



Barrowford Parish Plan

Results of the public consultation

Welcome

The Barrowford Parish Plan Steering Group has great pleasure in presenting this plan to the people of Barrowford. The parish of Barrowford includes the residents of Higherford, Carr Hall and Newbridge as well as central Barrowford.



Our grateful thanks go to all those residents that completed and returned the questionnaire and to those people who made such a valuable contribution to the public review sessions. We are very grateful to all the specialists who contributed to the detailed focus group discussion sessions, including representatives from Pendle Borough Council, East Lancashire Primary Care Trust, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire County Council, Nelson & Colne College, the Barrowford churches, the local business community, the Heritage Centre and Barrowford Parish Council.

The group would also like to thank Community Futures and particularly Mark Chappelhow for their financial and administrative support in producing this plan.

The production of this plan would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of all the members of the Steering Group through the past eighteen months. Grateful thanks to everyone.

This Parish Plan is being delivered to every residence and business premises in the Barrowford Parish area to provide feedback to your questionnaire responses by describing improvements that are already underway and others that are planned.

You will see in the following pages that we have analysed all that you have told us but we start with an explanation of how the plan has been prepared and how it will be used. We also thought that you would like to know something about the history of our village and how it has developed.

Our aim is to make Barrowford an even better place to live and work.

John Pope

Parish Plan Steering Committee Chairman June 2008

www.pendlelife.co.uk

direct web address is:

www.pendlelife.co.uk/roundabout/opencms/directory/community_associations/barrowfordparishplan

Contents

Welcome	1
Contents	2
Introduction to Barrowford	3
What is a Parish Plan?	5
What you said?	8
Community Wellbeing- Personal Safety	10
Community Wellbeing - Health Facilities.....	12
Community Wellbeing - Social and Spiritual Support	14
Civic Pride and Responsibility.....	17
Tourism, Heritage and Countryside	20
Barrowford's Heritage	22
Retail Business	24
Sustainable Transport.....	26
Young People.....	28
Development.....	30
How We Got Here?	34
Acknowledgements	36

Introduction to Barrowford



The White Bear, Gisburn Road.



Foreside from Higherford Bridge

Barrowford (including Higherford and Carr Hall) has a population of over six thousand people and over 2,500 households, which has been steadily increasing over a number of years. It is seen as a 'desirable' place to live, with a number of local estate agents and the pressure on available land for local house building confirming the popularity of the village as a place to settle. Although Barrowford and the surrounding Pendleside villages are seen to be more prosperous than some of the local towns, the high cost of local housing and the reduction in local employment prospects are proving a serious challenge to young people wanting to stay in the village where they were brought up. Barrowford's local identity and sense of community is partly based on the stability of local families and social networks, this needs to be preserved to keep Barrowford as the friendly and lively place it is today.



Weavers Cottages, Holt Square.



The Lamb Club, Bank Hall

The gradual decline of the textile industry has led to the development of Barrowford as a residential suburb, resulting in little current local industry or employment except for a few mill buildings converted to small Business Parks and industrial units. New housing estates have sprung up as the textile industry declined, this started with the Lupton Drive, Appleby Drive estate and the Stone Edge estate during the 1970's. Followed by Wheatley Springs and Park Avenue during the late 1980's. This continues with the demolition of some of the larger mills to provide residential land such as Holmefield Gardens, this will continue with the redevelopment of Lowerclough Mill.

The only current textile looms operating in Barrowford are a handful still weaving at the Lancashire Towelling Company, but this is likely to close before the end of 2008. With this closure, the centuries long local association with weaving will be gone forever. In its heyday the textiles industry operated 10,000 looms in Barrowford and employed several thousand local people.

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a vision of how residents would like their parish to be and should aim to bring together the views, needs and opinions of the whole community. The end result is a document which reflects the values and priorities of the Parish. The Plan should also contain suggestions for an Action Plan which will form the basis of changes to be implemented by relevant organisations and associations and should influence what happens to the parish in the future.

Parish plans are developed by each community in response to their own needs, using their unique skills and enthusiasm. Parish planning has proved to be a successful way for rural communities to make their voices heard and deliver local changes and can also lead to improved relationships with principal authorities and service providers.



Barrowford Memorial Park

Why Create a Parish Plan?

In your own community you know what people need locally. You know what facilities and services are valued – which need support to continue, or what new services would be of benefit. Perhaps you are concerned about affordable housing, road safety, facilities for young people, or a local site of particular environmental value.

You know what skills and knowledge you have to help yourselves, and where you need assistance from others to achieve results. You also know who needs to be included to ensure that everyone in the community, including the most vulnerable, comes together to produce your plan. A Parish Plan can be a catalyst for you to use these resources to act in the genuine interest of your community.

Your Parish Plan can kick start your own action to make a difference, and provides evidence and a mechanism for you to influence your local authority, service providers and planners. Your plan can be a key resource for these decision-makers, e.g. some Parish Plans are fed into Local Strategic Partnerships, or are taken into account by spatial planners. Parish Plans have the potential to become increasingly influential as decision-makers draw up Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks. As a tangible expression of the local voice, this valuable evidence base should be widely recognised and built upon.

There are 5 main ways in which a Parish Plan may be used:

- ◆ The Parish Council its Steering and Action Groups can use the information as evidence to support decision making.
- ◆ The plan will be submitted to local government departments and other such organisations for them to adopt, particularly when making decisions, which may affect life within the parish.
- ◆ Individuals and organisations associated with the parish may be able to change things by helping to action suggestions made in the plan.
- ◆ It is planned that the parish residents will be encouraged to join the action groups needed to progress the various issues identified in the plan.
- ◆ It may be possible to apply for grants to fund specific projects and services that are identified by these action groups.

How Parish Plans are Funded

Parish planning is one of a range of activities that local rural partnerships can choose to engage in through the Rural Social and Community programme (a Defra initiative) that makes funding available each year to support these local activities. Consequently, grants may be offered, though the funding allocation for each potential activity will reflect local needs and priorities. Decisions on programme expenditure are made by those best placed to decide: local people.

This flexibility can respond to the increasing availability of funds for parish plans from other sources, such as trusts and local authorities. As such the Countryside Agency has funded the development of Barrowford's Parish Plan with the award of a grant which is being administered by 'Community Futures'. Additional funding towards printing the final plan has been given by Barrowford Parish Council.

How this Parish Plan was Developed

In September 2006 all Barrowford residents, businesses, local authorities, Parish Councillors and relevant service providers were invited to a public meeting at Barrowford Civic Hall to launch the Parish Plan and discuss any issues they considered to be most important for the future of the Parish. At this meeting local residents were invited to volunteer to form a Steering Committee whose function would be to create the Parish Plan.

