



*Radford Semele Parish Plan*  
*2014*



## Contents

- Message from the Chairman Parish Council
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Sources used for the Plan
- 3 History of the Village
- 4 Agriculture and Landscape
- 5 The Village today
- 6 Future aspirations for the Village
- 7 Village Amenities
- 8 Village Clubs and Activities
- 9 Local Government Bodies.
- 10 Future Projects in Radford Semele
- 11 Consultations & Surveys Undertaken
- 12 The Parish Council's Priorities.
- 13 Radford Semele Village Envelope
- 14 Radford Semele Parish Boundary
- 15 Useful Village Internet Links

## *Message from the Chairman of Radford Semele Parish Council*

The **Draft Parish Plan** which follows considers the many aspects of life in Radford Semele. This **Draft** has been prepared based on the issues which have been discussed at Parish Council, from public consultations with residents on housing development within the village and from residents involved in village activities. It reveals how complex and interconnected we all are in this rural community. It reveals too that there are strands of opinion and values that are common to many people; these are the components that our final **Parish Plan** must fully reflect in order to help shape the future development of the Parish.

Conditions are imposed on those producing Parish Plans. These conditions require that Parish Plans can only be approved after consultation and involvement of residents. This **Draft Parish Plan** is now available for consultation so giving residents an opportunity to express opinions.

In seeking your opinions on the things you consider important in the future development of Radford Semele you may wish to point out new ideas, omissions, errors, changes in emphasis or you may approve of this draft. A reply form is available to help with your response. A copy of this **Draft Parish Plan** is available in hard copy and on-line at [www.radfordsemele.org.uk](http://www.radfordsemele.org.uk) Every effort will be made to incorporate your contributions which will help to produce a **Parish Plan**, which has general acceptance, early in 2015.

Chairman Parish Council-David Chater

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Parish Council has been discussing for some considerable time the publication of a Parish Plan for Radford Semele. This is now a priority because Warwick District Council wants all Parish Councils to publish a Parish Plan.
- 1.2 The plan describes the parish community and will be the blueprint for the future of the village of Radford Semele. It provides a brief background to the development of the village to present day along with information on the village community, its amenities and social clubs.
- 1.3 The plan identifies one site for local housing and recreation, whilst safeguarding the most environmentally and historical significant areas.
- 1.4 The plan highlights issues facing the village and proposes actions to improve village life over the short to medium term.
- 1.5 Details of any local consultations are provided together with their outcome.
- 1.6 The plan aims to build our sociable village into a more sustainable community and one that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of its residents.
- 1.7 Once the Parish Plan has been agreed by the Radford Semele community it will be put forward for adoption by Warwick District Council.
- 1.8 The Parish Plan could form the basis for a future Neighbourhood Plan, if this is deemed appropriate by the community to develop. A Neighbourhood Plan is recognised under the Localism Act and as such would give control of the development of the village to the community rather than a free for all as at present. This would need to be developed with Warwick District Council who would need to formally adopt it. Once adopted it would be used to inform decision makers as to the needs and requirements of the local community, when developments are proposed.

## 2 Sources used for the Plan

- 2.1 During the last two years much time and thought has been given by many local residents to the way of life within this village. This has arisen in part by the additional housing needs in the district. Many views have been expressed at public meetings. Surveys of public opinion have been conducted and responses received from a broad representation of residents (see Section 11).
- 2.2 Various public consultations have taken place with Warwick District Council in relation to Radford Semele to develop their Local Plan for 2011-2029. Considerable documentation was produced by Warwick District Council in support of their proposals. The village community has been very proactive in providing comments to Warwick District Council on proposals and supporting evidence. Village comments have now been taken on board and the best position for the village, published in their draft Local Plan, has now been submitted to the Secretary of State. for approval.
- 2.3 Well researched contributions have been produced on local archaeology and local history. An earlier publication of the Village History by The Rev Laurie Parsons, more recently updated under the direction of Mr Don Simpson, provides us with a wealth of information on our forebears, life in earlier times and the background to the physical village we see today.
- 2.4 A group of people have now come together to select local opinions from the above sources to assist in formulating a Parish Plan. It is intended that after review by village organisations and individuals and subsequent adoption by Warwick District Council it will be the Radford Semele Parish Plan.

