

# **Hodnet Parish Council**



**Hodnet, Marchamley/  
Peplow & Wollerton**

## **Hodnet Community Led Five Year Plan**

**2016 - 2020**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Use of the term “Hodnet” in the Plan.

The Hodnet Community Led Plan includes Hodnet together with Marchamley, Wollerton and Peplow. Whenever this plan alludes to "Hodnet" it is intended to represent all the communities within the parish and is used for the sake of brevity.

## 1.2 Relationship between the Community Led Plan and the SAMDEV.

The Shropshire Site Allocations and Development Management (SAMDEV) Plan sets out the proposals for the use of land and policies to guide future development for the period up to 2026. The SAMDEV Plan has been through an exhaustive consultation process and is in the final stages of acceptance as the principal means to deliver the vision and objectives of the Shropshire Core Strategy.

Hodnet is included in the SAMDEV where it sets out the additional development planned to 2026, the site allocations and the development boundaries. The Hodnet Community Led Plan will provide additional detail that combined with the SAMDEV and the Core Strategy will collectively represent the development plan for determining planning applications.

The criteria laid down for the development of Neighbourhood Development Plans are very strict and complex, and in view of this, Shropshire Council is also promoting the development of robust Community Led Plans as an acceptable and viable alternative. While the Community Led Plan does not represent a Neighbourhood Plan under the provisions of the Localism Act; Shropshire County Council has recognised that the Community Led Plan may be adopted by as additional detail to be incorporated into the formal planning process.

*In Shropshire, the Council is committed to the principles behind neighbourhood planning, but recognises that a lighter touch approach may be appropriate for many communities in the county. Therefore, Shropshire Council is also promoting Community Led Plans as an alternative. A robust community engagement and consultation process is required, but there is no independent examination or referendum. The Plan will then be taken forward in to the Place Plan, which is a material planning consideration. Where the Community Led Plan involves specific land use planning content, such as a town design statement, Shropshire Council will seek to adopt this and use it to help decide planning applications as a material planning consideration.*

*Extract from the Shropshire Community Planning Guide*

In Shropshire a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been introduced on all new build developments. The Levy is to ensure that development contributes to the cost of infrastructure required to support development. The CIL can contribute to a widespread range of infrastructure such as sports facilities, road schemes, health centres and schooling amongst other things. As a parish Hodnet will have to identify local infrastructure needs and their priority (critical or priority). This Community Led Plan provides the supporting evidence and public support for the local infrastructure objectives.

### 1.3 Record of Community Involvement in Preparation of Community Led Plan

18 Sep 14	Public Meeting Lyon Hall
16 Oct 14	Formation of Focus Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review Previous Parish Plan</li><li>- Collate 2011 Census material</li></ul>
27 Nov 14	Focus Group Meeting
13 Jan 15	Focus Group Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Preparation for Community Survey</li></ul>
29 Jan 15	Brief Nicola Fisher Senior Community Enablement Officer, North Shropshire on progress
27 Feb 15	Parish Council briefed on progress and presented with draft survey form for comment
24 Mar 15	Focus Group Meeting
28 Apr 15	Focus Group Meeting to agree final draft survey form
7 May 15	Parish Council agree draft survey
1 June 15	600 survey forms posted to all households in Hodnet Parish Survey forms also available on-line for completion
30 June 15	Survey forms collected (Village shop, post office etc). 25% response level from households
Jul/Aug 15	Collection of data and interpretation of information collated
15 Sep 15	Focus Group agree results of survey
17 Sep 15	Parish Council presented with findings of survey for incorporation into Community Led Plan  Preparation of Community Led Plan. Liaison with Focus Group
29 Oct 15	Distribution to Parish Council for review and comment  Presentation of Plan Public Meeting/Distribution of Plan
14 Jan 16	Parish Council agreed Hodnet Community Led Plan

### 1.4 Brief History of Hodnet

Hodnet's name has Celtic origins derived from the Welsh *hawdd* meaning pleasant or peaceful and *nant*, a glen or valley. Hodnet was recorded in the *Domesday Book* as Odenett. Evidence of a Bronze Age burial site was discovered during the construction of the by-pass in 2002. The Anglo-Saxon settlement which had a chapel was the centre of Odenet, a royal manor belonging to Edward the Confessor and held by Roger de Montgomery who

supported William the Conqueror after 1066. Baldwin de Hodenet built the motte and bailey castle in around 1082 possibly on a moated mound from earlier times. The timber castle was rebuilt in sandstone around 1196 and burned down in 1264. Hodnet Castle was mentioned in a document of 1223. Odo de Hodnet was granted the right to hold a weekly fair and an annual market by Henry III in the mid-13th century and the village grew to the north and east of the castle by the 12th-century church.

In 1752 the estate passed from the Vernons, who had lived there for 250 years to the Hebers whose descendants still own the property. Hodnet Old Hall was a timber-framed manor house surrounded by the park which was recorded on Christopher Saxton's Map of Shropshire in the late 16th century. The old hall was demolished in 1870 when a new hall in the neo-Elizabethan style was built. The gardens were developed in the 1920s.

In the 20th century the hall was used as a convalescent hospital during the world wars and in World War II there was an airfield in the grounds for the storage and dispersal of aircraft from RAF Ternhill and RAF Shawbury.

## **1.5 Governance**

An Anglo-Saxon hundred, recorded in the '*Domesday Book*, met at *Odenet* and the village's 17th-century Hundred House was named for this reason. The hundred was merged after the Norman Conquest into the Hundred of North Bradford in Shropshire.

