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## STEERING GROUP

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# CHAPTER ONE

## THE AIMS and OBJECTIVES of the PARISH PLAN

A Parish Plan is part of the “Vital Villages” scheme funded by the Countryside Agency and administered by Dorset Community Action. The Government, through the Countryside Agency, provides up to 75% of the costs of producing the Plan, leaving 25% to be raised locally.

The aim of the Lower Winterborne Appraisal and Parish Plan is to consider local conditions and opportunities of the civil Parish as a whole. It makes the links between these issues and sets out a broad vision for the future. To achieve this vision will require action. This includes encouraging people to participate in and help influence not only the future direction of the Parish but also policies, decisions and action carried out by other bodies.

In order for the Parish Plan to be effective and successful the aims should not only be achievable but also sustainable. To a degree these will be shaped by cost but to a greater extent by the willingness of people to become involved.

To find out more about people’s perception of the present and vision of the future in the Lower Winterborne

Parish, a questionnaire was delivered to every house. However, before sending out the questionnaires, a great deal of time and thought was put into the content of the survey. It needed to be both comprehensive and relevant to our purpose, but not so long as to be off putting to the recipient.



These deliberations proved to be invaluable since an 80% return was achieved which was extremely encouraging (the average rate of return in other parishes is said to have been much lower).

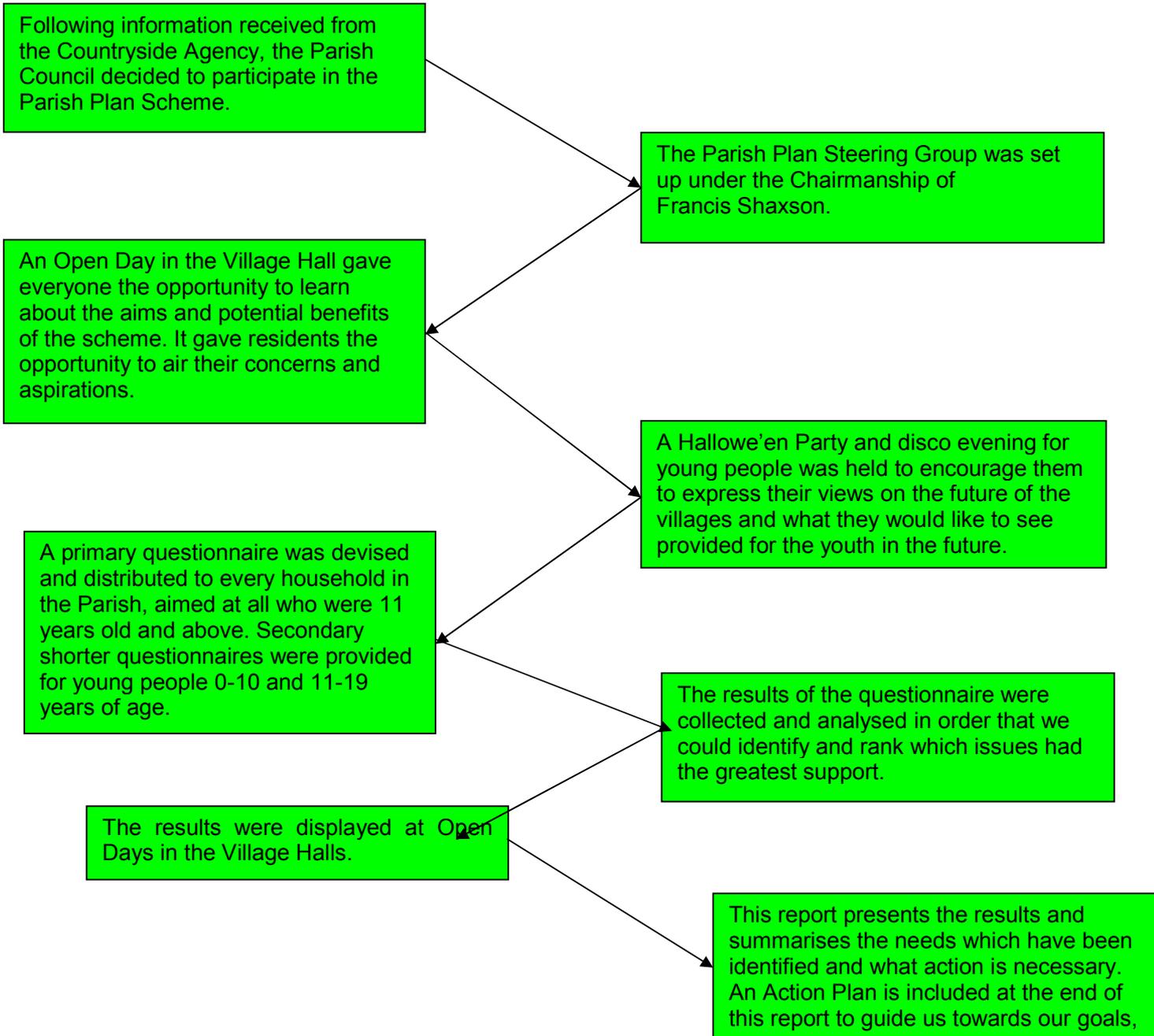
We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took time to complete the questionnaire and to ask for your continuing support and participation in helping achieve the objectives outlines in this summary.

<u>TOTAL POPULATION (2001 census):</u>	833
<u>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS:</u>	
Receiving questionnaires	358
Total questionnaires returned	286 (79.9%)
Valid returns	281 (78.5%)
Maximum number of respondents of all ages	665 *
Maximum number of 11 years and older	569 (Not all respondents gave answers to every question.)

\* of which 49 aged 11-19 years  
and 69 aged 0-10 years  
also answered supplementary Youth questionnaires

Complete results are available on CD. For a copy please contact:  
Francis Shaxson (01929 471193)

## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS



## CHAPTER TWO

### THE LOWER WINTERBORNE – THE PAST and PRESENT

#### THE PAST



The Lower Winterborne Parish consists of Winterborne Kingston (including Winterborne Muston), Anderson (including Winterborne Tomson) and Winterborne Zelston (including Huish) and covers 1,813 hectares or 4,480 acres of mainly chalkland (Dorset Downs) at altitudes between 160-400ft above sea-level. The six settlements are situated along the valley of the River Winterborne. The centre of the Parish is located approximately three miles north-north-east of Bere Regis and five miles south-south west of Blandford Forum.

It was officially formed by the grouping of the three Parishes in the early 1980s. Winterborne Kingston, Winterborne Muston and Winterborne Zelston appear in the Domesday Book and the whole area has evidence of Prehistoric and Roman remains. Winterborne Kingston, the largest village, stands at the point



where the Roman road from Sarum (Salisbury) to Durnovaria (Dorchester) crosses the River Winterborne.



Winterborne Kingston from the Tower of St Nicholas church (1950).

Its most notable monument is St Nicholas Church, which is a stone and flint structure in the Early English style, some parts of which are believed to be as old as the 12<sup>th</sup> century.



St Nicholas Church

Winterborne Zelston, including Huish, was most likely included within the bounds of an Anglo-Saxon charter for Almer in AD943. Its church, St. Mary's, was rebuilt in the 1860s but kept its 15<sup>th</sup> century tower.



St Mary's Church

Anderson and Winterborne Tomson both have fine old churches and manor houses, that at Anderson was built in

1622 and the one at Tomson, now used as a farmhouse, is of a similar period.



Manor House

Winterborne Tomson

St Andrew's Church, Tomson, is a single-cell Norman church with an apsidal east end (the only Norman apse in Dorset), unaltered in plan since it was built in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. It was a favourite of Thomas Hardy.



St Andrew's Church

The 1851 census shows many of the women in the area were buttonmakers, whilst most of the men were agricultural labourers. Other trades in the area were carpenters, bricklayers, blacksmiths and shoemakers.

## **THE PRESENT**

At the time of this appraisal (early 2004) the Parish contains approximately 364 houses (including six under construction) with a population of 833 (2001 census). Eighty years ago the 1921 census showed a population of 500. It is a small community in a rural setting with only 10% of its residents in employment within the parish. Its amenities include 2 village halls, at Winterborne Kingston and Winterborne Zelston, 4 churches at Winterborne Kingston, Anderson, Winterborne Tomson and Winterborne Zelston (of which only the first and last are in regular use), 2 public houses, The Greyhound Inn at Winterborne Kingston



and The Botany Bay Inne at Winterborne Zelston.



In Winterborne Kingston there are also The Dunbury CE VC First School, Tadpoles Nursery school, a recreation ground with pavilion, a play area, a farm supplies and clothing shop (SCATS-Batchelor), St. Christopher's Garage (a specialist car workshop) with a forecourt for the sale of second-hand cars, and a Sub-Post Office. Near Winterborne Zelston there is a petrol filling station and shop and a Little Chef restaurant.



The population is of mixed age groups, of which 10.4% are below 11 years old, 8.1% are 11-17 years, 61.2% are 18-64 years, and 20.5% are over 65 years old. 27% of the total population say they are retired. 30% have come into the Parish within the last 5 years, with 'rural environment' being the recurring reason cited by people who have moved into the Parish to live.

These chapters outline not only the current population's concerns and ideas, likes and dislikes, but also gives a view of our community as a whole. It follows that only by functioning as a whole can

this Parish Plan move forward rather than fall by the wayside.

The following gives a breakdown of respondents by age and sex, of years lived in the Parish, and of their reasons for living in the area

Table 1 – Population by Age and Sex

<u>AGE RANGE</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 - 4	13	15
5—10	24	17
11—15	23	17
16—17	10	4
18—24	15	10
25 - 44	70	76
45—59	89	86
60—64	23	38
65—74	49	36
75—84	22	19
85+	3	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>324</b>

**Total Respondents 665**

Table 2

How long have you lived in the Parish ?

