby parliamentary constituency and our elected representative at Westminster is Mark Pawsey (Conservative Party).

Binley Woods is in the County of Warwickshire and is part of the Earl Craven county division that includes the neighbouring villages of Brandon, Brinklow, Church Lawford, Little Lawford, Ryton on Dunsmore and Wolston. The ward is represented by one County Councillor: Heather Timms.

The village is in Rugby Borough and is part of the Revel and Binley Woods ward. Geographically, this is a large ward which stretches from the A5 in the north-east to Binley Woods in the south-west and includes the villages of Ansty, Brinklow, Easenhall, Harborough Magna, Monks Kirby, Pailton, Stretton Under Fosse, Wibtoft, Willey and Withybrook. The ward is served by three Borough Councillors: Belinda Garcia, Tony Gillias and Heather Timms.

Binley Woods Parish Council comprises a complement of 10 parish councillors who are elected every four years. Due to the low number of residents putting themselves forward for the Parish Council, the last contested election was 30 years ago in 1983; in each successive election there were insufficient candidates to require a popular vote and parish councillors were elected unopposed. The current members of the Parish Council are: Paul Salisbury (Chairman), Liz Johnson (Vice Chairman), Norman Brinton, Peter Claisse, Pat Docker, Linda Harbour, Paul Howells, Dave Jones, Steve Roberts and Ken Short.

## Shops & Amenities

Binley Woods is well served by a variety of shops and retail businesses. A parade of shops at the southern end of Woodlands Road comprises a newsagent, hairdresser, Chinese takeaway, butcher, dry cleaner, chemist and a general store / off-licence. Scattered along Rugby Road, from west to east, are an antiques centre, Broadstreet Rugby Club, a car wash and car repairers, a dentist, the Roseycombe public house, a hairdresser, an electrical engineer and another general store. On the south-bound carriageway of the A46 is a filling station and take-away food outlet.

On the western (Coventry) side of the A46, the B&Q and Morrisons superstores, TGI Friday restaurant and the Cocked Hat public house are all within walking distance of the village, as is the newly opened Warwickshire Shopping Park which includes Asda, Boots, Marks & Spencer and Outfit.

## Binley Woods Primary School

Binley Woods Primary School is a single form entry County Primary School of 210 pupils aged between four and eleven. The school includes Woodlands Pre-school which operates as part of the school within the Early Years Foundation Unit.

The school is an open plan single level building with well-equipped indoor and outdoor learning environments. There is a library and computer suite, an art and design room, a music room and large multi-purpose hall. Interactive whiteboards and computer clusters are available to all children. Years 5 and 6 use tablet computers as well as having access to their own personal learning spaces on learning platforms via the Warwickshire portal.

The most recent Ofsted report in February 2011 judged Binley Woods Primary School to be 'good'.

## Binley Woods Community Youth Club

Binley Woods Community Youth Club is based in 'the hut' within the school grounds and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for those aged 11 to 18.

The club hosts a number of activities such as pool, table tennis, table football and arts and crafts, and enables young people to access the internet via computers. The Youth Club organises workshops on topics which are of concern to young people such as drugs, alcohol and relationships and also arranges outdoor activities throughout the year including canoeing, football and abseiling.



The Roseycombe

## Binley Woods Village Hall

Binley Woods Village Hall lies on the south side of Rugby Road on land that was originally the site of a village air-raid shelter. The present hall was built in 1957 and significantly extended in 1994 following a donation of £30,000 from the Morrisons supermarket chain.

The Hall is the home of the Church in Binley Woods and the Binley Woods Board Walkers. It also hosts a number of community groups, including the WI, the Neighbourhood Project and Community Drop-ins.

There are a number of regular weekly events which take place in the Village Hall including short mat bowls, martial arts classes, keep fit and exercise classes, line dancing, dance classes and a stay and play group. The venue is also available for private parties and other functions and has its own Facebook page where residents can keep up to date with news and forthcoming events.



Binley Woods Village Hall

## The Church in Binley Woods

The Church in Binley Woods is an Anglican / Baptist Local Ecumenical Partnership. The village of Binley Woods is within the larger Church of England Parish of Binley on the East of Coventry.

The Church meets on Sundays in the Village Hall (as it has done since it was built over 50 years ago) and during the week in people's homes for fellowship, Bible study and prayer. Other regular Church meetings in the Hall include:

- **FRIDAY TG** - a 50 minute cafe church
- **Open Door** - lunchtime meetings on Tuesdays with food served
- **Prospects** - a monthly group for adults with learning disabilities
- **6:58 Church Youth Club** - meets fortnightly on Friday evenings at the Village Youth Club site.

## Binley Woods Board Walkers

Binley Woods Board Walkers is a self-funded amateur dramatics group performing shows for the benefit and enjoyment of the local community. The group started as an offshoot of the local WI in 1993, but is no longer confined to women and offers anyone over the age of 14 the opportunity to act and sing in their shows.

Historically, the Board Walkers produced a varied range of shows in the village, but now concentrate upon their annual family pantomime which takes place each year in January and February in the Village Hall.

## Women's Institute

The Women's institute (WI) meets in the Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month, starting at 8.00pm, and has a variety of guest speakers, competitions, crafts, strawberry teas, fashion shows, treasure hunts and lots more.

## Neighbourhood Project

Coffee Mornings are held in the Village Hall from 10.15am to 11.15am on most last Mondays in the month. The aim of the Project is to support and encourage good neighbourliness and membership is free to all residents. It is a place to meet people and to find out what else is happening in the village. The Project also organises day coach trips and social events.

## Mobile Library

The mobile library van visits the village on Wednesday afternoons, stopping in the Village Hall car park between 2.00pm and 3.25pm and near the shops in Woodlands Road between 3.30pm and 5.00pm. The mobile library carries a range of books and also provides internet access.

## Allotments

The village allotments comprise 40 plots and are situated at the southern end of Woodlands Road. They are managed by the Allotments Association and there is usually a waiting list for plots. The 'shed' opens on Sunday mornings for the sale of fertiliser and other garden products.

## Recreational Areas

The larger recreational area in the village is the Recreation Ground, which is situated on the south side of Craven Avenue. Facilities include a football pitch and children's play equipment. In the Back Field there is a basketball net, graffiti wall and skateboard park. The village football team, Woods United, are based at the Recreation Ground.

The Recreation Ground pavilion has changing facilities, showers, toilets and a kitchen and also plays host to a playgroup on weekday mornings.

The smaller recreational area is the Village Green, which is situated on part of the old First School site to the north of Craven Avenue, and includes a fenced play area with a selection of equipment aimed at the under 12s. The Village Green also includes the War Memorial, which commemorates those servicemen from Binley Woods who lost their lives in the Second World War.

## Woodland

The village is surrounded by several stretches of beautiful woodland, including:

- **Brandon Wood** – a much loved 178 acres of mixed woodland and a designated community wood. It lies to the south of the village and is owned by the Friends of Brandon Wood and managed by Trustees. There are entrances to the wood from the Back Field and at the corner of Craven Avenue / Ferndale Road.
- **Brandon Little Wood** – a smaller wood to the east of Brandon Wood and is accessed by a footpath from Brandon Wood which runs along the north side of a farmer's field.
- **Piles Coppice** – a larger wood that lies to the west of Brandon Wood is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. Piles Coppice can be accessed from Brandon Wood and from the A46 just north of the filling station.
- **Binley Common** – this wood lies to the south of Rugby Road opposite the entrance to Broad Street Rugby Club. This small stretch of woodland is the only remnant of the much larger wood that once occupied what is now the built-up area of Binley Woods.
- **New Close Wood** – this lies to the north of the west end of Rugby Road and is traversed by the One O'clock and Twelve O'clock rides which lead to Coombe Abbey.

## Public Transport

The village is served by the No 86 Stagecoach bus, which runs between Coventry and Rugby. This is a half-hourly service, which runs along Rugby Road to both Coventry (via the Binley Road) and Rugby (via Brandon, Wolston, Church Lawford and Long Lawford). Bus stops are situated at regular intervals along both the north and south sides of Rugby Road.

A 'Flexibus' service operates on Friday mornings for eligible residents. The service picks up passengers by arrangement on a number of roads throughout the village and takes them to do shopping at either Morrisons in Binley, Coventry or Tesco in Walsgrave, Coventry and then returns them home.

## Keeping Up-to-date

The village has its own community website, [binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com](http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com), and Facebook page. For those preferring more traditional ways of keeping up to date with what's happening, noticeboards are situated outside the Village Hall on Rugby Road, adjacent to the former library on the corner of Birchwood Road / Monks Road and near the gate to the Village Green on Craven Avenue.



Village Green play equipment

## 6. Survey Findings

This section summarises the results of the Parish Plan surveys. For fuller information, please see our website: [binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com](http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com).

### 6.1 Introduction

#### Main Survey

We delivered 1,140 survey questionnaires to residents and businesses across the village. We subsequently received 459 completed questionnaire responses, which represents 40.26% of households and businesses in the village. The main survey results are given in Section 6.2 through Section 6.9 below.

#### Housing Needs Survey

The Housing Needs Survey was conducted on our behalf by Midlands Rural Housing. The results are summarised in Section 6.10.

#### Young People's Surveys

We conducted three surveys among the young people of the village:

- **Youth Survey** covering ages 11-18. We received 22 responses.
- **KS2 Questionnaire** covering Years 3-6. We received 72 responses.
- **Foundation Stage / KS1 Questionnaire** for those up to and including Year 2. We received 25 responses.

