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INTRODUCTION – What is a Parish Plan?

Parish plans were part of a Countryside Agency initiative “Vital Villages”. In 2005, responsibility for their compilation transferred to the Government Office North West. The parish plan process provides an opportunity to voice concerns, issues and aspirations as the new planning system afforded greater importance to involving communities. Preparing a parish plan is one of the steps a parish council must take if it intends to achieve “Quality Status”.

Croft Parish Plan is therefore a document which sets out a shared vision of how the community can be enhanced over the next few years identifying how its residents feel about where they live and how they wish to see their local parish improve. It covers a range of environmental, social and economic issues in the form of an action plan.

In summary the aims of a parish plan are:

- To protect a parish from being over developed
- To encourage greater participation in the community by its residents
- To strengthen the community
- To influence local decision making particularly with respect to planning
- To identify projects to enhance a parish
- To identify partners and funding opportunities

The parish plan for Croft was initiated and produced within 2018 by establishing a steering group made up of residents and parish council members all of whom were volunteers. A questionnaire was developed and issued to all households within the parish, asking residents how they rated the importance of a range of environmental, social and economic issues that impacted on the parish. The questionnaire also encouraged residents to provide their views on further issues and how they felt Croft could be enhanced. Survey drop-off boxes were located at several locations in the parish for ease of return.

A 20% return was achieved, which was significantly higher than the expected rate of 15% for such an exercise.

The steering group also considered it important to engage young people of Croft in the process. With the aid of a modified questionnaire, the 2 primary schools in the parish were visited to seek the views of pupils and their wishes for the future.
Following analysis of the returned data, the steering group have produced the Croft Action Plan which represents the priorities to both protect and enhance the parish and influence future decisions.

NB – The terms parish and village can often be confusing so for the purpose of this document they have been defined as:

- Parish - the entire area within the parish boundary.

- Village - those parts of the parish inset within the green belt.

See map on inside front cover for the boundaries.
CROFT PARISH PLAN

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CROFT

Croft is a small parish within the Borough of Warrington located about 5 miles to the north east of the town between Winwick and Culcheth. The meaning of Croft is linked to “land of agricultural use” and was originally named Southworth with Croft derived from the Southworth and de Croft families that lived in the area.

It was on fields around Southworth Hall that first provided evidence of its origins. Very little was known until 1980 when a Liverpool University archaeological research project excavated a tumulus or barrow behind Southworth Hall and unearthed Bronze Age evidence (urns, vessels, flints and cremated remains). Carbon dating estimated that they originated around 2000 BC.

The area was mainly covered by forests with small communities existing in small clearings or on the forest edges. After the Norman Conquest the forests began to be cleared and the parish developed into a scattering of farms and cottages with a ‘centre’ developing along and around what is now Lord Street, forming the main street through the village.

Croft was initially divided into 2 districts, namely Southworth and Risley but in the 19th Century they became a single parish.

During World War 2 the centre of the parish became surrounded by land used for war related activities including the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) at Risley producing munitions. Several camps were built initially to supply labour for the ROF which were subsequently developed by the Royal Navy creating HMS Gosling, Fleet Air Arm’s training establishment. The camp along Warrington Road was developed into HMP Risley and the area known as Eaves Brow formed the foundation of the residential area expanding the centre of the village. The camp along Lady Lane was originally the HMS Gosling Entertainment Centre and later acquired by the RAF (RAF Croft) who used it as a processing and transit depot. This also has been recently developed for housing.

Alongside agriculture, Croft had developed into a small dormitory parish serving the nearby nuclear power related industries at Risley as well as the nearby towns of Warrington and Leigh and due to the nearby M6/M62 motorway network, the cities of Liverpool and Manchester.
In the 1970s, to preserve the countryside and control the spread and eventual merger with neighbouring villages and towns, the then Lancashire County Council introduced the green belt.

Croft was designated as an ‘Inset Village’ within the green belt having definitive boundaries within which sit the residential centre and a smaller area around the Plough Inn. (See Map on inside cover). Villagers have fought hard to retain the green belt when plans to develop land around the village were proposed.

