

**MARNHULL  
VILLAGE  
PARISH  
PLAN  
2006**

# Marnhull Village Parish Plan Contents



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## **SECTION 1**

### **Plan Overview: Management Summary**

Work began on this Marnhull Parish Plan in June 2005 when, following a series of presentations made to various societies, groups and churches within Marnhull, a steering committee of 25 people was established. The size of the committee allowed the introduction of a number of working groups to be established so that no one person was over committed. At the first full committee meeting a constitution was agreed and the officers elected. The work involved was financially underpinned by a grant from the Countryside agency of £3,560 backed by £300 from the Parish Council.

The brief for the plan was “to produce a document that identifies all the relevant issues of importance to Marnhull, including issues of social, economic and environmental concern”. The resultant document was to represent the views of the entire community and be based on information collected from surveys, consultation and research with the final focus on actions to be taken through an Action Plan, which identified the necessary responsibilities.

The process adopted by the committee, following the extensive series of presentations seeking volunteers for the steering committee, was to engage further with the community using a stall at the Marnhull Fest held in July 2005. The PR sub committee heavily advertised our attendance and the response was significant. In addition to explaining the Plan concept the committee took the opportunity to seek views of what was important to those who lived in Marnhull. Feedback was received from over 180 people, the form used and data received form part of Appendix A. The feedback was used to influence the type and format of questions to be included in the questionnaire, which was to be sent to all households

A sub group was formed with the task of crafting the questions to be included in the questionnaire, which were then presented to the full committee for approval. A software package was used to create the questionnaire document in order that data analysis could be achieved efficiently, this did, however, have a down side because the structure was preset and certain types of questions were predetermined in the software. In excess of 900 questionnaires were hand delivered and in many cases hand collected during September, with the result that we had 581 households representing 1298 residents returning completed questionnaires. 99 youth questionnaires were also received from children and young adults. The effectiveness of the software used was demonstrated by the fact that the time to input all the data from the questionnaires was 120 hours; without the software it would have been considerably longer. A number of the questionnaires returned included comments on what respondents felt were of prime importance, these have been used to influence comments made in section 4.

After the raw data from the questionnaires had been analysed, an Open Day and Evening was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November to provide feedback to the Marnhull community and to enable further input to be obtained. The committee were very fortunate to have representatives from NDDC and Dorset County Council present to answer questions. Subsequent to the open day the committee have within the time available contacted a number of local organisations, all of which responded, their help has been greatly appreciated.

This document has been structured to meet the demands and requirements of both local and third party bodies and therefore, in section 2, we have included an Introduction to Marnhull. The Parish Action Plan and Strategy in section 3 has been drawn from the analysis in Section 4, supported by the raw data illustrated in section 5. The overall analysis of information received throughout the preparation of this document has been incorporated in section 4, we have attempted, where answers to issues are already available, to provide that answer. Some issues are beyond this brief, but have been included for completeness. Because it is not always possible to provide a sequential response to the questionnaire we have grouped all issues raised under 5 distinct headings namely:

- Living in Marnhull
- The Environment
- Transport
- Recreation
- Youth

The Action Plan detailed in Section 3 illustrates the desire of the majority of Marnhull residents to retain where possible the rural environment which currently exists. As a result of Marnhull comprising a number of loosely linked hamlets there appears a desire that any future strategy should consider the creation of a focal or centre point, which could be a nature reserve, pond or other such focal point. Capital projects recommended relate to the provision of a

relocated pre school and the building of a youth shelter. Many local actions will depend on the local community assisting the Parish Council in their implementation. Other actions in the areas of Bus Transport, Roads, Wild Life Management, Environment and Recreation facilities will require the Parish Council working with relevant third party agencies. As a result of the questionnaire it can be seen that half the population of Marnhull has moved here during the last 15 years. This means we have a mixed agricultural and non-agricultural community, which requires better understanding and tolerance on both sides. It is expected that the Parish Council will explore ways in which this can be positively achieved.

During the development of this plan a number of people have given of their time. The Marnhull community owes them a great deal of thanks and will hopefully show their support by becoming actively engaged in ensuring, that we, as a community, meet the demands of the proposed action plan. Attendance at some of the monthly Parish Council meetings would be a good start. The Parish Council has agreed to include the Parish Plan as standard agenda item. It has also agreed that a sub committee comprising a number of councilors with members of the Marnhull community will be established to progress the actions listed in Section 3.

Mr. B J Goldsmith Chairman Marnhull Village Parish Plan Steering Committee:

Steering Committee Members - Mrs. Joanna Wilkinson (Vice Chairman), Mrs. Jean Miller (Secretary), Mr Richard Matthews (Treasurer), Mrs. Shirley Blackford, Mr. Gareth Bray, Mrs. Lisa Bridger, Mr Frank Bryant, Mrs. Margaret Bulford, Mrs. Ann Covell, Mrs. Nicola Ellis, Mr. Richard Findlay-Wilson, Mrs. Mali Gudgion, Mr Adam Guy, Mrs. Jane Hibberd, Mrs. Agnes Hopkins, Mrs. Debra Ingham-Barrow, Mrs. Michaela Kendall, Mr Stan Kingsbury, Mrs. Kate Locke, Mrs. Vicky Mitchell, Mrs. Alli Plummer, Commander Rob Vitali, Mrs. J Vitali, Mr Jeremy Watson.

## SECTION 2

### Introduction to Marnhull

#### MARNHULL

The first settlements in the area around 2000BC were in the north east at Ashley Plantation, but Marnhull only established its individual identity when it became a separate parish from Sturminster Newton around 1150 AD.

The village and parish of Marnhull is comprised of a number of hamlets scattered over an area of 3751 acres, contained within a boundary of approximately 23 miles, it is considered to be one of the largest villages in the South West. Situated in North Dorset, nestling in the heart of the Blackmore Vale, it lies between Shaftesbury, 6 miles to the east and Sturminster Newton, 3 miles to the south. Visitors to Marnhull enjoy wonderful panoramic views, which include the hills of Hodd, Hambleton and Duncliffe woods. Marnhull is a village that has slowly evolved into a place where 80 % of the resident's responding to the questionnaire want to live and do not want to see significantly change. In the year 1821 the population was 1274 this grew to 1415 in the year 1891, and, according to the 2001 census it stood at 1951 with a total number of dwellings standing at 915. The numbers of Parish Plan respondents to the questionnaire were 1298 (plus youth to be added) from 581 dwellings



Marnhull incorporates hamlets: Pleck, Walton Elm, Moorside, Pilwell, Ham, Nash, Haines, Gannets and is surrounded by 8 parishes: Fifehead Magdalen, Stour Provost, Todber, Margaret Marsh, West Orchard, Manston, Hinton St Mary and Stalbridge. The river Stour joined by two smaller rivers the Cale and Lyddon flows round the north and west sides of Marnhull forming part of the Parish boundary with crossings provided by two stone bridges one at Redbridge and the other at Kings Mill on a site dating back to 1350.

The village of Marnhull, or Marlott as it was called in Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles", is steeped in history. Catherine Parr, Henry VIII's last wife owned Nash Court, which is only one of the many listed buildings in the village. St Gregory's Church of England church, a Grade 1 listed building, is a focal point for many miles around and it is where roads leading from Gillingham, Dorchester and Sturminster Newton all converge. The church is the oldest and largest building in the village and, since parts of it date back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century, it is unique as a record of Marnhull history.

The other main churches in Marnhull are the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady first used in 1832, and the Methodist Church opened in 1899. The village in addition to a very successful pre school known as the Jungle Hut has two primary schools; St Mary's Catholic and St Gregory's Cof E Primary School with a total intake in excess of 300 pupils. Also in Marnhull is Ivers College a privately owned residential facility for young adults with learning disabilities.

At one time it is reputed that Marnhull could boast 13 inns, alehouses and malt houses however by 1962 this had been reduced to 6 and now the village has two: The Crown which dates back to 1753, referred to by Thomas Hardy as "The Pure Drop Inn", and the Blackmore Vale Inn, Hardy's "Rollivers" of which some parts date back 4 centuries.



The original sports pavilion was opened in 1951 for the Festival of Britain and the Village Hall was added in the 1970s. Substantial redevelopment of the sports pavilion was undertaken and completed in 2005 at a cost in excess of £60,000. The hall is under trustee management with the Parish Council having direct management of the recreation field and nearby cemetery. The recreation grounds provide facilities for football, cricket, tennis and a skate park that was opened in 2003 at a cost of £28,000, while there is also a dedicated children's playground. There is no obvious centre to the village, but it is fortunate to have two general stores (one also a newsagents), a butchers and post office. In 2003 a much needed new surgery and pharmacy were opened with the previous pharmacy site becoming a second hairdressing salon. The village is home to a number of small businesses.



As early as 1895 there was a police station, with an officer in charge, but this has unfortunately disappeared. The stone quarry continues to provide quantities of Marnhull stone, which historically was used for a majority of the buildings in Marnhull

Respondents to the questionnaire show that 20% moved to the village within the last 5 years and a further 30% between 6 to 15 years ago. This indicates that the village is no longer a farming / agricultural based community but a rather more complex mixture of cultures.

The parish of Marnhull falls within the parliamentary constituency of North Dorset and is part of the European constituency of Dorset and East Devon. It is in the Stour Vale ward of Dorset County Council and the Marnhull ward of North Dorset District Council. It is in the West Dorset Local Justice Area with a Crown Court at Dorchester and Magistrates Courts at Blandford, Sherborne, Weymouth and Bridport. St Gregory's is part of the diocese of Salisbury and the archdeaconry of Dorset; the Catholic Church is part of the Roman Catholic diocese of Plymouth.



## **SECTION 3**

### **Parish Plan Actions and Strategy**

Community action and self-help will be the most important ‘resource’ available. The questionnaire results illustrate there exists within the village a willingness to do more, particularly in areas such as maintaining and improving the environment. It is expected that all actions will be started during 2006 with the majority completed by end of 2007.

#### **Living In Marnhull**

##### **Future Strategy**

The residents of Marnhull have clearly stated that any future planning or developments should ensure that the village retains its existing character, no building on green field sites and not overload the current infrastructure. It is clear that there is a desire to ensure any future strategy for the village should be targeted at creating a clearly identifiable village centre, both socially and environmentally.

**Action:** Parish Council and NDCC to ensure due consideration is given to the above requirements when considering any future village planning strategy.

##### **Housing and accommodation**

According to the questionnaire response there is a limited requirement for alternative accommodation, which is further amplified by the response from NDDC, however for the few to whom it applies it is a serious problem.

**Action:** Parish Council to continue to provide what assistance it can by supporting individual cases and to pursue other avenues such as the Community Land Trust.

##### **New accommodation for Jungle Hut Pre-School**

The current Pre-School accommodation comes up for planning review in 2006 and it is felt that the time has come to restart a significant project to support the young. The opportunity exists to revitalise and progress a previous scheme to look at alternative locations and assist in the necessary finance to construct a replacement building for the existing Jungle Hut Pre-School. This action should also aim at providing future facilities such as after school care.

**Action:** This project could initially be led by the Parish Council in partnership with the charity and staff running the Pre-School, together with parents, school governors and other interested parties A site should be designated and new accommodation provided, to ensure the future of our village Pre-School.

##### **Information - gathering/disseminating.**

Many respondents highlighted a lack of knowledge of existing facilities and services that are available within the village. At the same time acknowledging the use of existing forms of communication methods, i.e.. Marnhull Messenger, Notice Boards, Telephone poles.

These must be added to by the implementation of a Marnhull Messenger Website (currently under construction), plus additional Notice Boards, which contain a greater variety of information

**Action:** The Parish Council must examine existing means of communication and formulate a policy, to ensure that information is available to the Community by increasing the number of Notice boards and the implementation of one or two information points in the village for residents and visitors; to assist in the promotion of the Homewatch scheme. To promote in discussion with the local Job Centre Plus local job vacancies and to improve the level of tourist information provided.

**It is recommended:** the services provided by the surgery are highlighted and communicated more throughout the village by the surgery.

##### **Best Kept Village.**

There is a positive desire within the village to enter the Best-Kept Village competition.

**Action:** Parish Council to initiate enquiries as to taking part.

##### **Police**

We are advised by the Police that Marnhull is one of the safest parts of the country to live, work and visit and it is their intention that it remains that way. The questionnaire does, however, highlight the fact that we do suffer from incidents of mindless vandalism. The police advise that they are committed to a 20-minute response to incidents.

**Action:** Parish Council to approach local police to encourage more local contact and encourage the local residents to contact the police to report incidents of vandalism.

## The Environment

### **Future development strategy**

Communication facilities allow the potential for considerable change in working practices, which lead to changes in lifestyle with knock on effects in different communities. There exists a strong case for setting up a Village Working Party to see how this will impinge on the life of Marnhull, both beneficially and negatively. At the same time, since both subjects are related, the same Group could/should study the ongoing Development Policy and develop the strategy over any future expansion of the Village. Any policy adopted should aim to restrict population expansion growth over the next 5 years so as not to overload the existing infrastructure.

**Action:** It is proposed that the Parish council consider establishing a working party, which would include any relevant expertise available in the village to assist in producing a working document..

### **Pollution**

Air pollution, fly infestation and road muck were raised as significant concern to villagers, although it must be acknowledged that many actions are being taken by the local agricultural community to minimise the effect. It is important to establish a dialogue with the farmers on what should be a convivial and constructive basis to establish what more both they, the farmers, and we the community, can do to help with these issues involving both them and their contractors. Poor communication has led to misunderstandings. As always a balance has to be struck regarding muck on the road, excessive mud for prolonged periods is unacceptable, however, it is impossible to run an agricultural business and continuously clean the roads.

**Action:** Any issues of excess should be reported to the Parish Council, it would be helpful if care is taken in accurately identifying the responsible party.

### **Litter collections - Rubbish disposal.**

The Parish council has already instigated an annual 'clean up', unfortunately with little local support.

**Action:** Parish Council to increase promotion of the clean up dates and provide a budget for any necessary fluorescent clothing and materials. It will still require the local community to make an effort and become involved.

### **Dog Fouling**

A local issue caused by thoughtless and uncaring local people, particularly at the Cemetery, Recreation Ground and near the Schools all affecting areas used by local children.

**Action:** Parish Council to continue to be robust in their attempts to pursue any possible resolution to this issue with a strong publicity campaign, aimed at offending dogs owners.

### **Recycling**

North Dorset District Council is among the leading councils in Britain for its recycling efforts. At the Open Day people said they would like cheaper garden refuse bags but the NDDC say they are unlikely to be robust enough both for weight of refuse or the protection of the collectors.

**Action:** Parish Council to seek NDDC assistance in providing the out lying areas of Marnhull with the benefit of kerbside collecting, and press both District and County to broaden the scope of what is collected so that Villagers have greater opportunity to recycle as much as possible

### **Wildlife habitat/s**

Many respondents highlighted this subject area, suggesting that a pond could be established to make a wildlife centre in the village, also the use of our verges and tree planting, to encourage wildlife in the area and the provision of more benches to allow time to enjoy the environment.

**Action:** Parish Council to instigate research into the viability of all /any of these proposals and liaise with the Dorset Wild Life Trust, DCC and NDCC, with any villagers likely to be directly involved.

### **Footpaths, Obstructions, Signposts and Difficulties**

During the past 20 years the number of Footpaths in the Parish has risen to 107. Many wish to see more and better Footpaths Maintenance. Some items objected to are the natural obstructions that have to be expected in the countryside although Locked Gates, (though most cross country walkers might climb these), barbed wire and crops across footpaths are all illegal. All issues have to be discussed with the Landowners and Dorset County Council to see how these problems can be resolved. Any missing Signposts need to be advised to the Parish Council for their attention. The Parish Council has a dedicated volunteer Footpath Representative who reports periodically about the state of the footpaths, styles etc, and liaises with Dorset County Council on these matters.

**Action:** The Parish Council has recently made a provisional allocation of funds for a few Footpath Maps to be produced in 2006/7. Planning for them to be available early in the budget year is under way.

## Transport

The provision of Public Transport Services for Marnhull, with the exception of Nordcat, is a contradiction in terms; the bus services for Marnhull are totally inadequate. The timetable is sufficiently complex that it acts as a disincentive to use; bus transport is a complex problem that is not going to be solved easily. It is a matter of concern across all age groups within the village.