The young people's survey results are given in Section 6.11.

### 6.2 Demographics

#### Age & Gender

The majority of survey respondents were aged over 40, with 379 respondents (36%) aged 65 and over and 362 respondents (35%) in the 41-64 age range. 51% of respondents were male, and 49% female.

As the graph above shows, there is a good correlation between the age ranges of the residents who responded to the survey and the overall population data from the 2011 census.

#### Living in Binley Woods

Analysing the length of time survey respondents had lived in the village yielded the following results:

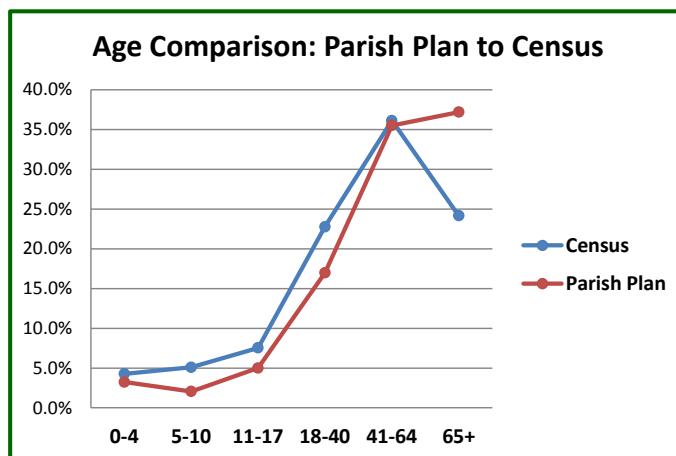
- < 10 years 77 (18%)
- 10-20 years 61 (14%)
- 20-30 years 83 (19%)
- 30-40 years 83 (19%)
- 40-50 years 102 (24%)
- > 50 years 26 (6%)

The average length of time respondents had lived in the village was 28.8 years. One respondent had lived in the village for 83 years, another for 82 years and a third for 81 years; all three were born in the village. In total, just 9% of respondents had been born in the village.

#### Motor Vehicles

42% of respondent's households had one vehicle, 36% had two vehicles and 12% had three vehicles. This left 7% having no vehicle and only 3% having four vehicles or more. The highest number of vehicles was six, reported by just one respondent. The average number of vehicles per respondent's household was 1.6.

The majority (61%) of those vehicles were parked on the drive, with a further 23% parked in a garage. Only 8% were parked on the road.



With the exception of the over 65s, there is a good correlation between the ages of the Parish Plan survey respondents and the data from the 2011 census

## 6.3 Traffic, Parking and Speeding

### A46/A428 Roundabout

At the time of conducting the survey, the installation of traffic lights at the A46/A428 'TGI Friday' roundabout had not long been completed. As drivers, 90% of respondents thought the changes had made the roundabout 'much better' or 'slightly better'. As pedestrians the picture was not so clear cut with 58% of respondents thinking the situation was 'much better' or 'slightly better' and 38% thinking there was 'no change'.

A number of respondents were concerned that further changes to the roundabout as part of the proposed Coventry & Warwickshire Gateway development might have a detrimental effect on traffic flow; others that increased traffic from the Warwickshire Shopping Park just over the A46 might cause problems.

At the third Parish Plan Open Day in May 2013, a number of residents expressed concerns about the current layout of the roundabout. Many commented that it was dangerous when travelling north on the A46 from the Tollbar island and turning right into Binley Woods due to queuing traffic on the island; as one resident put it *"It's an accident waiting to happen."* Residents' concerns from the Open Day were forwarded to the Highways Agency, who responded stating they will be considered.

### Parking

When we held the initial Open Day in the spring of 2012, five parking 'hot spots' were identified:

- a) Corner of Ferndale Road / Craven Avenue
- b) Craven Avenue near the recreation ground
- c) Near the shops in Woodlands Road
- d) Near the school in Coombe Drive
- e) In the vicinity of Elm Close and the corner of Monks Road / Oakdale Road

The response to the survey, which was conducted on a village-wide basis, did not show a majority in favour of introducing parking restrictions or additional car parking at any of the identified parking hot-spots, or indeed at any other locations around the village. However, a number of residents living near some of the hot-spots were concerned about their local parking problems and asked that they be addressed.

When it came to the police issuing parking tickets for vehicles parked on pavements and verges, or near corners and road junctions, the majority view was that tickets should not be issued as a matter of course, but should be issued if the vehicle causes an obstruction.

### Speeding

Rugby Road was the only road in the village where the majority of survey respondents thought speeding was a problem. However, there was a majority against introducing any form of traffic calming measures on Rugby Road, or on any other roads in the village.

There was broad support for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on all roads in the village, with the exception of Rugby Road. The first step would be to conduct a traffic speed survey in the village.

When asked about the police carrying out more speed checks in the village, the majority of respondents were against this. However, 30 respondents stated they would be prepared to be trained in the use of a speed camera and to operate the camera on a rota basis in the village.



A46/A428 'TGI Friday' roundabout

## 6.4 Services in Binley Woods

### Mobile Phones

Orange / T-Mobile (Everything Everywhere) was the most popular network in the village with 207 subscribers from our survey. This was closely followed by Vodafone (193) and O2 (175). '3' came a distant fourth with just 25 subscribers.

In terms of signal strength there was one clear winner with 58% of Vodafone customers reporting a strong signal in the village. This compares to just 11% of O2 customers and 7% of Orange / T-Mobile customers. Not a single '3' customer reported a strong signal.

The results of the survey were forwarded to all four mobile network operators and they were asked if they had any plans to upgrade their service. Sadly, not one of the network operators replied to our letters.



The Flexibus service

### Broadband & Cable Television

Nearly three-quarters of respondents' properties in Binley Woods have broadband, which was dominated by three main suppliers: BT with 42% of properties, TalkTalk (26%) and Sky (17%).

The range of download speeds reported by respondents was 0.50 Mbps to 8.00 Mbps; the higher speeds were achieved using 3G mobile broadband services rather than via the landline telephone network. The average download speed was 2.70 Mbps. The majority of respondents considered their current broadband speed not adequate for their needs.

We wrote to BT asking if there were plans to upgrade the existing network in Binley Woods. After a series of confusing telephone conversations with BT Retail and BT Openreach (who are responsible for the network), the conclusion was that there are no plans to upgrade the service in the foreseeable future.

If it was made available in the village, 70% of respondents stated they would 'definitely' or 'maybe' subscribe to fibre-optic broadband, with 49% stating they would 'definitely' or 'maybe' subscribe to cable TV. We wrote to Virgin Media asking if they would consider installing cable in the village. They sent a detailed reply stating it would cost some £490,000 and, unfortunately, this was not economically viable.

We also forwarded the results of our survey to the Warwickshire Superfast Broadband Project. Hopefully, this project will lead to better broadband provision in the village in the not too distant future.

### Medical Services

There was strong support for medical services to be made available in the village, with over 80% of respondents stating they would 'definitely' or 'maybe' use a GP, an NHS Dentist and Basic Nursing Services. These were closely followed by an Optician (77%) and a Chiropodist (69%).

The Parish Council contacted the three GP practices which have patients in the village, but none were prepared to open a surgery in the village. However, we received an encouraging response from Binley Woods Dentistry who stated they are prepared to consider offering NHS dental services in the village.

### Buses & Bus Shelters

Bus usage in the village is low. Only a relatively few respondents suggested improvements which would entice them to make more use of the service, with the most popular being extended operating times in the evenings and/or at weekends, cheaper fares and a wider range of routes and destinations. Several respondents asked for the existing bus service to be extended further into the village. Others asked for some form of bus service to enable them to get around the village, for example to get to events at the Village Hall. However, since the survey, the bus service terminating in Binley Woods has been withdrawn except at rush hour.

There was a slight majority of respondents in favour of bus shelters being installed in the village, although some respondents commented bus shelters might attract vandalism and antisocial behaviour. Others were concerned about bus shelters blocking residents' or drivers' views.

## Library Service

Very few respondents used the mobile library on a regular basis; just 16 used it most weeks with a further 23 using it once a month. The most common reason given for not using the mobile library was that the timings were not suitable, with several respondents requesting that the service be made available outside of normal working hours.

We forwarded the survey results to the WCC Library Service, which is currently undertaking a review of the Mobile Library service across the county. They committed to take those results into account during their consultation.

Respondents were keen to see a community library established in the village, assuming suitable accommodation could be found. 73 respondents stated they would use the facility on a weekly basis, with a further 63 using it monthly and 116 occasionally. Whilst the Parish Council is committed to pursuing options for establishing a community library in the village, the costs to establish and operate such a facility could prove prohibitive.

## Village Shops

The top five shops and similar establishments used at least once a week by the survey respondents were:

- The One Stop (265 respondents)
- The Post Office (213)
- K&P Newsagents (189)
- Binley Woods Convenience Store (127)
- The Roseycombe (94)

The top five shops used at least once a month were:

- The Post Office (310 respondents)
- The One Stop (302)
- K&P Newsagents (215)
- Dhaliwal Chemist (205)
- Binley Woods Convenience Store (152)

There was little appetite for additional shops in the village, with a bakery (20 respondents), a greengrocer (17) and a fish & chip shop (11) the most popular answers.

The survey results were forwarded to all the shops and businesses included in the survey for them to take action as appropriate.



