

Droop Kingston Park Gate Partway Pidney Pleck

Hazelbury Bryan

Park Gate

Kingston



Wonston

Woodrow

Droop

Kingston

Park Gate

Partway

Pidney

Pleck

Wonston

Pleck

Pidney

Partway

Parish Plan

September 2010

Park Gate

Kingston

Droop

Woodrow

Wonston

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THE PARISH PLAN

The objective of the Hazelbury Bryan Parish Plan is to record the opinions of the people of Hazelbury Bryan of all ages about the future of their village.

The process started in October 2009. An inaugural public meeting in the Village Hall was followed by a survey questionnaire to all dwellings within the village during February 2010.

The purpose of the Parish Plan is to seek the views of villagers about what they want for Hazelbury Bryan and to turn that into a clear statement for future planning purposes. The existence of a plan means that Parish, District and County councils are aware of villagers' views when formulating their plans for our village.

This document combines the input received from the meeting and the questionnaire into a plan that will serve as a reference document for the next ten years, for use by all who seek to have influence over the future of the village. Recommended actions to address the issues raised were formulated and rated as high, medium or low priority.

The Parish Council will have the responsibility for adopting and executing this plan and its actions. They should incorporate the actions into their plans and appoint sub-committees to oversee the implementation of the major actions.

All statistics quoted in this plan are based on the responses received to the questionnaire. There were 257 questionnaires completed out of the 450 distributed which is a response rate of almost 60%. The responses came from 550 residents.

This Parish Plan Steering committee

Cllr Steve Murcer - Chairman

Jenny Farthing – Parish Clerk

Nick Messinger

Jeffery Bennett

Mike Darnell

Myra Bridson

Susie Potter

Emma Lindsay

Val Jackson

Geraldine Hobson

Chris Eyres



The Public meeting

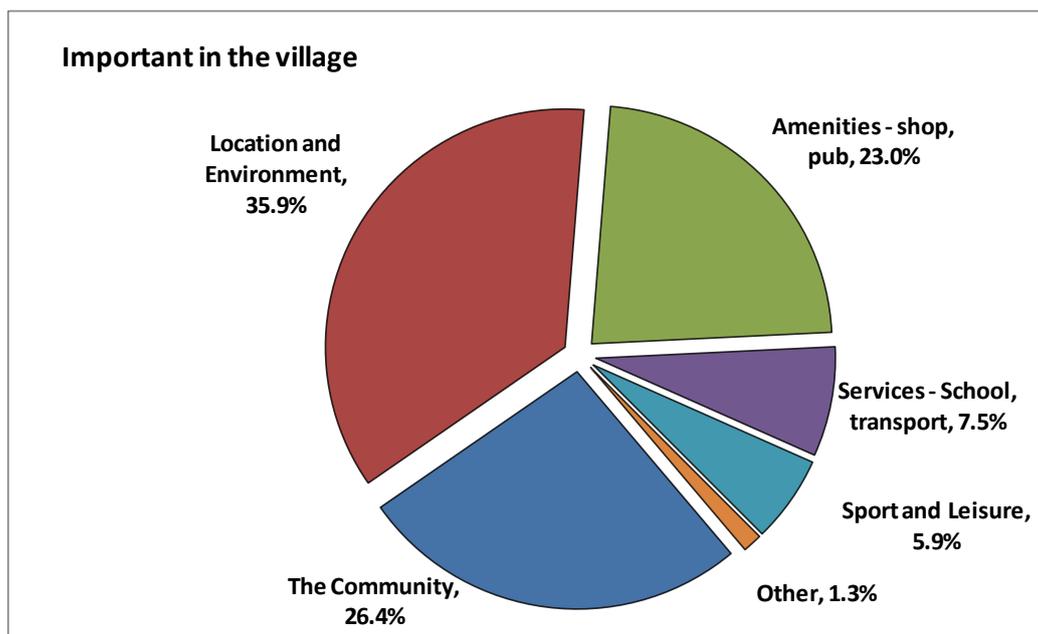
The history of the village is documented in the Appendix at the end of this Plan.

IMPORTANT IN HAZELBURY BRYAN

Hazelbury Bryan is set in glorious Dorset countryside and 'The community' and 'The location' were found to be the most important reasons why people want to live here.



View from Bulbarrow

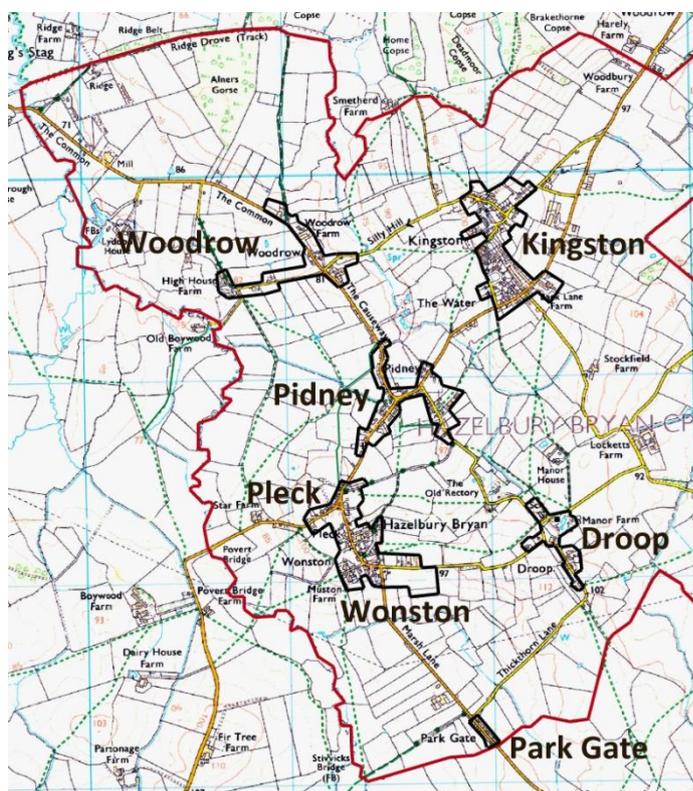


INTRODUCTION



View of Wonston from Bulbarrow

Hazelbury Bryan is located in the heart of Thomas Hardy’s Wessex, approximately central within the triangle formed by the towns of Blandford Forum, Sherborne and Dorchester. It is on the edge of the Blackmore Vale and adjacent to Bulbarrow Hill and was called Nuttlebury in Hardy’s *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*. The village is primarily supported by services located in Sturminster Newton about 4 miles distant, but villagers regularly support most of the towns such as Sherborne, Yeovil, Dorchester and Blandford Forum which are within about a half hour drive from the village .

