



Parish Plan

2020 - 2030

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Introduction

Parish Councils are commonly referred to as the grassroots of government and in our Parish, we are the most local level of government, elected to serve the community.

Councils are governed by nationally led legislation, known as statutes which derive from Acts of Parliament. This means the Parish Council has powers to be able to spend money in its community, manage land, influence building developments and take control of certain local services. However, these powers are limited and in many cases the power of responsibility lays with the “principle authority”, who in our Borough are Telford and Wrekin Council. We work very closely with the Borough Council and it is they who have powers over planning, infrastructure such as roads and street lights.

It is very important to the Parish Council to work with the community to be able to deliver good services in the area. Whilst Rodington Parish Council does not own a great deal of land in the Parish or manage most of the services in the area as this is done by Telford and Wrekin Council, we are ambitious about what we may be able to do in the area through closer community partnerships.

We have developed this Parish Plan as a framework to guide us over the next five years to deliver on the issues most affecting our community. This plan is a plan of action for our staff, Councillors and community and will ensure we are all working together to allow our community to prosper.

The Parish Council will review this plan annually at its AGM and issue an annual report to the community through our newsletters. Staff will continually work on actions throughout the year and community collaboration will help deliver a successful plan for the better of our Parish.



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Like: [fb.com/RodingtonParish](https://www.facebook.com/RodingtonParish)

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History of the Parish

The Parish of Rodington is still relatively new having formed in 1978, following the merger of Rodington and Longdon-upon-Tern

Longdon is home to one of the world's first cast-iron aqueducts which was engineered by Thomas Telford and finished construction around 1796. It is considered as Telford's "trial" before the construction of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Longdon is also home to one of the oldest Churches in the district and the local village hall was donated to the community by the Duke of Sutherland in 1849 and used as a school until 1970 when it became community owned.

Rodington is known to have existed in Saxon Times and the local pub, the Bull, is reputed locally to be the second oldest licensed house in the county. The community of Rodington has been known for many hundreds of years to have annual summer fetes on the green by Rodington Village Hall and some houses are rebuilds of the originals built over some 600 years ago.

Two rivers, the River Roden and River Tern stretch through a considerable amount of the Parish and much work has been done over the years by the Shrewsbury & Newport Canal Trust and other groups to open up access to these rivers.

Today you can walk through this Parish and catch many glimpses of former buildings of interest and beautiful landscapes that show exactly why Shropshire and this Parish is a place of tranquillity for so many.



Our Community

Rodington Parish has an estimated population of nearly 900 people with evidence of some family lineages stretching back to the early 1700's. According to the last census (2011) the Parish contained approximately 349 households with a population of about 838 (2011 census). There have been recent housing developments which resulted in modest increases. According to census information (2011) about half the population were economically active, and only around 2% unemployed. 98.5% described themselves as being White British under the Home Office ethnicity classification. These key characteristics appear to have changed only marginally within the past decade.

This Parish consists of two villages, Longdon on Tern and Rodington and several hamlets, including Sugden, Isombridge, and Somerwood. It is situated between Wellington and Shrewsbury on the relatively level Shropshire plain and administratively is within the Telford and Wrekin Council area.

It contains 20 listed buildings of architectural and archaeological interest including the very first iron aqueduct built by Thomas Telford, two churches and a chapel, and many houses of interest. Rodington Parish has two public houses and two village halls. These reflect a wide spectrum of interest by members of the community. Over the past 5 years, community fundraising events have been held at the village halls and village greens, this has encouraged engagement with the community and their neighbours.

The Parish remains inherently rural, with agriculture land mainly under arable crop, with relatively few livestock. The landscape is connected by the route of the Shrewsbury-Newport Canal and this remains the source of considerable interest from the Canal Trust which would like to see sections restored. There is a right of way network, including bridleways and footpaths which are currently the focus of an improvement plan to restore/enable access, and signage. Rodington also has a family owned vineyard which has won many international awards for its quality of wine.

It remains a very beautiful and safe place to live.



Development of this Plan

This Parish Plan was developed over the course of nearly a year. This was to ensure we gave residents more than adequate time to give us their views. This gave us time to listen to everyone and consider the needs of the community.