**Action:** This is not a problem restricted to Marnhull but affects many parts of rural Dorset. What is required is a comprehensive study into needs of villages and to provide a complete integrated service that is of use to villages and not run for the convenience of the contractors. Initiative is required from the Parish Council, liaising with DCC, NDCC and Transport suppliers, so that future services are more user friendly.

### Roads

As is evident from several sections of this report, there are strong feelings amongst villagers about the roads, pavements and verges, as well as the perceived danger spots. Villagers believe there is an urgent need for additional road safety measures to make Marnhull a safer place. Particular problems are associated with parking, particularly at school opening and closing times. The issue at St Gregory's School could be eased if more parents used the goodwill offer of the Crown car park, even with the slight inconvenience of a walk. The request to DCC for a lower Speed Limit on the B 3092 at St Gregory's Church corner should also be pursued. The head of St Mary's is also trying to alleviate their problems associated with parking and bus access, but needs more local support for the proposed plan.

**Action:** Parish Council to pursue the possibility of a Traffic Deflector being introduced at the end of New Street by the Churchyard wall and other issues raised by the questionnaire response.

### Improvements of Surfaces

There is overwhelming support for an improvement to the road surfaces in Marnhull.

**Action.** The Parish Council to continue to provide periodic reports to the various agencies at District and County level for these problems to be addressed. The Parish Council would always welcome reports from anybody wishing to indicate places of most concern to them, either through the Parish Clerk or at one of the Council's monthly meetings.

### Road Safety

Road safety in Marnhull is perceived to be an important issue with many believing there are danger spots throughout the Village. More traffic restrictions and wider pavements are urged, though it is difficult to see how the latter can be accommodated in most parts of Marnhull without significantly changing the character of the place. Many want to see restrictions on access for Heavy Goods Vehicles and buses (mainly Sackmore Lane it seems), but changes are unlikely as things stand, since any restriction on access for buses will go against Marnhull getting better public transport. However, depending on the development of the bio ethanol plant at Wessex Grain, restrictions governing heavy vehicles could change since the projections for the increase in traffic movements of 40-ton trucks and tankers are between an extraordinary 200 and 300 a day. Dorset County and District Councils have indicated they will want to implement measures to ensure access for those vehicles is confined to specific routes and is closely controlled.

**Action:** Parish Council to maintain a watching brief for any potential improvements.

### Traffic Hazards

According to the Police and the Traffic Department of the County Council there are no accident black or danger spots in Marnhull as there have been no reported injuries or deaths in recent years. Two years ago the Parish Council approached the DCC with a list of requests to improve road safety in the Parish including the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in parts of Burton Street and New Street and at the Church corner of the B 3092. The Parish Council hold the view that the existence of a lower limit works as a clear warning to drivers that there is an unusually tricky hazard at the relevant place. However, Traffic at DCC rejected the speed limit suggestion both because of their wish to reduce the number of speed limits in the County and they hold that 20 mph is not the added deterrent some people believe

**Action:** Parish Council to maintain a watching brief for any potential improvements.

## **Recreation**

### **Village hall / Recreation area**

As these amenities are important to village life, a high priority must be given to upgrading/improving existing facilities. The changes to the Village Hall most would like to see include the addition of indoor sporting facilities, improvements to the kitchen and redecoration of the hall both inside and out a number of respondents wanted improvements to the sound and stage. These points have been passed to the Village Hall committee.

**Action:** The Village hall committee will seek guidance from the village regarding what indoor sports should be considered, they are waiting for a project plan for the kitchen and will undertake a review of decoration both inside and out. The Village Hall Committee in conjunction with the Parish Council will review the requirement for car park security

### **Children's play area**

The existing area is in need of a total makeover. The reasons for this are contained within the main body of the report. The Parish Council, perhaps by means of a sub-committee, together with interested parties should formulate a plan to identify current and future usage, design and layout, together with all relevant issues, best practice, health and safety implications etc., This matter should receive a high priority because, at present the existing site is not being used to its full potential.

**Action:** The Parish Council in conjunction with the community to review the current equipment status and invest where necessary in new equipment

### **Swimming Pool**

Villages support the need to provide, in some form or other, either access to or availability of a local swimming pool. It has been suggested that St Gregory's School be approached to determine if there exists the possibility of access to their pool under controlled conditions.

**Action:** Parish Council to pursue with St Gregory's any possible opportunities.

### **Mobile Cinema facility**

Research shows that the best way forward is to become involved with the "MOVIOLA" agency. The scheme has merit, in that it is an additional activity within the village and also provides the possibility of raising additional funding for other projects.

**Action:** The Parish Council to agenda this item regularly, possibly together with a publicity campaign, to seek out volunteers and interested parties.

## **Youth**

### **Older children / teenagers**

A response to the Youth Questionnaire showed that 60% would like somewhere to gather. A fully detailed analysis is in the main body of the report. Dialogue with young people and others, some with experience in these matters, must be initiated, again it will fall to the Parish Council to lead the way in this matter, so that viable and affordable options can be explored in an effort to prevent the disaffection of this group. As lack of transport inhibits movement of this group, it is very much in their, and our, best interests to try to provide facilities to meet their needs. This item should be treated as a priority.

**Action:** Parish Council to urgently review the prospect of providing a shelter in the recreation ground, this to be designed to allow for the village youth somewhere to meet out of the weather. It is also recommended that the Parish Council contact the Dorset Youth & Community Service to determine what advice and help can be given.

### **Club Premises**

Based on the information gained there exists a definite need for premises that will allow the Youth of the village to meet and engage in leisure activities.

**Action:** This is very much a community action where the Parish Council could act as a catalyst, however the real need is for premises within the village to be made available.

## SECTION 4

### Marnhull Residents Views with comments

#### LIVING IN MARNHULL

**Some comments received on returned questionnaires:**

**“Restriction on further housing developments in the village - infrastructure will not tolerate even more cars”**

**“We must modernise and move on but still stay a peaceful, green community”**

**“A diverse, changing community that retains its rural characteristics should be the overall goal”**

**“In a previous village plan, where we once lived, particular attention was paid to present the character of the village - particularly it's appearance. Marnhull is overwhelmingly built in stone and any development in red brick, for example is out of keeping.”**

#### Marnhull Village Parish Plan Response

#### Marnhull Statistics & Demographics - 2006

The age ranges of people living in Marnhull showed that in North Dorset we are below average percentage for 0 – 44 year olds (down 14.8%), with 45 – 64 age range being up 4%, and a +10% proportion of over 65 year olds. 25.60% of retired people completed the questionnaire.

More than half the population of Marnhull have lived here for under 15 years, showing that a high amount of new people move to the village. Out of the population that has lived here for over 11 years, 12.3% said they had been born here.

Discovering types of employment from the 384 respondents was difficult as the definitions did not break down clearly with 137 people doing “other” employment, apart from the sections listed :- agriculture, tourism, public sector, manufacturing, retail and construction. The next highest employment area was in the public sector. The majority of those who work do so within 20 miles of Marnhull, 95 staying within the village. Compared to the 2001 census in North Dorset Marnhull has +3% of people self-employed and relatively few unemployed.

Barriers preventing people from employment were few with 52.5% of those answering (67) not able to qualify a reason among the suggested answers. The next highest percentage was 20.9% of people who have a disability of some kind and 13.4% having difficulty finding employment through lack of transport.

Over 75% of homes only house one or two people and the 2001 census showed 66.5% of the population over 16 are married.

	Census.	Response	%
Population	1980	1298	65.55%
Households	935	581	62.13%

It is considered a response of 66% by the Village to the Questionnaire is a genuinely representative sample. The responses to the questionnaires indicate the views of 1,298 residents living in Marnhull. The population in 2006 is estimated at 1,980 (give or take 5 to 10 people) based on a Census 2001 figure of 1,951, living in 935 homes against 920 in the Census.

<b>Response by Age Groups</b>	<b>1,298 Response</b>	<b>1,980 in Village</b>
Between 0-15 there are	166 (13%)	257
Between 16-24 there are	121 ( 9%)	178
Between 25-44 there are	189 (14.5%)	287

Between 45-59 there are	271 (21%)	416	
Over the age of 60 there are	551 (42.5%)	842	
Compare to Census 2001	Marnhull	North Dorset	Dorset County
0 to 15	16.0%	19.8%	17.9%
16 to 64	54.1%	60.3%	58.7%
65 and Over	29.8%	19.9%	23.4%
			England & Wales
			20.16%
			63.87%
			15.97%

Clearly Marnhull has an above average percentage of retired people compared to the County, and even more so compared to North Dorset, which also has a higher percentage of young people compared with Dorset and Marnhull. Dorset, by the way has the second highest percentage of people over 65 in Britain (East Sussex is first).

The difference in percentage terms of Marnhull's over 65s compared to that for the District Council area is a bit of a surprise, and emphasises the strong need to develop an environment attractive to young families in this village. The community is very active not least amongst people with children of school age. So Marnhull has what it takes to ensure it continues as a thriving community.

### **Housing and Rental Accommodation**

87.8% own their own property, however 27 out of 581 people indicated a need for alternative accommodation, and though the number is not high , the issue would be very important to them since it often affects the most disadvantaged. Making the assumption that these are the ones who need realistically priced Affordable Housing (i.e. dwellings that are no more than £70,000), more information should be found out about them and their exact needs.

14.5% (87/581) of respondents gave several reasons why they are unable to move to alternative accommodation in Marnhull, the most important being the high prices prevalent in the property market, a lack of suitable stock and a shortage of rental accommodation at affordable prices. There is a 50/50 split amongst these 87 people over demand for purchase and rental. The comparatively low number encourages the thought that it might be possible to tackle the problem and the Parish Council could assist by addressing the issue with the appropriate Agencies.

### **Sheltered Accommodation**

1.2% (7/581) of people expressed a wish for sheltered accommodation in Marnhull, which is unlikely to be sufficient to encourage the development of such a facility. However when combined with requirements in other nearby communities the effect could be that there is a significant and sustainable demand for sheltered facilities in the area.

The results of the questionnaire were passed to the Housing & Enabling Officer NDDC, and we were advised “ Marnhull had a combined rented and shared –ownership scheme in Butts Close provided by Signpost Housing Association a couple of years ago. The shared ownership properties proved difficult to sell because of the increase in market values and problems with obtaining mortgages. This authority’s policy is to address the housing needs of all North Dorset villages where there is identified housing need and it is currently enabling the development of affordable housing in different parts of the district. As a consequence, further development in Marnhull with the Housing Corporation funding is unlikely in the foreseeable future”

### **Job Vacancy Board in Village**

59% think a local Job Vacancy Board would be very useful. To establish such a notice board in itself is not difficult however somebody has to take on the responsibility for maintaining it in good order and up to date. The Parish Council could address this in the first instance through consultation with Job Centre Plus also determining whether someone is prepared keep it up to date on a voluntary basis.

It is recognised that Internet job advertising is taking over from Classified Advertisements in newspapers hence it could form part of a Marnhull Web Site. However, there will continue to be a need for the traditional methods for some time yet, not least for those who do not own computers.

### **Education in Marnhull**

From the 581 homes of people that replied to the questionnaire, 25 children attend either playgroup or nursery school, 126 children attend full time education and 115 are progressing through further education.

Currently our Jungle Hut Pre-School has 100% occupancy with a waiting list. It has recently expanded its role in childcare by extending its hours. Some data from the questionnaire showed that lack of childcare was a bar to employment and the pre-school cannot expand further due to lack of space per child. 273 people requested after-school clubs and holiday play schemes, and these are currently being planned and implemented in the not too distant future.

The two primary schools in the village are liaising with the pre-school to expand after-school care (in line with the extended schools agenda by 2010) and this will also include holiday play schemes. To enable part of this expansion there needs to be the development of a permanent and more suitable building for the pre-school. The current building is in poor condition for staff and children with upkeep costs constantly rising. The younger members of our community deserve a better provision for future educational needs and we need to encourage young families to come and live in Marnhull for the village to stay a vibrant place for all ages.

A new building for the village's younger children could also incorporate other community activities and possibly include those interested in life skills/adult education.

Of the two primary schools in Marnhull 88 children within the parish take places out of 292. This demonstrates that the schools bring outside families to the village.

Also in Marnhull we have Ivers College in Hains Lane, which is a privately owned residential facility for young adults with learning disabilities. It has approximately 20 students who form a valued part of our village community and they showed an appreciative interest in the questionnaire

### **Jungle Hut Pre School Building**

A volunteer committee, as a registered charity runs the pre school building located in the grounds of St Gregory's school. The pre-school provides 118 places, which are spread out during the week, and is the only pre-school facility serving a 3-mile area around Marnhull. The current location comes up for planning review later in 2006, however when the building was established it was as a medium term measure with a limited usefully life. It has been required to be developed to keep pace with changing legislation, social demands and increased numbers. A waiting list is currently in operation. Comments received have indicated that building a new pre school facility (the current building cannot be moved) in the recreation ground or else where in the village is highly desirable. In addition to enabling the school to meet the ongoing changing needs, it should be able to include more children and ease the current parking problems around St Gregory's School.

### **Churches in Marnhull**

The churches were requested to provide a response to the areas of the questionnaire pertaining to them - the following text was received.

“ We believe that as a part of the Marnhull community the churches have an important contribution to make to the community in which it belongs. The survey reveals that 71.5% of respondents perceive the churches as having an important part in the community, reflecting its history and as a timeless resource for the social and spiritual needs during important events in the lives of families and individuals; (weddings & funerals, baptism and Sunday Worship). Historically the churches have provided a resource and been a catalyst within the community for a wide range of social, cultural, civic and intellectual activities; channelling the aspirations of many into national and international charitable campaigns such as the Make Poverty History campaign.”

#### ***“As a significant part of the life of the community we seek***

To develop a better understanding of our participation within the wider community, the role we can play and the resources we can offer to the community.

Ongoing practical and financial support for the upkeep of the Church buildings to enable wider community use of the space for social, cultural and intellectual pursuits, (reflected in the survey the church as a venue for functions; performances; a meeting place and an information point)

To develop networks of communication with professional and voluntary groups at all levels of the community to facilitate the dissemination of the most pertinent information for the well being of groups and individuals in the community of Marnhull.

Ongoing invitation and inclusion in community and civic events, (such as Remembrance Day and the Marnhull Fest).”

#### ***“In the complex and changing world of faith and secularism we aim to offer:***

Opportunities and support for members of the community wishing to explore their own spiritual journey.

A theology bringing the light of the grace of God, especially in times of remembrance and celebration.

A framework of liturgy for Christian faith in the setting of public worship, small groups, quiet days, and individual exploration, together with a strategy of active participation in the community to facilitate belonging and believing.

A culture which will help the community to develop a common concern for the good of all in the wider world and creation, and create an example of high ethical standards within community and civic life”.

### **Shopping Habits.**

The majority of villagers are happy to support the local shops when they can, with convenience and social contact given as the most important reasons. 44% purchase their meat and fish and 23% buy some of their groceries and fresh fruit and vegetables in Marnhull. However, and understandably the greater choice and, sometimes, lower cost were reasons mostly given for shopping in the next town or large centre.

## **Shops, Pubs and Local Businesses**

Between 80% and 90% of villagers wish local shops and pubs to be maintained at present levels or even introduce a degree of expansion where possible. Likewise, small businesses and farming are supported by over 65% of villagers who wish them to continue as they are or, if possible expand, so the village continues to thrive.

## **Medical Services**

The following percentages indicate the level of interest in the provision of increased services from the Marnhull Surgery, which currently opens 5 mornings a week from 8.45am to 12.30pm plus Tuesday afternoons from 12.30pm to 6.00 pm, included are comments received from the Practice Manager for Sturminster Newton and Marnhull.

61.3% respondents wish there to be longer opening hours at the Surgery. The practice has recently increased the number of doctors and nursing services at the Surgery. The practice will continue to negotiate with North Dorset Primary Care Trust to ensure that adequate funding is acquired to support the delivery of quality and easily accessible services that meet the needs of the population in Marnhull. 51.4% would like to see a Dentist included amongst the facilities available. The Practice is pressing for the addition of an NHS Dentist at the new Surgery in Sturminster Newton when it is completed and is quietly optimistic about the outcome. 42.2% would like to have a Community Nurse. Nurses are already available at the Surgery on a regular basis both at Marnhull and Sturminster. 14.2% would like a Baby Clinic, which the Surgery already holds every two weeks, but facilities for Family Planning Clinics (13.1%) are not the responsibility of General Practices. Hospitals are responsible for providing this service, and clinics are held at Blandford and Shaftesbury on a regular basis. A Health Visitor (28%) is available through the Surgery as required and a Physiotherapist (28.8%) is available at Sturminster Newton, but there are no funds or equipment for one at Marnhull for the time being. If transport to Sturminster is a problem villagers could try Nordcat or the Christian Care Service in Marnhull. A Psychiatric Nurse is available weekly on Mondays at Marnhull Surgery .25.1% would like Alternative Treatments facilities, but what form this should take was not clear from the responses. Based on the misunderstandings regarding existing services it is considered that publicity about the available Medical Services is necessary. The Practice Manager is being asked to make greater use of the Marnhull Messenger, the new Website and their own Notices to publicise the services and any changes. A prominent notice on the Surgery door would be invaluable.