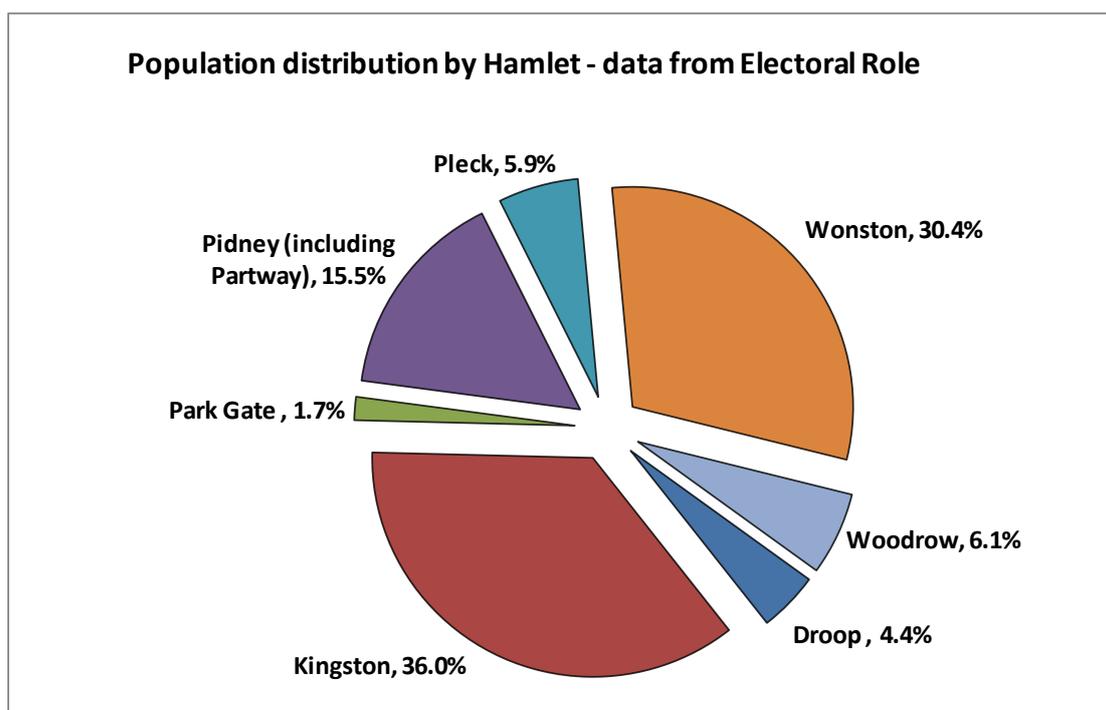


Hazelbury Bryan is the Parish name that embraces seven hamlets making up the residential areas. They are Droop, Kingston, Parkgate, Pidney (including Partway), Pleck, Wonston and Woodrow. This map shows how the hamlets are arranged with fields and open land between them.

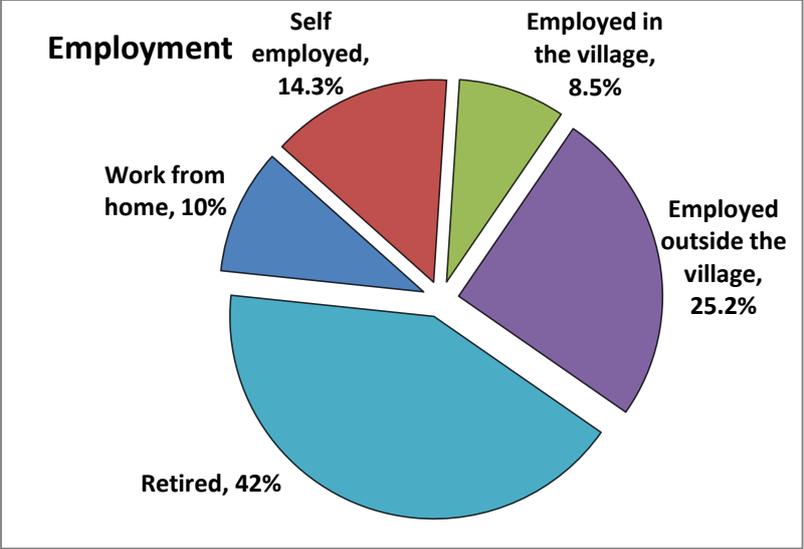
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The heart of the community is in Pidney, specifically, Alec’s Field. This area was bequeathed to the village and is where the local shop is to be found together with the community sports field and a children’s play area. Opposite the entrance to Alec’s Field is The Antelope Inn, the village’s only pub. The Village Hall, on Partway, is a short walk towards Wonston. It is also an active centre of community life. The main Church for the village and the primary school are located at the south-eastern point, in Droop. There is a Methodist Chapel adjacent to the Village Hall and a social club further into Wonston.

The population is approximately 850 occupying some 470 dwellings. The main centres of population are in Kingston (36%) and Wonston (30%), the remaining population being divided roughly equally among the smaller hamlets. The population is fairly stable, with about 46% having lived in the Parish for over 10 years and only 6% who have lived here less than one year.



Hazelbury Bryan is still a predominately farming and rural area, although as with all such communities the main livelihood emphasis has been shifting steadily away from the working farm and other supporting rural occupations, to a retired population seeking a quiet retreat (42%), those with the ability to work from home (10%), and those commuting daily to one of the larger population centres (25%).



The housing stock in the Parish is quite varied. There are older elegant large houses and country cottages (many of which have been restored to modern standards), typical fifties and sixties style homes, and modern new build properties. All combine to give the village a very varied and diverse set of residencies and characteristics.



Old cottages in Wonston



A brand new modern house

There is a thriving, well supported local community primary school, serving both Hazelbury Bryan and neighbouring villages. There are approximately 100 children in four main classes and a pre-school. The school is recognised for its all round teaching capabilities and offers extensive ‘in school’ and extracurricular sports activities.

LOCAL SHOPS AND PUBS

The village has one pub and three shops. The village store is in Pidney, Oakleys farm shop is in Pleck and Thyme after Time is situated in Woodrow. The pub is located in Pidney.

The presence of a pub and shops is deemed to be very important by more than 95% of the village.