Firstly, the Parish Council wrote a survey asking 47 questions, from feelings in the area towards planning and planting to how well-connected people felt to their Council, their rights of way and to their community. This survey was delivered to every household in the Parish by Councillors and staff of the Council and everyone had the opportunity to either respond online or by post using a pre-paid envelope supplied by the Parish Council. There were a total of 119 responses. This represents 28% response to the survey which is an average response.

Following the closing date of receipt of the survey data the Council spend 5 consecutive weeks on a Wednesday morning reviewing every section of the responses and adopted this plan in November 2020.

This plan will continue to be monitored, as set out in the next steps page of this plan.



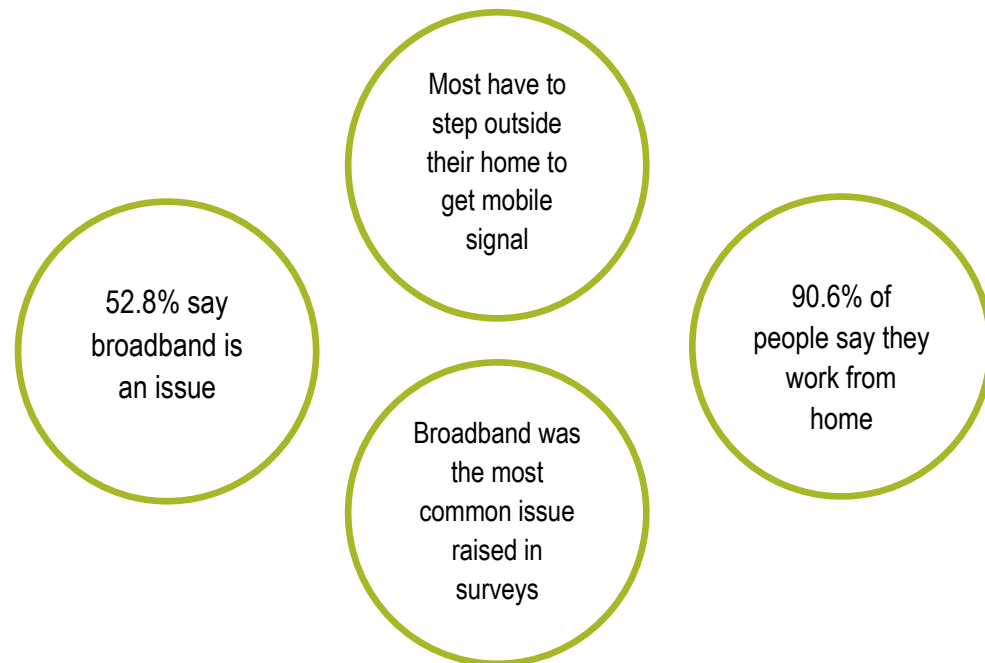
Employment & Education

We asked the community about their connectivity to work and education, whether it be within the Parish or outside. Out of the 4 questions asked we received 199 separate responses on this topic.

The results were clear in that many who work, or home study, are hampered by their inability to connect easily through broadband and their phone signals can be poor.

We understand that this disadvantages people living in the community who may wish to either work or study from home. This could be one reason why someone may not want to live in the area until they reach an age where employment is no longer a requirement. This of course does not encourage a diverse community.

Another issue raised was local bus services which residents may rely on to get to and from work or their place of education, and we come on to the issue of public transport later in this plan. But on this topic, it shows that some people feel local buses are not adequate for their work or educational needs.



Communication

As a Parish Council with elected representatives we know just how important communication with our community is so we asked a few questions about how people currently connect with our Council and how they may wish to in future.

What was interesting was the number of people who view our noticeboards for information. Over the years noticeboards have been seen as a dying source of information, however our survey suggests otherwise and this is great to see.

In the last couple of years, we have joined social media, released a new, more interactive website and re-invigorated our newsletter which had not been issued for two years prior.

We now try to release a newsletter every few months and this is delivered voluntarily by Councillors and staff of the Council. However, whilst 97 people said they have received a newsletter there were 16.5% of people who said they haven't, which shows that there are some boundary issues where we may be missing houses off our delivery list.



Our survey also showed a communication barrier between the Council and community. 38.8% of people surveyed said they didn't know their Councillors. We are determined to tackle this as the community need to be able to reach out to us and know who we are. This could be through the introduction of surgeries and 20% of people said they would like this, and more email updates which 78.2% of people said they would support.