Agriculture dominates the landscape outside of the village centre although equestrian activity has increased in recent years with the establishment of equestrian centres and private paddocks all contributing to the rural charm.

Parish boundary is Southworth Quarry used for sand extraction and as a recycling centre for demolition rubble. In the early 1900s Croft had a key role in the development of Warrington’s early water supplies when adits were constructed to increase supply to the adjacent Houghton Green Pumping Station in Winwick. The shafts provided access for adit construction and remain today along and behind Dam Lane. Latterly 2 further water supply pumping stations were constructed alongside Kenyon Lane and Mustard Lane.

Existing water shaft

Croft also has 2 local wildlife sites (LWSs) designated by the Warrington Borough Council. Croft Grasslands LWS (The Battlefield) behind Eaves Brow Road and Betsyfield Drive was first designated in the 1980s and has now developed into a mature woodland. Silver Lane Ponds LWS was designated 4 years ago and is maturing as a wetland area. The adjacent landfill site along Silver Lane has now been fully restored, landscaped, planted with trees and shrubs and has an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways. The aim is to develop this area into a country park.

Harvest time in Croft

The area has many public rights of way which are popular with walkers but only a few bridleways despite the popularity of horse riding. Similarly, cycling has become very popular but there is a total absence of dedicated cycleways.

There are a small number of commercial developments on the fringe of the parish adjacent to Culcheth, notably Taylor Business Park, and Partridge Lakes Fishery in Glaziers Lane. 

Close to the Winwick Harb
There are 2 schools in the parish, Croft Primary School and St. Lewis Roman Catholic Primary School as well as 2 pre-school organisations. The parish is well served by public houses with the Horseshoe Inn, the General Elliot and the Plough Inn. However, residents are totally dependent on neighbouring towns and villages for food stores, medical facilities, banks and fuel stations. Nonetheless the parish has a thriving and active community made possible by the presence of the Memorial Village Hall, the Croft Youth Activity Centre (CYAC) and Christ Church Parish Hall.

Croft Park provides a range of play equipment for young people as well as providing the home ground for boys and girls football teams. The park also hosts the annual village carnival attracting both residents and visitors in large numbers. The carnival has been in existence since the 1920s with a break during World War 2. The proceeds from the carnival go to local charities.

Croft has 3 churches, Christ Church in Lady Lane, St. Lewis RC Church in Mustard Lane and the Olive Branch Church at CYAC.

One of the biggest threats to the parish is the High-Speed Rail Route (HS2) proposed to run close to the Culcheth parish boundary. This will have an impact on both parishes during construction and on completion as links between them will be disrupted and some possibly severed.

Croft has often been described as a ‘green oasis’ in a part of the country generally regarded as being densely populated. The blend between agriculture in the open countryside and the residential centre has given rise to a thriving and active community that its residents value and work hard to preserve.
Profile of Croft

Who Lives in Croft *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All People</td>
<td>3219</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 0 – 17yrs</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 18 – 64yrs</td>
<td>2195</td>
<td>68.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pensionable age</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All People over 18</td>
<td>1769</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females over 18</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males over 18</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>53.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population

- Croft lies in Warrington and has a population of 3,219
- Of the total population 454 (14.1%) are Children & youths (0 – 17yrs old) making a smaller population than across Warrington (18.6%)
- 570 (17.7%) are people of pensionable age, making up a smaller proportion of the population than across Warrington (18.6%)

Aerial view of Croft village.

Age Distribution *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 9 years</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 19 years</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 29 years</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 39 years</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 – 49 years</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 – 59 years</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 69 years</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 79 years</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+ years</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Housing

There are 856 households in Croft made up of detached, semi-detached, terraced houses & flats, some of which are rented from housing associations and private landlords.

* Figures are taken from the Croft Parish Population Figures North West in 2016 with the 18+ figures updated from the 2017/18 Electoral Register.
SCHOOLS QUESTIONNAIRE – Results, Analysis and Recommendations

A modified questionnaire was used to seek the views of the younger members of the community by talking to pupils of both Croft Primary and St. Lewis RC Schools.