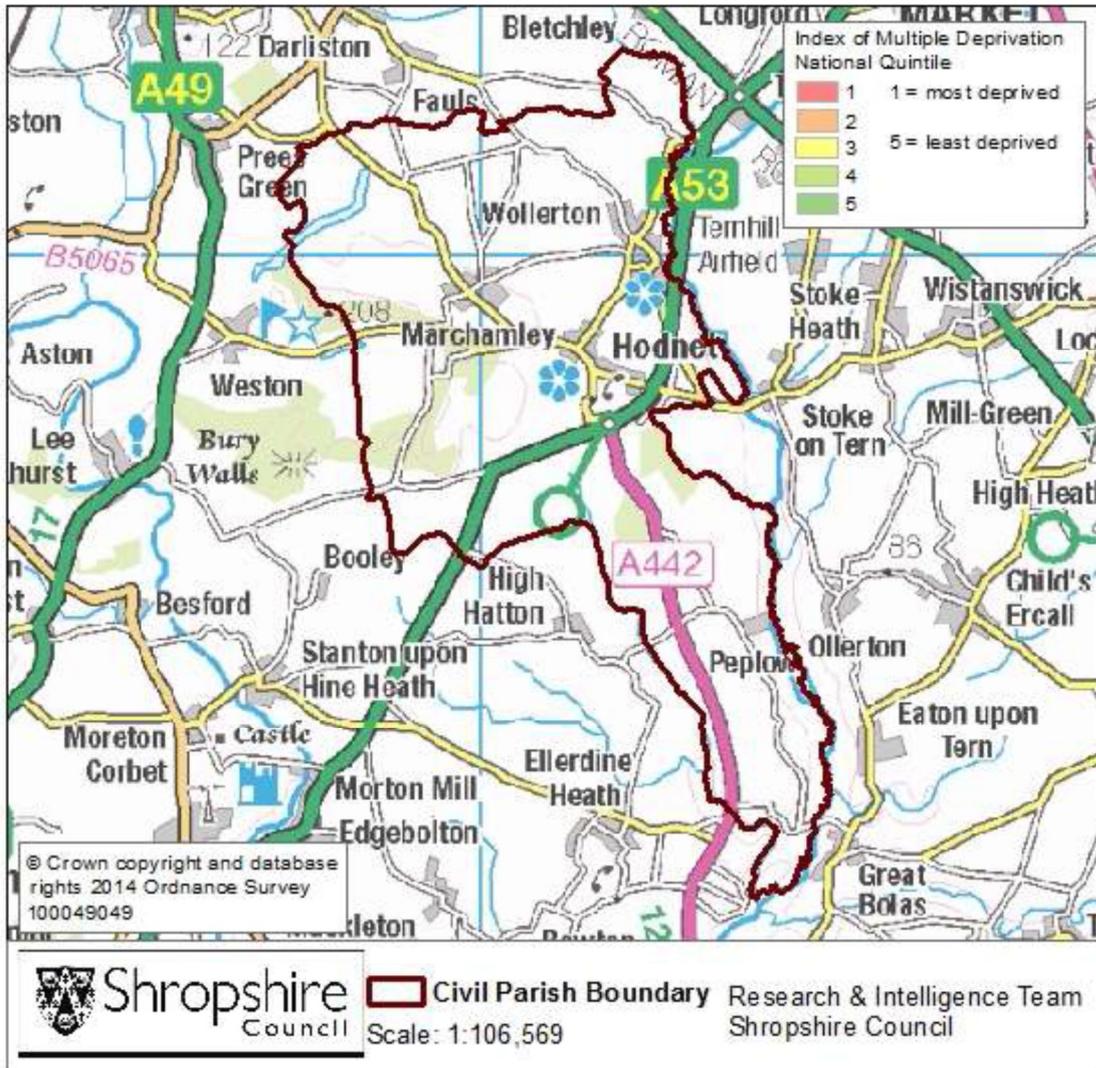
Hodnet was the centre of a large ecclesiastical parish containing the hamlets of Little Bolas, Hawkstone, Hopton, Kenstone, Losford, Marchamley, Peplow, and Wollerton and the chapelries of Weston-under-Redcastle and Wixhill. Under the terms of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834, it was part of the Drayton Poor Law Union, electing two members to its Board of Guardians. Hodnet has had a parish council since 1895.

Shropshire Council, is the Unitary authority is responsible for local government services in Hodnet. The village is in the North Shropshire parliamentary constituency.

## 2. SOCIAL & ECONOMIC PROFILE OF HODNET

### 2.1 2011 Census Details

The social and economic profile of Hodnet and the subsequent conclusions are principally based upon the 2011 census. See the map below for parish boundary.

