

# TEMPLETON



# ACTION PLAN

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CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU  
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

# TEMPLETON ACTION PLAN

Prepared by

**TEMPLETON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

In conjunction with

**PEMBROKESHIRE LOCAL ACTION NETWORK FOR  
ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT  
(PLANED)**

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*This Action Plan was agreed at the public meeting held on  
9<sup>th</sup> June 2008, following the circulation of the  
Draft Action Plan to households in the Templeton community*

## **BACKGROUND TO THE ACTION PLAN**

Early in 2005 the second Action Plan for the village of Templeton was produced as a result of two visioning workshops. All ages and representatives from the various sections of the community were involved in the preparation, adoption and subsequent implementation of the Plan.

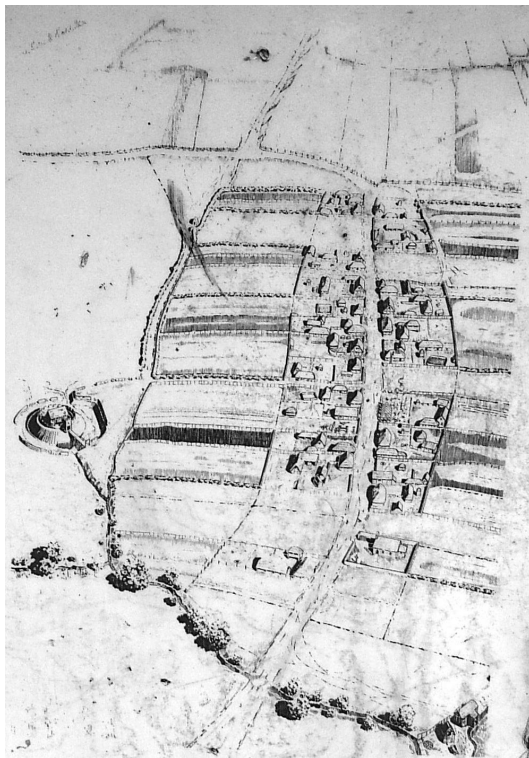
Towards the end of 2007 in consultation with Templeton Community Association it was agreed a workshop would be arranged for the community. The aim of the workshop was to update and add new opportunities to the 2005 action plan and look at projects which would contribute to the long term sustainability of the community.

## **THE ACTION PLAN AREA**

Templeton lies about 2 miles south of Narberth on the A 478 and within five miles of the coast at Saundersfoot. It has a population of about 850.

## **HISTORY**

### **The Landsker Borderlands**

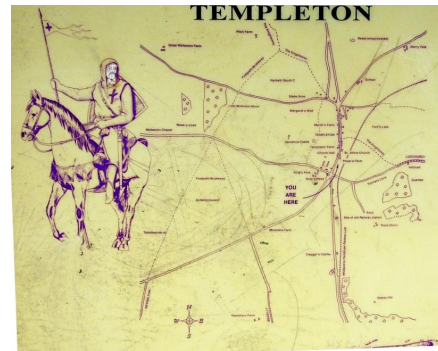


The Landsker is the imaginary line of history which separates the Welsh speaking north of Pembrokeshire from the English speaking south. The word Landsker may be of Norse origin signifying frontier, and its borderlands include communities with a remarkable and rich history, with castles, strongholds, early settlements and churches varying radically in design

"Templeton is a good example of Norman linear planning: a long, sloping street flanked by cottages and farmhouses with burgage plots behind.

The name Templeton is thought to derive from “The Templars Farm” (“Tun”). It is reputed that the Templars had some form of religious house here. The Order of Templars, founded about 1110, was dissolved in 1312. Their possessions were often taken over by the Knight’s Hospitallers of St. John, which had a commandery at Slebech, which, by 1282 at least, had passed into the hands of the Mortimers, Lords of Narberth.

