

Moreton Morrell Parish Plan

Prepared by: Moreton Morrell Parish Council

April 2024





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1. INTRODUCTION

This Parish Plan has been developed in recognition and as an updated version to the Moreton Morrell Parish Plan adopted in 2007.

The rationale behind its development sets out an understanding of those issues which are important to the community, creates a vision for future development and outlines a plan of actions which are needed to achieve the vision.

In 2022 a survey questionnaire was produced for the communities of Moreton Morrell, Moreton Paddox and Little Morrell on behalf of Moreton Morrell Parish Council to gain a greater understanding of the communities' profile, the issues and concerns of residents, as well as the opportunities for improvements.

The questionnaire was developed by the Parish Council and followed consultation with Simon Purfield of Stratford on Avon District Council who assessed its suitability and content. All households (just over 300) were delivered a leaflet and encouraged to participate online and advised that hard copies of the questionnaire were also available. The survey was open for four weeks and promoted at the 2022 January parish council meeting and via the village Facebook pages and Nextdoor attracting a total of 117 household responses (38%)

The main conclusions have been summarised throughout this report and reflect the development of a range of actions.

In addition, this document in its draft form underwent public consultation in January 2024 with parishioners, in order to ensure there would be mutual buy-in to the proposed Vision and Action Plan.

This final version includes comments and suggestions made at and following the public consultation.

The Parish Plan has been developed to:

1. Gain a greater understanding of the demographic profile of the parish
2. Identify the features of the village that people value and wish to preserve
3. Identify the key services and facilities that villagers wish to maintain and improve
4. Enable residents in the parish to identify local problems and issues to be resolved
5. Provide the opportunity to engage and communicate with villagers
6. Identify projects and initiatives which would attract community support
7. Gain a clear understanding of future housing requirements
8. Create a vision for the parish which is shared by the community and which contributes to its thriving future
9. Provide a framework to help the Parish Council understand what the community wishes them to focus on
10. Create and implement an action plan to achieve this vision



2. MORETON MORRELL PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The parish of Moreton Morrell will continue to thrive by protecting its heritage and rural setting as a welcoming place to live with a vibrant community that people wish to share and enjoy.

This will be achieved by:

- Preserving the heritage (buildings, way of life) and facilities (open spaces, infrastructure) wherever possible.
- Supporting everyone who resides, works and visits, and install a sense of pride in all that we are and strive to be.
- Providing an ideal environment and place to start and grow a business.
- Addressing the challenges resulting from climate change in all that the village does and encourage and support everyone to play their part.
- Being welcoming across all groups of society, visitors, new residents and new businesses.
- Installing an ongoing sense of community for all those who reside or work in the parish.
- Working in partnership with neighbouring parishes and community groups, e.g. the primary school, church and college.
- Increasing engagement and communications with residents.
- Preserving and enhancing wildlife.

Our Parish Council Core Values

- We value each other and those we work with, nurturing a culture of tolerance and through honouring and listening to the opinions of others in the community.
- We embrace ideas and work with partners and associations to ensure we succeed in creating a village community and place that is a pleasure to live, work and enjoy.
- We are accountable and responsible for all that we do on behalf of the community and abide by the values of the Nolan Principles - The Seven Principles of Public Life - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



3. MMPC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles should be considered by new development proposals within the Parish:

3.1 MM1 Guiding Principles for New Development

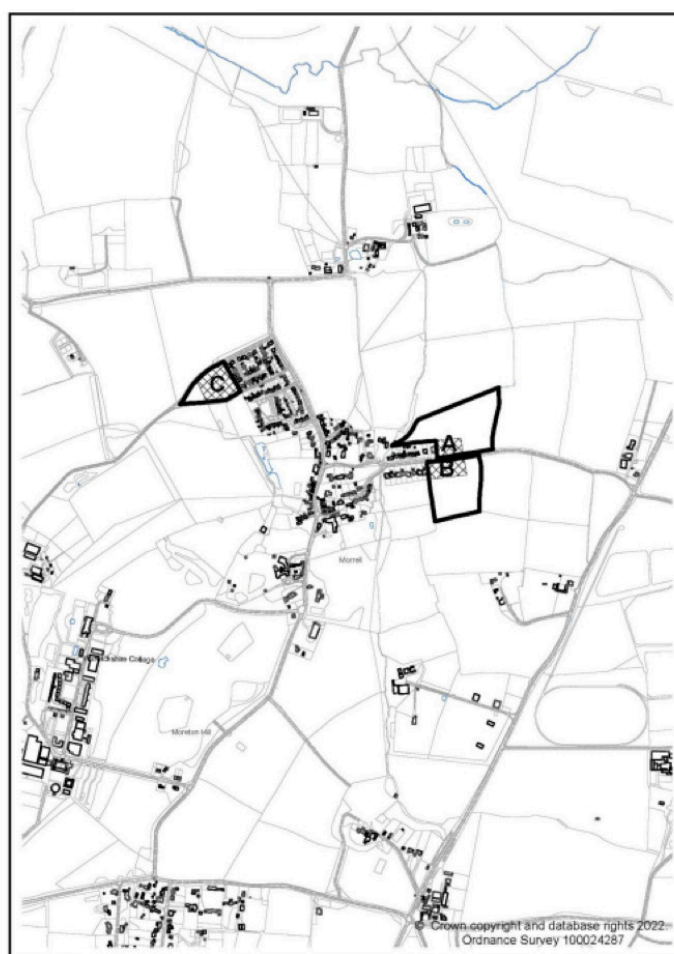
a) The Parish Council supports the sites proposed to be allocated in Stratford-on-Avon District’s Site Allocation Plan (June 2022). These should reflect a similar density (or less) and character to neighbouring properties, with provision for off-road parking in accordance with Part O of the Development Requirements SPD (Parking and Travel - Stratford District Council July 2019). This reflects the following policy:

One Bed	One Space
Two Bed	Two Spaces
Three Bed	Two Spaces
Four Bed	Three Spaces
Five Bed	Three Spaces

- b) The existing community open green space off Oaktree Close should be retained and the parish council will reapply to extend the playing field as a Community Asset with Stratford District Council from 2024.
- c) There should be minimal removal of existing trees and hedgerows in respect of new development or in providing pathway links between existing green space and new open space areas. In the event of trees and hedgerows requiring removal, these should be replaced where possible with mature trees and planting, hereby retaining the character of the village.
- d) The inclusion of footways should be sufficiently wide to accommodate passing buggies and wheelchairs.

e) Replacement and small infill developments within the Built Up Area Boundary will be supported in principle by the Parish Council, where these complement the design and character of surrounding buildings and provide satisfactory arrangements for access and off-road parking.

The sites currently identified in the emerging Site Allocation Plan (June 2022) by Stratford-on-Avon District Council include the following extracts from the SAP (pages 40-41) together with the plan (Page 102) Site Allocations Plan | Stratford-on-Avon District Council



Reserve Housing Sites - Moreton Morrell

3. MMPC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

John Davis Drive (Triangle Field) – 20 dwellings capacity: Site Area 0.8 Hectares

The provisions of all relevant policies in the Core Strategy, Site Allocations Plan and associated planning guidance will need to be satisfied. The following specific matters should be incorporated into any development proposal for the site.

