

Bishop's Itchington

PARISH
PLAN



Message from the Chairman of the Parish Council . . .

Firstly I would like to thank all those who have taken part in the Parish Plan process which has received wide support throughout the Parish.

This process has produced a very valuable document and it now gives the Parish Council and the local planning authorities clear guidance on parishioners' expectations.

It is always difficult in a community of Bishop's Itchington's size with its rich diversity of interests to manage all parishioners' expectations. However the message I believe the Parish Plan process has delivered is:

- Bishop's Itchington has a reasonable selection of facilities which should be retained including the School, Surgery, Post Office and Church, but there is room for the improvement of further facilities within the Parish;
- Residents of the Parish do not see the need for any significant change or growth in the village itself and any growth should be limited to meet the needs of Parishioners themselves and the existing open spaces within the Parish should be retained; and
- Having seen the impact of the opening of the M40 and Junction 12 on the Parish, the impact of any future development proposals outside the immediate village should be very carefully managed to ensure that developments are sustainable and do not exceed the capacity of the existing infra structure within the Parish. At the same time efforts must continue to try to mitigate the impact of previous developments on the Parish, in particular, traffic on the B4451.

When reading the Action Plan, it identifies areas for improvement in the Parish and it is critical that all those who wish to see the plan achieved are prepared to volunteer their time to help deliver it.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I look forward to the continuing success of Bishop's Itchington Parish as a community and that it succeeds in delivering the expectations described in the Plan for the benefit of the Parish.



Christopher Kettle
Chairman
Bishop's Itchington Parish Council

September 2007

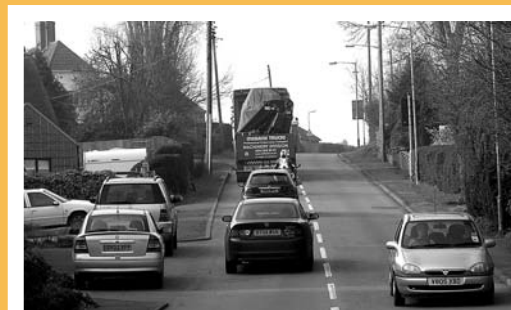


Then . . .



Station Road circa 1900

Now . . .



Station Road 2007

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Scenesetter

The village of Bishop's Itchington is located in rural South Warwickshire and has a longstanding association with the surrounding farming community. Its distinctive name derives in part from the nearby River Itchen that flows into the River Leam to the east of Leamington Spa and, secondly, from the historical association with former landowner the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.



• ***Knightcote Grange Estate***

Like many villages, Bishop's Itchington's rural heritage has benefited from and had to contend with a wide range of modern world developments. Notable amongst these have been the industrial impact of limestone quarrying and cement production in the area (that ceased operation in 1970) and the completion of the nearby M40 in 1990 involving junction 12 at the B4551 and associated building of the Welcome Break motorway service stations.

The impact on Bishop's Itchington has been substantial, notably in terms of housing development and traffic. Households recorded in the 2001 Census had increased to 762 with a total population of 2009 whilst HGV and commuting traffic along the B4551 is now substantial. Significant housing development has taken place in recent decades.



• ***The Memorial Hall***

This blend of rural heritage and commercial, industrial and housing development is now delicately balanced, with decisions over coming years likely to have a profound impact on the direction that Bishop's Itchington will take. The Parish Plan is central to how the villagers of Bishop's Itchington want to self-determine this direction.

Bishop's Itchington

This Plan has been generated from a comprehensive survey of the residents of Bishop's Itchington. It represents the consensus of their views and aspirations for the future of the village. The following are the main issues arising from the survey.

Environment

There is scope for improving the village environment and its appearance. Some of the 'public' buildings and open spaces in the central area around the Butchers Arms public house are in need of renovation and improved maintenance. More trees and other planting, both in the centre and village approaches, would be a benefit. There was also a general view amongst a large proportion of adults that more benches should be distributed generally within the village.



• **Hambridge Road**

There is a need to ensure that issues such as litter and dog fouling are controlled. The quality of pavements and state of repair of roads require to be improved. About one third of adults believe the level of street lighting to be inadequate in some areas.

A focal point for the village would be beneficial. The retention of open spaces within and around the village is a high priority. It is important to ensure people feel safe around the village. The majority of adults and children believe anti social behaviour needs to be controlled. It is felt this would be achieved by an improved police presence especially at night but also during the day.



• **Children's Play Area**

Planning and Housing

Most people do not want to see much change or growth in the village. But this view is less strongly held by the younger age groups. There is, however, some support for more "affordable" and social housing.

