

Llangrove Village Plan



2008

Front cover designed by Rowan Lyster (14)

Contents

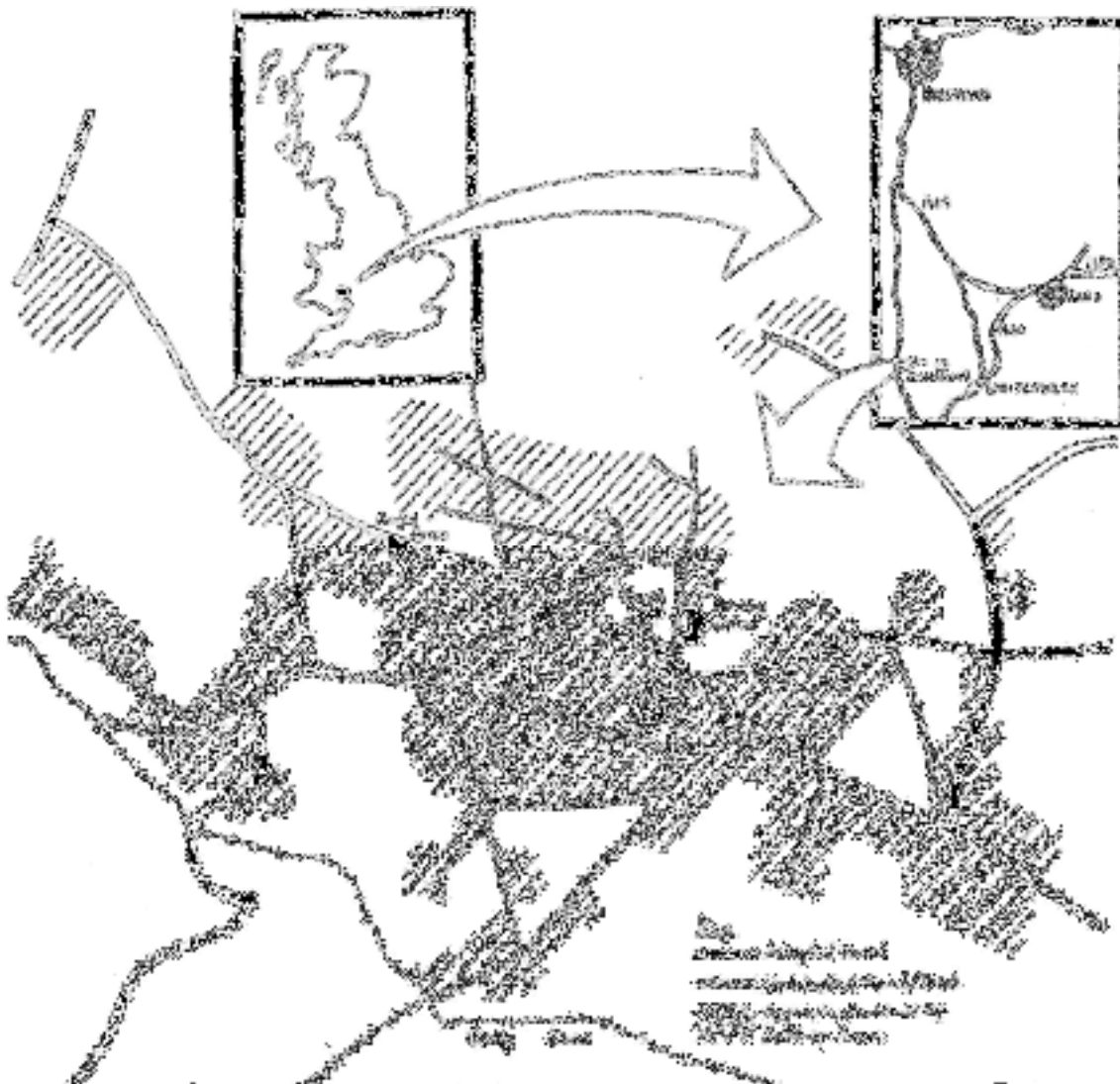
Section	Contents	Page
1. Introduction		4
2. Housing and future developments		10
3. Roads		13
4. Dog pollution		16
5. Recycling		18
6. Playing field/social clubs		20
7. Communication		23
8. Village shop		26
9. Appendices	A Results of simple questionnaire January 06 B Results of June 06 Lavender Cottage questionnaire C Summary of Oct 06 Planning for Real© findings D Summary of Oct 07 questionnaire findings* E Housing and future developments - Analysis of data F Housing and future developments - Action Plan G Roads - Analysis of data H Roads - Action plan I Dog pollution - Analysis of data J Dog pollution - Action plan K Recycling - Analysis of data L Recycling - Action plan M Playing field/social clubs - Analysis of data N Playing field/social clubs - Action plan O Communication - Analysis of data P Communication - Action plan Q Village shop - Analysis of data R Village shop - Action plan S Community First T Planning for Real© Acknowledgements	29 32 35 37 39 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

* A full set of data and comments from the October 2007 questionnaire are available on application either to vvoice@tiscali.co.uk or 01989 770493

Section 1 Introduction

Llangrove – its location

Llangrove village is positioned very near the southern boundary of Herefordshire about 17 miles south of the county town. The A40 is two miles south at Whitchurch. The village forms part of the parish of Llangarron coupled with the villages of Llancloudy, Llangarron, and Three Ashes.



Llangrove has around 200 homes of varying styles and ages. There is a pub (The Royal Arms), post office, village hall, church and school. The majority of the housing sits adjacent to the road which runs through the village, with grass verges either side, but a fair proportion is located on the various lanes which spur off this road. The village is represented on Llangarron Parish Council and administered at county level by Herefordshire Council. Population is approximately 520.

Llangrove – history

If Llangrove were on the Wye, it would have a thousand years of accessible, documented history based on industry and trade, but the early years of our village, less than three miles from the river, are much more difficult to pin down. Records are scanty, particularly before the 1600s because of the absence of industry, major ecclesiastical establishments, important trade routes, a big house and famous names, but this is not unusual in a small settlement which developed over many centuries of mainly subsistence farming. Llangrove is on a ridge four to five hundred feet high, without an easily accessible natural water supply, which would have made life difficult for those seeking to set up home here. It was not until about 1880 that a public system was provided: water was pumped up from the Garron to a holding tank at the top of the village, in what is still called Tank Meadow, and distributed through seven roadside taps like the one outside the school which commemorates Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887.



Llangrove looking west, 1930s ...



... and today

Llangrove has never been short of names: Langrove, Longrove, Longgrove, Long-grove, Long Grove, Llangrove Common were all in overlapping use into the 1950s. Evidence suggests that the present name was fixed some time around the 1920s by a Ross postmaster on the assumption that one llan is the same as another. But Llangrove is not a Welsh llan, which implies an enclosure with a church or other sacred place. The first known mention is in 1372: Longegroue (actual spelling) is noted as having underwood of 100 acres cut for charcoal every nine years. In 1602, George Kemble was sheltering a Jesuit priest in Londgrove.

The village lies in the ancient district of Archenfield, an area originally under the control of the eighth-century King Offa of Mercia – he of the dyke. He tolerated Welsh customs, language and religious practices here, hence the llans and churches dedicated to saints such as Deinst and Dubricius on what is now the English side of the border. Llangrove had a church of its own, called Glynston Chapel in the archaeological record, located in the south west corner of the village, but Taylor's 1760 map of Herefordshire shows it as a ruin. Congregational and Wesleyan chapels were established by about 1850 and persisted for another hundred years or so. Christ Church (Anglican) followed in 1856, designed by George Frederick Bodley (pupil of Sir George Gilbert Scott – think St Pancras) who became known as one of the foremost architects of the High Victorian Gothic style. The church school opened in 1875.



The village school, 1940s



... and today

Looking back two centuries or so, we would recognise the shape of the village with its maze of lanes and scattered houses, the unmistakable sign of settlement on common or unenclosed land. There were already a few older houses dating back to the 1500s and 1600s, and by the mid 1800s the village was becoming self-sufficient. Trade directories later that century list builders, tailors, a wheelwright and a blacksmith, carriers, an undertaker, bootmakers and plenty more. There were three shops, two (possibly three) pubs and – well into the twentieth century – regular bread, fish and meat deliveries. Llangrove Transport ran seaside excursions and a frequent daily bus service to Ross and Monmouth in the 1920s.

Up to World War I, the church registers show that occupations were mainly agriculture-based, but this starts to change as miners, railway shunters, roadmen, a constable, a ship's carpenter, a nurseryman, engineers, and a 'gentleman' are listed, suggesting diversification of population, mobility and increasing employment opportunities. By the 1960s new residents were starting to move in from further afield, some to work locally or in places like Hereford and Gloucester, having turned their back on the cities or choosing to work from home. Completion of the A40 dual carriageway in 1965 gave a fast link to the expanding motorway system, specifically London via the Severn Bridge and M4, and increasing car ownership brought villages like Llangrove within reach of many people attracted by the idea of country living and being part of a small community.

But we have still not answered the question: How old is Llangrove? We probably never will, but consider this . . . in the 1870s, a Treduchan ploughman turned up an Early Bronze Age burial chamber with skeletons. It was a ceremonial, not a casual burial, and it took place between 3500 and 4000 years ago. People of this era were farmers, capable of animal husbandry, crop planting and tool and pottery making. Were they among the first to size up the ridge on which the village now stands as a possible place to clear their small fields, set up home and raise their families? It is possible, even probable, but we can say no more than that.

What is the Llangrove Village Plan?

The village plan is a short document which records the residents' views of life in Llangrove and makes a series of recommendations to make the village an even better place to live in the future.

How has the plan come about?

The catalyst for the plan was the coming together of a group of interested residents who later took the name *Village Voice*. This informal group came about as a direct result of the reaction of residents to a proposed large housing development in the village. This had created quite a stir, primarily because the village had not experienced such a large site being

turned over to housing before. Over 70 residents attended the first public meeting in October 2005.

It quickly became evident that villagers had strong views on the location, size and style of housing and wanted, above all, to see buildings add to the quality of Llangrove rather than change its nature. Additionally, it became clear that future housing development was only one aspect affecting the quality of life for all in the village, and there were many other things that the village could do itself to enhance its own environment. This is why Village Voice decided to set out on a journey to consult the village and report back with a village plan.

What is Village Voice?

In essence Village Voice is an open group formed of people interested in Llangrove's future: it has no point of view as a body, but reflects the views offered to it.

Village Voice has not been run by a committee and has remained a very informal organisation. Indeed many volunteers have been involved to a greater or lesser degree over the last two years, with a number dipping in and out as personal circumstances permitted. Many of the people behind this report, for example, were not involved at the beginning. This has meant that all of the fact-finding has been carried out by a very large number of people, and so the report has not been generated by a small interest group.