The Village Shop

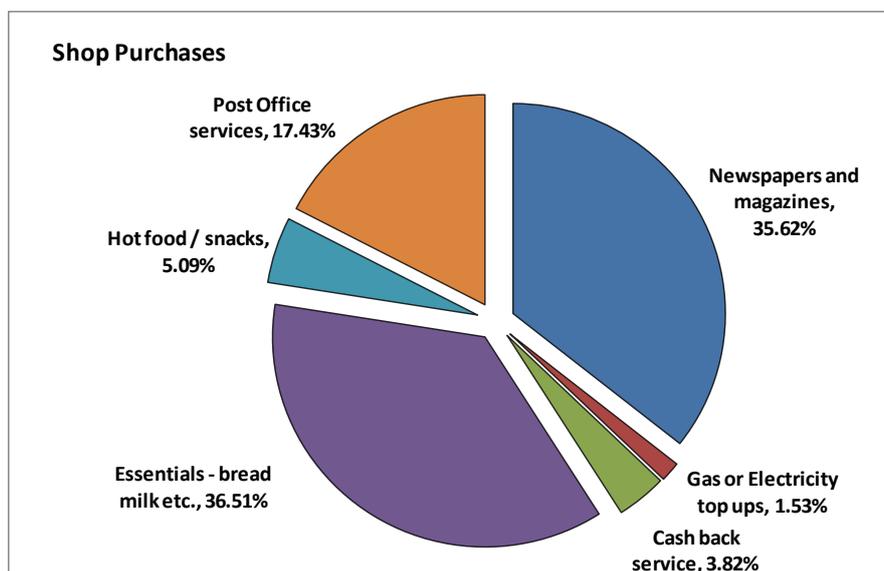
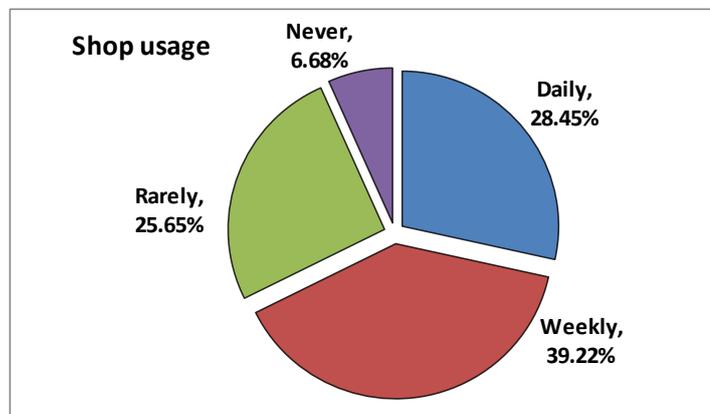


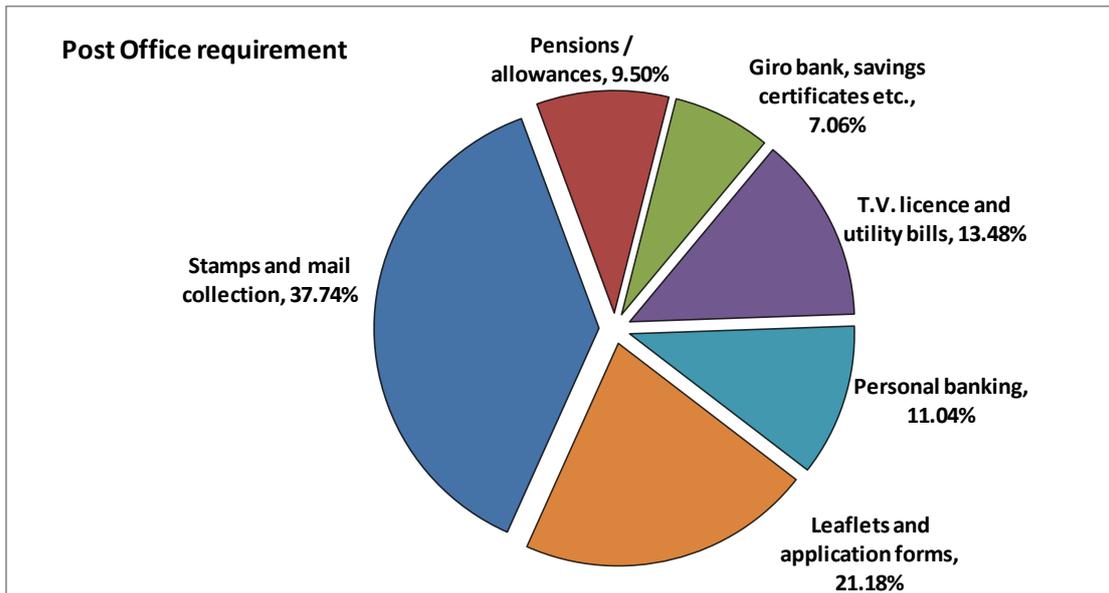
The current Hazelbury Bryan village shop was opened in June 2006. It is run from a timber building situated in the centre of the village on Alec’s field. It is open long hours and provides supplies to the villagers and people passing through.

Hazelbury Bryan village shop

The survey showed that the shop is considered to be very important in the village and is used by two thirds of residents on at least a weekly basis, largely for newspapers and essential groceries.

There is a post office service on a Monday morning which is used by about half of the respondents. The main requirement in this rural location is for stamps and mail collection.





The mail collection services around the village are deemed acceptable by most people.

Issues / Actions

Issue	Action	Priority
Several issues were identified with the shop: a) It only has temporary planning permission b) It is too small c) The Post office hours are too short	The Parish Council to look at ways of meeting the aspirations of the village for a permanent, larger shop with longer Post Office hours.	Medium

The Antelope Inn

Formerly owned by local brewers Hall and Woodhouse, The Antelope Inn is now a privately owned independently managed freehold pub.

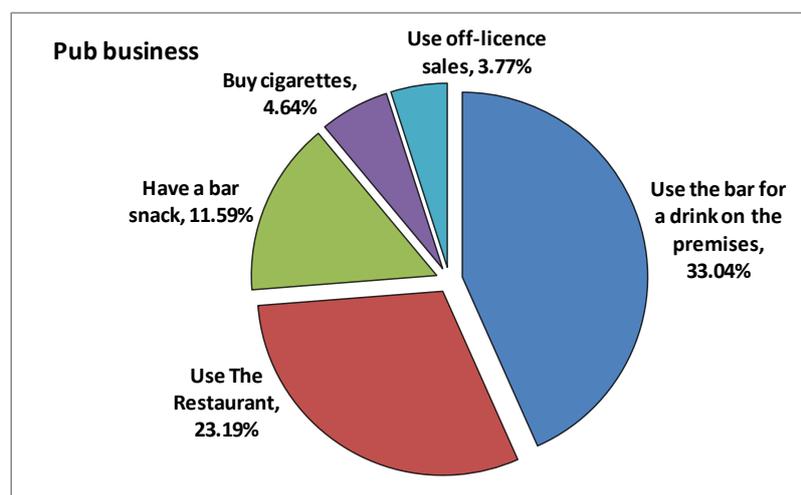
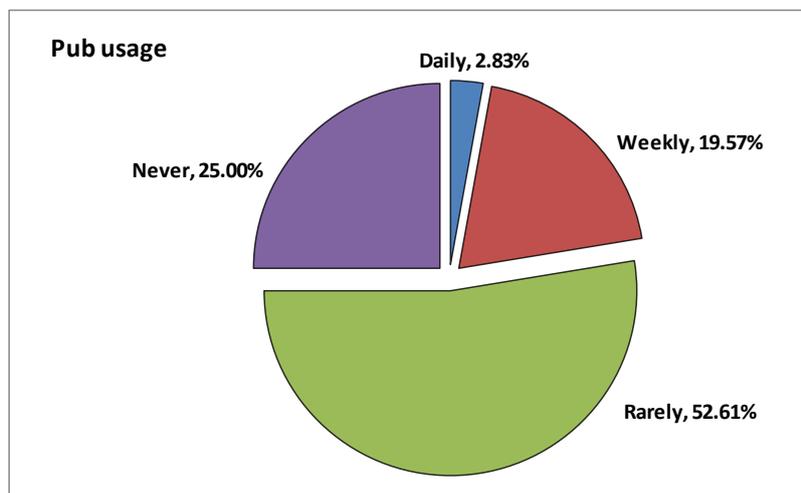
It is situated in the centre of the village opposite the playing field.