## 3 History of the Village

- 3.1 The history of the village is well documented in the book titled "A short History of the Parish" published in 1974, written by a former vicar, the Rev. Laurie Parsons. His book was updated in 2002 in the publication "A History of Radford Semele" prepared by Don Simpson. Although neither book is now available for purchase, the 2002 publication is available in Leamington Library and in Warwick Records Office.
- 3.2 A short modified extract follows from a record of the village published in 1951 in 'Parishes: Radford Semele', A History of the County of Warwick Volume 6: Knightlow hundred (1951), pp. 200-202.
- 3.3 *The Radford Semele parish boundary on the north side is the River Leam, a tributary of which bounds it on the west, meeting at the southernmost angle the Fosse Way, which is its eastern boundary for a distance of just over a mile. Close to its northern edge the parish is*

*crossed by the Warwick and Napton Canal. The road from Leamington enters the parish at its north-west angle and leads to Radford Church and Hall, but most of the village lies farther to the south-east along a branch road running south past the Baptist Chapel to end at Pounce Hill Farm. Most of the land lies between 200 ft. and 250 ft. above sea level, but the Leamington road on its way towards Southam reaches 300 ft. on Radford Hill. The parish area is 2123 acres (3.3 square miles).*

3.4 *The village retains a number of picturesque cottages, dating from as early as the beginning of the 17th century. Radford Hall is a red brick house with stone dressings and mullioned windows; it dates from the early 17th century. In the surrounding wall is a 17th-century stone doorway. The Manor House is mainly modern but contains a 16th-century timber framed nucleus.*

3.5 As mentioned above, a section of the Fosse Way and the former Warwick and Napton Canal pass through parts of the parish. The River Leam, together with its small tributaries, form sections of the parish boundary near to the A425 Southam Road.

3.6 St Nicholas Church was fully restored in 2013 after the disastrous fire in March 2008. A number of pre-Victorian properties still stand today adding to the charm of the village, these include Radford Hall, the Manor House, the White Lion public house and several nearby thatched cottages. There are also a number of Victorian properties, these extend into Lewis Road and include the Baptist Church. Most properties in the village were built in various phases over the years since 1920. There is a small more recent residential development, separate from the main village, accessing the Fosse Way at Cedar Tree Farm.



3.7 The population had grown to 1890 in the 2011 census although employment opportunities lie mainly outside the village. Earlier censuses record: - 1911, 556- 1921, 578- 1931, 532.

3.8 In addition to the two churches the village has a junior school, post office, village stores, sports and social club, playing field and a community hall. People continue to support numerous activities involving adults, youth and children's groups, all of which meet regularly. The developed area of the parish forms only a small part of the total parish area. The extensive land acreage is highly developed in arable farming and includes the Canal-side Community Farm which specialises in organic cultivation. The parish resides in an attractive setting of rolling rural countryside. It has been the policy of successive Parish Councils, supported by our District Councillor, to retain the village as a separate entity, with arable land surrounding it, to avoid it being subsumed into its large neighbour, Royal Leamington Spa.

3.9 Each of these aspects, which form part of current village life, is considered later in the Parish Plan.

## 4 Agriculture and Landscape

4.1 The residential area of the parish occupies only a small part of the total parish which has an area of approximately 3.3 square miles (see Section 14). The residential development has the charm of being surrounded by agricultural land on all sides. This high grade agricultural land (generally grade 2 and 3a deemed “Best and Most Versatile”) is extensively cultivated with wheat, barley, beans, oil seed rape and sweet corn. Copses and woodland stand from former times. Thousands of new trees have more recently been planted. From the high point at Radford Hill, 300 feet, the land creates attractive rolling countryside with undulations in all directions. In the northern direction it reaches the river Leam. The church spires and towers in Leamington Spa, itself in a hollow, are visible. To the south it reaches the Fosse Way and looks to Ufton church and wood, visible too is Chesterton windmill. These attributes provide the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside which must be retained and enhanced. Future housing development must not be allowed to erode this rural character.

