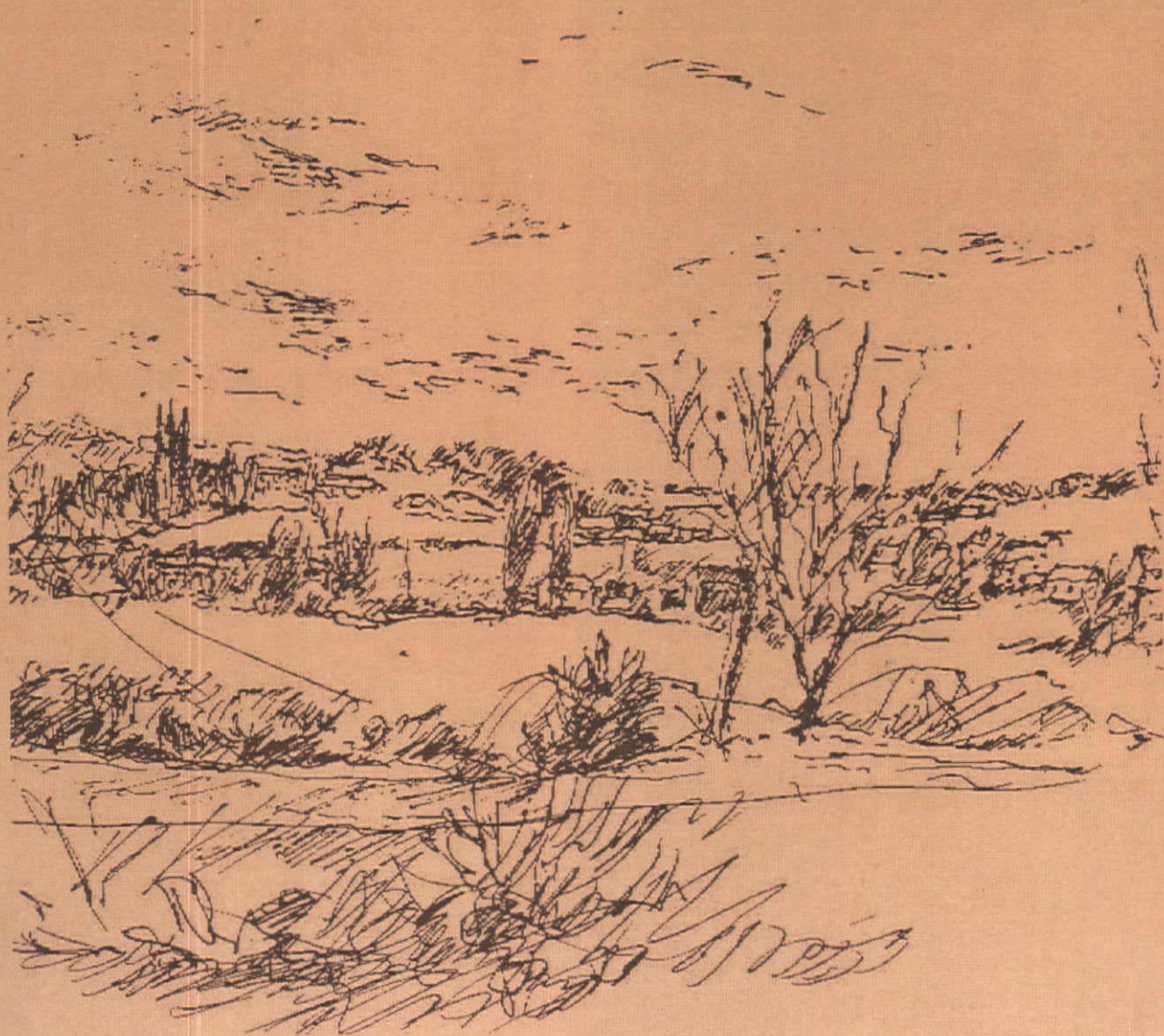
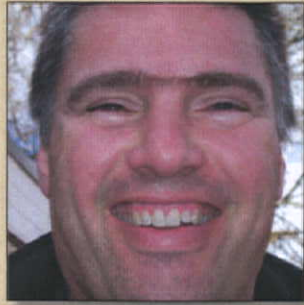
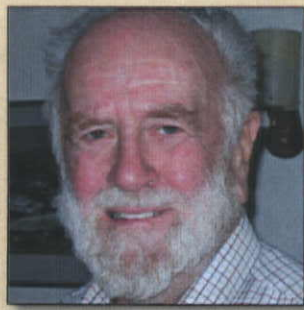


Princethorpe Parish Plan





Forward by the Chairman of the Parish Council

It is a privilege to be allowed to present the foreword in the first "Princethorpe Parish Plan" to the community of the Parish of Princethorpe.

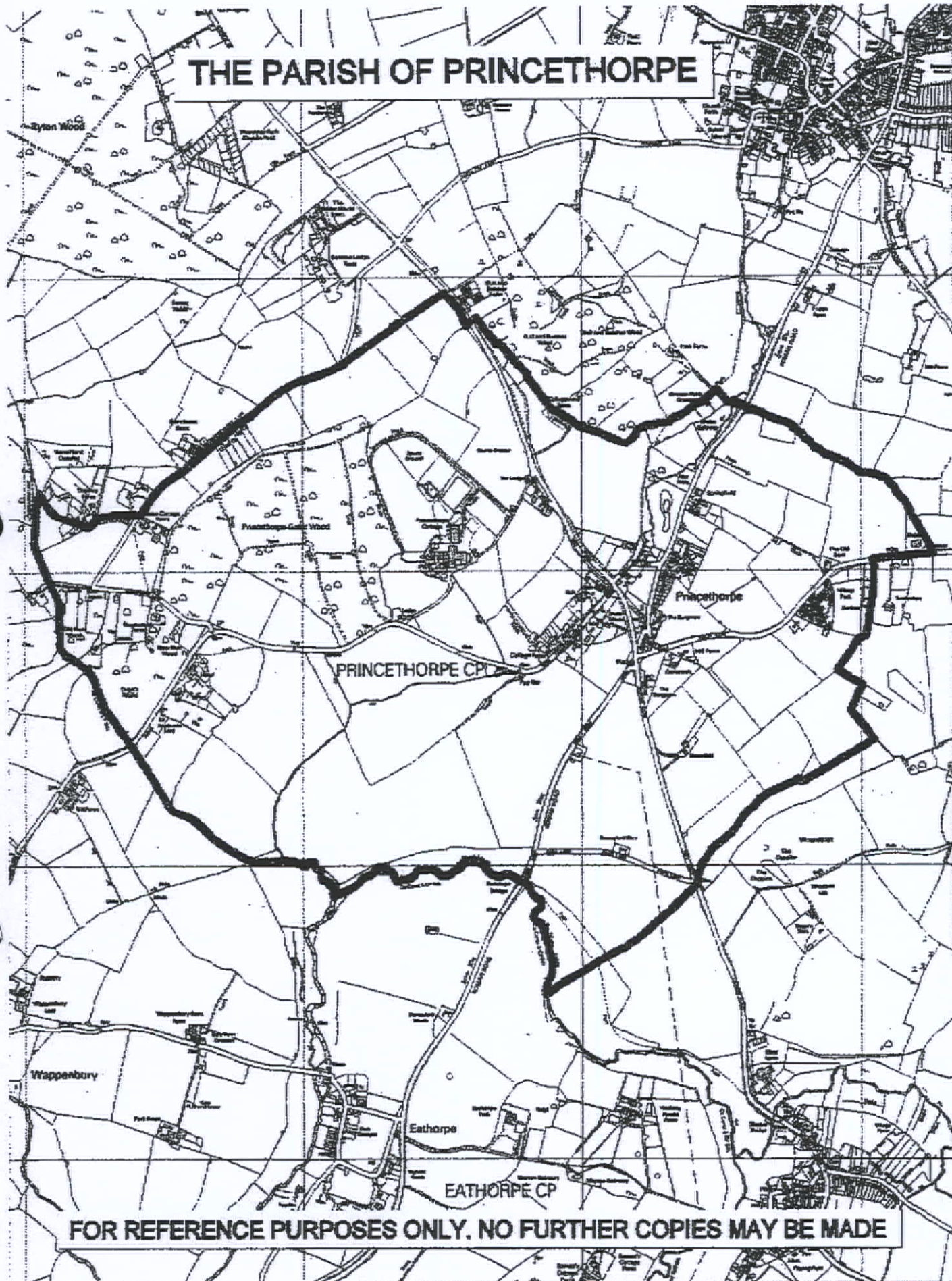
The Plan is the result of many months' work undertaken by a steering group of volunteers and is designed to enable all residents of the Parish to contribute to any plans which may arise for the foreseeable future development of Princethorpe.