In 1282 Templeton was called “Villa templaril” – the “vil” or settlement of the Templars and a year later, “Villa Templarorium Campestris” – the vil of the Templars in the fields. In 1283 there is also reference to “burgesses”. These burgesses were “de vento” – “of the wind” meaning they were not property owners within the settlement but were permitted to come in and out to trade on a regular basis. Burgesses at Templeton are again recorded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



The layout of the present village may be interpreted as a classical example of deliberate planning in the Middle Ages, and one of the best surviving examples in West Wales. There is a single main street fronted by houses with their respective plots extending behind each dwelling. These houses and plots, the “burgages” of the Middle Ages, form a coherent unit imposed on the landscape and set in a regular system of fields, which themselves still show the narrow strips representing more recent enclosures from an extensive medieval “open field” agricultural system. Despite the name, it is not certain that the Templars were responsible for creating the planned settlement. It is possible that this was done by Mortimer incorporating an earlier agricultural holding or farm established by the Templars.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Narberth Mountain was stocked with Red Deer and covered 873 acres of woodland. The Pembrokeshire County History records also show open fields in Molleston and Templeton being enclosed for pasture. The establishment of The Tavernspite Turnpike Trust in the 1770’s led to a toll gate being built at Catershook to the south of the village; its position on an important trading route from Tenby to Cardigan undoubtedly contributed to the growth of Templeton. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the countryside

continued to change with woodland disappearing, more land being enclosed and farming dominating the landscape.



**Sentence Castle** is a raised fortification, a “ringwork”, thought to date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Legends as recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century Mabinogion mention the area of Arberth and a place called Gorsedd Arberth, thought by some authorities to be Sentence Castle.

There is further detailed information available within the community that covers the military history, brickworks, railway station, fair, churches, chapels and Templeton School which may be researched by the History Group that was formed in 2005.

## **PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE EARLIER ACTION PLANS. (1990 – 2007)**

- The Templeton Community Association and associated Environment and History Groups continue to meet regularly.
- Local history researched and a successful exhibition of Templeton and WW1 and the airfield was held in November 2006 by the History Group.
- Installation of interpretation panels in the village.
- Surveying a local footpath route.
- Increase in activities centred on the Church Hall including exercise and dance classes, bingo, coffee mornings and a young farmers club.
- Publication of the twice yearly community Newsletter.
- Planting and landscaping of highway verges which soften the appearance of the village.
- Installation of additional benches.

- Improvements to the children's play area (1991) and nearby car parking and public toilets.
- Opening of a tearoom.
- Broader range of items for purchase from the Post Office.
- Redevelopment of the Poyers Arms site and associated strengthening of the walls around St Johns Church site.
- Reconstruction of the wall around the Chapel.
- Construction of pavements along the main street and as far south as the former railway station (now a Council Depot), including improvements to the Boar's Head junction.
- A traffic island at Chapel Cross and bus shelter.
- Installation of various measures to restrict vehicle speeds through the village including a 30 mph limit and the installation of electronic '30' reactive speed warnings.
- Widening of the Yerboston Road to accommodate increased HGV traffic.

## **ACTION PLAN PROPOSALS**

The production of a new Action Plan will give Templeton an agreed programme for community development as issues and ideas identified in the various workshops have been brought together to create a Plan which includes improvements to the local infrastructure as well as to the social life of residents.

Although some of the proposals are relatively small scale, their completion would bring substantial benefit to some groups within the population. Larger scale changes may result in major improvements to village life. Through the production of a community Action Plan, which stresses the benefits that can be achieved by working together, it is hoped that public and private support and funding will be attracted to help Templeton achieve its aims and goals.

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **Commentary**

Templeton lies in the heart of Pembrokeshire with a strong sense of community spirit. It is a small, friendly and close-knit village with a wealth of historical interest and community activities.

### **A Poem About Templeton**

Templeton village is very old  
Much of its history still to be told.  
Farming past, was its life blood  
When cows roamed the lanes, chewing their cud.

Many changes it has seen  
Many villagers there have been.  
They changed the road to make it straight  
So cars could hurry and not be late.

And as the road became much faster  
For the people it was a disaster.  
It split the village into two  
And people did not know who was who.

Despite the problems of one and all  
The community works for the good of all.  
Help and time they freely give  
Templeton is the place to live.

*Sue Lloyd*

Templeton C.P School is situated on the Cold Blow road with access to the car park via Maes yr Ysgol. Templetots playschool, which was formerly held at the Old Chapel School Room, has recently been incorporated into the School premises.

Templeton United Reform Church is at the top of the hill close fairly to the school.

St John's Church lies in the centre of the village. The Church Hall, which is virtually opposite the Church, has been improved in recent years and hosts a variety of occasions including a youth club,

dance and exercise classes, coffee mornings and quiz nights. The Community Association manages a number of these events.

