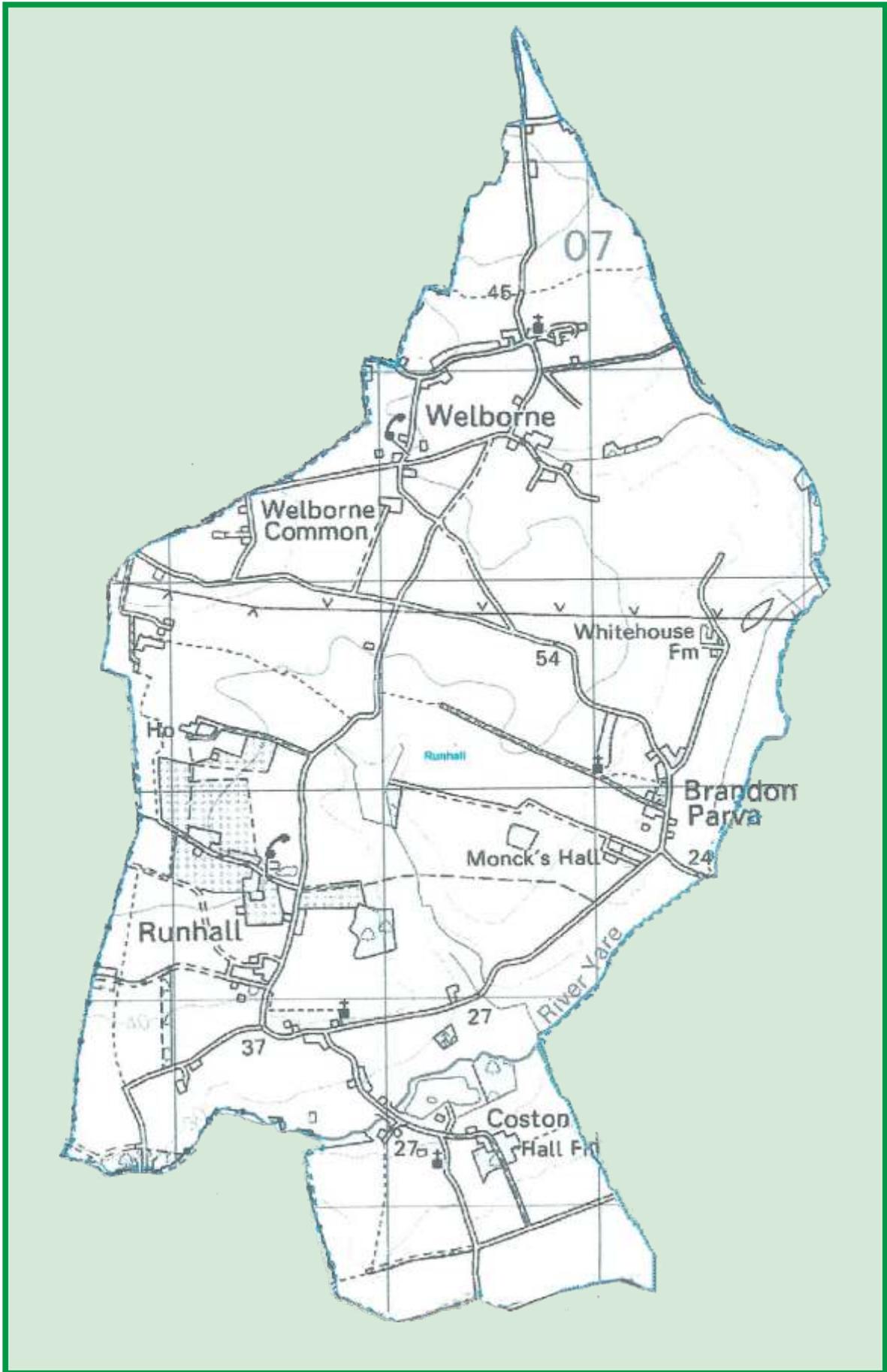


Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall
and Welborne

Parish Plan Report



SPRING 2015



The Parish of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne

In 2012, the Parish Council decided to ask for volunteers to undertake a Community-led survey identifying facilities, services, problems, characteristics and features distinctive to the Parish, by formally recording the issues and concerns of the residents of the Parish, thus allowing the Parish Council to have an action plan which would:-

- Make sure local concerns were recorded and prioritised for when decisions had to be made
- Give the Parish Council a clear idea of what residents do **and do not** want
- Give the Parish Council evidence to influence South Norfolk Council, the County Council and other bodies
- Assist other local groups by providing documented proof of local need

The survey was constructed and distributed to all residents of our four villages in May and June of 2014 and collected by the following month. What follows is a summary of the replies and a series of actions which the Parish Council will carry out.