An essential input to the document was the response of the majority of parishioners to the village questionnaires, which were delivered to and collected from every residence by members of the steering group. Many suggestions were also made by verbal communication. It would not have been possible to publish the document without this major contribution.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the contribution, compilation and publication of the first Parish Plan for Princethorpe. It is a document for your future and one of which you all may be justifiably proud.

Bill Ratcliffe
Chairman
Princethorpe Parish Council
May 2008

THE PARISH OF PRINCETHORPE



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Scale
NTS



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1. Introduction

This Parish Plan is designed to highlight the distinctive features of Princethorpe through the eyes of its community. It looks at the Parish history, examines the Parish's present day issues and concerns and points to the future aspirations of the Parish's residents.

The document has been compiled from a variety of sources, namely a series of questionnaires, village meetings, existing data, historic documents and the considerable input of current residents.

The resulting content is an important document designed to paint a picture of our small village and the surrounding area in 2007/8. It is designed to help ensure that the Parish's future is planned with care and encompasses the views of those that live here.

The final stage of the activities becomes the joint task of the Parish Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council. Together they will address issues raised during the past two years, endeavouring where possible to identify acceptable solutions. With the aid of outside agencies, such as the police, medical services and local government they will work to produce a sustainable Action Plan which will become a fundamental evolving resource for the Parish Council in its future service to this village.

Anne Watson
Chair
Parish Plan Steering Group



5. Process

Early in 2006, in response to encouragement by Local Government and the Warwickshire Rural Community Council, the Princethorpe Parish Council resolved to write a Parish Plan. The Council appointed a council member: Anne Watson, chairperson of the Parish Plan Steering Group, which was formed as a result of an invitation in the village newsletter to interested villagers. The process was funded throughout by a grant secured from DEFRA in March 2006.

The group proceeded to explore ways and means of obtaining the necessary information to put together the required document. Village residents were involved throughout the process by means of newsletters, notices, progress reports and a public drop-in meeting held in September 2006. The meeting was well-attended and prompted some lively debate and exchange of ideas.

During the winter of 2006/07 material for a draft questionnaire was discussed and assembled and the resulting document delivered to each household in Princethorpe. The data retrieved from the survey, together with a recent Housing Needs Survey carried out by the Parish Council, was used to ensure that issues important to current village residents were considered.

The early open-ended questionnaire to villagers was used, together with the response to the drop-in meeting, to scope areas of concern for local residents.

In order to provide context for the report, a comprehensive review of the village, including its history and current situation along with the aspirations and concerns of its current inhabitants, was also necessary.

A section of the final report was specified as a Village Appraisal. This would contain a broad outline of village history, its geographic setting, geology, architectural character and general amenities.

In the Spring of 2007 the final questionnaire was personally distributed and collected by team members, with the objective of achieving the highest possible return rate in order to obtain a true reflection of the views of the villagers of Princethorpe.

To give weight to the analysis, the questionnaire was professionally evaluated and transformed into tables which may be found in the appendices.

The analysis was then used to prepare a draft action plan. The Action Plan is the document offering a vision of change for the village focusing on areas of concern for villagers and giving directional focus for the Parish Council. Once accepted by the Parish Council, it will contain a series of objectives, wants and wishes of villagers which the Parish Council will use as a basis for planning, and against which its progress can be measured. It is also a document which will need to be kept current, and it will be the Parish Council's responsibility to ensure that as the importance of local issues changes, the Plan is revised accordingly.

The Action Plan and this report together also provide a useful reference to be drawn on by local agencies and government when the need arises.

Process – Time Line

2005	The Parish Council circulated a Housing Needs Survey to each household in Princethorpe. Of these 66 were completed and returned.	Results of the Preliminary Questionnaire, the Housing Needs Survey and all further research considered.
2006 Jan-Mar	Newsletter circulated advertising that the Parish council intended to write a Parish Plan, and asking for volunteers to form a Parish Plan Steering Group. Application made for a DEFRA grant towards the cost of writing a Plan. Full grant of £1,250 received from DEFRA. This was to be augmented by contributions in kind of £330 and a contribution from the Parish Council of £87. The total funding amounted to £1,667 and was deposited in the Parish Council bank account to be drawn on as required. The Parish Plan Steering group met for the first time. Guidance was obtained from Griffin of Ashorne and Newbold. Village newsletter circulated.	Final Questionnaire and work on writing a Village Appraisal planned.
Apr-Jun	A Preliminary Questionnaire 166 questionnaires were delivered and 73 completed and collected. The Preliminary Questionnaire collated. Newsletter circulated publicising the progress of the Plan and seeking further input from village residents. Public Drop-in meeting planned for September 2006.	The Steering group agreed to meet in smaller groups in order to research specific issues in preparation for the Final Questionnaire covering Traffic, Parking, Housing, Amenities, Transport and Policing and safety.
Sep-Nov	Results of Preliminary Questionnaire discussed. The Drop-in meeting St. Cuthbert's Church 16/09/06. Post boxes were provided for further input from villagers on specific issues. Snacks and drinks were provided by the team. A good attendance and interchange of ideas and opinions.	2007 Jan-Mar Final Questionnaire designed and printed.
		Apr-Jun 230 copies of the Final Questionnaire delivered to households in Princethorpe. 94 completed and returned to members of the team.
		Jul-Sep Final Questionnaire professionally processed by Warwick Network Ltd. of Coventry. Meetings with L Ridgley of Warwickshire Rural Community Council to obtain advice regarding the formation of an Action Plan.
		Oct-Dec Parish Council met with representatives of the Parish Plan Steering Group to discuss the formation of an Action Plan and its subsequent implementation. Planning and meetings regarding printing the Final document. Final document printed.

2. Geography and location

Princethorpe Village lies in a shallow valley formed by what today is reduced to a small stream or brook. This rises in Stretton-on-Dunsmore, some two miles to the north and runs south-westwards through the centre of the village towards Wappenbury where it joins the River Leam. The village is approximately six miles to the south-east of Coventry and a similar distance to the north-east of Leamington Spa and west of Rugby.

The surrounding countryside is pleasantly undulating and is land traditionally used as pasture and for cereal crops. There are substantial areas of ancient protected woodland, some of which have been made available for leisure activities.