A small proportion (less than 10 percent) of adult respondents want their own accommodation away from where they are currently living. Almost half are in the 19-35 age range with the remainder spread across the other adult groups. About a quarter of the demand is for flats with a similar requirement for bungalows, predominantly from people in the 60 plus age group.

Just over 50 percent of the demand is for rented accommodation. Less than one in five of those requiring accommodation require sheltered accommodation.



• **Rupert Kettle Drive**



• **Chapel Street**

Since the Parish Plan survey was carried out, a full housing needs survey has also been completed. The results showed that in September 2007 there was a need for 25 affordable homes within the village. We are currently working with the Rural Housing Enabler from WRCC to help identify a suitable location for the provision of these homes. A full copy of the housing survey report can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

Transport and Highways

Traffic was identified by the survey as one of the major issues of concern. A large proportion of adults believe that traffic travels too fast on the main road through the village (B4451). There is a similar strength of feeling about the speed of traffic within the village. In addition, the use of the B4451 by heavy vehicles is felt to be a problem and there is considerable support for a weight restriction on the road.



• **The B4451**

Around 50 percent of children do not feel safe when walking along the B4451 or crossing it.

Three quarters of all adults believe there is a shortage of off road parking for village residents. A similar proportion feel problems are caused by illegal or inconsiderate parking.

Opinions are equally divided on whether public transport facilities are adequate. Those who think they are inadequate are mainly in the middle and youngest adult age groups. They identified a need for more bus routes directly to more destinations to suit the needs of commuters and those wanting to travel home in the late evening/night-time.



• **Station Road**

Older residents would like a village bus and more bus stops in the village.

Village Amenities

Most residents believe that retail facilities are adequate. A significant minority think otherwise, with specific requirements varying according to age groups. But there is almost unanimous support for the retention of the Post Office.



• **The Post Office**

About one sixth of adults say that access in and out of shops and other facilities is difficult for them.

There is overwhelming support for the existing doctors' surgery but with some views that it requires improving. There is also felt to be a need for associated pharmacy facilities. A minority (under 25%) of people, and mainly from the upper age

group, believe there are inadequate services to support those with an illness or disability wishing to live at home.

The church community is seen as important by most people but with this view predominantly among adults. There is, however, considerable support for the church building to be retained.



• **The Butchers Arms**

There is a need for a permanent library with PC's and internet access. Support for this is progressively greater towards the younger end of the age groups.

Almost all young people feel there are insufficient social or entertainment facilities. Adults in the lower age ranges also believe this to be the case. A community centre,

youth club and more sports facilities were among the suggestions made. Better out of school activities are considered a high priority by young people.

Most adults value the Memorial Hall and are in favour of its possible extension. But the hall is less valued by younger age groups except to the extent that it offers facilities for their group activities.

The need for improved options for eating out is identified by all sectors of the community with requirements varying across the various age groups.

Education and Training

Adults are virtually unanimous in the view that the primary school is a necessary and valuable asset.

But a large proportion also think that better use should be made of the building for other activities out of school hours.



• ***The Primary School***

Employment and Business

Four out of ten adults believe there is a need for more job opportunities in the village. This relates to full time and part time jobs, mainly skilled and unskilled but to a lesser extent professional also.



• ***Entrance to Weddington Farm off Hambridge Road***

Summary Conclusions

Most residents do not want the village to change or grow significantly although there is a requirement for some limited extra housing. But some improvements are necessary to various aspects of the environment and certain amenities with additional social facilities highlighted. It is important that open space areas are retained.

Anti social behaviour needs to be controlled and people made to feel safe in the village.

The speed and volume of traffic on the B4451 is a major issue. Improvements are needed to the quality of pavements and road repairs. Additional off road parking for village residents is required.

The Church building and Memorial Hall are important features of the village with strong support for retention of the church building.



