

Draft Review of the Neen Savage Community Led Plan,  
Originally published in September 2014.

The Neen Savage Parish Council initiated a review of the Neen Savage Community Led Plan in October 2021.

This was undertaken by Chris Hardy, Julian Cleford, Michael Tomkinson and Mike Hurley. Additional input was secured from Dorothy McBride.

The approach taken was to

- review the action recommendations developed through the original planning process
- identify actions taken – or otherwise
- consider how this informs any future steps

In overall terms, the Community Led Plan is regarded as being still relevant for Neen Savage today. The overarching wishes and expectations across the community captured in the plan were that parishioners value, and regard as very important, the preservation of the rural nature of the parish. There is a strong desire to see this embraced by the Neen Savage Parish Council when considering developments across the community. This expectation has been fulfilled by the Parish Council since 2014 as they adopted the plan and by Shropshire Council who acknowledged its contents when producing the Cleobury Mortimer Place Plan, which was last reviewed in 2019-2020. The content of the NSCLP was also considered by Shropshire Council when they produced the SAMDEV 2015-2026 (The Shropshire Council Site Allocation and Management of Development).

Broad Content	Commentary
<p><b>Community and Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The road network in Neen Savage has deteriorated since the CLP was published in 2014.</li> <li>b) Larger roads have improved recently but many of the small roads still need more attention and some need improvements to infrastructure, particularly drainage, to solve ongoing problems.</li> <li>c) Roads are responsibility of Shropshire Council. Parishioners are encouraged to keep reporting issues to Shropshire Council through the Fix My Street app. The Parish Council are helping keep water off the roads through the Environmental Maintenance Grant.</li> <li>d) NSPC has identified 6 Ashes Junction as a risk location and has been consulted via Shropshire Council on possibility of extending speed restrictions beyond Cleobury Mortimer boundary, further up B4363.</li> <li>e) The Ford also remains a risk location.</li> <li>f) Parishioners at present seem willing to allow the Parish Council to 'get on' with Parish matters. Occasionally when problems become apparent such as the broadband issues at Detton Mill the affected residents have come forward and reported their problems to the Parish Council. Parishioners attend the PC meetings when there is an item of interest for them.</li> <li>g) The mechanism for Parishioners to raise concerns is there and appears to work well when needed.</li> <li>h) Parish Hall – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Since the plan the real focus has been on the management and maintenance of the building and grounds.</li> <li>ii. Wifi and new technology has been introduced to support the use of the hall by businesses and the Parish Council in particular.</li> <li>iii. The very successful initiative on the new Parish Book was co-ordinated through the committee.</li> <li>iv. The COVID period has not been the right time to push for further new lettings.</li> <li>v. More community events have been organized, these are more on a social footing eg, the Annual Fete, the Scarecrow Competition, Bingo evenings. The PC supports the Parish Hall Committee who have organized and hosted these events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The condition of the nation's road network continues to be cause for real concern. Some investment is being made, however, there remains much to do and budgets are under strain.</p> <p>There are other issues associated with speed limits including changes to planning restrictions, there may be better ways of lowering the risk.</p> <p>Installation of further warning signs may give rise to questions of health and safety and liability.</p> <p>Issues outside the PC's remit do get tabled for consideration which is regarded as a good thing.</p>