One of the first actions of the Steering Group was to design, produce and circulate a questionnaire to every household and business in Barrowford. The aim was to give all local residents an opportunity to say what they felt were the most important issues affecting the village both now and in the future.

As 41% of the questionnaires were returned the views expressed in the following Parish Plan are considered to be a fair representation of Barrowford resident's views. The results of the questionnaire were assessed, both independently by 'Community Futures' and also by the Steering Group. Certain themes were identified and these formed the basis of various meetings were then held between the Steering Group members and the most relevant outside organisations.

A series of Action Plans were then drawn up which are highlighted in this document.

What You Said?

Everyone in Barrowford has been given the opportunity to say how they would like the parish to develop. It has not been done in isolation but has been a joint effort between the volunteer Steering Group of local residents, (some of whom are parish councillors), the Parish Council itself and a series of both local and Governmental bodies.

A summary of the main findings and potential actions are contained within this document. All the figures given are a percentage of the total responses. A more detailed breakdown of the answers and comments received can be made available upon request through the Steering Group. This Parish Plan is 'passed' to the Barrowford Parish Council now that it is complete and the Parish Council will prioritise the actions to progress the findings and a 'way forward' will be agreed and established.

We sent out 2,700 questionnaires, one to every household and business in Barrowford, Higherford and Carr Hall. We had 1,100 replies (about 41%). We have analysed your replies and here is what we found.

Most of you have lived at least 10 years in Barrowford; some have lived here all their life. You appreciate Barrowford for its village life, and the countryside. We have a population fairly evenly distributed across the age range, 25% under 25, and 25% over 65.

Most of you feel the quality of services in Barrowford is satisfactory with the exception of the provision of post boxes and letterboxes. You feel that most amenities are accessible apart from banks, and hospitals.

Apart from the Parish Council meetings, the majority are not aware of what public forums exist in the village for you to air your views. Most of you do not know who represents you at borough, county and national level and how to contact them, and there is a feeling that local views are not taken into account at these levels.



Questionnaires ready to deliver



An overwhelming majority of you value the countryside around Barrowford, and are concerned about its preservation. Many of you expressed a worry about the loss of farming land, and the amount of house building going on. Some of you are also concerned about the developments on the edge of the village, for example the college and the business park. The environment matters to you, particularly the cleanliness of the streets, dog-fouling and litter. Most of you are committed to recycling, and some would like to see it extended to food waste.

Road traffic is a major concern for many of you, especially the volume of traffic on the Gisburn Road. The quality of the roads is also an issue, especially the need for resurfacing of back streets and the provision of effective and safe crossings along the Gisburn Road. The condition of pavements is also an issue especially on Pasture Lane and outside the White Bear. Some of you felt this was worsened by parking on pavements.

We are a community increasingly dependent on private transport, with about half of our residents commuting to work or study outside the village. A very small percentage use public transport, although some of said that you would use public transport if there was better information on times of service, more frequent provision, and cheaper fares.

When it comes to development in the village the majority of you think that there is too much house building especially at the expensive end of the market, although the majority of you would like to see affordable housing. You would like to see more employment in the village, in retail, small business units, and offices. Many of you would like to see the village develop as a working sustainable community with some specialist shops and as a centre for tourism, although almost as many would like the village to stay as it is. There is little enthusiasm for its development as a commuter village.

On the whole you think that Barrowford is safe place to live, although many of you reported being the victim of personal or property crime in the past eighteen months. The main concern is antisocial behaviour and the number of youngsters on the streets at night. The majority of you would like to see the local council do more about enforcing its powers in the area of dog-fouling, littering and fly-tipping, graffiti and noise nuisance.

Nearly all of you value the built heritage of the village and want it preserved. Nearly all of you have visited the Pendle Heritage Centre and Higherford Mill. Most of you believe that the conservation areas offer protection to our historic buildings although a sizeable number disagree.



Tourism attracted interesting responses. Most of you use the amenities the village has to offer – the Heritage Centre, parks, pubs and clubs, and cycle and footpaths. Many of you identified the need for more car parking and affordable overnight accommodation in order to attract more tourists. Most of you wanted to increase tourism and thought that better information, for example on a website or in guides would help.

A lot of you wanted a new community centre, but just slightly more didn't! The sorts of things you wanted a new community centre to provide included attractive activities for young people, health and education sessions, and provision for children and parents.

We had 133 responses from young people in the village. Most of you spent your leisure time on games, indoor and outdoor activities, and socialising at friends' houses. A lot of you would like to more opportunities for sport, organised groups, and indoor and outdoor activities such as swimming and cinema, a Multi Use Games Area, skateboarding facility, or sports hall. You would also like somewhere clean and safe to meet with your friends in the evening. Nearly all of you found something good to say about the village, especially its size, the park (although 'it needs updating') and the closeness of the countryside.

Community Wellbeing - Personal Safety

Introduction

The overall perception of safety across Barrowford was an issue that was raised through a number of questions in the public questionnaire and the responses identified a range of issues to be addressed.

Among the responses to the 'personal safety' questions were:

- ◆ That 78.5% of people feel either safe or very safe
- ◆ That 59.1% thought extra police presence would improve the safety situation
- ◆ While 44.3% thought additional PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) would improve the safety situation
- ◆ 35.6% supported CCTV being introduced into Barrowford as a means of improving safety
- ◆ While 18.8% of respondents were against the introduction of CCTV
- ◆ 41.6% of people said they had never been a victim of crime
- ◆ Car crime and road safety was mentioned by a small number of responders.

When these issues were explored in more detail through the questionnaire 'open questions' the concern for personal safety as a response to youths congregating and a general fear of 'going out after dark' were raised by over half the respondents. Anti-social behaviour was seen by 10% of the respondents as a major issue and highlighted by the individuals who attended the public open sessions.

*PCSO Training
Mountain Bikers*



Raising the Issues with Responsible Authorities

Meetings have taken place to raise the concerns raised through the questionnaire responses with the Nelson Police and their Barrowford allocated officers and with the Pendle Borough Safety team.

A number of forums are currently operating to raise concerns about personal safety and crime issues, these were organised by different bodies that had resources to tackle problems. Generally, very few members of the public attended these forums to raise concerns, but Parish Councillors, Borough Councillors and others did attend, and raised issues that had been brought to their attention.

Crime and safety initiatives were being raised on a regular basis to utilise available resources (both officers and equipment) more effectively to contain crime levels and assure citizens that Barrowford was a safe place to live.

An increase in the number of police officers allocated to Barrowford has recently been secured and a unit based out of Nelson Police Station is always available to attend incidents in Barrowford.