The PARISH COUNCIL wishes to place on record its thanks to the volunteers in the Parish Plan Working Group for their enthusiasm, commitment and time spent on crafting the questionnaire, collecting the questionnaire, analysing the results and drafting a splendid Parish Plan Report. The project would never have taken place without them. We, as the Parish Council, now need to do justice to the action plans in the report. The volunteers were:-

Stephanie Austin
Jackie Cooper
Brian & Margot Hancock
Mike Webb

The survey was financed by grants for this specific purpose from:-

Norfolk Community Foundation and
South Norfolk Council



SUMMARY

Number of households to which questionnaires were delivered	153
Questionnaires collected	121
Empty houses	10
Not returned - serious illness / incapacity	5
Not returned after 3 attempts to collect	14
Returned but not completed	3
Total	153

This equates to a return rate of 90% of potential returns.

(following figures are based on the number of returned questionnaires)

1. ABOUT YOUR HOUSEHOLD

Where do you live?

Brandon Parva	17	households
Coston	5	households
Runhall	47	households
Welborne	52	households

Our population by age -

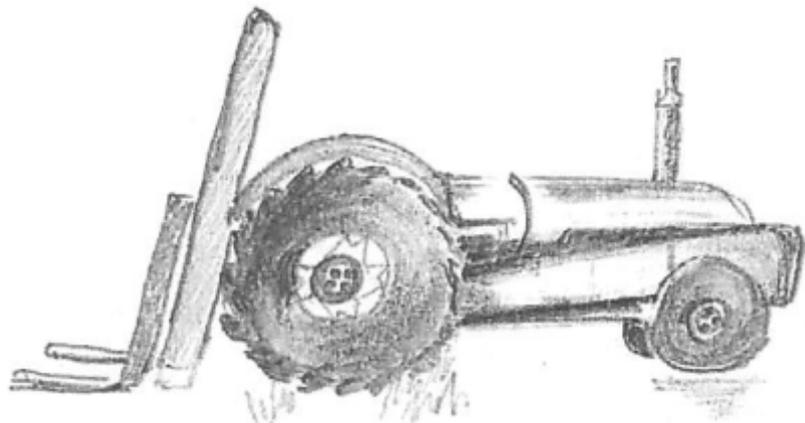
4 & under	15	It was not a surprise that the people living in our villages were predominately older (due to the cost of our housing and the relative lack of employment / leisure activities locally). An exception to this demographic was Coston which had only 3 residents over the age of 49 years.
5-10	15	
11-18	29	
19-35	38	
36-49	52	
50-65	84	
66-79	50	
80+	14	
Total	297 residents	

2. THE PARISH

- The majority of those returning questionnaires were aware of the name of at least one Parish Councillor. However 37 households did not know of any. Over 50% of our respondents did not know how the money raised for Parish Council use (via council tax) was spent. Approximately 66% of respondents would be in favour of buying land etc. for Parish use even if it led to a small increase in the Parish Precept element of the Council Tax.

Communication from the Parish Council to parishioners was believed to have improved with the inclusion of the insert in the Church Newsletter delivered to Brandon Parva, Coston & Runhall. In Welborne communication was generally stated as being via the village postal system and notice board. The Parish website was not well known or used by villagers outside of Welborne.

- There was little knowledge of or communication with both the District Council(lors) or County Council(lors).
- “Are you happy with the four villages remaining as the one, present parish?”
There was some evidence that Welborne felt isolated from the other three villages because it has different allocated schools and is in a different group of churches. Quite a few Welborne respondents wanted their children to come under the catchment area of Barnham Broom Primary School and then feed into Wymondham High. (N.B. South Norfolk / Breckland are not responsible for the allocation of children to schools even though our Council Tax is collected by them - this is the responsibility of the County Council). There was also some suggestion from Brandon Parva, Coston and Runhall respondents that they felt more a part of Barnham Broom than Welborne.



3. SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

Generally, Welborne residents knew about Welborne Village Hall and its activities and utilised its facilities, but the response from the other villages was mixed - other villages do not automatically receive the flyers advertising events. This ratio was also reflected in the spread of use by the different villages residents.

Welborne residents only were asked if they would like to receive further dissemination of Church information - there was no real positive response to this suggestion.

There was no enthusiasm for:-

Good Neighbours Scheme

Neighbourhood Watch

or

The establishment of any community-based groups

(but, c/f short/medium plans at the end of this document)

The play area in Runhall - there was some reported use with no evidence of parking problems. There was good evidence that Welborne residents would welcome a new play area in Welborne for the use of residents' children and grandchildren.

There was an element of support for the establishment of a Parish youth club and an under 2s toddlers group.

Residents appear not to be interested in acquiring an allotment except for households in Runhall, where there was also some evidence that more access to fishing and a bowling green would be welcomed.



4. SERVICES

The results, surprisingly, revealed that 12 households were not on mains water. 6 households reported that they were on mains sewerage.

Approximately 30 households reported problems with blocked ditches and frequent flooding was reported in:-

Candlestick

Flood Lane

Blackhorse Road / Lane, Runhall

The lowest point in Runhall - under the railway bridge

The Green, Runhall

The allotment area in Runhall

Pound Lane, Welborne

Common Road, Welborne

School Lane, Welborne

Church Road, Welborne

Burnthouse Lane, Welborne

Welborne Common

There was a mixed response to the questions asking about electricity bulk-buying, a wind turbine and a solar farm, but overall the Parish was marginally in favour of looking at the possibility of a bulk electricity scheme and a community wind turbine.

Only 8 households reported that they did not have their own transport. There was little support for the provision of a community transport scheme and few volunteers to operate one. If there was a regular bus service (i.e. not a Flexibus) from Welborne to Wymondham, Dereham and Norwich, there would, potentially, be support.

There appeared to be no significant support for any peripatetic retail services, however the wet fish van extending its round, window cleaning and knife sharpening were mentioned several times.

As regards the internet, only 11 households are without it, and the majority of those with the internet are with B.T. There was some support for an internet bulk buying facility. By a significant majority, residents described their TV reception as good or fair but mobile reception was classed as fair to poor. There was a solid majority in favour of more transmitters in the Parish.

Generally, residents were happy with the distribution, timing and frequency of their postal services.

The mobile library was only used by 20 households and there was no call for extra stopping places.

As regards the questions on the Police, the replies can be summed up by the phrase "what Police?" However there is no real support for an increase in Police activity, although several households suggested that a police car driving through all the villages on an ad hoc basis would be welcomed.



5. LAND & ENVIRONMENT

There was much support for our footpaths. Overwhelmingly residents stated that they were welcome, although some problems with them were specified. Residents complained that footpath signs in Welborne had been removed and in one instance replaced by a “private” sign. Many residents cited that footpaths were overgrown or not maintained, there was glass and metalwork on footpaths in Runhall and that in some instances footpaths had been ploughed up and crops deliberately grown on them making access difficult. As over 90% of our residents stated that they used footpaths, action on this issue would appear to be of great importance.

The provision of waste bins, recycling bins and litter bins were generally all thought to be in appropriate places and in good condition. Residents stated that generally road signage was fair but that road signs were often vandalised or damaged and there was some comment that they were in the wrong place or actually missing. Residents replies were split 50:50 as to whether dog bins were needed.

There was no support throughout the Parish for the provision of street lights.

The number of trees within the Parish was thought to be acceptable as we are a rural area. However, some residents expressed the view that large trees ought to be kept in check and, if removed, should be replaced.

Hedges were reported as being generally well kept, safe and did not present a driving hazard. However there were several comments about overgrown hedges on Church Lane, Mattishall Road and Horseshoe Road in Welborne. Residents also complained of debris left on roads.

The condition of road verges was believed to cause no problem apart from bends and junctions where the issue of safety was raised.

There were many complaints of cars etc driving too fast all over the Parish, particularly mentioned were:-

Church Lane, Welborne

Church Road, Welborne

Welborne Common

East Green, Runhall

School Lane, Runhall

and

the whole length of Mattishall Road, Welborne, right through to Barnham Broom.

There were no parking problems specified by residents apart from the Runhall Play Area, by the Church & Village Hall in Welborne and by the Church in Runhall.

