

# Long Itchington



*Parish Plan 2009*

*“There are as many opinions as there are people; each has his own correct way.”*

**Terence, circa 190 - 159 BC**

**About the newly acquired field, Village Opinion 2004....**

*“Should be used to encourage sport and recreation for the village....and a small BBQ/picnic area provided.”*

*“Total waste of money buying more land”*

**And from Village Opinion 2001....**

*“Long Itchington was a real village with a good community spirit....sadly it is no longer the case.”*

*“Best place I ever lived.”*

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*“Information re bus routes and timetable is needed.”*

*“At 77 years old, one does not want to waste what time is left in bus shelters.”*

**It is not always a simple matter to gauge the mood and wishes of the community as a whole! .....Ed**

**FOOTNOTE: This Parish Plan was formally adopted by Stratford District Council on 8th December 2009, and by the Long Itchington Parish Council on 6th January 2010.**

# Long Itchington

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### Abbreviations and Acronyms used in the text

ALIVE	A Long Itchington Venture for the Environment
APM	Annual Parish Meeting
L.I.F.E.	Long Itchington and surrounding villages For the Earth
LILAC	Long Itchington Leisure And Community project
LIPC	Long Itchington Parish Council
NHW	Neighbourhood Watch
SDC	Stratford on Avon District Council
VDS	Village Design Statement
WCC	Warwickshire County Council

## Parish Plan 2009

# Long Itchington Parish Plan

## THANKS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Countryside Agency for the grant towards the production of our Parish Plan, the Warwickshire Rural Community Council and the Stratford on Avon District Council for assistance and advice, and also my colleagues on the Long Itchington Parish Council for help and encouragement.

Also I would like to acknowledge the effort and help given in producing the Village Design Statement, the Village Opinion surveys, organising and attending meetings, analysing results, submitting comments and copy, and for being outstandingly patient, by the working parties and by so many village residents and organisations. Thank you all.

The 13 larger photographs on the front and rear covers of the Plan are those selected for the very successful 2009 Long Itchington calendar. Thank you Calendar Group artists, and also L.I.F.E. for the use of two pictures on page 15, and residents for the second photo on page 7, and the middle photo on page 14. Also I am indebted to Ordnance Survey, our Village Design Statement and Google Earth for help with pictures on pages 3 and 4. The remainder of the 54 illustrations are from my own records.

The Parish Plan has been rather longer in production than had been hoped but it is, I suggest, no less valuable for that. Without it great things have been achieved over the last 10 years. With it the parish of Long Itchington will, hopefully, be preserved for many years to come as the parish we all want it to be.



David Cobley  
Chair LIPC and Parish Plan Editor



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# Foreword

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A great deal of progress has been made by the village since the ALIVE Group (A Long Itchington Venture for the Environment) consulted with residents in 1998 in order to produce the Village Design Statement (VDS), which was then followed by village surveys in 2001 and 2004.

*Among other things, play facilities for both younger and older children have been installed at Green End, 30mph speed limits and other traffic calming measures have been introduced, a field has been acquired which offers great possibilities for sport and recreation, road lighting and general village maintenance have all been improved, stronger links have been forged with local Police, the pond - focal point of the village - has been refurbished, social housing has been provided at Galanos, flood prevention work has accelerated, and in March 2008 the Parish Council was awarded Quality status.*

**However, much remains to be done to satisfy the ever changing needs of the parish and - even - to guarantee the survival of our rural community.**

These needs were recognised in the 2000 Rural White Paper - "Our countryside: the future" and the Parish Plan was suggested as a way to build on the experience gained in producing Village Design Statements and Parish Appraisals, and to enable communities to have a greater say in their future.

*The Plan is based on information received from the vast majority of our residents over a 10-year period using surveys, workshops and meetings like those shown below.*



## *What is a Parish Plan?*

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The Parish Plan is a statement and vision of what local features and characteristics the community wishes to preserve, and how it wishes to develop to the benefit of as many as possible, over the next five to ten years.

The Plan will help the Parish Council to be proactive in evaluating what would be best for their community and in taking the necessary action to achieve agreed goals. Also, the Plan will be used by local authorities as Supplementary Planning Guidance in matters of land use, housing, safety, development and design etc. It is a living document and a constant reminder which successive parish councils will want to update on a regular basis, perhaps biennially.