The enthusiasm for creating the ‘City of Croft’ by pupils at both schools with fast food shops, toy shops, leisure centres with swimming pools and hotels was quickly tempered by the interviewers with the support of the staff pointing out the current small scale of the parish. Pupils generally replied by saying they wished for it to remain so. However, some common themes emerged as we spoke to individual year groups where pupils demonstrated an impressive astuteness concerning safety, play and environmental issues:

- A safe secure hard standing area where they could ride their bikes and scooters as none currently exist away from the roads. Croft Park does not allow cycling.
- A covered area in Croft Park where they could meet when raining.
- Safer routes to school away from roads and associated traffic.
- More facilities at Croft Park e.g. a climbing wall, static exercise equipment and an artificial turf area.
- Dog walking/exercise area.
- A cricket pitch or at least an area where cricket could be played.
- Narrow pavements made worse by encroaching surface debris and overhanging vegetation.
- Cars travelling too fast. This was echoed by staff. Both schools are alongside the busy main thoroughfare.

The questions and results are shown in the results table. The questions initially engaged the children before entering in more general discussion to seek their views on what would make Croft better for them.

There are some differences between the 2 schools as St. Lewis RC School is somewhat remote from the centres of Croft and Culcheth and takes pupils from a much wider geographical area extending across neighbouring parishes.
- Most pupils including those that live outside the village have attended one or more of the 3 community/Church halls for recreation, clubs and/or parties.

- A need for a Pelican crossing outside Croft Primary School. A Zebra crossing is in place outside St. Lewis RC School.

Some suggestions showed a lack of awareness of existing facilities. Some children requested nature trails. However, a trail has been developed at the former HMS Gosling Camp along Lady Lane where a woodland and meadow trail with information boards showing both the wildlife and history of the area has been provided.

Recommended Actions:

- To introduce better traffic speed control measures.

- To apply pressure on Warrington Borough Council to install a zebra crossing outside Croft Primary School.

- Revitalise the Friends of Croft Park to investigate options for creating hard surfaces for cycling etc. and other facilities to meet the needs of children.

- To encourage householders to minimise overhanging vegetation and to determine means of eliminating surface vegetation encroaching on pavements.

There are also the two local wildlife sites at Croft Grasslands and at Silver Lane Ponds where trails exist.

There is no high school in Croft so there was reliance upon the views of residents to include the issues affecting the youth of the community.

Nature trail information board.

Example of overhanging vegetation & debris restricting pavements.

- To examine means of providing safer pedestrian routes away from roads.

- Produce a leaflet as a guide to raise awareness of the trails and public rights of way.
# PUPIL SURVEY – TABLE OF RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects Discussed</th>
<th>Croft Primary</th>
<th>St. Lewis RC</th>
<th>Combined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nos.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Environment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you go to Croft Park?</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a bike?</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you cycle/scooter to school?</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel safe cycling to school?</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you walk to school?</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel safe walking to school?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Most walked with parents or were driven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you think cars go too fast in Croft?</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recreation and Leisure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you go to activities in the Youth Centre (CYAC)?</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you go to activities in the Memorial Hall?</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you go to activities in Christ Church Hall?</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do any of your grandparents live in Croft?</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shopping and Eating</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you go shopping with your parents in Culcheth?</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you go shopping in Birchwood?</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you go shopping in Leigh?</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you go shopping in Gemini?</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Would you like a café in Croft?</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Would you like a shop in Croft?</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>106</td>
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<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Did you go to a nursery/pre-school in Croft?</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you go somewhere else?</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would you like to make Croft better?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>An open question – See Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many of you live in Croft?</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residents Questionnaire - Results, Analysis & Recommendations

Public Engagement

To enable the development and production of the Parish Plan required the parish council to engage the community. The Parish Council decided that the most effective method would be to create a group, consisting of local Croft residents together with 2-3 parish councillors. A request for participants was tabled at the parish council meeting held in July 2018 and from the response the Parish Plan Steering group was established.