- Restrict housing to eastern part of the site as shown by cross-hatched area on the Moreton Morrell map in Section 8, Part A
- Extend footway along southern side of John Taylor Way up to access into the site
- Create a hedgerow with intermittent trees along northern boundary of the site
- Create a woodland copse on western part of the site



Brook Lane – North of Brook Lane – 5 dwellings capacity: Site Area 0.2 Hectares

The provisions of all relevant policies in the Core Strategy, Site Allocations Plan and associated planning guidance will need to be satisfied. The following specific matters should be incorporated into any development proposal for the site:

- Restrict housing to south-western part of the site as shown by cross-hatched area on the Moreton Morrell map in Section 8, Part A
- Provide a single point of access off Brook Lane
- Provide visibility splays of 70m to the west and 160m to the east of the vehicular access point
- Extend 30mph speed limit along Brook Lane up to the access point
- Widen Brook Lane up to access point to enable two-way vehicle movements
- Ensure a separation distance of at least 15m between access to this site and access to site opposite (MM.B)
- Extend footway along northern side of Brook Lane up to access into the site
- Produce a Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy for the site
- Undertake hydraulic modelling to establish impact on flood risk from watercourse
- Create a hedgerow with intermittent trees along northern boundary of the development area
- Create a woodland copse on eastern part of the site

Brook Lane – South of Brook Lane – 8 dwellings capacity: 0.3 Hectares

The provisions of all relevant policies in the Core Strategy, Site Allocations Plan and associated planning guidance will need to be satisfied. The following specific matters should be incorporated into any development proposal for the site:

- Restrict housing to north-western part of the site as shown by cross-hatched area on the Moreton Morrell map in Section 8, Part A
- Provide a single point of access off Brook Lane
- Provide visibility splays of 70m to the west and 160m to the east of the vehicular access point
- Extend 30mph speed limit along Brook Lane up to the access point
- Widen Brook Lane up to access point to enable two-way vehicle movements
- Ensure a separation distance of at least 15m between access to this site and access to site opposite (MM.A)
- Extend footway along northern side of Brook Lane up to access into the site
- Produce a Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy for the site
- Undertake hydraulic modelling to establish impact on flood risk from watercourse Site Allocations Plan Revised Preferred Options Consultation (June 2022) 48 of 203
- Create a hedgerow with intermittent trees along southern boundary of the development area
- Create a woodland copse on eastern part of the site

3.2 MM2 – Guiding Principles for Mix of New Housing

- a) In terms of housing mix for new developments, the current Moreton Morrell Housing Needs Survey and the findings from the Local Parish Plan Survey should be considered, which emphasises the need for one storey properties, and be considered against the provision of the Core Strategy 2011-2031 Policy CS19 or the following updated reviews.
- b) The lack of public transport services in Moreton Morrell and footpaths to Wellesbourne to access essential services means that villagers are dependent on car ownership. Consequently, with no mains gas, Moreton Morrell is not an affordable village to live in. The provision of affordable housing should reflect the demand and be for the right mix of tenure ie rental v shared ownership.
- c) In accordance with the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding (Register) Regulations 2016, Stratford-on-Avon District Council keeps a register of individuals (and associations of individuals) who are seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in their area for this purpose.

Whilst the Core Strategy does not contain a policy that specifically provides for Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding, paragraph 5.2.16 in the explanation to Policy CS.16 makes it clear that the District Council supports the principle of schemes being delivered as self-build projects and plans to include such a policy in its Site Allocations plan and is also looking to allocate specific sites to deliver custom and self-build homes. Moreton Morrell Parish Council is in support of self-build sites if appropriately located and designed to meet local needs.

3. MMPC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.3 MM3 – Biodiversity and Historic Sites

As a guiding principle, new development should preserve and enhance biodiversity including designated woodlands, local habitats and wildlife areas.

The wildlife group in conjunction with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust have identified two potential sites in the village to enhance for community use and to encourage wildlife and biodiversity.

Site One is to the side of the church yard in unconsecrated ground and the second site is in the school playfields. The proposals include wild flower planting, additional bird boxes, hedging etc, creating natural paths through the area and the provision of some picnic benches.

Schemes are part funded by Severn Trent and other sources and are supported by the community liaison team from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, who will help advise and co-ordinate the projects to ensure they assist in increasing local biodiversity and supporting local wildlife.

In 2023, the parish council funded 100 bird boxes which were given to all school children as part of the coronation celebrations which will be monitored as part of an ongoing project.

3.4 MM4 – Guiding Principle for the Flood Risk Management of New and Modified Housing

Moreton Morrell is fortunate in that the parish benefits from a Flood Zone 1 category as indicated in the map opposite:

However, proposals for development affected by flood risk will be required to comply with the provisions of the NPPF and policy CS4 of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy 2011-2031

or future superseded policies. The following principles of build and construction are supported:

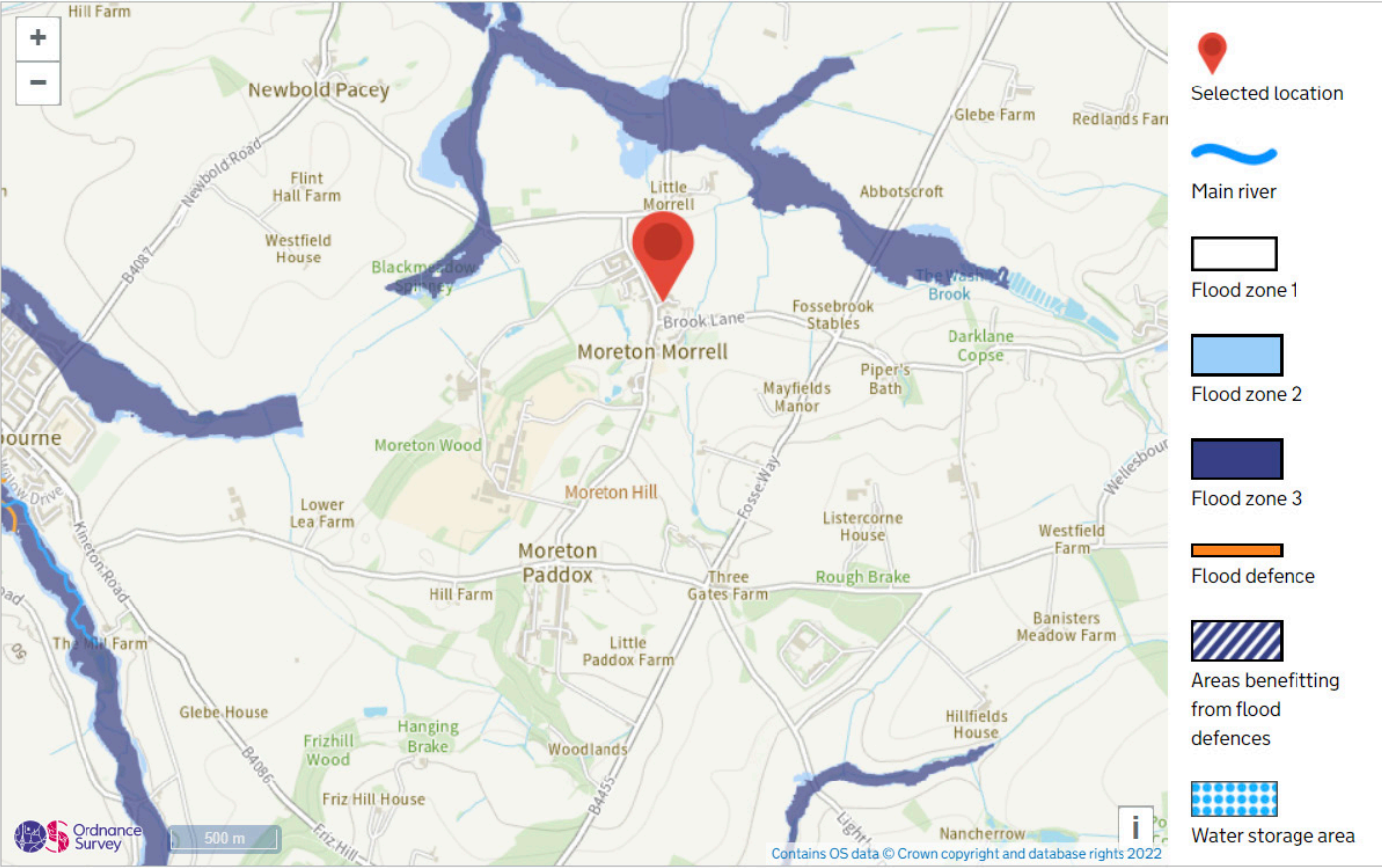
- a) Use of water-resistant materials for ground levels floors, walls and fixtures
- b) Siting of electrical equipment at least one metre above the floor
- c) Incorporating flood-resistant systems (drain cover, removable door guards) to reduce the chance of water entering the property
- d) New parking areas and driveways to use porous materials where possible to improve local drainage

3.5 MM5 – Climate Change Guiding Principles

Moreton Morrell Parish Council recognises that the world is in a state of climate emergency and acknowledges that we must act now to reduce our carbon footprint.