The axis of the village is roughly south-west to north-east and the tilt of the land is from the north with a height of roughly 100m. above sea-level there falling to a lower level of about 70m toward the southern edge of the parish .

Princethorpe is a civil parish in the Rugby district of Warwickshire. In 2001 the village had a population of about 400 and any change since then is insignificant.

The Village is dominated by a complex road system which slices through its centre. This has strongly influenced its development and character and is continuing to do so as a result of the apparently unstoppable growth of road traffic.



The road system is ancient in origin. The Fosse Way (B4455) runs through the heart of the village. This important Roman road passing through Cotswold villages such as Stowe and Cirencester connects the former Roman town of Lincoln with the south coast of England at the mouth of the river Axe. For many years the Fosse Way was the main road through the village, but it is now overtaken by the A423, a trunk road which bisects the Fosse Way and connects Coventry and Oxford. This road known as the Oxford road follows roughly the line of a medieval road and is itself bisected by the B4453 connecting Leamington and Rugby.

Running off the Oxford road is the short stretch of Sheep Dip Lane connecting to the Fosse Way. As its name suggests, Sheep Dip Lane was the site of an old sheep dip, the remains of which can be seen in the stream beside the road.

Off Sheep Dip Lane is the Coffin Walk. The Coffin Walk runs all the way to Stretton on Dunsmore by the side of the brook and was traditionally maintained at five feet in width to accommodate a coffin and four bearers en-route to Stretton which has the nearest Anglican churchyard.

Geology, physical features and land use.

Much of Princethorpe is a clay soil overlaid with glacial drift and alluvial deposits. During the second Ice Age glaciers lay to the north and west of the village and as they retreated they left behind not only glacial moraine, but a shallow lake formed by melt water which was contained to the south by the limestone hills of the Cotswolds, much higher then than now.

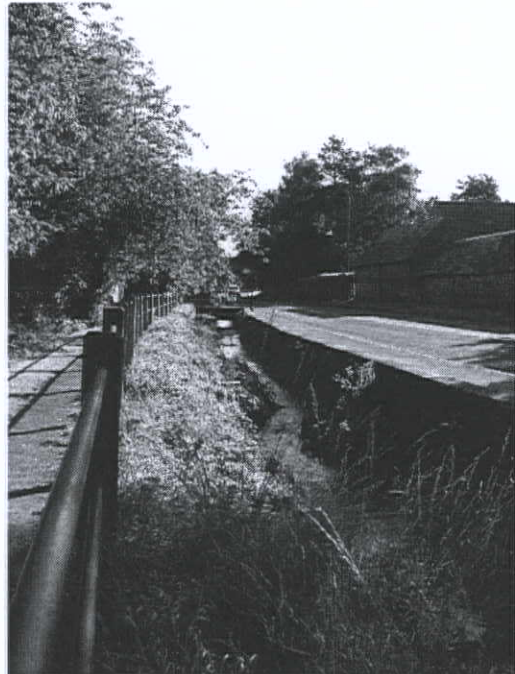
The river Leam just south of the village was formed by spill-over from this lake, as were many other tributaries of the Avon which drains into the Severn and thence into the Bristol Channel.

Because of its position, virtually in the centre of the country, the climate of the area displays no particular characteristics materially influencing land use, and might be regarded as a mean of English weather. The area experiences both the milder wetter weather of the west and the colder drier weather of East Anglia.

Princethorpe lies within a county generally known for its trees and hedgerows, although these have declined over the centuries. The Wildlife Trust describes the woodlands in this area as some of

the most important in Warwickshire, extending to a thousand or so acres - a significant proportion of the county's total woodlands.

Princethorpe's Great Wood and the woods of Wappenbury and Burnthurst have not been commercially exploited, and so are mixed in nature, with willow scrub and some good oak and chestnut, as well as a wide variety of other species.



Sadly, the elm (once known as Warwickshire weed) was decimated by Dutch Elm Disease thirty years ago and may never recover. Nevertheless, within Princethorpe considerable woodland remains and this represents more than 10% of the total area of the parish.

There is little doubt that for much of its history Princethorpe and its inhabitants have been strongly associated with agriculture, especially with animal husbandry, the growing of arable crops and their allied activities. In the late Saxon period the area lay to the south of the Danegeld.



In the 21st century changes to the economics of farming allied to increased mechanisation, and the ready availability of imported foods have weakened the role of farming generally and the local economy has not been immune to these influences.

Farming still carries on in the fields of Princethorpe but its nature and ownership structure has changed. Today few farms can be said to be wholly operated and controlled from the village, and the farmland within the parish is often worked with "partnership arrangements," sometimes with other farmers.

The name "Princethorpe" came from the Anglo-Saxon "Praensthorpe"- meaning "the outlying farmstead of Praen"- so the village was built around its farming community from the very beginning. Many of its open fields were enclosed in the late 18th century and incorporated into larger farms at the expense of the rights previously enjoyed by commoners, and a number of local farmhouses and their out-buildings date back to this period.



Within living memory there were eight or nine working farms within or near the village centre and cattle were driven for milking across the Oxford road until the 1980s; the dairyman imperiously halting traffic from the centre of the road. Today this would be hazardous in the extreme.



3. Village Amenities

Churches

There are two churches in the village. The mission church of **St Cuthbert** is a small building at the junction of the Fosse Way and the Oxford Road. It was formerly a single roomed Church of England school, but this was closed in 1908, and after renovation and adaptation it was dedicated in 1959 by Bishop Bardsley of Coventry as a building fit and properly furnished for Divine Service. In the absence of a village hall the altar is curtained, and the resulting space is available for secular use such as Parish Council meetings and W. I. gatherings. Since the beginning of 2008 it also houses the local Benefice administration office, and the church is open and available each Tuesday for prayer and meditation.



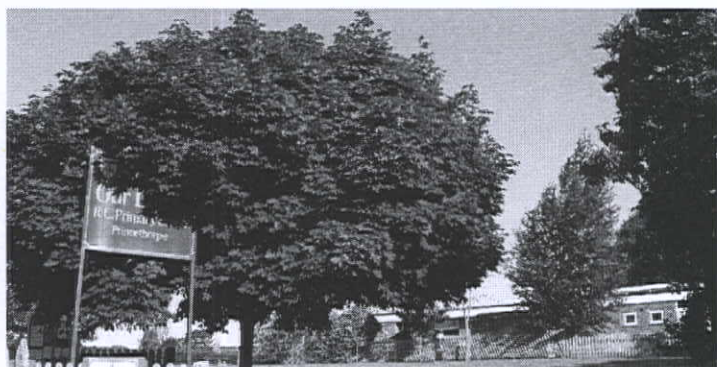
The chapel of **St Mary's Priory** at Princethorpe College forms part of the local Parish of Our Lady of the Angels at Wappenbury. It was designed by Peter Paul Pugin and added to the site in 1897. Its red brick tower is a local landmark.

The site for the Priory was bought by Benedictine nuns in 1832. The bricks for the buildings were made from local clay and a reservoir was built. Later this was landscaped to resemble a small lake at the nuns' home of Montargis, and



was christened Little Switzerland. In 1966 the Priory and its grounds became the property of the order Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who set up and ran the College

Schools



The village has two schools;

Our Lady's Catholic primary school has approximately 110 pupils between the ages of four and eleven. The original schoolhouse, further along the road towards Leamington and now private homes, dates back to 1840, when the Benedictine Sisters

from the Priory made one of their properties available for this purpose. The school was run by the Sisters of Mercy a separate order of nuns whose home was the present Retreat House on the Coventry road. They provided the Head Mistress and some of the other members of staff until the end of the 1970s. The new school was built in 1976 and takes pupils of all faiths, only a small proportion of whom come from within the Parish, so most arrive by bus or car each day.