The group compiled a questionnaire that aimed at acquiring the local residents’ views and opinions relating to various local subject matters and topics and also provided the facility for residents to provide additional comments. The questionnaire contained 7 principal sections relating to; the environment, planning & development, recreation & leisure, shopping, eating & business, public services, utilities & community. Each section was subsequently broken down to cover a variety of individual matters, services and facilities.

This section describes and illustrates the findings of the questionnaires submitted, which has in turn assisted the formation of the Action Plan.

Section 1 – The Environment

Open Spaces

- 96% of respondents considered the open spaces both in and around the village as being very important to the future of Croft, with the remaining 4% considering it fairly important to Croft’s future.

*Cattle grazing in the open countryside.*
Amount & Speed of Traffic

- 89% of the surveys submitted considered it very important that the amount and speed of traffic travelling through the village needed to be managed.

Typical morning congestion at Cross Lane/Warrington Road.

The daily commute via Kenyon Lane.
Energy Conservation

• The implementation of energy conservation measures was considered as fairly important to the future of the village achieving 44% of the vote.

![A local solar panel installation.](image)

Cycling Facilities

• Similarly, the implementation of cycling facilities within the village acquired a 43% response as being fairly important to the village’s future.

![Cycle race via Main Lane.](image) ![A more leisurely cycle ride with friends.](image)
Recycling Facilities

- Recycling facilities acquired an overall response of 88% considering it to be either very (46%) or fairly important (42%) to the village’s future.

Bridleways

- The implementation of Bridleways achieved a very important vote percentage of 35% and fairly important vote percentage of 30%.
Eradication of Flooding

Inadequate drainage causing flooding along Lady Lane, Croft.

- A total of 65% responded indicating that the eradication of problematic areas of flooding within the village to be very important.

- Likewise, 90% responded regarding improving air quality to be either very or fairly important.
Farming forms an important part of the community in Croft.

- 95% of respondents consider that strong planning policies & controls are either very important or fairly important to protect the rural environment of Croft.

Strong Planning Policies & Controls

The Old Rectory, Lady Lane.

Spring Lane.
99% of villagers surveyed felt that protecting the Green Belt & countryside around and within the parish to be a very important factor to Croft’s future.

Only 26% of respondents considered policies to encourage the provision of affordable housing to be very important to the future of Croft.
Section 3 – Recreation & Leisure

Sporting & Leisure Facilities

- 58% considered the sporting & leisure facilities to be very important and 31% fairly important to the village’s future.

![Croft Bowls Pavilion](image1.jpg)

![Croft Playground](image2.jpg)

Aerial view of Partridge Lakes Fishery.
Activities & Facilities for the Youth

- 71% of respondents considered that activities and facilities for the youth are very important, with 24% considering them to be fairly important to the future of Croft.

Activities & Facilities for the Elderly

- Similarly, 68% of respondents considered activities and facilities for the elderly to be very important, with 29% considering them to be fairly important.
Access to the Countryside including Public Rights of Way

With respect to maintaining access to the countryside including public rights of way 75% of the respondents considered this to be very important.

Above – Walkers enjoying public footpaths & Below - footpath network off Silver Lane.
Section 4 – Shopping, Eating & Business

Local Public Houses Serving Food and Drink

- The importance of our public houses to our community scored highly, achieving a very important score of 79% and a fairly important score of 16% of the total responses received.
Croft Villager’s Shopping Preferences

- The people that shopped regularly in Culcheth scored 82% of the overall vote.

- The people that shopped in Birchwood was a little more split between 56% shopping regularly and 40% shopping occasionally.

- In respect to shopping in Warrington most villagers shopped there occasionally indicated by a 69% response of surveys received.
- The information obtained also indicated that of the villagers who shopped in Leigh 42% shopped there occasionally and 41% never shopped there, only 13% indicated that they shopped there regularly.

**Would You Support a Part-Time Community Café?**

- The results indicated mixed views on supporting a part-time community café 44% stating they would and 51% indicating they would not support the facility.