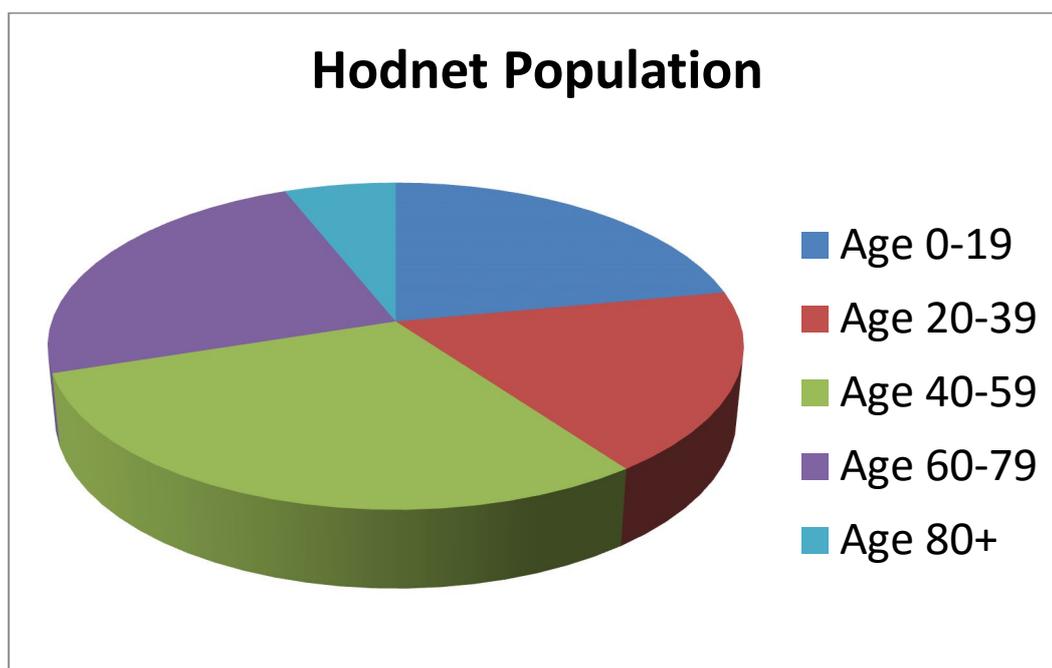


## 2.2 Population

The size of the population (2011 census) is 1534 people compared to 1476 (2001 census) an increase of 58 people (+4%). The population increase for Shropshire as a whole was 8.1%.

The population profile highlights are:

- Early years: 5.3% (81 children) of the population were aged 0 to 4 years in March 2011. This compares with 5.1% at County level, 6.3% regionally and 6.3% nationally.
- School age: 15.7% (241 children) of the population were aged 5 to 17 years in March 2011. This compares with 14.9% at County level, 15.8% regionally and 15.1% nationally.
- Working age: 57.8% (886 people) of the population were aged 18 to 64 years in March 2011. This compares with 59.3% at County level, 61.0% regionally and 62.3% nationally.
- Retirement age: 21.3% (326 people) of the population were aged 65 and over in March 2011. This compares with 20.7% at County level, 16.9% regionally and 16.3% nationally.
- Over 85 year olds: 2.8% (43) of the population were aged 85 and over in March 2011. This compares with 2.7% at County level, 2.2% regionally and 2.2% nationally.



## Population Age Structure

	Total Population	% of Total Population			
		Hodnet	Shropshire	West Midlands	England
All ages	1534	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 – 4	81	5.3	5.1	6.3	6.3
5 – 9	83	5.4	5.1	5.8	5.6
10 – 14	99	6.5	5.9	6.1	5.8
15 – 19	76	5.0	6.2	6.6	6.3
20 – 24	47	3.1	5.4	6.8	6.8
25 – 29	50	3.3	5.1	6.5	6.9
30 – 34	78	5.1	5.0	6.1	6.6
35 – 39	100	6.5	5.8	6.4	6.7
40 – 44	106	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.3
45 – 49	115	7.5	7.7	7.2	7.3
50 – 54	119	7.8	6.9	6.3	6.4
55 – 59	119	7.8	6.6	5.7	5.7
60 – 64	135	8.8	7.3	6.0	6.0
65 – 69	102	6.6	6.2	5.0	4.7
70 – 74	61	4.0	4.9	4.0	3.9
75 – 79	71	4.6	3.8	3.2	3.1
80 – 84	49	3.2	2.9	2.4	2.4
85 – 89	24	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.5
90 Plus	19	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.8

Areas of further note are:

- The age groups years 20 – 29 the numbers for Hodnet (97 people) are around 3% of the population compared to 5% for Shropshire and nearly 7% nationally.
- The age group bands years 55-64 the numbers for Hodnet (254 people) comprises over 8% of the population where nationally the figures are 6%.
- The age group 65-69 (6.6%) are also above Shropshire (6.2%), West Midlands (5.0%) and national averages (4.7%)

It could be observed, therefore, that Hodnet is not retaining those leaving secondary or tertiary education or those starting work in their twenties are moving and living elsewhere. The social, work and recreational needs of this economically important age band will need attention. However, it can be seen that Hodnet has an ageing population that requires appropriate housing and health resources to be provided.

### **2.3 Housing Data**

In 2011 there were some 620 dwellings in Hodnet housing comprising 591 households (570 in 2001) with 29 vacant dwellings. Typically, the properties are mostly detached (312) or semi-detached (247) with some terraced housing (45).

## Housing Data:

- 190 households were owner occupiers (owned outright) equating to 32.1% of all households. There were 189 households (32.0%) who owned their home with a mortgage or loan.
- There were 93 households (15.7% of all households) that privately rented their home from a landlord. There were also 16 households (2.7% of all households) who privately rented from a landlord classified as 'Other'.
- 5 households were renting social housing from the Council totalling 0.8% of all households. There were also 74 households (12.5%) renting social housing from 'Other' sources.
- In Hodnet there were 312 detached dwellings representing 50.3% of all dwellings. There were also 247 semi-detached and 45 terraced dwellings equating to 39.8% and 7.3% respectively.
- 10.2% of all households were one-person pensioner households.
- 28.9% of households in the area had dependent children. The number of married couple households with dependent children was 115 and the number of cohabiting couples with dependent children was 20.
- There were 24 lone parent households (with dependent children), which equates to 4.1% of all households.

The proportion of terraced housing and flatted properties (9%) in Hodnet is very low compared to Shropshire as a whole (27%). This could suggest that there is a shortage of smaller properties which should be noted with regard to start up homes and the ageing population.