## 5 The Village today

5.1 Each resident has a personal perception of the village and life within it. This will be influenced by convenience for work, traffic at travel times, school availability, employment opportunities, property values, family connections, neighbours, social interests, sports interests, personal mobility, bus services, shops, doctor, community spirit, convenience to facilities including libraries, cinema and churches, charm of the countryside and for many other factors.



5.2 Southam Road A425 provides the only artery through Radford Semele village with Offchurch Lane providing a minor road to and from villages situated to the north and east of the village. All roads leading off these two roads are cul-de-sacs each leading to a small housing development. Lewis Road and School Lane are linked. Lewis Road, itself a cul-de-sac beyond Hatherall Road, provides access to the Victorian early development of the

village while School Lane provides access to later housing developments built in the second half of the twentieth century.

- 5.3 On entering Radford Semele from Leamington Spa the Southam Road traverses attractive rural countryside with housing occurring mainly on the southern side. Historic properties including Radford Hall, St Nicholas Church in its setting across the field, the White Lion, Manor House with its water tower and several thatched cottages line this road. This forms the initial visual image of Radford Semele and gives it its public persona. This is highly valued by local residents and also valued by many who pass through the village or just visit.
- 5.4 Each of the cul-de-sacs has its own individuality. There are many examples where groups of residents have formed long term community relationships.
- 5.5 Lewis Road provided the houses for the early development of the village and it retains a number of Victorian properties and a few from earlier times. It retains evidence of the former village green and next to it are the Village Stores and Post Office. Nearby are the Baptist Church, dating from the 1890s and the Community Hall and playing field which has been a community facility since the 1960s. Beyond, the road terminates into tracks to farms and footpaths, extending to the village boundary on Fosse way and Whitnash.
- 5.6 Information produced by Warwick District Council in the “Local Plan” provides the source of information for this paragraph. None of the village falls within the Green Belt. Based on census information there was a decline in the 0-15 age range between 2001 and 2011 amounting to 23% while over the same period the 16-29 age range increased by 45%. The number of owner occupier stands at 74% compared with the district average of 67%. The village has an above average percentage of semi-detached and terraced houses compared with the district average with a consequent lower percentage of detached properties. The 2011 census stated that the village population was 1890 and there were 803 dwellings.
- 5.7 The main community activities within the village develop around the churches, the community hall and the playing field. The village shop and post office form focal points for friendship and exchange of views. The Primary School is a focal point for parents. The Sports and Social Club provides a close link to the community through its membership. The White Lion provides a point of contact for many within the village. The Community Hall provides meeting facilities for all of the village organisations and for public and private functions. The playing field not only provides a leisure area for all, it is the home of three local football teams. The bus stop, with its approximately half hourly service, provides a point of contact and access to all of the facilities within Leamington Spa.
- 5.8 A future Plan for Radford Semele must consider the bodies and individuals who are responsible for the village as we see it today.

Future plans for change, progress and improvement will then impact on these existing bodies resulting from their responsibility or ownership.

- 5.9 **Warwickshire County Council** is responsible for all roads, pavements, road signage, grass verges and footpaths. (The maintenance of roadside hedges adjacent to agricultural land and footpaths is the responsibility of the immediate owner.) It has responsibility for the primary school and for flood prevention and protection through the maintenance of certain ditches as in The Valley. (Land owners have certain responsibilities)
- 5.10 **Warwick District Council** is responsible for, refuse collection, litter bin and dog bin emptying, street cleaning, street lighting and planning applications.
- 5.11 **Radford Semele Parish Council** is responsible for the playing field including play equipment and the maintenance of hedges and trees within the playing field also the bus shelter and parish notice boards. The Parish Council has a general duty to monitor footpaths, trees and hedges within the village and to support the local community. The Parish Council makes observations on planning applications but has no statutory powers. The Parish Council has delegated responsibility for the Community Hall to a management committee, under a 999 year lease, for running and maintaining the Hall. The Sports and Social Club has a management committee which operates under a sub lease from the Community Hall.
- 5.12 **Individual house owners** are responsible for the maintenance of land they occupy and have a duty to ensure that hedges and trees on their land do not obstruct or endanger the footpath or highway or obstruct road signage. Individual owners have a duty to refer plans on intended structural changes to their properties to Warwick District Council Planning Department before commencing work.
- 5.13 **Land owners** have responsibilities in relation to roadside hedges and fencing and to the maintenance of footpaths.
- 5.14 **Public Companies** have specific responsibilities. Severn Trent is responsible for water supply, effluent disposal and burst water mains. British Telecom has responsibilities for telegraph poles and overhead wiring. A main national gas supply passes through the village. Public utilities are supplied from beneath the road surfaces.