**Would You Help Run a Part-Time Community Café?**

- In respect to running a part-time community café 66% stated that they would be prepared to assist with the operation and running of a part-time community café.
Section 5 – Public Services

Fire Service

Both our Fire & Health services scored a high very good rating at 96% and 89% respectively, however our police services received mixed views varying from a 30% good to 26% poor rating.
Library Service

- Croft does not have its own library and no longer has access to the mobile library therefore the above data must reflect services outside the parish.

WBC Refuse Collection Service

- Our WBC refuse collection service acquired sound feedback reinforced by the 47% good and 45% very good rating it received.
Social Care Services for Children

Social care services within the village attained similar result profiles that indicated that both services are in the main rated as good (Children 44%, Elderly 43%), however the Elderly services acquired a better very good rating at 28%, while the Children’s care services received a 28% poor rating.

Social Care Services for the Elderly

Kingsmead Court housing in Croft.
### Schools

Aerial view of Croft Primary School.  

Aerial view of St. Lewis RC School.  

- Generally, the villages education provisions received a majority score of either good or very good.
Public Transport Service

- 65% of the respondents rated the service in general as very good, however many residents expressed concern about the reduction in the No 19 Warrington to Leigh bus service through the parish, in particular about the lack of service after 7:00pm.

No 19 Bus serving the village of Croft.
Highways & Pavements

- The views submitted in respect to the highways and pavements within the village were mixed with the majority accruing to 42% of respondents considering that the highways & pavements are poor, both in condition and accessibility, with a further 29% considering them to be very poor, however contrary to this 25% also considered them to be good.

*Highway drainage problems as referred to in Section 1 - The Environment, resulting in restricted and poor pavement conditions in Croft.*
Section 6 – Utilities

Water Supply

- All of our core utilities supplies (Gas, Water & Electricity) appear to serve the village well scoring an average very good rating of 38% and average good rating of 45%.
The village’s telephone service scored a majority good rating of 39%, while the Broadband service received a majority poor rating of 23%.
Section 7 – Community

Croft Youth Activity Centre

Croft Memorial Hall

Croft Memorial Hall.
The survey confirmed that villagers considered CYAC, Croft Memorial Hall & Christ Church Parish Hall to be very important facilities to the community, each attaining between 65% and 87% of the vote.

CYAC, Croft Memorial Hall and Christ Church Parish Hall are popular venues used for a diverse range of formal and informal activities.
ACTION PLAN

The order of the actions under each generic heading reflects the priority although advantage should be taken of any funding or partnering opportunities that may arise for any of the actions.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

1. To maintain the permanence of the present green belt boundary within the parish
2. Ensure that green spaces in and around the village (Croft Park & land behind Maythorn Avenue) are preserved
3. Maintain and enhance Croft’s local wildlife sites (Battlefield & Silver Lane Ponds)
4. Stop pollution along Lady Lane
5. Install traffic calming measures/20mph speed along Smithy Lane/Lord Street/Mustard Lane
6. Install a Pelican crossing outside Croft Primary School
7. Reduce noise from M62 & M6 by tree and shrub planting. This will also improve air quality and reduce flooding
8. Introduce cycleways and more bridleways
9. Improve road drainage along Lady Lane, Cross Lane and New Lane
10. Remove overhanging vegetation and surface encroachment from pavements
11. Encourage responsible parking

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

12. Present this Action Plan to Warrington Borough Council to ensure that the actions are considered in the production of their Local Plan and in all future planning decisions
13. To influence planning policies to maintain the permanence of the green belt boundary to reinforce Action 1 above
14. Policies should be developed to reduce pressure on the existing infrastructure. Future highway projects should aim at reducing traffic through the parish
15. Housing within the village inset should be in line with demographic trends and meet the needs of those on low income and those wishing to downsize
16. Improve the intensity of street lighting within the village
### RECREATION & LEISURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Improve drainage at Croft Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Consider options and install range of facilities at Croft Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Investigate options to control entrance to Silver Lane to reduce anti-social behaviour &amp; traveller intrusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Obtain public access to former Risley Landfill Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Improve signage and waymarking on public rights of way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Reduce dog fouling by encouraging owners to use bins or take waste home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SHOPPING, EATING & BUSINESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Develop a local pub walks guide to promote the use of Croft’s public houses and local public rights of way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Investigate the feasibility of converting the toilet block into a community café</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PUBLIC SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Lobby ‘Warrington’s own buses’ to extend the No. 19 service operating hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Monitor trends in public services and lobby for improvements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UTILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Increase the speed and reliability of broadband throughout the parish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Maintain the continuity of the Memorial Hall, CYAC and Christ Church Parish Hall and seek opportunities to secure increased funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Encourage use of the community halls by improved marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Examine the feasibility and use of halls to provide visiting essential health, medical and dental services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Action Plan summarises the recommendations arising from the questionnaires completed by residents and those arising from discussion with pupils of the two village schools.