Princes Risborough College first opened its doors in September 1966, on the site of the former St. Mary's Priory. The college, run by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, originated in Leamington in the late 50s. St. Bede's College, as it was then known, had grown from fourteen pupils in 1957 to three hundred and thirty. A move to bigger premises was therefore necessitated, and the M. S.H. were successful in their bid for St. Mary's Priory and its 200 acres of land. Fr John Fleming was the College's first headmaster. Initially there were fewer than 200 pupils as the juniors remained at St. Bede's in Leamington. Originally a Boys' boarding school, Princes Risborough is now coeducational and the dormitories have been converted into teaching rooms and office space.

The Warwickshire Catholic Independent Schools Foundation came into being in September 2001 and merged Princes Risborough College with St. Joseph's School Kenilworth to provide continuous education for boys and girls from nursery age to 18 years. Again, most pupils arrive each day either by car or bus, however the catchment area is much wider than that of Our Lady's.



Pubs, Restaurants and Hotels

The Three Horseshoes pub is in the centre of the village. Situated beside the Fosse Way and accessible from the Oxford Road, it is in the area of the village called Hightown, adjacent to a row of pretty farm workers' cottages and a grassed area which was once the centre for many activities such as Maypole and Morris dancing. The pub serves meals and is popular both with local people and with weekend visitors from nearby towns. It has a large garden with picnic tables and a play area for children.



The Woodhouse restaurant and hotel is set in 10 acres of gardens just out of the village along the Leamington Road. Its formal patio and gardens give way to stunning views of the Warwickshire countryside, which are always popular as the backdrop for wedding parties.

Shops

For many years the village had a small general shop and post office situated next to the Fosse Way and at the entrance to Fosse Crescent. The village has no natural centre, so the shop was a focus of local activity, information and gossip: It closed in the 1970s and since then has functioned briefly as a soft furnishing outlet and a baker's / sandwich shop and is currently a beauty salon.

On Oxford Road, close by the intersection of the Fosse Way with the A423 and the Rugby road, stands the local service station which, although no longer selling fuel, offers newspapers, a selection of groceries and hot snacks, and a limited Post Office service.

Future Post Office reorganisation may threaten the post office in Princethorpe which will be a blow to the many residents in the village who are elderly and have restricted mobility.

Transport

A limited bus service is available and this is particularly important to the relatively small number of people who have no ready access to private transport.

Other facilities

There is a travelling library, which visits the village every three weeks.

By Fosse Crescent there is a small play area for children, and on the outskirts of the village there are a number of allotments available for the use of local people.

The medical needs of the village are catered for mainly at the flourishing medical practice located in Stretton, where the GPs are supported by a dispensary. Unfortunately this is only really accessible by car. More specialised medical support is provided by hospitals based in Rugby, Coventry and Warwick.



4. Village Architecture

College Farm

This original farmhouse dates back to 1760 and was known as Priory Farm when it was run for the Benedictine nuns who in 1833 built the Priory of St Mary on the hillside above. It provided the sisters with milk, butter, eggs, meat and other farm produce.

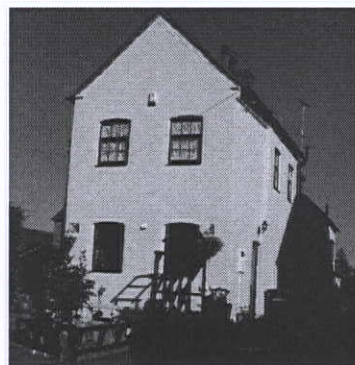
The convent was a closed order and guests or relatives were accommodated at the farmhouse, which became known as The Priory Hotel. All the bedroom doors were numbered, and the name Priory Hotel carved in a stone by the door. Before the days of the car, guests often arrived by horse drawn coach and part of the building, now Memorare cottage was used as a smoke-room for the horse keepers, known as ostlers. The single storey Victorian extension was variously used as a post office and cobblers. During WW2, nine children evacuated from the Coventry blitz were given a home in the attic rooms.



The Old School House

Our Lady's School was founded in 1840 with the aid of the Benedictine Sisters and later run by the Sisters of Mercy

Mother Clare and Sister Paul wearing their black and white robes, taught older children in the "big room" with the youngsters in a small room at the back. It was replaced by the new Our Lady's School replaced it and the original buildings are now homes named "The Old School House" and "The Master's House".



Princethorpe College

Princethorpe College was until 1966 St Mary's Priory, a Benedictine convent. Years of religious persecution in France brought a Benedictine Order from Montargis in central France finally to Warwickshire. After moving between London, Norfolk, Yorkshire and Lancashire using established houses, the order was able to settle at last in a purpose built priory here in Princethorpe, which they called St Mary's. The foundation stone was laid in 1833 and the priory functioned from 1835. It is important to note that this was the first Catholic religious house to be built in England since the reformation some 300 years earlier.

The Benedictines were a teaching order and needed premises sufficiently spacious in which to teach, pray and sustain themselves. In order to be able to do this they acquired the present-day College Farm and Memorare Cottage (previously one building), and erected working buildings for the farm, now Priory Court in Leamington Road.

By 1966 the Order was too small to remain at the Priory, and relocated to Fernham in Oxfordshire.

At this time the priory building was purchased by Missionaries Of The Sacred Heart, and became Princethorpe College.



The Manor House

The Manor House, a large former farmhouse, is Princethorpe's oldest building. It was built as a late medieval open-hall house with records showing that in 1357 William de Peekes lived there. In 1517 owner John Hugford sold it to Sir William Compton of Compton Wynyates, Warwickshire, and a close friend since childhood of Henry VII. It was "modernised" in the early 17th century and underwent further changes in the 18th, 19th and 20th.



Manor House Farm was one of the nine working farms in the village. The estate was owned during the 19th century by the Pearth family and managed by the grandson of Joseph Elkington (the renowned land drainage expert). Villagers recall "Squire Pearth" selling in 1921 and moving into the Wood House, now the Woodhouse Hotel and restaurant on the Leamington Road. The Manor House is now a private home, its barns and outbuildings converted into substantial homes along Leamington Road.