## **Emergency Services**

Over half the Community either have no opinion or have not used the Fire, Hospital Transport or Police Emergency Services.

## **Police**

The limited experience by respondents of the emergency services is very encouraging, especially in the case of the Police, and it bears out a report received by the Parish Plan committee from Dorset Police Inspector Alan Jenkins at Sherborne, who is Section Commander for this area. Significantly he says Marnhull has an average of one reported incident a month, which is well below the average for his territory. So while crime and anti-social behaviour is a growing concern for the Community with vandalism, theft and drug taking being identified in particular, it is difficult to place the few problems we have in Marnhull as high priority even in this rural County.

With respect to Community Policing, the Inspector reports that "Marnhull is policed on a 24/7 basis" (i.e. every day and night of the week) by officers from both Sherborne and Sturminster Newton, in addition to responding to specific incidents. Clearly this does not mean that patrols visit Marnhull every day but units are "always within a reasonable distance" should they be needed.

The Inspector also advises that the Police are "committed to responding to any calls to all rural areas within 20 minutes, " and "in practical terms 999 calls are usually responded to well within that time." He sums up by saying, "I would like to reaffirm that Marnhull is one of the safest parts of the country to live, work and visit and it is my intention that it remains that way."

Reports from Villagers on the busier thoroughfares of Marnhull (not the B 3092) indicate that Police patrol cars are seen with reasonable frequency in the village, but the general feeling is they just drive through. In fact they are meant to call in at the Post Office and make personal contact, though whether this is always done is not clear. It is suggested Inspector Jenkins is approached by the Parish Council with a request that they also call at Marnhull Stores in New Street. Since the proprietor is also responsible for the newspaper rounds this makes him a valuable contact with regards to happenings in the village.

The re-opening of Sturminster Newton Police Station or even the provision of a part time Bobby in Marnhull are both exceedingly unlikely, though there is "no intention" at present to close Sturminster entirely. The non-emergency

contact number for the Police is 01202 222222 whence you or your message will be directed to Sherborne and the relevant Patrol Unit, if necessary. Of course, if it is 999 you would be guided through the standard procedure.

### **Fire Service**

60% have no experience of the Fire Service, happily, but the one concern that has been voiced is the speed with which appliances can attend an emergency in Marnhull. The nearest ones are at Sturminster Newton.

### **Ambulance**

45% find the service either Good or Reasonable. Again, speed of arrival for an emergency is the main concern that has been voiced. There is of course the bonus of having the Air Ambulance close by at Henstridge.

### **Marnhull First Responders**

The First Responders group are first aid volunteers in Marnhull who work with Dorset Ambulance Service to provide a rapid call out service from 8.00 pm to 8.00 am within the village boundary. They work in pairs and are trained by the Ambulance Service. They have sufficient medical supplies and equipment to provide basic first aid with life saving techniques. The system starts when an ambulance is summoned to Marnhull during the night, the Response team for that shift simultaneously receives a phone call from the ambulance station with the necessary details. They then drive to the patients' location and treat the patient until the ambulance arrives. We are advised that finding the precise house is not always easy at night as many house numbers and name plates are not visible from the road. This causes delays when speed may be of the essence. If an ambulance is called the recommendation is to put all front lights on, it would also help if house owners ensured that house names are clearly displayed. The First Responders are always looking for new recruits who will be trained to the required level by Dorset Ambulance service.

### **Hospital Transport**

Those not using Ambulances can either call Nordcat or Marnhull Christian Care (for the Elderly, Disabled and Unemployed) for transport to Hospitals and Surgeries, paying the going rate. Any other form of public transport is dealt with in the Transport section.

### **Home Watch Scheme**

36.3% have expressed an interest in joining the Home Watch Scheme, while 31.1% already belong to it. The main problem seems to be that few know what the scheme is about or how it operates and Tony Eslick, who is Marnhull's representative on the Association of Dorset Home Watchers, is anxious to stimulate more interest in the scheme in Marnhull.

There appears to be a link between the low crime rate in Marnhull and the resulting and probably understandably low priority we receive in the eyes of the Police and other law agencies. There are two Home Watch Notice Boards in the Village – one at the Post Office and the other at Marnhull Stores - plus a Ring Master telephone service and an Email service to communicate with Home Watch members which provides the means to warn about impending crimes or of those taking place in the Parish and surrounding areas.

A Community Police Van calls at the Burton Street Car Park every month, usually on Thursdays, from 12 noon to 1pm and at Marnhull Stores for an hour immediately afterwards.

There is a new initiative being planned to train Home Watchers and Mr Eslick is attending a course at Exeter in February, after which he will report in the Marnhull Messenger prior to organising a presentation to villagers at the Village Hall to explain what the scheme is all about.

The Parish Council can help in this by including the scheme on their Agendas and reinforcing liaison between Home Watch in Marnhull and outside Agencies like the Police.

### **Maintenance of Marnhull**

The majority of people would like to see Marnhull kept clean and tidy, but without their personal contributions little is likely to happen. Because of the restraints on money the village is going to receive even less help from the Councils for anything they believe can be dealt with by the Parish Councils and/or the individuals in the different communities. Obviously maintenance requiring heavy sweepers, drain cleaners and repairs or resurfacing of roads and pavements will be covered by Dorset Works, 'Clarence' in Blandford or the PMU (Parish Maintenance Unit). Dorset County Council also has a Unit dedicated to footpaths maintenance, but the money has to be found by the Parish Council.

The favourite option expressed is to have a “Spring Clean Day” (25.4%), though this is already a regular feature of the Parish Council twice a year; however it clearly is not known widely enough in the village since volunteers are few in number. Apart from giving this wider publicity the Parish Council is going to need to ask house and land owners to do their best to help on a regular basis, removing weeds and litter as necessary, and tending their verges and kerbs.

Entering the Best Kept Village Competition (23.5%) is thought to be another good option. Perhaps the Parish Council could pursue the terms of entry and application. Hoping for a regular Road Sweeper (20.3%) is probably not realistic though a lorry sweeper from NDDC is seen very occasionally. What is sad is that 32.9% of respondents had no opinion to express on the tidiness of their village.

There is enough anecdotal evidence to say most people have pride into their community and there is clearly a source of goodwill to tap into. Entering a Best Kept Village competition inevitably means cleaning will go on throughout the year. The recommendation is that such a project should come under a Committee separate from the Parish Council.

### **Marnhull Parish Council**

67.5% think the Parish Council is being Good or Reasonable when it comes to being effective on village issues, with over 50% agreeing that it is Good or Reasonable in (a) communicating information on its activities, (b) its effectiveness, and (c) planning for the future. It should be noted that the Parish council meets the first Monday of every month at the Village Hall. Included in the agenda is time made available for public discussion when members of the public may raise any issue relevant to the Parish Council. Currently the average number of members of the public attending is two.

### **Marnhull's Future**

It is very apparent that 65.7% wish Marnhull to retain the village environment that currently exists and this means the avoidance of small to medium size building developments. However 44.1% also recognise that there is a need to exist as a working community and therefore small business should be given every encouragement to operate within the village. This view is further supported by the many written comments received with the questionnaire.

### **Paying for The Proposals**

The majority felt that Fundraising (76.5%) and Sponsorship (62.3%) would be the best method for raising money to implement the suggestions identified in the questionnaire, closely followed by Private Contributions (32.6%) and moderate Council Tax increases (31.1%).

*On this last point the present Marnhull Parish Council Precept of £18,500 costs Band D Council Tax Payers £19.81 per year on their Council Tax. This translates as 38 pence per week per household for £18,500 or 0.0206 pence per £1,000 per week per household.*

*So if we wished to raise £1,000 extra this would cost an average household £0.0206 x 52 weeks = £1.0712 in a year. If this were to be multiplied by the 935 households the yield is £1,001.57. Extending that calculation, £10,000 would cost £10.71 each per year (10 x £1.0712).*

*That seems a pretty good result especially when it is recognised that any Capital Project this would be funding is physically here in our village for us to see and for many to use on a regular basis.*

*It is proposed that this is just one of the methods used for fundraising for Capital Projects.*

# THE ENVIRONMENT

## The Appeal of Marnhull

94.3% of the 1298 respondents believe Marnhull is a desirable community in which to live due to the rural nature of the Environment, good Amenities and Location. One cannot expect a more positive reaction than that, so the Parish Council must ensure this appeal continues by doing their best to ensure that change in Marnhull is kept to a minimum while still allowing the community to thrive.

The reasons why Marnhull is thought to be such an attractive location and environment basically fall into three areas

1. People were (a) born here or nearby, (b) came with their family, (c) married someone who lives here or (d) have relatives nearby – Total about 43%.
2. They either (a) work in the area, (b) set up home here or (c) retired here – about 50%.
3. Very importantly they all love country and village life

Availability of housing was stated as a reason for coming to Marnhull, but that would apply to most places where people choose to live and should not be confused with the available stock of housing for the less well off.

Although Marnhull is a community with above average numbers in retirement it is still a very active place with an abundance of social and leisure activities amongst a warm and friendly community.

## Development of Marnhull

65.9% want Marnhull to stay as it is while 44.1% wish it to develop as a Working Community.

Both criteria are reconcilable providing Marnhull pursues a policy of stimulating interest in the village and caters for all ages, not least the under 18s. The indications are that the first requires the delightfully peaceful, rural environment to continue, while the second wish to stimulate a positive policy that will encourage an inflow of younger families so that a proper balance in numbers and influences is maintained between the age groups. There is a good selection of schools both in Marnhull and the surrounding area, with a Post Office with General Stores and a Newsagents with a General Stores, a Butchers, Upholstery and Curtain shop, two Hairdressers, a Chemist, a Surgery and three Churches with several Clubs and Societies active in a friendly Community.

*Observation: Even as this Plan is being written there are changes to National Planning Policy taking place and they will almost certainly influence future policies at Regional, County and District levels. The Regional Spatial Strategy replaces the Regional Structure Plan and will lead to a Local Development framework for the counties and districts including, of course, North Dorset. Final guidelines are expected at District level imminently and it is recommended the Parish Council obtain copies as soon as possible after that. This will allow a Planning Policy for Marnhull to be established amongst ourselves before any approach to the NDDC and any other relevant Agency. It is likely that the new strategy will mean a review of the Development Area of the village, so the sooner Marnhull has its say the more likely it will be that the community will be able to influence development here over the next 10 to 15 years.*

## Green Field Sites

82.1% are against development on green field sites. Both from comments made and the results of the questionnaire it is apparent that residents of Marnhull desires the village to remain as rural as it is now so far as that is realistically possible, but any Development Policy for the community must establish a Positive Strategy that aims to maintain the environment much as it is now, but without stifling very modest growth. It appears that there is an understanding that change will and must take place or the village will die, but clearly most believe that all future development should be confined to the present Development Zone (with minimal adjustments) or Brown Field sites such as disused farms. If possible any Policy should allow for the inclusion of a limited number of affordable housing units at less than £75,000 per unit this, however should not be automatically accompanied by other forms of development.

## Commuting

The concept of commuting is taking on a new meaning. The traditional idea of going to work every day, whether by train, bus or car, is disappearing as the technological revolution in communications takes over peoples' lives. These sophisticated communication facilities are allowing considerable change in working practices so that it is easier to divide one's time between working from home and travelling to the workplace, which leads to changes in lifestyle with knock on effects in different communities. Indeed there is a strong case for setting up a Working Party to see how this will impinge on the life of Marnhull both beneficially and negatively. At the same time, since the subjects are related, the same Group could/should study the ongoing Development Policy and develop the Strategy over future expansion of the village as referred to above. It is suggested the policy should aim to restrict population expansion growth over the next 5 years so as not to overload the existing infrastructure. It is proposed that the Parish Council consider establishing a working party, co-opting any relevant expertise available in the village to assist in producing a working document.

# MARNHULL and the ENVIRONMENT

## Some comments received on returned questionnaires:

*"Cardboard drop off bank in village - Shaftesbury too far and not environmentally friendly - using the car"*  
*"The provision of a waste bin by the seat and bus stop at the top of Church Hill which is regularly surrounded with empty drinks cans and other litter"*

Marnhull itself cannot be expected to have its own Environmental Strategy that comes from the National, Regional and District umbrella strategies. From the feedback received there is a desire to take all reasonable measures to improve the circumstances within which we all live. Conservation, Good Environmental Management in our own homes and gardens and Recycling as much material as possible all contribute.

It has been suggested that MARNHULL should be an environment where: -

1. Everyone contributes to the quality of life in the village
2. Where no social exclusion exists on economic or practical grounds
3. New generations of Marnhull families might hope to continue living locally
4. The population is maintained within 5 per cent (100) of its existing level
5. The Community ensures the preservation/conservation and improvement of our Flora and Fauna
6. Everyone can live in a peaceful, clean and harmonious environment
7. Support is given to the Community's own facilities – Schools, Shops, Public Houses etc.
8. Crime is kept to an absolute minimum
9. The Villagers are involved in the decision making processes
10. Everyone accepts responsibility for their own part in the community.

### **Muck and Debris**

Without question the removal of Debris/Litter/Mud (49.9%), Dog Excrement (47.3%) with better maintenance of Verges (37.7%), Pavements (26%) and Footpaths (19.9%) are major issues bugging respondents.

By debris it is assumed respondents mean principally hedge cuttings on the roadsides along with the excessive mud actually on the roads. These need priority attention. It is worth noting that many of these problems are being aggravated by modern, intensive farming practices that employ much larger equipment within an environment that has changed little. There are a limited number of contractors available to carry out this work hence the choice for local farmers is limited. The issue is not helped when legislation exists that allows a 17 year old to drive 25 ton tractors. So, it is important to establish a dialogue with the farmers on what should be a convivial and constructive basis so it might be established what more both they, the farmers, and we the community, can do to help with these issues involving both them and their contractors. Poor communication has led to misunderstandings that provoke the situation, with farmers forming the opinion that villagers do not appreciate the presence of farming and, therefore, should not be living in the country. Meanwhile many villagers think farmers do not care about the community around which they operate and none of this is helping the situation for any of us. As always a balance has to be struck regarding muck on the road, excessive mud for prolonged periods is unacceptable, however it is impossible to run an agricultural business and have the roads cleaned continuously. It is therefore recommended that any issues of excess are reported to the Parish Council, however it would be helpful if care is taken in accurately identifying the responsible party.

### **Litter**

31.3% want to see litter removed. Increasingly these sorts of tasks are being left to the responsibility of the Village, so a Collecting Litter Scheme will need to be worked out, say twice a year or even quarterly. Presently a Litter Collection is organised by the Parish Council but it needs to be put on a more regular basis with someone accepting responsibility for organising the collections on a routine basis. The Parish Council will be required to provide a small budget for suitable clothing (**fluorescent jackets**) and spikes and bags, unless the NDDC will provide them free of charge. But education should also be part of the solution. Using the village's communications tools (Messenger Magazine and Website plus periodic notices) a campaign asking all villagers, old and young to consider others and the environment in which they live and to take their litter to a proper refuse point even if that is at home. North Dorset has said additional litterbins are unlikely to be available for cost reasons that affect both the supply of bins and collection.