The Hall may not be large enough to serve the demands of the growing community at Templeton and that of nearby Cold Blow where there is no village hall.

Adjacent to the Church Hall is the village green, comprising a small, playing field with goal posts. A hedge screens most of the field from the road. There are problems relating to poor drainage at the western part of the site which will require improvements if a more intensive use is planned.

On the eastern side of the A478 is a small car park adjacent to the bus stop / public toilets and a children's play area from which some of the play equipment has been removed (reflecting the Local Authority's Health and Safety Policy).

The Templeton AFC football pitch lies near Thomas Chapel some 1.5 miles west of the village. Unfortunately there is no active team at present.

Proposals have been made for a tennis court in the village.

One of the social centres for the village is the recently refurbished and ever popular Boar's Head public house. A tearoom, 'Crossvilla' has recently opened at this crossroads and also provides a place to meet.

There is a current debate on the best position for the public toilets which are currently by the bus stop and concern that the area attracts litter with the site becoming, in some peoples' views 'a bit of an eyesore'. Proposals include moving the toilets to the western side of the A478 as part of the village green project and the construction of a bus shelter on that side. At present the toilets are closed.

### **Proposals**

- Church Hall – discuss with the Church authorities the possibility of extending and improving the hall to provide changing rooms, facilities for showing films, for the storage of equipment and possibly for short mat bowls.

- Structural changes including French windows and patio area
- Improved lighting
- Village Green and the adjacent field - develop the current village green, and adjacent field as a recreation ground. There is a suggestion that the current roadside hedge should be replaced by a short child proof fencing thereby allowing greater visibility of the site and improved access arrangements. The extended area, after levelling and improved drainage, would be able to accommodate a variety of recreational pursuits including;
  - a playing field (in substitution for the AFC ground on the road to Thomas Chapel) - hopefully attracting an active group of players,
  - a multi use games area (MUGA),
  - a tennis court and
  - possibly a skateboarding area and a cycle track.
  - a relocated and improved play area with additional play equipment for younger children.
  - Providing access to Sentence Castle

There may be space for some on-site car parking.

Enhancing this part of the village and grouping the range of activities (including the possibility of a relocated toilet and new bus shelter) was seen as a priority project at the Shaping Our Futures Workshop. The proposal (which may have to be phased) would be of benefit people of all ages either as participants or as spectators.

- Improve maintenance and cleaning of the toilets near the play area

## **Community Activities**

### **Commentary**

Templeton has a strong community spirit with neighbours helping each other; an asset which needs to be valued.

Templeton has grown substantially over recent years and residents participate in a variety of activities that take place within the village or at nearby Kilgetty and Narberth with their opportunities for indoor and open air recreation and entertainment.

There is a good cross-section of ages with a number of young people living in Templeton.

The Templeton Community Association meet regularly and are responsible for a number of activities in the village, including enhancement and planting, organising the plant sale and Christmas dinner.



The church and chapel provide two of the cornerstones of village life. A number of community organisations undertake activities, including coffee mornings, cheese and wine evenings, plant and car boot sales. Annual events include the

Harvest Suppers, Good Friday Concerts, the school carol service and the Templeton Ball.

Residents also join organisations based elsewhere in the County, for example the Friends of the Narberth Museum.

Residents regard Templeton as a low crime area but there are instances of declining standards of behaviour including some damage to property, particularly around the bus shelters, the toilets and adjacent car park and to the rear of the church hall which is a cause for concern for many. There is also a concern about the level of apathy within the community especially amongst young people. The few activities for children and young people include the Young Farmers Club. There are no Guides or Scouts Packs and Templeton AFC no longer field a football team. Until 2003 there was a Templeton Choir but this is no longer in existence.

Walking, cycling and horse riding are popular local activities using the local network of footpaths and bridleways, “It would be nice to have maps of bridleways for specific areas”

Gardening and walking are highly popular activities for village residents and good use is also made of exercise facilities like the swimming pool in Narberth.

Whilst fish, bread and milk are delivered, there has been a decline in the number of services which can be obtained locally. Post Office opening times are more restricted, and at the time of writing is now due for closure. The range of goods sold has been extended. The mobile library still calls and meals on wheels are delivered to the elderly and infirm.