As a community we need to change to a more sustainable lifestyle, utilising power with maximum efficiency and where possible maximise renewable sources such as solar, encouraging the changeover to electric/hybrid vehicles, reducing waste and plastic consumption and buying food from local sources. As a guiding principle new development that is well insulated and avoids the use of fossil fuels will be welcomed.

In view of the limited energy resources available in the village, the parish council is in support of investigating opportunities to access neighbouring renewable energy sources, e.g. the solar farm on the Newbold Road, in order to provide a more cost effective energy supply to the village.



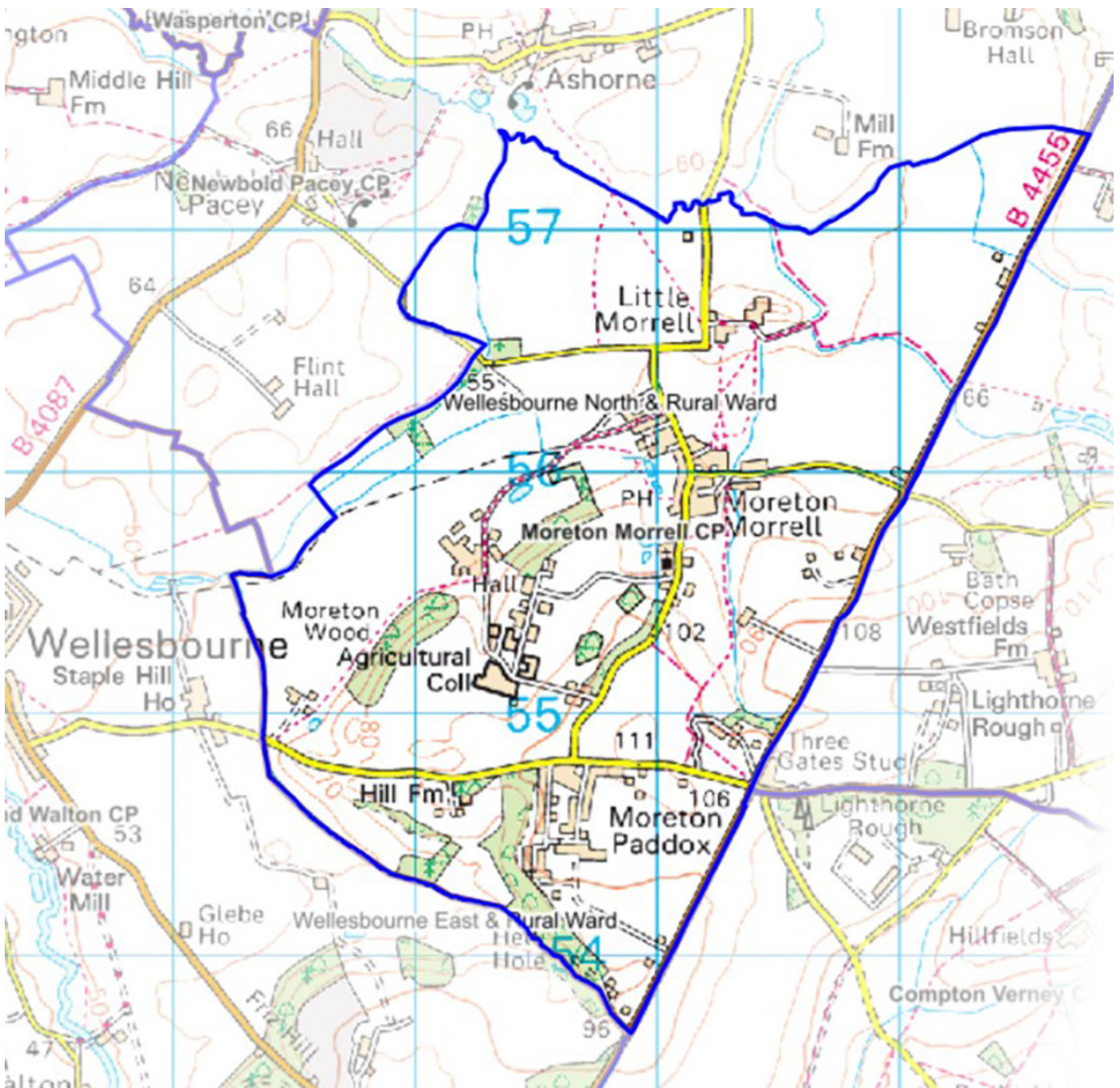
The Award Winning Invisible House in Moreton Paddock for its architectural design

4. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND AREA CHARACTERISTICS

Moreton Morrell is an ancient settlement, mentioned in the Domesday Book as Mortone. From at least early Norman times, it has consisted of the “town” of Moreton and the hamlet of Morrell.

The parish comprises Little Morrell in the north, the village of Moreton Morrell, Moreton Paddox in the south and a small number of houses to the west of the Fosse Way.

Moreton Morrell Parish Area



4.1 Population

The population in 1801 was very similar to that cited in the Domesday Book in 1086. Throughout the 1800s, the population varied between 183 and 301, according to the prosperity of farming at the time. It rose to 388 by 1911, declining sharply following the First World War.

In the first part of the 1900s, the population rose at a steady rate, with a sharp increase in the late 1960s. This was primarily due to the development of Oak Tree Close and Moreton Paddox.

By 2001, there was a further increase following the developments of Wilcox Leys, John Taylor Way and Chestnut Grove in the 1990's.

Within the last ten years there have been a number of small infill developments with the addition of three properties off Brook Lane in Barn Fields, two properties in Oak Tree Close, two in Moreton Paddox and one in Little Morrell. Other developments across the parish include wide ranging extensions and design updates to existing dwellings.

According to the 2021 Census, the parish population is estimated to be in the region of 800 people (46.1% male, 53.9% female) with the following demographic profile based on responses from the questionnaire:

Age	Number in households responding
0-11	21
12-18	30
19-24	12
25-44	26
45-64	61
65-74	36
75 plus	11

4.2 Location

Set in rural Warwickshire, the village of Moreton Morrell is a beautiful place in which to live. It is a small friendly community, enjoying a wide age range and wealth of talents and interests.

The village is surrounded by mature trees and farmland where sheep and horses graze and a variety of crops are grown. Whilst situated in a rural location, it is conveniently close to Wellesbourne – a rural village centre and the historic towns of Leamington Spa, Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon. The village benefits from excellent road links with the M40 J13 access lying just over three miles away, providing routes to Birmingham, the airport and NEC to the north and Banbury and London to the south. In addition there are good rail links from Leamington Spa to London Marylebone and Birmingham.

Birmingham International Airport has global connections with direct and connecting flights around the world. Wellesbourne airfield provide private tuition and flights for both fixed wing light aircraft and helicopters and has been identified by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for economic development.

4.3 Moreton Morrell Conservation Area

Moreton Morrell is a small linear settlement on a lane running north-south up a spur of rising ground. It has a compact inward-looking core with terraced cottages on both sides of the village street.

From a social and economic point of view, the village is now associated with Warwickshire College. However, Moreton Manor and Moreton House, together with the entrance gateways to Moreton Hall and its Real Tennis court suggest this was formerly a small service community to these closely grouped country houses with their extensive parkland gardens.