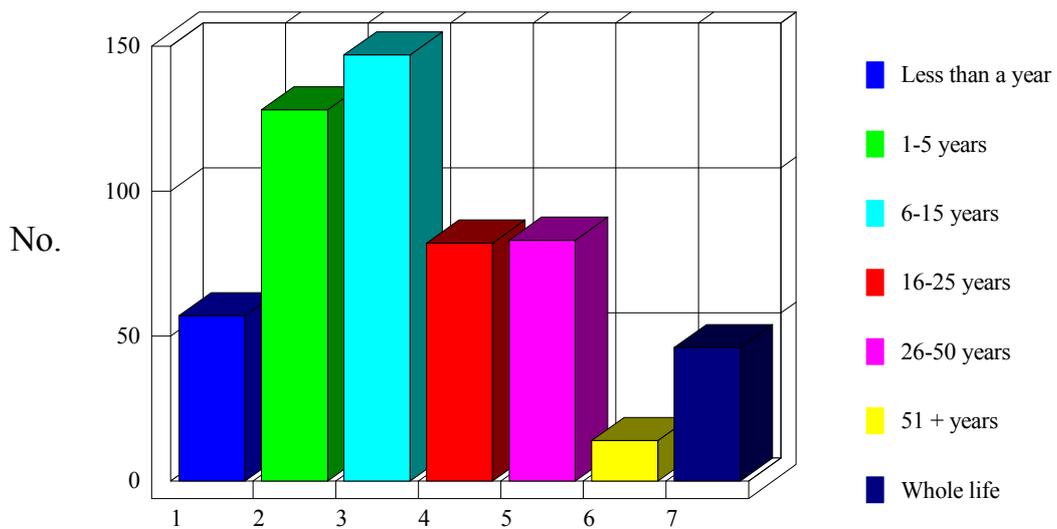
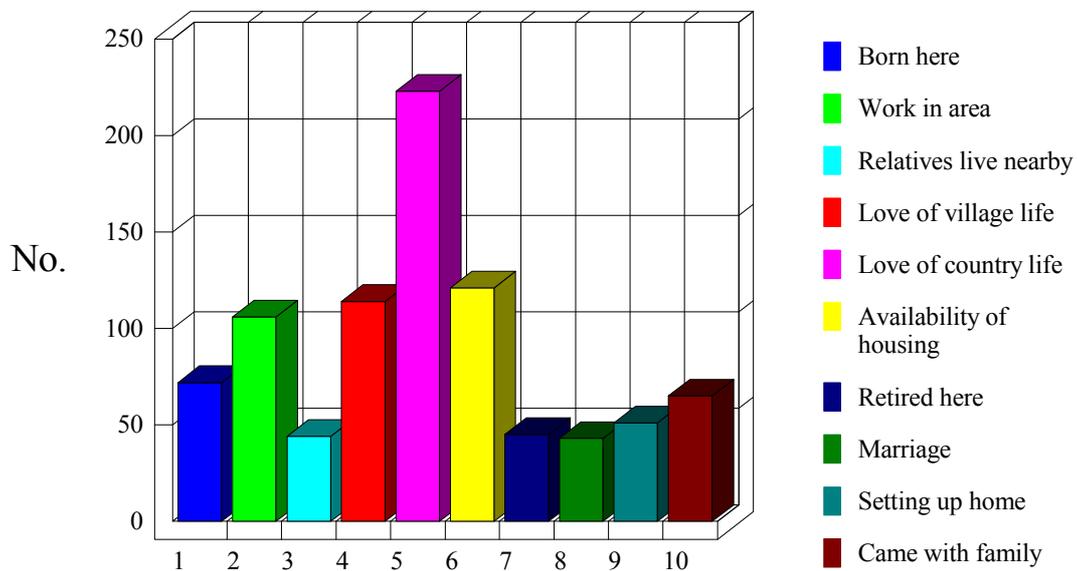


Table 3

## How did you come to live in the Parish ?



Between the settlements there were significant differences in order of preference for living in the Parish, but for every settlement the first four top-ranked reasons generally align with the overall ratings. 414 (78.1%) of respondents ranked “The Rural Environment” as the most important reason for living in the Parish, followed by “Spirit of Friendliness” in second place. 34% of 523 respondents thought the quality of life in the Parish was the same as 10 years ago; only 2% thought it was better; 24% thought the quality of life

was worse now than it was 10 years ago on account of:

“Unsuitable building developments, resulting from perceived inappropriate planning consents

Loss of amenities – shop, garage, swimming pool, etc

Increase in traffic volume, noise and speed”.

The remaining 40% have not lived here for as long as 10 years.

The overwhelming majority of respondents wish the Parish to remain as a mixed, working community, as it is today.

The survey revealed overwhelming agreement across the settlements on the means by which the Parish should be kept clean and tidy, relying on the residents to act responsibly. Except for the provision of the low-cost bins for litter and dog-mess, and of emptying services, this is again within the remit of the parishioners. Vandalism and anti social behaviour are a common concern.

The issues of perceived worsening planning control and the ongoing threat of wind turbines, which were raised specifically in the comments, underpin the feelings of the Parish. Aside from the environment, the spirit of friendliness (community spirit) is of major importance to the parishioners but, perversely, its ongoing decline is also of major concern.



## CHAPTER THREE

### RESULTS OF THE SURVEY and VIEWS OF THE RESIDENTS

#### AMENITIES

##### **SHOPS and POST OFFICES**

95% of respondents gave answers about the frequency with which they use Bere Regis shops, the Red Post Filling Station shop and the Post Office in Winterborne Kingston. Overall the figures reveal the differences between villages in their use of the three facilities. From the Parish as a whole, the Bere Regis shops (in the neighbouring Parish) are visited 5 times or more per month by 44% of people, as against 35% for the Red Post Filling Station and shop, and 22% for the Winterborne Kingston Post Office and shop, both of which are within our Parish boundaries. About 30% of people only use any of these three facilities less than 5 times per month. It is apparent that those living towards the eastern end of the Parish tend to use such facilities nearer to them, e.g. Lytchett Matravers, while those living at the western end gravitate more towards Bere Regis. Further analysis shows that over 90% of respondents have cars as their main means of transport and many do their shopping outside the immediate locality, in Blandford or further afield. Despite comments about the need for the Post

Office in Winterborne Kingston, a third of respondents never use it, apparently preferring to go to the larger facilities at Bere Regis or beyond. Feed-back from an earlier Open Day indicated more people would use it if it sold bread, milk and newspapers in addition to the very limited range of goods it already stocks. However, whilst it is doubtful whether it would be viable to sustain a shop by selling such items alone, an increased number of product-lines would possibly increase custom and turnover. A greater proportion of Winterborne Zelston people use the Red Post Filling Station shop for basic supplies than those from Winterborne Kingston use their local Post Office. Only 12.6% of respondents use Winterborne Kingston Post Office for collecting pensions and allowances. 67% of respondents from Winterborne Zelston would make more use of the shop at the Red Post Filling Station if a footpath/cycle path were available between the shop and village. The viability of the Red Post shop is probably helped by the number of vehicles using the A31 which stop there for fuel, newspapers etc.

Table 4

How many times a month do you use the following services? : Bere Regis shops

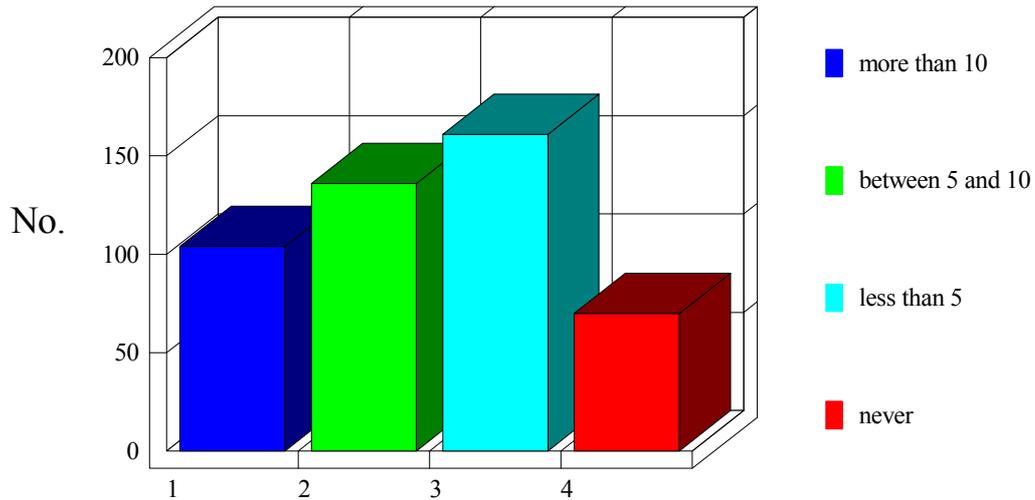
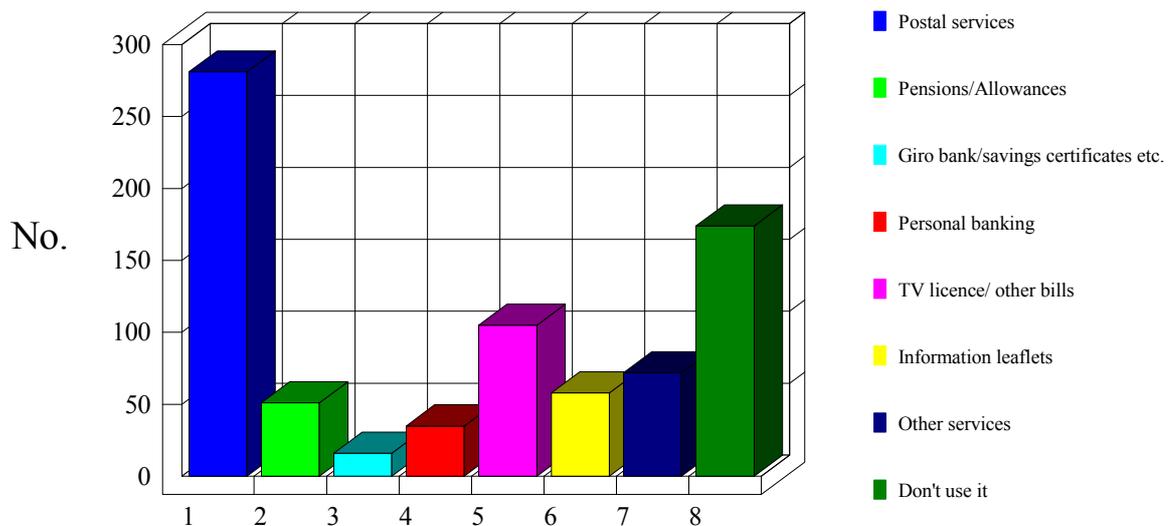


Table 5

If you use the local Post Office, please say what for?