As with the VDS, the Parish Plan is "an expression of what we want our villages to be like".

***It is also a declaration of intent to make the Parish how we would all like it to be.***

*Constructive criticisms and comments on the Parish Plan are always welcome.  
Please address them to The Parish Clerk, at the Community Centre, or to any  
Long Itchington Parish Councillor.*

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# Introduction

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Over the last 10 years or so the Long Itchington Parish Council (LIPC) and working parties from within the parish have produced the following important documents:-

- ❑ The 1999 Village Design Statement which was adopted by Stratford District Council (SDC) in 2000 as supplementary planning guidance. Over 200 villagers took part in a series of interactive workshops, the last of which produced over 600 photographs – a snapshot in time of those aspects thought to be distinctive and characteristic, illustrating both good and bad practice.
- ❑ The 2001 Village Opinion, a general parish appraisal, which was adopted by SDC in 2002. The working party produced and distributed the questionnaire, and then collected and analysed the 1471 responses - many from children - from 83% of parish households.
- ❑ The 2004 Village Opinion was a parish appraisal seeking input from residents on three important matters – refurbishment of the pond, how best to use the newly acquired field, and housing needs. There were 1,032 responders from 472 households, a response rate of 58%.

In addition an up-to-date estimate of housing needs was obtained from a survey in May 2007 by the Warwickshire Rural Community Council which resulted in returns from 226 households, a 27% response.

*Feedback on a range of village matters has also come from Annual Parish Meetings 2000 to 2009. Results from recent years are summarised in Appendix A.*

Prior to the 2004 appraisal the LIPC applied for, and were awarded by the Countryside Agency, a grant to enable all the results of these documents and meetings to be updated and presented as the first Long Itchington Parish Plan – an interpretation of the hopes, needs and aspirations of the community and its Parish Council, for the foreseeable future.



## *What is Important?*

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Many topics of interest and concern have been identified following consultations with the community. Housing, road safety, policing, flood prevention and conservation are always important, but these are accompanied by many other priorities discussed in these pages.

# Long Itchington



The Long Itchington parish in south-east Warwickshire has around 900 houses and 2400 people, most of whom live on a flood plain in the middle of what was once a flat sea bed.

The village of Long Itchington lies either side of the main A423 trunk road between Coventry, 11 miles to the north, and Banbury, 17 miles to the south. Its nearest large towns are Leamington Spa and Warwick, 6 to 8 miles to the west; Rugby is a little further to the north-east, while Stratford is 18 miles to the south-west.

The Grand Union Canal runs east-west crossing under the A423 to the south.

*The conservation area in the central and west end of Long Itchington was designated in July 1969 and extended in June 1997. It includes most of the 19th century village.*

The village has been where it now is, or thereabouts, for at least 2000 years. When the Romans came there was already a well-established settlement in the area. Indeed, that is almost certainly why they came.

St Wulfstan was born in Long Itchington around 1008, and became Bishop of Worcester in 1062.

The village was not always in exactly the same place. In the 13th and 14th centuries, the area inhabited at that time was by the river in front of White Hall Farm. In fact, the name Long Itchington literally means ‘farmstead on the river Itchen’.

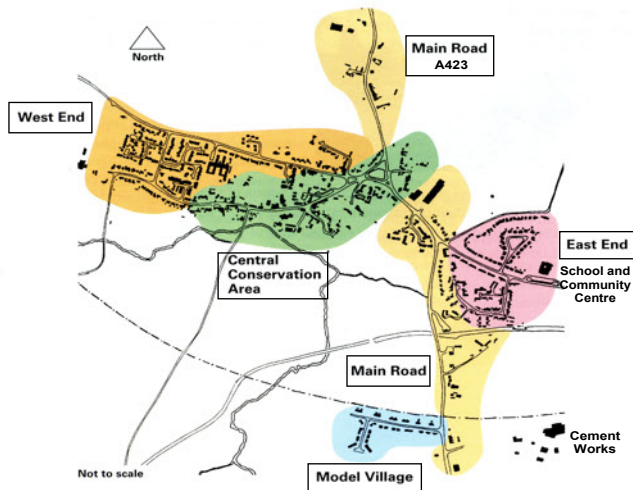
This initial settlement was eventually deserted and it was some time later that the village began to be re-established around the church. The various half-timbered houses date from about the middle of the 16th century. A good example is the Tudor House, then the home of Lady Anne Holbourne, daughter of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, where Elizabeth the First stayed in 1572 and 1575 and was said to have received “glorious entertainment”.