Thanks are due to those villagers who helped with leaflet preparation, delivery and collection, those who gave up their time to supervise the Planning for Real© events, and to the school children for making the village model. Additionally, 'thank you' goes to all those villagers who helped get Village Voice off the starting blocks and those who played their part in the implementation of the questionnaires, collation of data and of course the writing of this report.

Who can benefit from the plan?

Ultimately the plan is for the residents of the village and the village itself, so that Llangrove can continue to be a vibrant community which supports its population and contributes to the local economy. The village will change in the future, that much is certain, but the plan is a record of the changes which the residents wish to see happen to enhance our community rather than detract from it.

The plan is designed to be used and referred to by the parish council when matters affect Llangrove, by property developers when considering the amount, nature and type of housing being built in the village and by Herefordshire Council who should adopt this plan as Further Planning Guidance in the determination of planning applications. In addition, any other statutory bodies, community services and the voluntary sector can use it to assist with their planning.

How was the village consulted?

It was decided to undertake a short and simple door drop survey in January 2006 to gauge if there was enough interest from villagers to carry out a full consultation. There was an overwhelming response (see appendix A). Later that year, in June 2006, a further short questionnaire was devised solely about the Lavender Cottage site (see appendix B). This site at the heart of the village had been put on the market due to the untimely death of Llangrove's village blacksmith. For the next stage, in order to gather as many opinions as possible about how Llangrove residents saw their village, Village Voice undertook a

community consultation using Planning for Real©. This ‘hands-on’ open event was held in June 2007 over three days and yielded much useful information. Over 160 villagers attended and everyone had the opportunity to apply their ideas, likes, dislikes and views on a three-dimensional map of the village. All these were recorded by a volunteer army of observers and have been used in this final report (see Appendix C for a summary of the findings).

Finally a formal questionnaire, which had been vetted by Community First (see Appendix T) and the Forward Planning Department at Herefordshire Council, was distributed throughout the village in October 2007. This contained detailed questions, some of which were formed as a direct result of the Planning for Real© event where it was thought more information was required.

The results of all three surveys and the Planning for Real© findings all contribute to the Llangrove Village Plan.

It is worth highlighting that the Llangrove Village Plan has not received any grant funding. Several social events have been used to raise a small amount of money which has covered the purchase of a large-scale map of the village and printing costs.

A point worth stressing: money has been raised **by** the villagers, **for** the village.

What did we discover about Llangrove’s residents?

As well as gathering data about residents, the first section of the October 2007 questionnaire asked “Why do you like living in Llangrove?”. The most frequently quoted reasons were:

- the peace and quiet
- the friendliness of the village with a good community feel
- the countryside, with lovely views in a lovely location
- its rural/village environment
- a safe place for children
- the good road network (once you have negotiated the two miles of narrow lanes)

The School Council (10 and 11 year olds) said: “quiet/small; family; traffic low; bigger gardens; no smoke”. Several people referred to the relative lack of light pollution and the ability to see the stars at night. “The darkness is part of the charm of the place” as one respondent put it.

So we can conclude that, almost universally, we like our village and the aspects that make it a nice place to live are worth protecting.

What else did we discover about Llangrove’s residents?

With three paper questionnaires plus a Planning for Real© event at the village hall, a lot of data was collected. Below are some key facts collected from the ‘About You’ section of the October 2007 questionnaire, which had a total of 163 responses.

Age group	Respondents
0-15	14
16-24	3
25-59	66
60+	80

Years in village	Responses
<2	36
3-5	15
6-10	32
>10	76

The main route taken in and out of the village was found to be overwhelmingly to and from Whitchurch. There were 68 respondents who said they were at work, four times as many working outside Llangrove than within Llangrove, and 94 respondents who stated they did not go out to work. (One person declined to answer this question.)

See the appendices for summaries of the results of the various consultations with Llangrove residents. Note that full data gathered by the October 2007 questionnaire is not included within these pages but is available on application to Village Voice (vvoice@tiscali.co.uk or 01989 770493).

Section 2 Housing and future developments

What do we know?

Llangrove is a village which has grown organically with individual houses set within quite large gardens/smallholdings, and more recently by developments of four or five houses. The result is a village with well-spaced housing, generally houses of quite modest size, and with hedges providing privacy and the 'green country feel' which, with 'community friendliness' many people rate as one of their major reasons for wanting to live in Llangrove.

Style of existing housing

Llangrove architecture does not have a distinctive style, such as the black and white half-timbered houses of some Herefordshire villages, but the village does have its own character and most locals are justifiably proud of this and become upset when this character seems to have been compromised by some of the more recent new building in the village.

The only quantity of identifiably traditional houses in the village are farmworkers'/smallholders' cottages which are:

- detached
- of small to medium size
- frequently set close to the road, but at right angles to it
- with low roof lines



The preponderance of houses are still detached and the feature of low roof height has often been successfully followed by more modern houses, either by incorporating dormer windows or by building bungalows – a popular style in the village.

Landscape

Landscaping has played a major role in defining Llangrove's local character and given Llangrove its special atmosphere:

- the original houses were spread over a large area and whilst infilling has made some difference it is still possible to say that the density is low
- a large number of the boundaries are mixed hedges
- several fields come right up to the main street giving views over the surrounding countryside

What are the issues?

Concern about new building and its type was the initial starting point for the process which has resulted in the Llangrove Village Plan.

While the October 2007 questionnaire confirmed that a majority does not think Llangrove can accommodate any more new housing, among those who do accept some future building the following preferences emerged:

- **No** ... to large family homes; only a very small number expressed a preference for these
- **Yes** ... to homes for small families/young people/disabled/singles and homes for the elderly; these were the overwhelming preference for the remaining types of homes
- Regarding the type of additional accommodation, the majority favoured affordable housing¹, followed by owner-occupier housing

Opinion regarding the amount of development in the village over the past 10 years was divided roughly between 'about right' and 'too much', but the general feeling about the type of housing over this period was that it was 'too big' and 'too expensive'.

However, aside from the above feeling, it was also recognised by some respondents to the questionnaire that limited new housing development would benefit the village by providing support for some of the village amenities such as the school.

The majority of respondents said that they had a preference regarding the style and appearance of any new building:

- 'traditional' or 'in local character' rather than modern was the majority preference
- **No** to 'executive' suburban styles
- **No** to high roof lines

The questionnaire further revealed that the most unpopular styles were:

- red brick and Cotswold stone
- high roof lines

Other areas of concern expressed in the responses to the questionnaire related to road/traffic safety issues connected to an increase in new housing and also the suitability of the existing infrastructure to cope with any new developments.

A breakdown of the statistics for housing issues, as gathered from the questionnaire, can be found in Appendix E.

¹ Affordable housing (definition supplied by Forward Planning Dept in Herefordshire and used in the questionnaire): Housing, whether for rent, shared ownership or outright purchase, provided at a cost considered affordable in relation to incomes that are average or below average, or in relation to the price of general market housing.

What could be done?

It would seem that for the present some concerns indicated by the questionnaire have been allayed by the current Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan, particularly with regard to developments of 'executive style' homes.

From 23 March 2007, development in Llangrove is subject to the limitations set out in the current Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP), current to 2010. Policy H6 of the UDP classes Llangrove as a 'Smaller Settlement'. This means that for the duration of the current development plan, the only further development allowed will be:

- Single houses of limited area in infill gaps (where the gap doesn't exceed 30 metres)
- Larger groups of 'affordable housing' where there are strict criteria regarding proving a local need and maintaining the houses as affordable in perpetuity

However, the aim is still to ensure that Herefordshire Council is aware of, and takes into account the views of Llangrove residents, as expressed in Llangrove Village Plan, with regard to the needs for future housing and building requirements in Llangrove. In particular that:

- new housing should concentrate on smaller properties, particularly those which would enable villagers who have grown up here to continue living here
- new housing should be traditional local style of low roof height, if necessary with dormer windows, and not faced with bright red brick or reconstructed non-local stone
- any planning permission granted should include requirements regarding the landscaping aspect of the project in order to conform with the existing village style, for example: grass verges should be retained; trees should be preserved and hedges maintained or reinstated wherever possible
- any groups of houses being built on one site should not be of identical design
- consideration is given to the existing local infrastructure and road and traffic safety concerns

What's the plan?

The writers of the Llangrove Village Plan will request Herefordshire Council to adopt the above recommendations as Further Planning Guidance and thus use them when considering requests for planning permission within the village.

See full Action Plan in Appendix F.

Section 3 Roads

What do we know?

The residents of Llangrove are highly dependent upon personal transport for work, shopping and leisure. This is because public transport is provided at a minimal level. At the time of writing, there is a weekly service to Ross, Monmouth and Hereford, each on different days.

All roads entering the village are largely single track with passing places, and pedestrians share this space with the traffic. Most of the side roads in the village are unadopted by Herefordshire Council and maintenance of these therefore falls to local residents.



Llangrove looking east, 1950s ...



... and today

What are the issues?

The initial simple 8-question survey in January 2006 principally related to new development issues in Llangrove and brought out many concerns about the capacity of the narrow lanes, traffic noise and safety. The June 2006 Lavender Cottage questionnaire highlighted traffic volume, parking and potential impaired visibility, all of which would affect safety at this junction. Road safety, speed and quality of driving together with road maintenance attracted 140 comments at the Planning for Real© events and was the area generating the most issues and concerns. Similarly, the full October 2007 questionnaire showed great concern in these areas. The various issues have been grouped below:

Traffic volume relating to narrow lanes

Increased volume of traffic was raised as the major issue in the January 2006 survey. This survey sought the views of the village on proposed new housing developments at the top of the village. In the Lavender Cottage questionnaire of June 2006, a majority of respondents considered that this development would significantly increase traffic volume and they would not be happy with any on-street parking. A majority of respondents to the October 2007 questionnaire considered the volume of traffic an issue.

Traffic speed in the village

The majority of those responding to the October 2007 questionnaire thought that traffic speed was an issue and there was also support for the introduction of speed control measures. The most popular measures in order of preference were:

- a majority to reduce speed limits in selected areas
- flashing excess speed signs
- traffic calming

Many comments were made in favour of reducing the speed limit in the centre of the village and particularly in the vicinity of the village school.

Although some comments were made on the lack of pavements, forcing pedestrians to share the roads with traffic, the general opinion was that little could be done due the single track nature of the roads.