### **Dog Excrement**

The failure of dog owners to collect the Excrement (47.3%) of their dogs is a major concern already. It is illegal and punishable by a £50 fine collectable by the District Council, but legislation is being planned to raise it to £75 and collectable by Parish Councils, but everyone wishes to avoid such action. The solution is in the hands of dog owners who simply need to leave home with one or more plastic bags (plus a small shovel if required) so the deposit may be

collected and put into one of the dedicated bins provided at the Recreation ground or their own waste bin when they return home. It was discovered at the Open Day that Councils are considering withdrawing the dedicated bins because of recycling difficulties. It is possible that the problem is being overstated on an overall village basis, because the problem seems to be confined for the most part to four specific locations; the Cemetery, the Recreation Ground, the area near St. Gregory's School and that part of Pilwell and Nash Lane near the Recreation Ground. Additional places should be advised to the Parish Council either by attending one of the meetings or through the Clerk or a Councilor. A possible action would be posters etc in the above selected areas which emphasis that children and sporting events should not be contaminated by ignorant and unsocial actions. Shaming the offenders may be the most positive action of all.

### **Flooding and Storm Drainage**

Flooding in Marnhull appears to be limited and most notable in parts of Sackmore Lane, Pleck, Chipple Lane and Moorside. At present the circumstances at Pilwell/Church Hill junction have abated according to residents there, but that is entirely dependent upon the drains being kept clear. Of course any low-lying land around the River Stour and Moorside means flooding is a threat, which can only be further exacerbated by the phenomena of climate change. One course of action would be for an Emergency Plan to be made available, which anticipates any potential disaster. It is recommended the Parish Council investigate further through the District/County Councils and Wessex Water.

### **Verges**

Many considered that this feature in the village needs proper attention. Again, as with litter, Council Services are minimal in this respect and their maintenance and cleanliness are increasingly becoming the responsibility of house and landowners. Some observers believe much of the damage caused is the result of agricultural activity, but everyone will have observed the impact of increasingly large delivery vehicles being forced to squeeze past other vehicles, or sometimes as a result of some pretty cavalier driving on roads not designed for this weight or size of vehicle.

Many believe there is a strong case for letting the inner verges grow allowing a habitat in which wild plants, birds and animals can thrive. First however, discussions should be held with the North Dorset District Council to ascertain their policy for verges and establish responsibility for the future. As everyone knows the District Council is being forced to cut back even further on the services it provides in order to stay within its budget, so it will surprise no one that services are being cut, which means it will be necessary for the Community to do the best it can to keep verges presentable.

A valuable suggestion is that Marnhull should discuss this matter with the Dorset Wildlife Trust and take advantage of their knowledge and any Conservation agencies in the area.

### **Pavements**

The maintenance of Pavements is another matter for the Parish Council to discuss with both County and District Councils but first the offending spots need to be identified. Villagers should advise the particular offending places to Parish Council through either the Clerk or by attending the monthly Council meeting so action can be taken. The Councils' Agencies for maintenance and repairs are Clarence in Blandford Forum and the PMU part of Dorset Works in Dorchester. The Parish Council assembles reports on relevant problems and damage and passes lists periodically to the agency concerned. Major works are capital projects and depend on available funding.

Making paths accessible to those with disabilities is clearly important but in a village where few footpaths exist anyway, a difficult one to deal with. Dropped kerbs will help where they can be introduced, but too often there is no pavement in the first place. Again, those who are aware of specific problems should contact the Parish Council through a phone call or in writing to the Clerk, or in person at the Parish Council Meetings. St Mary's School council has raised the issue of a cycle / walking path, they question whether one could be built inside the hedges along Nash Lane / Great Down Lane/Old Mill Lane, to encourage people to walk/cycle to school hence easing the traffic congestion.

### **Street Lights**

30.8% would like more Environmentally Sensitive Street Lights however many are drawn to this area because of the comparative absence of light pollution. Perhaps a survey of existing lights should be made to find those that are thought offensive. It would be helpful to reduce those that are intrusive, sometimes dangerous as far as road users are concerned. In the course of such a review it may be apparent that there are one or two spots where additional lighting might be necessary, but only if it is in keeping with the village environment and compliant with the majority wish for as little change as possible, let alone the question of added light pollution. Possibly sites like the Village Hall and Recreation Ground might be considered.

### **Directional Signs**

It is surprising that few people (10.8%) are concerned over direction signs in the village. Some are already on order by the Parish Council though from recent discussions with Dorset County Council it appears they take anything up to a year to produce.

### **Pelican Crossings and Roundabouts**

These have little support and are considered totally inappropriate to Marnhull's village environment, while the introduction of additional Road Signs is something the County Council will resist because they get lost in the hedges and damaged by hedge cutting. It is proposed that the Parish Council suggests more signs painted on the roads.

### **Roadside Care and Street Cleaning**

58.4% are concerned over roadside care which probably also includes verges another important issue. It is recommended that the Parish Council should take up these matters with the District Council and establish their policy and strategy for the future. District must be urged to give this item priority in their review of what they do in the future.

### **T.V. and Radio Reception**

As advised by the electrical shop in Sturminster Newton it is known that parts of Marnhull have poor Digital reception. Meanwhile 76.2% for TV and 75.8% for Radio express themselves satisfied with the current situation. TV's Channel 5 is not good enough on terrestrial, meaning many inhabitants are limited to just 4 channels. There exists a campaign in West Dorset to improve reception, three reasons are given for the problem a) some houses are or were not tuned into the correct transmitter, b) problems with the TV's and Radios and c) some areas are or were not covered by a signal. It is recommended that contact be established with West Dorset Broadcasting Action Group to determine if any of our problems are of a similar nature. The demise of analogue is not far away, so somebody in Marnhull, not necessarily on the Parish Council, with an understanding of the technological issues should be asked to study this question both as it exists and in relation to the fast approaching switch to Digital and approach the transmitting authorities about how they are addressing the situation and how soon

### **Mains Water**

In a place like Marnhull everybody should be on Mains Water and responses show 92.4% are either happy or very happy with their supply. 3.8% experience occasional loss of pressure, but the number is small enough that it would be best for those people to take it up with Wessex Water. Of course the Parish Council is always available to assist if required. Any supply problems should be considered unacceptable because everyone is entitled to clean, fresh water no matter where they live.

### **Mains Drainage**

85.4% of households have advised that they are on Mains Drainage it would appear that no significant problems exist other than at, Moorside at the Todber end, which continues to have difficulties. The issue ought to be discussed with Wessex Water to determine a long term solution.. The residents should be encouraged to take this one upon themselves with the Parish Council providing any necessary support. It is recommended the Parish Council monitor the situation.

### **Gas**

The response to the service of Gas depends on availability. It is interesting to note that over half the village has Gas available. It is recommended that, if driven by demand, Transco should be approached both to obtain a map of the existing mains for information, and to ascertain if and when access might be extended.

### **Electricity**

The supply is estimated to be reliable for 87.4% of the village, but that indicates over 12% believe their supply is unsatisfactory. Whether this is in outlying areas or possibly based on an inadequate supply to meet the usage of certain households is not known . If any householder is truly unhappy with supply the matter should be taken up with their suppliers. If the problem exists in one particular area then it would help to act collectively. Either way if there is an unsatisfactory response the Parish Council should try and assist as requested.

### **Refuse Collection and Recycling**

#### **Refuse Collection**

This receives 95.3% approval. It is doubtful anywhere else will better that figure. At the Open Day people said they would like cheaper garden refuse bags but the NDDC say they are unlikely to be robust enough both for the weight or the protection of the collectors.

### **Kerbside Recycling**

This is working very well for 83.5% of respondents. However 79.4% are asking for cardboard to be included, because at present it has to be taken to a central recycling points like Shaftesbury or Sherborne. Some remark upon the contradiction that the Council's sub-contractors at the refuse depots can collect cardboard but the NDDC cannot. Conversely kerbside collection takes plastic containers, but no such facility exists at either recycling plant. Apparently weight/bulk ratio is part of the problem, while not all recycling comes within the scope of the District Council, since the County Council is also involved. Additionally there are complications over insufficient processing capacity for recycling while, at the same time, selecting the right quality of recycled materials for processing is proving problematic. This is all rather bizarre; especially when it appears that cardboard is in great demand at other points in the country. Clearly this is still a national problem.

North Dorset District Council is amongst the leading councils in Britain for its recycling efforts. They have invested heavily and say they will invest more, which hopefully will help eliminate the anomalies. Meantime it is suggested the Parish Council asks the NDDC when outer lying areas of Marnhull might also benefit from kerbside collection, and press both District and County to broaden the scope of what is collected.

*Observation: The opinion has been advanced that conservation of our environment would be greatly improved if packaging was acknowledged as being a prime contributor to the problem. Perhaps this is an opportunity for Marnhull and the NDDC to be in the forefront of a campaign urging Government to tackle these problems from the top (ie where the potential refuse originates) rather than the bottom when it has to be recycled, giving incentives to those who generate the packaging to reduce the amount and quality of what they use. The amount of cardboard, plastic and paper that is being generated in pursuit of business has reached obscene proportions, whether on retailers' shelves, through junk mail or elsewhere.*

*The world wants to arrest climate change yet does not tackle a key area that would mean saving trees and reducing the relentless production of paper and cardboard demanded for generating into waste. Making use of recycled materials, even if the finished articles are not pristine can only be a positive move. Such an initiative would be a major step forward.*

Recycling is supported by 61% overall so there are still plenty in the village to be converted.

### **Recycling at Drop Off Banks.**

Three quarters of respondents are either happy or fairly happy with the service provided, but mention has been made about how the depots at Sherborne and Shaftesbury are becoming inadequate as the volume of recycling grows. Perhaps the NDDC is seeking new and larger sites that can be ergonomically more user friendly, if not the Council should be and as soon as possible. The bottle banks around the communities are useful but only in an obviously limited sense. In Wiltshire there are local banks where paper and cardboard are collected together!

### **Methods of Recycling Used**

Between 53.6% and 77.1% recycle at kerbside and about a further 20% use the Recycling Centres at Shaftesbury and Sherborne to dispose of Cardboard, Tin Foil and Garden Waste. Marnhull residents are very supportive of recycling and would do even better if additional facilities were available both kerbside and at collection points.

Between 58.4% and 78.5% would use whatever recycling facilities are provided, which emphasises the solid support for recycling in this village.

### **Public Toilet**

45.5% believe the village needs one while 38.9% said not; numbers approximately repeated in the Youth response. The previous outside toilet, which was a foul and abused facility, disappeared when the Pavilion was renovated. Its existence had not really been an issue until then. This situation might be resolved at a later date but there has to be some way of protecting a public toilet from vandalism. It is suggested research is conducted into whether there is a system where an outside toilet might be hired on a contractual basis for ongoing use (maybe if it were to be provided for the 6 to 8 months spring/summer/autumn period of the year this would suffice).

*As an observation, vandalism of public property is a growing problem in Marnhull and could become serious. So it must be investigated. It is sad that people do not have respect for the few facilities that are provided, the Skate Park for example. If the vandals are the young then the vandalism is all the more senseless and will certainly discourage those responsible for providing any new facilities.*

### **Protecting and Enhancing Marnhull's Environment**

There is strong support (29.4%) for encouraging Wildlife. Indeed this is a point worth noting for other parts of the Plan, because it gives weight to the desire to preserve Marnhull as a village very much as it is now. This section includes other related suggestions.

### **Renewable Energy**

The support (42%) for Renewable Energy was based on a very general question which did not list the various forms of renewable energy., but from the comments made there would be a very negative reaction to any form of wind farms.

### **Community Composting**

40.8% support the idea of Community Composting. This could be a Village project that might be part of an overall Community Wildlife resource.

### **More Local Employment**

31.2% are interested in increased local employment, yet too many opportunities in Marnhull will conflict with the greater wish to keep the village as it is. It is has to be hoped that the expansion of neighbouring towns will increase opportunities though competition for places will also be greater.

### **Creating a Pond**

23.9% are interested in what might be interpreted as a central focus for the community. Respondents are keen to have such a facility but may not have given the likely site or implications enough thought. The nearest thing we have to a 'Village Hub' is the Village Hall and Recreation Ground. Clearly the concept needs to be taken seriously, but a review of the possible locations inevitably raises questions about land ownership, proximity to existing residences, maintenance and liability insurance. Availability, cost (initial and ongoing), health and safety risks and noise are all issues. The Committee believes it is worth studying this idea further and that this might be discussed at an Open Forum organised at the Village Hall under the Chairmanship of a strong and responsible village personality.

### **Travellers**

3.2% agree that such a site should be made available within the Marnhull area. Problems highlighted were based on issue surrounding the supply of running water, waste facilities, refuse collection and electricity which are all mandatory under the Act.

### **Footpaths, Obstructions, Signposts and Difficulties**

During the past 20 years the number of footpaths in the Parish has risen to 107 so where more are needed is difficult to identify, yet 10.7% voted for an increase. The creation of new footpaths is a lengthy and contorted business requiring the agreement and co-operation of the relevant landowners and Dorset County Council before they can be initiated. Since Marnhull is fortunate in having as many footpaths as it does, perhaps the first task should be to improve the sign posting and maintenance, while promoting more awareness of their existence. 69.4% wish to see more and better footpaths maintenance. Some items objected to are the natural obstructions that have to be expected in the countryside, namely 'Farm Animals, High Stiles, Mud/Water, Nettles, Brambles and even Other Users. Some of these have to be expected and it's why many walkers take walking sticks with them so as to beat down the obstructions. The landowner might be allowing brambles and other natural obstructions to grow across paths so as to discourage usage. If that is thought to be the case the offending places need to be reported to the Parish Council for action.

Locked gates, though most cross country walkers might climb these, Barbed Wire and Crops across Footpaths are all illegal. All will have to be discussed with the landowners and Dorset County Council to see how these problems can be resolved. Any missing Signposts need to be advised to the Parish Council for their attention.

The Parish Council has a dedicated volunteer Footpath Representative who reports periodically about the state of the footpaths, styles etc, and liaises with Dorset County Council ( DCC ) on these matters. The Parish Council pays for all materials relating to footpath maintenance while the DCC pay the labour, which consists of two teams of two men for the whole county, and once spring arrives they are fully occupied in the environs of the coast where most of the county's tourism occurs. So Marnhull has to seek their services at a time of year when it often difficult to gain vehicular access to the offending places because it is too wet. In some instances the PC footpath representative does the work himself, but there is a good case for a team of volunteer assistants to be organised to help him, or additional use being made of the Community Service Unit who already help with maintenance of the Recreation Ground for a nominal cost.

The growing of crops across footpaths is an offence under the Country Code, unless previously agreed, but if a better spirit of co-operation can be organised between the non farming community and farmers it should be possible to find an amicable solution that does not resort to an inflexible approach on such matters. Its the diagonal paths that cause most of the problems with crops for obvious cultivation reasons and maybe a local code might be organised to allow temporary diversions of said footpaths during the period between planting and harvesting providing the farmer is prepared to put agreed diversion signs in place.

The Parish Council has recently made a provisional allocation of funds for a few Footpath Maps to be produced in 2006/7. Planning for them to be available early in the budget year is under way.

### **Noise, Lights and Air Pollution**

The two most prominent complaints concern Excessively Bad Smells (73%) and Low Flying Aircraft Noise (43%). Traffic Noise (20.1%) also features.

Excessively bad smells are a very prominent talking point particular the chicken farm. We are advised however that the chicken manure is cleared on a daily basis and that over 90% is transported away from Marnhull. Concern has been expressed when it is spread on the fields waiting to be ploughed in, we are advised that this will not occur this year. NDCC officials have advised us that all legislative requirements and code of practice are being met at the Farm. There has also been considerable concern regarding the infestation of flies in the area. The North Dorset Environment Officer has advised the committee that we have been subject to two different types of flies; one form is normal for Dorset and comes with the territory but there is another form called a “cluster” fly, which is very localised and very intensive. The Environmental Officer has yet to determine where these flies come from and would welcome any reports of such sightings.

### **Low Flying Aircraft Noise**

This and other M.O.D. activities are a problem in this area because of the number of military establishments in Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset, let alone coastal installations. Representations could be made to Whitehall, but what we can achieve is not clear. However, those living on the Henstridge side of the village are experiencing a significant growth in noise from the airfield, not least from motor racing which is occurring on a regular basis.

The Parish Council has a dedicated representative concerned with activities relating to the airfield and he attends regular meetings of the Somerset County Council Henstridge Master Plan Working Group, quite a mouthful but it reflects the many issues that have to be covered. Frequency of meetings depends on issues to be discussed at the time, but can be as often as monthly or considerably less. It has been proposed that Marnhull and neighbouring Parishes be given a more formal part in any decision processes concerning Henstridge airfield and industrial park but that is only realistic if the South East Somerset District Council in Wincanton were to agree. Meanwhile it can be said that North Dorset District Council are being very supportive of the situation concerning the Parishes on the County's borders, not least in relation to the Wessex Grain development for Bioethanol and the potential traffic movement problems that would ensue..