Templeton, however, benefits from easy access to Narberth and Kilgetty with their range of services and amenities. There is also a farm shop at Yerboston Gate providing a convenient source of local produce.

### **Proposals**

- Templeton Community groups will to continue to meet on a regular basis to support implementation of the Action Plan. Templeton community groups aim to:
  - Encourage wider involvement from local residents.
  - Focus the energies and skills of residents to maintain and develop the community.
  - Invite representatives of other relevant organisations to meetings as and when appropriate.
  - Set up an activity sub group to look at social activities and encourage more people to become involved.
- Identify organisations that could provide advice on the provision of additional activities at the Church Hall.

Other proposed activities require improvements to the village green to allow more outdoor activities.

- Encourage Community Council Representatives to work closely with Pembrokeshire County Council and Dyfed Powys Police to discuss ways of improving policing for Templeton including re-launching the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Commentary**

The importance of communications, for example the regular newsletter and the prominent notice boards fixed to the Post Office wall and at the village green, are valued by the community. The popular monthly coffee mornings at the Church Hall, which attract regular supporters from as far afield as Kilgetty, help the spread of word of mouth information within the community.

### **Proposals**

- Maintain the level of communications - the key to community spirit and thereby involvement.
- Further develop the existing Community Association Newsletter to include all aspects of village activities and events.

## **HERITAGE**

### **Commentary**

Within and around Templeton there are a number of buildings and sites of historic or architectural importance including Sentence Castle, now a neglected and ruinous earthwork which is causing considerable local concern, the shell of Mounon Chapel, the former workhouse at Allensbank, Templeton airfield and within the village St John the Baptist's Church and Poyer's Farm (which has recently formed part of a redevelopment scheme for local housing).

Many residents interested in the different aspects of local history and those who also appreciate a sense of continuity, have formed a History Group to increase general awareness of Templeton's history and heritage.

Interpretive boards describing the history of Templeton which were placed near the bus shelters at the north and south of the village are in need of modernisation.

Residents hope that the standard and consistency of decision making by the Planning Authority will increase to avoid any further loss in the character of the village and its listed buildings.

The Knights' Way and the Landsker Borderlands Trail are tourist walking trails which pass through Templeton and include or lead to many sites of historic value including the Sisters House and Castell Coch.

## **Proposals**

- Further research the various aspects of local archaeology and the history of Templeton and surrounding area and display the results in the form of exhibitions.
- Specifically collect information and articles relating to the WWII activities at the airfield and identify a site to display evidence of Templeton's recent military history; possibly as an additional interpretive panel or panels.
- Prepare and publish an illustrated history of Templeton and surrounding area.
- Plan, way mark and lead local walks with history themes.
- Work with other organisations to safeguard Sentence Castle, the historic centre of the village, and improve access to the site as part of a general improvement of the rights of way network.
- Work with Community Council to encourage the Planning Authority to raise the standard of building construction and maintenance, especially of listed buildings, by developers through using traditional materials and techniques.

## **ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING RIGHTS OF WAY**

### **Commentary**

Templeton is surrounded by beautiful and peaceful countryside with clean and healthy air. There is a local network of footpaths and bridleways, including the Knight's Way and Landsker Borderlands Trail, which pass through a variety of scenery, fields, woods and green lanes.

Increased effort is required by the community and the County Council to keep key paths accessible as sections have become overgrown or otherwise impassable.

The appearance of the village continues to improve. Examples include landscaping (bulbs and trees) by the Community Association at the top of the village and attractive gardens reflecting an increasing interest by residents.

The former aerodrome, which has a history of military use, now offers opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding along a system of paths and bridleways. Reduced use of the airfield for sheep grazing has allowed wild flowers to make a come back.

### **Proposals**

Support the Community Association to

- Encourage greater participation by residents in maintaining the already excellent appearance of the village and enter Wales in Bloom and Best Kept Village competitions.
- Continue with efforts to enhance Templeton through additional planting and landscaping which will further soften the appearance of the village - a key objective.
- In conjunction with PCC, maintain and improve way marking of the key footpath routes of
  - the Knights Way which pass through the village
  - the Landsker Borderlands Trail which lies to the south.
  - Improve and waymark the access to Sentence Castle.
  - links to Mounon Church and further west to the Sisters House.

Improving the rights of way network was seen as a priority project at the 'Shaping Our Futures' workshop.