## 2.4 Economic Activity

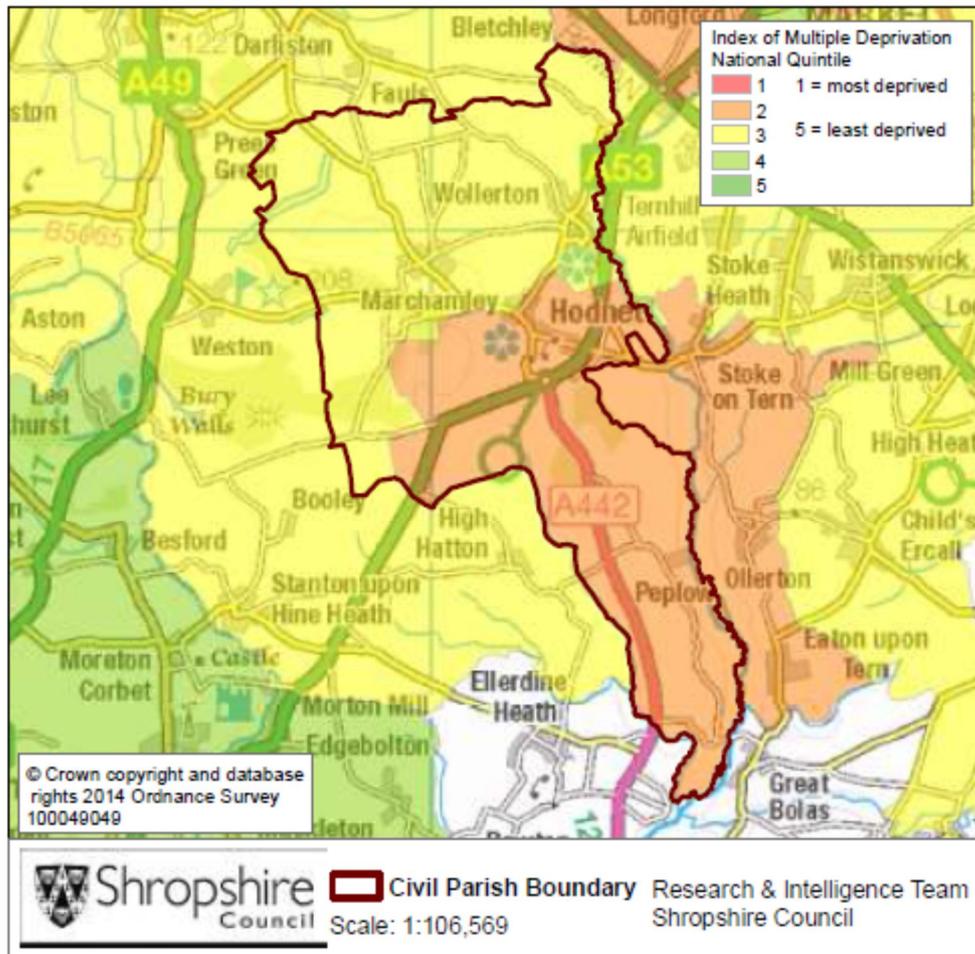
Of the resident population aged 16 to 74 (the banding used by both 2001 & 2011 census) a total of 74.1% were economically active; this was an increase of 6% over the 2001 figures and above the Shropshire economic activity rate of 71%. Economically active includes: in employment, self-employed, unemployed or a full-time student. Unemployment is low at 30 people long-term (2.8%) and 23 full-time students (2.1%). While this is a very positive picture it must be noted that Hodnet and portion of the Parish to the south (including Peplow) are considered to be areas of multiple deprivation (Quintile 2 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being most deprived). See Diagram Index of Multiple Deprivation

It may be concluded that while economically active that this may well be an area where low wages affect a significant portion of the working population.

### Car Ownership

The 2011 Census showed that 93% of households owned one or more cars and some 42 households (7%) did not own a car and subsequently are reliant on other forms of transport such as public transport services.

## Index of Multiple Deprivation



The lower super output areas that cover Hodnet Parish fall within Quintiles 2 and 3 nationally. Quintile 1 is the most deprived nationally and Quintile 5 the least deprived nationally. *Source: IMD 2010, Department for Communities and Local Government, @ Crown Copyright 2014*

### **2.5 Labour Market**

Hodnet enjoys a high level of employment with 30 residents who were unemployed but available for work (2.8%) compared to 3.3% for Shropshire. A significant portion of the working community (19.3%) of the population in Hodnet is self-employed; 11.8% work from home compared with 5.6% for Shropshire.

Some 43.3% of the population work in standard occupation classifications 1-3 (managers, directors and senior officials, professional, associate professional and technical) and 17.5% work in standard occupation classifications 8 and 9 (process, plant and machine operatives and elementary occupations).

Hodnet economically active portion of the population that work from home is double that of the county average in percentage terms. Given also some 20% of the community are self-employed it would suggest that there is a need for infrastructure support. Communication is critical and thus the elements of improved mobile phone coverage, an increase in broadband speeds are required for this community. Also with high numbers travelling to work the opportunity to work from home or to set up a form of local business environment should be an objective of the Community Led Plan.

## 2.6 Community Health

At the time of the 2011 Census 46% of people in Hodnet said that they felt they were in "Very Good Health", this compares directly to 46% for Shropshire as a whole. Some 0.9% reported that they were in "Very Bad Health". This is slightly less than the overall result for Shropshire (1%).

With regard to those with long term illness or disability then 10% said that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot. This is higher than the figure for Shropshire as a whole and at of 9% for England and Wales. The percentage who reported their day-to-day activities were limited a little was 10% which is in line with the Shropshire figure of 10%.

At the time of the Census 8% of the community said that they were providing 1 to 19 hours of unpaid care a week. This is slightly higher than the Shropshire figure of 7%. Some 2% said they provided between 20 and 49 hours per unpaid care which is slightly higher than the Shropshire figure of 1%. Finally, 2% said they provided over 50 hours of unpaid care. This is in line with the figure for Shropshire as a whole (2%) and the figure for England & Wales (2%).