It was very positive to see that over 31% of people surveyed wanted to get involved in a Parish Council led steering group and these interests centred around environmental matters, rights of way and community fundraising. As a Council we are very keen to progress some of these ideas and will work with the community to set up these initiatives as soon as possible.

“86.3% of people view our noticeboards”

“5.1% of 79 people receive newsletter by email”

Local Facilities

When asked about facilities in the area, 59% of people said they felt there was a lack of certain facilities. The main points raised were the loss of the community shop/post office, a lack of sports facilities and local transport.

Despite Rodington Parish Council having no commercial income and being one of the smallest Councils in Telford & Wrekin (based on funding and population) we are very ambitious and feel that partnership working could be the key to unlocking facilities within the Parish. We will commit to working with current commercial services in the area to try and offer something by way of bridging the gap that was the former shop/post office.

This Parish is fortunate to have a well-maintained play area and ball court and has plenty of green spaces to use to improve health and wellbeing and we will promote these facilities more.

Through our surveying we were able to identify that people wanted some improvements to be made in the Parish., These improvements included improved signage as you enter the Parish, making a better view of some areas within the cemetery, road safety along Tern Lane and Sugden Lane, tidying up of some hedges and paths, and internet access at village halls. As a Council we will address some of these matters directly and work even closer to establish links with the community to create a better way of reporting things in the Parish and will set actions to achieve these.

Despite having an ageing population, it is clear in our community that people want to ensure the youth have facilities aimed at their needs and we found that 40.7% of people surveyed wanted something to be done to address this. We have already identified that there are lots of activities taking place in either village halls or nearby. To address this the Council will provide a directory of services for young people and work with other organisations to try increase these services on a more local level.



Traffic & Transport

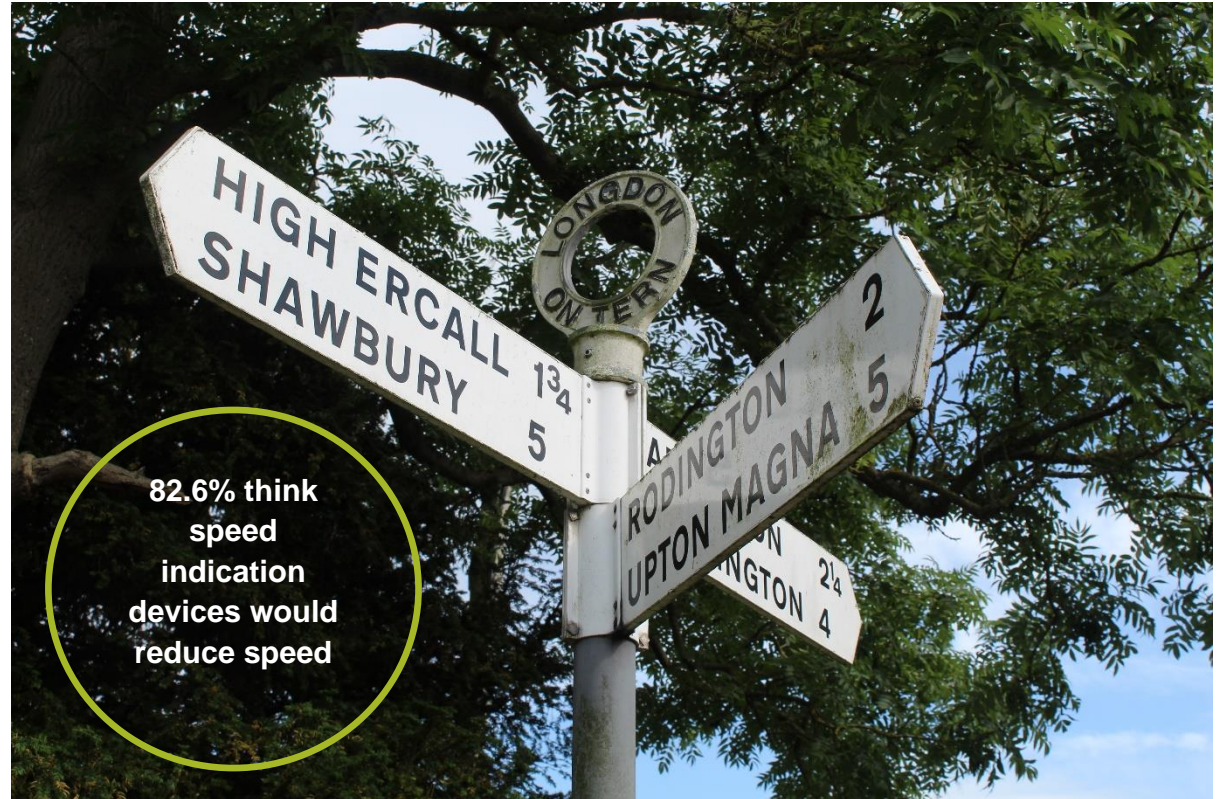
Access to rural transport is vital to communities like Rodington and Longdon-upon-Tern. The villages are served mostly by single lane roads and therefore cannot cope in most cases with high volumes of traffic. Therefore, the Parish Council supports the improvements to rural transport and more sustainable connections around the Borough of Telford & Wrekin and the town of Shrewsbury.