Actions:

Two primary initiatives have been identified to address Barrowford residents' concerns around personal safety and crime in general, these are:

- ◆ The local police to collect details of contact information for all bodies dealing with safety issues, and produce a simple laminated sheet containing contact details, available times etc.
- ◆ This sheet to be circulated to all households in Barrowford to encourage residents to become more involved in reporting suspicious activities and notifying the authorities of specific instances of concern;
- ◆ Residents are to be encouraged to raise concerns at the range of meetings where safety is discussed. The details of these various forums need to be publicised and residents should be encouraged to express their views. Advertising campaigns need to be mounted and forum details need to be circulated to all households on a regular basis.

Community Wellbeing - Health Facilities

Introduction

The questionnaire responses were focussed around the availability of health care facilities to Barrowford residents, as follows:

- ◆ 76% of respondents found access to a GP easy or very easy while 62% felt the same about access to a dental practice,
- ◆ 91% of respondents commented that access to a pharmacy was easy or very easy,
- ◆ 59% of respondents found access to hospital difficult or very difficult while access to district nurses or specialist health support (physio/chiropractic etc) was easy/very easy for 65% of respondents.

Discussions with East Lancs Primary Care Trust (PCT) Representatives

A number of meetings have taken place to promote health care initiatives to Barrowford residents, the following notes reflect the initiatives discussed and the subsequent actions:

A recent Fitness For Purpose exercise carried out by the Department of Health on the East Lancs PCT had identified the need to promote information concerning:

- ◆ The navigation of health services
- ◆ Improvement in the patient/medics partnership (empowerment)
- ◆ Encourage the take-up of patient self management facilities and systems.

These comments were seen as making users of the health service more responsible and providing them with the information and resources to be more independent.



Concerns were raised about difficulties for new Barrowford residents trying to register with a Barrowford medical practice. It was agreed that local residents should get priority over 'outside' registration applications.

There was a need for a range of medical/PCT service information to be available for residents, both new arrivals and existing. This was particularly important if patients are to become 'empowered' within the health system.

There are Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS) operated by the PCT and the East Lancs Hospital Trust (ELHT) which assist patients with admin and operational problems. It is proposed to arrange monthly 'surgeries' at the Parish offices to encourage residents requiring assistance dealing with the PCT or ELHT or any health related problems or queries to meet the PALS representatives to get assistance.

The Dentistry provision for Barrowford residents appeared to be insufficient and confusing. Registration with a dentist and emergency cover contacts needed to be made available to residents. Also the availability of NHS dentists appeared to be insufficient for the demand.

There was support for targeting young people and their parents and schools with information about health and lifestyle issues. A Healthy Eating initiative had been undertaken.

The PCT was developing Expert Patient material to help patients with specific illnesses to take more responsibility for managing their treatment. It is possible that a group of appropriate residents of Barrowford could be a pilot group for the initiative.

Social service provision involved both PCT and Lancs County Council and there appeared to be confusion and conflict between the two organisations from the users viewpoint. Information needed to be clarified and the availability of services etc made available to all 'carers'.

Actions:

1. Arrange discussions with the PCT commissioning team responsible for the Barrowford medical practices to raise the problem of new residents having difficulty registering with a local GP service issue.
2. PCT to produce a pack of 'Barrowford resident' information including details of registration, role of GP, PCT services and role, prescription responsibilities, Fitness For Life/Stepping Out initiatives, etc. A Barrowford Panel is to be established to review and discuss the information produced by the PCT ready for public distribution.
3. Monthly PALS surgery have been established and provide a valuable information service, these to be monitored.
4. Contact to be made with the PCT Dentist Commissioner to discuss concerns. The Dentistry contact information will be included in the patient information being prepared for distribution.
5. To investigate the Young People Healthy Eating initiative including research and activities within the PCT through the Healthy Schools Co-ordinator.
6. To discuss development of Expert Patient initiative and the piloting within Barrowford with the appropriate PCT Manager.
7. To investigate current social services situation with relevant LCC representative and progress.



Barrowford Health Centre



Pharmacy, Lee Street

Community Wellbeing - Social and Spiritual Support

Introduction

47% of the respondents to the questionnaire were 50 years old or over. The questionnaire highlighted the desire for additional community facilities and activities. This is confirmed by the discussions with the representatives from the three main church groups in Barrowford who highlight the challenge of identifying and then engaging with elderly and infirm residents of Barrowford.

Around 27% of responders to the questionnaire commented on the need for additional community activities and groups for all age groups while 46% were in favour of developing a new community facility within Barrowford.

Discussions with the Church Groups of Barrowford

An initial list of the clubs/activities based on the Barrowford churches includes:

- ◆ Girl guides and Boy scouts (covering ages 5 to 15yrs)
- ◆ Toddler Groups (age 0-5yrs)
- ◆ Ladies Group (previously Young Wives)
- ◆ Mothers Union
- ◆ Bible Study Groups & Bible Club
- ◆ Flower Group
- ◆ Various House Groups
- ◆ Arion Choir
- ◆ Quiz & Social evenings
- ◆ Sunday Services and associated Children's Groups
- ◆ After school services
- ◆ Family Evenings
- ◆ Weight Watchers & Slimming Clubs
- ◆ Yoga Club
- ◆ Occasional Meeting groups (to discuss specific areas of religious interest)



Weight Watchers Check-in

It was agreed that the church groups provided a valuable focus for the development of future activities and interests for residents of all age groups. A number of specific groups of residents whose wellbeing could be enhanced through social activities were discussed including:

- ◆ Young people
- ◆ Young children and their parents/carers
- ◆ Older residents
- ◆ Individuals with low self-esteem
- ◆ New arrivals into Barrowford and surrounding area.
- ◆ Bereaved/lonely in need of spiritual support
- ◆ Carers

Actions:

1. To progress activities for young people:

- ◆ The appointment of a full time youth minister
- ◆ Need to encourage leaders to come forward – need a campaign to attract new leaders and courses to train them
- ◆ Need to share activities and ‘leaders’ across the 3 churches
- ◆ A need to link up with the youth group on Bullholme to encourage more participation and sharing leaders etc

2. Actions for future developments for young children and their parents/supporters include:

- ◆ The 3 current groups have a waiting list of people wanting to join, the capacity needs to be increased to enable every interested parent/child to attend.
- ◆ The social grouping of the parents (particularly mothers) resulting from these ‘toddler’ groups needs to be supported with social events being arranged and encouraged
- ◆ Health and Local Authorities (PCT/LCC) representatives need to be contacted to set up Parenting sessions at Barrowford/Higherford locations. Facilities such as child minding need to be established.
- ◆ Example of baby massage group in Nelson has large proportion of attendees from Barrowford, a similar facility in Barrowford would encourage further participation.