Woodlands Road shops



## 6.5 Facilities in Binley Woods

### Sports Activities & Play Equipment

The survey showed that the play equipment on both the Recreation Ground and the Village Green were well used, but many respondents considered the equipment to be showing its age and in need of refurbishment and enhancement. It was suggested that the play equipment should be extended to cover a greater range of ages.

Some respondents commented the play surface on the Recreation Ground was in need of refurbishment. Others asked if the play area could be fenced off to protect the children from dogs and to prevent dog litter on the play surface. When it came to new recreational facilities, the only suggestion that achieved a double-figure response was a tennis court, which was put forward by 22 respondents.



Binley Woods Allotments

### Former Library Building

91% of respondents stated the former library building should be kept as a community facility for local people to use and 90% thought the Parish Council should purchase the building on behalf of the community. Some respondents, however, questioned whether having the library building as a community facility would be detrimental to the Village Hall. Top of the list of possible community uses was medical services, followed by adult education, senior citizens' activities, youth activities and a community run library.

The library building was put up for sale by Warwickshire County Council in the autumn of 2012. In line with residents' wishes, the Parish Council submitted a bid for the property but the bid was not successful. The Parish Council was notified in February 2013 that the building would be sold for use as a day nursery, but that it would be made available for community use in the evenings and at weekends.

In April 2013, the Parish Council was informed that the sale to the day nursery had fallen through and the former library building was being put back on the market. Once again, the Parish Council submitted a bid but was informed in August that it was unsuccessful.

### Village Hall

The results of the survey showed the Village Hall was both popular with residents and well used. In terms of suggested improvements, a better car park and parking facilities came top of the list, closely followed by more information about what's happening in the Hall, better seating, a modern heating system and a 'face-lift'. Some respondents wanted to see additional activities at the Village Hall, with adult education classes, more social-type events and more keep-fit / exercise classes topping the list. The results were forwarded to the Village Hall Management Committee in order that they could be taken into account in determining their forward programme.

### Youth Club

Youth club usage by children of survey respondents was low with just one attending regularly and a further 12 attending occasionally. However, the results from survey respondents with children under Youth Club age were more encouraging with 18 saying they would 'definitely' attend in the future and 30 saying they would 'possibly' attend.

### Garden of Remembrance

The water table in the village is too high for the authorities to grant permission for a burial ground. However, it would be possible to have a garden of remembrance and 69% of survey respondents were in favour of this option, provided a suitable, affordable site could be found.

### Allotments

28 respondents stated they had an allotment in the village and a further 19 stated they would like one in the future. In terms of improvements, eight allotment-holders requested better security fencing (especially next to the woods) and five requested a toilet (primarily for the female allotment-holders).

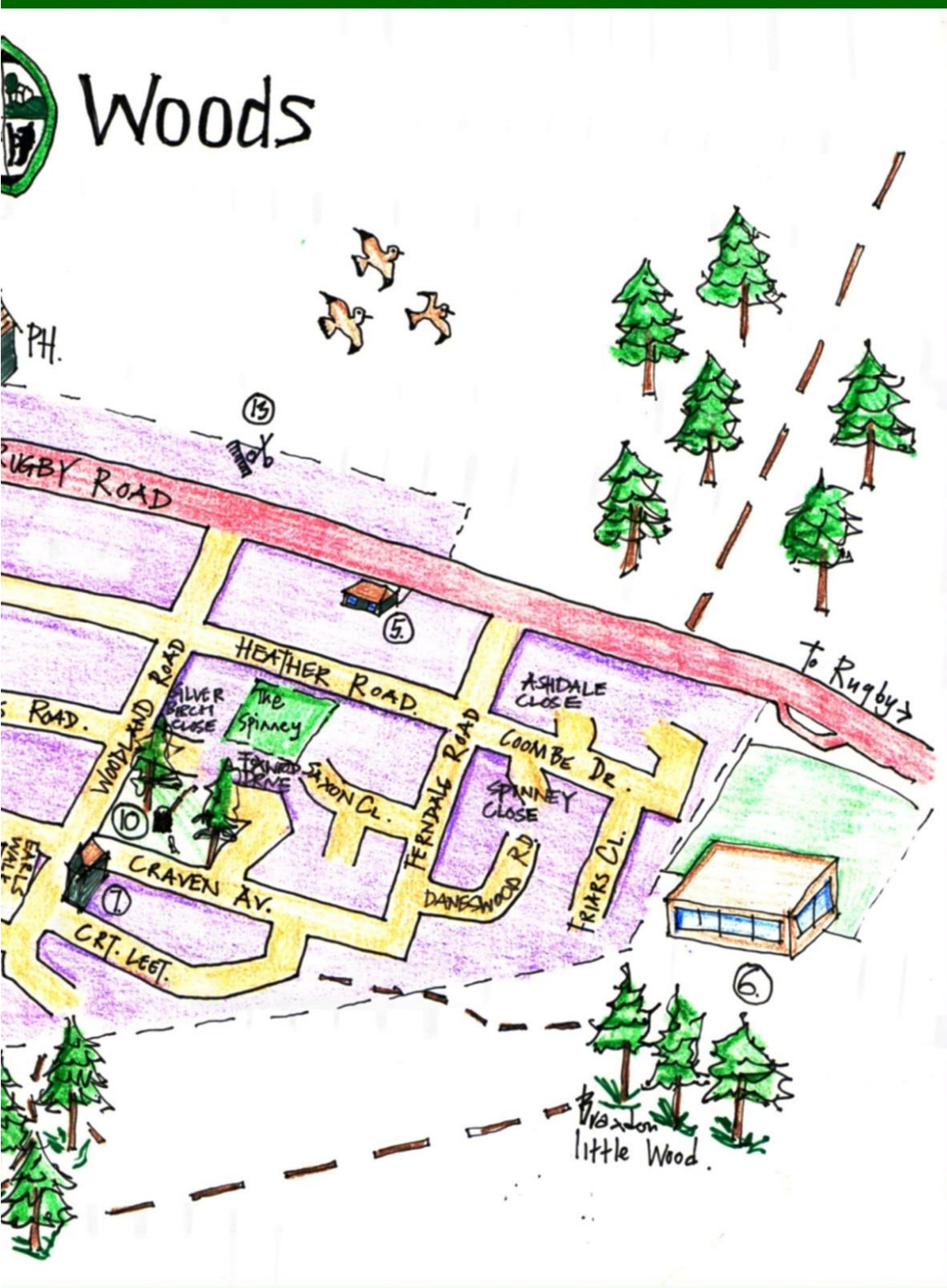


# Binley

**KEY:**

1. Rugby Club.
2. Post Office.
3. Village Hall.
4. Roseycombe Pub.
5. General Store.
6. Primary School.
7. Village Shops.
8. Boullion /skate Park /Recreation ground.
9. Allotments.
10. War Memorial /village Green.
11. Antiques Centre.
12. Dentist.
13. Hairdresser.





## 6.6 The Environment

### Woods & Green Spaces

All of the woods and green spaces in and around the village were well used and well regarded by the survey respondents. Brandon Wood proved to be most popular, with 55% of respondents visiting it on a regular basis.

In terms of improvements, the most popular suggestions were less dog mess and better control of dogs. The survey results relating to specific questions about the control of dogs and dog litter are covered on the next page.



Brandon Wood

### Pavements & Highway Verges

There was a mixed picture from the survey responses concerning problems with pavements in the village:

- Although 41% of respondents stated there were parts of the village where uneven pavements caused problems, there was little consensus on where the main problem areas were, with 31 answering 'all over the village'. The most frequently specified locations were Craven Avenue, Ferndale Road, Monks Road and Rugby Road.
- 20% of respondents stated that there were areas where pavement slopes are too steep, but again there was little agreement on the actual problem areas, with Monks Road and the bus stop outside the Village Hall topping the list.
- Just 46 respondents thought there were areas of the village without sufficient dropped kerbs, although agreeing the precise locations of those problem areas proved difficult, with Monks Road (4 respondents) and the corner of Heather Road and Birchwood Road (3 respondents) being the most popular answers.
- 23% of respondents stated there were parts of the village where overgrown hedges obstruct pavements. The most frequently specified locations were Birchwood Road, Daneswood Road and Heather Road (each identified by 12 respondents) followed by Craven Avenue (7 respondents).

There was, however, much more consensus from the survey respondents when it came to keeping our highway verges and property frontages clean and tidy:

- 95% answered that residents should be encouraged to maintain the frontages of their properties, including trimming back hedges.
- 91% answered that the Highway Authority should oblige residents to trim back hedges and trees overhanging highway verges or pavements, especially when they obscure visibility for motorists and/or cause an obstruction to pedestrians.
- 71% answered that the Highway Authority should enforce the rules preventing residents from incorporating highway verges into their properties by erecting fences or planting hedges.

### Trees

90% of respondents were supportive of the Parish Council continuing to plant trees around the village. However, some requested trees should not be planted too near people's properties and others were concerned that planting trees on grass verges would obstruct motorists' views or interfere with underground services.

65% of respondents stated they would be prepared to 'adopt' a tree and look after it (eg water it in dry spells) if it was planted adjacent to their property.

### Street Lighting

The majority of respondents thought the village was well lit and there were no problem areas requiring additional street lights.

When asked about turning off street lighting in the middle of the night on all roads in the village, except Rugby Road which is managed by the County Council, only 15% of respondents supported turning off all the lights. The majority (56%) favoured turning off half the lights in each street.

