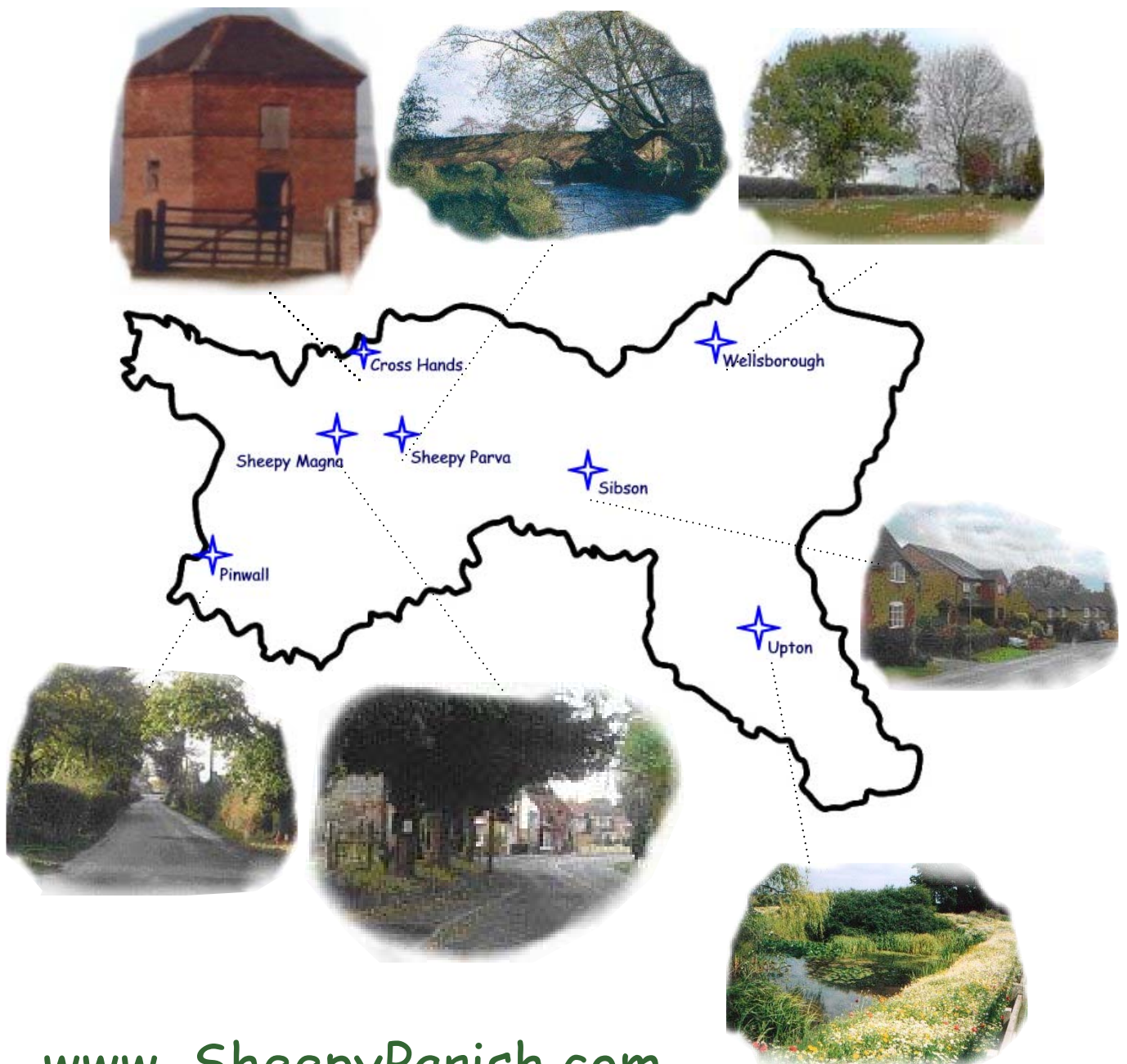


# The Villages of Sheepy Parish Plan

Sheepy Magna, Sheepy Parva, Sibson, Wellsborough, Upton, Pinwall, Cross Hands

## Final Report



[www. SheepyParish.com](http://www.SheepyParish.com)

Supported by :

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## *Introduction*

Sheepy Parish lies in a predominantly rural area to the West and South of the County of Leicestershire. It comprises two main villages, Sheepy Magna and Sibson, along with five smaller communities, Sheepy Parva, Wellsborough, Upton, Cross Hands and Pinwall.

Approximately 470 households are spread throughout the Parish.

The village school in Sheepy Magna is well attended by children from within the area - but in early 2003 the Village Shop and Post Office, used by the whole Parish, was closed.

There are two Anglican Churches, All Saints in Sheepy Magna and St Botolph's in Sibson. The Village Hall in Sibson is a modern building with good facilities regularly used and due to be further enhanced by greater provision for the disabled in the coming year. The Memorial Hall, situated on Main Road in Sheepy Magna, needs much work to return it to a good state of repair. The Playing Field is a great facility available for use by the whole Parish.