## **VILLAGE HALLS**

### **a) WINTERBORNE KINGSTON**

The Village Hall was constructed in 1975 and is now showing its age. In July 2002 the Village Hall committee conducted a survey in Winterborne Kingston and 70% of those responding to the questionnaire were in favour of building a new hall. In the recent Parish Plan survey some 59% of Winterborne Kingston residents wanted the village hall rebuilt. Most of these wanted it rebuilt on the recreation ground, against just over a quarter who wanted it refurbished on the present site.

One comment received was that, if it were to be refurbished at the present site a good looking village hall would enhance the visual character of, and

community sense in, the village as a whole.

If the village hall were to be rebuilt elsewhere, 37% of respondents in Winterborne Kingston wanted the site to be turned into a village green, while 32% wanted it to be used for shops and some 19% had no opinion.

With the current uncertainty about the availability of the recreation ground as a potential site for a new village hall, it is clear that this issue cannot be resolved in the near future.

### **b) WINTERBORNE ZELSTON**

The village hall was refurbished in 1990 and is in good condition.



Village Hall Winterborne Kingston



Village Hall Winterborne Zelston

## **THE CHURCH**

Over 70% of the 502 people responding to the questions in this section placed their first importance on the churches as historic buildings followed by their use for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Use for Sunday worship was indicated to be important by 176 people although regular attendance at services falls well below that level.

The response to the question “Would you like to see the Church also used for the following activities?” was well supported, with use for concerts at the top of the list (246 people) followed by Sunday School and use for meetings, confirmation classes and discussion groups. It would be interesting to know whether the 223 people who replied in favour of a Sunday School were parents, or other residents who thought it would be a good idea. In light of the poor attendance of children at the monthly Family Services it would appear unlikely that a Sunday School would in fact meet with much widespread enthusiasm.

In view of the low attendance at church at both Winterborne Kingston and Winterborne Zelston, the relatively high ranking of Sunday School and Confirmation Classes is surprising and is an issue for the new vicar to explore.

The low attendance at Winterborne Zelston church services although bolstered by a small number of visitors from adjacent Parishes within the Red Post area is a topic of concern, in the light of the increasing financial burden of quotas which have to be paid annually to the Diocese by the Parochial Church Council. In the modern idiom: *“Use it or lose it”*.

Ideas to encourage church attendance met with “no opinion” from 65% of respondents, although ‘family services’ and ‘hymns children know’ rated 13%, as did ‘popular services (e.g. carols)’.

A great deal of time and effort was put into refurbishing the bells at St Nicholas Church Winterborne Kingston as part of the millennium celebrations and an enthusiastic band of bell ringers was recruited. Sadly, due to people moving away, these numbers are in decline. It is important that new ringers - both young and old - are recruited not only to keep the bells ringing but also to pass on these skills to the next generation.

These findings have been forwarded to the respective Parochial Church Councils with the request that they address them with the newly-arrived Vicar.

## CEMETERY AT WINTERBORNE KINGSTON



The Winterborne Kingston cemetery is owned and maintained by the Parish Council. It is surrounded by a ‘*Leylandii*’ hedge which has been allowed to grow out of control to the extent that it now encroaches on some of the graves. It now needs to be replaced, and in

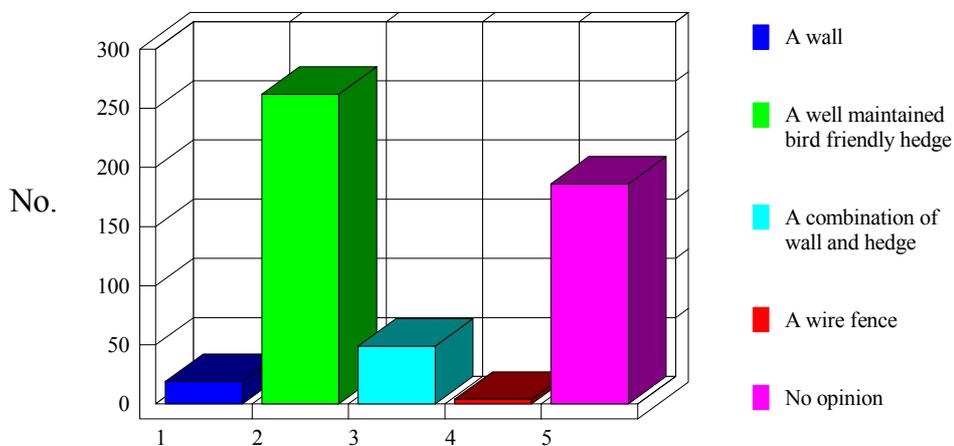
Table 6

response to the question “Should the hedge be replaced with a wall, a bird-friendly hedge, or a wire fence?” the large majority of the 334 people expressing an opinion favoured a bird-friendly hedge.

Others suggested that the present hedge could be tolerated if kept trimmed, but this is a view contrary to that expressed by the North Dorset Tree Officer and various tree surgeons who have inspected the hedge. Their unanimous recommendation is that the hedge should be replaced, as it cannot be reclaimed.

A water supply to the cemetery was requested. Quotes are being obtained and this will be connected soon.

Should the overgrown hedge at WK cemetery be replaced with:



## **COMMUNICATIONS**

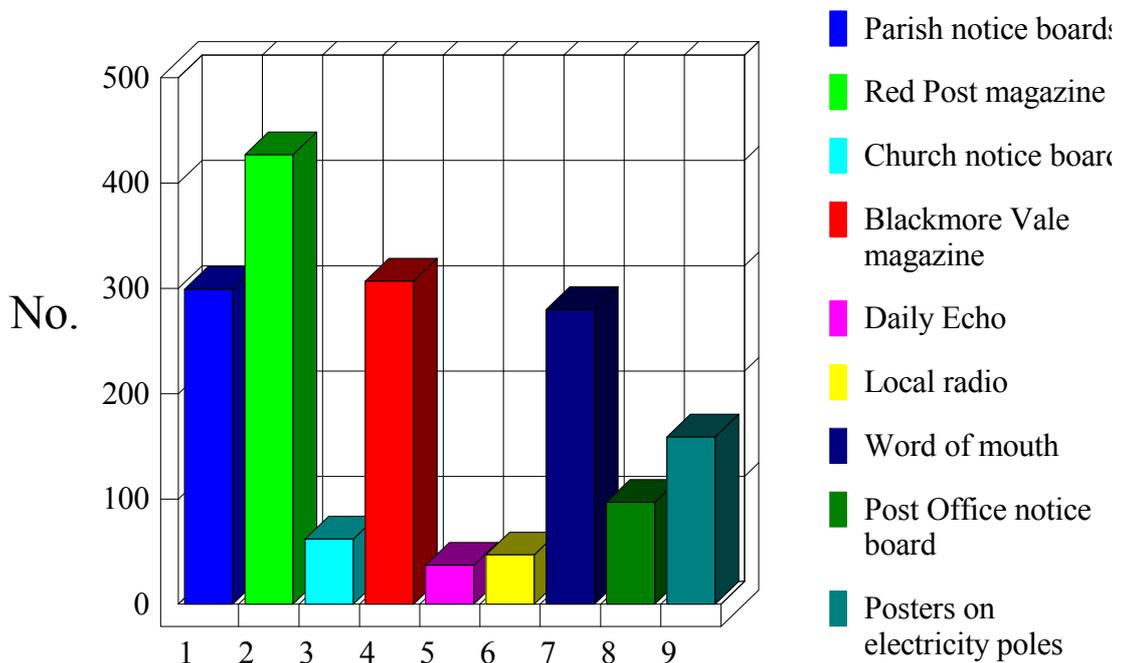
### **PARISH INFORMATION**

93% of those surveyed responded to the question, "Where do you usually get information about events taking place in the Parish?" Of those, 81% reported that they get their information from the Red Post Parish Magazine. Other important sources reported are The Blackmore Vale

Magazine (58%), Parish notice boards (57%), "word of mouth" (53%), and from posters on electricity/telephone poles (30%). Other sources are the Post Office notice board, Church notice boards, and local radio.

Table 7

## Where do you usually get information about events taking place in the Parish ?



## RECEPTION DIFFICULTIES

Particular difficulties are noted with TV and mobile telephone reception, although these difficulties vary considerably in different parts of the

Lower Winterborne Parish. The overall proportion of respondents reporting reception difficulties are radio 15%, TV 33% and mobile telephone 38%.

Table 8 – Localised Reception Difficulties Reported

Total No. of Respondents	WINTERBORNE KINGSTON	ANDERSON	WINTERBORNE ZELSTON
		353	47
Numbers Reporting Poor Reception			
RADIO	56 (15.9%)	4 (8.5%)	14 (12.4%)
TV	114 (32.3%)	12 (25.5%)	42 (37.2%)
MOBILE PHONE	140 (39.7%)	12 (25.5%)	41 (36.3%)

Specific TV difficulties reported were co-channel interference from French transmitters and the lack of Channel 5 and Digital Freeview channels. Of the 90 respondents noting general difficulties

with mobile phone reception or absence of signal altogether, 9 made particular reference to Orange and 6 to Cellnet/02 services.

## COMPUTER-INTERNET CONNECTION

Across the Parish 59% of the 516 respondents have a computer with Internet-connection. Of these 81% are in favour of broadband connectivity and BT has advised that the Bere Regis telephone exchange will be upgraded to take Broadband from 11 August 2004.

58% of 341 respondents were in favour of setting up a Parish website.

## EDUCATION



Dunbury First School

109 children and young people under 16 attend some educational provision. 6% attend the playgroup in Winterborne Kingston. 12% are at nursery school and 16% attend the Dunbury First School.

19% are at Middle School (unspecified) and 6% of these go to Sandford. 13% go to the local secondary school in Blandford and 2 youngsters attend Special School. 24% of children attend other schools.