## Dogs & Dog Litter

The survey asked some specific questions concerning the control of dogs and dog fouling:

- Should dog warden patrols be increased to encourage dog owners to pick up after their pets? 79% of respondents said 'Yes'.
- Should dog owners who do not pick up after their pets be prosecuted? 94% said 'Yes'.
- Should dogs be kept on leads in the Recreation Ground and Back Field? 75% said 'Yes'.
- Should there be more dog litter bins in the village? 63% said 'Yes'. Many respondents thought there should be dog litter bins 'on every road junction' or 'all over the village'. Rugby Road was the most common specific location, identified by 32 respondents.



Litter bin and bench on Rugby Road

Since the questionnaire results were published in the Interim Report in March 2013, the Friends of Brandon Wood have instigated a series of regular patrols by the Rugby Borough Council Dog Warden who has the power to issue a fixed penalty notice for £80 to any dog walkers not picking up after their pets. The Dog Warden patrols have also been extended to cover the Recreation Ground and Back Field.

## Litter

Respondents were more or less equally divided on the question of whether there should be more litter bins in the village, with 49% in favour and 51% against. In terms of locations, the most popular specific sites were 'by the shops' and 'at bus stops'. Many respondents were concerned that existing litter bins and dog litter bins were not emptied often enough.

A number of respondents commented that litter was a significant problem in the village and they would like to see this addressed.

## Benches

Just under half of survey respondents wanted more benches around the village. The most popular locations for new benches were on the Recreation Ground, 'at bus stops', on Rugby Road and by the Skateboard Park.

## Refuse Collection / Recycling

92% of respondents were satisfied with the current refuse collection / recycling arrangements in the village, with many commenting that it was a 'good' or an 'excellent' service. When it came to possible improvements, a return to weekly collections topped the list with 25 respondents wanting weekly collections for all bins, seven wanting weekly collections for the blue bin, and three wanting weekly collections for the green bin.

## Water Pressure

A quarter of respondents stated they experienced problems with the water pressure at their properties. It was clear from the survey responses that roads in the south-east corner of the village had the highest percentage of water pressure problems, and therefore a local solution to this problem may need to be identified.

## 6.7 Village Life

### Personal Safety

65% of respondents stated they felt safe in the village and a further 34% of respondents stated they felt safe 'most of the time'. Just three respondents stated they did not feel safe in Binley Woods.

In the last 18 months, there has been a push to establish a village-wide Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Binley Woods and membership continues to grow. There is no cost involved in joining Neighbourhood Watch; in fact many insurance companies offer discounts for members of bona fide schemes such as we already have in the village.

Members are not inundated with emails or phone calls, but receive community alerts from the police or council relating to incidents or security information in our area.

Residents interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, should contact the local police Safer Neighbourhoods Team on 01788 853851.

### Childcare & Pre-school

When asked about facilities for children below school age in the village, a majority of respondents stated that, in their view, there were adequate facilities in respect of childcare, playgroups, parent & toddler groups and pre-school / nurseries.

### Binley Woods Primary School

12% of respondents stated their children currently attend the village school and a further 69% stated their children had previously attended. 54 respondents suggested improvements to the school, the most common suggestions being to resolve the parking problems and to make the school buildings and facilities available for community use.

### Adult Education

There was support for adult education classes in the village with 24% of respondents stating they would 'definitely' attend and 54% stating they would 'possibly' attend. The most requested subjects were:

- Computing / IT (116 respondents)
- Foreign languages (81 respondents)
- Cookery / baking (28 respondents)
- Art / painting (27 respondents)
- Arts & crafts (27 respondents)
- Family history (18 respondents)
- Local history (17 respondents)

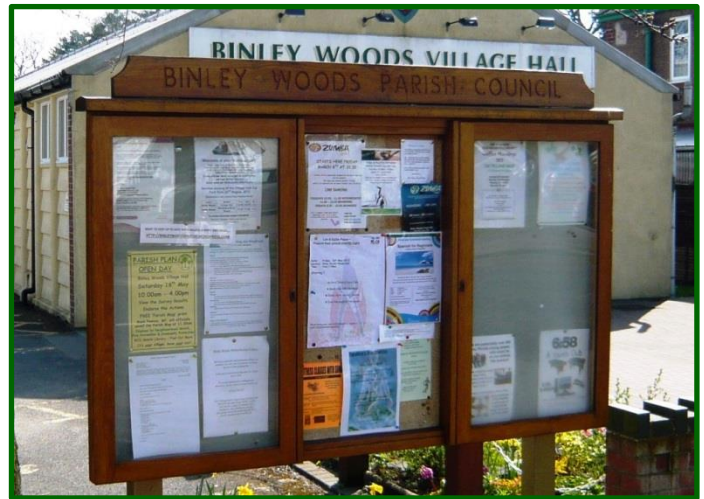
Based upon the Parish Plan survey results, the Village Hall Management Committee arranged for a number of adult education classes to be held in the hall, although these met with mixed success.

### Village Noticeboards

The three noticeboards in the village proved to be popular, with 38% of respondents reading them regularly and a further 50% occasionally. The most read noticeboard was the one outside the Village Hall, which was read by 51% of respondents.

### Village Newsletter

89% of survey respondents wished to receive a monthly Binley Woods newsletter giving details of what's happening and what's available in the village. 84 respondents stated they would be prepared to help deliver a newsletter and 46 of those put their names forward by completing a 'volunteer sheet'.



The well-used noticeboard outside the Village Hall

## Village Website & Facebook Page

Only 13 respondents visited the website regularly, with a further 116 respondents visiting it occasionally. When asked why they did not visit the website, 65% stated they did not know about it prior to the survey.

The response was similar for the Facebook page, with just 16 respondents who 'like' the page and a further 25 respondents visiting it occasionally. Since the survey questionnaires were issued, interest in the Facebook page has grown and it is now 'liked' by 140 residents. A Facebook page has also recently been created for the Village Hall.

## Community Drop-in

Community drop-ins provide an opportunity for residents to meet with representatives of the local police and the Parish Council in order to discuss issues and concerns in an informal setting. 60 respondents stated they had paid a visit to a community drop-in. Of those who had attended, 47 respondents said that they found it useful and seven that they did not.

The only improvement suggested by more than one respondent was to make the drop-ins available outside normal working hours. This subsequently happened, with alternate community drop-ins taking place in the evening.

## Our Postcode

We asked three questions concerning our postcode:

- Is a CV3 postcode a major disadvantage to residents of Binley Woods? 58% of respondents answered 'Yes'.
- Would you like to see our postcode changed to CV8 to align us with neighbouring villages? 69% of respondents answered 'Yes'.
- Would you support a campaign to change our postcode? 68% of respondents answered 'Yes'.

A number of respondents commented that we should have a 'Warwickshire', not a 'Coventry', postcode. Others thought changing our postcode to be an unnecessary and expensive exercise.

Changing the postcode received the most comments from residents at the Public Endorsement Day on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013, with 11 residents in favour and just three against. As one resident commented "*Changing our postcode would help us retain our identity and not be subsumed into Coventry*".



Binley Woods Post Office

## 6.8 Future Development

### Strategic Development

Three strategic options concerning future development of the village were put forward:

- a) Expansion of the built-up area to accommodate a significant housing development. Only 3% of survey respondents favoured this option.
- b) Limited Expansion of the built-up area to only accommodate demand from within Binley Woods arising from the 2012 Housing Needs Survey. 47% of respondents were in favour of this option.
- c) No Expansion of the village's built up area. The remaining 50% favoured this option.



Recent housing development in Foxwood Drive

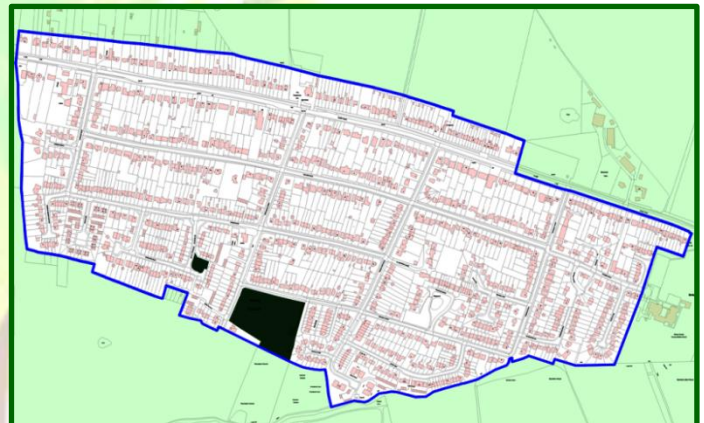
When asked where expansion or limited expansion should take place, the most favoured location (suggested by 48 respondents) was the former Oakdale Nurseries site on Rugby Road. Unfortunately, this site is not in Binley Woods, but in Brandon. Three other possible sites were put forward by 10 or more respondents:

- The former Pope's Garage site on Rugby Road
- Rugby Road opposite Ferndale Road
- North side of Rugby Road (which would include the area opposite Ferndale Road)

### Green Belt

There was strong support (97% of respondents) for the continued protection of the Green Belt surrounding the village. Many respondents felt strongly that the 'green gap' between Binley Woods and Coventry should be preserved.

Protecting the Green Belt was further endorsed by residents at the third Open Day in May 2013. Many commented there should be no more expansion of the village through development outside of the current 'settlement boundary' (shown on the map opposite).



