

# **THE PARISH of ALL SAINTS**



## **PARISH PLAN**

and

## **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

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## INTRODUCTION



In 2003 All Saints Parish Council responded to a government initiative which provided the funding for the preparation and publication of a Village Design Statement. At its annual meeting that year the Parish Council sought volunteers and the All Saints Village Design Statement Committee was formed; the names of the individual members are shown on page 24. It was later decided that a Parish Plan should form part of the project.

The first part of the Committee's work was fact finding and, as it is the wishes of the parishioners that are paramount in this project, this was best done by inviting all parishioners to complete a questionnaire. 230 questionnaires were delivered, one to every

household in the parish. 184 questionnaires were returned, representing an 80% response and the views of 388 individuals.

The second part of the Committee's work was to produce this report, which is based on the questionnaire responses which, in turn, are verifiable. The Committee felt the responses should be independently scrutinised and appointed Devon County Council to carry out a statistical analysis. Percentages shown in the report have usually been rounded, but the full analysis, statistical and non statistical, is available for inspection – details can be found on page 24, under The Way Forward.

### What is a Parish Plan? and what is a Village Design Statement?

A Parish Plan is a statement that covers three essential points:-

- a description of the current position,
- an analysis of parishioners' views on the quality of life, the problems, strengths, needs and opportunities offered by the Parish, and
- an action plan which will be adopted by the Parish Council.

A Village Design Statement is similar in structure, covering:-

- a description of the environment,
- parishioners' views on the elements within the environment that they value, whether or not there should be further development and, if so, what forms it should take, and
- a set of design guidelines which will be presented to the planning authorities and which will be taken into account when planning decisions are made that affect our parish.

Statements in this report that are based on questionnaire responses applied at the time the responses were made, that is, May 2004. The report has had so much input from the parishioners that, although it is the Committee that has brought it together, it reflects the contribution made by all the parishioners of the Parish of All Saints.



## THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS



The parish is set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and an Area of Great Landscape Value, covering some 566 hectares, or 1,400 acres. The landscape is typical Devon countryside, with rolling wooded hills, small fields and narrow, high hedged lanes that have not significantly changed since medieval times.

Essentially, the parish can be divided into seven hamlets:- All Saints, Alston, Churchill, Coaxden, Colston, Smallridge and Wiggs Plot, together with some isolated areas. The A358 Axminster/Chard Road, the original Fosse Way, runs through the parish's southern area,

of our heritage. A mobile library visits every week and many clubs and societies flourish. The market town of Axminster is two miles away and Chard (Somerset) is six miles away. Lying between the two, parishioners have the benefit of those facilities that are requisite to a modern society, such as shops, trade, medical services, sports facilities, leisure pursuits and bus and rail links. The majority of parishioners use private transport, but there is a flexible transport system that operates between all parts of the parish and key locations in Axminster and Chard.

All Saints parish boundary abuts Axminster