The old skittle alley adjacent to the pub is being refurbished as there is a demand for skittles in the village.



An old drawing of the pub

The bar and restaurant are used regularly by the community with small numbers having bar snacks or using the off-licence.



There were a few suggestions for improvements which included the following two

- The Antelope would benefit from refurbishment
- There is no lounge bar and the dining room is very small

LEISURE

The Village Hall

76% of people questioned felt that the hall was very important to the village community. It has been partly refurbished, with the addition of a lavatory for the disabled, and improvements have been made to the kitchen and also to sound-proofing so that the hall and small room can be used simultaneously. Broadband connection is also available.



The village hall in 2010

A structural survey was recently carried out which revealed that the Hall is structurally sound. Major refurbishment is planned.

The hall is a focus for many of the village activities. Below are details of the regular clubs and societies that use the Hall currently (details of times and contacts are published in the Parish Magazine):

Art Group	Members meet to paint and draw every Wednesday, and there are talks and demonstrations by visiting artists.
Brownies	There is a very popular Brownie pack which meets every Monday evening.
Gardening Club	A club with a thriving membership. There are regular speakers and demonstrations, an annual show, plant sale and coach outing.
Hillside Hungry Club	A monthly lunch club for the over 55s, started in 2009 as a way of promoting fellowship in the village, supported by The Partnership for Older People Project (PoPP).
IT Support	This is available in the Hall on Thursday afternoons. It provides help for both beginners and the more experienced.
Short Mat Bowls	Meeting every Thursday evening and taking part in matches on other evenings. This is a very popular club with many members
Tai-Chi	This group meets weekly on Mondays
Tea and Chat	Originally started by Age Concern, this is now an independent tea-time social group.
Vale Ladies	Begun in 2002, this group of ladies meets monthly, has periodic speakers and raises money for charity.

Approximately 50 people expressed the view that they would like to see a new Village Hall. However, most people would prefer to keep the present one, especially those who have lived in the village most of their lives.

Wonston Club

The Wonston Club is located in Drum Lane. It is licensed to sell alcohol to its members and provides a location for social activities such as skittles.

Cricket and Football

Adult cricket and football are well supported, with junior cricket also popular.

There are several football and cricket teams for the different age groups



Typical cricket match

Allotments

The allotments were set up in 2009 in The Keep (adjacent to Alec's field) and provide both social and culinary benefits to the members of the Allotment Association. In addition to the 23 allotments the Allotment Association has a communal shed and wild flower garden.



Hard at work on the allotments

Other facilities / Activities

In addition to the activities in the village hall, the following activities also take place including

- Book club
- Pilates
- Play reading
- Mothers Union

People were asked what other leisure facilities they would like to see in the village. Of the responses received under this heading alone

- 29.9% would like skateboard facilities
- 16.2% would like cycle ramps
- 53.8% would like courts for ball games (tennis/netball etc)

There are three main **community events** which are held in the village. Of the people questioned,

- 47.3% regularly attended the Church & Village Fête
- 29.6% of people said they attended the Fun Day
- 23.1% went to the Festival of Bryan



The Fun Day

The Library Van

This is not well used, although obviously a very important facility for those without transport. 10% of respondents said they made use of the facility.

Seats

More than half of the respondents, 230 people, said they would like to see seats in the village.

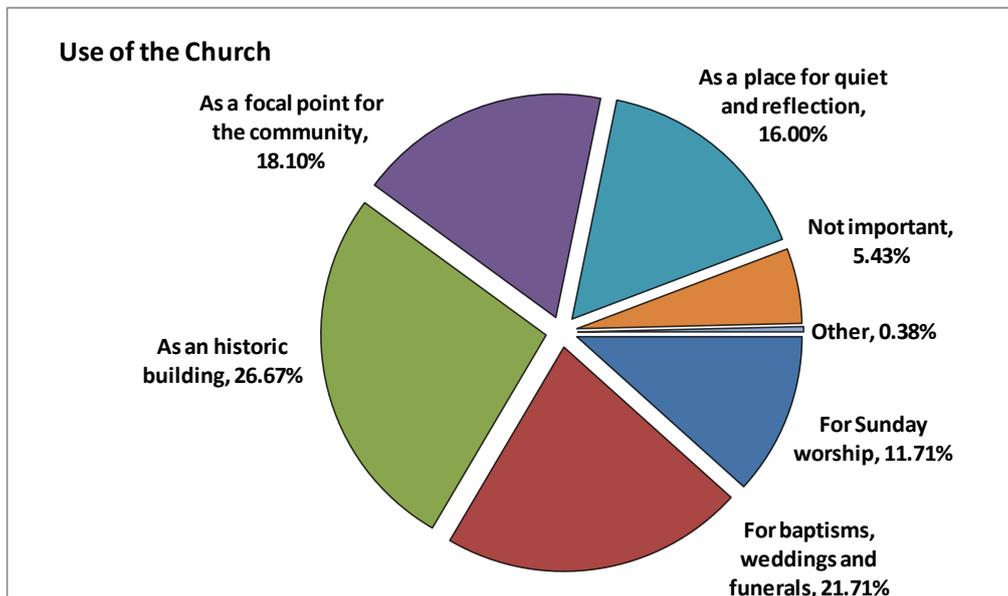
Issues / Actions

Issue	Action	Priority
Seats wanted in the village	The Parish Council to select location and find the necessary funding	Medium

The Churches

There are two churches in the village: St Mary & St James, which is Church of England and the Hazelbury Bryan Methodist Chapel.

Almost everyone felt that the churches are important in the village even though the attendance at Sunday services is less than 20% of the village.



Concerts and other special events are held in the churches from time to time. When people were asked whether they would like to see greater use of church buildings for community and other events, the replies were evenly split for and against. The suggestions for its use included drama and exhibitions.



Inside St Mary and St James

The Church of St Mary & St James



St Mary and St James is the principal church in the group of six parishes, the others being Belchalwell, Fifehead Neville, Ibberton, Mappowder and Woolland. The administration of the Church is the responsibility of the Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council and the Priest in Charge, and there is a voluntary administrator.

It has both an adult and a children's choir. Details of services etc. are published in the Parish Magazine.

For the first time in summer 2010 the Church will be running a holiday club for children. The Church also helped with funding a lunch club open to all over fifty-fives. The Church Harvest Supper has been held for the last three years in the Village Hall. The Church is also used for events such as weddings, baptisms, funerals, as well as other community gatherings such as concerts, flower festivals and art displays. The Church has strong links with the local Primary School, and their services and assemblies are held regularly in the Church. A Fete and a sponsored bicycle/ride/walk are held annually to raise money for the Church

Hazelbury Bryan Methodist Church



The Chapel, in Partway, is part of the Sturminster Newton section of the North Dorset Methodist Circuit. Other chapels are in Sturminster Newton, Broad Oak, Marnhull, King's Stag and Ibberton.