3. Suggested actions for future developments for older residents included:

- ◆ Develop an initial list of clubs and activities that would interest older people included: naturalist group, exercise groups, Beetle drive/Whist drives, men’s groups, ladies groups.
- ◆ To investigate the setting up of a Cruse Organisation self help group for people in bereavement.
Action to contact Cruse Organisation to come and discuss the establishment of a self-help group
- ◆ Weekly/monthly lunch clubs were a good way for older people to meet socially. Transport may be an issue but local groups are available to help with transport.



Higherford Holiday Club

4. Other groups in the local community that may benefit from communal activity included:

- ◆ Individuals suffering from low self-esteem or depression could be encouraged to join a self help group.
- ◆ A self help group for carers would be a valuable facility to support individual carers by providing relief carers for a short time to enable them to relax and meet other people in a similar situation. Could encourage a self help group.
- ◆ There is a requirement for a Barrowford Community website where groups and individuals could post events/ meetings/activities and suggestions for community social engagement. This could include postings from local businesses and other 'public' bodies.

5. The area of supporting and developing spiritual life was identified as an area for action, these included:

- ◆ Development of a 'quiet' place with a gentle and supportive environment that is available to individuals.
- ◆ Organise discussion groups on key current issues, e.g. ethical issues.

6. It was felt that a number of new residents of Barrowford felt isolated and that there was a problem with engagement into the community. The following suggestions were made to progress the problem:

- ◆ Some people are moving from larger towns, these need to be encouraged to become involved.
- ◆ Details of church activities and social clubs/groups need to be advertised to newcomers through estate agents and other sources of information open to new residents



Fellowship at Higherford Methodists

Civic Pride and Responsibility

Introduction

A range of questions in the questionnaire together with public comments concerned the engagement of the public (Barrowford residents) with their representatives and the authorities responsible for various public activities. This was linked with the responsibilities of individual residents towards the community and ways of improving that community responsibility. Two sets of meetings were held to discuss these two areas with the relevant local authority teams.

From the questionnaire responses:

60% of respondents did not know how to contact relevant sections of either Pendle Borough Council or Lancashire County Council with problems or questions;

54% of respondents did not know who represented them at any tier of local government;

64% of respondents did not know about MP and Councillor surgeries.

Similarly, concerning the 'appearance of the village':

The majority of respondent replies concerned anti-social behaviour including, dog-fouling, littering etc, 577 responses expressed a desire for Barrowford to look 'cared for'.

In answer to the questions about the use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN), there was support for them to be used as follows:

- ◆ 82.6% for Dog Fouling
- ◆ 85.9% for Littering
- ◆ 79.2% for Fly Tipping
- ◆ 77.9% for Graffiti
- ◆ 76.5% for Noise Nuisance.

*Flowers and Flags
along
Gisburn Road*



Discussions with Local Authority Teams

Contact information is available through adverts in the local telephone directory, yellow pages, Thompson directory, the Council website and regular adverts in the local free press.

It was agreed that the local government structures could be difficult to understand, diagrams had been produced for school education visits and these appeared to be effective.

Concerning the anti-social behaviour situation, the local authority was supporting the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices and finding that they and the traditional 'flea in the ear' were being an effective deterrent.

It was important that the public informed the authorities of any incidents they witness and capture as much detail about the incident as possible.

Actions:

1. The contact details for local authority representatives needs to be circulated to residents in a form that can be easily stored and retrieved when required.
2. Copies of the local authority organisation structures could be displayed in some public areas, e.g. Parish Council offices, to help residents visiting surgeries etc to appreciate the roles involved.
3. Street cleaning, bin emptying etc. activities carried out by Pendle BC was currently operating at adequate level.
However, there was provision for additional cleaning but it would need to be commissioned and paid for by the Parish Council. This should be investigated as an option.
4. The Fixed Penalty Notice contact details and required information should be circulated to all residents to encourage individuals to report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the authorities



*Dedication of new standard for
Royal British Legion
at St. Thomas's Church*



*Deputy Mayor of Pendle
talking to young guest*

Tourism, Heritage & Countryside

Introduction

The responses to the questionnaire reflect the value the community attaches to both the local countryside and the heritage represented by the Barrowford built environment. A number of suggestions have been identified to promote Barrowford as an active tourist centre.

- ◆ 91% of respondents identified 'access to the surrounding countryside' as a valued feature of Barrowford;
- ◆ 97% of respondents think Barrowford's built environment should be preserved;
- ◆ 59% of respondents want efforts made to attract more visitors to the area.

Suggestions for improving facilities for visitors/tourists included:

- ◆ Better advertising/marketing including a good web site (45%)
- ◆ Improved car parking facilities (26%)
- ◆ Improve the overall appearance (19%)
- ◆ Provide affordable accommodation (17%)
- ◆ Additional restaurants/specialist shops (16%)
- ◆ Cafes open on Sunday (8%)
- ◆ Organise more activities in the Park (6%)
- ◆ More organised events to attract tourists (5%)
- ◆ Better tourist guides/maps (4%).



Pendle Heritage Centre

Discussions with local Heritage and Tourist Development Teams

Lack of accommodation in and around Barrowford was a serious problem for attracting tourists. Bed & Breakfast facilities and farm diversification were being encouraged with financial support from Pendle BC.

Pendle BC was able to assist with signboards and walk waymarking to encourage tourists.

The local transport network did not support people visiting the area particularly with no buses on Sundays and no direct link with Colne and the popular Tourist Information Centre at the end of the M65 (now called Discover Pendle).

It was agreed that the built heritage of Barrowford had to be actively preserved and the existing 'black spots' in the village tackled to improve the overall appearance for visitors.

Barrowford has a good network of local footpaths and minor roads that should be used to encourage both visitors and residents to walk and cycle in the local countryside.

Actions:

1. The questionnaire responses identified a number of suggestions for improving the visitor/tourist experience, see list above.
2. Additional local accommodation for visitors needs to be encouraged by advertising available grants etc and by supporting new start-ups.
3. Pendle Borough Council to be encouraged to provide additional tourist information boards and improve footpaths and signage and display notices of interest around Barrowford.
4. Public transport facilities for people travelling into Barrowford needs to be improved to encourage visitors from the local towns.
5. Leaflets and material to be produced to encourage visitors and walking/cycling around Barrowford. Particularly Barrowford needs to be included in the annual Pendle Walking Festival and local walks need to be advertised.
6. The local heritage needs to be part of an effort to improve the overall appearance of the village to attract visitors, by addressing less attractive areas and funding appropriate changes.
7. The facilities of Barrowford Park and Bullholme should be advertised to encourage the utilisation of these areas as a local attraction.
8. There is a need to provide information about Barrowford and particular direction information from local tourist centres such as the Tourist Information Centre at the end of the M65.