Croft House

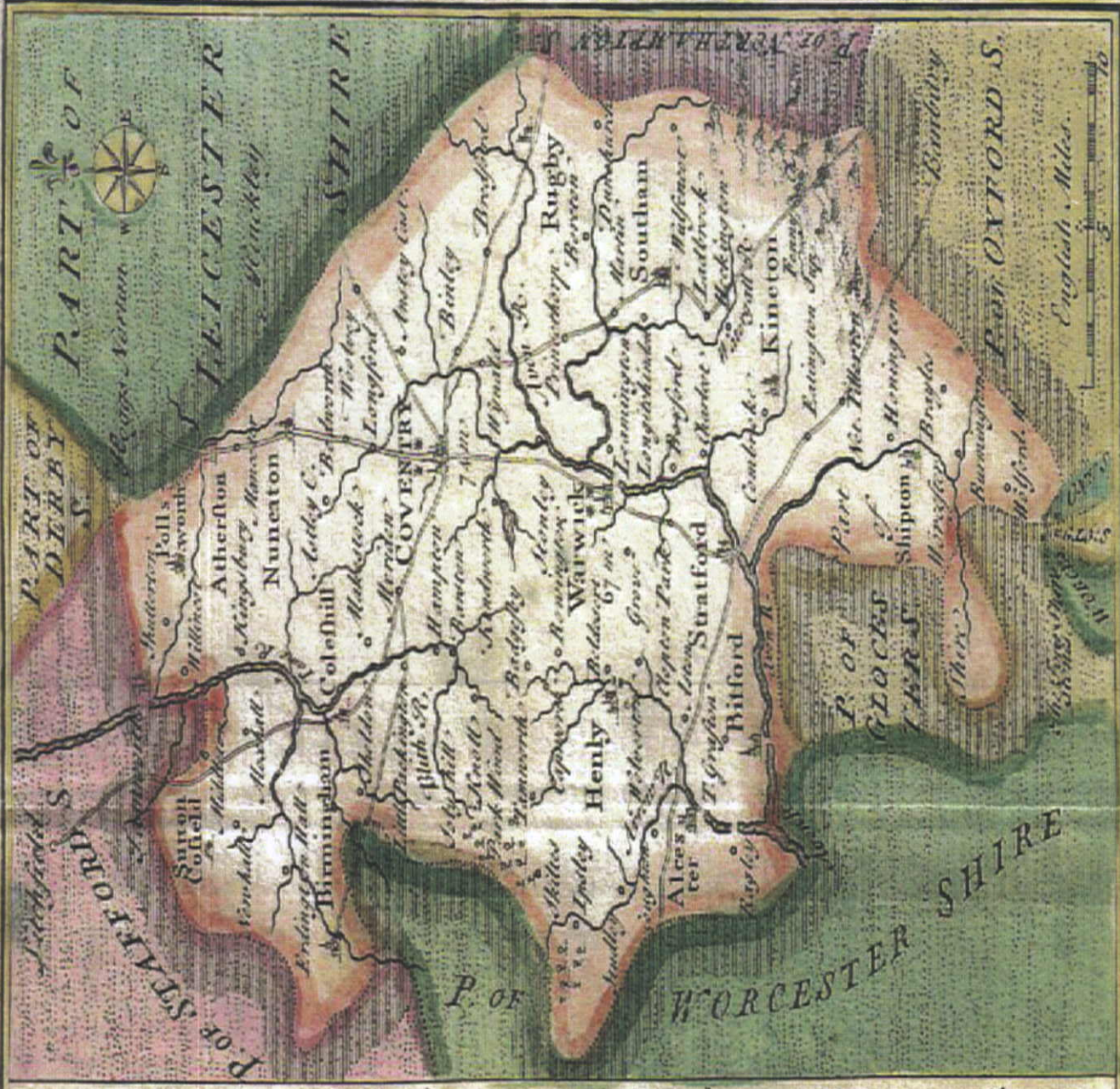
One of the oldest houses in the village, Croft House, dates back to around 1760 and has enjoyed a number of roles during its lifetime. William Tuckey rented it and from it ran a butchers shop in the 1900s. Animals were slaughtered at the rear of the building and rails and hooks still remain in the walls of the outhouse where the carcasses were hung. It was also once a post office, with a post box through an end window, and the tiled floor remains worn where people came to the counter.

The Old Toll House and Off Licence Cottage

Names on the cottages opposite the Old School house on Leamington Road reflect their part in village history. The toll house was the point at which a toll was collected from travellers on the road to Leamington; and the Off Licence, was owned by Leamington Brewery and sold Flowers Bitter.



A Map of WARWICK SHIRE, As it was from London.



Warwickshire sends 6. Members to Parliament, having 1 City, 1 Borough, 12 Market Towns, and 158 Parishes.

Coventry is a City, & Count with 100 Parishes (a Bishoprick; sends 2 Members, Market Frid: Fairs October 21. Easter Tuesday, and Corpus Christi day.

Warwick being the County Town sends 2 Members, Market Sat: Fairs, May 1. June 24. & Oct: 28.

Alcester

Atherston, Market Tuesday Fairs March 27. and December 4.

Birmingham, Market Thursday, Fairs Sept: 29. & November day, & Corpus Christi day.

Bitford

Colehill, Market Wednesday.

Henly Arden, Market, Monday, Fair October 18.

Kyneton, Market Tuesday, Fairs June 24. and September 25.

Nuneaton, Market Saturday, Fair, May 3.

Rugby and November 10.

Southern Market, Monday, Fair June 29.

Stratford upon Avon, Market Thursday, Fairs, May 1. Sept: 8. and, November day.

Sutton Colfield, Market, Monday.

Published by the Proprietor, R. C. Sims, Sept. 27. 1742. English, Miles.



Kathleen and her Tamworths



Lynn and Graham on their land



Henry at the counter of his service station



Sue and Christine at the bar of The Three Horse Shoes



Mary's care club at Our Lady's



A birthday celebration at the Woodhouse



Vana working at the beauty parlour



Playground at The Three Horse Shoes



Coronation cottages



Fosse Crescent



Church Cottage



Cottages on Leamington Road



Home at Hilltop Park



Cottages at North End

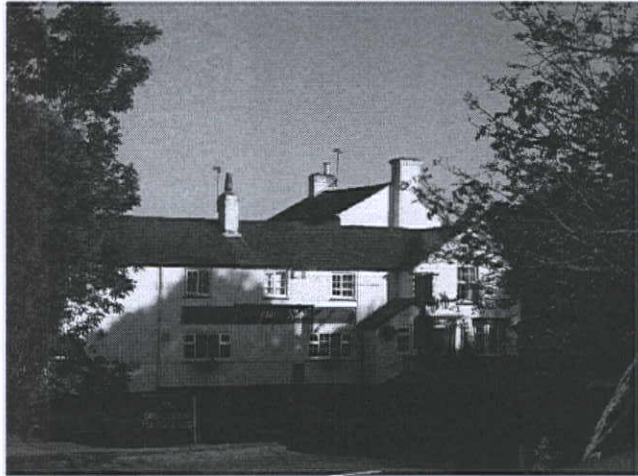


My Home "LAZY DAYS" Princethorpe
by Alicia May Wigley 10 yrs

The Three Horseshoes

The Three Horseshoes was originally three 18th century buildings – the alehouse, a small cottage next door and the village blacksmith. Its traditional name came from the Smithy who would replace shoes of horses arriving with only three - the equivalent of a present day service station.

Until relatively recently the main road from Oxford passed close to the cottages in High Town and the front of the Three Horseshoes, turning down the narrow lane beside the pub (now closed to traffic) to carry on past the cottages on the Coventry road. The locals called the lane the Khyber Pass and when on foot had to shelter in lay-bys cut into the banks of the lane to let the bus go by.



In the 1950s the new Trunk road – the A423 was built to take the increasingly heavy flow of traffic.



Hightown, Duck End and North End

Small rows of farm workers cottages are some of the village's earliest housing. Hightown nestles beside the Three Horseshoes on a present-day service road which used to be the Fosse Way before the building of the present stretch behind them, opening on to the Rugby Road.

The cottages on the Leamington Road by the stream were known as Duck End and those on the Coventry road were North End.

CORONATION COTTAGES

As their name suggests, these houses on the Fosse Way were built to commemorate the crowning of a monarch, albeit one which never took place, that of Edward VIII.



FOSSE CRESCENT

A horseshoe of houses by the side of the Fosse Way, Fosse crescent was built by the council in 1954 to accommodate people who worked in nearby towns, such as Rugby and the newly-resurrected Coventry. In 1986 residents of the Crescent and Coronation Cottages were given the opportunity to buy their homes many of which, as a result, now have additions and improvements.