### **Traffic Noise, General Noise and Light Pollution**

At between 10% and 20% these matters are a concern but it is difficult to see how much can be done by what appear to be normal intrusions on our lives, unless there is a specific issue like motor racing at Henstridge Airfield. It is an unhappy fact that life is no longer as peaceful as it used to be and there may be expectations of tranquility that are no longer achievable even in an environment like Marnhull, except on rare occasions. However specific examples of unacceptable noises or light pollution should be brought to the attention of the Parish Council who will try to find a solution.

## **Transport**

### **Some comments received on returned questionnaires:**

*“Farm contractors drive through our village with little or no regard to other road users”*

*“Bus routes must be re-examined to avoid the need for large 52 seat and double decker buses to use narrow lanes such as Sackmore Lane”*

*“There is an urgent need for a full assessment of road safety hazards including a 20mph speed limit from St Gregory’s school”*

### **Demographics of Vehicle Ownership and Use**

The 1298 respondents who live in 581 households in Marnhull (representing 62% households of Marnhull) between them own 805 cars. Taking the number of households registered in the 2001 census into account this figure could be extrapolated to 1,227 cars in the whole Parish. There are also 5.5% of villagers who own vans (109) and 3.5% own motorbikes (69), added to which are 3 lorries and 3 especially adapted vehicles which makes a total of 1,411 vehicles with internal combustion engines or 71% of the population and an average of 1.51 vehicles per household. Motorists have indicated that they believe that there is a significant need to improve the road surfaces.

64.3% use a car as their main means of transport to work or study. The majority (65%) experience no transport difficulties.

7.6% use buses – 2/3 public buses, 1/3 private (mainly school) buses, with 35% experiencing difficulties with public transport, 6% often and 29% occasionally.

13% of villagers own bicycles that are used at least once a week, although only 1% (20) use them as their main means of transport to work or study. 80% of cyclists would like to see improved road surfaces in the village and 19% would like more bicycle stands, though the survey did not record where these should be placed.

### **Public Transport**

Despite moderately high car usage, for many residents there are a number of issues concerning public transport. This is most evident amongst the young, where 30% stated they were unable to attend after school activities due to lack of transport home. If one also adds on the 13% of people who expressed that lack of transport was a major barrier to them being able to seek work or study, there is 43% of residents who find transport to be an issue.

### **Public Buses**

Only 4.8% of villagers use public buses as their main means of transport to work or study, but this comes as no surprise since the services are totally inadequate, thus putting the ‘cart before the horse’ when assessing potential use for improved services. With only 62% of villagers owning cars it is certain more use would be made of buses if better services were available.

Improvements to bus services through Marnhull are needed and this is backed up by 50% who state they would like to see improvements to bus services, routes (36%) and timetables (31.2%) especially, with 17.8% wanting improved reliability; the other half, presumably the car owners, had no opinion. Cost, bus stop locations, access for the disabled were less prominent issues.

From the response to the Questionnaire and subsequent conversations, not least at the Open Day, it is clear the situation over Bus Services is far more contentious than at first might appear. There are 7 so called Bus Services to Marnhull, plus 1 (Number 36) that comes no nearer than Todber and 1 (Number 51) that runs only during Term Time.

Of the other 5 services (Numbers 7, 15, 109, 117, 190) each of these runs on only one day a week with just one bus a day in each direction allowing between 2½ to 4 hours at the destination.

**Number 7/7A** - on Mondays only (except Bank Holidays) from Sherborne (Yeovil in School Holidays) to Poole (Bournemouth during School Summer Holidays) allowing 3 hours at Poole. (South West Coaches [SWC])

**Number 117** – on Mondays only (Bank Holidays excepted) from Wincanton to Sturminster Newton via Gillingham and Marnhull allowing 2 hours and 5 minutes at Sturminster Newton. [SWC]

**Number 15** on Tuesdays only - from Wincanton to Salisbury via Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Marnhull and Shaftesbury allowing 2½ hours only in Salisbury – Not even enough for a bit of shopping and a bite of lunch. [SWC]

**Number 109** – on Wednesdays only from Wincanton to Dorchester via Marnhull and Sturminster allowing less than 3 hours in Dorchester. [SWC]

**Number 190** – on Fridays only from Poole to Yeovil via Blandford, Sturminster, Marnhull, Stalbridge, Sherborne allowing 3 to 3½ hours in Yeovil. [DAMORY]

**Number 309/310** – Monday to Saturdays except Bank Holidays – passing through Marnhull to Gillingham & Shaftesbury 4 times a day and 3 times a day to Sturminster.

There is also a morning bus to Yeovil returning late afternoon. We acknowledge that they may also be others, however the above clearly highlights the confusing situation.

As is clearly demonstrated by the confusing service list there is no clear or cohesive rural bus service serving Marnhull, the mess above explains why a number of comments have been made regarding inadequate timetables of services and few people using them. This problem is not unique to Marnhull it must be common with all other rural communities in Dorset and should be addressed by NDDC and Dorset County Council. There clearly exists the need for an integrated bus service policy within North Dorset and beyond. While still a village, Marnhull has a population of nearly 2,000 with an obvious demand for public transport. Thus we need the Bus Services through Marnhull to be addressed urgently in consultation with the Dorset County Council with their new Travel Plan, the North Dorset District Council which subsidises Nordcat and, of course, the bus companies.

As a strategy Marnhull should aim for a much more frequent service in both directions at least 6 days a week between Gillingham Station and Sturminster Newton going through Marnhull from early morning until 8 or 9 in the evening. Of course where those buses go beyond either end of the route is for the bus companies to decide, whether Blandford, Dorchester and Yeovil beyond Sturminster, or Wincanton, Yeovil, Shaftesbury and Salisbury beyond Gillingham.

# **ROADS, ROAD SAFETY and TRAFFIC HAZARDS**

## **Roads**

As is evident from several sections of this report, there are strong feelings amongst villagers about the roads, pavements and verges, as well as the perceived danger spots (84.9%). Villagers believe there is an urgent need for additional road safety measures to make Marnhull a safer place.

It was clear from discussions at the Village Plan Open Day on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2005 that these issues are under constant review by the Parish Council. The Traffic Manager from Dorset County Council, who deals with these issues when raised by the PC, was also there and indicated the levels of priority Marnhull's representations receive when he is faced with similar demands across the county. He has a good rapport with Marnhull PC representatives, being the first to say that a constructive working relationship is more beneficial to Marnhull than being confrontational.

## **Road Safety at St Gregory's School**

At present Marnhull's most significantly persuasive argument for any changes to roads configuration and speed limits is the School Travel Plan for St. Gregory's Primary School in New Street. The existence of this Plan has been key in securing action by the Traffic Department, and has already led to the gap in the Crown Car Park Hedge on Church Hill being installed. There is also the possibility of a Traffic Deflector being introduced at the end of New Street by the Churchyard wall to slow down traffic. In addition a request for a lower Speed Limit on the B 3092 at St Gregory's Church corner is being considered, but this will take much longer, if it is ever agreed. At the moment our request is about number 90 on the list and normally the County Council manage to deal with around 25 to 30 such requests a year because of finance and practical limitations. Of course there is always the possibility that other, more urgent requests might be pushed in ahead of that for Marnhull in the intervening time.

## **Improvements of Surfaces**

There is overwhelming support (80%) for an improvement of the road surfaces in Marnhull. Quite reasonably and logically such improvements would automatically lead to better road safety because the condition of many of them is appalling. The Parish Council provides periodic reports to the various agencies at District and County level for these problems to be addressed by Clarence or the Parish Maintenance Unit. The Parish Council welcomes reports from anybody wishing to indicate places of most concern to them, either through the Parish Clerk or at one of the Council's monthly meetings. The information presented supports the Parish Council in providing evidence to the relevant agencies, not least Dorset County Council.

## **Road Safety**

Road safety in Marnhull is perceived to be an important issue with 91% believing there are danger spots throughout the Village. Much of this belief is based on those spots identified as Danger Spots/Traffic Hazards as noted in that paragraph above. One problem not mentioned above is pedestrian/vehicle conflict (22%), but this probably falls within the Dorset County Council's support for self-induced traffic calming schemes!

More traffic restrictions (18%) and wider pavements (17%) are urged, though it is difficult to see how the latter can be accommodated in most parts of Marnhull without significantly changing the character of the place.

50.2% want to see restrictions on access for Heavy Vehicles while a further 12.5% want restrictions on buses (mainly Sackmore Lane it seems), but changes in either are unlikely as things stand, especially for buses where any restriction on access will go against Marnhull getting better public transport services (12.4%).

However, depending on the outcome of the bio ethanol plant development at Wessex Grain, restrictions governing heavy vehicles could change since the projections for the increase in traffic movements of 40 ton trucks and tankers are between an extraordinary 200 and 300 a day. Dorset County and District Councils have indicated they will want to implement measures to ensure access for those vehicles is confined to specific routes and closely controlled.

## **Traffic Hazards**

Danger spots and/or Traffic Hazards are another prominent matter emerging from the survey. 84.9% believe there are Danger Spots on Marnhull's roads, which relate to Traffic Speeds (49.3%), Lorry Traffic (37.9%), Lack of parking (33.5%) and Congestion (27.8%).

It might be helpful to note the DCC comments referring to the understandable concern over several spots on the B 3092, the Pilwell/Church Hill junction (improved in 2004), Burton Street by the shops, Sackmore Lane, New Street near the school and Chippel Lane in that there is no record of any serious accidents at any of these spots. They also consider a degree of congestion is a good traffic calming measure.

According to the Police (see above) and the Traffic Department of the County Council there are no accident black or danger spots in Marnhull as there have been no reported injuries or deaths in recent years. It is well known, of course, that somebody has to be nearly killed before the authorities begin take any notice of our concerns, but one supposes

they need to have a way of setting priorities, so while we find this unacceptable, any alternative is likely to be also. However Marnhull residents perceive there to be a number of dangerous spots, which are places where accidents (possibly serious ones) are waiting to happen.

### **Speed Limits**

*Observation: Two years ago the Parish Council approached the DCC with a list of requests to improve road safety in the Parish including the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in parts of Burton Street and New Street and at the Church corner of the B 3092. The PC hold the view that the existence of a lower limit works as a clear warning to drivers that there is an unusually tricky hazard at the relevant place. However, Traffic at DCC rejected the speed limit suggestion both because of their wish to reduce the number of speed limits in the County and because they hold that 20 mph is not the deterrent some people believe it to be.*

The DCC Traffic Department says it is aiming to reduce, not increase the number of speed limits in the county; they want to have limits that are clearly necessary and that make sense to road users. They believe “there is no point in having a speed limit if the road user cannot identify the reason why it exists.” For example 40 mph limits on country roads through what is essentially open countryside are unlikely to be taken seriously by road users.

However, recent announcements by Central Government indicate that the local authority might be required to change its policy on not employing 20 mph speed limits. Amongst the proposed recommendation is one that requires 20 mph limits to be included as a way of reducing the law enforcement agencies’ dependence on speed cameras. Meanwhile half the village believes excessive speed is a hazard in Marnhull.

### **Danger Spots**

68% place the Church corner on the B3092 where New Street and Church Hill join as the most serious followed by 55% who find the junction where Pilwell meets Church Hill to be dangerous because of bad visibility up Church Hill in particular. 52% believe Burton Street by the shops to be a danger, though much of this is probably due to inconsiderate parking by other drivers.

New Street outside of St Gregory’s School is identified as a danger spot by 49% of respondents; the reasons definitely include inconsiderate parking of vehicles by parents during “drop off” and “pick up” times, but also the speeds of other vehicles during the same times, making an additional hazard particularly for those parents who are making use of the Crown car park as encouraged by the School Travel Plan. Parking on both sides of the road is also considered very inconsiderate. The solution is therefore in the hands of those visiting the school at that time.

Sackmore Lane is seen by 43% of respondents as being dangerous due to the narrowness of the road, while 21% of residents feel the junction of Chippell Lane and New Street to be dangerous because of bad visibility. To make any significant changes to either of these would change the character of the village altogether, so it is difficult to see what can or should be done.

16% express a belief that the approach to St Mary’s School is dangerous. Bearing in mind the location with few if any Marnhull residents passing the school, and the fact that the majority of children at St Mary’s come from outside Marnhull, 16% is a significant number. The head of the school is working on what appears to be a sound solution but is meeting local resistance. Maybe as a first step the Parish Council should look at the ideas and see if they can find a way of making them acceptable to everyone.

Recommendations on how to solve these issues include additional speed limits (30%); The introduction of mirrors (28%) at the relevant spots like Pilwell/Church Hill (not popular with the DCC because of accidental damage or vandalism); Traffic Calming measures (27%), which DCC believe we already have by a much cheaper method; More road warning signs (21%) and Children at Play signs (19%); A one way system in Sackmore Lane (13%) and restrictions on buses in the Village (13%), which conflicts with the desire for improved bus services.

*General Observation: The concern over vehicles, traffic hazards and road safety is where the status of Marnhull as a village conflicts with today’s car culture, and we have to decide to which we wish to give priority. It might be said that our reliance on the car has unduly influenced our reasoning over these issues, and that is almost certainly the case. Maybe just as we urge children to walk to school, so we should be thinking of walking more ourselves when we go about our various errands and business in the village.*

## **Recreation**

### **Some comments received on returned questionnaires:**

**"Parish Council should ban dogs from the recreation field, or enforce the requirement for dogs to be on the lead"**

**"We would be interested in an amateur dramatic society being set up"**

**"Village hall - better outside lighting and car park"**

**"Children's play area needs more benches"**

### **Out of School Activities**

125 respondents answered the question, which attempts to determine what, if any, are the problems regarding attendance of after school activities. 68% of respondents indicated they have no problems while the remaining 32% pointed out the main difficulties lie with Transport 9.6%, Distance 6.4% and Cost 6.4%. Based on this level of feedback there does not appear to be one particular major problem to be addressed, however it might be a good thing to try and identify those people who find difficulties because they could be some of the more disadvantaged members of our Community.

### **Communication of Information**

The effectiveness of the Marnhull Messenger in providing information to the village was supported by 85% , followed by the local paper 60% and Notice boards around the village being read by 49%. A significant number (55%) indicated they find information from notices attached to telegraphs poles (illegally). though disappointingly notices are often not removed after the relevant events. The feedback from 75% respondents indicated that they feel that the Marnhull Messenger should include more information on local events, with 63.6% wanting more information from the Parish Council. The inclusion of more information regarding local clubs/societies and sport should be encouraged by 44% and 33.8% respectively. These points have been passed to the editorial staff of the Marnhull Messenger and will be passed to the Parish Council for consideration as to how they can improve postings on notice boards.

### **Tourism**

It is evident from 74% that local Footpath Maps would be of considerable use to both villagers and visitors to the area. Indeed the Parish Council is responding to a request from Sturminster Newton Information Office for such maps and it is hoped to produce some early in the Budget Year of 2006/7 to be sold at a modest charge. The viability of making these maps available through shops, garages and public houses will be investigated.

50% responded to the tourism question feeling strongly that there is a need for a Tourist Information Point that would be to the overall benefit of the community and visitors alike. It is considered that this and the Footpath Map should be part of an ongoing Parish Council local information strategy. Within the strategy should be the objective to broaden the availability of information to all members of the Marnhull Community and visitors including the information point, which should be prominently positioned.

Perhaps, and providing any annual charge is affordable, the Parish Council should investigate the possibility of a degree of co-operation with the Information Office in Sturminster Newton. They have no dedicated budget so anything like maps or local information points would fall upon the Marnhull precept.

The sailing events for the 2012 Olympics will take place at Weymouth Bay in Dorset and 33.8% agreed there would be requirement for accommodation for visitors to the events. This likely demand would need to be supported by an information pack about the village and 37.5% considered that a web site should be developed. Indeed it would be possible to dedicate a full page to the Olympics and Marnhull on the new Messenger website.

A significant percentage of 62.3% consider there would be a need for daily bus services direct to and from the events.

### **Social Facilities**

From the 810 respondents it is evident that social facilities in the village are biased towards the 26 to 60 years old age group (Sports Clubs excluded) with an even stronger bias towards the 60 years plus group. From those who had an opinion in each age group: 91% considered the 60 plus have reasonable or good social facilities in the village while 81% believe a similar case existed for those in the 26 to 60 group. Conversely 74% believe that facilities for the 17 to 25 group are poor, it was an even split between reasonable or poor facilities for children up to the age 16.