Parking near school

A large majority of respondents to the October 2007 questionnaire considered parking to be a problem in the vicinity of the school and the most popular suggestions were:

- signs to park on village hall car park
- initiative to encourage fewer cars to bring children to school
- a marked crossing outside school

Road widening to Whitchurch

The roads serving the village are perceived to be too narrow to cope with the volume of traffic. However, a large majority of respondents to the October 2007 questionnaire did not support road widening to Whitchurch.

Potholes

The repair of potholes – particularly on unadopted roads in the village - was seen as a problem by many respondents at the Planning for Real© events and in response to the October 2007 questionnaire there was a large response in favour of lobbying Herefordshire Council to take responsibility for the heavily potholed stretch of road near the village hall.

Some respondents indicated that they would prefer not to maintain unadopted roads, as the presence of potholes acted as a traffic calming measure.

Road drainage

A significant minority has been affected by poor drainage within the village. Drainage problems were reported in areas of the main road between the Royal Arms and church and also in the Prospect Lane area.

Lighting levels in village

The vast majority of respondents to the October 2007 questionnaire thought that currently the lighting level in the village was about right and that there was no need for street lighting between the Post Office and Royal Arms. The level of privately owned lighting was thought to be acceptable.

What could be done?

Traffic volume and road widening

The overall opinion from the results of the October 2007 questionnaire is that road widening is not required, but that better passing places and improved maintenance with regard to mud and drainage could improve matters. In addition, there are a few places where the provision of better passing places would reduce blind spots and improve road safety.

Traffic speed

Ways of reducing speed within the village could be investigated.

Parking near school

Improvements in car parking arrangements in the vicinity, discouraging the use of cars, and possibly the addition of a road crossing, could be investigated.

Potholes

Herefordshire Council could be asked to take responsibility for filling potholes. Some local residents have in the past taken action to fill the worst of the potholes in the unadopted roads.

Road drainage

The School Council has volunteered to undertake a survey of the extent of the problem as a school project. Llangarron Parish Council recently undertook a parish-wide survey. Aspects of this with respect to Llangrove as a village should be noted in any further survey taken.

What's the plan?

The plan is to investigate all the above suggestions. The full Action Plan is to be found in Appendix H.

Section 4 Dog pollution

Dogs and Llangrove What do we know?

Llangrove lies within a good network of well signposted footpaths, and within the village itself there are also a number of green paths popular with those walking dogs. Because there is only one small stretch of road with pavements in the village, most of the verges are of grass, and some less-used lanes also have a central strip of grass, both of which are subject to pollution from dog mess.

What are the issues? Is there a problem?

The October 2007 questionnaire showed that, yes, this is seen as a problem in the village, particularly in relation to the effect on children and possible health hazards. 90 of the 144 people who responded to this question ticked 'yes', and a majority of those who considered whether steps should be taken to manage the situation also said 'yes'.

Three options for dealing with the problem were suggested in the questionnaire:

- bins for dog mess
- signs reminding owners to stop dogs fouling
- imposition of penalties

However, there was no clear consensus about which, if any, methods could be used. Of those in favour of taking steps the greatest number wanted signs, with bins being second favourite, and penalties third. From comments made in the questionnaire, it was also clear that there is a body of opinion against using any of the suggested remedies on the grounds that signs are out of place in a rural environment and that the use of dog bins and penalties would present difficulties of upkeep or operation.

A breakdown of the statistics for dog pollution as gathered from the questionnaire can be found in Appendix I.

What could be done?

- **Bins?** At the time of writing dog bins have to be requested from Herefordshire Council via the Parish Council. The cost is approximately £100 a bin and the bins would not be emptied as part of the weekly refuse collection, which would make this option difficult to operate.
- **Signs?**
- **Penalties?** These would appear to be impossible to implement.
- **Encouragement of responsible ownership** A leaning towards encouraging responsible behaviour of dog owners was apparent from the response to the questionnaire. This could include spreading information in various ways, such as posters on the village noticeboard pointing out the dangers as well as the nuisance, in particular in relation to children, and articles in Border News and Village News.

At the time of writing a notice from Llangarron Parish Council has appeared in Border News (Issue March 2008) drawing attention to rules and regulations regarding footpaths and dogs and the dangers of Hydatid disease being passed to humans through pollution)

For full text see Appendix J

What's the plan?

Although action seems limited to encouraging responsible behaviour, a small group, including dog owners, will be formed to monitor the situation and pursue the possibilities for continuing improvement.

See full action plan in Appendix J.



Section 5 Recycling

What do we know?

Llangrove has no permanent recycling facilities, but at the time of writing the village has a weekly kerbside collection of paper, including thin cardboard, together with glass and tins through the Blue Box Scheme. This scheme covers most of the village, but some outlying households have needed to acquire the blue boxes from the centre in Ross and these have to be deposited in the central village for weekly collection. We understand this scheme may be replaced by a centralised system of recycling.



'Re-Box', commonly known as the Blue Box Scheme, is a joint venture, the first of its kind in the country, between the charity EnviroAbility, the recycling company WCR Ltd from Evesham and Herefordshire Council. Households in the village are issued with a blue plastic crate for cans and glass and a blue box with a lid for paper, light cardboard and textiles. There are weekly kerbside collections.

The nearest recycling facilities...

These are at...

- Welsh Newton, limited to glass, paper, tins and shoes.
- Ross, municipal centre, with limited opening hours. No restriction on DIY waste.
- Ross, the 'Re-Box' site, which is limited to the items collected in the blue boxes.
- Whitchurch (Crown car park), limited to tins, glass and plastic.
- For garden waste it is possible to buy designated green waste refuse sacks from Herefordshire Council, purchased for 60p each from Ross council offices. However, if these are put out for kerbside collection they will not be taken for composting, but will be put into the dustcart to go for landfill. In order to get green waste composted at present it must be taken to the composting bin at Ross.
- The Parish freighter. A recent innovation, organized by the Parish Council (in effect a large van for recyclable items and an ordinary dustcart for other rubbish). This was available for two hours in the village hall car park, in February 2008.

NB: There are facilities at Monmouth, but officially they are for the use of residents of Monmouthshire only.

What are the issues?

- ***Are better recycling facilities needed?*** There was a big 'yes' to this question in view of the rather limited collections at present. The villagers of Llangrove obviously see recycling as an important issue, but not at the expense of increased car journeys to public tips.
- ***What should be recycled?*** Plastic was the first priority of the three additional items for recycling named in the questionnaire, followed by cardboard, but comments suggest that disposing of garden waste is also a problem in the village. Other suggestions for recycling were clothes, materials, batteries and electrical items.
- ***Where should any new facilities be sited?*** While most people agreed that the village hall was the only feasible site for permanent recycling facilities there was

concern that this would have a detrimental effect on the amenity of the village hall, both through unsightly bins, possible litter mess and possible loss of car parking space.

A breakdown of the statistics for recycling as gathered from the questionnaire can be found in Appendix L.

What could be done?

The success of the first visit of the Parish freighter means that repeat visits are planned, but due to pressure of demand these are not likely to be frequent.

Although many commented in the questionnaire that expansion of the Blue Box Scheme was the best way forward, it appears this is unlikely in the foreseeable future due to a lack of facilities for collection, storage, and recycling of high-volume, low-density waste, such as plastic, cardboard or garden waste.

What's the plan?

The issue of recycling is likely to become increasingly important. A small group will be formed to monitor the ongoing situation. A leaflet will be produced giving full details of existing facilities and the group will ensure that this leaflet is available for the Newcomers' Pack (see Section 7).

A full action plan can be found in Appendix J.



Parish Freighter

Section 6 Playing field/social clubs

What do we know?

Llangrove is a community with a reasonable mix of all ages who are involved in approximately twenty active social groups which serve the village and surrounding area.

The village hall

There is a very well used, timber-clad village hall, nearly 50 years old, with a children's play area and a small playing field adjacent to it. All are conveniently sited at the centre of the village. The kitchen and toilets in the village hall have recently been upgraded. The play area is reasonably well equipped and inspected regularly by RoSPA. The small playing field adjacent to the hall is only able to accommodate informal 'five a side' football, being far too small for regular football or cricket.



Village hall play area

The hall is currently fully booked for children's pre-school activities during weekdays, so village social activities are confined to weekday evenings and weekends. This is a major restriction on the formation of daytime events or clubs for the large number of retired and other village-bound residents.

The school

The Church of England village school is also centrally located and is very well equipped, both in terms of rooms and internal equipment, and has a large grassed play area. When not in use by the school (most evenings), the school buildings and school field could be made available for village use. The field however is not large enough for cricket or football requiring full size pitches.

The Royal Arms

The village pub, though small, is increasingly being made available for small informal meetings.

Clubs and playing field

The Planning for Real© events in October 2006 revealed an interest in a variety of additional clubs. More than 50 types of club were suggested; the most popular being, in order of responses: local history; theatre trip; arts and crafts; youth; after school; lunch; scouts; step/aerobic and other exercise activities. There was also a desire to have a room open all day for a variety of uses such as a meeting room for the elderly, community café and an internet facility.

In the October 2007 questionnaire, there were sections asking for views on the need for a better playing field and whether additional clubs were required. 86 respondents supported the acquisition of a site for a larger playing field with nearly as many older (60+) as younger people in favour. It is worth noting that a project in 2000 to investigate acquiring a larger playing field in the village was not concluded though several potential sites were identified, some of which still exist.

Asked whether new clubs were needed, the majority had no opinion and nearly as many saw no need. However there were 30 people who did want clubs, varying from youth clubs to an over-60s club. Sport, dance and bridge were suggested. Eleven of these people gave their names and were put in touch with others who wanted to form new groups.

The relatively low response from the youth of Llangrove, particularly teenagers, to either Planning for Real© or the October 2007 questionnaire, suggests further consultation with this group is needed.

What are the issues?

Facilities for daytime clubs

There appears to be a desire for several new clubs, certainly ones for the older residents to socialise in the day time, and for children during holiday times. Currently there is no spare capacity at the village hall during weekdays, though this could change.

Lack of a large sports field in the village

Neither the village hall field or the school playing field are large enough to accommodate cricket or football requiring full size fields and there are no Llangrove village sports teams at the moment.

Is there a mandate for action?

Though a significant number of the under-11s gave their views as part of the Planning for Real© activity held at the school, other age groups have yet to make clear their views on new clubs or the need for a larger playing field.

What new facilities could be made available in the village?

The school has already offered the village the use of its small playing field. It needs to be determined what indoor facilities may be available and at what times.

Greater use of the church is a possibility, but the absence of catering or toilet facilities is a limitation, and heating could be a problem.

What could be done?

Doing nothing is certainly an option, as with some other aspects of the village plan. However, the following could be investigated further, particularly with regard to the needs of specific age groups:

- the acquisition of a new playing field
- the creation of new social clubs using the facilities of the village hall, the school, the church and the pub
- the availability of an all-day centre

What's the plan?

