

Village Plan 2007

Of major concern to the Shirenewton **area** are both the water supply and sewage systems. Following a decision by Welsh Water in 2006, the holding reservoirs at Earlswood and above Shirenewton have been taken out of service, and the water supply now relies on pump pressure from White Mill. This has resulted in a number of occasions when water supplies to the village have been cut for up to 12 hours following power cuts. Stand-by generation could help the problem and the Community Council is pursuing this matter with Welsh Water.

With regard to the sewerage system, the majority of houses in Shirenewton and Mynyddbach are connected to main drainage, whilst all of the more rural locations in the area rely on local cess-pits or septic tanks. There is no spare capacity in the mains sewage to accommodate further development in either Shirenewton or Mynyddbach and some recent planning permission has been granted for action only after a scheduled upgrade in 2008/9. In addition, a number of surface drainage problems exist in Shirenewton, Earlswood and Newchurch West.

Communications

Telephone services are provided to the majority of the area from the Shirenewton village telephone exchange, but some of the west of the area is served from the Wolvesnewton exchange. Both are limited to 999 numbers which is becoming a significant problem. No cable services are available in the area. Internet broadband has been accessible via the exchanges since 2005. Although fast connection speeds are theoretically available, in practice the speed rapidly reduces as distance from the exchange increases. Broadband is relatively slow or unobtainable in the Pen-y-Caemawr and Newchurch West areas because of being at the distance limit.

Mobile telephone reception from all providers is available (but patchy) within the village area, and is extremely limited outside it. Many areas of the community have no mobile coverage. A good web site effectively covering many aspects of village life is operated through the services of the Shirenewton Church web site, www.shirenewton.org.

Action points

Short Term (within year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pursue and resolve the water supply reliability• Monitor the sewage system upgrade• <i>Investigate the possibility of further services such as a doctor's surgery</i>
Medium Term (1-5 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Investigate the possibilities of enhanced mobile and broadband connections</i>
Long Term (5-20 years)	