The Chapel is registered for weddings, and is there also for baptisms and funerals. Services are held every Sunday at 6pm with a Sunday School at 9.40am. There is usually Family Worship at 9.40am each month, with the active participation of the children.

There are senior and junior youth clubs held on Friday evenings during term time which are led by the full-time youth worker for the section and supported by members of the congregation.

There are also activities during the summer holidays. Some experimental sessions are being planned which will concern the Red Cross as well as Bible teaching. The youth worker is in contact with the local school and is assisting in Assemblies. The Chapel also takes part in the annual village Funday. Every first and third Wednesday a coffee morning/bring and buy is held, the proceeds being shared equally between a charity and the chapel.

Parish Magazine

The Parish Magazine is published 10 times a year for Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes. It is issued monthly, with a double issue for December/January and July/ August. More than 90% of the villagers take the parish magazine, and almost everyone (97.5%) said they felt it kept them well informed. The price of the magazine is 25p per issue (£2.50 per year) and advertising raises valuable revenue for the church.

COUNTRYSIDE & ENVIRONMENT

Open Spaces

The open spaces around the village are greatly appreciated, particularly Alec's Field, The Keep, Hazel Wood and the Holy Well. Hazel Wood is used by more than 250 respondents and even Alners Gorse, which is less central, is used sometimes by about 100 people. There is also considerable interest in volunteering to help maintain these areas.

Alners Gorse

This is owned by Butterfly Conservation and consists of 14.4 hectares of scrubby grassland and woodland, a remnant of the old Blackmore Vale common, as is the adjacent Deadmoor Common in Fifehead Neville parish. The area is managed for its butterflies; 34 species have been recorded. Nightingales may also be heard. Volunteers are welcome to join the regular work parties, which are advertised in the Parish Magazine. Access to the reserve is from the road towards Kings Stag, near the Hazelbury Bryan village sign. Just over half the respondents make use of the footpath rather than visit specifically for the butterflies.

The frequency of visits to Alners Gorse is

- 3.5% visit weekly
- 30% rarely do so.

Hazel Wood

This site, of about 5.7 hectares, was acquired by the Woodland Trust and planted in 1999 with a mixture of broadleaved trees and shrubs. It is crossed by a public footpath running from Water Knap to Kingston. There is also an extensive network of rides which are maintained by the Trust. It is very popular with dog-walkers.

The frequency of visits to Hazel Wood is

- 18% Weekly
- 49% Rarely
- 33% Never



Selwaie Brook

The Selwaie Brook

A pond alongside the Selwaie Brook was added in Hazel Wood at the request of the Parish Council as the parish's Millennium feature. At present local volunteers carry out necessary maintenance to remove reed mace which could rapidly choke the pond if not regularly removed

Holy Well

On the other side of the brook from the pond is the Holy Well – in fact a natural spring - which was excavated and restored by volunteer archaeologists in 1999. This area is called “Haliwell” on the 1607 map of the village, so it is likely that the well dates from a much earlier period. It has been registered with Dorset County Council as an Historic Monument. It was adopted by the Parish Council's Millennium Committee and the Parish Council is responsible for its upkeep.



Holy Well

In 2009 the Parish Council sought consent to establish a new path into Hazel Wood from The Causeway to give access to those living in that area without having to use the road down Water Knap. Permission was sought from Wessex Water and the Woodland Trust but was refused, by Wessex Water, on safety grounds.

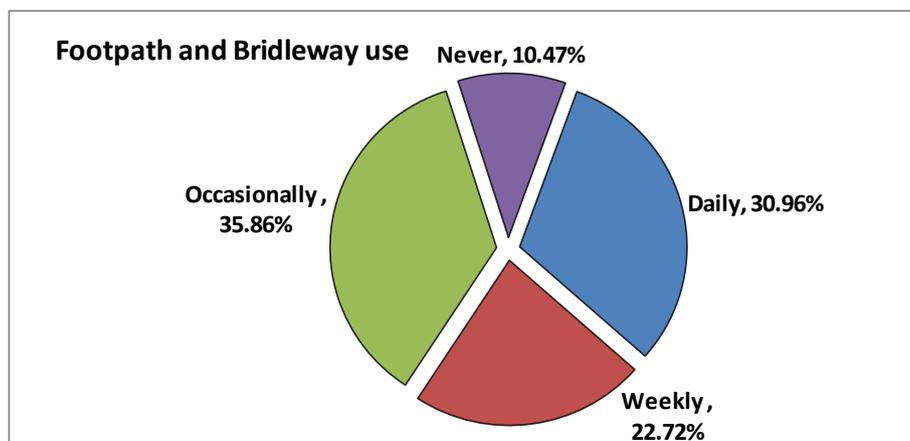
Rights of Way



Coney Lane

The public footpaths are extremely popular; over 300 respondents use them, almost half on a daily basis. Maintenance and repairs are always ongoing. Many respondents wanted muddy areas around well-used gateways to be gravelled, but there was also a minority feeling that our footpaths were not like urban pavements and should not be “suburbanised” by putting down gravel.

There were a few requests for improvements to the bridleways. Riders have concerns about difficult gates and found some signs confusing. They want to be sure that all bridleways are passable on horseback so that they do not need to use the busy roads.



Volunteers to help maintain the Rights of Way can be put in touch with the Footpath Liaison officer via the Parish Clerk who can also provide a booklet of walks around the parish, with maps and descriptions.

Trees



A lovely oak tree

A fair number of trees in the parish are already protected by Tree Preservation Orders; the full list is held by the Parish Council. For example, all the trees in Alec's Field are protected.

Additional trees were requested by a number of people and the option of planning a community orchard next to the allotments in the Keep was suggested

Issues / Actions

Issue	Action	Priority
Improvements to Footpaths, Bridleways, Rights of Way and Ponds	The Parish Council to undertake an annual review of Footpaths, Bridleways, Rights of Way and Ponds and secure funding to maintain them.	Medium

INFRASTRUCTURE

Road Management

Although Hazelbury Bryan is not on any major thoroughfare and should enjoy a relatively peaceful location, it suffers more than expected from through traffic as lorries find their way from the ports of Poole and Weymouth to other parts of the country navigating through Dorset which has no major roads running North / South.

The roads through the village are narrow and visibility is not always good. Therefore, as with many communities, the issue of traffic along the available road network generates much concern. Over 500 comments on the questionnaire indicated that the issue was high on people's agenda. Comments such as reducing speed limits to 20 mph (in particular in the vicinity of the school), road surfaces and potholes, hedge maintenance and flooding were among the most popular recorded. There were particular safety concerns expressed regarding the areas around Alec's Field and the school.