• *High Street early 1900s*



• *High Street now*

Preparing the Parish Plan

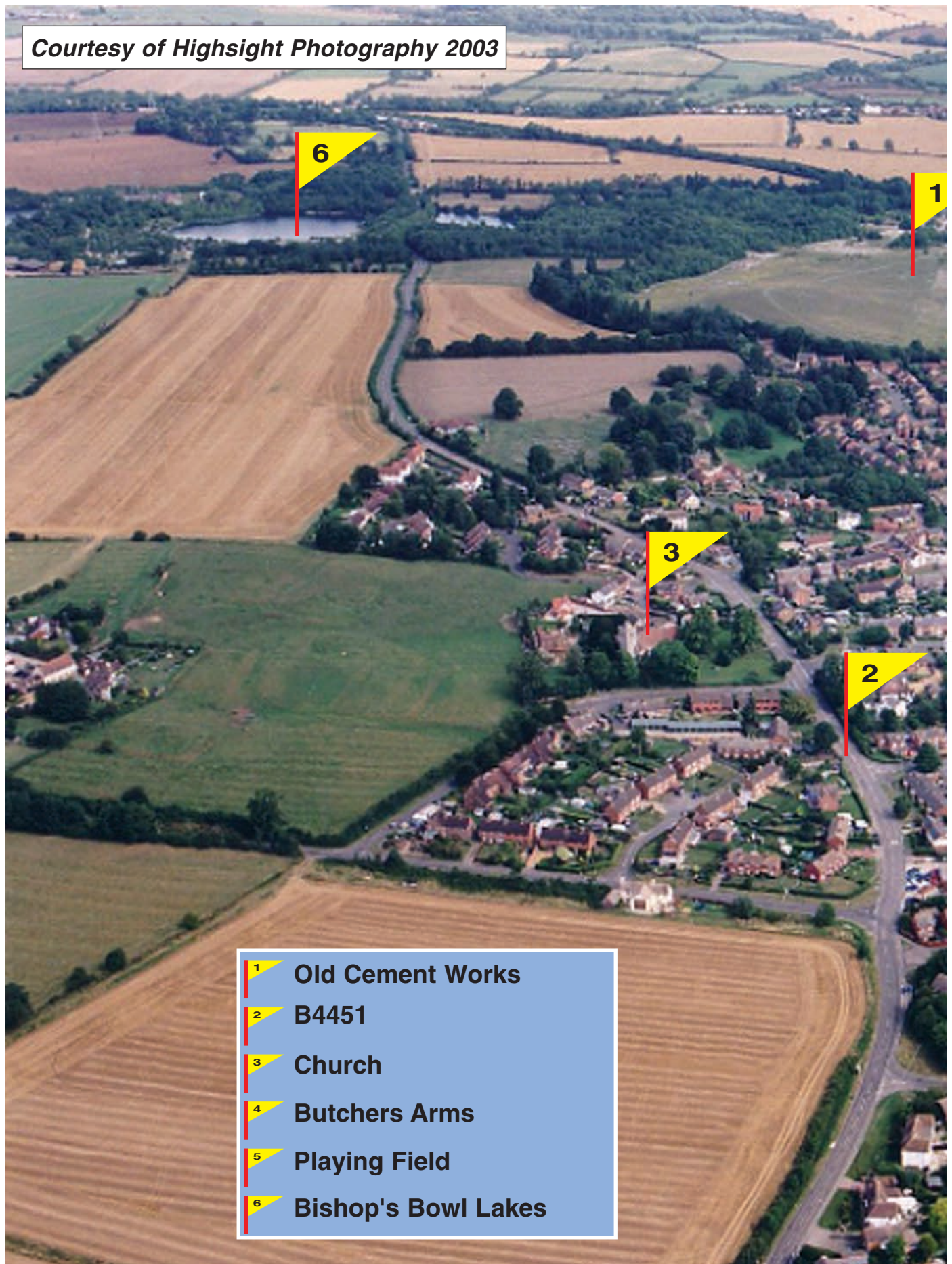
At the request of Bishop's Itchington Parish Council, the Parish Plan initiative was launched at a General Meeting in October 2005. After a presentation of the need for a Parish Plan, volunteers were enlisted to form a Steering Group.

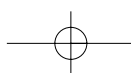
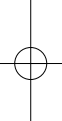
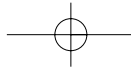
The Steering Group met at regular intervals to lead the preparation of the Plan. The process agreed consisted of the following main stages:

- 1) The major wishes of the residents were determined by means of a Survey of the whole Parish.
- 2) A series of focus groups were held with various organisations and age groups within Bishop's Itchington. Once the issues from each of the groups were known, separate sets of questions were devised for adults, young people and children.
- 3) The Steering Group employed an independent company (Prima Services) to formulate the questionnaires and analyse the results. In July 2006, survey packs with copies of each questionnaire were delivered to all households (approximately 900) in the Parish. 376 households completed their questionnaire, giving a response rate of almost 42%.
- 4) Prima Services analysed the results from each questionnaire and produced a full report (which is available on the Parish website or on request). The initial findings were presented at a well-attended Open Meeting in September 2006 where local residents endorsed the findings.
- 5) The Steering Group then started to draft the Parish Plan and consulted main partners involved in actioning the Plan. The draft Plan was presented to the Parish for formal approval at a public meeting in July 2007 and on agreement sent for printing.
- 6) Copies of the Plan were distributed to the Parish Council and every household in the Parish.