Further consultations are required to clarify what the village would like and how to proceed. See the Action Plan at Appendix N.

Section 7 Communication

What do we know?

Communication in the village is via printed publications, noticeboards, email access and formal and informal social networks.

For those villagers connected to the internet, and who have given their permission, there is an email address list which Village Voice uses to disseminate information. At the time of writing, over 70 persons are on the distribution. Mailing is carried out by 'blind copy' to keep contact details private.
Contact: vvoice@tiscali.co.uk

At present, there are two printed publications available to villagers for local and 'what's on' information.

- Border News: Approximately 170 Llangrove households enjoy home delivery of Border News ten times during the year. Although primarily a magazine for ten grouped churches, it also carries items of interest in a separate section devoted to Llangrove, secular as well as church-based. There is a well co-ordinated team of people who collect news items, a very hard working editor, proofreaders and printing and distribution team, all volunteers. A small voluntary annual donation is suggested to defray costs, but advertising covers the majority of costs. With 203 households identified in Llangrove, Border News is reaching 84% of the households.
- Village News is a publication which can be purchased from the Llangrove or Whitchurch Post Offices or the Royal Arms. This carries items of interest to Bishopswood, Doward, Ganarew, Goodrich, Symonds Yat, Walford, Whitchurch as well as Llangrove.

There are five 'official' noticeboards in Llangrove, and in addition notices are occasionally placed at strategic points on a temporary basis.

- Two notice boards are located near the village hall. One is solely for Parish Council use, the other for general notices and is available for anyone to use.
- The school has its own noticeboard.
- There are two church notice boards. The one under the lych gate is occasionally used to advertise local events.



What are the issues?

A need for more easily accessible information became clear from the Planning for Real© exercise and from the free comments generated by the questionnaire. They fell into the various categories:

- information for newcomers
- information for residents
- information for visitors
- information on volunteering

Although a large number of households have access to the internet, a more conventional way of spreading information is also necessary. The questionnaire responses revealed particular areas of interest where further information would be welcome:

Footpath maps

From 163 returns in October 2007, the item ticked by almost half of these respondents was the need for a local footpath map. A comment was made that this could be placed on a board centrally in the village. Sixteen people at Planning for Real© events asked for a footpath map, three of these mentioning 'circular pub walks'.



Newcomers' Pack

The next most popular item was a newcomers' pack. However, five respondents noted that a scheme already exists in Llangrove. The scheme was initiated by the Women's Institute, but clearly it is not as widely known as it could be.

Website/news-sheet

An almost equal number of respondents to the questionnaire wished to see the implementation of a village website or news-sheet. Planning for Real© also highlighted the need for a village website/village news-sheet in equal measure. The parish magazine (Border News) is already providing a method of advertising local events, but Llangrove is featured in just a small section, and it may be perceived by some as a church magazine of no interest to them.

Volunteering

Exchanging of skills and volunteering featured highly in people's questionnaire responses. There was some interest in setting up a local LETS² scheme (Local Exchange Trading System). Planning for Real© also produced requests for a skills and talent register, volunteer dog walking and gardening.

A breakdown of the statistics for communication as gathered from the questionnaire can be found in Appendix P.

What could be done?

- With assistance from the Walking Group, create a set of circular walks of differing lengths and levels of difficulty, and arrange for them to be available at an appropriate information point and/or at the village pub.
- Continue to use Border News to inform the village and promote its even wider use.
- Using the existing Newcomers' Pack information as a base, expand upon it appropriately and advertise its availability widely.
- Investigate the feasibility of a new noticeboard and whether there is a better position for it.
- Investigate the ways people can volunteer and create a register.
- Develop a village website to complement other forms of communication.

² LETS are local community-based mutual aid networks in which people exchange all kinds of goods and services with one another, without the need for money. These operate successfully throughout the UK.

What's the plan?

Ten volunteers identified themselves as willing to assist in the area of Communication at the time of the October 2007 questionnaire. These people can form the core of a Communication task force with assistance from other bodies as appropriate.

A full action plan can be found in Appendix Q.

Section 8 Village shop

What do we know?

Back in the early years of the 20th century Llangrove had not one but three shops. The 'top shop' (pictured) closed around 1930.

The last shop in the village, from where the current post office now operates, closed in 2000 and we now have just a very small post office counter open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings only. At the time of writing this current post office counter is under threat of closure.



The 'top shop' around 1930

The last village shop closed because, as several respondents to the last questionnaire stated, villagers liked to call in the shop but would stay around to chat with others and end up buying very little. What people appeared to value was the opportunity to meet and socialise, just as much as the ready availability of groceries.

In the January 2006 Survey, residents were asked 'What additional amenities would you like to see in the village?' A village shop was by far the most requested addition.

The Planning for Real© exercises conducted in October 2006 gave a second opportunity for villagers to express their views on a village shop. There was some enthusiasm for a shop/post office/outlet, though this was far from overwhelming with just 10% of those who attended showing interest. The possibility of this also being an outlet for locally produced food was raised by a few.

Based on all these indications, a section on a village shop was included in the October 2007 questionnaire. Although only one third of the people replied affirmatively to the question 'Do you think a shop run as a business would survive?', nearly half said they would support a community shop run by volunteers on a rota system, with eleven saying they were willing to volunteer. Rural shops opened recently and run by volunteers seem to be successful.³

So – where does that leave us?

Though not overwhelming, there is a view held by many that having a village shop of some form again in the village would be an asset. There is great doubt that a *commercial* venture would succeed, but there is significant interest in the idea of a volunteer-run shop of some form.

What are the issues?

Future of the Llangrove Post Office

This is in doubt as we write.

³ According to VIRSA (Village Retail Services Association) www.virsa.org

Possible effect of a new shop on existing retail outlets

Any shop in Llangrove would have an impact on Tower Stores in Whitchurch. Milk delivery and other door to door delivery services would also be affected and as one respondent said: "If (by opening a village shop) we reduce customers to existing outlets, we may end up losing them all!"

The cost of food and fuel

Rising fuel costs might mean residents do more of their food shopping locally.

Changing lifestyles and concern for the environment

Residents might in future be more inclined to support local shops and save on travel.

Government policy, as it might influence local shopping

Encouraging people off the roads by reducing travel could have a positive impact.

Outlet for locally produced food

Eggs, meat products, flowers, plants etc could all be sourced locally.

What could be done?

Nothing!

Doing nothing is certainly an option. The last commercial venture failed; what justification is there for thinking things are different now? The majority view is that a commercial run shop would not work.

There is, however, sufficient recognition that the absence of a shop/post office in the village is the most significant missing amenity in Llangrove. Residents should at least have the opportunity to investigate the options.

Those villagers interested in investigating further might :

- **Seek more views to get a better idea of the support for a shop.** Regular events such as the May Fayre and meetings of the WI and Garden Society could be useful to sound out interest.
- **Seek the views of possible commercial interested parties** eg the proprietors of the post office and The Royal Arms.
- **Visit other village shops, concentrating on those run by volunteers,** to seek their views and those of their customers, to discover how and why they came to be set up.
- **Talk to VIRSA,** the association which helps communities thinking of opening or re-opening village shops and advises on the financing, grants and the running of community shops.
- **Hold a village meeting** to present the facts and let the village decide on feasibility.

What's the plan?

Village Voice has no mandate to take any action, only to gather and disseminate appropriately the views of villagers. A number of people have however already volunteered to investigate further the idea of a shop/café. They will initiate the action plan as set out in Appendix R.

APPENDIX A Results of simple questionnaire Jan 2006

The survey was carried out between 1 and 15 January 2006. 202 properties in the village were targeted by 18 volunteers. Every opportunity was made to make personal contact with householders to explain the reasons behind the survey.

It was found that 16 properties were either unoccupied or holiday lets, and a further 2 properties were occupied by residents too old or infirm to participate. Of the 6 new properties and two new barn conversions, only one was occupied therefore the total target audience was 184 properties.

114 responses were received. This represents a 62% response rate.

The response rate, the quality of the responses themselves, and the interest generated, demonstrates a significant level of support in the village to influence the quality of our environment positively.

85 people (75% of the respondents) stated they were in favour of Llangrove Village Voice representing the views of the village to the appropriate authorities.

Chief concerns about future development are summarised as:

- traffic, both volume and noise, but in particular the safety capability of the narrow lanes
- lack of balance in the type and style of housing especially affordable housing
- the ability of the infrastructure to cope – sewers and run-off were mentioned a number of times

The main plus points relating to future development are summarised as:

- added support for village amenities including school
- keeping the population well balanced
- could bring affordable housing into village

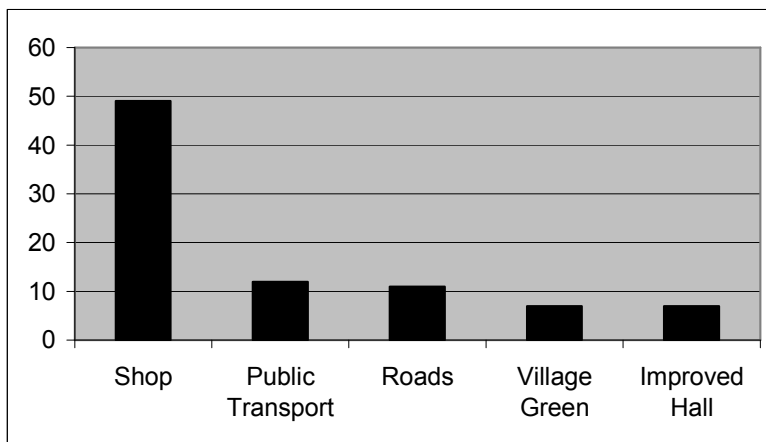
However, it must be noted that over 50 respondents either did not mention any positives, or were opposed to more development *full stop*. This number comprises nearly half of the respondent group.

Overall, Village Voice considers that there is a clear mandate for the association to represent the views of the village to the authorities.

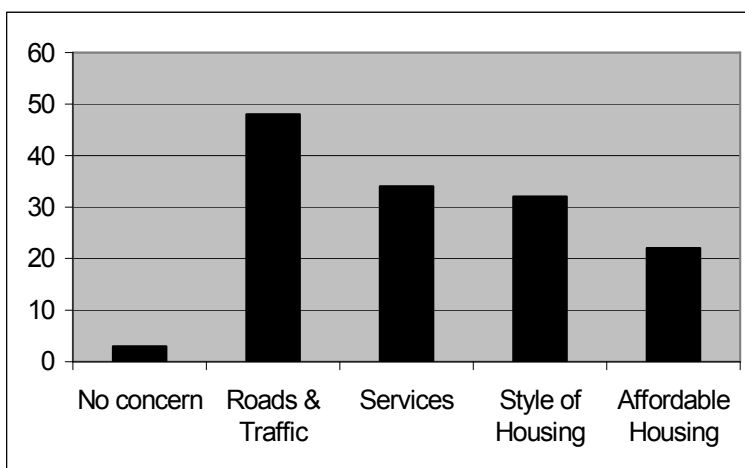
NB: Not all the figures given will add up to the total responses. Some respondents will have made multiple comments.