Bed & Breakfast Accomodation



Way Mark for Pendle Way

Barrowford's Heritage

As the name suggests, the origin of Barrowford is its importance as a river crossing. During the Roman occupation it was on the route from a colony at Colne to the fort at Ribchester. Some evidence has also been found of Bronze Age and even Stone Age settlements, but Pendle was mainly a hunting area.

Barrowford developed as a farming community following the Norman conquest of Britain. Until the nineteenth century farmers were mainly tenants. Most were allowed small parcels of land to enclose cattle, called vaccaries. Vaccary stones can still be found in fields and stone walls.

One of the first houses to be built in Barrowford was Park Hill, which is now the Heritage Centre. A fifteenth century wooden framed house with wattle and daub sides was built on this site. Remains of this can still be seen within the museum. Park Hill was built by the Bannister (Bannistre) family, who resided there for over three hundred years. One of their descendants was Sir Roger Bannister, who ran the four-minute mile in 1954. Robert Bannistre arrived in England with William the Conqueror, and fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. After the Welsh rebellion, his descendants settled in Lancashire.

The walled garden at Park Hill has been restored and looks very much as it would have done in the eighteenth century, when it was laid out by the Swinglehurst family.

The Cruck Barn was not originally part of Park Hill, but was built at Cliviger near Burnley. It was dismantled and painstakingly restored as an example of one of the earliest forms of building in this area.

There are many buildings in Barrowford of historical interest. Two of the oldest, The White Bear and Bank Hall (now the Lamb Club), date from the seventeenth century.

There are Conservation Area's which cover most of the central area up to Higherford. All of the cottages alongside the main road were built as weavers' homes, in the early to late nineteenth century. The upper storey contained loom shops and many still retain original features. Handloom weaving declined in the first half of the nineteenth century as power loom weaving took over. Holt Square and The Fold are the earliest cottages to be built in Barrowford, with arched head mullion windows c. 1590.

The *Tales of the Pendle Witches* attract many tourists to the area. Their story is well documented and the subject of much speculation. Far from being involved in witchcraft, they were probably victims of the political beliefs and superstitions of that time. At their trial in Lancaster in 1612 nine were found guilty of witchcraft and hanged. Elizabeth Southern (Mother Demdike) was in her eighties and died before the trial in August.

There is a display about the Pendle Witches in the museum at the Heritage Centre.

Higherford Mill in Barrowford was built by Thomas Grimshaw in 1824. Now the property of The Heritage Trust North West, it is now in the process of restoration. There are plans to restore the water wheel, weir, and mill goits supplying water from the river. The main part of the building now houses artists' workshops, some of whom exhibit their work in the Heritage Centre Gallery.

Across the road is the new Malt Kiln. Built by the Grimshaws, it was used to extract malt from the barley for use by local pubs and breweries.

Fifty yards upstream is the old packhorse bridge, built around 1583, this was part of the old road through Barrowford which took a winding route alongside the river. The Turnpike road built 1807, now the A682, takes a more direct route to Gisburn.

Much of the economic and religious life of Barrowford in the Medieval period centred on Whalley Abbey, some eight miles away. After the destruction of the Abbey, a chapelry was established at Newchurch in Pendle. An Anglican parish church was built at Barrowford in 1841. It was enlarged in 1855 and in its heyday the church would seat 450. The church was destroyed by fire in 1964. The ruins and graveyard are a pleasant feature on Church Street. A modern church was built at the top of Higher Causeway in 1970.

John Wesley brought Methodism to Barrowford in the eighteenth century. While preaching in Roughlee, Wesley was attacked by an angry mob fuelled by alcohol. He was brought to The White Bear for refuge. In the 19th century Methodism was well established in Barrowford. The Methodist church in Higherford is a relatively new building. The previous building was dismantled stone by stone and rebuilt in Hachioji, Japan, where it is part of a hotel complex used for wedding ceremonies.

The Roman Catholic Church of Ss. Peter & Paul was built in 1898 with a schoolroom underneath. The current building has been greatly restored and renovated in recent years and incorporates a plaque to the fallen of the Great War and several family windows including the Stinchon family, a local Catholic family.

In the late eighteenth century Barrowford was home to one of the first successful cotton mills of that era. Many early mill owners faced bankruptcy due to their lack of expertise when building and operating machines. At the height of cotton's prosperity, more than fifty chimneys dominated Barrowford's skyline, marking the extent of the mills in the village. Most of the mills in Barrowford have now been demolished. Barrowford's economy is now based on the retail industry, and small manufacturing and service industries.



The Return of the Gaumless Trough



Gaumless Trough

Retail Business

The Fountains Arcade



Introduction

Two general business questions were included in the residential questionnaire and a specific 'business' questionnaire was circulated. 52% of residents saw retail business as the main employment opportunities of the future with 'small business units' at 40% being second, while 25% of residents would like Barrowford to develop as a specialist retail centre.

The local business survey confirmed that over half the retailers had been established more than 10 years and, on average, each employed 5 people.

More than half of the business community think that Barrowford is a good or very good place to trade but it would help if:

- ◆ There was more provision for parking/stopping
- ◆ Signage to Barrowford was improved
- ◆ Barrowford was 'cleaned up'.
- ◆ Residents stopped parking in front of shops
- ◆ A wider range of shops and fewer empty shops

There was minority support for a Barrowford Retail Association.

Discussions with Pendle Borough Council's (PBC) Business Support & Development Team

The Local Authority's support is mainly directed to the designated Assisted Areas within the Borough. Barrowford is not a designated Assisted Area.

Steering Groups in Colne & Nelson are supported to provide e.g. Loyalty Shopping Schemes by Town Centre management, which also provides Shop Front Improvement Grants but not currently for Barrowford.

The Authority has limited funds available for any rate relief for commercial property but relief is available for some small businesses.

The Authority views Barrowford as a successful up-market shopping area with good future potential, not currently in need of the support required in other more deprived areas within the Borough. The Authority's aim is to improve the economy of the whole Borough. The current priority is the Nelson Master Plan.

Problems affecting the Barrowford business community include: shop takings are plummeting as a result of the lack of parking, particularly following the closure of the car park opposite the Spar shop, for conversion into a school games area. There is no public parking provision within the village centre. Commuters shop where they work as the lack of parking and the heavy traffic flow prevent them from stopping on the way home.