6. DEVELOPMENT

There was generally no support for the establishment of commercial and retail development and only very limited support for further agricultural development. There was a 50:50 ratio split (yes / no) in terms of the development of community facilities.

In terms of residential development, there was some support for the development of low cost housing and retirement bungalows. In terms of Housing Association and sheltered housing, very little support. There was approximately 50% support for in-fill but many residents qualified their support by stating that it would depend what was proposed and where it was to be sited. Throughout the Parish there was almost no support for residential park homes and (holiday) camp sites.

A few families are in need of low cost housing available only for **local** residents and several residents stated that rental accommodation was needed.

7. AND FINALLY

The following comment by one resident would appear to summarise the general, positive feeling expressed by many of our residents.

“... It’s a lovely area to live in - mostly safe and clean. It may require more facilities for some but the towns are not far away and I LOVE it just the way it is! ...”

(All comments made by more than one resident, will appear on the statistics document which will be available to download from the Parish website in the Spring of 2015).

As a direct result of the findings of the survey, the Parish Council will undertake the following action.

In the SHORT TERM

- Publish and distribute a list of and contact details of Parish Councillors and relevant District and County Councillors
- To make all residents more aware of the Parish Council website and what information is included on it.
- To contact Welborne Village Hall events committee to inform them of the lack of knowledge of their activities by the residents of Brandon Parva, Coston and Runhall
- To contact the County Council to ascertain the possibility of a regular bus service from Welborne to Wymondham, Dereham and Norwich (or other destinations)
- To contact the Chief Constable to request a heightened Police presence throughout the Parish on an ad hoc basis
- To contact the Ramblers Association to ask for a meeting to discuss issues with our footpaths
- To include in the next newsletter a request for specific information concerning missing, damaged and vandalised road signs
- To include in the next newsletter a request for anyone with, or thinking of making available, property for rental to contact the Parish Council

In the MEDIUM TERM

- To act on further issues, information etc arising from Short Term objectives
- In the light of the survey results and also possible changes to All Saints Church, Welborne, to contact the P.C.C. to inform them that some Welborne residents would like to receive further dissemination of the Church's activities
- To investigate the possibility of acquiring land for Parish use and later ascertain for what activities this could be used
- To undertake to make residents more aware of how Parish Council money is received and how it is spent, including publishing annual accounts
- To look further into the establishment of community-based groups
- To look into the possibility of establishing a new play area in Welborne
- To look into the possibility of establishing a Parish youth club and an under 2s toddlers group
- To investigate the viability of an electricity bulk buying scheme
- To ask for volunteers to be Footpath Wardens - to monitor the on-going condition of our footpaths throughout the Parish and advise the Parish Council when action is required
- To ask for volunteers to be Hedge Wardens - to monitor the on-going condition of our hedges throughout the Parish and advise the Parish Council when action is required

In the **LONG TERM**

- To act on further issues, information etc arising from Short Term and Medium Term objectives
- To ask the County Council to review the schools catchment area for Welborne residents
- To advise the County Council about flooding and the poor state of ditches in many parts of the Parish
- To look into the possibility of a Community Wind Turbine
- To look into the possibility of the provision of extra transmitters for mobile phone networks in order to improve our poor reception
- To contact Highways to inform them of the high level of complaints re. footpaths throughout the Parish
- To ask South Norfolk Council to consider sending out to new residents via Council Tax notification, important, necessary etc Parish information
- To inform Highways of residents concerns about speeding throughout the Parish especially in the light of a total lack of pavements and street lights - especially mentioned was the road from Mattishall through to Barnham Broom
- To attempt to solve the problem of parking in Welborne by the Village Hall and Church

APPENDIX

In November 2014 the Head Teacher at Barnham Broom School allowed us to speak to all the Year 3s in the School who lived within our Parish. They were asked two questions viz.

What activities do you undertake / have you undertaken outside of School and where?

What activities would you like to be available near to where you live?

The children reported that they attend / have attended:-

- Brownies
- Beavers
- Gymnastics / Athletics at the U.E.A.
- Football at Swanton Morley & Carrow Road
- Fishing in Welborne
- Swimming at Barnham Broom Golf & Country Club and Wymondham Leisure Centre

They all agreed that they would like a club to be established locally, meeting either weekly or a couple of times a month. The activities they would like to be offered at this club would include Minecraft (computer-based logic game), pool / snooker and dancing.

We tried to undertake the same exercise at Mattishall Primary School but this was impossible to arrange.