Around 30% of people say that they use public transport in the Parish. Overall these people felt that the reliability and fares are adequate but the timetables in the area are quite poor.

Speeding within the villages is a major problem. We asked specifically which roads residents felt were being abused by speeding vehicles and some of the most common areas were Somerwood, the B5063 through Longdon, Rodington Heath and Walcot Road to name a few.

The Parish Council is determined to keep our community safe, and we are doing a number of things to tackle issues around road safety, with installation of speed indication devices and improved speed signage, and residents have already shown an inspiring ambition to support the Parish Council through offering to volunteer for community speed safety groups.

We feel that the key ingredient to achieving any success in reducing speed of vehicles in the area and improve public safety is through partnership working. We have a clear agenda to engage with all businesses, organisations and authorities to maximise our efforts in protecting our community and making our Parish a better, safer place to live and work.



Environment



We are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful rural counties in the country, with a heritage of world class industry and legacy of breath-taking landscapes. It is our collective responsibility to protect this land and leave it better than when we found it.

The Parish Council recognises that it's not always easy living in a rural community and there is a strong reliance on neighbours helping neighbours and we want that to be our message. We are all neighbours in this environment and we should all work together to protect and enhance it.

Our survey shows that over 80% of people said the area was clean and over 97% said it was pleasant but more needs to be done about tackling litter and installing more features that can make the area look even more beautiful and welcoming.

We asked the public directly “what could be improved” and we’ve received some very good suggestions that we will address: better signage, planting bulbs and wildflower verges.

Responses indicated that improved access to and knowledge of rights of way would be beneficial. Through our partnership with the local pathways group and Telford & Wrekin Council we are committed to improve access and signage on rights of way.

Walking is one of life’s most successful and enjoyable ways of improving your physical and mental health, and it comes with no charge. We want to support people walking and enjoying our countryside and that’s why we will work to create walking and litter picking events in the Parish.

One clear action that was identified in our survey was to set up a community group with a focus on environmental matters. We will follow this up with our Borough Council counterparts and our residents to try set up our very own voluntary Parish Environmental Team.