Responses to January 2006 questionnaire

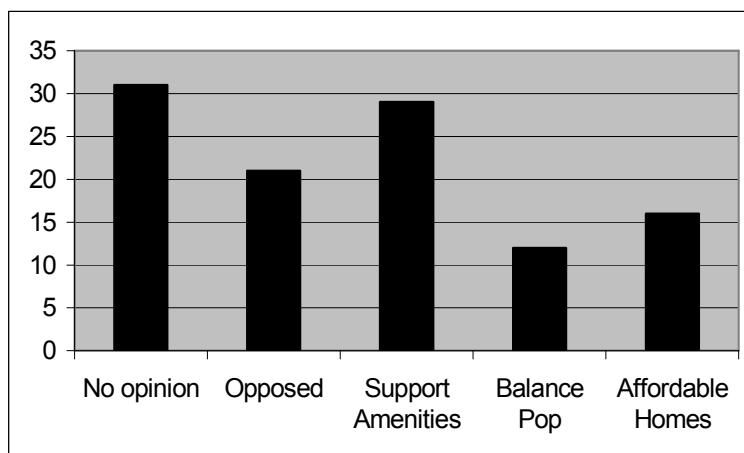
1. What additional amenities would you like to see in the village?



2. What aspects of future housing development in the village concern you?

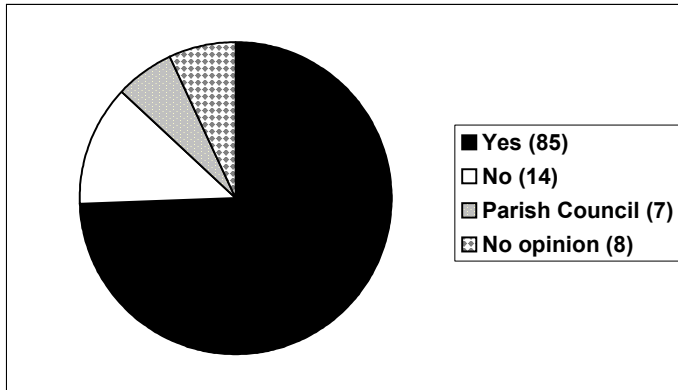


3. If you generally support more housing what do you consider the positives to be?

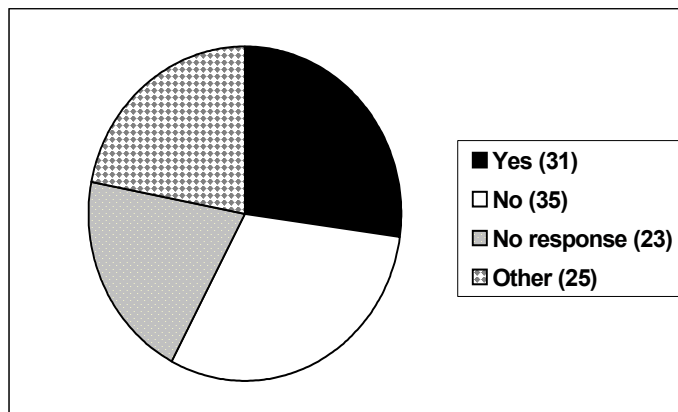


Responses to January 2006 questionnaire (continued)

4. Would you like a village association to represent the views of the majority as an important voice to the appropriate authorities?



5. If Yes, would you like to take an active role in the association?



APPENDIX B Results of Lavender Cottage June 2006

Total completed: 47 (including 5 anonymous)

1. **Do you live in Llangrove?**
Yes, all 47 respondents live in the village.
2. **Do you feel that the nature of any development on the Lavender Cottage site will have a significant effect on the character of Llangrove?**
Yes – 40
No - 3
Dependent on nature of development - 4
3. **Do you feel the nature of such development could affect road safety at the junction?**
Yes – 39
No – 4
Dependent on nature of development - 2
Only with bad planning - 1
It is a highways and planning problem - 1
4. **Do you feel the scale of such development could significantly affect the weight of traffic through Llangrove and on the roads leading to the village?**
Yes – 36
No – 8
Possibly - 2
Dependent on nature of development - 1
5. **Do you think any development should include sufficient off-road parking for the vehicles it will add to the village?**
Yes – 41
No - 2
Should have pull over point - 1
Planners will take this into account - 2
Too many unknowns - 1
6. **Would you be happy to see a development which relied on some on-road parking?**
Yes - 1
No – 41
Not sure 1
Dependent on nature of development – 2
Not answered - 2
7. **Would you prefer to see new buildings adjacent to the road frontage or set back from the road?**
Set back – 43
Adjacent to road - 1
Bad question: which road frontage? – 1
No preference – 1
Dependent on nature of development - 1

8. Would you prefer any new dwellings to be larger (4-5 bedroom) or smaller (1-3 bedroom)?

Smaller – 34

Larger - 2

Bungalows - 1

No preference – 4

Dependent on nature of development – 4

No new dwellings - 2

9. Would you prefer to see only dwellings built?

Yes – 17

No – 15

No preference – 4

Not necessarily – 8

What are the options? – 3

10. Would you prefer to see some place of work included?

Yes – 13 (respondents referred to the need for this to be sustainable)

No – 21

No preference – 5

Possibly – 6

What are the options? – 2

11. Would you like to see some street lighting included?

No – 37

Yes – 7

Not answered - 1

Unclear answer – 1

No preference - 1

12. Would you like some public feature such as a small garden and bench to be included at the corner nearest the school?

Yes – 31 (1 of these respondents said no bench and another that adequate arrangements should be made to maintain it)

No – 9

Dependent on nature - 1

Who will maintain it if provided?- 2

No preference – 1

Unclear - 3

13. Are there any other views you would like to make on the subject of the potential development of this plot.

A summary of the comments given:-

- A good opportunity to have something to enhance the centre of the village, a quiet green would enhance the village, trees, duck pond, water feature, framed plan of village with postcodes.
- A development that would benefit the whole village; housing would not.
- The builders have purchased the plot and we should not pester them, they will build a suitable development and they will not build anything detrimental to the village.
- Concern over newcomers to the village speaking for everyone.

- Any new development needs careful consideration re impact . e.g. roads, amount of traffic, electrical, water and BT and should be in keeping with the historical architecture of the village and blend into the rural nature of the village.
- Something to commemorate Bernard Matthews.
- Road safety is a priority; improved visibility and possible realignment of the roads joining the main road.
- Any decent development on this site will improve the visual appearance.
- Houses at right angles to the road, low roof lines, bungalows, not executive homes, affordable housing.
- A small workplace.
- A parking area.

14. If the planning proposals are inappropriate would you be willing to sign a petition or letter to the planners?

Sign petition - 2

Sign petition and/or letter – 26

Would do both if agreed with the objection – 8

Would be dependent on nature of development and on criticism and alternatives - 2

Would write own letter to planners – 5

No - 1

APPENDIX C Summary of October 2006 Planning for Real© findings

161 persons took part in the Planning for Real© (PfR) exercises representing nearly 31% of Llangrove's population (2001 census data indicates the population of Llangrove to be approx 520 persons). The breakdown is as follows:

	Planning for Real©	Area profile Source: Herefordshire Council data
Gender	58% (93)Female / 42% (68)Male	51% Female / 49%Male
Age 0-15	27.4% (44)	18.0%
16-59	42.8% (69)	59.2%
60+	29.8% (48)	22.8%

The following table lists the main issues arising from the 1,392 cards placed on the 3-D plan of Llangrove:

1	<p>Road traffic problems These were perceived as by far the most numerous single group of issues (nearly 140 comments) comprising mainly: Excessive speed and/or dangerous driving Roads too narrow for volume of traffic Traffic calming required Lowering of existing speed limits Lack of pavements Cars parked on roads Lack of off-road car parking places School road crossing required The problems appear widespread along the length of the main road but particularly around the crossroads adjacent to the school</p>
2	<p>Potholes These were specified as problems in 14 different areas of the village.</p>
3	<p>Dog mess This was perceived as a problem in 10 different areas of the village.</p>
4	<p>Requirements for a playing field and football and cricket clubs These were identified particularly by the youth of the village as requirements. The field opposite the pub was clearly identified as the preferred site for a new sports field.</p>
5	<p>Requirement for additional social clubs There is a perceived need for additional village social clubs. More than 50 types of club were suggested, the most popular being in order of responses: Local history Theatre trip Arts and crafts Youth Equal numbers for after school, lunch, scouts, step/aerobic exercise</p>
6	<p>Recycling facilities There was a sizeable request for local recycling and community composting schemes.</p>
7	<p>Communication It was felt this should be improved. Main ideas in order of request: 21 arising from Newcomers' Pack cards 14 arising from village news-sheet cards 12 arising from local footpath map cards 11 arising from village website cards 7 arising from exchange of skills register cards</p>

	6 arising from tourist information cards
8	<p>Sites of particular note</p> <p>Village hall (172 cards) The hall is perceived as the social centre of the village and as initiator of village projects. The main requirement (65 cards) was for additional clubs to be formed. With regard to the hall itself, the major items of note were: improved storage (6 cards) site good for children (5 cards) chairs perceived as uncomfortable (5 cards) request for flood lighting (4 cards) request to improve children's play area (4 cards) request to do up the Village Hall (4 cards) request to improve the kitchen</p> <p>School (90 cards) 50 cards reported the road traffic problems. A few suggested the school should be used for extracurricular activities such as evening classes, discos and football and cricket clubs.</p> <p>Pub (89 cards) 30 cards stated that the pub is a vital asset to village life To improve popularity, comments made were for good quality food, guest beers and more events such as coffee mornings, live music, poetry readings and family meal nights.</p> <p>Church (68 cards) The results indicate that the church building and grounds are loved for the peace and quiet they offer. The most required addition is for toilet facilities. The church is perceived to be underused and new service formats and groups appear to be wanted.</p> <p>Post office/shop (48 cards) 29 cards report the post office to be a valuable asset and 6 cards require a shop on this site (further 12 cards reported that they would like to see a village shop established not necessarily on this site). 5 cards report the road outside to be a traffic problem. Lavender Cottage (42 cards) 16 cards reported this site as a road traffic problem. 6 cards reported the wanting of affordable housing on this site (further 11 would like to see more affordable housing available in the village – sites not specified).</p>
9	<p>Other significant areas of report</p> <p>Safety Llangrove was seen as a safe place to live.</p> <p>Lighting There were reports of too much light in the village around particular properties but lighting was deemed to be required in some areas on road junctions between the school area and the pub.</p> <p>Drainage problems Problems were reported in the areas of the main road between the pub and the church and also in the Prospect Lane area.</p> <p>Buying and selling of locally produced food - 17 cards suggested a local scheme be introduced.</p>

APPENDIX D Summary of Village Voice questionnaire results prepared for the open meeting 4 December 2007

In this summary, we hope to give a fair indication of the general results of the survey

It must be emphasised that nearly all the replies indicated that we like living in Llangrove and do not want it changed except for small details. The reasons most often given were peace and quiet, friendly, safe, countryside and good road network.