Hodnet's population (80%) has good or very good health and 6% of the people state that their health is bad (5%) or very bad (1%). Nevertheless, with an ageing population the use of unpaid care to support family and friends is likely to increase. The maintenance of an effective medical centre within Hodnet is critical to the health and welfare of this rural community.

### 3. VISION & OBJECTIVES FOR HODNET

#### 3.1 Vision for Hodnet

The vision for Hodnet has been articulated in the 2012/13 Market Drayton Place Plan, reviewed annually and is still considered as valid today.

#### *The Vision for Hodnet*

*A sustainable and vibrant community that seeks to maintain its existing social and economic infrastructure while encouraging investment and further employment opportunities together with the provision of limited housing development in character with the village to meet the needs of local young families and an ageing population.*

#### 3.2 Challenges Facing Hodnet

- **Demography** – an ageing population and lower proportions of adults in their twenties to thirties remaining in the community.
- **Geography** – to retain Hodnet with its character and in particular its important assets such as Hodnet Hall, Wollerton Old Hall, and to preserve the conservation areas.
- **Hodnet Parish** – to ensure that the needs of the residents outside Hodnet, particularly in Marchamley, Wollerton and Peplow are equally addressed.
- **Ability to grow slowly** – while balancing and managing population growth but retaining the character of the village.
- **Housing stock** – a lack of smaller properties, particularly at more affordable values for retirement and single parent families already within the community.
- **Infrastructure** – the pressure on the existing infrastructure network particularly regarding matters such as primary school, surgery, village shop whilst assimilating current housing development.
- **Shrewsbury Street** – to protect the vitality and viability of the village shop, pub, garage and services in Hodnet whilst preserving and enhancing its appearance and the conservation area which is fundamental to the village 'feel'.
- **Employment** – the lack of local employment opportunities and support for the changing ways that people work.
- **Public Transport** – inadequate links with Telford, especially the hospital, limited services to Shrewsbury and Market Drayton in the evening.

### 3.3 Objectives of the Community Led Plan

The objectives of the Community Led Plan as identified through engagement with the community are as follows:

**Objective 1:** To address local needs with regard to housing in terms of tenure, affordability, mix and size.

**Objective 2:** To retain Hodnet as a vibrant village serving its community whilst ensuring any development reflects its character and appearance.

**Objective 3:** To retain and improve the viability of the shops, pub, medical and educational services that provide for the needs of the community.

**Objective 4:** To provide and maintain the social and economic infrastructure of benefit to the community.

**Objective 5:** To address parking issues, speeding and heavy goods vehicles routing through the villages.

**Objective 6:** To seek opportunities and resources for local employment growth.

**Objective 7:** To protect and enhance the quality and appearance of the physical and natural environment.

**The objectives represent the overall direction of the community for the next years to 2020.**

**The ability to deliver these objectives and adopt them as parish council “policy” depends upon a range of essential ingredients:**

- **support from the community**
- **funding at a time where funds are short**
- **participation and volunteers for the activities.**

### 3.4 Key Priorities of Hodnet Parish as Expressed in 2015 Survey

#### 1. Improve Public Transport

- a. Support for community bus (access to transport)
- b. Bus routes: through Marchamley, link to Telford (hospital), later daily service.

## **2. Traffic calming measures**

- a. Speeding Traffic (Marchamley, Hodnet, Peplow)
- b. Parking outside the Hodnet School
- c. HGVs through villages (weight restrictions)

## **3. Improve appearance of Hodnet** (floral decorations, Christmas Tree, landscaping)

## **4. Village Event** (wide support) together with additional community and social activities.

## **5. Housing Development**

- a. All in favour of retaining appearance and character of village
- b. Small majority of respondents in favour of more housing (above that already planned). This group mostly preferred small 2 bedroom houses followed by sheltered housing. They were evenly split between building inside and outside development boundaries.
- c. Some support for light business development.

## **6. Provision of support for young people**

- a. Recreational activities
- b. IT support for primary school
- c. Improvements to playground, additional sports facilities

## **7. Communications improvements** (broadband and mobile phone coverage) issue for many.

## **8. Support for community centres and activity**

- a. Adult education computer classes
- b. Social activities for the elderly

## **9. Support for the environment** (more footpaths, statutory access to old railway line, more dog litter bins, convert lights to energy saving)

## 4. HOUSING

### Context

- 4.1 Hodnet has been identified as a Community Hub within the SAMDev and is expected to accommodate a level of growth over the planning period.

### **SAMDEV S11.2(v) Hodnet (SITE ALLOCATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT) 17 Mar 2014**

*Hodnet is a community hub with a housing guideline of around 80 additional dwellings over the period to 2026. This will be delivered through the development of the allocated sites together with development by infilling, groups of houses and conversions which may be acceptable on suitable sites within the development boundary identified on the policies map.*

- 4.2 In 2011 the population was assessed as over 1500 people; this number will have increased marginally with 14 houses on a development in Station Road together with additional fill-in houses. A further housing development has been agreed at Abbots Way with some 44 houses planned (3 to 4 bedrooms).
- 4.3 In the Parish survey carried out over summer 2015 there was a small majority amongst respondents (the view of 50%) that were in favour of more housing development with some supporting development outside the established boundaries. Of these in favour of supporting further housing this was equally divided between the need for between 1 to 2 houses and above 20 houses required over the next 15 year period. (Those against further housing were excluded from this question.)
- 4.4 The expressed housing needs can be summarised as:
- Affordable Housing, smaller properties particularly for first-time buyers.
  - Retirement homes or sheltered housing, typically two bedrooms, appropriate for older person's needs
  - Some support for housing outside of the development boundary if necessary
  - Some support for family 3 bedroom (or more) houses

Specifically, the housing needs to relate to realising a number of smaller market properties and to provide affordable housing particularly for retirement and for starter/first buyer homes. The community would wish to be involved in the shape and provision of such homes for those who find it difficult to access housing on the open market.