*(The above is a general outline of responsibilities. It is not complete and cannot be construed as authority for any form of legal action)*

## **6 Future aspirations for the Village**

- 6.1 Only a small number of properties existing in the village today existed before 1950. Over subsequent years a succession of small building



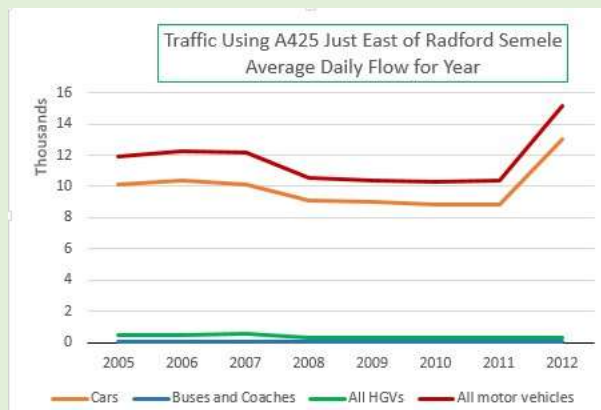
programmes has produced the village we see today. Growth has been gradual and each time on a relatively small scale. This rate of change has allowed the village to evolve with continuity. People from all parts of the village come together in their different groups to identify with village activities. These activities may be related to the Church, Women's Institute, Sports and Social Club, Football team, Scouts, Brownies and many more. All groups identify with the village of Radford Semele.

6.2 Public opinion on the future of the village has been widely canvassed during 2014 as a result of proposed housing development within the village.

6.3 There is a broad consensus of opinion that believes in the following main priorities:-

- 1) The village must retain its separate identity from neighbouring settlements or, it will cease to be a village. Future housing developments must exclude the possibility of the village being merged or contiguous with Leamington Spa.
- 2) The beautiful rural setting surrounding St Nicholas Church gives the village a character that must be protected from development. It enhances the rural identity of the village. The views towards Offchurch and Cubbington form part of this rural image. The section of Southam Road between Radford Hall and the Manor House provides the vantage point for observing the view in this direction.

3) The high volume of traffic, already an issue particularly at peak times, accessing the Southam Road from Lewis Road, Offchurch Lane and School Lane/Church Lane junctions is of major concern to residents. The complexity of these junctions combined



with high traffic volumes, gradients and blind spots is potentially a safety hazard to road users and pedestrians. Traffic has been increasing significantly. According to Highways statistics between 2011 and 2012 traffic volumes along the Southam Road increased by 50%.

4) Congestion within School Lane at school arrival and departure times is a concern to residents who need to travel at these times. Similarly there is concern for children's safety within School Lane due to the amount of residential traffic using School Lane at these times.