Outside the shop in the morning

Statistically, about 60% overall, think there is an issue with speeding; 40% believe that the current speed limits are adequate. This suggests that enforcement, not the speed limit, is the issue. It is

clear, from the distribution of responses that there are specific issues with Park Gate, Partway and Pidney. These hamlets are on the routes from Sturminster Newton/Kings Stag and out toward Ansty, and are used heavily by non-village traffic. The nature of the roadway through Park Gate gives rise to specific concerns by residents. It is noteworthy that Pleck and Droop, which are not on the main through way, are less concerned about traffic speed, although the comments about safety close to the school should be re-stated here. Wonston, about half of which lies along the main route, is split about half and half.

About 65% of respondents from all hamlets, apart from Park Gate, tended to believe that the current speed limit was adequate. There is no speed limit in Park Gate where 86% of residents expressed concerns about the traffic speed.

A fraction over 80% percent of villagers stated that they use the roads by means other than motorised vehicle i.e. walking, cycling, horse riding etc.



Typical rural road usage

The conclusion drawn from the questionnaire data is that the routes through the village do have a significant impact and, given that many villagers regularly use the roads by means other than a motorised vehicle, action should be taken to investigate how the needs of motorised and non-motorised use can be managed safely. Specifically, it is clear that exceeding the prescribed speed limit is an issue for many villagers and so actions should be taken to increase enforcement of current limits.

Given the harshness of recent winters, more than 60% of villagers expressed the wish to have gritting containers available around the village, to enable limited ice management to be achieved locally.

Issues/Actions

Issue	Action	Priority
<p>The main issues raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Specific areas in the village, notably near the school and at the entrance to Alec’s Field, are of particular concern regarding road safety. b) Current speed limits are frequently being ignored. c) Better parking (drop off facilities) is required at the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review the village speed limits in consultation with Dorset County Council. b) Work with the Police on ways to enforce speed limits. c) Consult the school PTA on options for parking at the school. 	High
Gritting containers	Investigate and negotiate with the appropriate authorities for the provision of gritting containers.	Medium

Planning

93% of respondents expressed the view that current settlement boundaries of the village should be maintained and that, in order to retain the village's unique character, there should be no in-filling between the separate hamlets. Affordable housing developments should not be an exception.



A cottage in Pidney

There were comments that all new developments should be in character with the existing housing using similar materials. Wonston is already a Conservation Area and comments suggested that Pidney and Droop should also have that status which might have some effect on planning decisions.

The option of applying for Listed Building status for more of the older vernacular buildings around the village was also suggested.

Three specific aspects are addressed in this section

- additional housing
- the character of the parish
- the protection of our heritage

Significant interest was shown in these aspects as evidenced by the 120 or so comments made.

Some 60% of questionnaire responses suggested that there should be no more social/affordable housing. Reasons given for this view are

- that the infrastructure, especially roads, schools, in the area are limited
- there is little work available within the community so new residents would have to commute
- additional housing, including affordable development, should be restricted to the existing hamlets

The views of the 40% in favour of additional affordable housing were mixed. It was largely felt that it should be for the benefit of those already living in the village and it was emphasised that without it we will not attract or keep young families in the village.



Pidney Green – completed in June 2010



A row of cottages in Kingston



A view of the street in Wonston

Most (just over 90%) believed that adequate care was being taken in maintaining the buildings that were important parts of the village infrastructure.

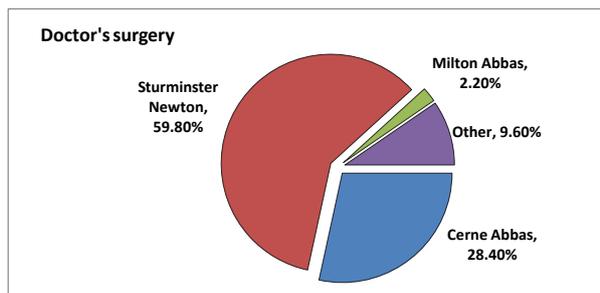
Issues/Actions

Issue	Action	Priority
The village wants to maintain the separation between, and the character of, the individual hamlets	The Parish Council to create its own planning statement to include the type and location of future development in such a way that maintains the distinctive character of each hamlet.	High

SERVICES

Health and Emergency services

Most people in the village use the Sturminster Newton or Cerne Abbas surgeries as illustrated below:



- Just over half of respondents would like the service offered by Cerne Abbas for prescriptions being delivered to the shop extended to other surgeries
- Three quarters of respondents are happy with the medical services provided for older people. A request for chiropody was made by a significant number
- Two thirds of respondents are happy with the medical services provided for young families

Ratings of the Emergency Services

The table below shows the views of the people who had used the emergency services.

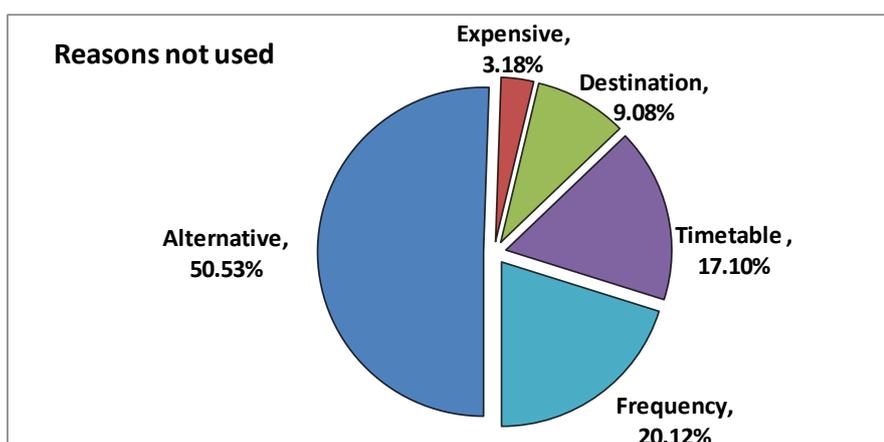
Service	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor	Number of people using each service
Fire and rescue	92.0%	8.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25
Ambulance	57.6%	23.7%	12.7%	5.9%	118
Air ambulance	94.4%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	18
Police Services	21.7%	29.0%	17.4%	31.9%	69
Other	57.1%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	7

Issues / Actions

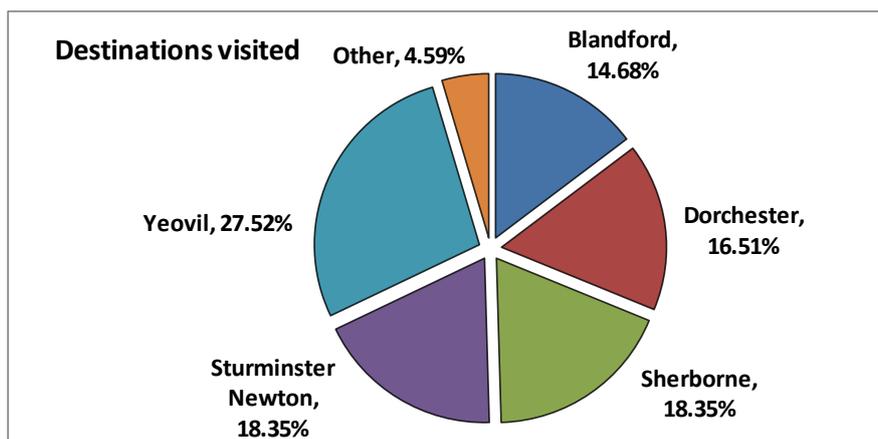
Issue	Action	Priority
Effectiveness of the Police	Share findings with the local police force	High
First aid training / First Responders	Organise training courses in the village and identify volunteers to take on First Responder responsibility.	Medium
Improve medical services for the elderly	Review the sufficiency of the medical services with the local GP surgeries.	Medium

Bus

There are buses from Hazelbury Bryan to a number of surrounding towns but the service is very infrequent. As a result, only 11% of respondents were able to use the bus service.