Whilst there are no formal 'Tourist Attractions' within the Parish, there is a 14<sup>th</sup> Century Dovecote and a Tithe Barn and residents are fortunate to live in a pleasant rural community.

At the beginning of 2002 the Vice Chair of the Parish Council, Mr Jim Aldridge, instigated the formation of 'Sheepy Parish Plan Group' - thereby enabling all to have a say in the workings of the Parish and plan for the future.

At the first 'open meeting' Volunteers came forward and a Steering Group was formed. With the help of a small grant from the Rural Community Council and a large grant from the Countryside Agency, the plans were laid to undertake a Consultation Exercise throughout the Parish. The Consultation Exercise initially took the form of questionnaires circulated to Affinity Groups and then to every household, designed to assess the needs and desires of residents of the Parish. The purpose was to formulate a plan, designed to improve and enhance the area in which we live, now and for the future.

The following pages are a summary of the results and achievements so far. This document is not intended as a 'snap shot' of the past - but as a blueprint for the future.

## ***The Consultation Exercise***

With the assistance of Hinckley and Bosworth Voluntary Action (the former Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureau, which are now combined) existing groups within the Parish (e.g. Ladies Club, Scouts, Friendship Club etc.) were identified and received a small questionnaire designed to seek their opinions of the facilities then available and their view of amenities likely to be required in the future.

This helped the Parish Plan Group formulate an overall questionnaire for circulation to each household in the Parish. Professionally drawn up by an outside consultant, the questionnaire was printed within the Parish. Given out and collected back by members of the Steering Group and volunteers, an excellent overall return rate of 80% was achieved - some communities exceeding 90%.

Respondents returned the questionnaire in an envelope and had the choice, taken by two thirds of them, to remain anonymous. The results were opened and analysed, using a custom-built computer program, by a consultant from outside the Parish. The findings were sometimes unusual, sometimes expected and sometimes a complete surprise - but gave the Parish Plan Group a basis on which to raise important issues with both Statutory and Voluntary bodies having responsibility for the area. Importantly it began the process of formulating an 'Action Plan' for the future.

A 'Protocol', given to the Parish Council by the Rural Community Council at the commencement of the whole exercise, assured everyone that Statutory bodies were duty bound to respond to questions raised and to try and resolve any contentious issues, within a specified time period.

In May 2003 two Open Days were held, one at Sheepy Magna and one at Sibson to show the Parish the results - the 'problems' identified and solutions offered by those responsible for their delivery - and to provide a third opportunity for consultation within the community.

## ***Conclusions***

Detailed progress reports of specific points appear on the following pages.

The overall response to the Parish Plan and the number of actions already taken are a great step forward for everyone. In future it is for all of us to ensure that the Plan itself continues to be a 'live' document for the Parish.

## ***Sheepy Parish Youth Club***

The club was created in the early stages of the Parish Plan process, prompted by a group of Young People writing to the Parish Council and the Playing Fields Committee asking why there were no facilities available for Young People in the area. Following a series of meetings with the Steering Group a Club was formed which now has 36 members and has recently celebrated the end of a first successful year.

## ***Sheepy Parish Conservation Group***

Formed towards the end of the consultation process, when it became apparent that many people were interested in the historical heritage of the area, the first major project - the preservation of Lovet's Bridge in Sheepy Parva - is under way with likely funding from Leicestershire County Council assisting in preserving the ancient monument.

## ***Speeding***

It was evident that a large majority of residents felt excessive speed on roads through Sheepy Magna, Sheepy Parva and along the A444 in Sibson was a problem, with complaints of Heavy Goods Vehicles and cars exceeding the specified speed limits.

In response to this, the Parish Council employed a private consultancy company to undertake a traffic survey at two points along Main Road, Sheepy Magna. The results did not bear out the concerns of residents. Heavy Goods Vehicles are not a concern because of either their speed or numbers and 90% of lighter traffic was travelling within the speed limit. It is however, being proposed that there should be a 20 mph speed limit outside the Village School. The possibility of a School Crossing Warden is being discussed with Leicestershire County Council.

Leicestershire Constabulary have placed Mobile Speed Cameras Signs along the A444 and the Police are now undertaking regular speed checks.

## ***Communication by Parish Council***

The majority of those surveyed indicated they lack knowledge of the work of the Parish Council on their behalf and sought better communication of Parish Council activity.

As a direct result a website has been created (***www.SheepyParish.com***) to address these issues.

Noticeboards and regular articles in the Parish Gazette continue for the benefit of those unable to access the Internet.

## ***www.SheepyParish.com***

This website was set up in February 2003 to provide an easy link to all the results of the Consultation Exercise and has proved to be a huge success. The site links to various Statutory bodies and others, including the Sheepy Parish Gazette. At the time of writing the site is the first in Leicestershire and amongst very few nationally, to provide the results of a Parish Plan in such detail.