SUMMARY

There were 163 individual responses: 93 female; 70 male

Age of respondents: 0-15 (14); 16-24 (3); 25-59 (66); 60+ (80)

Residency: <2 years (36); 3-5 years (15); 6-10 years (32); >10 years (76)

Section 1 About the respondents Almost half had lived in the village more than 10 years and were from the older age group. Of those in work, the majority worked outside the village in South Wales or in neighbouring counties and one in the EU. The children of the respondents: 36 of primary school age or below, and 22 of secondary school age. The homes of those that responded: 134 detached; 20 semi; 1 granny annexe. The main route out of the village was via Whitchurch.

Section 2 Future developments in Llangrove The great majority felt the Planning Department did not consider the effect on our infrastructure. 81 thought more new housing was inappropriate. Those who supported future development, strongly preferred affordable homes for young people and small families. Specific sites mentioned: mainly Lavender Cottage, also fields behind and opposite Royal Arms, Mrs Hunt's field. The preferred style was 'in local character' in stone. The most frequently mentioned style as unsuitable was red brick. There were several references to 'not liking recent developments'. The number of houses built in the last 10 years were equally deemed 'about right' or 'too many' but most felt they were too big and too expensive.

Section 3 Traffic and roads in Llangrove Most thought speed is a problem (young females particularly targeted) and favoured a 20 mph limit in selected areas. Flashing lights as the control measure was most often mentioned although signs, bumps and police enforcement were also popular. The replies were split as to whether the volume of traffic was a problem, but there was strong reluctance for any widening of the road, although better passing areas were suggested.

Approximately 75% were concerned about parking near the school. The village hall was given as an alternative but then school children would need to cross the road. The School Council suggested a marked crossing from the hall to the school. Several suggested purchasing some of the Lavender Cottage site for parking and village use eg recycling.

Potholes were regarded as a big problem, although some felt they help reduce speed. It was generally thought that Herefordshire Council should take responsibility for filling potholes. 43 respondents supported the use of volunteers and the School Council were very keen to help. In addition to the School Council, six people identified themselves as willing to volunteer to fill potholes.

Section 4 Dog mess This was definitely seen as a problem although recently some improvement had been noticed. Signs were suggested as the most appropriate way to manage this, closely followed by bins and penalties. However, several asked who would empty bins or enforce penalties.

Section 5 Drainage problems 46 said they were affected by poor drainage and the School Council said they would love to survey this as a school project.

Section 6 Requirements for a playing field/football & cricket clubs 86 supported the acquisition of a site. It should be noted that nearly as many 60+ as younger groups supported this. Four people volunteered to assist in this area. The School Council felt that their school playing field could be used when not needed by school.

Section 7 Requirement for additional social clubs The majority had no opinion on this and nearly as many saw no need. 30 people wanted clubs varying from youth clubs to an over 60's club. Sport, dance and bridge were suggested. 11 of these people gave their names to be put in touch with others who wanted to form new groups .

Section 8 Recycling facilities The overwhelming majority wanted better facilities – particularly for plastic, then cardboard, metal and garden waste. Most suggested that the present recycling collection might also take plastic and garden waste. The village hall was the most popular site for any new facility, but there was also concern that this would be unsightly and create litter. Some noted that light cardboard (eg cereal packets) can go in the blue box. Some endorsed the Parish Freighter concept.

Section 9 Communication There was a huge response for the Village Voice to initiate more information. The following gained the most ticks, in this order: local footpath map; Newcomers' Pack; information on locally produced food; an equal number for village news sheet or website; exchange of skills register; more notice boards; tourist information. The School Council would be prepared to assist with communication, and 10 individuals gave their names as possible volunteers.

Section 10 Village shop Under a third of people thought a shop could survive as a business. Nearly half however said they would support the idea of a community shop in the village run by volunteers on a rota system. Eleven said they were willing to commit time to running such a shop. The School Council was prepared to get involved with adult help, and the idea was considered to have potential.

Section 11 Lighting An overwhelming majority thought the level of privately owned lighting outside houses was about right. Similarly, the great majority were against street lighting between the post office and Royal Arms.

Final section Free comments These were many and various, and a full and unedited collation is available.

APPENDIX E Housing and future developments - Analysis of data from October 2007 questionnaire

The number of responses to the various questions have been rearranged to show the highest to the lowest. Some comments collected from this section of the questionnaire do not appear in this document. They can be obtained on application to Village Voice (vvoice@tiscali.co.uk or 01989 770493).

If there were to be additional accommodation in Llangrove what form do you think it should take?

Small family homes	74
Homes for young people	62
No further homes needed	52
Homes for single people	20
Homes for the elderly	19
Homes for people with disabilities	17
Large family homes	16

Do you think Llangrove can accommodate more new housing?

No	81
Yes	57
Don't know	18

If yes to above, which type of accommodation would you like to see? (tick as many as you think apply)

Affordable housing*	46
Owner occupier	29
Housing Association rented	15
Sheltered Housing	4
Private rented	3

*** Affordable Housing** (definition supplied by Forward Planning Department, Herefordshire Council)

Housing, whether for rent, shared ownership or outright purchase, provided at a cost considered affordable in relation to incomes that are average or below average, or in relation to the price of general market housing.

What do you think about the number of houses that have built in Llangrove over the last 10 years? (tick as many as you think apply)

About right	53
Too expensive	50
Too much new housing	47
Too big	41
No opinion	19
Too little housing	4
Too small	1

Do you have a preference with regard to the style and appearance of future housing?

Yes	114
No	20
No opinion	13

If yes to the above, what is your preference?

In local character	86
Traditional	30
Modern	13

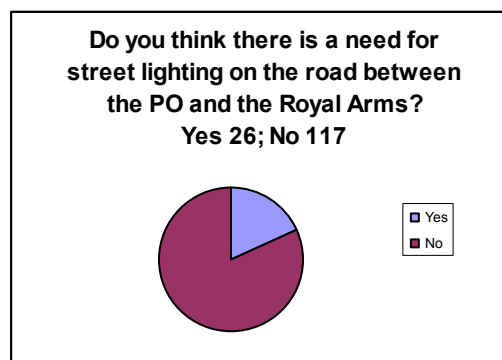
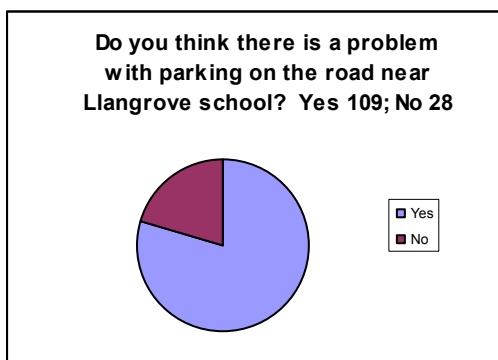
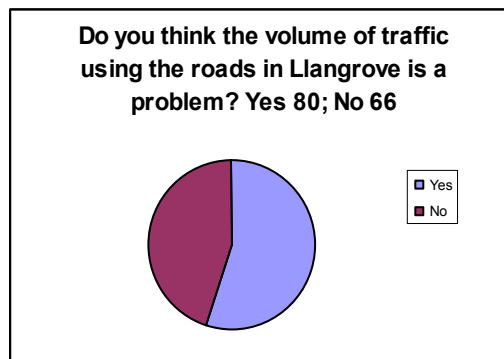
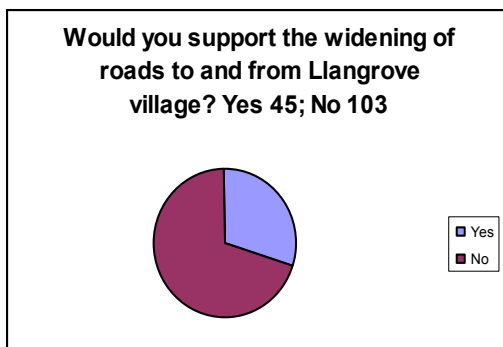
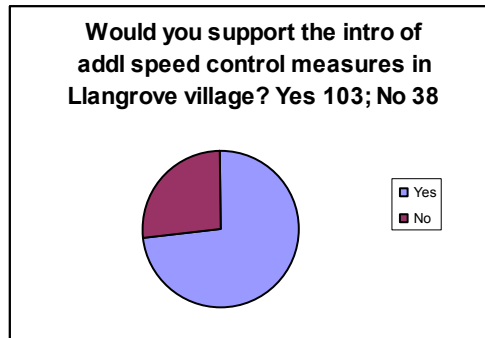
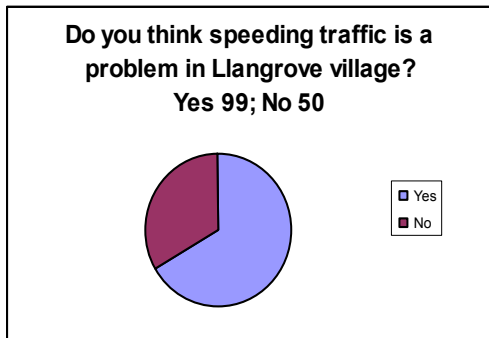
APPENDIX F Housing and future developments - Action plan

HOUSING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS					
Action	How it will be tackled	Timescale	Partners	Cost	Outcome
Herefordshire Council will be asked to adopt the Village Plan recommendations as Further Planning Guidance	A small group to contact Herefordshire Council	Ongoing	HC	None	Villagers' concerns will be taken into account when further development is being considered
Llangarron Parish Council will be asked to adopt the Village Plan recommendations as Further Planning Guidance	A small group to contact Llangarron Parish Council	Ongoing	Llangarron Parish Council	None	Villagers' concerns will be taken into account when further development is being considered
Future developments in the village to be monitored	Volunteer group to keep abreast of planning applications through the parish council	Ongoing	Parish Council HC Llangrove Parish Councillors Llangarron Parish Council website	None	As above

Note: all timescales are based from date of launch of Llangrove Village Plan

APPENDIX G Roads – Analysis of data from October 2007 questionnaire

Some of the key responses have been highlighted below:



APPENDIX H Roads - Action Plan

ROADS					
Action	How it will be tackled	Timescale	Partners	Cost	Outcome
Improved road maintenance and safety	A survey of the roads serving the village should be undertaken and areas which would benefit from improved maintenance, drainage and better passing places should be identified. The results should be passed to HC Highways Dept. for action.	6 months	Volunteers HC Highways Dept	To be agreed	The survey would establish the extent of the issue leading to better maintenance and safety of the roads.
Reduce traffic speed in the village	Consideration of practical options to reduce traffic speed in the village needs to be undertaken with the Parish Council and HC Highways Dept	6 months	Volunteers Parish Council HC Highways Dept	To be agreed	An agreed plan to reduce traffic speed in the village.
Improved parking and road safety near school	Try to reduce the number of parents driving to school. Improve parking arrangements around school possibly by using village hall car park. Improve road crossing arrangements in school area.	6 months	Parents Volunteers Parish Council HC Highways Dept	To be agreed	Significant reduction in risk of serious injury to all.
Improve maintenance of unadopted roads to improve road surfaces	Discuss with Herefordshire Council adoption of current unadopted roads, in particular the heavily used section near the village hall. Recruit volunteers to better maintain unadopted roads.	6 months	Volunteers Parish Council HC Highways Dept	To be agreed	Less stress on vehicles and their passengers.