However, of those using the buses a wide range of destinations are visited.



Utilities

Summary of responses

Service	Response
Gas	32% consider paying for the service to be extended into the village.
Electricity	97% satisfaction with the service.
Wind Turbines	Supported by 55%.
Water supply and waste disposal	92% satisfaction with the service.
Recycling	70% of people are satisfied with both the house to house and 78% with central recycling services. However Park Gate is not served by a re-cycling collection service. House to house collection of glass, card and tetra packs requested.
Waste collection	93% satisfaction with the service.
Landline telephones	92% satisfaction with the service.
Mobile phone reception	65% do not receive adequate mobile phone reception and 56% would be willing to have a mobile phone mast located in the area.

Issues / Actions

Issue	Action	Priority
Recycling	Request house to house collection of glass, card and tetra packs from NDDC. Request re-cycling collection service to cover Park Gate as well as the rest of the village.	High
Mobile phone	Convey the lack of mobile phone reception to the appropriate authorities such as OFCOM.	Medium
Energy supply	The Parish Council to investigate alternative and renewable energy supplies.	Low

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In order to have the fullest range of opinions, two further questionnaires were designed, one for primary age children, which they filled in at school, and one for secondary school youngsters which explored to what extent village life was currently catering for their needs.

Adult responses

- 53% of adults reported that their children used Alec’s Field
- 30% used the play area but it was felt that the equipment in the play area needed updating and repair

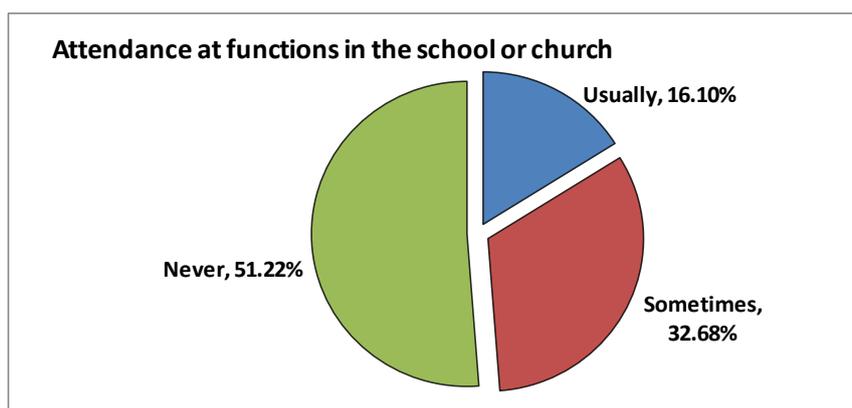
There was general agreement that the play activities were aimed at young children and that the needs of older youngsters needed to be considered with more challenging equipment such as aerial runways and climbing nets. Tennis courts, a skate park, a badminton court, sports clubs and a youth club were all mentioned with young people in mind.

It was felt that The Antelope garden could be made more child friendly. Parents having a weekend lunch with little ones currently have to use the play park on Alec’s Field – which splits the family.

A majority of adults felt that there were not sufficient activities for young people within the village.

Just over a quarter of the respondents said that their children used the after school clubs. Of those who said yes, 66% found them very valuable and nearly half of that number felt that they would not be able to maintain their working commitments without this support.

School events – concerts, sales and services – held in the school hall or the church were attended by roughly half the respondents.



The safety of youngsters within the village environment was explored. The overwhelming worry was road safety – noted by 60% of those who responded. Traffic speed, vehicles larger than is desirable on our narrow roads and a lack of strategic footpaths and pavements were all listed as areas of concern. Excessive speeds by parents on the school run and parking issues associated with busy dropping off times before and after school were also documented.

Young people’s view of village life

Sixteen secondary school youngsters aged 17 and under gave their responses to a questionnaire which explored to what extent village life was currently catering for their needs. It was also noted that a further proportion find that because their schools and interests are at some distance from the village they spend very little of their social time here and their need to be involved is limited. In general their issues were similar to those raised by the adults but they would like to see more activities for their age group.

Issues / Actions

Issue	Action	Priority
Including a section for young people in the village web site	Discuss a way forward with the young people and the web master.	High
Extending the range of activities on Alec’s Field for children of all ages	Parish Council to pass the requests for more activities on the playing field to the Playing Field Committee.	Medium
Increasing the range of clubs held in the evening for young people and working adults where common interests were identified	The Parish Council to look at the possibility of setting up a camera club and a table tennis club.	A meeting to determine interest in new clubs was held in May 2010

Our youngest children’s view of village life

Thirty nine under elevens completed a questionnaire at school which was especially designed for them and a further twenty four of the youngest children drew pictures with captions telling of their favourite things.

School clubs were very popular. In addition they enjoyed a wide range of activities both in the village and further afield: these included Brownies, chess, computer clubs, youth clubs, basket ball, skateboarding, football, gymnastics, judo, rugby, dancing, swimming and horse riding.

Their “likes” with regard to village life were numerous. Mention was made of school, family and friends, the park, watching cricket and the village shop and pub. They were very appreciative of the open countryside and local wildlife. “The peace and quiet, the long walks you can have and how kind, social and friendly people are,” wrote one nine year old.

While some wanted to change “nothing” others were more demanding and keen to share their views. A bigger play park with more equipment was a starting point for many but the list also included a cycle lane, more cricket nets, keeping big trucks out of the village, cutting untidy hedges,

clearing drains to prevent flooding, more events on the field, filling in pot holes, more efficient road gritting and a bigger shop and Village Hall.

They were also clear about what activities they would like to be made available in the village. A book club, a riding club and an art and crafts club would be appreciated. Other suggestions included

- a Hazelbury football team for juniors and cricket for the under 12's
- dancing
- Tai Kwon Do
- a golf course
- a library
- a pen shop
- a bouncy castle on the field
- a small pond or lake with ducks to feed and boats to rent.