The majority of children and young people have access to after-school activities and only 8% indicated difficulties. These were mainly due to the distance between home and school although 4 responses indicated a lack of transport, (2 in Winterborne Kingston and 2 in Winterborne Zelston) and 3 stated expense as a difficulty. For the young people with special needs, after-school provision is generally not available due to problems with

organisation of transport. Parents have to do a lot of travelling and as a result children do sometimes miss out.

70% of the 513 respondents value the importance of Dunbury First School while less than 3% felt it was not very important. 27% held no opinion.

Regret regarding the loss of the swimming pool was also expressed.

Approximately 50% held no opinions regarding wider provision of childcare facilities but more emphasis is now being placed on greater provision for childcare in the community and the responses reflect the wishes of those 81 people concerned. Preferences for improved facilities included more nursery and under-5 provision as well as more child-minding facilities locally.

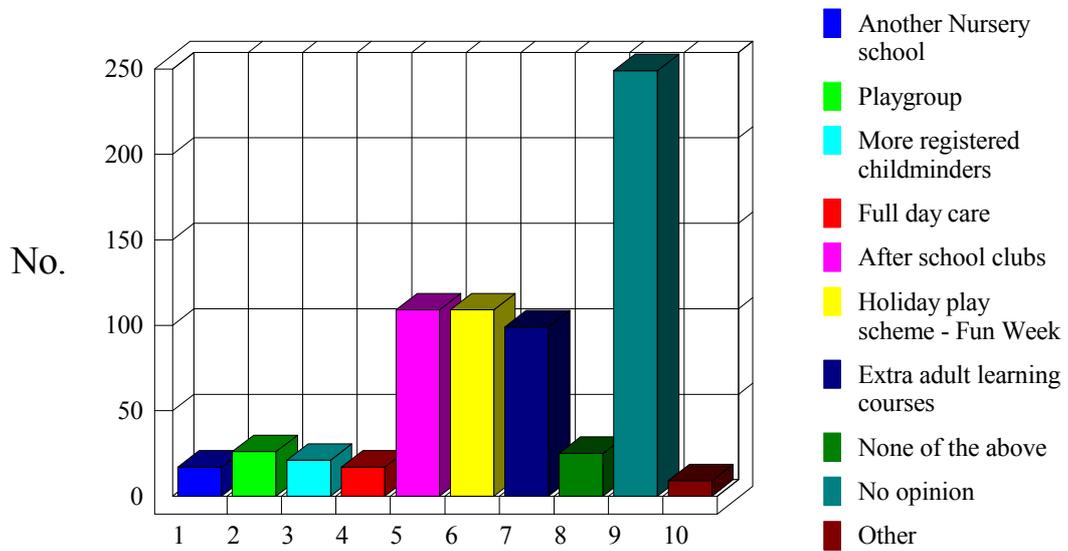
Both after-school and holiday schemes would be popular with 109 respondents. Almost 100 people asked for locally-based adult learning courses. Comments included a desire for more outdoor facilities and more accessible day-care which may be seen as a reflection on the increased need for parents and carers to leave home each day to go to work.

Tadpole Nursery Winterborne Kingston



Table 9

### MORE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED?



## **EMPLOYMENT**

The Lower Winterborne Parish is a small community in a rural area, within which the main sources of employment are in farming or farming-related businesses. In Winterborne Kingston, these businesses include an agricultural machinery repair workshop, a farming supplies / country clothing store and an egg farm / packing business.

Other employment opportunities are limited, but are found at the school, day nursery and post office, and within the local inns, restaurants, specialist garage/car-sale business, and filling station.

Of the 550 respondents of 16 years old and over in the Parish, 43 were in full time education and one in a government-training scheme.

Among the remainder, 163 were over the normal retirement age and of these 21 (ten men and eleven women) were still working.

Table 10 shows the employment status of the 343 who had not yet reached retirement age and were not in full time education.

The final table, 11, shows the main place of work of those residents who responded to this question. The figures for 'In Parish' and 'Bere Regis' (just outside the Parish boundary) taken together are almost equal to the number

working in Poole. The spread of workplaces is a result of limited local employment opportunities and greater ownership of private transport, factors which have contributed to some diminution of 'community spirit' in the Parish.

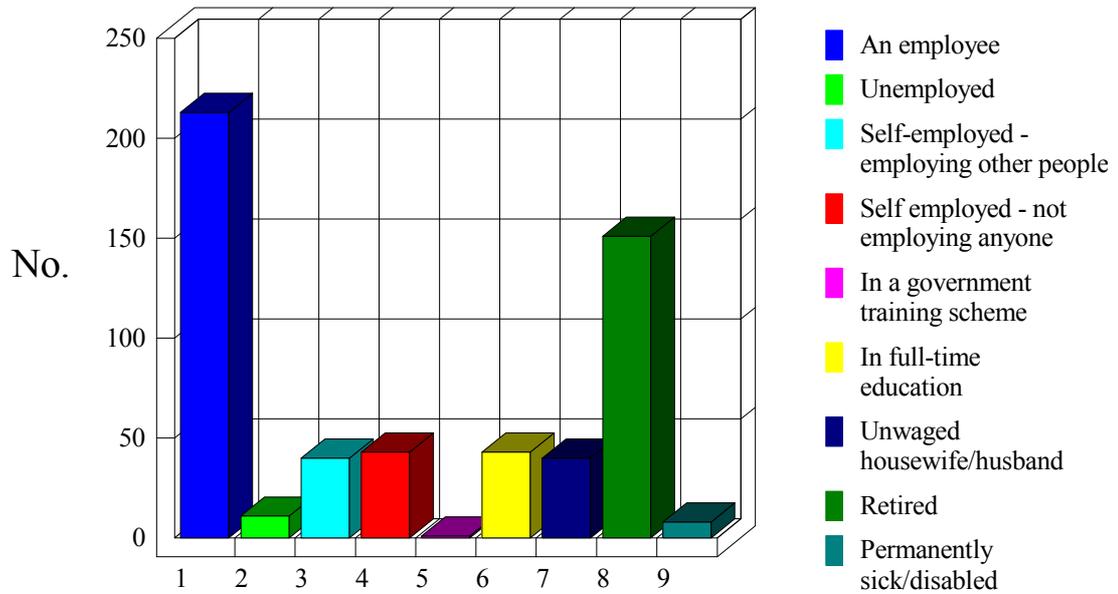
The majority of people in work came from among those who have been resident in the Parish between 1-25 years. Those who have lived all their lives in the Parish mostly worked locally or have retired (unless very young!).

Of those actively seeking employment, surprisingly only 3 found lack of transport a problem, but of the others lack of experience or qualifications, childcare and cost concerns were causing difficulties.

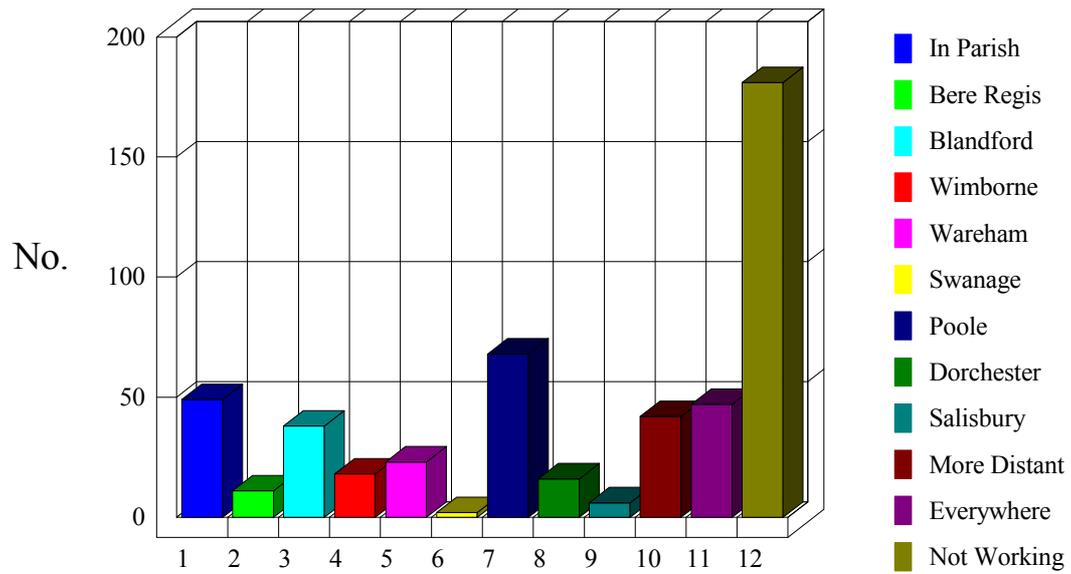
Concern was also expressed that although there was an overall response of 80% to the survey, the remaining 20% may include people with problems which remain unidentified.

Tables 10 & 11

### Are you at present?



### Where is your main place of work?



## **FLOODING**

Flooding occurs throughout the Lower Winterborne Valley after extended periods of unusually high rainfall in winter, which has occurred on average in one out of seven to ten years. In the main, it is due to the resulting high water table but, on occasions, is aggravated by the River Winterborne overflowing its banks. At such times a small number of dwellings and gardens become flooded, whilst other residents suffer the inconvenience of septic tanks overflowing and roads becoming impassable to normal family cars. These problems are often exacerbated by inconsiderate drivers of larger vehicles who drive too fast along the flooded roads.

Following severe flooding during January 1994, and slightly less serious flooding in January 1995, North Dorset District Council commissioned a firm of consultants (Ian Howick Associates) to investigate the causes of flooding in the Winterborne Villages and to make recommendations to alleviate the problem. Following publication of their final report in August 1996, NDDC accepted a number of the recommendations and, during 1998 and 1999, carried out a series of works designed to keep the river within its banks. These included:

- Increasing the size of certain culverts
- Clearing obstructions along the riverbed
- Reinforcing and, in some places, increasing the height of the riverbanks.