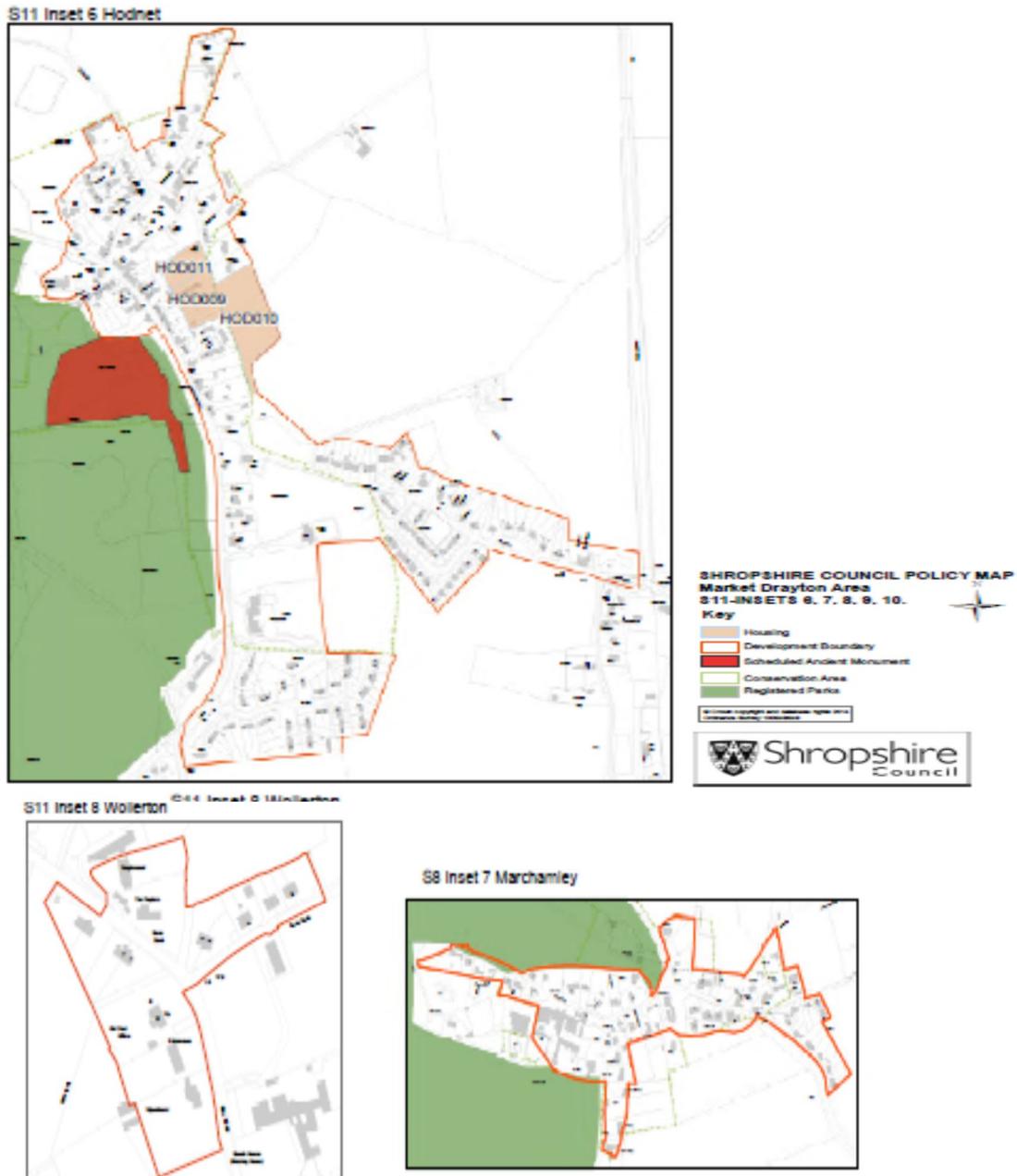
<p><b>Policy Objective 1:</b> To address local needs with regard to housing in terms of tenure, affordability, mix and size.</p>
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- 4.5 There was widespread opinion amongst all, including both those that supported further growth or those that did not, that it was important to maintain the appearance and current feel of the parish as a place to live in. There are a significant number of historic buildings within Hodnet itself, reflected by the Conservation Area designation. Additionally, there are development boundaries established for Hodnet, Marchamley and Wollerton therefore any further development needs to maintain the balance and harmony of the current environment, contribute to affordable housing and be in accordance with both local and national policy.

**Policy Objective 2:** To retain Hodnet as a vibrant village serving its community whilst ensuring any development reflects its character and appearance.

4.6 Hodnet Parish Development Boundaries.

The development boundaries have been extracted from the Shropshire Council Policy map (Market Drayton Area) S11.



## 5. INFRASTRUCTURE

- 5.1 There are key elements within the parish which the community regard as vital to maintaining the existing social and economic infrastructure. There is support for the existing retail elements of village shops in Church Street, the pub and post office, however, there is real concern as to the loss of the butcher's shop, closure of the garage in Shrewsbury Street and what appears as a downward trend in the few shops still available within Hodnet. Requests for further or expanded retail outlets would be viewed favourably provided they meet the normal planning obligations. Some elements of the infrastructure, if funding is required, could potentially be secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) processes.