Actions:

1. Lobby the College to do something to ease the traffic flow at peak times
2. Raise the local profile to increase the retail 'foot-fall' by:

Arranging for display material from local business to be displayed in the new Tourist Information Office site at the end of the M65 where large numbers of visitors are attracted and should be encouraged to visit Barrowford.

Seek the Area Committee's support for Barrowford to benefit from the funding which its re-classification as a Market Town would bring.

3. Form a Chamber of Trade:

The Chambers of Trade in other areas have been an effective voice on behalf of business, particularly in Settle where they lobbied successfully for restrictions to the planning consent for a local supermarket, to reduce the impact on local traders. The Local Authority Town Centre Officer offered to arrange for a representative of the Craven Chamber of Trade to meet local businesses with a view to the formation of a local Chamber.

4. The Local Authority's Town Centre Management could help with the production and perhaps the distribution of promotional material on behalf of the Barrowford Business Community, which needs to be circulated in out-lying areas, not in the town centre.



Upmarket Shops along Gisburn Road



Newbridge Art Shop & Gallery

Sustainable Transport

Introduction

Transport facilities in general and road travel in particular were explored in the questionnaire together with a 'services' access question.

Summarising the responses:

- ◆ Residents found access was easy or very easy to public transport (81%), nursery/school/college (42%), GP/Dentist/Pharmacy (77%), food shop/post office/library (80%).
- ◆ While, access was difficult or very difficult to hospital (59%), Bank/Cash point (41%).
- ◆ Transport to work/education was by car/van (68%), walking (13.5%), public transport (3.5%).
- ◆ While occasional and regular use of public transport was by bus (49.6%), train (56.7%) and taxi (26.5%).
- ◆ Comments on encouraging people to use public transport services included, increase frequency of provision (32% response), run at more appropriate times (23%), better service information (25%).
- ◆ 81% of replies indicated they would probably use public transport if it was better suited to local needs.
- ◆ Congestion along Gisburn Road was raised as a major concern by 61% of respondents.



Main Line Bus Service "Starship"

Discussion of Transport and Road issues with the Relevant Authorities

Burnley & Pendle Transport had been contacted. Their response was that they are run commercially. Late night bus services and the Colne route had been tried but were not supported. Lancashire County Council (LCC) was the subsidising arm of the public transport system.

Concerns were raised about the merger of the two N&C College sites onto the expanded Reedyford site and the impact on traffic flow and the potential for accidents around the college entrance and other affected roads. A traffic design was being developed by the County Council, this may include moving the pelican crossing away from the roundabout and also moving the college bus stop. Parking on the new college site was raised as a concern as there would be a significant increase in the number of car users and there appeared to be no additional provision.

The police were concerned about the backing up of traffic along the M65 slip road. Relining could improve the situation but the college arrival/departure activities were a significant factor in the congestion on the roundabout. It was suggested that staggered start and finish times should be investigated. An additional concern was the development of the Riverside Business Park along Barrowford Road which would significantly increase the volume of traffic using the M65 Junction 13 roundabout.

The County Council had carried out an assessment of traffic flow and a count outside the Spar shop was currently being undertaken.

Cycleways:

The National Cycleway for Pendle follows the Leeds & Liverpool Canal skirting along the Easterly edge of Barrowford with an offshoot running through Swinden Playing Fields across Bullholme to Wilton Street. There is a proposal to be jointly funded by Lancashire County Council and Pendle Borough Council to extend this offshoot as follows:

- ◆ A link to the new Pendle Vale School continuing to Fisher-More and Primet high schools.
- ◆ An extension with improved surfaces through the Park to the footbridge at the White Bear and on towards the Heritage Centre.

These new routes will provide a safe link from Barrowford to three local High Schools. This will have the benefit of both encouraging more cycling possibly by students reducing car journeys and improving the environment. This scheme could be started during 2008-09 and be finished the following year depending on funding.

Actions:

A number of proposals were discussed including:

- ◆ Lobby Pendle Borough to adopt the two small public car parks at the entrance to Holmefield Gardens
- ◆ Investigate the use of the grassy areas near The Riverway flats for parking bays
- ◆ Nora Street to be included in a new 20mph scheme
- ◆ School travel plan to be proposed for Rushton Street School.
- ◆ Lancashire County Council is currently conducting a study into accidents on Barrowford Road (Padiham Bypass) and along with measures proposed by the County Council, Barrowford Parish Council suggested that speed be reduced approaching Carr Hall Road from the Padiham side and similar from Surrey Road to just past Carr Hall Road.
- ◆ Lobby Lancashire County Council to ensure that the Pendle Witch Hopper becomes a permanent bus service and not dependent on three year funding limit.
- ◆ Request that a trial subsidy be given for the re-introduction of an evening bus service for Barrowford especially in light of so many hospital services moving to Blackburn and current visiting hours.



Scenic Barrowford Cycleway



"Greenline" Shopper's Bus

Young People

Introduction

As part of the Barrowford questionnaire a series of questions were set to find the views of the young people. From the responses the following comments have been identified:

- ◆ 38% of current activities were sporting away from home while 80% enjoyed social activities.
- ◆ 30% of respondents would like additional outdoor activities and 30% wanted a 'safe zone' to meet friends other than in pubs.
- ◆ 36% identified the park as a good feature of Barrowford but felt it needed updating.



Children's playground at Barrowford Park.

Discussions with Young People and Youth Leaders/Organisers

A series of discussions took place with young people at the Youth Club and various Youth Leaders. The general comment was the lack of facilities and 'areas' to meet with friends and do 'interesting' activities. This was coupled with the feeling that 'older' residents objected to them congregating and socialising in public areas, even the park. It was accepted that young people needed to be embraced as part of the community and facilities provided to meet their particular needs and interests.

But, more specifically, the recent 'antagonism' towards young people needed to be addressed through both addressing their needs and providing mechanisms for them to express their views and aspirations.

Current Provision for Young People:

Currently the provision for young people is scant within the village with the Youth Club only operating a couple of nights a week. Barrowford has been overlooked for the last decade with regard to teenage provision within our parks and whilst some areas of Pendle have seen a proliferation of facilities Barrowford has been overlooked. Barrowford is the only area highlighted in the Pendle Children & Youth Play Area Strategy 2006-16 as having no dedicated teenage facilities. The Parish Councillors and Borough Councillors are keen to see the problem redressed. Over the last twelve months they have worked together with the youth of the village and the Parks Department to develop a Mountain Bike Track with hopefully more facilities to follow.

Future Developments and Actions:

Youth Club: At present the youth club is not being used to its full potential this needs pursuing with the County Council with possibly new ideas led by the youth being incorporated and where necessary outside funding being sought.