- Identify sources of funding to improve the chapel and church facilities and structures.
- Continue to survey footpaths in the area.

## **ENERGY AND RECYCLING**

### **Commentary**

The County Council have recently introduced the Orange Bag collection scheme thereby greatly improving the opportunities for recycling as there were no local facilities. Whilst glass still has to be taken to Kilgetty or Narberth for disposal, there are suggestions for a community composting scheme in Templeton.

There have been contentious proposals for recycling operations on the airfield particularly in relation to scrap metal with many residents worried about associated increase in heavy traffic, noise and destruction of the amenities associated with the airfield and with sites to the south of the Yerberston road. It will be important to evaluate possible impacts of any industrial or waste recycling enterprises on the quality of the local environment.

There is support for community based energy generation schemes with any wind turbine element possibly centred on Templeton Airfield.

### **Proposals**

- Identify sites for community scale wind/energy schemes possibly on the airfield.
- Identify a site and develop additional recycling opportunities possibly at the County Council depot to include
  - To support the community composting scheme in Stone Ditch.
  - Open discussion for the possibility of a broader recycling facility for Templeton.

## **BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT & TOURISM**

### **Commentary**

There are a number of local employers including Templeton School, car repair shop, valeting, car and caravan sales, a tea room, a public house and a gardening contractor. A number of

firms have premises near the airfield including West Wales Environmental and a fuel distributor.

Larger employers in the wider locality include local schools, Oakwood, Folly Farm, Heron's Brook, haulage contractors, nursing homes, several Bed & Breakfast and catering establishments.

Some additional industrial units have been developed and occupied on the Cross Hands Road.

Bluestone is expected to be a major local employer from summer 2008.

Templeton Post Office has extended the range of items for day to day needs and provides some banking services but is now due for closure and unfortunately access up the flight of steps is difficult for the elderly or people with disabilities.

### **Proposals**

- Encourage and support local business/enterprise.
- Create opportunities for more visitors, in particular relating to 'soft' tourism associated with walking footpaths and the local history.
- Post Office / Shop - work with the Post Office to improve access to the building and extend the range of possible purchases thereby increasing likely custom.
- Fight for the survival of the post office facilities for Templeton.
- Investigate the successful protection of shop and post office facilities in other communities.

## **HOUSING**

Young people are being priced out of the housing market and hence forced to leave the village, those who remain would like to see affordable housing, whether to purchase or rent or in association with housing schemes.

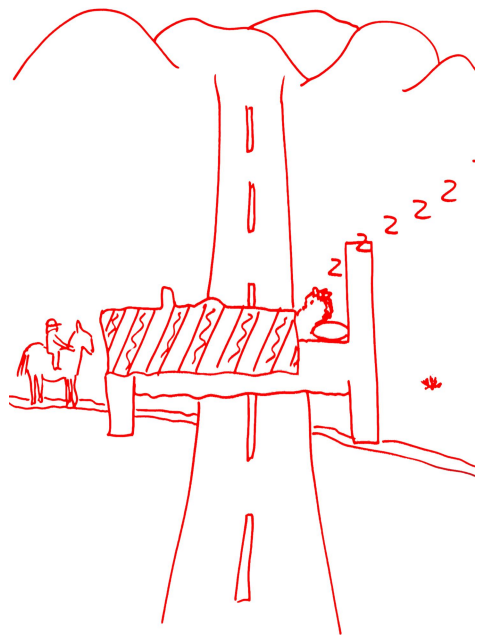
## Proposals

- Identify appropriate sites and housing providers to construct more affordable homes for young local people.
- Investigate the possibility of appropriate sheltered housing for local elderly residents.
- Investigate possible opportunities for self build by local people.

## TRANSPORT, ROADS AND TRAFFIC

### Commentary

Templeton is served by the 381 low floor bus which runs on an hourly basis from Haverfordwest via Narberth and Cold Blow to Saundersfoot and Tenby on Mondays to Saturdays with one service to Haverfordwest and return on Sundays. *However difficulties exist regarding free transport arrangements to Greenhill School and to Ysgol Dyffryn Taf.*



The village is on the railway line from Pembroke Dock north-east towards Whitland and thence to Swansea and London. The former Templeton station, which was closed in 1965, lies to the south of the village and is the site of a Council Highway Depot, the re-opening of which, residents believe would benefit themselves and the environment.