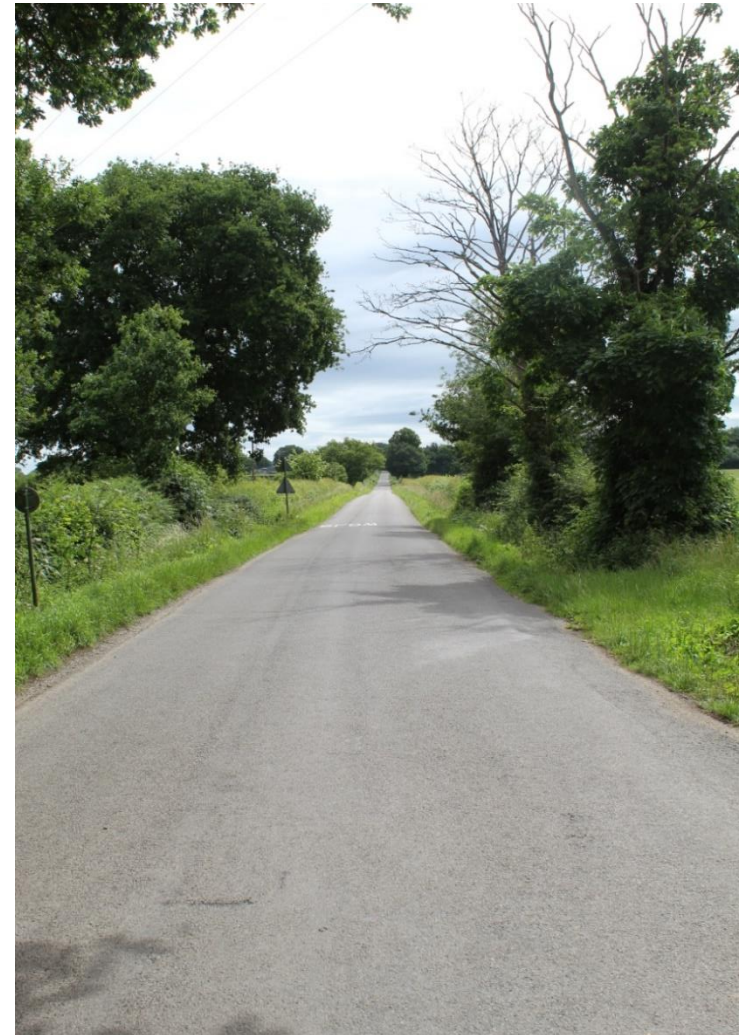
Planning & Development

Our community should be somewhere that everyone wants to live, work and love, and part of how that happens is through building. We are fortunate that following developments like Barley Fields and Rodington Fields there are no other large-scale developments planned under the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan which runs until 2031, but of course anything can happen if it's what the community want so we asked your views.

Nearly 60% of people said they would be open to new developments if they were sited on brownfield or unused land and were suited to the need for affordable housing for local people, or other appropriate requirements.

What is key to any new large development in the area is infrastructure, and it's the Parish Council's role to make sure your voice is heard on this matter. We will certainly strive to ensure that any new developments are met with the correct amount of sustainable building and infrastructure funding such as Section 106 funds that could be used for facility improvements in the area.

The Parish Council has a responsibility of representation on planning matters and should work towards supporting the knowledge of planning in its community. That's why this Parish Council will set out in this plan steps to inform residents how to respond to planning applications and how to make applications of their own.



“92.3% agree that redundant buildings should be converted”

The next steps

The entire community has had the opportunity to contribute to the development and writing of the Parish Plan. It reflects the wishes of those who live, work, learn and play within the Parish.

A number of actions have been identified and are listed in the action plan below. Much of this requires a collaborative approach with other groups in the area and possible formation of new groups where the Parish Council can support.

This plan is about moving forward in a positive direction so that this area is a fully functional and loving area to live, work, learn and play. The Parish Council will undertake many of the actions identified over the next 10 years. It will continue to monitor progress of this plan, we will consider changes in Council operations and any relevant changes in legislation. We will report back to the community on a regular basis through reviews at the annual residents' meetings.



Action Plan

There are a number of bodies within the Parish who are best equipped to drive forward actions identified by this survey including amongst others:

- Local churches
- Longdon-upon-Tern Village Hall Committee
- Parish Pathways Group
- The Bull, Rodington
- Rodington Parish Council
- Rodington Village Hall Committee
- Tayleur Arms, Longdon
- Telford & Wrekin Council
- West Mercia Police

All actions have been allocated to these bodies. (They may identify individuals or set up delegated teams for specific tasks but this is considered to be the best way to deliver action and accountability). Each action is given one of three timescales:

Short term (1-2 years)

Medium term (1-5 years)

Long term (1-10 years)

Employment & Education

ACTION	OWNER	TIMESCALE
Write to and continue to lobby the Member of Parliament for The Wrekin, Telford & Wrekin Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for broadband and local broadband providers to request updates on what is being done to improve broadband and telecommunications within rural villages in Shropshire. Use this opportunity to highlight the issues in our Parish.	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Work with broadband and mobile network providers to set up "transmitters" on highest points of Village Halls or Churches.	Rodington Village Hall Committee Longdon-upon-Tern Village Hall Committee Local churches	Short Term
Support CPRE, the countryside charity in their surveying of bus services in Shropshire and help to use the data to persuade more locals to use bus services for their employment and educational needs. Providing this is a success there would be scope to request that local bus service providers increase the service in the area and connectivity with local centres such as Telford Town Centre, Shrewsbury and Hortonwood.	Rodington Parish Council CPRE Shropshire	Short Term