Providing suitable social or leisure facilities for those in the youngest group, together with those aged between 7 and 16 is a constant dilemma for those charged with the responsibility of trying to improve them. Of course any initiative is discouraged by the growing problem of vandalism, because not only is it disheartening to the volunteers who work to improve facilities for the younger people, but once established these facilities have to be maintained to the standards required by the Health and Safety Executive, which sends inspectors round every year to ensure the Parish Council is fulfilling its responsibilities.

It would be extremely helpful if there were a concerted effort by the law-abiding majority of younger people in Marnhull to discourage the unsociable behaviour of the wanton few. Meanwhile the Parish Council is urged to see what more can be done to provide additional facilities.

### **Usage of Village Hall and Sporting Facilities**

66.6% (865) of villagers responded to the question on frequency of use of the various facilities. The most popular is the Village Hall with 22% using it on a monthly basis, while 41% use it for special events and further 15% of respondents have used it in the past 12 months.

The changes to the Village Hall most of the 579 respondents would like to see include the addition of indoor sporting facilities (33.5%); improvements to the kitchen (23%); redecoration of the hall both inside and out (22%) and a number of respondents wanted improvements to the sound and stage. Initial planning is in progress for kitchen improvements and plans are in hand for decorating the hall. These points have been passed to the Village Hall committee.

Of the sports facilities available respondents indicated they used the facilities at least once a month: 6% (53) use the tennis court; 3.3% (29) use the skate park; 4.6% (38) use the cricket pitch; 3.3% (29) use the football pitch and 1% (8) use the basket ball court. Of all (865) respondents an average of more than 58% (500) have not used any of the sporting facilities.

### **Swimming Pool**

37.3% (208) of respondents support the need to provide, in some form or other, either access or availability of a local swimming pool. It has been suggested that St Gregory's School be approached to determine if there exists the possibility to have access to their pool under controlled conditions.

### **Children's Playground**

10.3% out of 369 respondents use the Children's Playground weekly and 22% (81 respondents) on a monthly basis.

The most important improvements to the play area equipment suggested are a roundabout (34%); see saw (34%), rockers (30%), zip slide (29%), climbing frame (27.5%) and slide (25%). It seems pretty clear that usage is not higher because of the ageing equipment and the damage caused by youths who use the area as a refuge, as they have nowhere else to go. An action exists for the Parish Council to completely review the age and current status of the existing equipment and establish a programme of refurbishment or total replacement with new purchases.

The need for a leisure facility for the 11 to 18 year old group is already established.

### **Church Premises: Non Worship Activities**

Of the churches in Marnhull currently 5.8% (50) of respondent's use them on a monthly basis for non-worship activities, 25% use them for special events and, sadly, 39% have never used them.

### **Mobile Library**

4.5% (39) of respondents use the mobile library on a monthly basis while 68.5% have never used it. We believe there is no action to be taken.

### **Changes and Improvements in Marnhull**

65% (851) of respondents wish to see a number of environmental changes or improvements carried out in Marnhull. With regard to improving the overall environment, a majority (55.4%) are in favour of more trees being planted; 61.2% wish to see an increasing number of dog waste bins; 49.3% more benches; 36.2% restrictions on bonfires; and 49% would like to see the development of a nature reserve. A number of additional comments were made regarding the extent of dog fouling, it would appear that there are specific areas that are of concern namely; near the schools, at and near the recreation ground and the cemetery. 39% would like a bus shelter built, but this will have to be considered in conjunction with usage of available bus services. See also Transport section. It is recommended that the Parish Council clearly advertises when items relating to the location of trees, benches etc are on the Agenda so that members of the public have the opportunity to turn up and give their views.

### **Postal and Telephone Services**

Only 22.9% support the introduction of more post boxes while less than 14% want to see more telephone boxes introduced. However great importance was placed on the fact that Marnhull has a local Post Office, not least because of the above average age of the population.

## **Indoor Cinema**

30.2% of the 851 respondents to this question support the introduction of an indoor cinema, but there are 27.8% against the idea, quite why it is not clear, though additional noise has been mentioned. However with this level of support it is considered that the introduction of an indoor cinema along the lines of Moviola could be successful. This has the signs of being a significant fundraising opportunity, which could provide funds to support some of the projects in the pipeline as a result of this survey, but volunteers will be required to take on the responsibility of running it. The Parish Council have already indicated their willingness to support the project by offering to underwrite any losses during the first 3 months. In consultation with the PC, this could probably be extended to any reasonable start up costs also. Moviola provide an interesting list of up to date films as well as a few classics, provide the projector and screen and have a minimum but modest charge.

## **Youth**

### **Some comments received on returned questionnaires:**

*"School leavers too young to drive but no services to local towns"*

*"The formation of a young peoples forum/council, with an elected representative to liaise with the Parish Council. Important for feedback of information, opinion, projects and initiatives from the youth groups and all young people of the village"*

### **Youth Response to Special Questionnaire for 7 to 17 year olds**

99 children and young adults answered the questions –

11 from those aged between 7 and 9

49 from those aged between 10 and 14

39 from those aged between 15 and 17.

### **Main Points to Consider for the 7 to 17 year olds**

#### **Transport**

It is absolutely clear that the lack of any reasonable and regular public transport service through Marnhull is probably the greatest stumbling block to reducing the boredom factor amongst our 7 to 17 year olds getting around more. The young people's contribution to this part of the survey is very useful for supporting a recommended policy to seek better and regular Bus Services. (Please see the Transport section). Of particular note is the 35% who wish to see better transport, and the 14% who say the lack of it prevents them from getting involved in after school activities, with a further 10% saying the lack of buses prevents them getting involved in activities in the village and surrounding area.

#### **Recreation and Free Time.**

62% have friends outside the village, 38% have friends within the village and the most likely means of meeting is by car with walking and cycling coming close second. The most popular pastimes are watching TV/ Videos, playing computer/video games, sports and chilling out with friends. When asked for reasons for not taking part in activities within the village and surrounding areas 10% stated lack of transport, 13% said things were too expensive and 12% said they had too much school work/lack of time. 60% listed somewhere to gather as a priority for them in the village. Better transport provision to meet with friends outside the village was also highlighted as a need. The Parish Council say this is high on the agenda to find a solution, but expense will be a major factor. 69% of respondents socialise with friends outside the village, which reflects the fact that the two high schools are in Gillingham and Sturminster Newton. The lack of suitable bus services is a major issue.

45% said they do not take part in what activities and pastimes are available because they find nothing of interest. This suggests not everyone is aware of what opportunities exist and it is suggested that an effort should be made to publicise them more. Obviously the Sports Clubs (is there more they can do to stimulate participation of 7 to 17 year olds?), Skate Park and Crusaders are there, but maybe more non-sporting activities like the Arts, Cooking, Music, Reading or Presentations aimed at the younger people to give them the benefit of hearing and learning about some of the more exciting and interesting experiences of retired people in the Village through talks accompanied by Visual Aids about their Hobbies, Businesses, Professions, Military Experiences etc.

In conversation some younger people expressed the view that if their friends went to certain events, they would go also. Of course anything organised would have to be affordable for the younger people.

### Youth Club

The Youth club had to shut down because of lack of support – the volunteers required by legislation to be in attendance were outnumbering those who attended, but when that was not the case, a lack of suitable facilities, especially during the winter, made it difficult to find enough things for the members to do within the limitations of the Village Hall. Transport yet again was stated as a reason. As before – see Transport Section).

### A Few Ideas

No doubt some will make the comment that if the Youth are not interested in attending the Youth Club, then what is all the fuss about facilities for them? But this survey overall suggests things are not as simple as that; clearly too much might be expected of Marnhull in the way of providing facilities, after all this is a village of less than 2,000 people, but the responses prove that one way or another a solution needs to be found. If we could achieve better and more regular bus services, that would surely help a lot, but it is necessary to provide more than that.

Without question the leading priority is somewhere for the young to gather. Interpretations of that vary from an area at the recreation ground to a teen café. The loss of seating around the pavilion means there has been nowhere really suitable for younger people to gather spontaneously. There is a suggestion that the British Legion might be prepared to hold one or two nights when the youngsters are welcome to gather, play pool and have soft drinks. This could be workable for older children, say 13 years plus; the hall has somewhere to chat, is manned all the time and could generate a culture of respect through being in presence of adults. Marnhull British Legion actively encourages young people to come to the club and become members, as they understand that this is the way to maintain a sustainable membership. The policy is that to be a member and come to the club unaccompanied you have to be over 18 years old anyone under 18 can have a youth membership but must be accompanied to the club by someone over 18 years old. There is the facility to purchase soft drinks at the bar and a pool table, darts chairs and tables to sit at and events during the year. Marnhull British Legion has no opposition to children of all ages from toddlers to teenagers and tries to encourage families to come along together. The policy of no unaccompanied under 18 years old is a national branch policy.

We believe that there is a need for a robust shelter at the Recreation Ground, unless it is agreed to reintroduce a covered terrace with seats in front of the Pavilion both for the benefit of the cricketers and youngsters. It will be important to consider potential conflict between different age groups because 13 year olds will not want to sit with 16 year olds, and vice versa.

86 of the 99 respondents are still at school, 12 at college and 1 in full time work and they travel as per the following chart. This gives little or no indication as to the lack of better and regular Bus Services because practically all children travelling by bus to school go by dedicated school buses.

	7-9 years old	10-14 years old	15-17 years old	<b>Total</b>
Public transport/School Buses	5	28	26	<b>59</b>
Car	4	8	6	<b>18</b>
Walking	3	3	3	<b>9</b>
Cycling	1	3	1	<b>5</b>
Other	0	0	5	<b>5</b>
No response	0	0	1	<b>1</b>

Their plans for the future are stated as follows

	7-9 years old	10-14 years old	15-17 years old	<b>Total</b>
Complete my School Education	8	27	13	<b>48</b>
Go to College/University	11	28	26	<b>65</b>
Gain further work qualifications	1	9	13	<b>23</b>
No response	0	2	0	<b>2</b>

Their friends tend to live outside Marnhull because, one supposes, Secondary and Sixth Form Education Schools are outside Marnhull.

	7-9 years old	10-14 years old	15-17 years old	<b>Total</b>
In the Village	8	19	13	<b>40</b>
Outside the Village	3	34	32	<b>69</b>
No response	0	1	1	<b>2</b>

Their modes of transport to meet their friends are as in this chart, and this alone emphasises the need for regular and better Bus Services.

	7-9 years old	10-14 years old	15-17 years old	<b>Total</b>
Walking	6	19	9	<b>34</b>
Cycling	2	17	4	<b>24</b>
Car	10	34	33	<b>76</b>
Moped	0	0	3	<b>3</b>

There is a 50/50 split between those who take advantage of modern technology for their relaxation and those who pursue more traditional activities, as is well illustrated in this chart

	7-9 years old	10-14 years old	15-17 years old	<b>Total</b>
Watching TV/Video	8	32	19	<b>59</b>
On a Playstation	8	20	4	<b>32</b>
Computer	4	22	13	<b>39</b>
Sports	5	27	18	<b>50</b>
Chill out with friends	5	31	27	<b>63</b>
Playing in Garden	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Reading	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Horse riding	0	3	3	<b>6</b>
Creative arts	0	1	0	<b>1</b>

Reasons given for not taking part in activities in the village and surrounding area are as follows and show yet again that Marnhull needs better and regular Bus Services.

	7-9 years old	10-14 years old	15-17 years old	<b>Total</b>
Lack of transport	0	5	5	<b>10</b>
Expense	0	10	3	<b>13</b>
Nothing of interest	2	23	19	<b>44</b>
Too much school work/ not enough time	0	6	6	<b>12</b>
No response	8	0	11	<b>19</b>

During preliminary research several solutions were identified and respondents agreed or disagreed as shown in the following chart. Again better Transport rears its head strongly, but gathering points both inside and outside for different age groups are clearly the leading priorities, whilst from responses to the main questionnaire ‘a Wall to kick a ball against’ is higher on the list than the youth indicate here.

	7-9 years old	10-14 years old	15-17 years old	<b>Total</b>
Somewhere to gather outside	1	19	12	<b>32</b>
Somewhere to gather inside	3	22	13	<b>38</b>
A BMX park	2	7	3	<b>12</b>
A wall to kick football against	1	7	7	<b>15</b>
Better transport facilities home after school clubs	2	3	9	<b>14</b>
Better transport	1	16	18	<b>35</b>
No response	5	15	11	<b>32</b>

Unfortunately the response to the question asking for ‘for things you would like to see, use or share in Marnhull’ was either misunderstood or not fully responded to, the expectation was that there should be much higher numbers against the proposals even allowing for those who did not respond. As to a café, this requires private enterprise, but the demand for a swimming pool is realistic enough if either an arrangement with St Gregory’s School can be developed, or the Marnhull numbers are used to support such a facility in Sturminster Newton. Villagers no doubt have read that the pool at Shaftesbury is to be covered so year round use will be available. Note has been made about the need for a Public Toilet from the main questionnaire response, but there are serious problems (vandalism, maintenance, cost etc.) with this one that will need to be addressed before one can be made available.

There are plans to improve the playground equipment over the next few years and a review of any additional creative or sports facilities will be studied. A 19% response to this suggestion is significant.

	7-9 years old	10-14 years old	15-17 years old	<b>Total</b>
Café/teen hangout	0	7	5	<b>12</b>
Swimming pool	1	10	0	<b>11</b>
Public toilets	0	3	5	<b>8</b>
Better play park/ more equipment	0	11	0	<b>11</b>
More activities; sports and creative	0	11	8	<b>19</b>
Greater Bridleway and footpath access	0	3	2	<b>5</b>
No response	2	15	21	<b>38</b>

## Section 5

### Appendix A

### Data collection process and results

In order to determine the key issues that concern the residents of Marnhull it was necessary to develop a process that would collect sufficient data which could form the basis of a Parish Plan for the future. It was decided that a three-phase approach would be adopted. The first phase was put into operation in July 2005 at the Marnhull Fest, this was followed by the generation, distribution and collection of a detailed questionnaire followed finally by an Open Day feedback meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Marnhull Village Hall.

#### **The Fest**

The committee used the Marnhull Fest to start its campaign by manning a stand, which invited comments from all residents, on the basis that those comments would directly influence the questions and format of the questionnaire. A simple questionnaire was made available to all visitors to the stall, the results of which are illustrated by the questionnaire included in this appendix. It is believed over 180 people took part in responding to the request for information and the key individual issues raised by more than 90 people included:

- Development of the Village
- Village Hall
- Playing fields
- Road surfaces and speed
- Buses
- Litter
- Recycling
- Employment and Business
- Police
- Footpaths, bridle ways & cycle paths

#### **The Questionnaire**

A sub committee was established from members of the general committee with the brief to produce two questionnaires; the first of which was divided into household and personal, the second being aimed at the age group 7 to 17. The content of the questionnaires was built upon the feedback received from the Fest. The draft questionnaires were reviewed, revised and agreed by the general committee. In order that the raw data from the questionnaires could be efficiently recoded and analysed a software package "Village Appraisals 99 for Windows" was used to produce the final version of the questionnaire. The use of a standard software package did demand certain compromises be reached regarding the wording and overall structure of the questionnaire, however this was considered acceptable. Supported by considerable local publicity the questionnaires were printed and delivered to all households in Marnhull by all members of the general committee. Over 900 questionnaires were delivered. A total of 581 (64%) questionnaires were returned which represented the views of 1289 residents. This compared with the 2001 census, which recorded 1,951 residents in 915 dwellings. Over 100 of the questionnaires contained additional comments. The overall raw data results for both questionnaires can be found at the end of this section

#### **Open Day 10<sup>th</sup> November**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November the general committee held an Open Day from 2.00pm till 9.00pm for all residents of Marnhull to visit and see the results of the raw questionnaire data and read all the comments included in the questionnaire responses. In excess of 130 residents visited during the day. Members of North Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council were in attendance to answer questions on planning, environment and traffic.

## Marnhull Fest Questionnaire

At the Marnhull Fest a simply questionnaire was produced which included the following headings. Visitors to the stall were invited to indicate any areas of interest and concern. The following indicates the total number of people that selected each area. This information was then used to guide the group producing the main questionnaire.