Courtesy of Hightsight Photography 2003





Action Plan

Ref	Objective	Action	Priority
1	Transport & Highways		
1.1	Reduction of speed on B4451	Speed cameras are not seen by WCC as effective in reducing speed. BIPC must therefore pursue the local Police Authority to purchase more portable cameras. Traffic survey results will be presented to WCC for action.	High
1.2	Weight Restrictions	BIPC will continue discussions with the Road Haulage Association to keep Bishop's Itchington off the Advisory Lorry Route. WCC are opposed to the use of weight restrictions and therefore BIPC will keep challenging WCC and will support local groups in their fight for restrictions on the B4451 and the surrounding area.	High
1.3	Children feeling safe (See also 1.1 & 1.2)	Speed and weight restrictions are considered crucial to achieving this issue but in addition the BIPC will investigate methods of protecting pedestrians whilst on the narrow footpaths, e.g. the use of bollards to prevent curb mounting etc.	High
1.4	Improved Public Transport	BIPC will promote the setting up of an Action Group to investigate the possibilities of improving public transport	Med
1.5	Parking (see also 2.3)	A review of public parking within the village will be held by BIPC	Med/High

	Lead	Partners	Resources	Time Scale
	BIPC	WCC Warwickshire Police Authority	Funding for any further traffic calming must be from the Parish Council. WCC would not financially support this or the possibility of a by-pass.	2007-2009
	BIPC	WCC Highways Dept Road Haulage Association Local Businesses Harbury PC	Surveys Photographic evidence	2007
	BIPC	BIPC WCC Highways Dept Road Haulage Association Local Business	Photographic evidence Funding Speed Cameras	2007
	Action Group	WCC Transport Dept. Local Bus Companies	Action Group	2007
	BIPC	Land Owners e.g. BIPC, WCC, Housing Association	Land Funding	2007

Action Plan

Ref	Objective	Action	Priority
2	Crime & Disorder		
2.1	Policing Levels	BIPC will work with the local constabulary to improve the situation particularly at night.	High
2.2	Anti-Social Behaviour	As 2.1. Also an increase in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be encouraged.	High
2.3	Illegal/Inconsiderate Parking (see also 1.5)	Residents should park correctly. Those who continually cause problems should be reported to the Police.	Med/High
3	Housing & Planning		
3.1	Provision of Adequate Housing	Ongoing review	Low

	Lead	Partners	Resources	Time Scale
	BIPC	Warwickshire Police Force Southam Police	Warwickshire Police Constabulary	2008
	BIPC	Warwickshire Police Force Southam Police Local Residents	Local Police Volunteers Funding	2007
	Residents	Local Residents Police Retailers School	N/A	Continuous
	BIPC	SDC Housing Associations	Planning Permission Funding	N/A

Action Plan

Ref	Objective	Action	Priority
4	Environment		
4.1	Area around British Legion/Chip Shop/Greaves Club/Butchers Arms/Memorial Hall	Improvements need to be made and BIPC will take responsibility for the formation of an Action Group to resolve the issue	Med
4.2	Road Surfaces & Pavements	BIPC to bring pressure on WCC to take action	Med
4.3	Verges & Hedgerows	Trees will be planted in appropriate areas	Med
4.4	Gardens	State of gardens is a Resident's responsibility	Med
4.5	Dog Fouling/Litter	BIPC to promote awareness and ensure sufficient Litter Wardens employed by the Parish	High
4.6	Street Lighting	A more detailed survey will be undertaken by BIPC to assess the need for any improvements in street lighting whilst still considering the 'Village' environment. The need for street lighting throughout the night will also be reviewed.	Med/Low
4.7	Central Focal Point	As 4.2	Med
4.8	Benches	Additional locations will be considered	Med
4.9	Green Spaces & Footpaths	The ability to retain existing green spaces/fields/farmland in and around the Village is a major issue and every effort must be made by BIPC to retain the current status	Very High
4.10	Changes to Village	No dramatic changes are wanted. BIPC to preserve the existing environment.	High