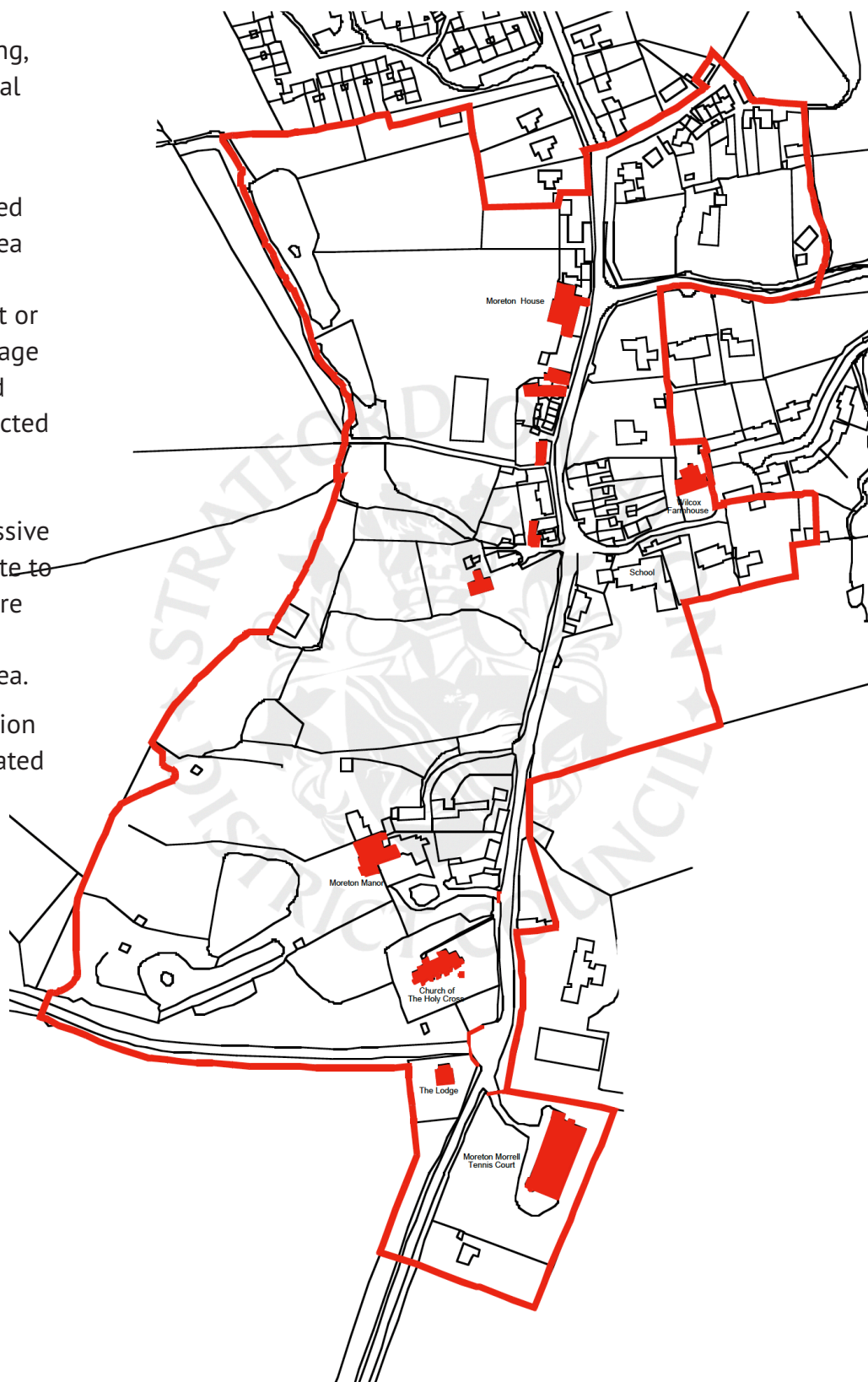
4. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND AREA CHARACTERISTICS

Moreton Morrell has a distinctive landscape setting, which includes a substantial number of fine specimen parkland trees.

Moreton Hall is not included within the conservation area because it does not have strong physical attachment or reciprocal views to the village to warrant being embraced with it. However, it is protected in its own right as a Listed Building. The gates and avenue of trees, the impressive Wellingtonia Drive, do relate to the village and are therefore included for the most part within the conservation area.

Moreton Morrell conservation area was originally designated in 1969 and revised, with significant extensions and other minor alterations, in September 1997.

The Conservation Area (Listed Buildings in Red)



4.4 Parish Council

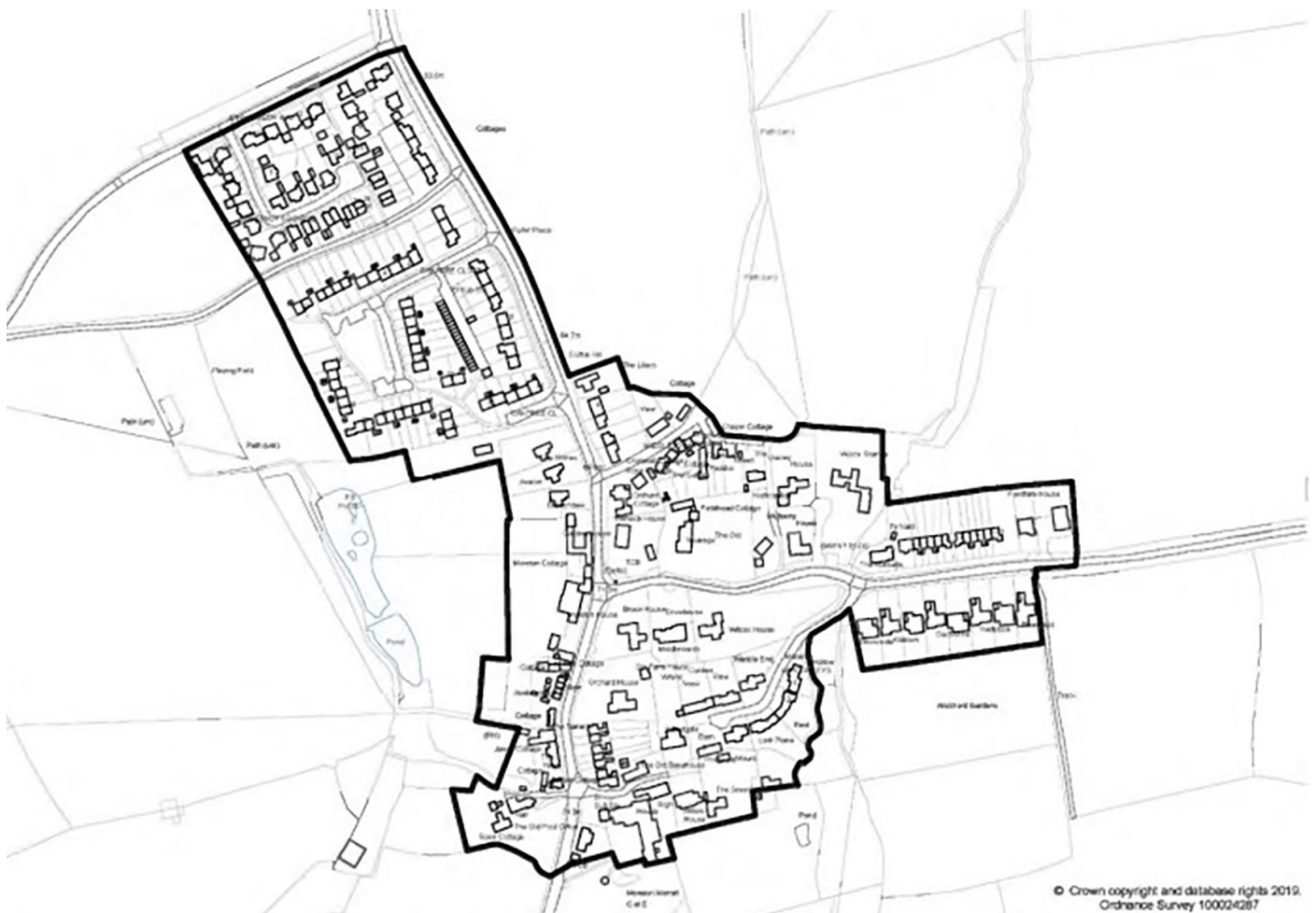
Moreton Morrell Parish Council comprises seven members and a salaried clerk. Councillors are elected to stand for four years.

Parish Council meetings take place in The Room or the Village Hall and usually on the third Monday of March, May, July, September, November and January. The Annual General Meeting is held at the May meeting. Both the District and County Councillors are invited to parish council meetings, as well as a Warwickshire College representative. Villagers are also welcome to attend and the agenda and minutes are published on the parish council website – www.moretonmorrell-pc.gov.uk

The Parish precept is used to pay for maintenance of the village, including lighting, bus shelters, litter bins, maintaining public rights of way, mowing grass verges and the maintenance and upkeep of the playing field. In addition the parish council supports the upkeep of the Village Hall, community events and projects, together with the maintenance of the churchyard.

4.5 Moreton Morrell Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB)

The village's Built Up Area Boundary has been proposed by Stratford-on-Avon District as follows:



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4. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND AREA CHARACTERISTICS

4.6 Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Stratford-on-Avon District Council covers a large rural area, some 378 square miles, right in the middle of England. Approximately 135,000 people live in the District, the largest town being Stratford-upon-Avon with 30,500 residents. 41 councillors decide the Council's policies on how it delivers its services to the communities of South Warwickshire, each of whom is elected for four years.