Binley Woods settlement boundary

### Managing Detailed Changes within the Village

There are a number of day-to-day issues that regularly crop up in planning applications, and respondents were asked to give their preferred choice regarding planning consent.

Two types of change were identified as 'maybe' supportable, depending upon circumstances:

- a) Conversions from bungalows to two-storey properties
- b) Large extensions to houses

A majority of respondents felt each of the remaining types of change should be opposed:

- c) New housing significantly closer together than adjacent properties
- d) Back garden housing developments
- e) Gated communities
- f) Tree loss to accommodate housing developments
- g) New commercial development, either through change of use or new building

The above responses have been taken into account in the preparation of the Binley Woods Village Design Statement.



## 6.9 And Finally...

### Descriptions of Binley Woods

We received a varied set of descriptions of the village, the most common ones being:

Friendly (115)	Rural (31)
Quiet (63)	Safe (28)
Pleasant (63)	Small (20)
Good (61)	Large (17)
Nice (54)	Peaceful (16)
Lovely (33)	Green (14)



The entrance to the One O'clock Ride

### Most Wanted Improvements

There was a large variety of suggestions put forward for the most wanted improvements to the village. The most popular ones were:

- A doctor's surgery (25 respondents)
- A health centre (13 respondents)
- More police (13 respondents)
- Improved parking (8 respondents)
- Less dog mess (8 respondents)
- Better broadband (7 respondents)

### Most Important Feature

One feature dominated the survey responses as being the most important in the village: 'the woods'. Several stretches of woodland, for example Brandon Wood, Piles Coppice and New Close Wood, were also individually named by respondents.

The 'top ten' most important features were:

- The woods (398 respondents)
- Walks and paths (90 respondents)
- 'All of it' (81 respondents)
- Village Hall (59 respondents)
- Views (56 respondents)
- Green spaces (55 respondents)
- Trees (52 respondents)
- Shops (45 respondents)
- Binley Woods Primary School (44 respondents)
- The Green Belt (42 respondents)

## 6.10 Binley Woods Housing Needs Survey

The purpose of the survey was to establish the exact need for affordable housing and sheltered accommodation from residents of, or with a connection to, the village. The survey was conducted by Midlands Rural Housing in February through April 2011.

A total of 1,122 survey forms were distributed to occupied properties in the village and 427 were returned, giving a response rate of 38%. Midlands Rural Housing commented that this was *“a very good level of response for a survey of this kind”* since *“only those who have a housing need or are interested in a local needs development are likely to respond”*.



Richard Mugglestone from Midlands Rural Housing at the first Parish Plan Open Day

### Survey Findings

The Housing Needs Survey identified a need for 17 properties of a mixed tenure, including open market housing, to meet the housing needs of those with a local connection to Binley Woods over the next five years. The survey split the results into immediate needs (within the next two years) and medium term needs (within two to five years).

Of the 17 respondents who indicated a housing need, 9 have an immediate need:

- 7 were assessed as being in need of affordable housing:
  - 1 x 2 Bed house – social rented home
  - 1 x 2 Bed bungalow – social rented home
  - 1 x 3 Bed house – social rented home
  - 3 x 2 Bed house – shared ownership home
  - 1 x 2 Bed bungalow - shared ownership home
- 2 were assessed as being in need of open market housing
  - 2 x 2 Bed house - open market

There were 8 respondents who were assessed as having a medium term need:

- 1 will require affordable housing
- 2 will require open market housing
- 4 will require retirement housing
- 1 will require sheltered accommodation with support

## 6.11 Young People's Surveys

This section summarises the combined key findings from the three young people's surveys:

- **Youth Questionnaire** covering ages 11-18
- **KS2 Questionnaire** covering Years 3-6
- **Foundation Stage / KS1 Questionnaire** for those up to and including Year 2

### Activities in Binley Woods

The most popular activities in the village amongst the survey respondents were:

- Before / after school activities (26 respondents)
- Football club (20 respondents)
- Fun for Kids (18 respondents)
- Dancing (17 respondents)



Collage showing the key features of the village made by the pupils at Binley Woods Primary School

### Activities outside Binley Woods

63 young people regularly travelled outside the village to attend clubs and activities. The most common activities were dancing and swimming, and the most common destinations were Coventry and Wolston.

### Facilities in Binley Woods

The young people were asked to rate a number of facilities in the village. The following table gives the results in order of popularity:

Facility	Good		OK		Poor		Do Not Use	
Recreation Ground (Big Park)	54	50%	41	38%	5	5%	7	7%
The Woods	51	50%	32	31%	12	12%	8	8%
Play Equipment	49	46%	38	36%	9	9%	10	9%
School Buildings	42	49%	28	33%	5	6%	10	12%
Village Green (Little Park)	41	38%	37	35%	14	13%	15	14%
Village Hall	34	42%	29	35%	5	6%	14	17%
Skateboard Park	29	35%	13	16%	10	12%	31	37%
Library Building	23	29%	13	17%	2	3%	40	51%
Youth Club Building	21	27%	17	22%	4	5%	36	46%
Pavilion	11	14%	15	20%	8	11%	42	55%

Whilst the Recreation Ground came top of the list, a number of young people asked if the play equipment there could be improved and fenced off to keep dogs out. They also asked for the play equipment on the Village Green to be extended so that it was suitable for a larger range of ages. Many of the younger children stated they did not use the skateboard park as it was monopolised by the teenagers and they felt intimidated by them.

Very few young people use the pavilion. It was suggested that it should be made into more of a community facility, for example by opening it up during the school holidays so residents can make use of the seating and the toilets. Others suggested using it as a 'community café' or as a base for community events in the village.

Some of the children falling below the minimum age for the Youth Club asked if the age range could be extended. Others asked if there could be separate sessions for the younger and older members.

When we asked which types of facilities should be made available for future generations to enjoy, the woods came out top of the list with 76 respondents; a result which echoes the adult survey.

## Do You Feel Safe In Binley Woods?

When we asked the young people if they felt safe in Binley Woods, the results were remarkably close to those from the adult survey:

- 'Yes' - 63% of young people (adults 65%)
- 'Most of the time' – 34% of young people (adults 34%)
- 'No' - 3% of young people (adults 1%)

A number of the younger respondents were concerned about bullying and others wished to see more police in the village.

## Community Involvement

Those aged 11-18 were keen to be more involved in making decisions about Binley Woods. Youngsters of all ages would like to see more community events in the village.



A pupil at Binley Woods Primary School comments on the young people's survey results at the school Open Day

## The Environment

We asked the young people a series of questions concerning environmental issues. In general, their answers reflected the opinions of the respondents to the main survey:

- Should there be dog warden patrols to encourage dog owners to pick up after their pets? 85% answered 'Yes'.
- Should dog owners who do not pick up after their pets be fined? 75% answered 'Yes'.
- Dogs are supposed to be kept on leads in the Recreation Ground. Should this rule be enforced? 61% answered 'Yes'.
- Should there be more dog litter bins in the village? 86% answered 'Yes'.
- Should there be more litter bins in the village? 78% answered 'Yes'.

Graffiti, however, was not a key issue for the youngsters:

- Is graffiti a problem for you and your family in the village? 74% answered 'No'.
- Should there be more graffiti walls in the village? 54% answered 'No'.

58% of 11-18 year-olds stated they might be prepared to join a monthly litter pick around the village.

## Traffic & Speeding

Unlike their parents, the young people were concerned about speeding in the village, particularly on Rugby Road, and wanted something to be done to address the problem:

- 64% stated something should be done to slow down the traffic.
- 65% stated the police should carry out more speed checks around the village.

The one measure to combat speeding that all age groups agreed upon was the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on all roads except Rugby Road. 51% of the youngsters were in favour of this, which was lower than the main survey where 71% of respondents were in favour.

The other issue the young people felt most strongly about was crossing the road, primarily Rugby Road, with 72% asking for more pedestrian crossings.

## Describing Binley Woods

A number of young people used the same adjectives to describe the village:

Nice (30)	Fun (8)	Safe (8)	Pretty (5)
Quiet (11)	Peaceful (8)	Calm (7)	Small (5)

## 7. Action Plan

### 7.1 Introduction

The tables on the following pages show the agreed actions resulting from the Parish Plan process. Shading has been used to differentiate the high, medium and low priority actions.

#### Deriving and Agreeing the Actions

A list of potential actions to address residents' concerns was drawn up by the Parish Plan Steering Group based upon residents' views expressed in the Parish Plan survey questionnaires. This initial action list was presented to residents in the Parish Plan Interim Report.



Bluebells in Brandon Wood

The potential actions were subsequently endorsed by residents at the Open Day in May 2013. Some minor changes were made to the actions to reflect residents' views expressed on the day.

The updated list of actions was incorporated into an Action Plan document which was issued to all parties potentially impacted by the actions on the list. Those parties were asked to agree and/or comment on the actions; comments provided are shown in the rightmost column of the tables.

Commenting on the Action Plan as a whole, Warwickshire County Council stated:

*"Whilst the County Council is identified as one of the partners for a number of actions in the Action Plan, lead responsibility for most of the actions is the Parish Council. The County Council will work with the Parish Plan Group, the Parish Council and others to see how actions within the Plan can be taken forward where possible."*

#### Abbreviations and Terminology

<b>Term / Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Lead	The organisation responsible for the action
Partner	Other organisation or individual involved in or impacted by the action
BWPC	Binley Woods Parish Council
RBC	Rugby Borough Council
WCC	Warwickshire County Council

### 7.2 Implementing the Action Plan

The Action Plan presented on the following pages will be taken forward by Binley Woods Parish Council either directly, for those actions where it is shown as the lead party, or through close liaison with the identified third party organisations. The Parish Council might seek the assistance of residents with the implementation of certain actions; appeals for help will be published in the Parish Council newsletter and via the website / Facebook page.