HILLTOP PARK

The mobile home park on Rugby Road started as an orchard where Mr and Mrs Clark allowed refugees from the Coventry blitz to live in the wooden huts and caravans already on site. By 1956 there were 16 families living there, and gradually residents moved from other areas to join them.

As the site developed, the homes acquired small gardens and vegetable patches which were there until 2005, when the park was handed over to new owners. Since then it has been redesigned to comply with current legislation.

Burnthurst Lane

After leaving Leamington Road near to the Woodhouse Hotel, Burnthurst Lane turns sharply north-eastwards to form part of the Parish boundary.

Only one side of the lane is in Princethorpe, the other belonging to Stretton, and is somewhat remote from the greater part of the village.

There are sheep, cattle and horses in the large fields on either side, some of which belong to the comparatively recently- built Rose Cottage farmhouse. Although modern this is an excellent example of a building which has succeeded in reflecting the character of the village architecture.

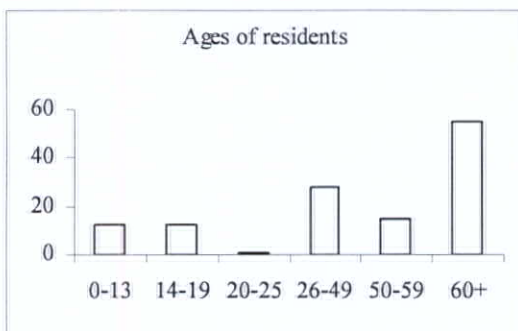
Gradually other properties, too, in this small community are being sensitively modernised and extended.



6. Results

General

A total of 162 final questionnaires were issued to the residents of Princethorpe, of which 84 were completed and returned; a response of 52%. Other data used in the final preparation of this report

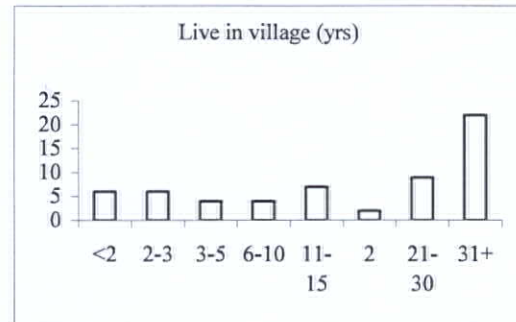


included the Housing Needs Survey carried out by the Parish Council in 2005 for which a response from 65 households was received a response rate of 38% (compare to census data), an outline questionnaire in May 2006 and a village meeting 16th September 2006.

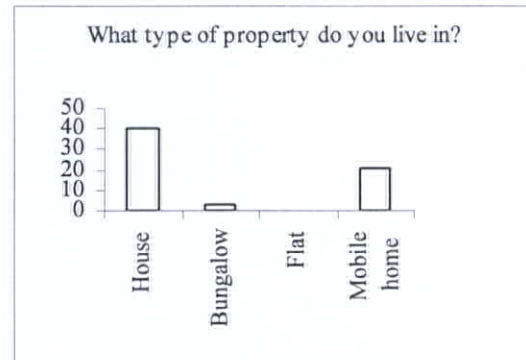
Housing

In 2005 84% of responding households were occupied by one to two people only and 70% of people living in the households from which a response was received were aged 50 or over.

52% of respondents have lived in the village for over 20 years.

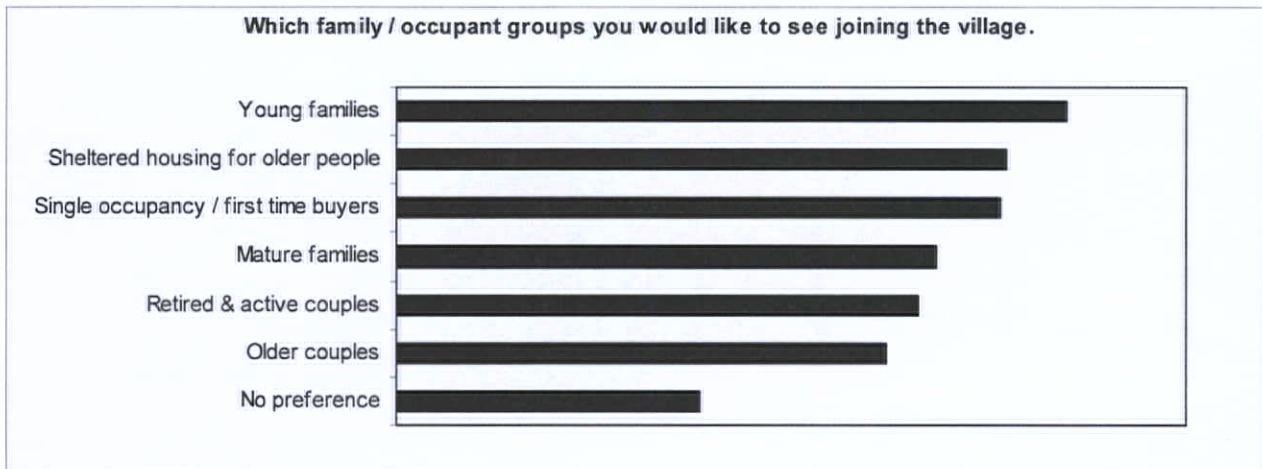


Generally residents of Princethorpe live in a house (63%) or Mobile Home (33%), the majority of dwellings have only 1 or 2 bedrooms and 80% are owner occupied with 18% having no mortgage.



Four questions were asked of villagers regarding housing as part of the 2007 questionnaire. However there had also been a specific questionnaire in 2005 collected by the Parish Council which also gives an insight into what the villagers would like to see.

60% of those who expressed a preference indicated they would be prepared to see some limited housing development in the village. Preference regarding the type of people joining the village was fairly evenly split. However the majority would like to see younger families joining the village, with sheltered housing for older people and properties for first time buyers forming a close second and third.



When discussing the number of additional dwellings there was more agreement with the priority being for between 6 and 25 new homes. A large development of 51+ homes was clearly unpopular, with most people giving this as their 5th, 6th or 7th preference. In general, respondents preferred semi detached or terraced properties.

Parking

The issue of parking in the village generated a range of responses. The majority of positive responses increased among surveys received from residents in the area in question. For example 79% of residents on Leamington Road saw parking there as an issue, 80% of respondents from High Town while only 52% of respondents from Fosse Crescent saw parking as a problem there.

From all responses Leamington Road was seen as an area where parking was an issue. For the village as a whole the parking issue could be prioritised as follows;

1. Leamington Road
2. Fosse Crescent
3. High Town

There was generally a positive response among residents towards contributing support in finding a solution.

Policing

It was clear that Policing was an issue for residents, but less clear what the priorities were in improving the communication between the village community and those responsible for keeping them safe. However it was generally thought to be a good idea that a representative for the police force should attend 2/3 parish council meetings a year to listen to villagers views and present what the police saw as issues locally. 37% of respondents said they would attend this kind of a meeting.

There was also a number of respondents that would like to become part of a team collecting views of neighbours, discussing issues with the Police and distributing/receiving a newsletter or email regarding policing issues

Community & facilities

The response to the questionnaires demonstrated that a number of residents would like to play an active role in promoting the village community. Nine respondents offered to volunteer for a place on the Parish Council, 13 offered to represent their street and 31 indicated they would attend parish council meetings.

The respondents were keen to see the re-introduction of a village shop or farm cooperative as a focal point for village life and a local amenity.