Whilst these works were partly successful in keeping more of the river within its banks, Maps 1, 2 and 3 supported by Figs 1, 2 and 3 shows that flooding remains a real issue in the Lower Winterborne Villages. Replies to our Parish Plan Survey indicated that occasionally during periods of flooding:

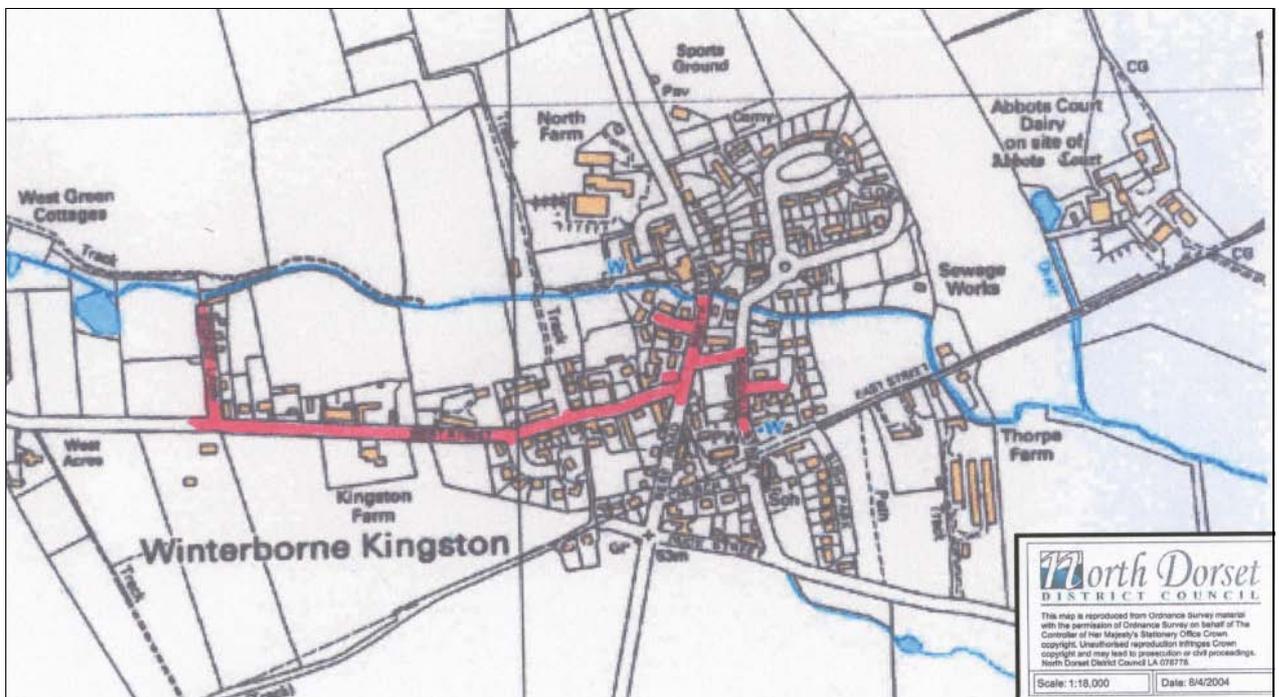
- Gardens of 15 properties were flooded
- Access to 10 properties was flooded
- Septic tanks in 8 properties overflowed
- Water entered 2 properties

However, it is felt that these problems may in fact occur in more properties, as some householders may not wish to admit these problems publicly.

Note: The Ian Howick Associates' report identified 8 houses where water entered the properties – and local knowledge says that it still does when the villages are flooded. Similarly the maps show quite clearly that the road access to at least 60 properties were flooded in December 2000.



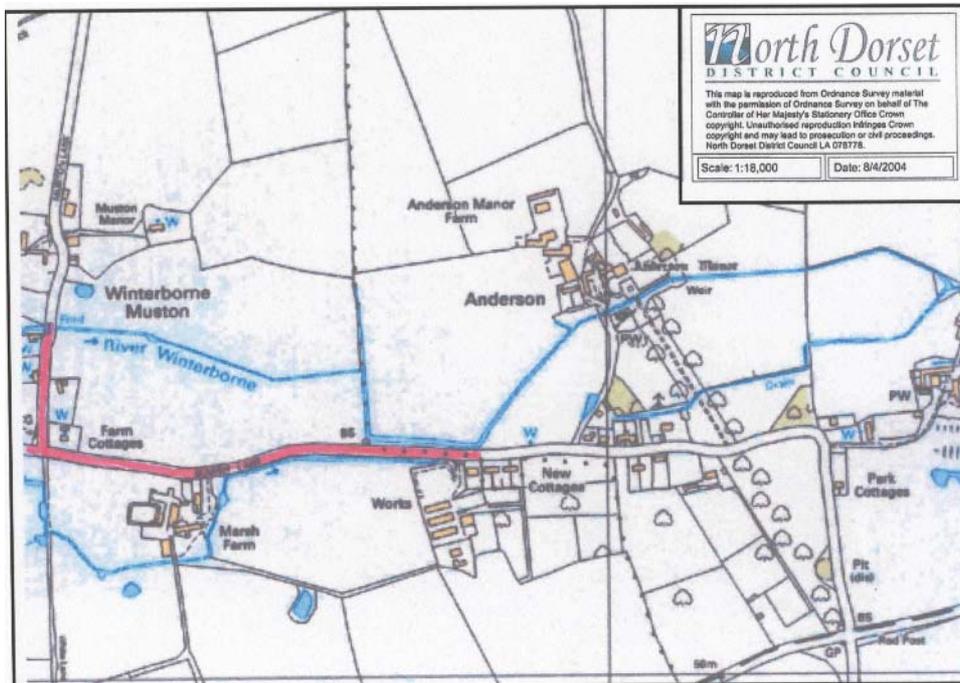
**Fig 1 – Winterborne Kingston – December 2000**



**Map 1 – Extent of Flooding in Winterborne Kingston in December 2000**



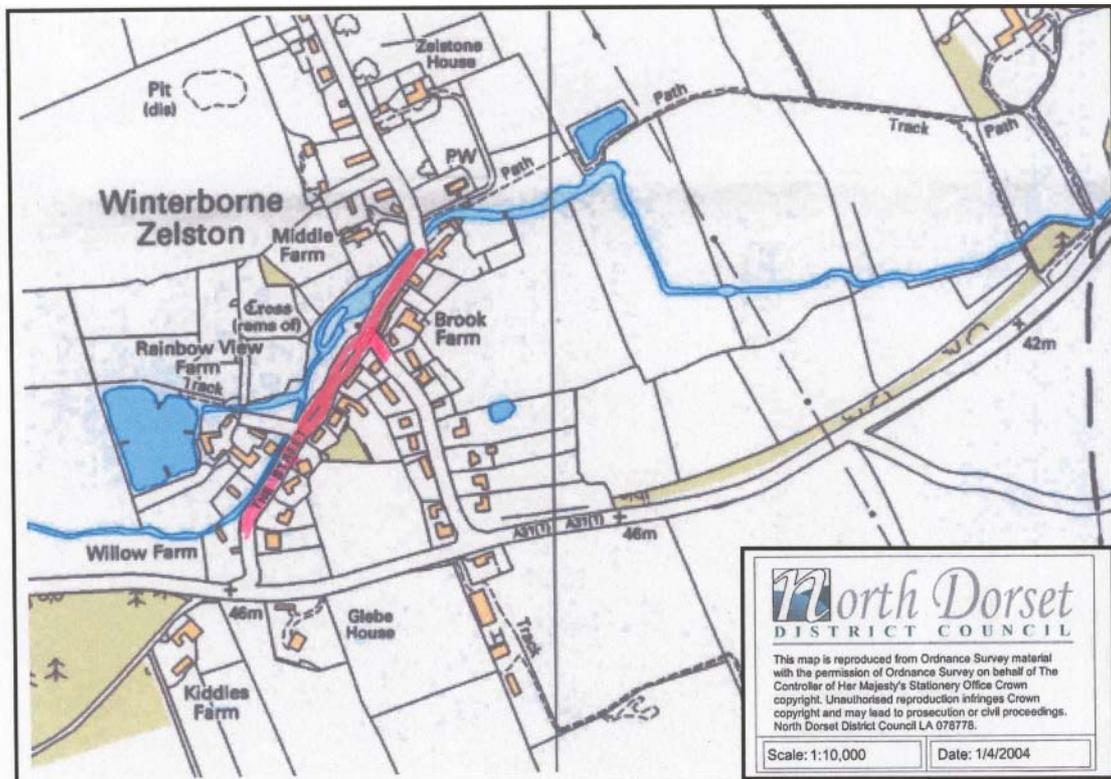
**Fig 2 – Marsh Lane – December 2000**



**Map 2 – Extent of Flooding in Marsh Lane in December 2000**



**Fig 3 – Winterborne Zelston – December 2000**



**Map 3 – Extent of Flooding in Winterborne Zelston in December 2000**

## **HOUSING**

Housing in the Parish is a mixture of old and new and includes traditional cottages and farm workers' dwellings, a 1950's housing estate in Winterborne Kingston, modern housing and executive courtyard developments. In Winterborne Kingston there are forty-seven houses / bungalows owned and managed by three different housing associations.



Broad Close Winterborne Kingston



Winterborne Zelston

Table 12 (from a separate source) shows the growth of houses since 1988 and the distribution of houses between settlements. The new builds, between 1988 and 2003, were a mix of housing association properties, modest two and three bedroom houses and executive homes. Since then, all of the nineteen new dwellings (and two currently under construction) are of the four / five bedroom variety, which are well beyond the reach of young residents born in the Parish.

