

**Lyonshall Neighbourhood Plan**  
**Business & Tourism Focus Group**  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013**  
**Meeting Notes**

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Present: J Lywood, Stephen Edwards, Patrick Edwards, Sarah Zaluckyj, Malcolm Thomson, Julia Evans, Kinsey Hern, Richard Oliver

Apologies: Jo Hilditch, Jonathan Mayglothling

A summary of the results from the first questionnaire was given following which there was discussion about some of the points.

**Business**

1. Village shop: the previous farm shop was not in an ideal location but it is evident that many in the parish would like a shop. It is likely that any shop within Lyonshall would have to be a not for profit enterprise, possibly run by volunteers. Demand is seasonal and the success of this and any other retail outlets would be reliant upon money being spent both by residents and by those outside of the village including tourists. There was consensus over the site of a shop in the village centre ideally on the same plot as the pub along with any other retail outlets (post-office, hairdresser, arts and crafts etc). A shop and pub were considered essential if tourism was to increase and be successful.
2. Arts, craft and other cottage industries: there is probably insufficient custom to sustain traditional retail outlets. However, with the current trend of internet shopping such businesses could be based anywhere within the village and goods distributed by courier/Royal Mail.
3. There is already warehousing capacity at Burgoynes for small businesses as well as space for small-scale manufacturing. There could potentially be issues related to noise and pollution related to the latter. Additionally, there is a logistical service (Pallet Track) running out of Burgoynes for medium sized items (capable of being transported on a pallet). Extensive warehousing like this so close to a village centre is uncommonly found elsewhere but it was felt that any future warehouse construction should be sited away from the centre.
4. The use of disused farm buildings. The group was aware of small number of potential disused farm buildings within the parish. It was suggested that small groups or multiple small businesses could take on such properties to share the rent and overheads. Off road car parking was felt essential.
5. Pavements to access both existing and any new businesses were felt to be important especially linking to bus stops for the safe transit of employees.

6. Business rates and current planning restrictions could be prohibitive for some small businesses wishing to become established in the village.
7. There is the opportunity for training and development to be undertaken in many existing sites within the village.

## **Tourism**

1. There should be more joined-up thinking to increase awareness both within and beyond the parish of the tourist attractions which are already available including the Offa's Dyke, Tramway, Railways, Castle and Church. Some of these are currently on or cross private land but have a wealth of history attached. Also, there is an extensive network of footpaths crossing rich and scenic countryside. There should be better signposting of attractions and signage of some of the footpaths.
2. Parking: a major problem of any increase in tourism within the parish is parking. There is nowhere a coach could safely park.
3. Information boards could help visitors and in the future, greater use of smart phones to provide local contextual information for visitors.
4. Fishing: it was recognised that fishing is an incredibly popular sport in the UK and there are many pools and waterways in the village which could be used. Again, many if not all are on private land.
5. Farming: increasing awareness of the diversity of farming activity across the parish to both residents and visitors could be an attraction in itself. Open Farm Sunday already exists annually for this purpose.
6. The Church: more could be made of Lyonshall church. Possibly encouraging visits from other church groups.
7. Pub: felt this is vitally important for tourists to go to eat and drink. This would also support the current B&B and holiday lets in the parish.
8. Making the most of attractions out with the parish such as Kington Golf Course and encourage visitors to stay in Lyonshall or visit Lyonshall while in transit to Hereford and beyond.

*RO 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013*