Mountain Bike Track: This is the first of a range of interesting facilities to be centred on Bullholme around the Youth Centre.

MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area): Urgently required and requested facility and the next priority for provision.

Relationship with the Police: Mutual respect needs to be earned on both sides and this would be improved by the involvement of the Police and especially the PCSO's in activities involving young people such as football, mountain biking and other sports. The creation of off street facilities for young people where they can hang out without the worry of causing noise nuisance or the perceived intimidation being caused to residents by the fact that they are in groups. This would lead to a reduction in the need for the Police to be constantly moving on young people, which causes dissatisfaction and retaliation that leads to mistrust on both sides.

Alcohol: Work needs to be done to educate the young on the potential long term harm which drinking to excess, especially spirits, can do to their bodies. Perhaps it is time to promote the use of licensed premises for older teenagers where they can learn to drink socially with some degree of loose supervision.

Advisory Bodies: Local advisory groups such as the Pendle Community Safety Partnership, Friends of Barrowford Memorial and Victoria Parks and even the Parish Council should be encouraged to appoint young people to their groups so that the teenage perspective is considered when decisions affecting their lives are taken.

Facilities in Barrowford Park: The older play area is due for refurbishment and this is an ideal opportunity for consultation with teenagers regarding what pieces of equipment could be supplied within the budget allowed. This could be the first step in building up a working relationship between the Parks Officers and younger people which will prove beneficial to both groups.



Football Tournament on Bullholme



Riders on Mountain Bike Track

Development

Introduction

Responses to the questionnaire concerning development focussed on housing development with an acceptance that employment opportunities needed to be expanded in Barrowford to encourage a stable population in the future.

- ◆ 34% of respondents thought that recent housing developments had resulted in houses that were too expensive while 58% of respondents thought there was simply too much new development.
- ◆ 51% of respondents supported future housing development to be affordable for local people while 32% supported new housing for elderly people and 25% housing for young people.

Pendle Borough Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) Document

A group from the Parish Plan Steering Group have been involved with the Pendle Borough Council planning development team developing a Barrowford contribution to the Pendle-wide framework for future planning guidelines.

The notes below are a draft version of the response to the LDF planning consultation being carried out by Pendle Borough Council

Design Principles for Barrowford

Development Boundary

A boundary around Barrowford should be defined within which, development will be allowed. No development should be allowed outside the boundary.

An initial boundary suggestion is Wheatley Lane Road to Clough Springs, Carr Hall Road, the western boundary of Bull Holme and Barrowford Park, Colne Road (limit of present houses on north side), Francis Avenue, current Barrowford/Higherford boundary to Clough Springs.

This would preserve the Water Meetings area, the canal corridor, the countryside north of Wheatley Lane Road. In addition development of new properties in existing gardens should not be allowed.

It is likely that Pendle will want to build approx 192 new houses per year from 2007. There is currently an exercise underway to identify potential housing land for the future.

These need to be considered as part of the Core Strategy and the Land Use Strategy of the LDF, currently being developed by Pendle Borough Council.



Townhouses at Holmefield Gardens

Infrastructure Upgrade

- ◆ It is essential that any planning policy needs to integrate significant infrastructure developments prior to any planning permission being given. An alternative road needs to be built from Wheatley Lane Road (Clough Springs end) to Barrowford Road (Padiham By-pass) to relieve Gisburn Road.
- ◆ The development of the Riverside Business Park site requires traffic access to be a major consideration of the design, again to relieve congestion on Gisburn Road,
- ◆ Barrowford residents' parking needs to be reviewed from the safety and security position and changes implemented. Resident parking schemes need to be investigated.
- ◆ Temporary/public parking is a major issue in Barrowford which should be addressed as part of an overall traffic flow and parking solution,
- ◆ The sewerage and water networks need to be reviewed in line with estimated population growth rates and the necessary upgrades planned and implemented before additional building is allowed.
- ◆ Safe cycling and walking routes need to be designed and implemented to encourage fewer car journeys and exercise.

Barrowford Primary School

Lancashire County Council should be encouraged to locate funding to rebuild Barrowford School on a site away from Gisburn Road to provide modern learning facilities and to provide safe facilities for exercise/recreation and to improve safety and school parking.

Employment Opportunities in Barrowford

Developments that support the creation of good quality employment opportunities for residents of Barrowford, and particularly young qualified people starting their careers, should be integral to development policy plans.

The imaginative use of existing buildings together with new building should contribute to the enhancement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of Barrowford residents and people who work in Barrowford.

There is to be an Employment Land Study to be started in the near future to identify potential employment land sites.

Low Cost Housing

There is a need to support the building of affordable/low cost housing in Barrowford to encourage first-time buyers and current tenants to remain and contribute to the Barrowford community.

The construction of new or converted flats could provide a way forward. Also, the encouragement of partner ownership of properties where the developer or mortgage company retains part of the property value.



Phase 1 of Riverside Business Park

Community Facilities

With the loss of the use of Holmefield House there is a need to develop a community centre to support a wide range of groups and activities in order to enhance the sense of community within Barrowford.

Visitors/Tourism in Barrowford

Tourism is seen as a valuable asset to the life of the community both economically and socially and should be encouraged through a concerted strategy to develop Barrowford and the surrounding areas as a tourist/visitors centre.

This requires additional accommodation (B&B, Hotels, small touring caravan sites, limited size camping sites, etc) and the development and enhancement of the footpath network and the support of heritage facilities in the area. This would also improve the viability of local farming enterprises.

Play Areas for Children and Meeting Facilities for Young People

There is a need for additional facilities for the Barrowford community's children and young people.

Retail Facilities

There is a need to encourage a wider range of local shops within the Barrowford centre.



Family Housing at Wheatley Springs

Building Development

Building Design – General

A number of general building design principles were identified during an exercise throughout Barrowford. These include:

- ◆ A preference for a return to two storey buildings built of natural local stone sympathetic in appearance to existing buildings in Barrowford should be imposed on all new developments.
- ◆ All new buildings should incorporate the latest environmental advantageous and energy efficiency features currently being centrally recommended.
- ◆ Three storey buildings should reflect the character and vernacular design of other buildings in their area for example having windows that become smaller on each successive storey, to give an appearance of less regularity and less imposing.
- ◆ All buildings to have pitched roofs (no flat roofs to be allowed)
- ◆ Stone frames and lintels to be used for doors and windows
- ◆ Emphasise the need to provide built facilities for storing bins etc or external access to the rear of the property to allow wheelie bins to be stored out of sight.
- ◆ Encourage the use of stone for footpaths instead of practice of tarmacing.
- ◆ Promote the use of materials and colours of retail outlets to be in keeping with surrounding properties and immediate area as a whole.
- ◆ Dormer windows need to be in keeping and scale of the property as a whole.
- ◆ Local rights of way and thoroughfares need to be preserved as much as possible.