Table 12 - Housing Growth and Distribution

<b>Year</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Settlement</b>			
Winterborne Kingston/Muston	200	250	258
Anderson/Winterborne Tomson	75	31	40
Winterborne Zelston		63	65
Totals	275	344	363

Additionally, almost 25% consider that no more houses are needed, as they believe that:

- The Parish does not have the infrastructure to accommodate them. Or, conversely, that any expansion of housing should be accompanied by additional appropriate community facilities.
- As the settlements lie in a flood plain, any additional building will only exacerbate the flooding

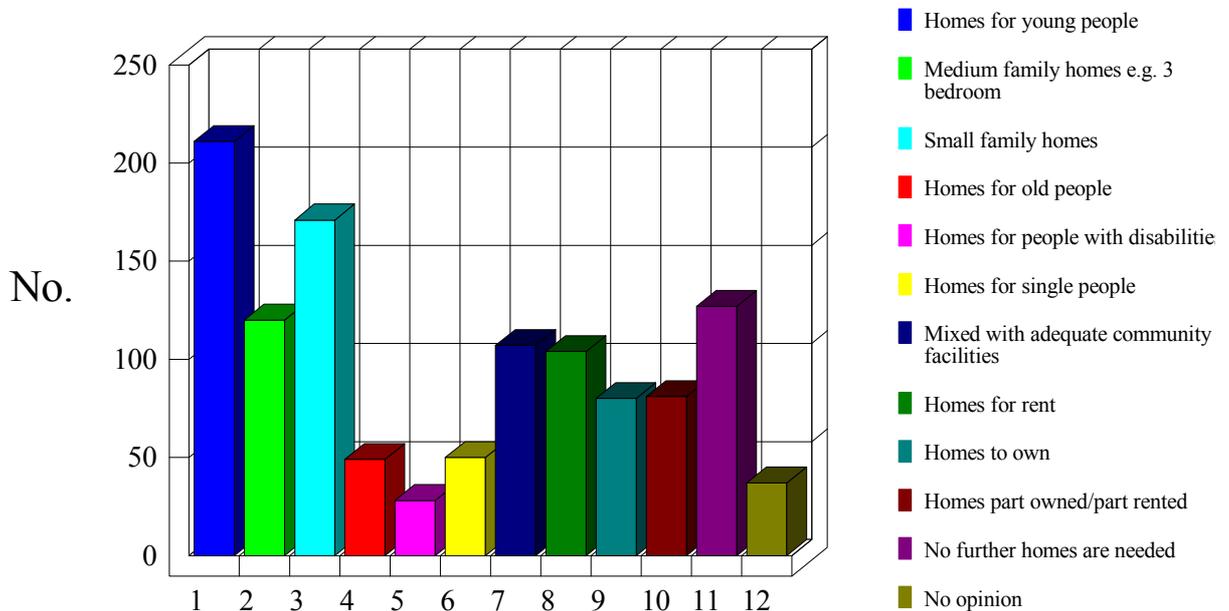
problems experienced within the Parish/along the Winterborne Valley.

Other comments criticise some of the most recent developments as being unsympathetic with their setting and totally out of character with surrounding properties.

The number of often-unoccupied 'second homes' in the Parish is not clear, but is thought to be a small percentage of all dwellings.

Table 13

## What kind of accommodation do you think the Parish needs?



## **THE NEXT GENERATION**

In addressing the needs of children and young people, approximately 30% of the 508 adult and young respondents to these questions in the main survey expressed no opinion. Of the remainder, 37%, the most popular item on which limited funds should be spent was for the provision of a skateboard/bike park facility. 22% would like additional equipment in the play park and additional seating gained just under 6% of first choices.

There was also a wish to gain access to a Youth Club, possibly by running a minibus to an existing provision such as Blandford, or preferably setting up a local one within the Parish. Such provision would almost certainly need to be run on a voluntary basis but funding is generally available to assist with start-up costs.

From the questionnaires completed by young people (11-19 years), listening to music, being with friends and using a computer are the three top indoor pursuits with study and homework having no takers. The younger ones (0-10 years) preferred to spend their time drawing and painting or playing with toys.

Outdoors, again for the older ones being with friends is the top outdoor activity

followed by skate boarding/biking. Swimming and football were the top second choices. Other outdoor activities that this age group are interested in ranged from horse riding, sailing to shopping. Not very many participate in after school activities but this may be down to the difficulties with available school-to-home transport.

Top of the facilities wish list was a skateboard/bike park and this was supported by both age groups. Second came 'transport to neighbouring towns' and third was 'more facilities for outdoor sports' followed by 'youth club' and a 'weatherproof youth shelter'.

Approximately 71% of all young people have access to a computer and the internet.

Concerns were expressed about vandalism of equipment already provided and anti-social behaviour that focuses around meeting points for young people. These will need to be addressed by involving the young people fully in any future projects.

Table 14.1 Indoor Activities

	<u>11-19 years (49)</u>		<u>0-10 years (63)</u>
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	
Listening to music	13	13	
Drawing & Painting			24
Being with friends	13	7	
Playing with toys			12
Computer	7	5	
Being with friends			8
Watching TV	5	9	
Making Things			4

Table 14.2 Outdoor Activities

	<u>11-19 years</u>	<u>0-10 years</u>
Being with friends	26	
Skate/bike park		17
Skate boarding/biking	11	
Swimming		12
Swimming	10	
Going to the play-park		10
Football	8	
Going for walks		6

Table 14.3 Extra Facilities Requested

	11-19 years	0-10 years
Skate/bike park	29	
PLAYPARK -Integral climbing frame + slide + balancing bars		45
Transport to neighbouring towns	19	
Seats for parents and children		36
More facilities for outdoor sports	18	
PLAYPARK – More equipment for younger children		34
Youth Club and Youth Shelter	17	
PLAYPARK – Smaller protected area for little children		30



Play Park Winterborne Kingston

## **RECREATION and LEISURE**

### **GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES**

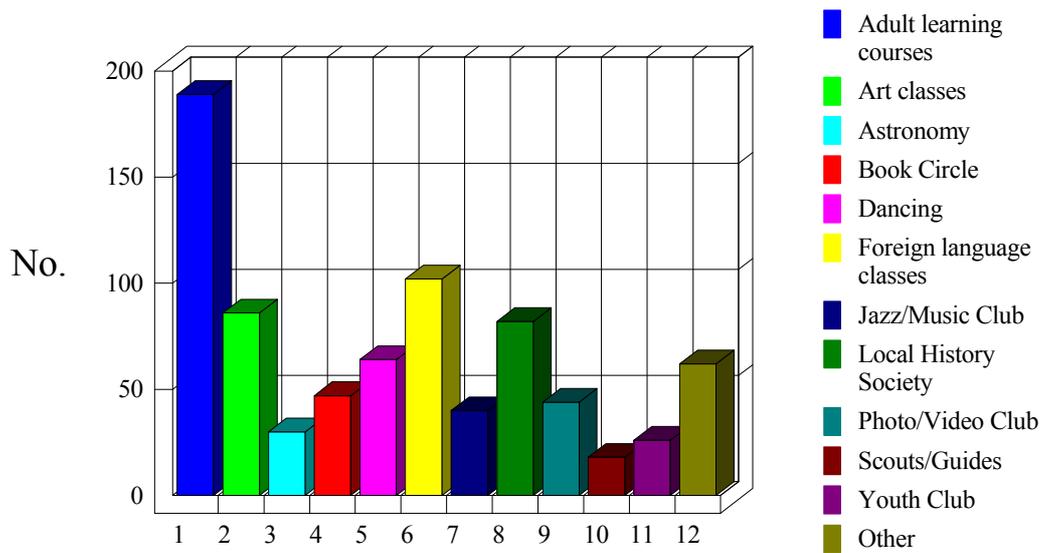
90% of 500 people who responded to questions on this subject replied that they never take part in the activities, with 46% indicating that they might take part in church services and another 25 % saying they might attend Parish Council meetings, on an occasional basis. New clubs and activities would be welcomed by 61% of respondents.

Table 15 shows that the greatest interest was for unspecified Adult Learning Courses followed by foreign language classes, art classes and a local history society. Overall it was felt by a large majority of people that local facilities for people of up to 25 years of age were “poor”, and that any funding for these facilities should be prioritised; those for people aged 26 and over were ‘adequate’. 38%, mainly adults, believed that a skateboard/bike park should have priority, whilst 22% favoured additional equipment in the play park.

Within the Parish more facilities for sporting activities would be appreciated among the physically active, both among the 25 – 59 age range and more particularly, young people. Though there are only 49 young people between 11 and 19, and 63 between 0-10 years at least 190 people want a skateboard/bike park - evidently a lot of adults would want to use it too! Adult Learning Courses, covering many topics, appear to be favourite. The proportion of people prepared to lead any of these activities is under 5% of respondents, although, as a number, this is probably sufficient to initiate some of the courses, once details of needs and opportunities have been identified. Whether these activities subsequently flourish will chiefly depend on sustained local enthusiasm, and not necessarily on large grants of money or long-term inputs of outsiders' expertise.

Table 15

### Which new clubs/activities would you attend in the Parish if they were provided?



Although 'Youth Club' came second from last on this table (derived mainly from adult responses), information from the Youth Surveys show keenness among all the young people. This resonates with other responses from parents complaining about bored young people, and residents concerning vandalism.

## **NEW FACILITIES**

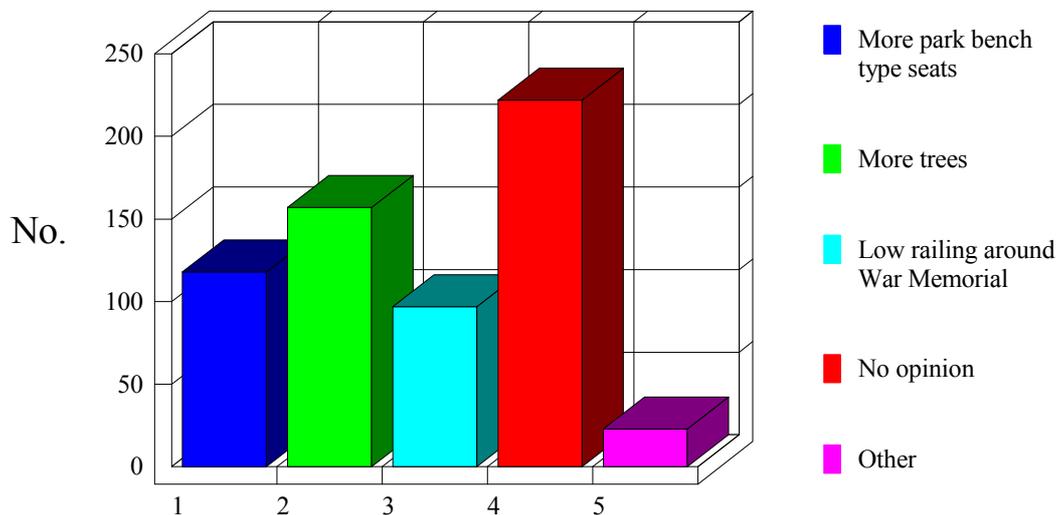
Almost half of respondents had no opinion on trees, seats and the War Memorial in Winterborne Kingston. For the other half, more trees came top of the list (and earlier suggestions had been made about locations for new trees.) There was some enthusiasm for more bench-type seats with suggestions about where to locate them. If the Village Hall was relocated and the present site became a village green, the positioning and surroundings of the

memorial would need to be reconsidered.