### **Amenities**

Village Hall	120
Churches	65
Cemetery	38
Playing Fields	107
Skate park	35
Benches	65
Public toilets	80
Tennis Courts	52
Mobile Library	45
Play Park	

### **Environment**

Conservation Nature	99
Flooding	38
Light pollution	65
Chemical Pollution	56
Litter	109
Renewable Energy	73

### **Traffic and Roads**

Road Surfaces	105
Parking	66
Speed Limits	108
Traffic Restrictions	56
Traffic Calming	65
Adult Education	60
Individual Tailored Programmes (Ivers)	22
Crèche & Junior Church	34

### **Educational & Child Facilities**

Child care	39
Pre School facilities	45
Primary School	64
Secondary Schools	47
Homework & after school	41

### **Emergency Services &**

#### **Security**

Police	113
Fire	81
Ambulance	85
Home watch scheme	96

### **Recreation**

Sports Affiliation	57
Primary Year Clubs	38
Youth Clubs	73
Young Adults	52
Over 60s Groups	39
Art, Interest groups,	
Singing, Music, Dance	
Groups	49
Footpaths, Bridleways &	
Cycle Paths	120

### **Health care services**

Day care	41
Home care	41
Support groups	48
Verges	61
Signs	47

### **Utilities**

Refuse Collection	74
Electricity	52
Water	66
Recycling	106
Gas	35
Drainage	52

### **Leisure & Tourism**

Accommodation (Holiday)	29
Places of Historical	
& Cultural Interest	55
Tourist Information	30
Local Walks	90
Public Events	75

### **Transport**

Public Buses	93
School Busses	49
Taxi & Private car Hire	26
Car share schemes	37
Train and Coach links	63
Mobility services	40

### **Communications**

Messenger & Directory	71
Land Telephone	46
Reception TV/Radio	76
Mobile Phone reception	43
Postal services	70
Marnhull Web Site	54
Email	29
Notice boards	59

### **Planning & Housing**

Further development	96
Boundaries	65
Style of development	80
Building construction &	
Materials	57
Rented Accommodation	19
Traveller Sites	66
Retirement Homes	37
Sheltered Accommodation	30
Starter Homes	71
Family Homes	71
Conservation buildings	60

### **Employment & Business**

Public Houses &	98
Restaurants	
Shops	115
Construction &	
Maintenance	28
Farming	65
Prospective Employment	59

## **Marnhull Village Parish Plan Questionnaire**

### **INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS**

#### **HOUSEHOLD SECTION**

Question Number: 1                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :                    581

How many people including children normally live in your household?

1298

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Question Number: 2                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:                    581

Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group:

	Male	Female
0-4	17	24
5-10	20	27
11-15	39	39
16-17	27	20
18-24	46	28
25-44	87	102
45-59	131	140
60-64	58	65
65-74	100	112
75-84	76	86
85+	23	31

Question Number: 3                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :                    581

Where does your household live?

Kings Mill. Pleck. Philips Hill	28 (4.8 %)
Haines. Nash. Gt Down Lane	30 (5.2 %)
Moorside. Gannetts	23 (4.0 %)
Walton Elm	11 (1.9 %)
All other areas of Marnhull	489 (84.2 %)

Question Number: 5                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :                    581

Is this dwelling?

Private rented	15 (2.6 %)
Local authority rented	5 (0.9 %)
Housing Association rented	41 (7.1 %)
Owner occupied	510 (87.8%)
Shared ownership (part owned/part rented)	3 (0.5 %)
Provided as part of employment (e.g.MOD)	3 (0.5 %)
Other	3 (0.5 %)

---

Question Number: 6                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :                    581

Is any individual in your household, or your whole household, currently in need of alternative accommodation?

Yes	27 (4.6 %)
No	532 (91.6%)

---

Question Number: 7                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :                    581

If your household/individual is unable to move to accommodation of the type needed, is this because?

Price	14 (2.4 %)
Lack of suitable stock to buy	16 (2.8 %)
Lack of local authority/housing association homes	17 (2.9 %)
Lack of private rented accommodation	6 (1.0 % )
Lack of physically accessible stock	6 (1.0 %)
No suitable sheltered housing	1 (0.2 %)
Not able to get a job	1 (0.2 %)
Unable to afford the cost of moving	12 (2.1)
Other financial commitments	8 (1.4 %)
Other	12 (2.1)

---

Question Number : 8                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :                    581

What type of accommodation is needed by the household/individual?

Private rented	5 (0.9 %)
Local authority rented	11 (1.9 %)
Housing association rented	20 (3.4 %)
Owner occupied	30 (5.2 %)
Shared ownership	5 (0.9 %)
Specially adapted housing	2 (0.3 %)
Sheltered accommodation	7 (1.2 %)
Other	7 (1.2 %)

---

Question Number: 9                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :                    581

Enter the number of children under 16 in your household who attend the following:

Play group	12
Nursery school	13
Primary school	49
Middle school	4
Secondary school	62
School for those with special needs	6
Other	5

Question Number: 10                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :            581

Please enter the number of people in your household over 16 who attend the following:

Sixth form college	37
University	30
Training courses	48

---

Question Number: 11                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :            581

If any of your children under 16 are unable to take part in after school activities, please give the reasons why

Lack of transport home	12 (2.1 %)
Distance between home/school	8 (1.4 %)
Expense	8 (1.4 %)
Special needs not catered for	2 (0.3 %)
Interest not catered for	10 (1.7)

---

Question Number: 12                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :            581

How many roadworthy vehicles are kept by your household?

Cars	805
Vans	72
Motor bikes	45
Specially adapted vehicles	3
Lorries	3
How many bicycles (used at least once a week)	169

---

Question Number: 13                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :            581

Which sewage disposal system do you use?

Mains drainage	496 (85.4%)
Septic tank	75 (12.9 %)
Cess pit	9 (1.5 %)
Chemical toilet	0 (0.0 %)

---

Question Number: 14                    NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS :            581

Do you have flooding problems with surface water or storm drainage?

Many problems	14 (2.4 %)
Few problems	58 (10.0 %)
No problems	480 (82.6 %)
No opinion	16 (2.8 %)

---

Question Number: 15

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 1,113

Sex

Male	524 (47.1 %)
Female	589 (52. 9 %)

---

Question Number: 16

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 1,091

What age group do you belong to?

11-15	56 (5.1%)
16-17	40 (3.7%)
18-24	53 (4.9%)
25-44	164 (15.0 %)
45-59	250 (22.9 %)
60-64	117 (10.7 %)
65-74	204 (18.7 %)
75-84	154 (14.1) %)
85+	53 (4.9%)

---

Question Number: 17

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 1,050

How long have you lived in Marnhull ?

Less than a year	35 (3.3%)
1-5 years	223 (21.2%)
6-15 years	322 (30.6%)
16-25 years	208 (19.8%)
26-50 years	168 (16.0%)
51 + years	27 (2.6%)
Whole life	67 (6.4%)

---

Question Number: 18

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 1,008

How did you come to live in Marnhull ?

Born here	124 (12.3 %)
Work in area	181 (18.0%)
Relatives live nearby	146 (14.5 %)
Love of village life	251 (24.9 %)
Love of country life	302 (30.0 %)
Love of town life	6 (0.6 %)
Availability of housing	101 (10.0 %)
Retired here	258 (25.6 %)
Marriage	70 (6.9%)
Setting up home	68 (6.7%)
Came with family	98 (9.7%)
Other	80 (7.9%)

Question Number: 19

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 1,025

What is most important to you about Marnhull ?

The community	256 (25.0%)
The environment	254 (24.8%)
Village amenities	152 (14.8%)
The location	304 (29.7%)
Other	24 (2.3%)
Not sure	35 (3.4%)

---

Question Number: 20

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 894

Where is your main place of employment? Paid or Voluntary. Full time or Part time

Within Marnhull	95 (10.6%)
Outside Marnhull but within 5 miles	112 (12.5%)
Between 5 and 20 miles from Marnhull	170 (19.0%)
Over 20 miles from Marnhull	82 (9.2%)
I do not work	435 (48.7%)

---

Question Number: 21

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 384

If you are in waged employment, what is the business of your major employer?

Agriculture/Horticulture	26 (6.8%)
Manufacturing engineering	24 (6.3%)
Manufacturing other	14 (3.6%)
Retail/Service industry	64 (16.7%)
Financial Services	12 (3.1%)
Tourism e.g. hotels - catering - B&B	10 (2.6%)
Local Government/Public Sector	83 (21.6%)
Construction	26 (6.8%)
Transport/Communications	8 (2.1%)
Food Processing	6 (1.6%)
Other	111 (28.9%)

---

Question Number: 22

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 67

If you are actively seeking work, are there any barriers that are preventing you from taking up employment, training or study opportunities?

Lack of alternative care for adult dependent	0 (0.0%)
Lack of child care locally	3 (4.5%)
Cost of child care locally	2 (3.0%)
Lack of access to transport	9 (13.4%)
I don't have the right type of experience	5 (7.5%)
I don't have the right type of qualifications/training	5 (7.5%)
Disability or ill health of some kind	14 (20.9%)
Lack of information/advice	4 (6.0%)
None of these	35 (52.2%)

---

Question Number: 23

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 659

Would a local job vacancy board displayed in Marnhull be useful?

Very useful	164 (24.9%)
Quite useful	89 (13.5%)
Useful	136 (20.6%)
Of no use	104 (15.8%)
No opinion	166 (25.1%)

---

Question Number: 24

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 772

What is, or would be, your main means of transport to work, training or study?

Car/Van	481 (62.3%)
Public Bus	37 (4.8%)
Private Bus	22 (2.8%)
Taxi	5 (0.6%)
Bicycle	8 (1.0%)
Motor-cycle/Scooter/Moped	3 (0.4%)
Train	8 (1.0%)
Walking	21 (2.7%)
Other	5 (0.6%)
Not applicable	182 (23.6)

---

Question Number: 25

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 874

Do you experience transport difficulties in getting out of Marnhull to other places?

Often	53 (6.1%)
Occasionally	253 (28.9%)
Never	568 (65.0%)

---

Question Number: 26

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 824

Would you like to see any improvements in the bus service with regard to?

Routes	297 (36.0%)
Timetable	257 (31.2%)
Cost	107 (13.0%)
Reliability	147 (17.8%)
Bus Stop location	87 (10.6%)
Access for those with disabilities	78 (9.5%)
No opinion	412 (50.0%)

---

Question Number: 27

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 938

Do you think there are any major 'danger-spots' on the roads in Marnhull ?

Yes	796 (84.9%)
No	83 (8.8%)
No opinion	59 (6.3%)

---

Question Number: 28

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 857

Do you think that the traffic problems in Marnhull are related to any of the following?

General congestion	238 (27.8%)
Lack of parking	287 (33.5%)
Lorry traffic	325 (37.9%)
Pedestrian/vehicle conflict	192 (22.4%)
Traffic speed	423 (49.3%)
Need for wider footpaths	146 (17.0%)
Need for traffic regulation	155 (18.0%)
Need for more public transport	106 (12.4%)
Other	102 (11.9%)

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Question Number: 29

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 861

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

B3092 bend (New street and Church hill)	582 (67.6%)
Junction of Pilwell and Church hill	473 (54.9%)
Burton Street by parade of shops	451 (52.4%)
Junction of Chippel Lane and New street	177 (20.6%)
New street outside St Gregory's School	418 (48.5%)
Approach road to St Mary's School	139 (16.1%)
Sackmore Lane	366 (42.5%)
Other	108 (12.5%)

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Question Number: 30

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 853

Would you support the following speed control measures in Marnhull ?

Extension of the speed limit	240 (28.1%)
Introduce a speed limit	271 (31.8%)
Traffic calming	234 (27.4%)
Children at play signs	163 (19.1%)
More road warning signs	179 (21.0%)
One way traffic	110 (12.9%)
Introduction of Mirror	238 (27.9%)
Restriction of HGV	428 (50.2%)
Restriction of Busses	107 (12.5%)
None of the above	81 (9.5%)

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Question Number: 31

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 897

In relation to paths and street lights, would you like to see any of the following in Marnhull ?

More footpaths	187 (20.8%)
More environmentally sensitive street l	276 (30.8%)
More pavements	254 (28.3%)
Pelican crossings	58 (6.5%)
Dropped kerbs	83 (9.3%)
Roundabouts	43 (4.8%)
Better directional road signs	96 (10.7%)
Better Maintenance of pavements	233 (26.0%)
More regular cutting of verges	338 (37.7%)
Removal of debris/litter/mud	448 (49.9%)
Greater control of dog foul	424 (47.3%)
None of the above	66 (7.4%)

Question Number: 32

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 190

If you regularly use a bicycle, which of the following would you be in favour of?

Public bicycle stands	37 (19.5%)
Improved road surfaces	152 (80.0%)
Other	25 (13.2%)

Question Number: 33

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 847

Where do you usually buy the following?

	own community	next town	nearest large centre	out of town facility	mail order
Groceries	119 (14.0%)	364 (43.0%).	222 (26.2%)	47 (5.5%)	2 (0.2%)
Fresh fruit and vegetables	79 (9.3%)	448 (52.9%)	155 (18.3%)	43 (5.1%)	6 (0.7%)
Meat and fish	372 (43.9%)	195 (23.0)	121 (14.3%)	31 (3.7%)	0 (0.0%)
Clothes	4 (0.5%)	76 (9.0%)	465 (54.9%)	105 (12.4%)	96 (11.3%)
DIY supplies	9 (1.1%)	327 (38.6%)	244 (28.8%)	91 (10.7%)	14 (1.7%)
Electrical goods	13 (1.5%)	337 (39.8%).	238 (28.1%)	94 (11.1%)	32 (3.8%)
Books/tapes	11 (1.3%)	147 (17.4%)	311 (36.7%)	78 (9.2%)	129 (15.2%)
Furniture	2 (0.2%)	74 (8.7%)	351 (41.4%)	172 (20.3%)	26 (3.1%)

Question Number: 34

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 834

If you usually shop out of Marnhull , is it because?

Goods are cheaper there	484 (58.0%)
You have more choice there	728 (87.3%)
It is convenient to your place of work	118 (14.1%)
Nearer local school/nursery	9 (1.1%)
Easy to park	245 (29.4%)
Other	70 (8.4%)

Question Number: 35

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 646

If you usually shop in Marnhull is it because?

The local shops give good value	105 (16.3%)
You like to support local shops	486 (75.2%)
You like the social contact	154 (23.8%)
It saves time	196 (30.3%)
It saves transport costs	176 (27.2%)
You don't have transport to go elsewhere	31 (4.8%)
You need 'last minute' items	394 (61.0%)
Other	15 (2.3%)

Question Number: 36

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 859

In the village we have a number of pubs, shops, and small businesses. Please indicate from the codes below which statement applies best to each venture.

	Not necessary	maintained as is	encouraged to expand	numbers increased	no opinion
Pubs	35 (4.1%)	636 (74.0%)	85 (9.9%)	9 (1.0%)	53 (6.2%)
Shops	19 (2.2%)	383 (44.6%)	322 (37.5%)	66 (7.7%)	38 (4.4%)
Small businesses	12 (1.4%)	250 (29.1%)	212 (24.7%)	128 (14.9%)	127 (14.8%)
Farms	10 (1.2%)	396 (46.1%)	158 (18.4%)	18 (2.1%)	150 (17.5%)

Question Number: 37

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 349

In relation to educational facilities, does Marnhull need any of the following?

More registered childminders	52 (14.9%)
After school clubs	166 (47.6%)
Holiday play scheme	155 (44.4%)
Vocational training opportunities	124 (35.5%)
Life skills opportunities / first aid	159 (45.6%)
Life skills / Parenting	76 (21.8%)
Life skills / languages	86 (24.6%)

Question Number: 38

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 697

Is there a need for any of the following in Marnhull?

Nursing home	196 (28.1%)
Residential provision for people with disabilities	128 (18.4%)
Baby Clinic	99 (14.2%)
Family Planning Clinic	91 (13.1%)
Health Visitor	195 (28.0%)
Community nurse	294 (42.2%)
Alternative treatments	175 (25.1%)
A physiotherapist	201 (28.8%)
A dentist	358 (51.4%)
Longer opening hours at the surgery	427 (61.3%)

Question Number: 39

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 855

What are your views on the standard of the following services in Marnhull ?