### Hodnet Medical Practice

- 5.2 The general practitioner (GP) surgery is located on Drayton Road in Hodnet and provides an invaluable service to the community particularly with its walk-in facility available each working day morning. The latter has wide support from patients living in the parish. Parking is available at the adjacent Lyon Hall car park though on occasion there is some congestion. The practice has two doctors available together with regular use of a locum but there is a concern that it is working to its full capacity.
- 5.3 Any future proposed levels of growth, together with the agreed development of Abbots Way (44 houses), will mean further patients using the surgery and will undoubtedly add pressure to the provision of the current very satisfactory level of service. Should the surgery require some restructuring to meet this demand then any application would be viewed favourably subject to the relevant planning policies in order to provide for the community's needs.
- 5.4 A contribution to the overall health of the community through the provision of outside exercise and recreational facilities should also be considered (See Leisure Facilities)

### Hodnet Primary School

- 5.5 The primary school in Hodnet is highly regarded by pupils and parents. With some 150 pupils and some 7 classes it has been graded as "good" by OFSTED. The quality of local education helps to retain families with young children within the immediate local area.
- 5.6 Hodnet Primary School is a key contributor to the quality of life in this community. The increase in housing may will bring additional pupils but the numbers are difficult to judge. Overall educational funding is linked to the number of pupils, however, there is a balance to be had with class sizes and teaching staff.
- 5.7 Support to the school may include IT equipment and improvements to the playground This will have to be monitored in the next period of housing development and thus some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding could be required.

<p><b>Policy Objective 3:</b> To retain and improve the viability of the shops, pub, medical and educational services that provide for the needs of the community.</p>
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### Leisure Facilities

- 5.8 The parish survey identified a variety of demands towards the maintenance and improvement to the following infrastructure items:

- The timber keep-fit trail is in very poor condition and will need replacing with a similar design or alternatively/additionally some outdoor keep-fit equipment suitable for both youth and adult activity. This needs attention in the short-term.
- Children's playground area needs attention with a need to replace and reconsider a number of the playground equipment. This should be considered a priority area for funding.
- Improved sports and training facilities on the recreation ground;
  - In the short term replace some of the current playground equipment and keep-fit trail
  - And long term, the provision of an all-weather surface area for football and cricket (Multi-Use Games Area) may be possible through sports & CIL funds.
- The bridleway and footpath network is a valuable resource which should be extended as far as possible to link the communities within the parish and neighbouring parishes. Improvements to the footpaths with signage and clearing overgrowth is a regular necessity.
- The footpath between Wollerton and Hodnet that utilises the old railway line is currently by permission and because of its importance to the community needs to be incorporated on a statutory basis.
- More use should be made of our existing facilities such as the Lyon Hall; this may require funding in cases of maintenance and improvements but support should be made available to those existing community groups that provide much-needed social contacts for both the young and old.

## **Street Lighting**

- 5.9 The provision of street lighting seems to split opinions in the community; some would prefer that the night sky should not be affected by artificial lighting but others are anxious about security and walking home in the dark. The parish council has tried to balance these two positions wherever possible. Maintenance of numbers of rather tired lamps and their replacements together with the associated electricity usage are a significant cost to the parish precept and thus the community. In some cases, low (height) level lamps will be suitable where they are lighting an access pathway rather than footpath and road.
- 5.10 There is comment from the 2015 Parish Survey and a call to introduce LED lighting. The Parish Council is slowly introducing LED lighting particularly where replacement lamps have failed. While some find the colour not as pleasing as the earlier amber lights, the LED lights produce less light pollution with their more focussed spread and produce a cost saving in electricity consumption. In some cases, their use may not be appropriate due to the distances between some lamp posts where a wider spread of light may be necessary.

## **Bus Routes**

- 5.11 The bus services (Arriva 342/342) between Market Drayton and Telford when they route through Hodnet provide a very limited service. This makes shopping and attendance at the Princess Royal hospital difficult (and some would say impossible) to manage. There is no bus service to Whitchurch or through Marchamley or through Wollerton. There is a regular bus service between Market Drayton and Shrewsbury (Arriva 64) though with some gaps during the day, however, the last bus from

Shrewsbury leaves at 1815. The lack of a later bus was a reason for the Shrewsbury service being considered as inadequate. Following the withdrawal of subsidy there are no bus services on a Sunday. Only 1% use public transport compared to 52% that use a car (some form of car-pooling could be an option to cut individual costs or volunteer drivers).

- 5.12 Some consideration needs to be given to funding a community bus or taxi service. This could assist the elderly with shopping in Market Drayton for example or to provide an evening service to the Maurice Chandler sports centre.

**Policy Objective 4:** To provide and maintain the social and economic infrastructure of benefit to the community.

Communicate concerns to Highways Authority, Arriva and introduce measures to trial community bus or taxi service. Improve recreational facilities.

## **6. HIGHWAYS AND PARKING**

### **Highways**

- 6.1 Hodnet has a number of major routes either through the Parish or adjacent to its boundaries. The A53 runs NE by-passing the village of Hodnet joining the A41 Holyhead road at the Ternhill roundabout. The A442 from Telford meets the A53 just south of Hodnet. Despite the by-pass some heavy vehicles still take the old route through Hodnet and Marchamley joining the A41 adding noise pollution. The roads through Wollerton and to Marchamley are unclassified but often regarded by motorists as if they were still the old A road. These latter roads are no longer treated on the winter programme and can be icy which takes some drivers by surprise.
- 6.2 The principal concern of residents is speeding traffic; this is a particular issue in Hodnet on Shrewsbury Street and Drayton Road. There has been community concern and police effort and mobile speed camera in operation to address this issue particularly adjacent to the Primary School. As there have been no traffic calming measures put in place by Highways Authority within Wollerton and Marchamley the 30 mph speed limits are not enforced by the police. The A442 around Peplow has been the scene of fatalities and while the numbers of houses on the road are limited there is justification for some speed limit along that stretch of road even if it reduces to 50mph. Speeding is not confined to the main roads the link to Weston under Redcastle from Hodnet is also used as “rat run”.
- 6.3 Measures to address these issues will be pursued by the Parish Council in conjunction with the Highways Authority and the police. It is the intention to seek a HGV weight restriction through Hodnet while appreciating that there will be occasions for deliveries to local farms etc. Speed restrictions through Peplow should be addressed together with action with Highways about the speed limits through Wollerton and Marchamley.