The Council provides the following services: -

- Building Control
- Car Parking
- Environmental Health
- Housing
- Leisure activities
- Licensing
- Refuse and Recycling
- Parks and Gardens
- Planning and Enforcement

4.7 Warwickshire County Council

Warwickshire County Council covers five districts – North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Rugby District, Warwick District and Stratford District. Policies are made by 57 county councillors who are adopted by the Council and appropriate budgets set.

The Council provides the following services: -

- Social Services
- Education
- Road Maintenance and Improvement
- Libraries
- Public Transport
- Fire and Rescue
- Strategic and Emergency Planning
- Trading Standards

More information can be found on their website www.warwickshire.gov.uk and their phone number is **01926 410410**



5. KEY FINDINGS FROM 2022 SURVEY

The evidence behind the development of the Local Parish Plan reflects the key findings from the survey undertaken in 2022 which are based on 117 responses, so may not fully reflect views of all residents.

Introduction and Demographics:

- 60% moved to Parish as they love the country life
- 55% have lived in Parish over 16 years with 20% of those 25 years plus.
- The largest age group of adults is 45-64 years and children is 12-18 years.

Transport and Car Ownership:

- Private cars were preferred method of travel with 100% of respondents owning a car and 93% of respondents never using public transport. More frequent, regular bus services to more locations including Wellesbourne would encourage more use. 61% said they would use public transport if available and frequent to Wellesbourne, 61% to Stratford, and 65% if available to Leamington.
- 18% owned 1 car, 54% 2 cars with 27% owning 3 cars or more.
- 12% own an electric car and 68% of respondents do not have access to a private charging point with 40% supporting public charging points in the village in the future.
- Parking or lack of parking was an issue in Main Street, by the pub and the school, mentioned as the most problematic areas, together with the top of Brook Lane and Oaktree Close.

- Less than 5% use the train service regularly (at least once a week) but 68% use occasionally with Leamington Spa the preferred station.
- 40% cycle on Parish roads, 11% ride a horse on parish roads and 88% run or walk on parish roads.

Work and Communication:

- Nearly 30% work from home, 14% work within 5 miles, 26% within 15 miles and the rest over 15 miles although 27% do not work or are retired.
- 100% had broadband connection with 20% having weekly problems with connection speed although 80% only had a problem sometimes or never.
- 74% used Internet to work from home while 100% used it for online shopping, email, browsing or booking health appointments.
- Nearly 80% rated the broadband service in the area as very good or quite good while just over 20% thought it quite poor or very poor.
- Nearly 50% rated mobile phone service good or very good but just over 30% rated it quite poor and nearly 20% rated it very poor.



Community and Activities in Parish:

- Only 15% thought there were sufficient activities for children age 0-6, 8% for 7-12, 1% for teenagers, and only 20% for adults. There was a lot of commentary about the lack of things for teenagers to do suggestions included teenage clubs, youth shelter and setting up a Youth Council to ask them what they would like.
- The most popular community activities suggested were quiz evenings (54%), Keep Fit (45%) Cinema Screenings (45%), Adult or Leisure classes (36%)
- Only 10% attend the Church regularly and 53% never attend.
- Re venues in the village approximately 25% prefer the Village Hall, 25% The Room and 50% had no preference. The reasons given for preferring the Room were that it was new, clean, warm with modern facilities whereas many liked the Village Hall as a bigger space and nicer building with more character.
- 57% use village footpaths more than 3 times a week, with 40% using 1-2 times a week or occasionally and only 3% never. The most common complaint (82%) was re poor underfoot conditions and poor signage (44%). Dog fouling was also mentioned in many comments as being a significant problem on footpaths with lots of suggestions of how to deal with it including increased fines and enforcement, pink spray, name and shame, more dog bins.

Play Area and Allotments:

- 83% consider the playing field is very important or quite important and we also received 42 comments mostly very supportive about this much-valued amenity.
- Additional equipment requested at play area included; better climbing frame, picnic tables in the shade, youth shelter and running track around the edge.
- 78% consider the Parish allotments are very important or quite important, with 30% interested or maybe interested in renting one in the near future.

Environment:

- Nearly 80% felt verges and hedges were well maintained
- 22% were concerned re flooding with bends at entrance to bottom end of village, Brook Lane and play area all mentioned.
- Nearly 40% considered litter was a problem with rubbish thrown from cars allegedly by college students and dog fouling attracting lots of comments.
- Just less than 50% felt fly tipping was an issue with the back road to Newbold Pacey mentioned frequently.
- Only 20% felt noise was an issue with speeding cars and motorbikes (50%), dog barking in Oaktree Close, tannoy noise from the college and noisy garden machinery all mentioned.
- Only 8% felt light pollution was a problem and 22% felt more street lighting was needed the area from the school to the Church and Brook Lane was mentioned most frequently.

Health:

- 92% were aware of defibrillator in the village and 58% would be interested in attending a training session on CPR and its use.
- 77% have difficulty accessing or making appointments with GP and 29% with a dentist. All other services scored less than 12% in relation to problems with access.
- Most of the public and voluntary services used in the last two years were rated good or very good with only Doctor and Dentist rating above 10% in the poor or very poor.

Housing:

- Nearly 70% have someone in their household who they expect to move outside the Parish within next 5 years and 32% who would move within Parish.
- 58% felt a house would best suit needs in future with 42% stating a bungalow.
- 78% felt they would require 3 or more bedrooms.

Law and Order:

- 100% of respondents felt the villages of Moreton Morrell and Moreton Paddox were safe places to live. The only real area of concern mentioned was speeding traffic.



- 37% of respondents were concerned re speeding traffic in Moreton Morrell, 17% in Moreton Paddox, 23% on connecting roads to villages, and 23% on the Fosse way. There were a lot of suggestions for where and when to carry out speed checks.
- In addition, vehicles driving too fast or close and/or cyclists travelling too fast affected 81% negatively.
- 50% felt there were not enough off road routes and 49% not enough paved routes particular mention was made of safe walking /cycling routes to Moreton Paddox and Wellesbourne.
- 75% would support a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Utilities:

- Less than 20% have had problems with significant interruptions with their electricity supply.
- Over 50% would be interested in a buying group for LPG or heating oil.
- 90% are connected to main sewerage system.



6. HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

The parish of Moreton Morrell is located within the Wellesbourne North and Rural Ward which lies in Stratford-on-Avon District Council, the Local Planning Authority. Planning decisions are therefore governed by its adopted Core Strategy together with the National Planning Policy Framework. Whilst the Core Strategy is currently being reviewed together with Warwick District Council to provide an updated South Warwickshire Local Plan, the policies within the Core Strategy remain material planning considerations together with the Five Years' Housing Land Supply, which at the time of this report is 10.2 years.

There are three proposed Reserve Housing Sites in Moreton Morrell included in the emerging Site Allocations Plan (SAP) with one site off John Taylor Way and two sites off Brook Lane. Although it is not adopted the emerging SAP has limited weight in the determination of planning applications.

Moreton Morrell is classified as a Local Service Category 4 (LSV4) village which falls under Policy CS.15 of the Core Strategy in terms of distribution of development together with AS.10 Countryside and Villages polices, which includes the outreach areas of the parish which extends to Moreton Paddox, Little Morrell and the bordering Fosseyway. In addition, other relevant policies include CS.9 Design and Distinctiveness as well as CS.16 Housing Development, CS.19 Housing Mix and Type and CS.18 Affordable Housing.

6.1 Housing

In the Parish Plan survey of 2022, the following findings were identified in relation to Housing as highlighted in Section 2 of this document:

Likelihood of Moving:

11 respondents expected to move within the Parish within 5 years

23 respondents expected to move outside the Parish within 5 years

63 respondents did not expect to move

Type of Accommodation Required:

58% House

42% Bungalow

Number of Bedrooms Required:

2% 1

18% 2

40% 3

30% 4

9% 5

As an LSV4 village in Stratford on Avon District Council's Core Strategy this means that development is currently restricted to small infill schemes or larger schemes outside the Built Up Area Boundary with community support and potentially self-build housing, which can be adjacent to the BUAB, in accordance with Policy SAP.6 of the emerging Site Allocations Plan. At the time of producing this Local Parish Plan the Core Strategy is under review with the development of a South Warwickshire Local Plan and reserve housing sites include Triangle Field off John Taylor Way and Brook Lane being proposed through the emerging SAP.