Note: all timescales are based from date of launch of Llangrove Village Plan

APPENDIX I Dog pollution – Analysis of data from October 2007 questionnaire

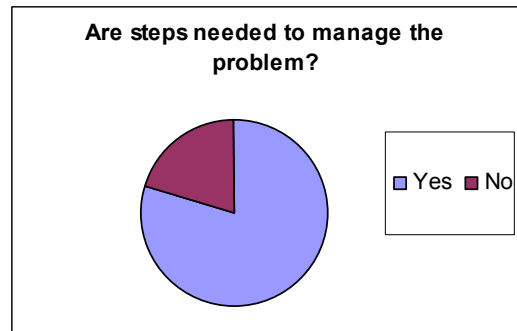
144 persons responded to question 4.1 'Do you consider there is a problem with dog mess on the lanes and paths in Llangrove?'

90 persons (62.5%) answered 'Yes'
54 persons (37.5%) answered 'No'



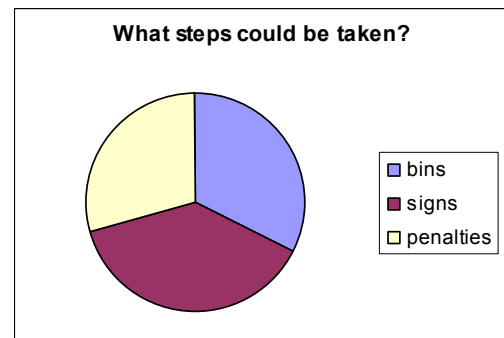
117 persons responded to question 4.2 'Would you like to see steps taken to manage this?'

93 persons (79.5%) answered 'Yes'
24 persons (20.5%) answered 'No'



163 ticks were made against the question 4.3 'If "yes" would you like to see? (tick as many as apply)'

53 ticks for Bins
62 ticks for Signs
48 ticks for Penalties



APPENDIX J Dog pollution – Action plan

DOG POLLUTION					
Action	How it will be tackled	Timescale	Partners	Cost	Outcome
Poster for village noticeboard pointing out the dangers of the pollution, to include the Parish Council notice from March 2008 Border News	A volunteer	3 months	Parish Council	minimal	A continuation of the gradual improvement in awareness of responsibilities on the part of dog owners
Assessment of the improvement or otherwise of the situation and investigation into other possible means of improvement	A small team, to include dog owners	Ongoing	Village Hall	minimal	As above
Investigate possibility of introducing signs	A small team, to include dog owners	3-6 months	Parish Council HC	Minimal	As above

Note: all timescales are based from date of launch of Llangrove Village Plan

This item appeared in the March 2008 issue of Border News:

LLANGARRON PARISH COUNCIL – DOG FOULING

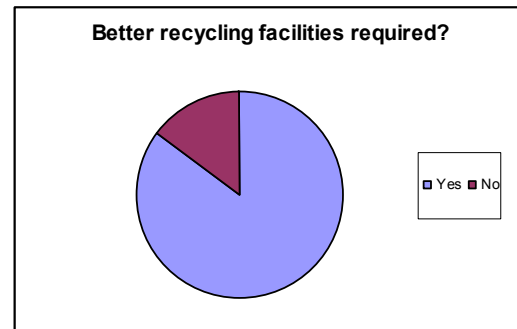
The Parish Council wishes to draw the attention of residents to rules and regulations regarding footpaths and dogs in our area.

1. Right to roam does not affect our area: we have no land within our parishes where this applies. **If you walk in fields you must keep to the footpath at all times.** If you stray off the footpath, the landowner is perfectly in order to take action in respect of trespass.
2. **Do not go into fields where there is no footpath.**
3. **Keep your dogs on leads at all times.**
4. **Ensure that you take home and correctly dispose of dog faeces.**
Dogs that are allowed to scavenge on carcasses in fields or fed on raw meat can through their faeces pass on *Hydatid* disease to humans and other animals: this can kill. Dog faeces contaminate the environment and can infect other animals and humans.

APPENDIX K Recycling - Analysis of data from October 2007 questionnaire

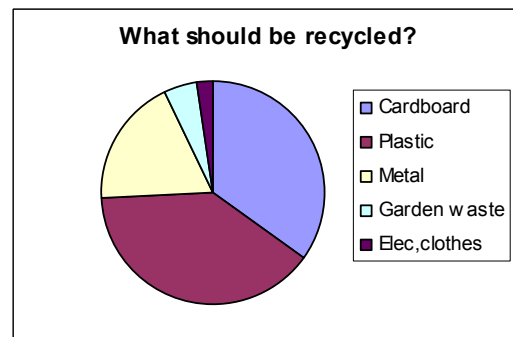
135 persons responded to question 8.1 'Would you like to see better facilities for recycling in the village?'

115 persons (85%) answered 'Yes'
20 persons (15%) answered 'No'



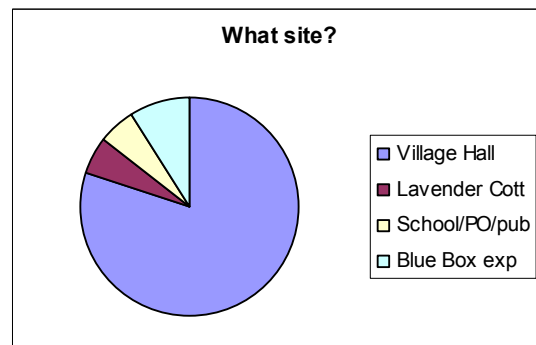
301 ticks were made against the following types of recycling for question 8.2 (multiple types could be ticked)

Cardboard	105
Plastic	118
Metal	56
Garden waste	15
Electrical, clothes	7



93 ticks were made against question 8.3 which asked where facilities should be situated if the answer to 8.1 was 'yes'

Village Hall	72
Lavender Cottage site	5
School/post office/pub	5
Kerbside (blue box expansion)	8

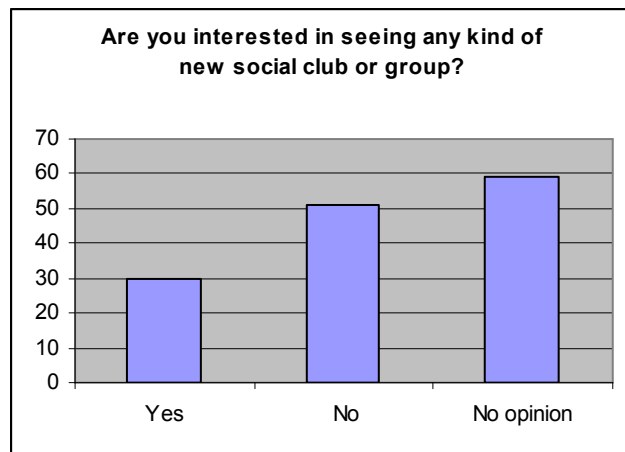
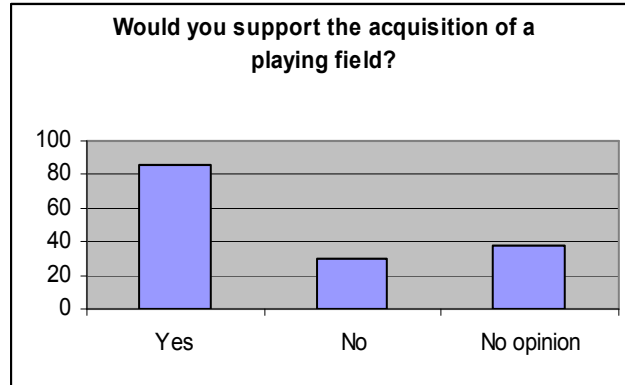


APPENDIX L Recycling - Action plan

RECYCLING					
Action	How it will be tackled	Timescale	Partners	Cost	Outcome
Monitor changes in recycling policy, including Parish Freighter and Blue Box schemes	A small group to maintain contact with those authorities concerned with recycling and update the information leaflet when necessary	Ongoing	Parish Council HC Re-box	Minimal	Expansion of system to cover more materials
Produce leaflet giving full details of local recycling facilities	Expansion of the information within the Village Plan by a volunteer	6 months	Newcomers' Pack groups	Unknown	Newcomers will have information on recycling as part of their welcome pack. Leaflets will also be available on request to others in the village
Produce a poster for noticeboard giving full details of local recycling facilities	A volunteer	6 months	Parish Council Village School	Minimal	Information will be easily obtained by everyone

Note: all timescales are based from date of launch of Llangrove Village Plan

APPENDIX M Playing field/social clubs – Analysis of data from October 2007 questionnaire



