

To Steering Group

Trefonen Treflach & Nantmawr Village Design Statement 2016  
Consultation Draft

Thank you for preparing these documents

I support the VDS 2016 Draft as a confirmation and continuation of the previous VDS updated to the present.

There are points which I particularly feel are key:-

**Part4**

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*The character of each village must be maintained by the protection from development of the fields and land surrounding the existing settlements.*

*4.1.1 Landmarks and strategic views in and out of the settlements must be protected and promoted.*

and

*4.1.2 There should be no ribbon development on the approaches to any settlements.*

For Trefonen I feel that the field between Oswestry Road and Chapel Lane is vital in keeping the character of Trefonen as a rural village by bringing the countryside into the heart of the village.

It allows both views out of the centre of the village from the Barley Mow and Chapel Green; and view of the hillside part of the village rising behind Chapel Lane from Oswestry Road as you approach the village. This is what gives Trefonen its own character and is something I appreciate daily.

*4.1.3 The preservation of the remaining, but significant, sections of Offa's Dyke is imperative*

It is interesting to see on the Map all the small sections of the Dyke that still exist, including the part beside the Barley Mow, and to be able to join them up. To be able to view the **context and setting** of the Dyke is as vital as the protecting the physical remains for villagers and visitors alike, especially those walking Offa's Dyke Path. Can these words be incorporated?

*4.2.6 Street lighting*

I support anything that can be done to minimise light pollution. We need to be and feel safe but should try to preserve the night sky of a rural village.

*4.4.1, 4.4.4, 4.4.5 - residential development in Trefonen.*

I agree with all these points. We all know what a desirable place to live our village is but combined with the highest bidder property market that inflates house prices. Any open market housing development would be subject to those commercial forces and there is no control on who will move in -- whether they are local with children or from afar looking to retire.

Appropriately sited, sized and designed development for individual "local needs" or "affordable" homes would be an ideal solution but not easy to achieve.

*4.8.1 Stone walls are an outstanding feature of the area. Those stone walls which exist should be maintained and kept in good repair.*

*4.11.8 Those stone walls which exist should be maintained and kept in good repair, as significant features of the villages. The Rural Parish Council should support restoration work where possible*

I support anything to protect and maintain these local features including the use of grants for land owners to maintain them.

*Part 2.4* describes “stone hedges”. Please can this term be use throughout all Parts alongside “stone walls” as we have both in the village and all need protection

They are some good examples of double sided freestanding stone hedges in the village which could be included as photograph (e.g. on footpath down from Old Post Office Lane to Fron Cottages), perhaps with a diagram? I understand these are rare in this part of the country so we have a special role to play in their protection

*4.14 Heritage, tourism, sport & leisure*

I support the addition of all the new items

## **Part 2**

*2.2.2. Footpaths*

I applaud the work of the P3 Group in maintaining the local paths, and also the Hill Walk Committee.

There appears to be no mention of the Shropshire Way Northern Loop through Trefonen which was developed by Shropshire Council a couple of years ago, and should be a tourism benefit for both long distance and day loop walkers. Can this be added into text and maps

*Fig 13 -- Map Of Adopted Public Roads*

As discussed with Jeff at the village hall some of the lanes shown are not adopted roads. e.g. Hollies Lane; which he was aware of and I presume has since been amended (refer to Shropshire Council online mapping or Definitive Map). Many residents have contributed to the surfacing of private lanes in the past. We also discussed the need to differentiate between those which are tarmac surfaced or not surfaced e.g. top of Springbank, and part of Little London Lane.

## **Part 3**

*3.1.8 Future projects – keeping up the good work*

I applaud the work of all the Village Community Committees for their work in maintaining the village facilities, and the fund raising behind them from villagers. Not mentioned are the most recent defibrillator donations and fundraising event and volunteer responders. What great community support we have.

*3.5 Trefonen Village*

*3.5.1 Overview*

I fully support the statements made in this section

*3.5.2 Public buildings and open spaces*

I agree that the Barley Mow and the Village Hall are both valuable assets to our village. As noted above I support the view of the field between Oswestry Road and Chapel lane remaining an open field as a key rural aspect of our village.

I look forward to viewing the final Draft and its passage to adoption.

Regards

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The Chilterns  
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Trefonen