

## Not Too Late

July 2009 is lost and gone for ever. On 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> of the month we had our first Planning for Real exercises, a crucial part of the Parish Plan process, and by now, we will be collating the very significant information, ideas and opinions which those of you who came to them were able to contribute. Because I'm writing this on the eve of the deadline for this edition of the newsletter, I can only anticipate a very full and enthusiastic response to the invitation to take part which we hope you will all have received. The success of a project which aims to express the aspirations of the community as a whole depends on our reaching as many of you as possible – and, vitally, on your contribution.

For all sorts of reasons, you may have missed our meetings. It's not too late to have your say. In August, we plan to visit, by invitation, established activity groups which have meetings that month, bringing our travelling 'road show'. We would, of course, not want to monopolise such occasions and would be available, as required and unobtrusively, for consultation and discussion; for example, we shall be at the Evergreen annual coffee morning on 11<sup>th</sup> August when the more elderly members of the parish who had previously been unable to come would be able to make their views known. If you belong to any other organisation which would welcome such a visit please let one of us know. Equally, if you wish to talk to us as individuals we'd be very pleased to hear from you, especially if you feel you belong to a group which we haven't identified yet by other means. And we are energetically looking to ways of getting in touch with the young people of the villages, especially those in the secondary school age range. This really is for you, too – don't hold back.

All this is important in that during the month of August we shall be planning a comprehensive questionnaire to be distributed to all those who live in Cradley and Storrige, and what you have told us will form the basis of that. Copies will be delivered to every household in the parish on the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> September. In order for the result to be as accurate and representative as we can all possibly make it we'll collect completed questionnaires the following weekend, 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> September. The parish, which comprises Cradley and Storrige, both of which have extensive outlying areas, is big, the largest in Herefordshire, and, good though our local knowledge and legwork are, we may not meet all our objectives. If you don't hear from us, please don't feel slighted – give one of us a call and we'll see you get one. The experts say that we should be satisfied with a 50% response; we're aiming for much more than that. Please help us to hit the jackpot. This is Our Village Our Future and Our Plan. Let's all make it a good one.

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