### **Parking**

- 6.4 The number of parents driving their children at the start and end of the school day is producing congestion in the immediate vicinity of the Primary school. Additional yellow lines have been added to improve safety and there is an occasional police presence to encourage parents to park sensibly. Despite laudable efforts by the school with leaflets, the unsuccessful introduction of a Park & Stride and encouragement to park near the Hodnet Social Club (off Shrewsbury Street) there is a continuing issue with parking which is cause of widespread irritation within the community.
- 6.5 In the recent parish survey some 50 respondents commented upon this congestion caused by “the school run” with many supporting the introduction of double yellow lines along both sides of the road adjacent to the primary school. There will be a need to consider this issue in conjunction with the Highways Authority and the school. Other areas where parking is often an issue is in Church Street adjacent to the village shop with the conflicting priorities on occasion with church services. A number of possible solutions could be explored to try to ameliorate the problem.
- 6.6 It is recognised that there few easy solutions to the problems of parking and speeding through Hodnet. Getting an HGV weight restriction may well be difficult therefore some

community funding to introduce traffic calming measures may well be appropriate. Proposal could be to improve parking off Shrewsbury Street towards the Hodnet Working Men's Club.

**Policy Objective 5:** To address parking issues, speeding and heavy goods vehicles routing through the villages.

Support traffic calming measures and seek HGV weight restrictions through Hodnet & Marchamley.

## 7. EMPLOYMENT AND LOCAL RESOURCES

- 7.1 Unemployment rates within Hodnet are generally low (2.8%) compared to both Shropshire (3.3%) and a national average over 5%. There are no major employers in the parish and many residents commute out of Hodnet to access employment facilities. The rural aspects also mean that farms and stables provide employment together with nursing homes and carers. Some 19.3% (2011 Census) of the population are self-employed and significant numbers (11.8%) work from home compared with 5.6% for Shropshire.
- 7.2 While there appears to be no active demand at present for sites for commercial or office space which would offer employment or expand home based working they would be given full consideration provided they were in accord with the present planning guidelines and in keeping with the local environment. Within this economic area there is also the need to support existing businesses whether village shop, pub etc. as well as encouraging small business opportunities. This will also help to retain and encourage young families in the area.
- 7.3 A key criticism that has been raised by the community over an extended period of time has been the poor mobile phone coverage in this area of Shropshire and poor broadband speeds. While fibre optic cables are now being introduced into Hodnet it will take some months before this operation is complete. This will still leave some of the more remote locations outside of Hodnet, Marchamley & Wollerton with poor broadband speeds. Given the numbers that work from home this may become an issue exacerbated by higher speeds available to others in the local area. Mobile phone coverage remains an issue.

**Policy Objective 6:** To seek opportunities and resources for local employment growth.

Any development proposal which provides additional employment or an extension of a home based working may be supported subject to meeting other policies within the plan and the SAMDEV Development Management Policies.

To support improved broadband speeds locally and express our continued concerns about lack of mobile coverage in a rural community that has significant numbers of self-employed and home workers reliant on adequate communications.

## 8. ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 Hodnet enjoys a pleasant rural landscape which is highly valued by the community and the need to preserve its character and appearance is expressed regularly by its residents. Equally, those elements that disturb that environment in the form of litter, dog fouling, speeding & noisy traffic are highlighted as being very unwelcome.
- 8.2 When considering the first impressions of both residents and tourists to Hodnet Hall, Old Wollerton Hall etc suggestions have been made to introduce some form of floral displays at entrances to the villages. Over Christmas period it has been suggested that Shrewsbury Street needs cheering up with a village Christmas tree. Others are looking forward to the creation of a village pond that is coupled with a proposed housing development. Some additional seating should be considered for the elderly in both Drayton Road and Shrewsbury Street; ideas for additional locations would be welcome.
- 8.3 Litter is a constant problem for Hodnet; the by-pass, despite efforts, seems to collect plastic bags, fast food containers which cause offence to many. The ability to pick up this litter on a voluntary basis is complicated by speeding traffic and access. Dog fouling on the recreation ground is a particular issue and of real concern to the football teams. Despite notices, waste bins this continues as a problem and disheartening as it is local dog owners causing the problem. The parish council has made contact with Shirehall on this specific problem.
- 8.4 Recycling, particularly with regard to cardboard, is raised regularly. Residents fail to understand why one community gets cardboard collected and others don't. After Shropshire Council withdrew cardboard recycling from Hodnet Working Men's Club (HWMC) the only alternative is a long and expensive trip to the nearest recycling centres at Whitchurch and Shrewsbury. This is a particular difficulty for the elderly in the parish. Consideration will be given again to the provision of lighting near these bins to improve their use during winter evenings.

**Policy Objective 7:** To protect and enhance the quality and appearance of the physical and natural environment.

Any new development proposals should demonstrate how they will protect and enhance the appearance of the area of the development and its surroundings. The quality of the landscape design will be regarded as a significant feature of any new proposal e.g. native trees, hedgerows.