Lead	Partners	Resources	Time Scale
BIPC	Land Owners Property Owners BIPC	Funding Volunteers Public Spirit Local Builders	2008
BIPC	WCC Transport Dept BIPC		Continuous
BIPC	BIPC Residents	More employees Public Spirit Funding	Continuous
Residents	BIPC	Public Spirit Volunteers	Continuous
BIPC/Residents	BIPC	Funding Public Spirit/Responsibility	Continuous
BIPC	BIPC	Funding	2007
BIPC	Land Owners Property Owners BIPC	Funding Volunteers Public Spirit Local Builders	2007
BIPC	Sponsors	Funding Champion	2008
BIPC	BIPC SDC Land Owners	N/A	Continuous
BIPC	SDC WCC	N/A	Continuous

Action Plan

Ref	Objective	Action	Priority
5	Village Amenities		
5.1	Insufficient Shops	Whilst BIPC can encourage the setting up of improved facilities in the area, this is a commercial issue, and not considered by the BIPC as their responsibility	Low
5.2	Post Office	Must retain	Very High
5.3	Access to Shops	Improve access by removal of steps etc. or provide ramps	Low
5.4	Retain Surgery & Pharmacy	Must retain	Very High
5.5	Improve the Surgery	New Building	Med
5.6	Church Building	Keep the current Church Building	High
6	Education & Training		
6.1	The School	Essential to retain	High
6.2	School Buildings	Additional usage	High
7	Information & Communication		
7.1	Permanent Library	Children in particular require PC's with Internet access. BIPC to investigate any opportunities to incorporate these facilities with the plans to provide a Parish Office. Also BIPC to investigate the opportunity of partnerships with local business.	High
8	Employment & Business		
8.1	Employment	Full & part time jobs required for both skilled, unskilled and professional	Low
8.2	Need for Community Centre	Consider use of other buildings within the Village or build new	Med

Lead	Partners	Resources	Time Scale
BIPC	Retailers	Interested Parties Planning Permission	N/A
Residents	The Post Office P.O. Proprietors Residents	Public Support	Continuous
WCC	Retailers SDC	Private Funding	2009
Warwickshire Primary Health Trust	BIPC Local Practice	Investment by Local Practice	Continuous
Local Medical Practice	Warwickshire Primary Care Trust BIPC	Local Practice Funding	2012
Parochial Church Council	Church Commissioners (Coventry Diocese) Local Community BIPC	Consider additional use for the buildings (see 12 below)	Continuous
School Governors	Warwickshire Education Authority	Funding from Educational Authority	Continuous
WCC	Village organisations	N/A	Continuous
BIPC	BIPC	Grants Sponsorship from local businesses Partners e.g. Post Office	2008
SDC	Local Businesses BIPC	Encourage small businesses (Considering 4.6 & 5.1)	Continuous
BIPC	Parochial Church Council Memorial Hall Committee	Funding Grants Sponsors	2012

Acknowledgements

As Chairman for the Steering Group I would wish to thank all those members of the Steering Group that have given their time and commitment to produce this Parish Plan.

It has taken nearly 2 years to complete this work and has led to many hours of debate to ensure that this final document reflects the wishes of the Parish residents.

I would hope that those reading this document will appreciate that these volunteers have done their best for the benefit of the whole Parish and now we all need to make our contribution in turning this Plan into reality.



• ***The Playing Field***

A. D. Heatley

Chairman of the Parish Plan
Steering Group

The Story of Bishop's Itchington ... so far

THE FIRST 500 YEARS

- 1043** Priory of Coventry receives the manor of Itchington from Saxon Earl Leofric.*
- 1086** Itchington is recorded in the Domesday Book as property of Church of Coventry.*
- 1247** Earliest reference to Bishop's Itchington.*
- 1547** Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield sells the village to Thomas Fisher, ending church ownership.
Bishop's Itchington becomes Fisher's Itchington ... for a while.*

THE LAND ENCLOSURE YEARS

- 1547** Fisher embarks on land enclosures resulting in depopulation.*
- 1700s** The Willes family gain national prominence with Sir John Willes becoming Lord Chief Justice. He and his father (vicar of the Parish) are buried in the village church.*
- 1774** Enclosure of 400 acres eliminates the village's common land.*

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT YEARS

- 1851/2** Completion of railway and (turnpike) road encourages large scale quarrying and cement production.*
- 1872/3** Saint Michael's Church is rebuilt on the site of a medieval chapel. Church opened in 1873.*
- 1927** Prehistoric marine reptile skeleton is found in quarry.*
- 1970** The Cement Works ceases manufacturing.*
- 1986** Population exceeds 2000 - more than double the 1951 total.*
- 1990s** M40 and service stations open. Future use of Cement Works land becomes a village issue.*



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