The proposal of a meeting place or social gathering hall and a village social committee were also seen as beneficial.

Improvement in communication within the village also received support with 6 offering to edit a web site, 13 to write, edit or print a village newsletter and 32 offering to distribute a newsletter. Generally, respondents were strongly in favour of a periodic newsletter dealing with issues specific to Princethorpe. There was only marginally less support for an annual village gathering, which could be a social event.

7. Draft Action Plan

In Autumn 2007 the Parish Council met with representatives of the Parish Plan Steering Group to consider an outline Action Plan. The purpose of the meeting was to agree on steps to be taken by the Parish Council to implement the objectives contained in the Action Plan and to set a reasonable time scale for such implementations.

It was agreed that working parties be set up to deal with those issues which could be approached immediately, taking care, however, that appropriately close supervision would be maintained by members of the Parish Council. It was generally agreed that the most vital concern was that of communication, which should be tackled as soon as possible, and that other, more sensitive issues would be dealt with after careful consultation with council members. Help was volunteered by village residents in response to various issues, and the setting up of working parties should not be difficult.

This Action Plan is the vital final step in our work during the past two years, and it is greatly hoped that its implementation will signal not only some vital changes in the life of our village, but also increased communication and a new sense of unity of purpose in our community.

In its first draft it covers the areas of:

- Housing & environment
- Parking
- Traffic
- Policing
- Community involvement
- Communication

And in each case explains the objective, lists possible partners for the village in working towards the goal, lists possible costs and potential sources of funding, outlines a timescale for action and the importance to the members of the village.

Many of the goals are demanding and will call upon resources of time and effort from among the village community. A number of people offered to help in achieving the goals set out below, however as time passes and people move into and out of the village more help will be needed.

Village Action Plan Draft Objective 1 : HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

	Objective	Partners	Funding (PC)	Funding (Other)	Timescale	Priority
1	<p>DESIGN STATEMENT A village design statement should be drawn up illustrating the majority view of how villagers would like to see the character of the village preserved and offering guidance for limited development within the village should that become necessary. This statement should be written in a way which would allow it to be accepted as planning guidance by the relevant local authority and the Parish Council would be responsible for taking the appropriate steps to ensure the statement was accepted by the local planners and would include the developing of a guide for residents to assist them in applying for permission for extending or altering their homes within the requirements of the village design statement. This could include guidance for residents wishing to extend their houses within the demands of the Village Design Statement.</p>	WRCC, RBC planning, WRHA	Low	Parish plan budget	6 months	Medium
2	<p>VILLAGE IDENTITY A professional artist should be found to work with the local community to produce Public Artwork representing the essence of Princethorpe, which would stand at village entrances</p>	WRCC, WALC	Low	Arts lottery Grant, WCC Arts Grant	24 months	Medium

Village Action Plan Draft Objective 2 : PARKING

	Objective	Partners	Funding (PC)	Funding (Other)	Timescale	Priority
3	An ad-hoc village team to deal with parking issues should be formed that would be supported and supervised by the Parish Council and have a membership that reflected those affected by the issues. The team would be given the remit to resolve issues regarding parking giving specific consideration to the views of those villagers living on and using the roads in question and reflecting the objectives of the majority. The objective of the team would be to propose workable solutions that could be introduced by the Parish Council to perceived parking issues prioritised as follows and on completion of that task the team would be dissolved;	PC, WRCC, RBC, WRHA, SCHOOL,	WCC		6 months	High
4	Fosse Crescent	PC, WRCC, RBC, WRHA,	WCC		12 months	Medium
5	High Town	PC, WRCC, RBC, WRHA, Three Horseshoes	WCC		18 months	Medium

Village Action Plan Draft Objective 3 : TRAFFIC

	Objective	Partners	Funding (PC)	Funding (Other)	Timescale	Priority
	<p>An ad-hoc village team to deal with traffic speed issues should be formed that would be supported and supervised by the Parish Council and have a membership that reflected those affected by the issues. The team would be given the remit to resolve issues regarding traffic in the village giving specific consideration to the views of the villagers living on the roads in question and reflecting the objectives of the majority. The objective of the team would be to propose workable solutions that could be introduced by the Parish Council to perceived traffic issues prioritised as follows and on completion of these tasks the Parish Council should decide if the team be given further tasks or be dissolved;</p>					
6	<p>Reduce the speed limit on the A423 through Princethorpe to 30mph</p>	<p>WCC, Police</p>	<p>Low</p>		<p>6 months</p>	<p>High</p>
7	<p>Reduce the speed limit to 30mph on the Rugby Road, Fosse Way, Leamington road & Sheep Dip Lane</p>	<p>WCC, Police</p>	<p>Low</p>		<p>6 months</p>	<p>High</p>
8	<p>Introduction of traffic calming measures on the Rugby Road Fosse Way, Leamington Road & Sheep Dip Lane Properly maintained footpath extended to opposite Hilltop Park</p>	<p>WCC, Accident reduction, Traffic claiming Group</p>	<p><£10,000</p>		<p>Urgent start action 12 months</p>	<p>High</p>

Objective	Partners	Funding (PC)	Funding (Other)	Timescale	Priority
9 Extension and widening of the footpath along the A423 (Rugby Road) up to meet the entrance of hill Top Park.	WCC, Accident reduction, Traffic claiming Group	High		12-18 months	High

Village Action Plan Draft Objective 4 : POLICING

Objective	Partners	Funding (PC)	Funding (Other)	Timescale	Priority
10 The Parish Council should arrange for a representative of the police force to attend Parish Council meetings at least four times a year.	PACT - Police	Low		3 months	High
11 The Parish council should appoint a Parish Council representative to coordinate local issues raised by residents with the local police representative with the objective of improving the lines of communication between villagers and the police.	PACT - Police	Low		3 months	High
12 Villagers happy to represent their area should be sought and local policing newsletters or emails should be circulated via this network with the objective of also providing feedback from the village to the police.	Police / Newsletter editors	Low (within cost of Newsletter)		6 months	Medium

Village Action Plan Draft Objective 5 : COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

	Objective	Partners	Funding (PC)	Funding (Other)	Timescale	Priority
	The Parish Council should work to improve the involvement of villagers in the community life of the village taking the following steps;					
13	Set and work towards a goal of increasing the representation of the village members including a balance of sexes and residential location on the Parish Council & attendance at Parish Council Meetings. Considering also the use of "shadow" councillors. In each of these cases a target attendance/membership should be set with specific dates by which time that should be achieved.	Newsletter, Commercial sponsor, local newspaper	Cost of event	Sponsorship	After newsletter	Low
14	The Parish Council should improve the focus of village life by supporting the introduction of a farm shop or village store as an amenity for the village.	Local Farms / businesses	High	Sponsorship	24 months	Medium
15	The Parish Council should appoint a village social committee to arrange at least one social event for the village each year and provide a village facility for annual village social gatherings.	Local businesses / Newspapers	Low	Sponsorship	After newsletter	Medium

Village Action Plan Draft Objective 6 : COMMUNICATION

Objective	Partners	Funding (PC)	Funding (Other)	Timescale	Priority
The Parish Council should work to improve communication with villagers and the Parish community. Communication should be through channels that are accessible to and include all sections of the community by taking the following steps;					
16 The Parish Council should publicise its activities in a more varied and more accessible format considering email and a web site as well as traditional methods.				3 Months	High
17 Parish Council Minutes should be made available on the internet along with the agenda for the next meeting.				3 Months	High
18 A Parish Council sub committee should be formed to introduce an Independent Village Newsletter issued at least quarterly to discuss issues of interest to Princethorpe village people and including policing issues.	WRCC, WALC, Local businesses	£100/year	Sponsorship, Grants	3 Months	High
19 The Parish Council should set up a web site to provide a forum for presenting news and information concerning the village and its inhabitants and promote Princethorpe Village life.	WRCC, WALC, Local businesses	£100/year	Sponsorship, Grants	9 Months	High
20 The Parish Council should report to the villagers annually on its progress towards achieving the goals set in the Action Plan.		£50/year	Sponsorship	12 Months	High

8. Draft Village Design Statement for future developments

Princethorpe is represented by an eclectic range of architectural styles and it is difficult to pinpoint exactly what defines the character of the village. Some of the recent developments over the past fifty or so years have been incongruous in terms of style, scale and materials when considered in relation to the historic heritage of the village – those buildings dating back to the beginning of the twentieth century and beyond.