APPENDIX N Playing field/social clubs – Action plan

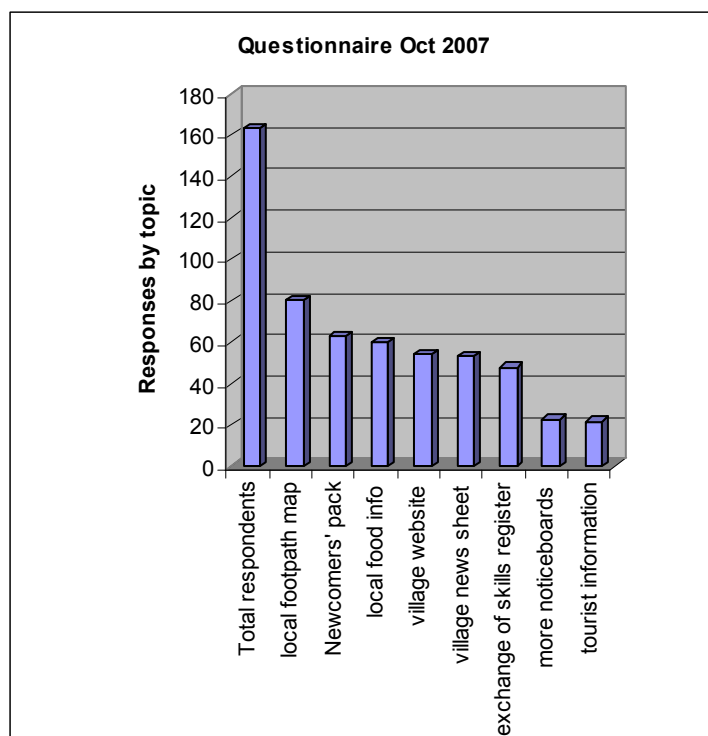
PLAYING FACILITIES AND SOCIAL CLUBS					
Action	How it will be tackled	Timescale	Partners	Cost	Outcome
Village Hall and School to liaise to increase the level and range of facilities available in the village	Representatives of Village Hall to meet with the Headmaster	1 Month	Village Hall Llangrove School	Nil	Statement of resources available, rooms, times, equipment and any insurance/safety implications
Assess the true level of need for full-size playing facilities in Llangrove	A working party drawn from various ages is tasked with holding events which target the various ages from which the level of interest can be judged.	4 Months	Village Hall Llangrove School PTFA Royal Arms	Minimal	A recommendation by Christmas 2008 to either look for suitable sites, or shelve the idea
Explore the level of interest in the various activities and events identified	Following the meeting between the Village Hall and School, the Village Hall and PTFA to invite villagers to an open meeting, the meeting to advertise the range of facilities now known to be available and to seek support for new groups.	2 Months	Village Hall PTFA Church	Minimal	Possibly new groups making better use of existing and new facilities should they be forthcoming from the School. Increased spirit of community
Explore the level of interest in a venue for people to meet and socialise during the day	Village Hall committee to be represented on the group looking at the possibility of a village shop	6 Months	Village Hall Village shop working party	Nil initially Heating costs and hire costs if goes ahead	Increased sense of community if it goes ahead.

Note: all timescales are based from date of launch of Llangrove Village Plan

APPENDIX O Communication – Analysis of data from October 2007 questionnaire

In response to question 9.1 in the October 2007 questionnaire ‘Should Village Voice initiate the production of any of the following? (tick as many as you think apply)’ the following number of responses were recorded. They have been rearranged to show the largest to lowest number of responses.

Local footpath map	80
Newcomers’ pack	63
Information about locally produced food	60
Village website	54
Village news sheet	53
Exchange of skills register	48
More noticeboards	23
Tourist information	22

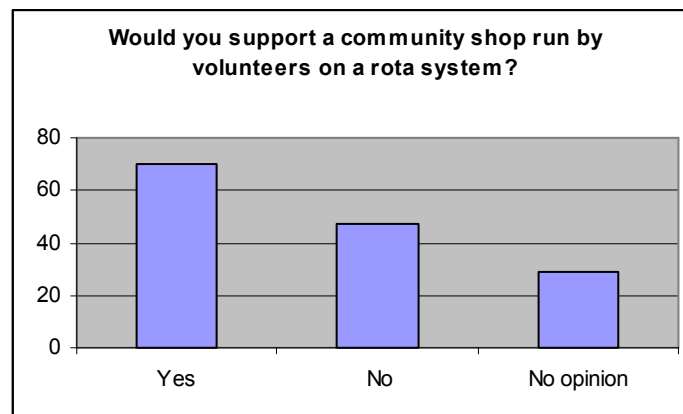
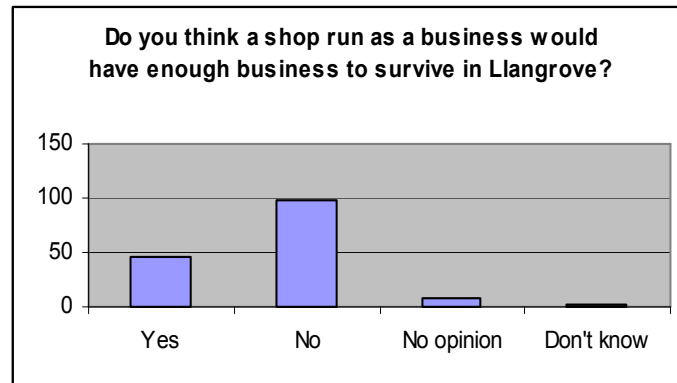


APPENDIX P Communication – Action plan

COMMUNICATION					
Action	How it will be tackled	Timescale	Partners	Cost	Outcome
Create circular walks	A team of volunteers to research walks with the starting point of the pub or village hall.	Ongoing	Walking Group Footpath Warden	Cost to be covered by small charge for brochure	Villagers and visitors will be able to enjoy walks of various lengths and difficulty.
Promote Border News	Advertise on the noticeboard and in the welcome pack	Ongoing	Church	Minimal	Everyone who would like village information will know where to obtain it.
Enhance/expand Newcomers' Pack	Suggestions to be obtained from the various clubs/groups in the village. Welcome pack to be kept up to date	Ongoing	WI and Church	Minimal	Up to date information will be available for newcomers.
Updating the noticeboard	Research whether there is a better position for a noticeboard. Research the purchase of a new (larger?) board	6 months	Parish Council Village Hall Committee	To be ascertained	Villagers and visitors will have up to date, relevant information.
Volunteer register	Suggestions to be obtained from the various clubs/groups in the village. Once created, it must be kept up to date	6 months	All clubs/groups	Minimal	The register can be laminated and placed on the notice board. Also include in welcome pack.
Village website	Investigate the most cost effective way to set up and maintain a village website. Volunteer(s) to be recruited to keep the website up to date	12 months	Volunteers	Minimal	Villagers who prefer to obtain information via the internet will be able to do so.

Note: all timescales are based from date of launch of Llangrove Village Plan

APPENDIX Q Village shop – Analysis of data from October 2007 questionnaire



APPENDIX R Village shop – Action plan

VILLAGE SHOP					
Action	How it will be tackled	Timescale	Partners	Cost	Outcome
Obtain the support and commitment of interested villagers	Call a meeting specifically on the Village Shop	2 months		Hire of Village Hall	Clear commitment of those villagers prepared to form a Village Shop Action Team
Gather views of possible commercial interests	Speak to proprietors of Post Office and the Royal Arms, and any other interested parties	1 Month		Nil	To know if there is likely to be a commercial interest
Collect information on what villagers would use a shop for	Prepare an activity/game or table for use at village events	2 months	Village Hall Committee WI	Nil	Ideas to take forward in discussion with potential stakeholders in a shop
Research the experience of shops run by volunteers	Village Shop Action Team visit a number of volunteer run shops in the area	3 months		Nil	Experiences to take forward to a full village meeting
Find out what sources of local produce there are	Talk to local farmers and others who might have an interest	3 months		Nil	The extent of local produce, goods and even services that might use a local shop
Find out what support, advice or grants are available	Action team to search web and talk to VIRSA	2 months	VIRSA	Nil	Data to help prepare a presentation to villagers
Present findings to villagers and let village decide	A full village meeting where all information gathered can be presented	4 months		Hire of Village Hall	A decision to proceed or not with a Village Shop/Café

Note: all timescales are based from date of launch of Llangrove Village Plan

APPENDIX S Community First in Herefordshire and Worcestershire



The following information is taken from the website <http://www.comfirst.org.uk/>

Building better local communities by advising, informing and supporting community groups and voluntary organisations

Community First's aim is to strengthen the role, capacity and influence of voluntary organisations and community groups in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. We are an independent registered charity with around 350 members and a client-base of many voluntary and community organisations across the two counties.

Community First began life in 1975, when the two separate Community Councils in Herefordshire and Worcestershire joined forces. From very small beginnings we have developed to become an organisation with over 40 staff and a wide range of networks, relationships, projects and services.

We offer

- Advice and information on best practice and support for local voluntary organisations
- Creative input to projects and partnerships leading to a more effective local voluntary sector
- Practical advice on funding and other issues to support local initiatives
- Expertise based on a long history of involvement in rural communities
- Input to the wider agenda including regional or national issues

APPENDIX T Planning for Real©

The following information is taken from the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation (NIF) website <http://www.nif.co.uk/planningforreal/>

Planning for Real© is a process of community consultation. It begins with contacting the local community networks and reaches a conclusion with the formation of an action plan for taking forward the decisions made during the process. It can be revisited at any point and models are often kept and used many times.

Preparation NIF starts by letting the community representatives know how Planning for Real© works, and taking their advice on matters such as which venues would work - often what seems like an ideal venue to an outsider turns out to be one that local people know always gets a poor turnout. They look at the option cards with the local representatives to see if there are issues specific to the neighbourhood that need to be covered. Of course, there are always blank cards on the day for people to write themselves.



Model-making Starting from a large-scale map (usually around 1:300), a three-dimensional model is built. It helps the local 'ownership' of the project if this is done locally, either by adults or, more commonly, in the local school. This begins the process of looking at the area as a whole - finding where each house is, tracing the regular journeys, and considering what needs to be done to improve community wellbeing.

The Planning for Real© events These are held in venues convenient for local people, and as many as required. Sometimes an event is arranged for a specific group, perhaps young people, or Asian women. At the events, the model is laid out with cards placed around it. These show options, around 300, which people put on the model to show what they want, and where they want it. There are also blank cards for people to write their own suggestions.

Action Following on from this, all the options placed on the model are prioritized into Now, Soon, or Later, again using visual hands-on techniques. This can then be developed into a full-scale action plan.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who attended meetings, completed questionnaires and shared their views. Without this co-operation, the Llangrove Village Plan would not exist.

A great many people contributed their time and energy to bring the Llangrove Village Plan into existence, in particular the focus groups that wrote the individual sections and the overall editing team.

In addition, special thanks are due to:

John Brewer	(photographs of Llangrove Past)
Rowan Lyster	(graphic design for front cover)
Pauline Striplin	(Community First – for help with Planning for Real© events)
Richard Tudhope	(photographs of Llangrove Present)

And lastly, thank you to everyone who has been involved with Village Voice in whatever form, since its inception.