The Winterborne Kingston Cricket Club building and adjacent Recreation Ground are major Parish assets. Although support for the Cricket Club has dwindled in recent years, a new committee with fresh ideas has recently been elected and we look forward to seeing this facility develop into a thriving social amenity once again.

Table 16

### Which of the following are needed in Winterborne Kingston



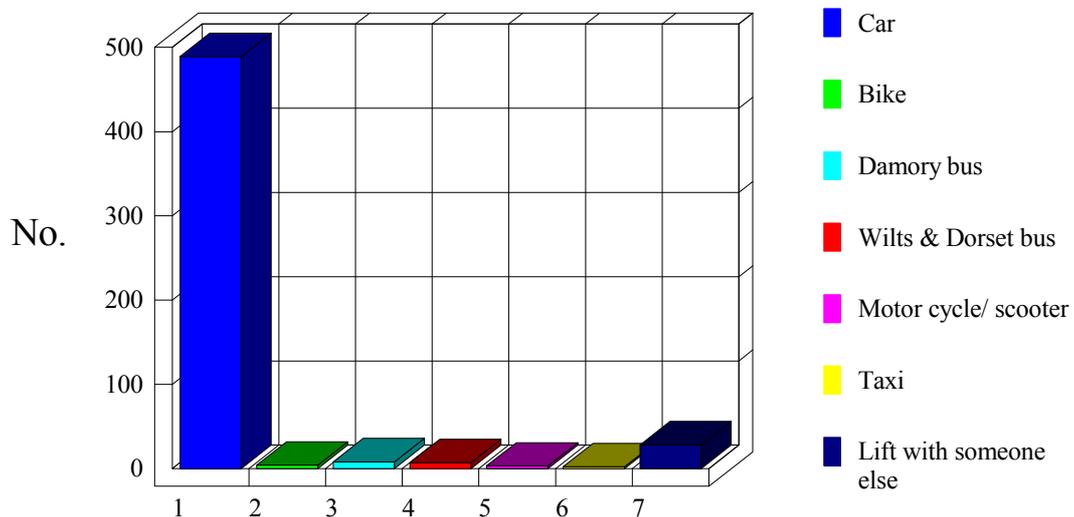
## TRANSPORT

Residents of the Parish depend almost exclusively on their own motor vehicles to meet their transport needs or get a lift with some one else. The majority never experience any problems in getting out of the Parish to other places. The contributions made by bicycle, motor cycle/scooter and buses are very small. In the latter case this is primarily because the very limited services do not meet the needs of the community. No

increase in usage of the bus services is likely until improvements are made (but they would have to be significant before people made more use of buses and less use of their cars). If a better public transport service could be provided the three most preferred regular destinations would be Blandford first then, equal second, Dorchester and Poole.

Table 17

Which of the following is your major means of transport?



**HIGHWAYS and ROAD SAFETY**

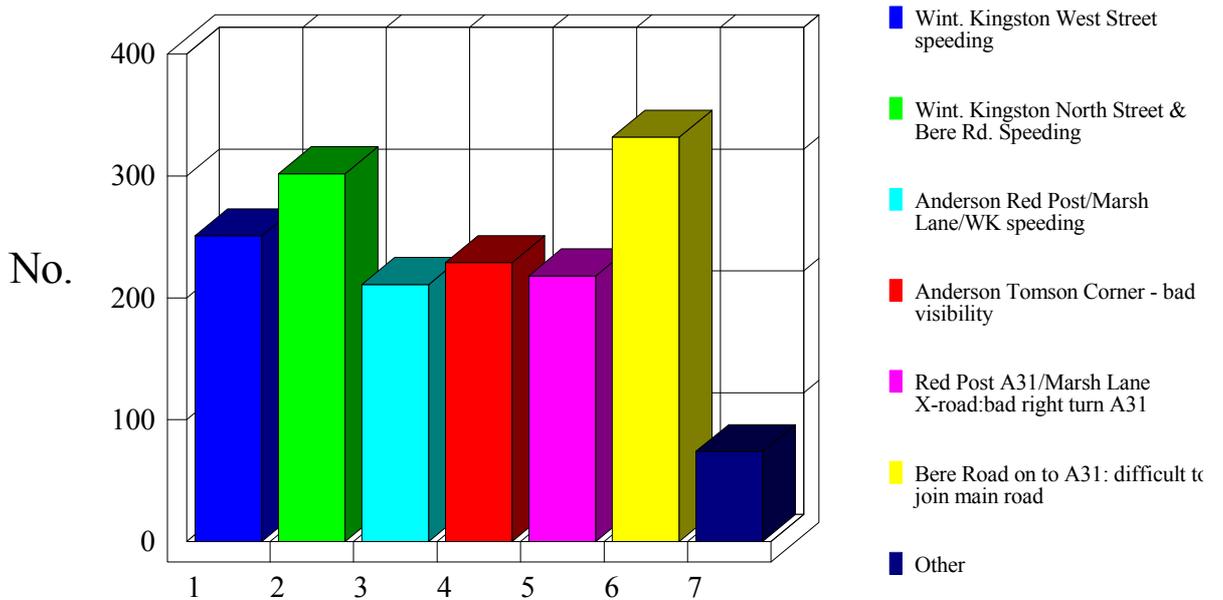
The questions on road safety and speeding received a very strong response. There are very real problems with speeding, on West Street, North Street & Bere Road in Winterborne Kingston, and from Red Post junction through Anderson and along Marsh Lane to Winterborne Kingston. Other areas of concern are difficulties in joining the A31 at the Bere Road junction and similar problems are experienced turning right at the Red Post junction.

Another issue is the bad visibility combined with the road width at Tomson corner. Traffic speed within the village is also a major problem for the residents of Winterborne Zelston, as is joining the A31 at the junction opposite The Botany Bay Inne.

It should be noted that the Parish Council has been urging the implementation of all the road safety measures and speed limits mentioned above for many years.

Table 18

**Would you support action to improve road safety in the following 'danger-spots'?**



The question on danger spots and speeding on the roads in the Parish received three pages of comments, not only on the problems listed in the survey questionnaire but also many others that are appended below:

- Very little police enforcement of existing speed limits within the villages and on A31
- Speed Cameras needed
- Traffic calming needed in Winterborne Kingston and Winterborne Zelston
- Dangerous right turn out of Winterborne Zelston onto A31 at The Botany Bay Inne
- Make western entrance to Winterborne Zelston one way (No exit to A31)
- Roundabout needed at junction of A31 & Bere Road.
- Improve traffic-flow onto and off the A31 at Red Post cross-roads
- Speed activated signs at entrances to villages.

Suggestions to overcome these problems included:

- The introduction of 30MPH speed limits within Winterborne Zelston and from Winterborne Muston through Anderson to the Red Post junction

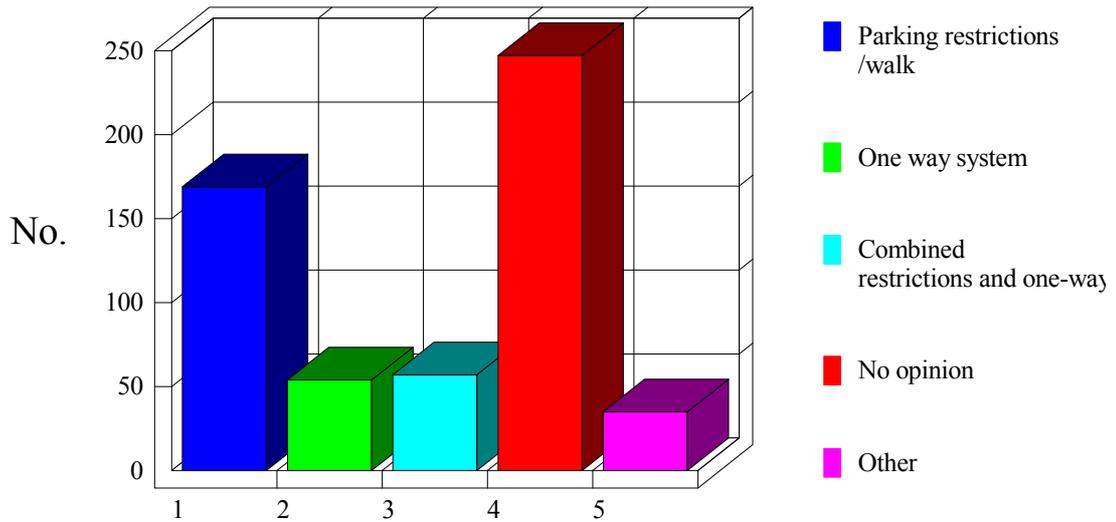
- Request vigorous enforcement of existing speed limits and the proposed limits when installed
- The introduction of improved road safety measures to allow access onto the A31 at the White Post, Red Post and Botany Bay junctions
- The introduction of a safe footpath/cycle track from Winterborne Zelston to the Red Post Filling Station

The traffic congestion at Winterborne Kingston's Dunbury First School during drop off/pick up times is another cause for concern and the majority favour some form of parking restrictions to be in operation. Subsequent investigations revealed that a major contributory factor to this problem was the inconsiderate and often dangerous parking by parents dropping off and picking up their children. As a first step to eliminate this problem a direct approach has been made to parents asking them to park sensibly in accordance with the Highway Code, in the interests of safety of their children and other road users.

All the concerns listed above have been taken up by the Parish Council with the appropriate agencies.

Table 19

## SCHOOL : HOW REDUCE CONGESTION, IMPROVE SAFETY?



28% of 526 respondents wanted more streetlights, but were countered by the 53% who rejected this. Another 14% wanted existing lights to be better shaded, to reduce unnecessary light

pollution. Cycle tracks, more pavements, and pedestrian crossings were requested by 22%, 24% and 20% of respondents.

## Chapter four

### THE LOWER WINTERBORNE PARISH – THE FUTURE

Table 20

How would you like the Parish to develop?