- 5) Residents are strongly opposed to traffic lights, traffic islands and road widening schemes on Southam Road as a solution to traffic congestion. Residents have an intense desire to protect the rural nature of the Southam Road environment. It is also considered likely that such remedies would add to traffic queues at peak times.
- 6) There is a concern for the adequacy of the sewage disposal system in School Lane arising from properties in that area of the village. There have been several instances in recent years where the system has overflowed on to Southam Road with extremely unpleasant consequences.
- 7) Residents have accepted that Radford Semele will need to provide additional houses as a contribution to Warwick District Council's Local Plan. A development leading off Southam Road on the north side when leaving the village towards Fosse Way was widely supported as the best option for the village as it had the least impact on the main concerns, stated above. The site was convenient for the facilities within the village. The Parish Council and District Councillor supported Warwick District Council in the acceptance of this site. This site was subsequently approved for the development of approximately sixty houses. It is within the new 'Village Envelope' i.e. an area defined in the Warwick District Council's Plan for the village which limits housing development to locations within the envelope. (See Map para. 13).
- 8) Residents are concerned about further future developments that will have a negative impacts on our village. (Cllr Doody has advised that the developments are outside of the 'Village Envelope' and that Warwick District Council's Local Plan now identifies all of the sites needed, within the district, to cater for both housing and industrial use) Residents' concerns relate to unwanted housing developments, associated with the destruction of rural views and increased traffic congestion, etc. They express an equal desire to see the maintenance and development of the many favourable things within the village. These include the protection of the village in its present form but with improvements in facilities and services.

## **7 Village Amenities**

- 7.1 The following paragraphs consider the facilities and services currently found within the village and include opinions and observations on improvements that the Radford Semele Village Plan will help to develop over the coming years.

## 7.2 Village Post Office.

7.2.1 The Post Office owners provide an excellent personal service which is widely used and appreciated by residents. The post office counter service, newspapers, magazines, lottery and other sales items provides a range of goods and services that allow many people to transact their business within the village.



7.2.2 It is common knowledge that village post offices are disappearing at an alarming rate. The withdrawing of government support for the service is making the economics of these businesses difficult. The business was previously saved when many local villages lost their post office.

7.2.3 Car parking near to the Post Office is difficult causing many people to pass by with consequent loss of business.

7.2.4 The Village Plan should consider, in conjunction with the owner, help that can be given to ensure that the Post Office business has a sustainable future.

## 7.3 Village Stores, Off Licence & Hair Salon.

7.3.1 The stores provides an excellent range of grocery provisions, milk, bread, DVDs, cash facilities, wines, spirits and soft drinks. It is a focal meeting point within the village. The service is excellent and is provided over extended hours seven days a week. A delivery service is given to customers on request.



7.3.2 The Village Stores is a great asset to the village. Available parking can prove inadequate at busy times during the day; improvements are needed.

7.3.3 Next to the village stores is a ladies hair salon.

## 7.4 Community Hall.

7.4.1 The Community Hall is available for hire seven days a week at reasonable hourly rates. It was fully refurbished in 2005 and gives it the appearance of having been recently done. The hall has a stage facility and seating for approximately 120 people. Tableware caters for approximately 80 people. Public opinion frequently comments that the village is fortunate to have this excellent facility.

7.4.2 Contained within the building are the footballers changing room facilities. These have been fully refurbished in 2014.

7.4.3 The Hall has always been financially self financing. The source of its funds being Hire of the Hall, 50%, the balance arising from rent from sub-letting part of the property to the Sports and Social Club. Both



organisations need to continue to generate adequate income for the continued viability of the Hall.

7.4.4 The Community Hall car park is shared with the Sports and Social Club. On

most occasions there is sufficient car parking space but additional spaces would provide a valuable benefit at the time of larger events.

## 7.5 Playing Fields.

7.5.1 The maintenance of the playing field is a Parish Council responsibility. The responsibilities include grass cutting, hedges and trees maintenance, provision and maintenance of children's play equipment, footpath safety, providing dog and waste bins, litter clearance and public liability insurance. Annual costs are a minimum of £4000 with exceptional repairs and maintenance adding to that cost. The Parish Council replaced the overhead slide equipment in 2013 and the skate board surfaces will be replaced early in 2015.



7.5.2 The general layout of the playing field and children's play area has



remained unchanged for many years. Close to the millennium the current children's play equipment and skate boards were installed but little has been added since. A general refurbishment and the provision

of additional items of play equipment should now be undertaken. The costs of the total project including ground surfaces are likely to be approximately £25000 to £30000. A recent application to the National Lottery failed and a second application (November 2014) has been submitted. The Sunny Dhillon Fun Days (a community event held in memory of a young man from the village who died unexpectedly) have produced funding which the sponsors wish to contribute to providing new play equipment. Many parents use the play area; they wish to be consulted before decisions are taken on the future items of play equipment.