<p><b>Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) The neighbourhood watch scheme has been superceded. The Parish Council organized and distributed the Smart Water materials in the area.</li><li>b) The WhatsApp Crimewatch Group has been promoted through the Parish Council and there is ongoing evidence of this working.</li><li>c) In the past the OS Grid reference has been used. Alternatives have since been launched, noticeably the What Three Words app. Further development action on this is proposed to include validation of a new approach through the police and emergency services.</li><li>d) Compassionate Communities have also been helping people for a number of years either in the home or taking them shopping and accessing services.</li></ul>	<p>Identifying people who live in the parish who would appreciate help from neighbours is not part of the Parish Council's remit. There is evidence, particularly from the early COVID period that neighbours were supporting each other and local knowledge was filling the gap. There is an opportunity to encourage people to speak up if they need support.</p>
<p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Broadband<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. There has been considerable improvement both in choice and line speed offered to many residents, though there are parts of the parish where provision is still limited.</li><li>ii. The Connecting Shropshire Website provides the most up to date information about progress.</li><li>iii. The Parish Council is limited in the level of influence it can bring but it has registered its concerns eg. Detton.</li><li>iv. Access to services is dependent upon location and the proximity to the exchanges.</li><li>v. Airband is a competing provider giving a high-quality option for suitably located properties.</li><li>vi. There are bids to Openreach to become a community fibre partnership to bring fibre broadband to our area, which involves applying for a voucher under the Gigabit voucher scheme.</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>The Parish Council is limited in the level of influence it can bring.</p>

<p>b) Hospitals. vi. Neen Savage Parish Council will ask our Unitary Councillors to enquire about the current state of healthcare offered by hospitals utilised by Parishioners.</p>	<p>The COVID pandemic has significantly impacted the capacity and performance capabilities of the National Health Service including local health services</p>
<p><b>Education and Youth</b></p> <p>a) There have been no changes in the educational provision for the Parish b) Transport to and from schools remains in parents' and local authority hands.</p>	<p>The review group have not been able to add comment from their own personal background on this area. There is a risk that this could be a blind spot for the Parish Council in terms of supporting families.</p>
<p><b>Tourism and Heritage</b></p> <p>a) At the Parish Hall the phone box holds a map of the parish with some useful information. Boards had been established at Six Ashes</p>	<p>The boards have been vandalised and not replaced.</p>
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>a) The Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association carry out the management and maintenance of the current paths. b) The Parish Council has noted the interest in establishing a footpath from Cleobury to the Old Station Business Park, this is linked to the Cleobury Mortimer Place Plan. c) Litter picking is set up and promoted bi-annually and is now a popular community initiative with some specific competition activity and communication through the Neen Savage Support WhatsApp Group d) Some shrub and tree planting has been done with varied success. Daffodils have been planted and the Parish Council planted poppy seeds at Six Ashes. e) The PC has been investigating the siting of additional benches in the parish.</p>	<p>The current paths are mostly being maintained to a high standard.</p>

<p><b>Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) There have been some smaller scale enterprise developments within the Parish. None of these have had a detrimental effect on either the ambiance, environment or infrastructure of the Parish. These appropriate Business Development initiatives within the parish have been supported by Unitary Councillors, the Parish Council and the parish in general.</li> <li>b) In the SAMDEV Document, there is an aspiration for further expansion of Old Station Business Park, however, the site is now close to full capacity.</li> <li>c) The Lakeside Country Park development was supported by Neen Savage Parish Council in 2013 and planning permission was granted for 19 Holiday Chalets with 13 planning conditions attached some of which aimed to protect the rural nature of the area.</li> </ul>	<p>Since 2014 there has only been one planning application for a commercial development in 2019 and resubmitted in 2020. The first application received 11 public comments of which 10 were objections. The second application received 11 public comments of which 9 were objections. This suggests that parishioner's views on development are still in line with the NSCLP of September 2014.</p> <p>An Application for a Lawful Development Certificate has been submitted for the proposed use of the site for stationing of holiday lodges without limit on numbers. This appears to be a complex legal matter and the outcome may be beyond the power of Shropshire Council Planners.</p>
<p><b>Housing and Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) SAMDEV Plan was adopted in December 2015 and sets out proposals for use of land and policies to guide future development in order to help deliver the Vision and Objectives of the Core Strategy for the period up to 2026. Neen Savage doesn't have any Community Clusters so it has no proposed housing development areas.</li> <li>b) During the review period there have been only very limited applications for housing developments. There have been a small number of single plot exception sites.</li> <li>c) There have been several applications for home extensions and improvements to existing properties, these have generally been supported.</li> </ul>	