The children looked forward to annual events in the village especially the Fun Day, The Festival of Bryan and watching fireworks at The Antelope. They were also appreciative of much smaller, more personal things such as, church choir, snowdrops, climbing trees, going to the park, horse riding, family walks and “the harvest meal once a year”. Seeing friends, going to clubs and “watching my dad play cricket” were also listed.

Birdsong, our houses, the park, the church and the war memorial were mentioned by the youngest children – who drew lovely pictures to illustrate their writing. They also drew splendid pictures of the school, the fields, Bulbarrow, the shop, the ducks and their friends.

Their final advice to the Parish Plan Steering Committee was in many cases to repeat requests already made so that there could be no confusion! There were also more general requests such as

- Curbing litter dropping
- Stopping “heavy loads going through narrow roads
- Getting small cars on the roads not big cars”
- Fundraising for school - “so that we can get a Play Trail.”

Final thoughts included “look after people” and “I would like our village to be a safe and happy place and lots of things to do so that no one is left out and everyone’s got something to do.”

Issues / Actions

Issue	Action	Priority
Increasing village support for the school in terms of fund raising and other activities	The Parish Council on behalf of the village to develop a closer working relationship with the school governors with the aim of providing support.	Medium

SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND ACTIONS

High Priority Actions indicate a consensus of opinion for urgent action to be taken.

Medium Priority Actions are those for which the action is less urgent

Low Priority Actions are those for which a longer term action is sufficient

	Summary	Priority
1	Work with DCC, the police and the school to review the speed limits and enforcement and to consider parking options at the school.	High
2	Create a Planning Statement for Hazelbury Bryan and ensure that the Planning Authorities consult with the village before the location of new housing is agreed.	High
3	Raise the local concerns about the Police response with the Chief Constable of Dorset.	High
4	Work with NDDC to extend recycling facilities.	High
5	Add a section for young people to the website.	High
6	Use reasonable endeavours to maintain a permanent shop of an appropriate size in a central location.	Medium
7	Review and maintain all footpaths, bridleways and other Rights of Way.	Medium
8	Consider options for emphasising the character of the individual hamlets in the village.	Medium
9	Look at options for improving medical services in the village.	Medium
10	Organise first aid training courses in the village and identify volunteers to take on First Responder responsibility.	Medium
11	Provide seats in the village.	Medium
12	Take steps to improve the poor mobile phone signal.	Medium
13	Extend the activities for children and young people in the village.	Medium
14	Build a closer relationship between the village and the school.	Medium
15	Consider the purchase and potential location of grit containers.	Low
16	Investigate alternative and renewable energy supplies.	Low

APPENDIX – THE HISTORY

All villages have their own characteristics but most conform to a pattern be it ribbon, along a stream, or centralised around a village green or pond.

Hazelbury Bryan contains some of these elements but a better description is ‘scattered’. Within its nine miles of boundary hedges, enclosing some 2415 acres (966 hectares) there are at least 5 principal hamlets and several more named areas.

The fixed elements of soil and situation form the framework on which Hazelbury Bryan is constructed and its history is the key to its development.

As far as geology is concerned, Hazelbury Bryan stands on a narrow ridge of Coralline Limestone, formed some 150 million years ago, and raised from the earth’s crust to form the undulating and very varied soil structure which those who live here either love or hate. Some of the higher areas have lovely sands which please those who want to cultivate the soil and contrast greatly with the heavy clays of the low lands. Somewhere in between the limestone comes to the surface giving a medium for all purpose agriculture.

From the soils beneath their feet, the successive generations of Hazelbury people have found resources to build their village and abundant fertility to feed their animals and provide for their families.

It all began with the hamlet of Droop which is centred around the church of St Mary and St James and is separated from the rest of the village by acres of green meadows and miles of winding lanes. It is certainly an ancient centre of population. Large winding droves, footpaths and deeply cut roads can be traced, both leading to this point and passing through to the distances beyond. It is quite likely that those who lived on the surrounding chalk hills and built great fortifications cultivated the good soils of the area and were drawn to this place for the clean, natural water which is always available at surface level.



A map from 1835



The church today

It is recorded that a small Norman church existed here in the 13th century which indicates a strong village population situated on the level parts in the vicinity of their mother building. In the wider part of the village, at that time known as HASELBER, there were farming clusters which were to become the other named hamlets.

In the 14th century disaster struck the inhabitants in the form of the Black Death. Many Hazelbury people died and those who survived left and probably burnt their homes and moved, setting up populations in the outer isolated parts. In time the population recovered and prosperity returned, so much so that the squire of the village had the church built which still stands today. This gave the village its focal point which remained as such until 1900.

A large house was built extending from near the west door of the church tower for the use of the parson. During the 16th century, there followed the farm house (now known as Droop Farm House) and some other stone and cob houses. At this time the name THROPE is recorded on a document, later to become THROOP and then DROOP. (TH was changed to D in 'Dorset Speech').

There is no doubt that the Old Parsonage witnessed the selling of the village estate to its tenants in the 17th century but its importance was soon to diminish when a new Rectory was built on Glebe Land to the North West. This was probably a much needed move and in keeping with the expansion of other parts of the village.

The greatest change to Droop came with the arrival of the Rev Henry Walter in 1821. He fought tirelessly for the poor downtrodden farm workers whose plight came to light when a group gathered from Mappowder and Stoke Wake at the Droop Inn before going to Woolland to smash a threshing machine. Some of the poor souls were transported for their misdeeds.

The Rev Walter established a Sunday school building near his Rectory and improved the Church House adjoining the churchyard, converting it into almshouses for the poor. He is buried nearby to the East of the Church.



The old rectory today

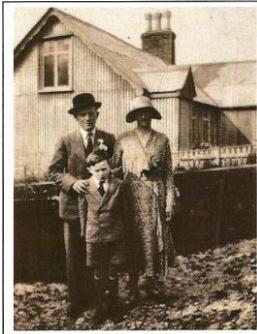
In 1869 the Rev Richard Burdon came to the village with enthusiasm, charisma and money. He soon decided that the rectory was not up to his standards and had the site levelled so he could build the fine house now known today as The Old Rectory.

In 1874, when the building was hardly finished, he started a school on the site of the village pound which he owned. With two large rooms and a Master's house it provided education for 150 children. With retirement in mind he then looked for a site for his final home and found it on his own fields 'where the Skylarks sang'. Here the great Manor House was constructed in 1888 and remains a fine house to this day.



The original school

Being a social benefactor, the Rev Burdon realised that those children he had educated in the school had nowhere in the village to 'greatly improve their knowledge'. As a result, he set in motion the construction of a reading room on a piece of roadside land, which he owned, at Partway Lane. The Village Hall was subsequently constructed adjacent to the Reading Room.



The Reading Room in 1932.

In November 1919 Mr Gillingham purchased the Village Hall for £170 on behalf of the Parish council. At the same time the land with the Reading Room was also purchased by the Parish Council which provided them with two buildings and a narrow strip of land between. The Reading Room buildings were demolished in 1975 when the present kitchen and toilet facilities were built as an extension to the Village Hall.