Progress on the actions in the Plan will be reported periodically through Parish Council newsletters and via the website, [binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com](http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com). Formal Parish Plan progress reports will be presented yearly as part of the Annual Parish Assembly.

If and when the Parish Council feels it necessary, the full Parish Plan may be refreshed to ensure that it continues to meet the changing circumstances, needs and wishes of Binley Woods residents.

### 7.3 Traffic, Parking & Speeding

<i>Issue</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>A46/A428 Roundabout</b>	1	Monitor plans for future changes to the A46 / A428 'TGI' island as part of the Coventry & Warwickshire Gateway proposals to ensure views of Binley Woods residents are taken into account.	BWPC	Highways Agency, C&W Gateway, WCC	Medium	On-going	Low	
	2	Monitor the impact on the A46 / A428 'TGI' island of additional traffic from the new Warwickshire Shopping Park and take action as appropriate.	BWPC	Highways Agency, WCC	Medium	On-going	Low	
<b>Parking</b>	3	<p>Conduct detailed house-by-house surveys in the immediate vicinities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the corner of Oakdale Road / Monks Road</li> <li>the corner of Ferndale Road / Craven Avenue</li> <li>the School</li> <li>the Post Office</li> </ul> <p>This is to determine local residents' views on parking problems in those areas and whether any improvements should be made. Consider gathering photographic evidence of specific parking problems as part of the surveys.</p>	BWPC	Residents, Volunteers, WCC	Medium	Short-term	Low	The cost of any actions to implement parking improvements resulting from the surveys has not been considered at this stage
	4	Discuss with the owner of the car parks at either end of the shops in Woodlands Road whether any improvements could be made, for example marking out parking bays or installing appropriate signage.	BWPC	Owner of the shops	Low	Short-term	Low	
	5	Install signs at the entrances to the Recreation Ground asking users to park considerately.	BWPC	-	Medium	Short-term	Low	
	6	Open a dialogue with the residents of Arden Court to see if residents' concerns over parking problems on Court Leet can be addressed.	BWPC	Residents	Medium	Short-term	Low	

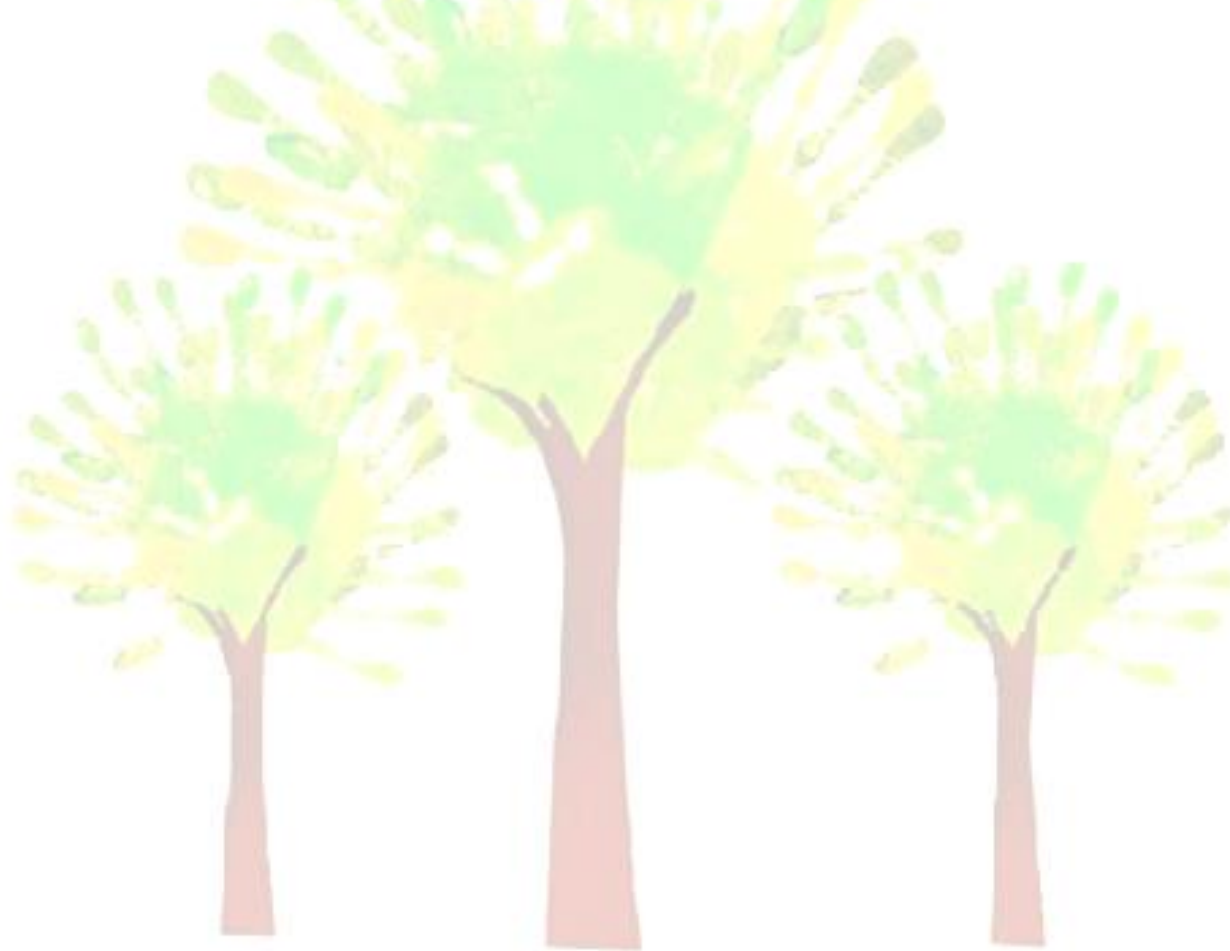
<b>Issue</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Parking (continued)</b>	<b>7</b>	Open a dialogue with the residents of Elm Close to see if residents' concerns over parking problems in the immediate area can be addressed.	BWPC	Residents	Medium	Short-term	Low	
	<b>8</b>	Ask the Police to conduct a series of regular parking patrols over a given period with the aim of ticketing vehicles causing an obstruction or parked dangerously, with particular emphasis on the identified parking hot-spots in the village and problems occurring during the 'school run'.	Police	BWPC, RBC, County Councillor, Borough Councillors	High	Short-term	Low	Warwickshire Police comment "Although parking has been decriminalised, the Police can prosecute when a vehicle causes an obstruction or is parked in a dangerous position."
	<b>9</b>	Monitor parking in the village and, as and when necessary, ask the Police to conduct further parking patrols via the Earl Craven Community Forum.	BWPC	Police, County Councillor, Borough Councillors	Low	On-going	Low	
<b>Speeding</b>	<b>10</b>	Open a dialogue with Warwickshire County Council with the aim of introducing a 20mph speed limit throughout the village (except Rugby Road).	BWPC	WCC, Police	Low	Long-term	High	WCC Highways comment "Before a 20mph speed limit can be considered it will be necessary to undertake a traffic survey to ascertain current vehicle speeds in the village."
	<b>11</b>	Open a dialogue with the Police with the aim of establishing a residents' speed-gun team in the village. Focus the team on monitoring the 20mph speed limit if / when it is introduced.	BWPC	Police, Residents	Medium	Medium-term	Low	Warwickshire Police comment "Progress this action through the local SNT PCSO."
	<b>12</b>	Publish an appeal in the Parish Council newsletter and on the village website for residents who stated in the survey that they would operate a speed gun to come forward. Repeat appeals as necessary.	BWPC	Police, Residents	Medium	Medium-term	Low	

## 7.4 Services in Binley Woods

Issue	#	Action	Lead	Partners	Priority	Timing	Cost	Comments
Medical Services	13	Use the medical services results to identify and support opportunities to introduce appropriate medical services in the village.	BWPC	NHS (Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group), Health & Wellbeing Board, Private Medical Practitioners, WCC	High	On-going	-	Binley Woods Dentistry may be prepared to offer NHS dental services in the village.  Comments from the Coventry & Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CCG has GP representation on the LSP which includes discussions about medical facilities.</li> <li>• The CCG has raised various issues around GPs access with the Local Area Team, who are responsible for commissioning primary care services including GPs, NHS Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians.</li> </ul>
Bus Service	14	Use the bus service survey results to lobby for no further reductions in the village's bus services and, where possible, for services to be increased.	BWPC	Stagecoach, WCC	High	On-going	Low	WCC comment "The comments made by Binley Woods Parish Plan group in the parish plan are noted. The main bus service (service 86) is operated on a commercial basis by Stagecoach and has a much better frequency than most communities of a similar population to Binley Woods."
	15	Investigate the possibility of establishing a 'community minibus' for residents to use. Alternatively, investigate the possibility of introducing a volunteer car scheme.	BWPC	A-line Coaches, Warwickshire CAVA, Residents, WCC	Medium	Medium-term	Low	WCC comment "The County Council currently have no funding available to contribute to a community minibus but would be happy to support such an initiative."