In March 2020 Moreton Morrell Parish Council commissioned Warwickshire Rural Community Council to conduct a survey to collect local housing needs information within and relating to Moreton Morrell parish when the following identified five households with a defined local connection looking for alternative accommodation:

Housing association rent -

1 x 3 bed bungalow

Housing association shared ownership -

1 x 2 bed house

Owner-occupier -

3 x 3 bed house

Consideration should also be given to the requirements of the 12 local households registered on Home Choice Plus. In rural areas where analysis indicates a need for 1-bed accommodation this would generally be reclassified as 2-bed accommodation. A 1-bed dwelling can only house a single person or couple, whereas a 2-bed home can also accommodate a small family and a single or couple household may grow and require additional space in the future.

This increased flexibility, weighed against the relatively small extra cost and extra space associated with building a 2-bed home is a strong argument for providing the larger unit.



7. EDUCATION, LEISURE, COMMUNITY AND HEALTH FACILITIES

7.1 Moreton Morrell Primary School

Moreton Morrell Church of England Primary School was founded in 1874 to serve the children of the parish of Moreton Morrell. It originally occupied the site of the village hall but moved into its current building at the beginning of the twentieth century. Since then the school has undergone a series of changes. The hall was built on in the 1950s and two extra classrooms, the current Reception classroom and computer suite added in the 1990s to cater for the increase in pupil numbers. The Y1/2 classroom completed in 2000.

In 2005 an ICT (Information and Communication Technology) suite was completed, enabling whole classes to access up to date information. The school offers a wide range of musical instruction - flute, drums, violin, cello to name a few. Sport is also popular with flourishing cricket, netball and football teams. In July 2005 the school achieved silver status in the Warwickshire Healthy Schools Scheme. This followed the culmination of months of effort,

involving not only pupils and staff but also parents, the church, school governors, a school health adviser and other outside agencies. The school also has a strong Parent Teacher Association, which regularly holds fundraising events.

The school's immediate catchment area is the parish of Moreton Morrell and Newbold Pacey with Ashorne but the school has many children in attendance from outside the immediate catchment area.

As a small village school it has approximately 100 pupils aged from four to eleven, creating a family atmosphere. The school is an important component of the village, adding to its family atmosphere and community spirit.

In February 2023 a decision was made to join the already successful Fosse Multi Academy Trust which consists of a group of schools located around Wellesbourne and the Fosse Way was created to serve the needs of local schools for high quality education through strong collaboration with sharing of resources and expertise.



7.2 Moreton Morrell College

Moreton Morrell College is part of the Warwickshire College Group which is one of the UK's largest general further and higher education colleges with more than 25,000 students. It provides high quality training and qualifications for individuals and organisations, plus leisure courses and activities.

There are six main centres as well as two Learning Centres and the use of more than 60 community centres across Warwickshire. The main centres are Leamington Spa, Rugby, Henley in Arden and the Trident Park Business and Technology Centre, Pershore College and Moreton Morrell.

The Moreton Morrell centre is set in 750 acres of countryside and offers courses in land-based subjects; it is also a Centre of Vocational Excellence for equine.

There are purpose built centres for horticulture and veterinary nursing, as well as an animal welfare centre. The construction faculty has an open workshop area for brickwork, carpentry and multi-skilling.

The residential accommodation ensures that around 300 students benefit from a 'home from home' sense of community. There can be up to 800 students on site in any one day.



7.3 Church of the Holy Cross

The parish church of the Holy Cross stands south of the village to the west of the road. It is a building consisting of a chancel with a north vestry, nave with a north porch and a west tower. The church in the main dates from the 13th century, but it is possible that the nave, from its proportions and thick walls (over 3 ft.), is of the 12th century.

No details of this date remain, but reset in the north wall of the tower is the head of a small 12th-century window which may have been moved from the west wall of the nave. Repeated later repairs and alterations have done away with the 13th-century windows and doorways. Most of the windows are of the 15th century or later, and

those in the nave have lost their original mullions and tracery.

The upper part of the tower is of 19th-century brickwork and the north porch was added at the end of that century. There have been several modern restorations, including one of 1886. There are three bells, two of 1616, and the tenor by Newcombe of Leicester 1609. The communion plate includes a worn Elizabethan cup, with renewed stem, and its paten cover. The early registers, beginning in 1538, are now deposited with the county records at Warwick.

On most Sundays, services are held in the four parishes of Moreton Morrell; Newbold Pacey and Ashorne; and Lighthorne, Upper Lighthorne and Chesterton which make up the Mid Fosse Benefice.





The Room

In 2017, The Room was built joining on to the church. This marked the end of a project lasting for over a decade. The Room has an overall capacity for up to 50 people with a seating capacity for 40 and meets several local needs, including:

- A space for the community to hold meetings or social events
- A venue for children's work that is separate from the main church
- Improved facilities such as a toilet, kitchen area and storage

The room was paid for by a combination of personal donations and grants and is available for hire for small gatherings.

7.4 The Black Horse Pub

The Black Horse was previously known as the Sea Horse. It was once two cottages, with the right-hand cottage being used as the pub. The entrance porch was added in later years. The public house has been in the village since at least 1886, when the

census survey lists Charles Wincott as Grocer and Publican. The Black Horse changed hands in 2019 and following the granting of planning permission reopened in 2023 following an extensive refurbishment programme which includes the addition of four bed and breakfast letting rooms.



7.5 The Village Hall

The current village hall is the former schoolroom and was purchased for £80 in 1924. Some modernisations were made to the hall in 1986 and 2012, whilst it has continued to be modernised and redecorated the hall continues to require regular maintenance.

There has been concern regarding the condition and structural safety of the village hall. Professional reports were commissioned by both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Trustees and they identified that significant repairs are required. However, as regards the structural safety of the building, the most recent report by a structural engineer states, the following, 'there is nothing structurally that could be described as unsafe'.

Assurances have been received from the Village Hall Trustees that the necessary repairs and maintenance identified will be costed and assuming funds are available or can be raised from grant aid or other means, these will be carried out to ensure the future of the building and its continued use. The Village Hall Trustees will approach the villagers for thoughts and suggestions and consult with the Parish Council.

Works required

Structural matters requiring attention include the following:

1. Ensure stability of section B roof and gable walls.
2. Rebuild section A.
3. Maintain wooden floors.
4. Improve or replace solid floors.
5. Deal with fungal decay in section D.

External repair and maintenance matters requiring attention include:

6. Maintain or re-cover roof slopes.
7. In due course rebuild chimney.
8. Improve rainwater goods.
9. Manage vegetation growing onto building.
10. Locally repair walls.
11. Deal with fire escape external doors.
12. Maintain or replace wooden framed windows.
13. Ensure nearby trees are adequately managed.
14. Investigate below ground drains and deal with as necessary.

Internal works required include:

15. Ensure an asbestos management plan is in place.
16. Check radon level and deal with building as appropriate.
17. Improve wall and ceiling finishes as appropriate.
18. Deal with internal joinery and decorations as required.
19. Ensure sufficient fire safety arrangements.





- 20. Investigate EPC requirement.
 - 21. Preferably improve thermal insulation.
 - 22. Ensure electrical safety and function
- A series of recommended actions are included in the Action Plan and a full structural survey is being undertaken.

7.6 The Playing Field

The Playing Field is located by Oak Tree Close and the land is rented from Warwickshire College with the equipment and maintenance funded by the Parish Council Precept.

The facilities which have recently been updated, include: swings, slides, swing basket, basketball/netball court, zip-wire adult outdoor gym,

climbing frames, see-saw and activity centre, football goals, picnic tables and benches.

The recent village survey found a massive amount of support for the playing field with 42 respondents taking the trouble to comment on this much valued amenity and over 83% stating they considered it important and used it regularly.

Additional equipment requested at the play area included : better climbing frame, picnic tables in the shade, youth shelter for teenagers and a running track around the edge.

The Parish received a grant from Stratford-on-Avon District Council to install a youth shelter which was completed in 2023.