7.5.3 A substantial part of the grassed area is allocated to the football pitch which is



used by one children's team and two teams of adults. All teams have the use of the now refurbished shower/changing rooms within the Community Hall. Space exists to add a pavilion, a cricket pitch for summer use and a tennis court complete with lighting. Sponsorship and evidence of long term commitments would be needed to support this development.

7.5.4 Negative aspects to the playing field arise, these include graffiti, dog fouling, loose dogs, vandalism and litter. None of these issues are a major concern at the present time. Past experience indicates that each has to be challenged and overcome by the appropriate authority when it arises. Evidence of misuse of lime and graffiti currently needs removing.

## 7.6 Sports and Social Club.

7.6.1 The Club has operated as a membership run organisation since the combined Hall and Club was built in 1969. In addition to its very congenial bar facilities it provides high quality TV presentations of most national and international sporting events. The committee organises an extensive number of activities each year. Major events include an annual fun day in the playing field and its President, Mr Stan Sabin organises the village annual Poppy Day collection. Monthly a lunch is arranged for people of a certain age, this is highly appreciated and well supported.

7.6.2 The Club is always open to new members and new ideas. A quarterly 'Newsletter' is distributed within the village providing an interesting account of activities.



## 7.7 Table Tennis Club

7.7.1 The Club is housed at the side of the Community Hall car park. It maintains a low profile as a members club but new members are always welcome.

## 7.8 Primary School

7.8.1 Radford Semele C of E Primary School is located in School Lane. It is a relatively small school providing education for one class between years R-6. In total the school has a capacity for about 200 children.

7.8.2 The school provides a first class standard of primary education and has been classified by Ofsted as "Good". The school is much sought after by parents and is always close to full capacity.

7.8.3 The school has a restricted potential for growth beyond its current capacity, being limited by the poor sewage disposal, infrastructure and lack of available land for new classrooms.

7.8.4 It is a Church of England school and has a firm linkage with St Nicholas Church.



7.8.5 Adjacent to the school is a small private pre-school called Sunbeams which can accommodate approximately 20 children. Sunbeams is financed mainly through voluntary contributions.

## 7.9 St Nicholas Church and Radford Semele Baptist Church

7.10 The village has two churches, both Grade II listed. St Nicholas Church, a medieval church dating back to the Domesday book is located north of Southam Road from Church Lane.



7.11 Radford Semele Baptist Church is Victorian



and is located in Lewis Road opposite the Community Hall.

7.12 Both churches have active communities and work closely together.

7.13 **Foot Paths** The village has an extensive network of footpaths. It also has a long section of the tow path of the Grand Union Canal. The Parish Council maintains an interest in ensuring that footpaths remain open and are protected. It is important that the public report any obstructions or unauthorised changes to the Parish Council so that appropriate action can be taken to enforce ancient rights.

7.13.1 Requests have been received to extend the footpath from Offchurch Lane to the Grand Union Canal. This would reduce the danger to pedestrians and add an attractive feature to walking within the village boundary. This requirement has been needed since one can no longer walk this link safely since the closure of the footpath over the canal viaduct. There are significant cost implications as there is insufficient highway width, adjoining land is elevated and privately owned also drainage implications have to be overcome.

## 7.14 Car Parking

7.14.1 An ever increasing number of cars parked on the road side is a growing problem within the village. Commercial vans parked near to owners' homes are also increasing. Pavements are part of the assumed parking area with consequent inconvenience to

pedestrians. On 'through roads' within the village there is now inconvenience to two directional traffic and at pinch points a serious risk that emergency services and large farming vehicles cannot gain access. The full length of Lewis Road from Southam Road to The Valley is affected. School Lane is seriously affected particularly at school times, also the upper part of Hatherall Road at the junction with Lewis Road.

7.14.2 There are no simple solutions to on street parking but over future months, solutions resulting in restrictions and increased yellow lines, appear essential.