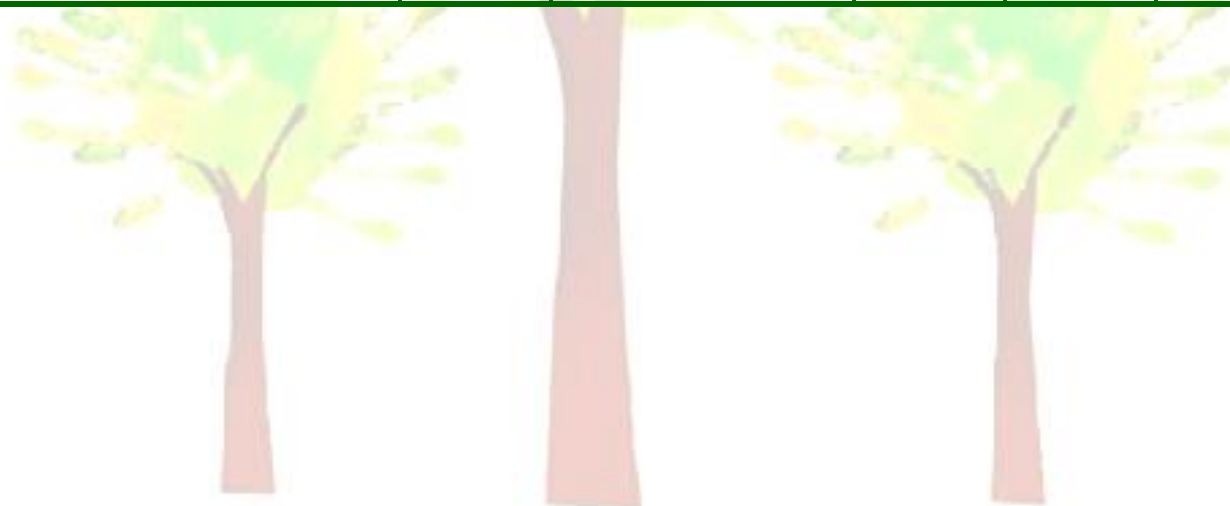


<b>Bus Service (continued)</b>	<b>16</b>	Commence a bus shelter feasibility study to ascertain: a) which bus stops are most frequently used b) at which bus stops it would be practical and desirable to position a bus shelter.	BWPC	Volunteers, Residents, WCC	Medium	Medium-term	Medium	
<b>Community Library</b>	<b>17</b>	Use the community library results to identify and pursue possible opportunities to establish a community library in the village.	BWPC	WCC, Volunteers	High	Short-term	Medium / High	



## 7.5 Facilities in Binley Woods

<i>Issue</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Play Equipment</b>	<b>18</b>	Establish a project to upgrade the play equipment in the Recreation Ground and the Village Green. The scope should include new play equipment for older children, adult exercise equipment, refurbishing the existing play equipment and repairing / renewing the play surface.	BWPC	Residents, Young residents	High	Medium-term	High	Will require grant funding
	<b>19</b>	Fence off the play equipment in the Recreation Ground to provide a safer environment for younger children and to keep dogs out of the play area.	BWPC	-	High	Short-term	High	
<b>Library Building</b>	<b>20</b>	Work with the new owners of the former library building to help realise its potential as a community facility.	BWPC	Library building owner, Community Groups	High	On-going	Low	
<b>Garden of Remembrance</b>	<b>21</b>	Given the endorsement by residents, try to identify a potential site for, and subsequently establish, a Garden of Remembrance.	BWPC	Land owner, The Church in Binley Woods	High	Long-term	High	Not permissible on Green Belt land

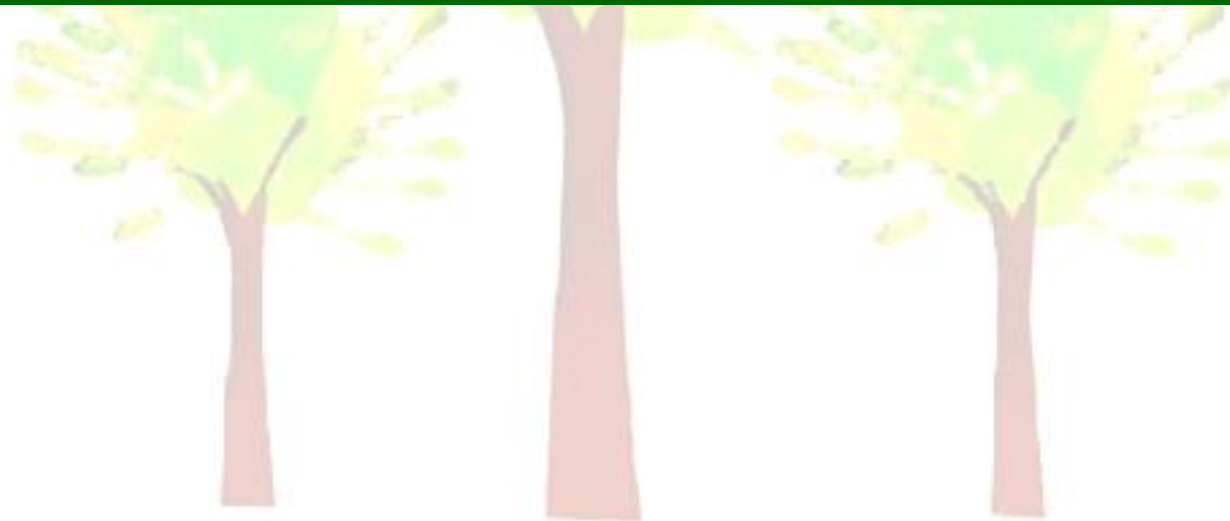


## 7.6 The Environment

Issue	#	Action	Lead	Partners	Priority	Timing	Cost	Comments
<b>Pavements, &amp; Highway Verges</b>	22	Ask for volunteers from the community to help elderly and disabled residents maintain their front gardens. If sufficient volunteers are forthcoming, identify and approach residents who may wish to take advantage of this scheme.	N'hood Project	BWPC, Age UK, Residents, Voluntary Organisations	Medium	Short-term	Low	
	23	Forward the survey results in respect of highway verges to Highways Department at Warwickshire County Council and ask them to take action where residents infringe the rules regarding incorporating highway verges into their properties. Monitor the position and follow up as necessary.	WCC	BWPC	High	On-going	Low / Medium	WCC comment: "The County Council will respond appropriately where incidents of residents incorporating the verge within their property are identified."
	24	Forward the survey results in respect of pavements to Highways Department at Warwickshire County Council and ask them to prioritise future improvement works in the village in line with residents' wishes. Monitor progress and follow up as necessary.	WCC	BWPC, County Councillor	Medium	On-going	High	WCC comment "The results of the survey of pavements will be a consideration when improvement works are planned (dependent on funding)."
	25	Ask residents to identify specific properties where hedges overhang the highway verges and pavements. The Parish Council to write to those householders asking them to trim back their hedges. If no action is taken, the Parish Council to escalate to the County Council for appropriate enforcement action.	BWPC	Residents, WCC	Low	On-going	Low	
<b>Trees</b>	26	Continue the programme of planting trees at selected sites around the village, taking residents' views from the survey into account when determining locations.	BWPC	Residents, WCC	Medium	On-going	Medium	
	27	When a new tree is planted, write to residents in adjacent properties asking if they are prepared to 'adopt' that tree.	BWPC	Residents	Low	On-going	Low	

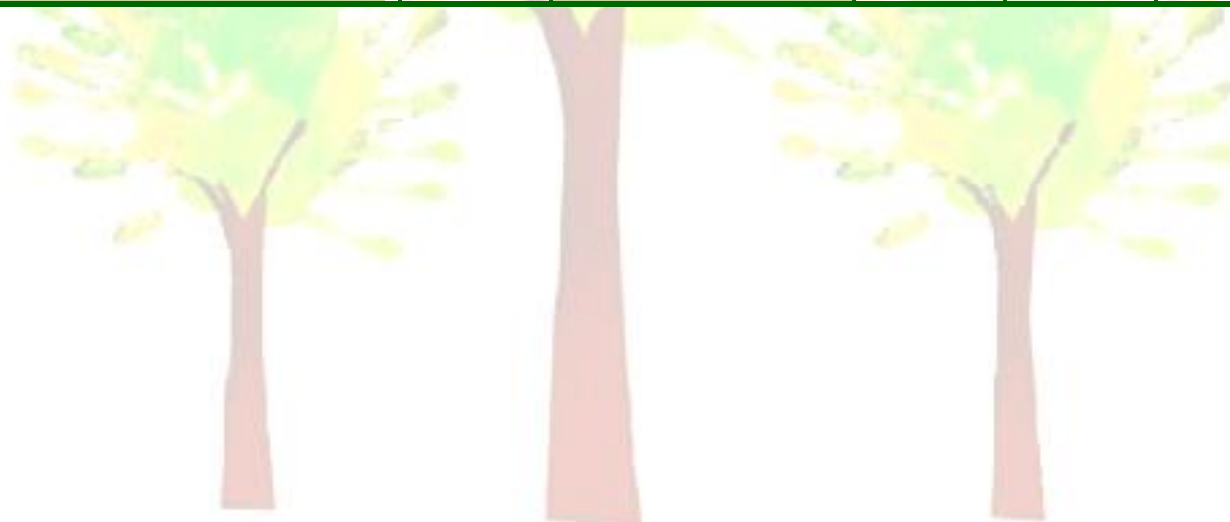
<i>Issue</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Street Lighting</b>	<b>28</b>	Investigate the feasibility of turning off half the street lights in each street between 12.30am and 5.30am. If feasible, the Parish Council to implement changes on a street by street basis.	BWPC	EON	Medium	Long-term	High	
<b>Dogs &amp; Dog Litter</b>	<b>29</b>	Erect signs at the entrances to the Recreation Ground and the Back Field stating that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dogs must be kept on leads at all times</li> <li>• owners are responsible for picking up after their dogs</li> </ul>	BWPC	-	High	Short-term	Low	
	<b>30</b>	Request increased patrols by the Dog Wardens, including covert patrols, with the aim of identifying and prosecuting dog owners who do not pick up after their pets or who allow their dogs to run free on the Recreation Ground and/or the Back Field. Monitor the position and follow up as necessary.	BWPC	RBC, Residents	High	On-going	Low	Additional dog warden patrols are taking place in the Recreation Ground and Brandon Woods.
	<b>31</b>	Install additional dog litter bins on Rugby Road near the entrance to the One O'clock ride, on Rugby Road near the junction with Ferndale Road, and just inside the entrance to the woods on the corner of Craven Avenue and Ferndale Road.	BWPC	Residents	High	On-going	Medium	Some new dog litter bins already installed.
<b>Litter</b>	<b>32</b>	Install additional litter bins near the shops in Woodlands Road, at selected bus stops (exact locations to be determined) and outside the school in Coombe Drive.	BWPC	Residents	High	On-going	Medium	Some new litter bins already installed.
	<b>33</b>	Seek sponsorship for litter bins and dog litter bins, for example from local vets as has happened recently in Coventry.	BWPC	'Sponsors'	Low	Long-term	Low	
	<b>34</b>	Ensure all litter bins and dog litter bins are emptied regularly. Monitor the position and escalate problems to Rugby Borough Council.	BWPC	RBC, Residents	High	On-going	Low	