## Long Itchington *continued*

In the 17th century the village did not escape the Civil War. A passage from “The Civil War in Stratford upon Avon” by Philip Tennant, talks about an event on 24th April 1642: “...the first sizeable encounter of the war in the Midlands, in cornfields between Long Itchington and Southam ... a full two months before Edgehill. The surrounding fields were strewn with corpses, many of which were hastily thrown into the nearby River Itchen!”

Growth was slow and steady up to the beginning of the 20th century. Some modern materials and styles began to appear between the wars but it was not until shortly after the Second World War that substantial growth really took place.



Five village zones have been identified which together with Bascote, Bascote Heath, some outlying farms, the Cement Works, the Codemasters computer games manufacturer and Dallas Burston Polo Grounds on the old Stoneythorpe Estate just to the west of Southam, constitute the parish of Long Itchington.

The 1999 VDS attempts to identify the nature of, and differences between, the five zones and explores how future development can be integrated between each.

### *A Village in Two Parts?*

Over the years, expansion to the east and west made a significant difference to the look of Long Itchington. The busy main A423 Coventry-Banbury road that now runs right through the middle of the village (see below) results in it being split into separate, distinctive areas. One aim of the Parish Plan is, as far as possible, to minimise the ‘us and them’ feeling which, some say, the A423 tends to emphasize.



# — Village Design Statement —

The principles and recommendations of the 1999 Village Design Statement (VDS), which remains on file, are still valid and, not surprisingly, have scarcely changed. Based on this key document and lessons learned over the last ten years, the fundamental principles that must be repeated and carried forward as an integral part of the Parish Plan are:

1. The characteristics of buildings of all types should reflect the scale and form of the village, using indigenous styles, materials and detailing.



2. The open rural character of the village should be retained by preserving all the existing open spaces and creating new ones.



3. Existing trees must be protected and supplemented with new planting of specimen trees in key locations to enhance desirable features. This is particularly relevant to public buildings and spaces.
4. Tree planting and landscape design considerations must be an integral part of any new development proposal. Operational development such as modern industrial buildings should be completely screened.
5. New developments need to be assessed in terms of their impact on the village as a whole and **not** in isolation. Furthermore, the integration of different developments should be strengthened by more extensive use of footpaths and cycle ways, and the location of sufficient open spaces.
6. Adequate car parking must be provided in all developments from the smallest single house upwards. It should be located behind the buildings it serves wherever possible. The ground surfaces should not be large expanses of asphalt, and screening with suitable landscape design schemes is essential.

## — Village Design Statement *continued* —

7. Any redevelopment of the Cement Works site must be in accordance with the Stratford on Avon Local Plan Review CTY.19 §7.49 and should be seized as an opportunity to enhance all aspects of village life, including some small-scale industry. However such development must be restricted to the brown field footprint and be protected by buffer zones of open space.



Some progress in preserving our open spaces has already been made with the purchase of additional land in the heart of the village for increased recreational facilities. However, several open spaces held in private hands have been lost as a result of infill and splitting previously extended properties.

The increased number of planning applications for disproportionately large or multiple extensions is also a cause for concern, particularly as the economic pressures to extend rather than move are considerable. Furthermore, it results in fewer properties that are suitable for the first-time buyer. These types of development will be more rigorously evaluated in the future. The perennial need for additional affordable housing is covered elsewhere in the Plan.

*The Church Road allotments represent a major open space which must be preserved, in the heart of the West End of the village, and the LIPC will explore the possibility of taking them into community ownership (see FUTURE ACTION? page 11).*



**The evaluation of, and commenting on, all planning applications relating to the parish, together with making observations and recommendations to the relevant authorities is the responsibility of the LIPC Planning Working Party.**

### *The VDS - A Success?*

Has the Village Design Statement made a difference? It is difficult to be wholly objective but on balance the VDS, which still applies, has certainly helped temper some of the more extreme proposals for developments such as the old Galanos site where there was huge pressure to accept a large quantity of 3-storey town houses and an ugly block of flats.

*The result was not so much a victory as an uncomfortable compromise.*