## **8 Village Clubs and Activities**

### **8.1 Scout Group**

8.1.1 The Scout Group is thriving and has grown over recent years with a membership currently of around 60 girls and boys aged from 6 to 14 years old in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The Group is very much a part of the community with most children and leaders being resident in the village. At weekly meetings at the School and also on weekend activities the Group gets involved in some fantastic activities that are both challenging and fun whilst also developing an understanding and appreciation of their community.

8.1.2 The Rainbows and Brownies Groups meet weekly at the Community Hall. They are led by dedicated residents who have given many years of voluntary service for the benefit of generations of children.

### **8.2 Radford Rendezvous**

8.3 Radford Rendezvous is a community social event that takes place on the second Wednesday of each month in the Community Hall. Rendezvous was started in 2006 by a group of people who were concerned that the village was losing some of its key community activities. Coffee and tea, and homemade biscuits, are served. It is an opportunity to sit and chat and catch up on each others' news. Often the Vicar, the Baptist Minister and the Police Community Support Officers are present, providing a chance to chat with them.

### **8.4 Art Group**

8.5 The group meets at the Community Hall on Wednesday mornings. (excluding the second Wednesday in each month) The group is formed from people, male and female, who have come together to share their common interest. In most weeks individuals work on their own project but over the year a number of artists are hired to give demonstrations which hopefully extend the skills of the group.

### **8.6 Radford Semele Football Club**

. The club meets and trains on Wednesday evenings at their Home Ground, the playing field, Lewis Road.

## 9 Local Government Bodies.

- 9.1 There are three tiers of local government, County, District and Parish, providing the services received.
- 1) The County Councillor for Radford Semele is Cllr Wallace Redford.
  - 2) The District Councillor for Radford Semele is Cllr Michael Doody.
  - 3) The Parish Council has a non elected Parish Clerk. (Mr David Leigh-Hunt) The Parish Council has provision for ten councillors from which a chairman is elected annually.
- 9.2 The main services provided by each tier of local government are considered elsewhere in this draft Parish Plan. The Parish Council maintains a web site at [www.radfordsemelepc.org.uk](http://www.radfordsemelepc.org.uk). This provides a list of councillors, minutes of meetings, responses to housing plans, projects completed, a diary of village activities and related web sites.
- 9.3 Provided that the County and District Councils continue to maintain their services to the Parish it is the Parish Council's responsibility to initiate and support others in making physical improvements and changes within the village. Examples of previous Parish Council projects are traffic calming on Southam Road, pedestrian crossing, new bus shelter, new youth shelter and overhead cable swing in the playing field, new notice board, alleviation of flooding in The Valley, a short term loan to the Community Hall to advance the refurbishment, etc.
- 9.4 The Parish Council is committed to progressing the projects approved and identified in this draft Parish Plan. Additional funding will be needed from the National Lottery, Warwick District Council and other sources. Voluntary help will be needed for fund raising. In May 2015 elections for Parish Council take place. It is important that residents offer their voluntary service for Council to ensure that a full complement of Councillors is elected to implement a new Parish Plan.

## 10 Future Projects in Radford Semele

- 10.1 **Post Office** The Village Plan should consider, in conjunction with the owner, help that can be given to ensure that the Post Office business has a sustainable future.
- 10.2 **Village Stores.** Available parking can prove inadequate at busy times during the day; improvements are needed.



**10.3 Community Hall.** The car park, a Community Hall responsibility, is shared with the Sports and Social Club. On most occasions there is sufficient car parking space but additional spaces would provide a valuable benefit at the time of larger events.

**10.4 Playing Field.** A general refurbishment and the provision of additional items of play equipment should now be implemented. Space exists to add a pavilion, a cricket pitch for summer use and a tennis court complete with lighting. Sponsorship and evidence of long term commitments would be needed to support this development. Evidence of misuse of lime and graffiti needs removing.