<b>Issue</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Litter (continued)</b>	<b>35</b>	Hold a 'Keep Binley Woods Tidy' campaign, reinforced through signs on litter bins.	BWPC	Residents, Binley Woods Primary School, Youth Club, Community Groups	High	On-going	Low	
<b>Benches</b>	<b>36</b>	Install additional benches by the skateboard park in the Back Field, near the play equipment in the Recreation Ground and at selected bus stops on Rugby Road (exact locations to be determined).	BWPC	Residents, County Councillor	High	Short-term	Medium	
	<b>37</b>	Seek sponsorship for benches, for example in memory of departed loved ones.	BWPC	'Sponsors'	Low	Long-term	Low	
<b>Water Pressure</b>	<b>38</b>	Conduct a detailed house-by-house survey of the south-east corner of the village (Court Leet, Craven Avenue, etc) to determine the exact number of properties with water pressure problems. Forward results to Severn Trent with a request for action. Follow up as necessary.	BWPC	Residents, Volunteers, Severn Trent Water	Medium	Medium-term	Low	



## 7.7 Village Life

<i>Issue</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Village Newsletter</b>	<b>39</b>	Establish a project to create a village newsletter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask for volunteers to form an organising group</li> <li>• Appoint an editor, advertising manager (if appropriate), delivery manager, etc</li> <li>• Determine the format and content (plus whether or not to include advertisements)</li> <li>• Determine the funding arrangements and seek funding as necessary</li> </ul>	BWPC	Volunteers, Community Groups	Low	Medium-term	Low	
<b>Post-code</b>	<b>40</b>	Establish a project to explore changing the village's post-code: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask for champions to form a steering group</li> <li>• Determine how to go about changing our post-code</li> <li>• Explain the process and the implications for residents, and seek their approval to go ahead</li> </ul>	BWPC	Volunteers, Royal Mail	High	Long-term	Low	Overall cost will be 'high' if the post-code is changed.



## 7.8 Future Development

<i>Issue</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Meeting the Identified Need for Affordable Housing and Retirement Housing</b>	41	Approach Brandon Parish Council to: a) ascertain the position with regard to identified housing needs in Brandon and whether they have been met; and b) understand whether there may be scope for the two parishes to work together to meet a combined housing need on a single site.	BWPC	Brandon Parish Council, RBC	Low	Long-term	Low	
	42	Identify and approach one or more local housing associations to ascertain interest in working with the community to help identify, and subsequently develop, potential sites where affordable housing / retirement housing development could realistically take place.	BWPC	Housing Association, RBC, Midlands Rural Housing	Low	Long-term	High	
	43	Identify and approach one of more local housing associations to ascertain whether there is scope for purchasing and modifying / redeveloping existing properties in the village to meet the identified need for affordable housing / retirement housing.	BWPC	Housing Association, RBC, Midlands Rural Housing	Low	Long-term	High	
	44	If the potential development of affordable / retirement housing is outside the existing village development boundary, seek authority for such a development from residents through a Neighbourhood Plan or Neighbourhood Development Order.	BWPC	Housing Association, RBC, Midlands Rural Housing	Low	Long-term	High	
<b>Important Features of the Village</b>	45	Check the status of all key areas of woodland in and around the village to ensure that they have adequate statutory protection and, therefore, are available for future generations to enjoy.	BWPC	RBC, Woodland Owners	High	Medium-term	Low	
	46	Check the existing pattern of Tree Preservation Orders in the village to ensure that no visually significant specimens have been omitted.	BWPC	RBC	High	Medium-term	Low	Short-term action with regard to mature trees on the former library site.

<i>Issue</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Important Features of the Village (continued)</b>	<b>47</b>	<p>Register 'assets of community value' under the provisions of the 2012 Localism Act in order that, should those assets be offered for sale, the community has the right to bid to purchase them. Based on the results of the survey, those assets most valued by the community (but not already in local community ownership) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key stretches of woodland in and around the village</li> <li>• The school and its grounds</li> <li>• The Roseycombe</li> <li>• The Post Office</li> <li>• The former library building</li> </ul>	BWPC	RBC	Medium	Medium-term	Low	





## 7.9 Actions from the Young People's Surveys

<i>Issue</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Community Events</b>	48	Through the Parish Council newsletter and the village website, assess the appetite for more community events in the village and determine which type of events would be most popular. If there is sufficient interest, seek volunteers to form an organising committee.	BWPC	Residents, Community Groups, Volunteers	Medium	Medium-term	Low	
<b>Youth Club</b>	49	Ask the Youth Club to consider a separate session for younger children and, if feasible, to have a lower starting age for such a session.	Youth Club	Volunteers	High	Short-term	Low	The Youth Club has indicated that they would be prepared to hold a separate session for younger children provided there were volunteers to run it
<b>Skateboard Park</b>	50	Hold a review of the skateboard park involving both the young people who were instrumental in getting the project off the ground and other skateboard park users. Questions to be addressed include: how well it is being used; what can be done to encourage younger children to use it; what can be done to minimise litter, graffiti and noise; and where benches should be sited. Take action as necessary to implement the results of the review.	BWPC	Young residents	Medium	Short-term	Low	
<b>Pavilion</b>	51	Investigate how the pavilion could be used more for the benefit of residents. Seek ideas via the Parish Council newsletter and the village website and, in particular, establish if there is support to operate a 'community café' facility in the pavilion during the school holidays.	BWPC	Residents, Volunteers	Medium	Medium-term	Low	
<b>Involvement</b>	52	Establish an ad-hoc 'Youth Forum' to advise on specific projects in the village, for example upgrading the play equipment. Use the Youth Club to engage with teenagers and the Primary School to engage with younger children.	BWPC	Youth Club, Binley Woods Primary School, The Church in Binley Woods	High	Short-term	Low	

<b>Issue</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Involvement (continued)</b>	53	Organise competitions for the young people of the village to encourage them to get involved in various community projects, for example to design a new play area.	BWPC	Youth Club, Binley Woods Primary School, The Church in Binley Woods	High	Short-term	Low	
<b>Litter</b>	54	Organise village-wide litter-picks involving both youngsters and adults. Tie litter-picks into specific community events, e.g. ahead of the 'open gardens' weekend.	BWPC	Community Groups, Youth Club, Volunteers, RBC	Medium	On-going	Low	
<b>Personal Safety</b>	55	Ask the local police / PCSO team to pay regular visits to the school and/or youth club to build a rapport with the younger elements of our community.	Police	Youth Club, Binley Woods Primary School	Medium	Short-term	Low	Progress this action through the local SNT PCSO.
<b>School Buses</b>	56	Coordinate school bus services with the various schools serving the village to ensure that school buses pick up at the most appropriate bus stops and minimise the need for pupils to cross Rugby Road, especially in the mornings.	WCC	Bus companies	Medium	Long-term	Low	
<b>Speeding</b>	57	Ask the school to send a letter to all parents requesting that they reduce their speed, quoting the results of the survey where the youngsters responded that " <i>cars go too fast in the village</i> ".	Binley Woods Primary School	BWPC, Police	Medium	Short-term	Low	
<b>Crossing the Road</b>	58	Ascertain whether there are suitable sites where additional pedestrian crossings could be installed on Rugby Road to help school children cross to catch school buses. This should include re-checking the regulations relating to siting crossings near road junctions and residents' access-points.	BWPC	WCC	High	Short-term	Low	

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**Patriot Airlines Chief Pilot, Robert Power**

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### **1778 Map (page 12)**

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### **Census Data (pages 15 & 19)**

Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.

### **Village Map (centre pages)**

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### **Aerial Photo (back cover)**

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