7.7 Allotments

26 Allotments are available in three locations in the Village behind the Black Horse and off Brook Lane. The allotments are a very popular and well used amenity and currently all plots are taken.

The survey found that 78% of respondents felt they were important with 30% interested in renting one in

7.8 Moreton Morrell Real Tennis

The Moreton Morrell Tennis Court was built in 1904-5 by Charles Tuller Garland, an American citizen, who later served with the British Army in the Great War and was owner of Moreton Hall (now part of Moreton Morrell College), whose entrance gates face those of the Court.

Charles Garland did a great deal for tennis and the many outstanding events at Moreton Morrell included the inaugural match between his resident professional, Ted Johnson, and the celebrated Peter Latham, five times World Champion between 1895 and 1907.

Garland died in 1921 and the Moreton Hall estate was bought by Colonel R.J.L.Ogilby, DSO who placed his own coat-of-arms in the court itself, over the net. During the 1930's, the Court was kept going by a small group of enthusiasts including Col. E.J.L.Speed, MC. who leased it from Colonel Ogilby and saved it from being requisitioned during the 2nd World War. After Major James Dance, MP, acquired the Court in 1949, a programme of matches with other clubs was introduced. In 1963, with the generous



help of many supporters of tennis, including Mr. Garland's three daughters, the Moreton Morrell Tennis Court Company was formed to acquire the building and grounds, and the Court owes a further debt to the late Lord Willoughby de Broke, MC, AFC, Chairman of Directors until 1971.

There are just 29 Real Tennis Courts in the UK.

7.9 Footpaths

There are a wealth of footpaths over the surrounding farmland, providing miles of walks for local people. Maintenance of the village footpaths is also on the agenda at Parish Council Meetings with a specific councillor taking responsibility for their uptake.

Investment in the installation of new 'kissing gates' has recently been undertaken to improve access across the network of footpaths. The footpaths are very well used and valued by the local community. The recent survey found that of those responding over 56 % used them more than three times a week, 16% more than once a week, 25% used them occasionally and only 3% never used them.

Over 70% felt they were in good or satisfactory condition and only 27% rated their condition as poor and this was mainly due to waterlogging of many during the winter months.

There was a lot of support for a footpath to link Moreton Morrell and Moreton Paddox and for reopening of the footpath to Wellesbourne which the Parish Council is actively exploring.

There was also a lot of disappointment expressed re the withdrawal of safe walking routes through

Moreton Morrell College as these previously had been enjoyed for many years by the residents and particularly during wet weather when other routes are waterlogged.

The following Definitive Map highlights the footpaths and bridleways as recorded by Warwickshire County Council.

7.10 Health

The Parish benefits from a defibrillator in Moreton Morrell (sited in the telephone box) and also at Moreton Morrell Real Tennis Club, the survey found 92% were aware of the defibrillator and 58% were interested in attending a training session on CPR and its use. The importance of CPR and defibrillator training has been recognised as are the regular replacement of batteries and the parish council has also identified a need for a further defibrillator to be located in the Moreton Paddox area.

Of more concern, was that 77% of those responding had difficulty accessing or making appointments with their GP and 29% with their dentist.

This may reflect the fact that the survey was carried out towards the end of the Covid 19 pandemic but also the difficulty some residents have, particularly those without their own transport, of accessing these services which are predominately in Wellesbourne, for which there are no public transport links.

Most of the other public and voluntary health related services were rated good or very good with only GP services rating above 10% in poor/very poor.

8. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

As the community has continued to grow, so has the volume of traffic. In addition, traffic is generated by Warwickshire College and college events as well as by the primary school. The Parish Council liaises closely with the college to minimise any impact on the village community.

8.1 Speeding

Speeding continues to be an issue which has been raised with the County Council and it is acknowledged that parking along Main Street generates an element of traffic calming in the centre of the village. However, there are particular concerns regarding speeding cyclists through the village and the increased volume and speed of traffic to the college down John Taylor Way, as well as speeding up the Wellesbourne Road towards the Fosse Way.

In response to the survey, parking and speeding featured as a key issue with 37% of respondents in Moreton Morrell and 17% in Moreton Paddox. Speeding through the village both by cars and cyclists was mentioned by 81% as well as on the Fosse Way and local roads connecting the villages. Moreton Morrell is setting up a community speed watch in order to monitor speed through the village.

8.2. Parking

Parking or lack of parking was also a major issue, areas of specific concern were in Main Street by the Pub and school, together with the top of Brook Lane and Oaktree Close. With nearly 30% of residents owning three cars or more and many properties in the village lacking private parking facilities this is of no surprise. The absence of car



parking for the school, the pub and the village hall all exacerbate the problem and is an area which needs to be addressed.

The increasing ownership of electric cars is also of concern due to the lack of private or public charging points, 12% of respondents own an electric car, 68% do not have access to a charging point and 40% would support public charging points in the villages in the future.

8.3 National Cycle Network

Part of the national cycle network passes through Moreton Morrell. The route comes up Staple Hill from Wellesbourne, turning left into the village at Moreton Paddox and then right into Brook Lane, crossing the Fosse Way to Lighthorne.

In addition the village is frequently used by various cycling clubs and individuals with 40% of respondents to the survey stating they cycle on Parish Roads. However, the speed of cyclists is a concern raised by many villagers.

8.4. Law and Order

The Wellesbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team covers Wellesbourne and a number of the surrounding villages including Moreton Morrell from a policing perspective in respect of rural crime issues arising as well as speed checks.

A pleasing result of the survey was that 100% of respondents felt the Parish was a safe place to live.

The key concerns raised by residents were:

- Speeding traffic and cyclists
- Lack of street lighting in some areas
- Safe walking/cycling routes particularly into Wellesbourne.
- Fly tipping, litter and dog fouling

8.5 Broadband and Connectivity

The Parish is reasonably well served with both broadband and mobile phone networks although this does to some extent depend on what network provider residents have and there are certain parts of the Parish where coverage is poor or non-existent.

Of those responding to the survey 100% had broadband connection with 80% rating service as good or very good and 20% poor with weekly connection or speed problems. 74% use the internet to work from home, other uses include online shopping, browsing, email or booking health appointments.

This satisfaction level dropped for mobile phone networks with only 50% rating their service as good or very good, 30% rating it poor and 20% very poor.

Nearly 30% of respondents worked from home on a regular basis, 40% work within 25 miles and the rest over 25 miles or don't work. This may have changed since the end of the pandemic.



9. ACTION PLAN

The following action plan has been developed to provide a strategy in response to key issues in the village, as well as views expressed by villagers in the fact finding survey that was undertaken for this Parish Plan.

FACILITIES		
Issue	Status	Action/Evidence
Village Hall	As a usable community space the Village Hall is an important community asset to the village, and progress on its maintenance must be made to ensure the building does not deteriorate further.	The Parish Council will monitor the situation closely, but ultimately the responsibility for the building and its repair is for the Trustees.
The Room	The Room is a community space in the village which can be hired and is situated as an annexe to the church.	To support community activities at The Room which can accommodate up to 40 seated and a maximum of 50 people.
Church of the Holy Cross	The Church of the Holy Cross holds regular services of prayer, other religious events and festivals.	MMPC will continue to support the activities of the church and will ensure the Wildlife steering group incorporates the churchyard within its programme of activities.
Village School	The school is an essential asset to the village and generates a vibrancy to the village encouraging younger parents to move to Moreton Morrell. However, the school is in desperate need for a replacement temporary classroom.	MMPC to lobby WCC and the Academy for additional financial support and will also continue to support the school's fundraising initiatives.