Even though Templeton lies within a 30mph speed limit and there are some traffic calming measures in place, increasing traffic volumes, the speed of vehicles and the associated noise intrude into village life. Additional pavements and an identified crossing place are required to safeguard pedestrians.

The dangerous nature of the five roads junction at the Boar's Head becomes particularly apparent during the summer with traffic from Tenby and Saundersfoot to Oakwood. It is anticipated that vehicle flows at this junction will increase when Bluestone opens later in 2008 and / or additional employment opportunities are created on

or near the airfield. “it would be an asset to have a roundabout at the Boars Head as so many roads converge” Whilst some improvements have recently been undertaken, additional works are likely to be required as traffic volumes and turning movements increase.

The Chapel Cross junction may also require further attention as Templeton School (including Templetots) and the expanding village of Cold Blow are significant traffic generators along the B4315.

The ‘Shaping Our Futures’ evening highlighted the need to construct a footway between Cold Blow and Templeton as the current road not regarded as safe route for children (accompanied or not) attending Templeton School / Templetots as both villages have grown and with them the number of vehicles and buses using the route.

The 'C' class Yerboston road as far as the industrial sites and airfield access has been widened recently to reflect increasing volumes of HGVs using this route.

### **Proposals**

Work with the Community Council and the County Council proposals to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety as reducing the impact of traffic through Templeton is seen as a priority. Proposals include -

- Redesigning
  - the Boar's Head junction
  - the Chapel Cross junction.
- Introduce permanent traffic calming measures as and where required for example, retaining the speed warning signs by the school.
- Design a road crossing point on the A478 in the vicinity of the current play area / village hall.
- Construct further footways within and associated with Templeton,
  - towards Cold Blow - a priority project potential for a Safe routes to school footpath.

- the area fronting the Church Hall
  - towards Crosshands
- Improve highway lighting on the A478.
- Discuss with the respective Kilgetty and Narberth Community Associations and Councils opportunities to improve the provision for cyclists in their Action Plans, for example safer journeys along the A478 and cycle racks in the villages.
- And create safer cycle routes to Cold Blow (B4315) and to Crosshands for Oakwood and Bluestone and as far as the airfield along the Yerboston Road which is a recreational resource for Templeton
- Repair and upgrade the northern bus shelter and improve the southern (by making them easier to see the approaching bus or replace with a perspex shelter) and raise the standard of their care to combat vandalism.
- Construct a bus shelter on the eastern side of the A478 - as part of a phased plan to improve the recreational area adjacent to the village hall.
- Improve the frequency and times of bus services that will coincide with work schedules and operate a late evening service to enable access to and from Kilgetty, Tenby or Narberth with their range of sport, work and social attractions.
- Raise the quality of maintenance of the A478 and the country road network.
- Improve road conditions to accommodate the impact of HGVs on country roads, for example along Tanners Lane / prepare a traffic management plan with local hauliers.
- Discuss with PCC the improvement of arrangements for school transport to Ysgol Dyffryn Taf.
- Discuss with the train operating company (Arriva Trains), Railtrack and PCC and with the operators of large tourist attractions, the possible re-opening of Templeton station to serve Templeton (at least on a seasonal basis) to reflect the population growth of the area and the presence of Bluestone

and Oakwood - both of which could be served by a minibus link.

- Increase the opportunities for off-street parking in the vicinity of the Church Hall. Opportunities could include the site of the current toilets and play area if they were incorporated into the proposed playing field adjoining the hall, or hardstanding within part of the playing field site.
- Ensure safer crossing from the existing car park to village green.

## **IMPLEMENTATION / ACTIVITY GROUPS**

In order that the Action Plan can be progressed effectively it is proposed to form special interest Working Groups linked with the Community Association. The Groups would concentrate on preparing more detailed action programmes giving priority and focus to those proposals which are capable of early implementation.

The Groups could be centred on

- Community services, facilities and communications.
- Environment (including rights of way and recycling).
- Heritage,
- Business employment (including tourism).
- Transport and traffic, waste and housing

It is important that the Groups would:

- Work with the agreed Action Plan and the Community Association,
- Work with existing groups and organisations,
- Meet on a regular basis,
- Keep the broader community informed of progress.