**10.5 Foot Paths.** Requests have been received to extend the footpath from Offchurch Lane to the Grand Union Canal. This would reduce the danger to pedestrians and add an attractive feature to walking within the village boundary. There are significant cost implications as there is insufficient highway width, adjoining land is elevated and privately owned also drainage problems have to be overcome.

**10.6 Parking Cars.** There are no simple solutions to on street parking but over the future months, solutions resulting in restrictions and increased yellow lines, appear essential.

**10.7 Baptist Church.** Requests have been made that the clock and chime are restored to working order.

#### **10.8 Other Suggestions**

- 1) A 'Village Improvement Group' should be set up to generate ideas.
- 2) A 'Village magazine' should be re-established.
- 3) A new bus shelter is needed on Southam Road for pupils attending Southam School.

### **11 Consultations & Surveys Undertaken in 2014**

**11.1** Three public meetings have been held primarily concerned with housing development within the village. More than 130 residents attended each event.

**11.2** Time was allocated, at several Parish Council Meetings, for public discussion on the three planning applications made for large developments in Radford Semele. Each meeting was well attended.

**11.3** Every household was circulated to seek opinions on the proposed development sites. This survey provided the basis for village opinion expressed in para.6.3 above. (89% stated their opposition to

development on the site near the church. 1% favoured development off Spring Lane while 70% preferred development to the south east of the village off Southam Road)

- 11.4 The Parish Council met Warwick District Council concerning development sites within the village. The outcome was that the 'Village envelope' now adopted corresponds with the wishes of Radford Semele residents, as expressed in the survey. Subsequently Warwick District Council passed the planning application for the site off Southam Road and rejected the other two sites.

## **12 The Parish Council's Priorities.**

- 1) The Parish Council's priorities are to strive to retain the intrinsic character of the village and the beauty of the Radford Semele countryside, protecting the settings of its historic buildings and maintaining their environment so they can be enjoyed by all residents and visitors.
- 2) To work closely with Warwick District Council to ensure that the Local Plan which includes the 'Village Envelope' is enforced. This should ensure that future housing developments and any proposed changes that have the potential to impact on the village environment or landscape are planned such that they:-
  - a. Maintain a good quality of life for village residents and visitors.
  - b. Harmonise with the village including landscape and natural beauty
  - c. Minimise impact on the village heritage assets & amenities
  - d. Have a favourable impact on the village and not have a negative effect on the rural character.
  - e. Look after and maintain village amenities for current and future residents
- 3) Look at the merits of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for adoption within the term of the new Local Plan.
- 4) Maintain good communications with village residents and Warwick District Council.
- 5) Commit to progressing the projects approved and identified in this Parish Plan.
- 6) Seek additional funding from sources such as the National Lottery, Warwick District Council and other sources.
- 7) Encourage residents to participate in Parish Council affairs such as offering voluntary service for Parish Council, for fund raising, for developing and overseeing projects to help make Radford Semele a place of first choice in which to live in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

# 13 Radford Semele Village Envelope



13.1 This is the new 'Village Envelope' agreed with Warwick District for the new Local Plan 2011-2029. It shows the area of new housing development favoured by the majority of the village through consultation.

## 14 Radford Semele Parish Boundary



## 15 Useful Village Internet Links

- <http://www.radfordsemelepc.org.uk> – Parish Council
- <http://www.stnicholasrestored.co.uk/> - St Nicholas Church
- <http://www.stnicholasrestoration.com/> - Restoration of St Nicholas
- <http://www.rsbcb.org.uk/> - Radford Semele Baptist Church
- <http://www.radfordsemeleprimaryschool.co.uk> – Primary School
- <http://sunbeamspreschool.btck.co.uk/> - Sunbeams Pre-School
- <http://scouts.org.uk/get-involved/groups/1st-radford-semele#&panel1-1> – Scouts

END

Prepared by Parish Council with the aid of a number of village residents

David Chater Chairman of Radford Semele Parish Council

David Leigh-Hunt Clerk to Radford Semele Parish Council

November 2014

## *Village Landscapes To be Protected For Future Generations*



Views of St Nicholas Church Setting From Offchurch Lane/Southam Road/Church Lane



Views across Countryside Rear of Spring Lane