Black Horse Pub	<p>The Black Horse Pub re-opened in 2023 following an extensive refurbishment after being closed for many years and has been welcomed by all villagers.</p> <p>The opening of four letting bedrooms has also been welcomed and the provision of bar snacks will follow the kitchen installation.</p>	MMPC to liaise closely with the management and provide encouragement and support to community based events.
Warwickshire College – Moreton Morrell Campus	<p>Moreton Morrell College has specialisms in the following areas: Agriculture Crops & Livestock, Animal Care & Management, Countryside Management & Gamekeeping, Equine Care & Management, Floristry, Forestry & Arboriculture, Horticulture, Landscaping & Sports Turf, Land Based Engineering.</p>	MMPC to continue its close liaison with the college and address the regular issues concerning student speeding down John Taylor Way, litter, ASB and footpath maintenance issues

9. ACTION PLAN

HEALTH		
Issue	Status	Action/Evidence
Defibrillator	Provision of defibrillator in Moreton Paddox.	MMPC to investigate and identify an appropriate location for a defibrillator in the Moreton Paddox area together with appropriate funding for its acquisition and ongoing maintenance.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT		
Issue	Status	Action/Evidence
Bus Service	Bus services through Moreton Morrell are extremely limited with no bus service to Wellesbourne which offers shopping and health facilities three miles away.	MMPC to lobby the WCC county councillor for improved bus services through the village and in particular the provision of a bus service to Wellesbourne.
Speeding	Speeding through the village continues to be an issue with both vehicles and cyclists.	MMPC to liaise closely with the Wellesbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team to monitor speeding issues and set up a Community Speedwatch initiative. MMPC to introduce a Twenty's Plenty campaign and monitor impact.
Parking	Parking continues to be an issue in the centre of the village, particularly around school drop off and collection times. However, parked cars do provide an element of traffic calming.	MMPC to investigate the opportunity for a public EV charging point for residents without off-street parking. Close liaison with the Wellesbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team in respect of illegal and inconsiderate parking will be continued.
Highway Markings and Street Furniture	Highway signs are regularly damaged through the village and the provision of regular white lining of the roads is essential.	MMPC to liaise with the WCC county councillor for improved highway markings and furniture.

HOUSING		
Issue	Status	Action/Evidence
Housing Need	The need for one storey dwellings and smaller properties has been raised in both the Housing Need and Village surveys.	<p>MMPC to carry out regular Housing Need surveys in conjunction with WWRC in order to assess the needs of the local Community every 3 – 5 years.</p> <p>MMPC to ensure that any new development in the parish addresses the housing needs identified in the survey including the provision of one storey dwellings.</p>



RECREATION		
Issue	Status	Action/Evidence
Playing Field	<p>This is the village's most valued asset and over the last two years has received major investment in the upgrading and installation of new recreational equipment.</p> <p>MMPC commissions a grass cutting contract throughout the seasons and regularly monitors the emptying of both waste and dog bins.</p>	<p>MMPC to ensure that the equipment is regularly checked, maintained and upgraded in the interests of health and safety.</p> <p>MMPC to continue to liaise closely with Moreton Morrell College to secure the ownership of the playing field outright in preference to renewing a lease.</p>
Community Activities	Community and fundraising activities are held annually on the playing field.	MMPC to continue to support these activities.
Allotments	Moreton Morrell benefits from three separate allotment sites – behind The Black Horse and in Brook Lane. A register is also kept of villagers on a waiting list for an allotment.	MPPC to continue its support of the allotments in order to preserve this vital source of creation which must be maintained and nurtured for future generations.
Footpaths	The footpaths are used daily by villagers but at various times of the year suffer from poor underfoot conditions and overgrown areas.	<p>MMPC to implement a footpaths maintenance initiative, improve signage, liaise with landowners and produce a footpaths map for villagers and visitors to Moreton Morrell to encourage greater use of the public footpaths.</p> <p>MMPC to investigate the provision of safe walking route to Moreton Paddox and Wellesbourne and to continue lobbying Moreton Morrell College for the return of walking rights through the college grounds.</p>

BIODIVERSITY	
Status	Action/Evidence
<p>MMPC has identified a need to increase the biodiversity levels in the village and consequently formed the Moreton Morrell Wildlife Group (MMWG) to protect and encourage local wildlife.</p> <p>The group has joined the South Warwickshire Action for Nature organization.</p>	<p>MMWG to work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust community officers in creating two specific wildlife areas in the primary school and church grounds in addition to planting significant amounts of wildlife friendly hedging.</p> <p>MMWG to apply for funding from the National Lottery and grant funding from the Church of England to help finance these projects.</p> <p>MMWG to work with landowners to ensure the best outcomes for wildlife in areas across the parish which have been designated as local wildlife sites.</p>
<p>MMPC to support and endorse the vision of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust of 30% increase of wildlife areas by 2030 and by maintaining this to complement the South Warwickshire Local Plan to 2050.</p>	<p>MMPC to support and endorse the vision of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust of 30% increase of wildlife areas by 2030 and by maintaining this to complement the South Warwickshire Local Plan to 2050.</p>

FLOODING	
Status	Action/Evidence
<p>Whilst Moreton Morrell does not generally experience flooding issues with the exception of casual water on the bend of Moreton Morrell Road at the bottom of the village and also at the top of the village, close to the main entrance of the college..</p>	<p>MMPC to continue to monitor potential flooding issues and work closely with the Wellesbourne & Walton Flood Alleviation Group together with the Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council as the Local Lead Flood Authority..</p>

LITTER & DOG FOULING	
Status	Action/Evidence
Dog fouling continues to be a regular problem on footpaths throughout the village together with litter thrown out of cars!	MMPC to continue to educate and communicate with the local community regarding the importance of having a clean and tidy village. Regular litter picking initiatives to be organised on a quarterly basis by the parish council to monitor the situation in respect of dog fouling in and around the village.

CLIMATE CHANGE	
Status	Action/Evidence
Our goal with the Plan is to inform and educate the residents of Moreton Morrell, support them in changing their behaviour and lifestyles to reduce carbon emissions, and to help build resilience against the adverse impact of climate change.	MMPC to provide advice and guidance on the new website.



COMMUNICATION		
Issue	Status	Action/Evidence
Village Newsletter	The villager is produced on a bi-monthly basis in the month which follows the parish council meeting.	MMPC to continue with the publication of this A5 newsletter on a bi-monthly basis.
Parish Magazine	Moreton Morrell is included in the Mid Fosse Parish Magazine which is published monthly.	MMPC to utilise this vital monthly publication with news and events.
Website	MMPC benefits from a website but this is in need of updating.	MMPC has commissioned the development of a new website that is more interactive with links to social media platforms to provide increased and improved communication with villagers.
Facebook	MMPC to explore either having approved access as an Admin for the Moreton Morrell and Moreton Paddox Facebook Page or set up its own Facebook Page.	MMPC to investigate links with new website.
Nextdoor	MMPC to continue utilizing Nextdoor as a communications tool with villagers to promote events.	MMPC to investigate links with new website.
Parish Council Meetings	To encourage and improve attendance from villagers to the bi-monthly meetings to be held in The Room. Villagers are encouraged to join the council either as elected councillors or be co-opted for specific projects and steering groups.	MMPC to promote meetings on new website and via social media platforms.

10. TIMELINE OF ACTIONS

Work in the development of this Local Plan has been undertaken over several years as follows:

Date	Action
March 2020	Housing Needs Survey commissioned by Warwickshire Rural Community Council
January 2022	Survey printed and leaflets delivered to all households
	Survey promoted by Moreton Morrell Parish Council
February 2022	Survey run for four weeks and concluded in February
	Hard copy data added to online platform in preparation for analysis
March 2022	Survey questions analysed and key findings identified and reported at Moreton Morrell Parish Council Meeting on 21 March 2022
	Redacted version of survey responses and key findings uploaded to Moreton Morrell Parish Council website – www.moretonmorrellpc.co.uk
July 2022	Drafting of Parish Plan Commenced
March 2023	First draft submitted to SDC for review and comment
May 2023	Comments received from SDC
July 2023	Second draft submitted to SDC for review and comment
September 2023	Final draft prepared following amends from SDC
	SDC approves final draft for design and artwork
November 2023	Moreton Morrell Parish Council approve draft Parish Plan
January 2024	Public Consultation of Moreton Morrell Parish Plan to villagers
2024	Amends to Parish Plan following Public Consultation
	Parish Plan adopted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Moreton Morrell Parish Council wishes to thank all villagers for their participation in the development of this new parish plan, which would not have been possible without their involvement in the surveys and public consultations. In particular, special thanks are extended to David Edwards for his photography; Eileen Edwards and Anne Parry as the researchers and authors of the plan together with the policy team at Stratford-on-Avon District Council for their help and guidance.





Moreton Morrell Parish Plan

Prepared by: Moreton Morrell Parish Council

April 2024

www.moretonmorrell-pc.gov.uk