The Action Plan represents the objectives which the community of Croft would like to see achieved within a five-year period from the publication of this Parish Plan.
Some of these objectives will need to be pursued by Croft Parish Council but many will be contingent for their implementation on the ability of other bodies, particularly Warrington Borough Council, to follow through. Given the national environment of austerity in which we are working, we need to be mindful of the availability of funding for some of the actions, nevertheless this should not prevent them being progressed.

Sunset off Lady Lane.

A winter scene by Christ Church, Croft.
Chairman’s Concluding Remarks – The Way Ahead

This document has been produced by a volunteer committee consisting of Croft residents together with some members of the Croft Parish Council. Collectively the group achieved the production of the Parish Plan from start to completion within the remarkable period of 7 months between May and October 2018. The process was largely driven by the need to prepare and link in with the public consultation process on the second stage of the Warrington Local Plan that was to be presented later in 2018 by Warrington Borough Council (WBC). Consequently, this process has allowed the community the opportunity to provide views and aspirations that filter into the Warrington Local Plan, the plan that may potentially impact significantly on the parish infrastructure and amenities.

By posting a questionnaire to all households in the parish, residents were provided with the opportunity to provide feedback on how they valued Croft’s environment, planning impacts, recreation, leisure, shopping and dining facilities and utilities within the parish.

At the same time views were sought on how they felt Croft could be improved. Residents were re-assured that the Plan was an opportunity to provide open, honest, anonymous feedback.

The information provided has allowed us to identify key issues and generate an action plan. It is therefore a plan generated by and subsequently owned by the community.

By undertaking this process, Croft is in a better position to consider and influence future planning proposals and decision making at both Parish Council and Borough Council levels as the outcome represents the collective voice of the community.

I must thank all of those that seized this opportunity to take part including residents, pupils and staff...
of our two schools and particularly my fellow steering group members and supporters. Whilst we cannot meet all residents demands, common themes have emerged allowing us to put together an Action Plan. Work does not stop here as the Parish Plan now hands over to the Croft Parish Council for implementation and with the aid of an independent monitoring committee comprising Croft residents, we can ensure that the Parish of Croft is protected and enhanced in a manner consistent with the needs and views of the community.

Roger Lamming.

Croft Scenes.
Steering Group Members:

Roger Lamming - Resident (Chairman)
Keith Bland M.B.E. - Croft Parish Council (Secretary)
Caroline Berry - Resident (Treasurer)
Kevin Berry - Resident
Tom Dewhurst - Resident
Steve Grimshaw - Resident
Cindy Kelly - Resident
Alvin Morris - Resident
Norman Partington - Croft Parish Council
Rachel Sheldon - Resident
Carole Thewsey - Croft Parish Council

Other volunteers who helped at various stages:

Merron Mitchell O.B.E. - Resident
Mark Thewsey – Resident

Photographic credits:

Roger Lamming, Steve Grimshaw, Caroline Berry, Kevin Berry, Rachel Sheldon, Norman Partington, Alvin Morris.

Map Credit – Mark Thewsey

Bibliography – Croft – The history of a village, produced by Alan Sharpe, November 2007
Croft Carnival Photographs
Our Vision:

- To protect Croft parish from being over developed.

- To influence local decision making particularly with respect to planning.

- To encourage greater participation in the community by its residents.

- To strengthen the community.

- To identify projects to enhance the parish of Croft.

- To identify partners and funding opportunities.