In order to obtain services the Parish Council and those applying for funding need to provide clear 'evidence of need' to those responsible for service delivery.

Providing the survey data on line allows interested service providers direct access to the surveyed wishes of the householders who took part in the survey. Although the data is anonymised (to prevent identification of individuals) it provides a clear indication of wishes of the community as a whole.

In addition to detail of the Parish Plan visitors can obtain information around;

- details of Parish Councillors,
- forthcoming meetings of the Parish Council and others,
- minutes of previous Parish Council meetings (including planning applications received).
- Emails can be sent direct to Councillors, or the Clerk for consideration.

The number of persons connecting to the website increased steadily between its creation and April 2003. We currently receive an average of over 130 visitors each week — the most visited areas being the pages of survey results, suggesting service providers are incorporating the data into their planning.

## Other Actions in Progress

### ***Crime and Public Safety***

#### ***Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention***

Leicestershire Police held an information evening at Sibson Village Hall in June which was well promoted but poorly attended

#### ***Pavement Condition***

The Parish Council have contacted the Highways Department of Leicestershire County Council and a reply is awaited from Dr Simmonds

#### ***Parked Cars outside 'The Black Horse', Sheepy Magna***

The Parish Council have taken this up with the Police. The Police do not consider it to be a priority in the absence of any accidents to date.

### ***Environment***

#### ***Recycling***

The Borough Council is looking at providing Recycling Services within the next twelve months

#### ***Tree, Footpath and Archaeological Wardens***

Contact details will be published in the Sheepy Gazette and on the website ([www.SheepyParish.com](http://www.SheepyParish.com))

#### ***Travel***

Frequency and routes of buses serving most of the Parish have been increased. Difficulties visiting Leicester remain but community grants are available if a need can be demonstrated - and Sheepy Friendship Club was the first in the Parish to receive one

#### ***Dog Bins and Litter Bins***

The Parish Council will revisit this requirement in Financial Year 2004/5 with the intention of providing more dog bins

## ***Education for All***

### ***Local History***

Nearly half of all households (154) were interested in local history. Taster sessions took place in Sheepy and Sibson

### ***Healthy Living***

Holistic Therapy (Aromatherapy, Reflexology and Healthy Eating) sessions have taken place at both Sheepy and Sibson

### ***IT Training for work***

Any of the 73 households interested are asked to contact 'GAIN', a Leicestershire organisation coordinating vocational learning opportunities, via North Warwickshire and Hinckley College on 02476 243030. (Facilities exist at their premises in Atherstone)

### ***Drug Abuse issues for Parents***

140 households asked for classes covering this issue. Leicestershire County Council Drug Awareness Team ran an evening session in Sibson Village Hall.

### ***Registered Child Minders***

140 Households were interested in using Registered Child Minders. Lists are available from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (01455 636964). For those wishing to train - contact North Warwickshire and Hinckley College on 02476 243030.

### ***Nursery Schools, Playgroups and Before or After School Clubs***

Between 120 and 150 households said they would use these facilities, if they were available. The Parish Council can signpost any Volunteer who wishes to take on this role to further information.

### ***Holiday Play Schemes***

158 households wanted Holiday Play Schemes. Organised by the Borough Council, these are available but have been poorly advertised in the Parish. This is being addressed.

### ***Mobile Library***

In response to comments, Coalville Library (responsible for our area) has changed its timetable - so the Mobile Library is in the lay by near Sheepy School at 3.30 pm.

## ***Local Clubs***

Much interest was expressed in forming some local clubs. These activities need local enthusiasts to come forward to start up. The Parish Council will offer any help it can to the following projects. Please Email or contact the Parish Clerk.

Club	Households Interested
Gardening	121
Martial Arts	48
Petanque	38
Best Kept Village	314
Skittles	78
Basketball	29
Keep Fit	156
Rambling	104
Childrens Football	69
Childrens Rugby	48
Netball	40
Badminton	86
Yoga	119
Chess	29
Indoor Bowls	79
Ballroom Dancing (Teacher Identified)	53

## *Acknowledgments*

Sheepy Parish Council  
The Rural Community Council  
The Countryside Agency  
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## *The Steering Group*

Jim Aldridge	Vice Chair, Sheepy Parish Council
Kevin Morrell	Chair, Sheepy Parish Council
Peggy Hall	Past Chair, Sheepy Parish Council
Mary Beechey	Parish Councillor
Mavis Bassett	Secretary, Sheepy Parish Council and Parish Plan Committee
Jayne Husband	Chair Parish Plan Group
Geoff Gore	Parish Councillor
Eileen Baker	Parishioner
Maureen Burke	Parishioner
Liz Farmer	Parishioner
Averil Caton	Parishioner
Hugh McMichael	Treasurer, Parish Plan Group
Rev Annette Reed	Team Vicar, Sheepy Group of Churches



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