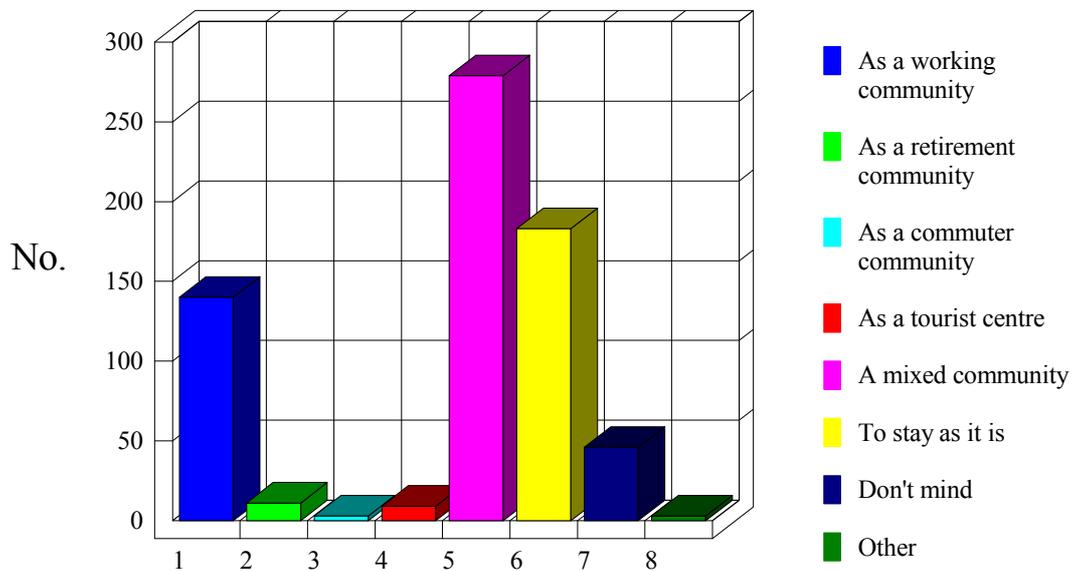


Table 20 shows that the overwhelming majority of residents wish the Parish to remain as it is today, a mixed, working community. Nevertheless, they recognise that change is inevitable but have firm views on how this should be managed.

On the question of the development and expansion of small scale business and industry, Table 21 shows that there are

varying shades of approval, with more favouring small business development (316) than the expansion of light industry (145).

Table 21 Small Scale Business & Industry Development

<b>Question</b>	<b>Should small scale businesses be encouraged in and around the Parish?</b>	<b>Should small scale industry workshops be encouraged in and around the Parish?</b>
<b>Response</b>	<b>Number of replies</b>	<b>Number of replies</b>
<b>Strongly in favour</b>	74	51
<b>In favour</b>	142	94
<b>No strong Opinions</b>	68	59
<b>Have reservations</b>	78	79
<b>Definitely not</b>	71	123
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>406</b>

**HOUSING**

With regard to future housing, 97% of respondents believe that this should cater for young families and local people.

At present, the North Dorset Local Plan shows that there are no plots earmarked for housing within the settlement boundaries. However, if and when any becomes available, the residents firmly believe that any future development should be:

- Small to medium 'more affordable' family homes.
- Sympathetically designed to be in keeping with the size and character of surrounding buildings



'Eco-friendly Houses'  
Winterborne Kingston

- Built such that they do not exacerbate the flooding problems experienced in the Parish.
- Accompanied by suitable additional community facilities



The future lies very much in our own hands. We live in a beautiful part of Dorset; this is both a privilege and a responsibility. Change is inevitable; how we manage it is down to us, the residents. Our enemies are bureaucracy and apathy. The former we can do little about, except perhaps try to use it to our advantage with a little lateral thinking. The latter is down to everyone.

**IF YOU CARE, GET OUT THERE AND JOIN IN!**

# CHAPTER FIVE

## ACTION PLAN

In considering the items raised in response to the 'Open Days' and gathered from the completed questionnaires, the power to make a difference lies within the community itself.

Analysis of the results highlighted an extensive number of possible improvements, which are listed on the following pages. Clearly it is necessary to prioritise the remainder to arrive at a deliverable programme for the next two to five years. Others may be included in a longer term programme.

The improvements listed cover a wide span of issues and whilst some are for the benefit of specific age groups, others are for the benefit of the community as a whole. With careful planning everyone should benefit.

The next stage is to research each item further, looking at the cost of provision, as well as its ongoing maintenance. Some may be implemented quite quickly while others will need long term planning.

Some of the minor social improvements have been implemented already:

- Pop-In mornings commenced April

- Monthly List of Events at Winterborne Kingston Village Hall commenced April
- Information on Adult Learning Courses has been made available
- A 'Welcome Pack' for all new residents to the Parish is in course of preparation

We will not get something for nothing and a programme of fund-raising events will be necessary. This has started already and support has been encouraging, with £1000 raised from just two events.

This is the challenge facing the community and your continued support will be essential. When sufficient funding has been raised for a particular project we will complete that project before moving on to the next one. Nevertheless it is recognised that some of these projects will run in parallel.

Note:

After consultation with the relevant agencies the projects will be costed.

The list is in no particular order of importance or in any order of possible installation.

The list is not exhaustive because as projects progress other needs may emerge.

**SUMMARY OF PROJECTS**

**Project**

**Comment**

**Project  
Leader**

**AMENITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

# Benches in public places

Funds have been raised. Quotes are being obtained.

PPSG

# Winterborne Kingston Village Hall:  
Refurbish existing and/or build new  
at Recreation Ground

This is a major project being  
progressed by the village hall  
committee

WKVH  
Committee

# Winterborne Kingston Cricket Club

The Parish Council is working in  
partnership with the new committee  
to plan the future

Parish Council

**COMMUNICATIONS**

# Improve reception of national  
communications (TV, radio, mobile phone)

Parish Plan Steering Group  
secretary (PPSGS) to write to all  
national communication agencies to  
ascertain what improvements, if any,  
could be made.

PPSG

# Improve communications within  
Parish:  
- Develop Parish website

Volunteer needed to be Webmaster

PPSG

**ENVIRONMENT**

# Plant more trees in public spaces

Further research required.

# Flood-warning and alleviation system

Parish Council will produce a flood  
plan and discuss improvements with  
NDDC and Environment Agency

PPSG

Parish Council

- |                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| # Bins for litter and dog-mess | Parish Council will progress with NDDC |  |
| # Village decorative signs     | Enquiries to be initiated              |  |

**Project Leader**

Parish Council  
PPSG

**HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY**

- |   |                                   |                |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| # Tackle road safety issues with appropriate authorities: |                                   |                |
| Control traffic speed                                     | ) For some months the Parish      |                |
| Hazard signage  | ) Council has been in discussion  | Parish Council |
| Entries/exits at A31                                      | ) with Dorset Police and Dorset   |                |
| One-way/ No Exit at Winterborne Zelston west              | ) County Council Highways to      |                |
| Cycle track/path Winterborne Zelston -                    | ) resolve some of these issues.   |                |
| Red Post Filling Station shop                             | ) The viability of others will be |                |
| More pavements and cycle track                            | ) discussed with the appropriate  |                |
| in Winterborne Kingston                                   | ) agencies in the near future.    |                |
| Maintaining visibility at critical corners                | )                                 |                |

**IMPROVEMENT OF WINTERBORNE KINGSTON CEMETERY**

- |                                     |  |                |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| # Remove, replant surrounding hedge | Parish Council in process of obtaining quotes. | Parish Council |
| # Provide water-tap                 | Parish Council in process of obtaining quotes. | Parish Council |

**RECREATION**

- |   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| # Update equipment for younger youth and seating in Play park at Winterborne Kingston Recreation Ground | Plans and quotations have been obtained and sources of funding are being explored.                      | PPSG |
| # Construct/install weatherproof 'hang-out' shelter for older youth at Winterborne Kingston             | This has been included in the above application.  | PPSG |
| # Bike/skate board park for older youth at Winterborne Kingston   | A support group needs to be formed to investigate all options including subsidised travel to Blandford. | PPSG |

# Youth Club at Winterborne  
Kingston with equipment

Enquiries are in hand to establish  
if a youth club could be started  
and if not to investigate  
alternatives.

**Project Leader**

PPSG

# Identify and fence kick-about areas  
for youth at Anderson and  
Winterborne Zelston

See above under Bike/skate board  
above.

PPSG

# Equipment for outdoor sports.

Will be incorporated into above  
investigation.

PPSG

#### TRANSPORT

# Arrange for more appropriate transport  
(times, destinations, frequencies):

- Blandford Youth Club
- Supermarket
- Bere Regis link

Comments received in the survey  
have been passed to appropriate  
companies for comment.

PPSG

#### PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

# Design Statement for the Parish

In view of the comments received  
at the various Open Days  
and responses to the  
questionnaire it is clear that the  
overall environment and future  
appearance of villages within the  
Parish area matter of concern  
to the residents.

The Steering Group has therefore  
recognised that these  
concerns should be addressed  
in a formal Parish Design  
Statement and work on this will  
commence once the Parish  
Plan is finalised and funding is  
identified.

PPSG

# **CHAPTER SIX**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The following have given their time, experience and enthusiasm to get the Lower Winterborne Appraisal and Parish Plan to this stage and the Parish Plan Steering Group wish to thank them unreservedly.

- Computer Services : Brian Doe, Jim McIntosh, Simon Hart, John Bryant
- Countryside Agency: For assisting with funding for the project
- Dorset Community Action: Simon Thompson, Susie Calder
- Dorset County Council Environmental Services: Airphoto maps
- Environment Agency: Open Day Flood exhibition
- Lower Winterborne Parish Council
- National Farmers Union: Open Day exhibition
- North Dorset District Council: Kevin Morris: focal point - support
- Other Parishes (notably Hinton St Mary – Mr Clifton Blyth, Burgh-by-Sands - Mr A Daltry, Child Okeford – Ms Jill Curtis, Affpuddle – Cdr. Campbell De Burgh, Bloxworth – Ion Acland, Charing – Ms Sheila Cowdry) who provided useful practical information and advice on procedures.
- All volunteers who delivered and collected the questionnaires and have undertaken many other tasks.

And of course, all those who responded to the questionnaire.

**Thank you, everyone!**