Future developments

In terms of new developments in the village, it is proposed that any design should reflect the indigenous vernacular style although this may include sympathetic contemporary interpretations rather than simply historical pastiche. The following photographs taken around the village capture the spirit of the place.



Your Village

What things are worth preserving in the local environment?

- The rural nature of the village.
- Historical surroundings like Princethorpe College
- Trees, unspoiled countryside
- No redevelopment which is not in keeping with the village
- Peace, tranquillity, neighbourliness.
- The stream through the village is a real asset.
- Open spaces
- Landscape, safety, peace and a sense of community
- The college, the pub, St. Cuthbert's church, the garage, the post office, the shop and the stream.
- The meadows on either side of the brook, the woods
- All the old cottages, barns and hedgerows, the church and graveyard kept in good order, no houses built in the green belt.
- Open views, rural environment and small, unique family dwellings.
- The peace and quiet and fields around which make this an enjoyable place to live.
- The bus service and the mobile library.
- The playing field.
- The local footpaths

9. Acknowledgements

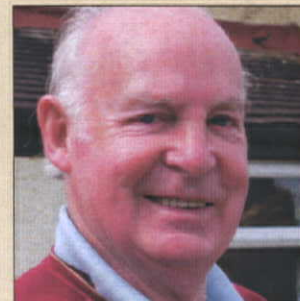
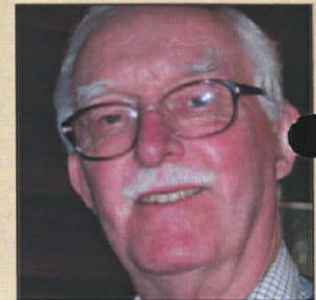
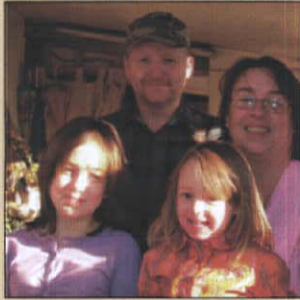
This is the first Princethorpe Parish Plan, which has been compiled and edited by the Princethorpe Parish Plan Steering Group.

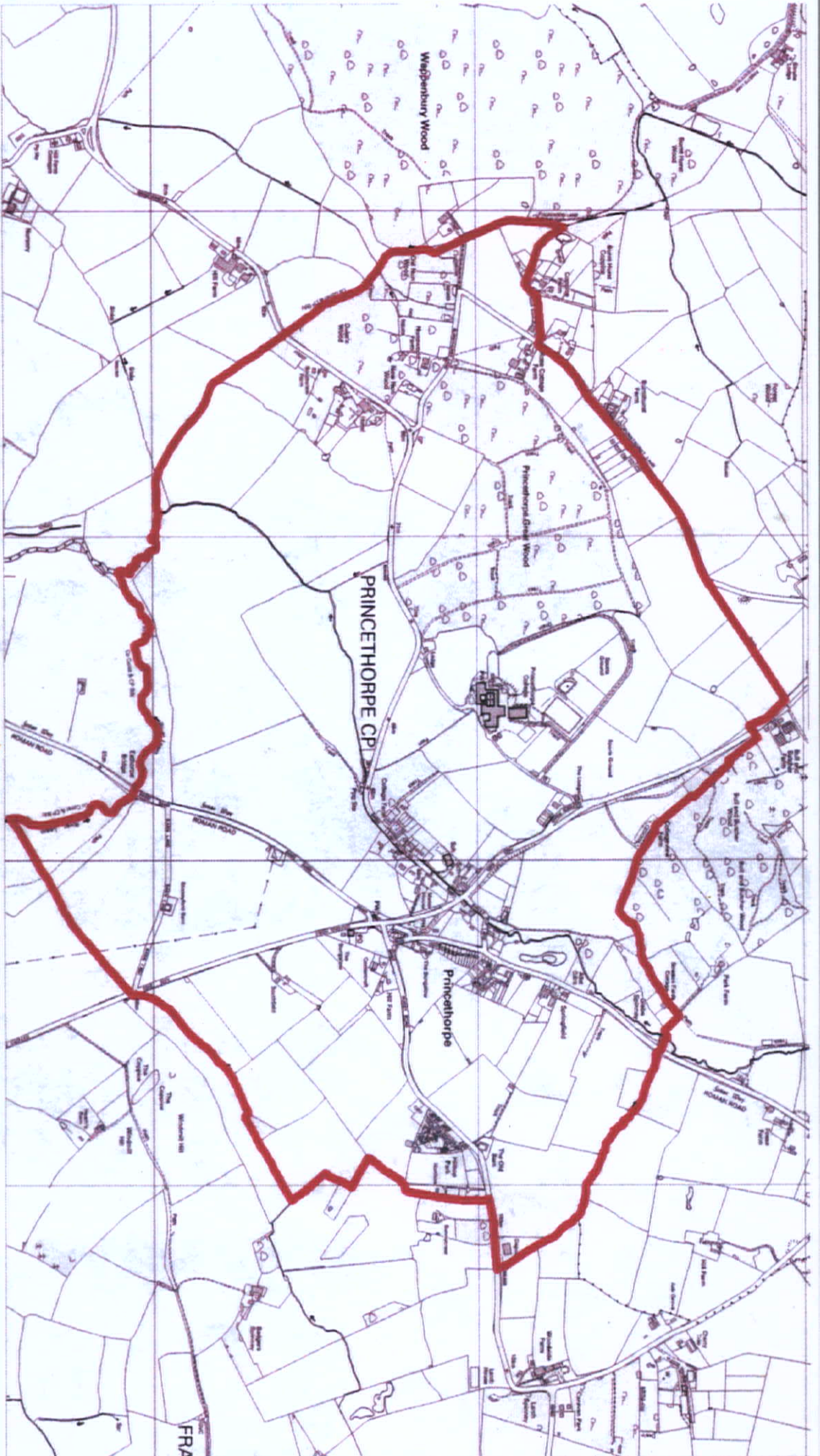
Thanks are due to the Steering Group for their unfailing loyalty, hard work and imagination, and to the people of Princethorpe for their support and cooperation throughout the process.

The Princethorpe Parish Council, which has adopted the resulting Action Plan, will require the continuing interest and involvement of both current and future villagers. We thank them for their support throughout the last two years.

Valuable help and advice from other Parish Steering Groups, from Rugby Council and from Linda Ridgley and her team at the Warwickshire Rural Community Council has been accepted with gratitude

This Parish Plan has been supported by DEFRA funding.





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The Parish of Princethorpe

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439643 270739	14/02/2008	NTS

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