Communication

ACTION	OWNER	TIMESCALE
Introduce Council surgeries at local events and meetings such as Rodi's Café and fete's	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Improve condition of noticeboards at Rodington Bull and Tayleur Arms and install new one in Longdon-upon-Tern	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term
Include Councillor profiles in Parish News	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Promote events that are being held at village halls and by other community groups	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Request support from the Community Payback initiative to tackle some of the more difficult environmental projects in the parish	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term

Local Facilities

ACTION	OWNER	TIMESCALE
Work with the Tayleur Arms and Rodington Bull to find possible ways of offering a licensed food delivery service in the area	Rodington Parish Council Tayleur Arms Rodington Bull	Long Term
Request an increase in road sweeping within the Parish by Idverde	Rodington Parish Council Telford & Wrekin Council	Short Term
Lobby Telford & Wrekin Council to bring back the Mobile Library service to the Parish	Telford & Wrekin Council	Medium Term
Discuss with High Ercall Post Office the possibility of a “pop-up” post office service in the area	Rodington Parish Council High Ercall Post Office	Medium Term
Introduce monthly “Clerks Walks” where the Clerk of the Council inspects areas of the Parish to report potholes, fly-tips and any other environmental or highways maintenance issues.	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Investigate the possibility of having a mobile delivery and collection station in the Parish	Rodington Parish Council	Long Term
Work with neighbouring Parish Councils to see if we can introduce a form of youth services	Rodington Parish Council	Long Term
Improve gateway signage for whole of Parish	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Make a request to Longdon Village Hall for internet access to be installed	Rodington Parish Council Longdon-upon-Tern Village Hall Committee	Medium Term
Make a request to organisations such as Age UK to hold IT lessons in the Parish or train Parish staff to deliver this	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term
Improve fencing, cremated remains area and water tank area within Rodington Cemetery	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Promote the use of Everyday Telford for reporting any environmental or highways maintenance issues in the Parish	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Promote sporting activities and activities aimed for young and older people in the Parish and promote how we may be able to help set groups up if the public were willing to be the main organisers.	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Propose the idea of “Helping Hands Scheme” to Parish Council volunteers where they could help isolated residents with lifts, phone calls, shopping.	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term

Traffic & Transport

ACTION	OWNER	TIMESCALE
Liaise with public transport companies in the area to address the views of service use in this area.	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Lobby for increased bus services in the area with smaller buses	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term
Introduce a speed indication device scheme around the Parish, to include temporary SID's in hotspots	Rodington Parish Council Telford & Wrekin Council	Medium Term
Improve safety signage, including slow down, horses in this area and improvements to direction signs.	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term
Create a partnership of advice and discussion with HGV companies to reroute HGV's to safer routes that will cause less damage to Longdon bridge and other unsuitable routes	Rodington Parish Council Telford & Wrekin Council	Medium Term
Improve mirrors at Longdon Bridge	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Form a Speed Watch group to monitor and record speeding around the Parish.	Rodington Parish Council West Mercia Police	Medium Term
Survey streets such as Tern Lane to identify community views on speed limitations and carry out actions with other authorities to address concerns	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term
Install new road safety mirrors along Sugden Lane	Rodington Parish Council Telford & Wrekin Council	Medium Term

Environment

ACTION	OWNER	TIMESCALE
We will aim for 100% of households and businesses in the Parish to be signed up with Smartwater kits.	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term
Nominate two Snow Wardens for the Parish and promote their support through winter periods.	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Actively promote rights of ways in the Parish and promote ways of getting involved with the work of the Pathways Group through our media channels and newsletter communications.	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Organise quarterly litter picks through the Street Champions initiative and link these with the Keep Britain Tidy and Green Clean national events during the year.	Rodington Parish Council	Short Term
Form a " <i>Parish Environmental</i> " group to help improve the environment in the area	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term

Planning & Development

ACTION	OWNER	TIMESCALE
Set up planning training sessions for the public	Rodington Parish Council Telford & Wrekin Council	Medium Term
Lobby the planning authority to ask that any large-scale developments are met with Section 106 money and the public are consulted on the uses for those monies.	Rodington Parish Council	Medium Term
Actively encourage any potential developer to go through the pre-planning process and engage with the Parish Council and its community before any formal plans are submitted.	Rodington Parish Council Telford & Wrekin Council	Medium Term
Support organisations like CPRE and planning authorities to lobby government for a meaningful policy for “brownfield first”	Rodington Parish Council	Long Term