These desirable building features need to be balanced against the legitimate desires of householders to improve the facilities of their houses.

A balance has to be achieved to encourage good design, environmental responsibility, energy efficiency and aesthetic consistency.



Established bungalows at Stone Edge Road

How We Got Here?

Barrowford's Political Roots

Barrowford's first glimpses of self determination in a political sense began with the formation of the Barrowford and Brogden with Admergill Local School Board formed in December 1874 which consisted of seven members and had three schools under its control. During the first fifteen years the number of children receiving an education doubled and in 1896 they spent £9000, a considerable sum in those days, on the building of Rushton Street School. This local Board ran until September 1903 when it was taken over by the Education Authority.



The next step in the local political scene was the Formation of Barrowford Urban District Council in 1897. The Urban District Council ran for nearly eighty years and was both a blessing and a curse with the provision of affordable social housing but at the cost of some of the oldest and most historically interesting parts of the village. The creation and layout of the park jointly with benefactors and the local people will be their everlasting epitaph.

Big is beautiful was the catchword of the early seventies when countless small towns and villages were brought together to form new faceless local authorities. Barrowford was swallowed up by Pendle in 1974 and an era of very local services ended. But the Urban District Council was not forgotten by older villagers and when the chance to have a Neighbourhood Watch Group came in the late seventies and early eighties it was grasped and indirectly led to the formation of the Parish Council in 1988.

The Parish Council started life meeting at the Civic Hall and their only asset was allotments which the Local Authority had an obligation to hand over and were willing and eager to do so as by and large allotment sites, although an essential service, are a drain on resources. 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Barrowford Parish Council and its impact on local life and decision making is growing year by year. One day they may have the powers returned that were stripped from the old Urban District Council and the political life of Barrowford will have come full circle.

Barrowford's Social History

Barrowford's social past can be traced back to the middle ages when the village was a farming hamlet reliant on hand loom weaving of woollen type cloth. Traces of one of these earlier phase houses dating to this period have been discovered under part of the Heritage Centre during renovations. The first textile water mill in the village was mentioned in court depositions in 1541 and was described as a cloth or fulling mill when sold to Christopher & Abraham Hargreaves for £233 in 1783. This mill stood on the site where the children's play area now stands in the park with the park lake being used as the lodge with the wheel race running along the line of the footpath at the bottom of the cemetery steps.

The change from farming to industrialisation and the cotton industry started with the Grimshaw family building Higherford Mill in 1824 as a water mill then because of lack of power it was converted to steam. This was followed by Bogmoriles Mill situated on David Street in 1832, Barrowclough Mill in 1850, and the original Berry's Mill. This pace of change gathered momentum through the later part of the nineteenth century and continued into the 20th century. Holmefield Mill affectionately known locally as Sam Holden's was one of the last mills built (1908) and the new warehouse complex added in the late 1970's was the last textile building built in Barrowford.



The textile industry saw its zenith just prior to the First World War and by the mid 1920's had started to slip into a slump with many long established firms disappearing altogether during the depression of the 1930's. The Second World War saw a temporary reprieve but by the 1950's a terminal decline had set in. Most textiles manufacturing concerns either amalgamated or were taken over by large conglomerates and with the globalisation of trade most firms closed British factories as production moved overseas. The last large employer, Coates Viyella (Sam Holden's) closed their Barrowford Mill in the 1980's whilst the smaller Vale Weavers Mill soldiered on into the new millennium.

Population & Housing

Barrowford Booth which included Blacko was second only to Colne in population during the first half of the nineteenth century having 2875 people living within the Booth in 1851 whilst Nelson was a sleepy hamlet. Population grew steadily through the second half of the nineteenth century due to the ever increasing size of mills being built in the village and by 1891 had reached 4776 including Blacko and by 1911 this had reached 5527 exclusive of Blacko. This led to a housing boom with most of the new terraced houses being built either by the mill owners or private enterprise to satisfy the accommodation needs of the mill workers. These new houses were mostly 'two up two down' properties with back yards and a great improvement on the 'one up one down' back-to-back houses built in the first half of the nineteenth century. Some of the back to back properties housed families of over 10 in just two rooms.

Following on the modernisation and improvement of living accommodation Barrowford Urban District Council acquired land at Oaklands Farm for a new council housing estate. Building was begun in the late 1940's and completed by mid 1950's this provided affordable larger properties to rent in the village. Again during the 1960's a large scale slum clearance programme was undertaken, which saw the demolition of all of the older part of the village known as 'the square' these small back-to-back terraces were replaced with modern flats built in blocks with open areas between. This phase of the village's development has been called council vandalism as this wholesale clearance deprived the village of a large swathe of old historic property. With hindsight modern design and building techniques could have turned these dwellings into small affordable properties with the bonus of being an asset as a tourist attraction of modern Barrowford.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who completed and returned the questionnaires and made it possible to draw up this plan. We are especially grateful to all the residents who have been involved in the public discussion sessions and the initial launch meeting.

We particularly thank the members of the Parish Plan Steering Group:

Tony Beckett
Linda Crossley
Jeff Gibson
Rev. John Hallows
Iain Lord (Secretary)
Susan Nike (Publicity)
John Pope (Chairman)
Mick Simpson
Christopher Webster

Barbara Clarke
Shelagh Derwent
Bill Gott
Philip Later (Web site)
Eileen Murray
Brenda Norcross
Joyce Sage
Jacqueline Walsh
David Wilkinson

We are particularly grateful to Barrowford Parish Council for their financial support and the regular use of their meeting room at the Parish Offices. Also the time and energy of the Parish Clerk (Iain Lord) in handling the significant amount of administration and communication work involved in the development of this Parish Plan.

Grateful thanks to Mark Chappelhow and the team at Community Futures, Fulwood for their continued support and financial assistance.

For more information on the Parish Plan contact:

Barrowford Parish Council

55 Gisburn Road,

Barrowford, BB9 8ND

Tel: 01282 661358

or email at

barrowfordparish@gisburnrd.plus.com

Or visit the Barrowford Parish Plan website at:

[www.pendlelife.co.uk/roundabout/opencms/directory/
community_associations/barrowfordparishplan](http://www.pendlelife.co.uk/roundabout/opencms/directory/community_associations/barrowfordparishplan)

Designed and printed by BwD Services CiC : 01254 583957