	Good	reasonable	poor	no opinion	have not use
Fire	148 (17.3%)	101 (11.8%)	25 (2.9%)	40 (4.7%)	478 (55.9%)
Police	44 (5.1%)	98 (11.5%)	276 (32.3%)	36 (4.2%)	308 (36.0%)
Ambulance (Emergency)	216 (25.3%)	170 (19.9%)	39 (4.6%)	22 (2.6%)	353 (41.3%)
Hospital (Transport)	115 (13.5%)	118 (13.8%)	63 (7.4%)	42 (4.9%)	443 (51.8%)
Police (Emergency)	60 (7.0%)	103 (12.0%)	136 (15.9%)	40 (4.7%)	450 (52.6%)
Police (Bobby)	31 (3.6%)	47 (5.5%)	286 (33.5%)	56 (6.5%)	355 (41.5%)

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Question Number: 40

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 864

Which, if any, of the following crimes and anti-social behaviour concern you in Marnhull ?

Theft	496 (57.4%)
Mugging	91 (10.5%)
Vandalism	478 (55.3%)
Graffiti	154 (17.8%)
Drunkenness	137 (15.9%)
Drug taking	214 (24.8%)
Allowing dogs to foul footpaths/prks	543 (62.8%)
Other	32 (3.7%)
Not concerned	100 (11.6%)

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Question Number: 41

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 839

Do you think that any of the following measures are needed?

A greater police presence	506 (60.3%)
Better consultation between police and	282 (33.6%)
More drug/drink education/prevention	206 (24.6%)
More activities for young people	433 (51.6%)
CCTV	69 (8.2%)
A neighbourhood watch	271 (32.3%)
A manned police station at Sturminster	659 (78.5%)
Other	16 (1.9%)

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Question Number: 42

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 732

Are you a member of a local Home Watch Scheme?

Yes	228 (31.1%)
Not interested	238 (32.5%)
No-but would like to be	266 (36.3%)

Question Number: 43

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 862

What are your views on the standard of the following environmental services in Marnhull ?

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion	not applicab
Mains water supply	657 (76.2%)	140 (16.2%)	29 (3.4%)	14 (1.6%)	4 (0.5%)
Mains gas supply	461 (53.5%)	66 (7.7%)	11 (1.3%)	31 (3.6%)	165 (19.1%)
Mains electricity supply	487 (56.5%)	266 (30.9%)	61 (7.1%)	13 (1.5%)	1 (0.1%)
Refuse collection	686 (79.6%)	135 (15.7%)	8 (0.9%)	5 (0.6%)	1 (0.1%)
Recycling (kerbside collection)	549 (63.7%)	171 (19.8%)	47 (5.5%)	16 (1.9%)	28 (3.2%)
Recycling facilities (drop off banks)	331 (38.4%)	289 (33.5%)	49 (5.7%)	52 (6.0%)	25 (2.9%)
Roadside care/street cleaning	164 (19.0%)	341 (39.6%)	228 (265%)	37 (4.3%)	13 (1.5%)
T.V. reception	320 (37.1%)	337 (39.1%)	144 (16.7%)	6 (0.7%)	4 (0.5%)
Radio reception	341 (39.6%)	312 (36.2%)	121 (14.0%)	16 (1.9%)	10 (1.2%)

Question Number: 44

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 870

Do you think Marnhull needs a public toilet?

Yes	396 (45.5%)
No	338 (38.9%)
No opinion	136 (15.6%)

Question Number: 45

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 830

What do you think should be done to help protect and enhance the local environment of Marnhull ?

Encourage wildlife	570 (68.7%)
Renewable energy and efficiency	357 (43.0%)
Recycling	514 (61.9%)
Community composting	353 (42.5%)
Improved public transport	373 (44.9%)
Advice on ethical lifestyles	66 (8.0%)
More employment locally	266 (32.0%)
Create a pond	206 (24.8%)
Maintain footpaths	576 (69.4%)
Provision of managed site for travellers	26 (3.1%)

Question Number: 46

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 866

What do you think about development on green field sites?

I strongly agree	34 (3.9%)
I agree a little	56 (6.5%)
I can't say either way	65 (7.5%)
I disagree a little	94 (10.9%)
I strongly disagree	617 (71.2%)

Question Number: 47

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 820

Please indicate the method of recycling for each of the following items

	Kerbside collection	Recycling point in Marnhull	Recycling point outside Marnhull	other	I do not recycle
Glass	562 (68.5%)	132 (16.1%)	69 (8.4%)	6 (0.7%)	24 (2.9%)
Plastic	612 (74.6%)	55 (6.7%)	75 (9.1%)	8 (1.0%)	34 (4.1%)
Cans	608 (74.1%)	64 (7.8%)	64 (7.8%)	9 (1.1%)	38 (4.6%)
Paper	601 (73.3%)	71 (8.7%)	72 (8.8%)	11 (1.3%)	34 (4.1%)
Cardboard	190 (23.2%)	74 (9.0%)	217 (26.5%)	35 (4.3%)	217 (26.5%)
Tin foil	143 (17.4%)	66 (8.0%)	159 (19.4%)	27 (3.3%)	318 (38.8%)
Clothes	52 (6.3%)	98 (12.0)	325 (39.6%)	116 (14.1%)	129 (15.7%)
Shoes	52 (6.3%)	93 (11.3)	266 (32.4%)	86 (10.5%)	204 (24.9%)
Garden Waste	145 (17.7%)	72 (8.8%)	243 (29.6%)	170 (20.7%)	99 (12.1%)

Question Number: 48

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 773

Would you use the following?

Bottle bank	502 (64.9%)
Skip for garden waste	596 (77.1%)
Newspaper bank	457 (59.1%)
Clothing bank	503 (65.1%)
Can bank	414 (53.6%)
Paper bank	426 (55.1%)
Cardboard Bank	614 (79.4%)
Tin foil bank	467 (60.4%)

Question Number: 49

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 723

If you experienced difficulties when using local footpaths and bridleways, which if any, of the following difficulties did you find?

Farm animals	105 (14.5%)
High stiles	129 (17.8%)
Locked gates	92 (12.7%)
Barbed wire	126 (17.4%)
Mud/water	197 (27.2%)
Crops across path	187 (25.9%)
Other users	10 (1.4%)
Bushes/nettles	347 (48.0%)
No signposts	152 (21.0%)
Other	32 (4.4%)
No difficulty experienced	210 (29.0%)

Question Number: 50

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 828

What do you think could be done with the local roads, lanes and paths to make the countryside more attractive?

	very important	important	worth doing	not necessary	don't know
Remove litter	272 (32.9%)	248 (30.0%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Keep roadside verges mown and tidy	220 (26.6%)	230 (27.8%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Let roadside verges grow for wildlife	109 (13.2%)	95 (11.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Stop vehicle damage to road verges	196 (23.7%)	177 (21.4%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)
Signpost paths and bridleways	141 (17.0%)	141 (17.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Repair gates stiles and bridges	153 (18.5%)	181 (21.9%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Close some footpaths and bridleways	19 (2.3%)	17 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Open more footpaths and bridleways	89 (10.7%)	97 (11.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Make paths accessible to those with dis	134 (16.2%)	126 (15.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.2%)

Question Number: 51

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 682

Does Marnhull suffer from any of the following types of disturbance?

Traffic noise	137 (20.1%)
Farm animals in gardens/on roads	30 (4.4%)
Low-flying aircraft	293 (43.0%)
Noise pollution	75 (11.0%)
Light pollution	86 (12.6%)
Excessive odour pollution	498 (73.0%)

Question Number: 52

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 816

Do you think Marnhull should be kept clean and tidy by?

Paying for a litter warden	93 (11.4%)
Paying for a road sweeper	166 (20.3%)
Putting up notices	112 (13.7%)
Entering a 'Best Kept Village Competition'	192 (23.5%)
Having a 'Spring Clean Day' annually	150 (18.4%)
Having a 'Spring Clean Day' twice a year	207 (25.4%)
None of these	86 (10.5%)
No opinion	168 (20.6%)

Question Number: 53

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 761

Is the presence of churches in Marnhull important to you?

For Sunday worship	396 (52.0%)
For baptisms	334 (43.9%)
Weddings and funerals	489 (64.3%)
As a focal point for the community	474 (62.3%)
As an historic building	506 (66.5%)
Venue for functions	200 (26.3%)
Venue for performances	207 (27.2%)
Meeting Venue	192 (25.2%)
Information point	134 (17.6%)

Question Number: 54

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 861

Do you think the local religious groups contribute to community life?

Yes	616 (71.5%)
No	46 (5.3%)
No opinion	199 (23.1%)

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Question Number: 55

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 866

Where do you usually get information about events taking place in Marnhull ?

Notice Board	420 (48.5%)
Parish Magazine	739 (85.3%)
Local paper	518 (59.8%)
Local Shops	397 (45.8%)
Diary in the Surgery / Chemist	63 (7.3%)
Telegraph Poles	440 (50.8%)
Telegraph Poles	39 (4.5%)

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Question Number: 56

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 662

Do you think Marnhull Messenger should include more items on?

Local Clubs & Society's	291 (44.0%)
Parish Council Information	421 (63.6%)
Sports	224 (33.8%)
Local events	494 (74.6%)

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Question Number: 57

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 651

In relation to information services, do you think that Marnhull needs any of the following?

Tourist information point	108 (16.6%)
Local information point	321 (49.3%)
Signposts	146 (22.4%)
Maps for public foot paths	481 (73.9%)
other	10 (1.5%)

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Question Number: 58

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 810

What are your views on local social facilities for?

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion
Children up to 16	73 (9.0%)	179 (22.1%)	179 (22.1%)	182 (22.5%)
Young people 17-25	23 (2.8%)	83 (10.2%)	298 (36.8%)	189 (23.3%)
People 26-60	104 (12.8%)	290 (35.8%)	78 (9.6%)	146 (18.0%)
People over 60	290 (35.8%)	210 (25.9%)	50 (6.2%)	177 (21.9%)

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Question Number: 59

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 865

How often do you use the following facilities?

	At least once a week	At least once a month	For special events	not in last 12 mths	have previously	not at all
The Village hall	55 (6.4%)	138 (16.0%)	353 (40.8%)	128 (14.8%)	142 (16.4%)	
The Tennis Courts	21 (2.4%)	32 (3.7%)	10 (1.2%)	87 (10.1%)	538 (62.2%)	
Skate Park	9 (1.0%)	20 (2.3%)	11 (1.3%)	17 (2.0%)	618 (71.4%)	
Mobile Library	6 (0.7%)	33 (3.8%)	4 (0.5%)	57 (6.6%)	593 (68.6%)	
Childrens Play Area	38 (4.4%)	81 (9.4%)	37 (4.3%)	127 (14.7%)	407 (47.1%)	
Cricket Pitch (in season)	31 (3.6%)	7 (0.8%)	9 (1.0%)	32 (3.7%)	598 (69.1%)	
Footbal Pitch (in season)	16 (1.8%)	13 (1.5%)	9 (1.0%)	33 (3.8%)	601 (69.5%)	
The Churches for non-worship activities	28 (3.2%)	22 (2.5%)	218 (25.2%)	110 (12.7%)	336 (38.8%)	
The Sports Pavilion	25 (2.9%)	5 (0.6%)	41 (4.7%)	57 (6.6%)	554 (64.0%)	
The Basket Ball Court	0 (0.0%)	8 (0.9%)	2 (0.2%)	22 (2.5%)	634 (73.3%)	

Question Number: 60

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 579

What changes, if any, would you like to see to the Village Hall?

Improvements to the kitchen	132 (22.8%)
Better Storage	82 (14.2%)
Redecorated (inside or out)	126 (21.8%)
A new roof	11 (1.9%)
An extension	88 (15.2%)
Better insulation	65 (11.2%)
Indoor sports facility	194 (33.5%)
Improvements to the stage	76 (13.1%)
Improvements to the sound system	81 (14.0%)
Other	63 (10.9%)
No improvements necessary	174 (30.1%)

Question Number: 61

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 369

What new equipment, if any, would you wish to see added to the childrens play area?

Slide	93 (25.2%)
Swings	65 (17.6%)
Climbing frame	102 (27.6%)
House/Boat	47 (12.7%)
Roundabout	127 (34.4%)
Sand Pit	39 (10.6%)
Rockers	110 (29.8%)
See Saw	127 (34.4%)
Zip slide	108 (29.3%)
Other	42 (11.4%)
No new equipment necessary	122 (33.1%)

Question Number : 62

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 851

How much do you agree or disagree with the introduction of the following in Marnhull?

	Strongly agree	Agree a little	Can't say Either way	disagree a little	Strongly disagree
Bus shelters	181 (21.3%)	151 (17.7%)	224 (26.3%)	60 (7.1%)	67 (7.9%)
More post boxes	80 (9.4%)	115 (13.5%)	228 (26.8%)	113 (13.3%)	75 (8.8%)
More dog wast bins	348 (40.9%)	173 (20.3%)	135 (15.9%)	13 (1.5%)	17 (2.0%)
More tree planting	281 (33.0%)	191 (22.4%)	131 (15.4%)	27 (3.2%)	18 (2.1%)
restrictions on bonfires	209 (24.6%)	99 (11.6%)	155 (18.2%)	81 (9.5%)	98 (11.5%)
More benches	161 (18.9%)	250 (29.4%)	196 (23.0%)	28 (3.3%)	16 (1.9%)
More events / activities	108 (12.7%)	191 (22.4%)	236 (27.7%)	24 (2.8%)	24 (2.8%)
Improved TV/Radio mobile phone reception	272 (32.0%)	151 (17.7%)	144 (16.9%)	39 (4.6%)	46 (5.4%)
More telephone boxes	39 (4.6%)	72 (8.5%)	244 (28.7%)	100 (11.8%)	116 (13.6%)
A swimming pool	208 (24.4%)	109 (12.8%)	100 (11.8%)	47 (5.5%)	159 (18.7%)
Development of a Nature reserve	250 (29.4%)	167 (19.6%)	133 (15.6%)	27 (3.2%)	59 (6.9%)
Indoor/outdoor cinema	158 (18.6%)	99 (11.6%)	123 (14.5%)	46 (5.4%)	191 (22.4%)

Question Number: 63

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 790

How would you rate the Parish Council on the following activities?

	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No opinion
Addressing local issues	202 (25.6%)	331 (41.9%)	70 (8.9%)	163 (20.6%)
Providing information on activities	133 (16.8%)	311 (39.4%)	129 (16.3%)	169 (21.4%)
Effectiveness	95 (12.0%)	306 (38.7%)	122 (15.4%)	208 (26.3%)
Planning for the future	142 (18.0%)	271 (34.3%)	106 (13.4%)	230 (29.1%)

Question Number: 64

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 807

The sailing events for the 2012 Olympics will be taking place in Dorset, what plans if any should the village be making in preparation for these events

	Strongly agree	Agree a little	Can't say either way	Disagree a little	Strongly disagree
Accommodation for officials	72 (8.9%)	80 (9.9%)	168 (20.8%)	39 (4.8%)	141 (17.5%)
Accommodation for participants	83 (10.3%)	84 (10.4%)	152 (18.8%)	47 (5.8%)	142 (17.6%)
Accommodation for tourists	115 (14.3%)	157 (19.5%)	134 (16.6%)	35 (4.3%)	104 (12.9%)
Bus services to the events	315 (39.0%)	188 (23.3%)	84 (10.4%)	13 (1.6%)	50 (6.2%)
An information pack about the village	159 (19.7%)	140 (17.3%)	134 (16.6%)	28 (3.5%)	83 (10.3)
Development of a Marnhull website	184 (22.8%)	118 (14.6%)	137 (17.0%)	17 (2.1%)	75 (9.3%)
other	9 (1.1%)	3 (0.4%)	77 (9.5%)	3 (0.4%)	20 (2.5%)
Nothing at all	135 (16.7%)	6 (0.7%)	46 (5.7%)	15 (1.9%)	46 (5.7%)

MARNHULL PARISH PLAN

ISSUE : DRAFT

DATE : 10/2/07

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Question Number: 65                    NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION :        874

How would you like Marnhull to develop?

As a working community	385 (44.1%)
As a retirement community	107 (12.2%)
As a commuter community	35 (4.0%)
As a tourist centre	72 (8.2%)
To stay as it is	576 (65.9%)
None of these	18 (2.1%)

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Question Number: 66                    NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION :        824

If suggestions raised by the questionnaire require money for implementation, where should that money come from?

Private contributions	269 (32.6%)
Moderate council tax increases	256 (31.1%)
Higher council tax increases	11 (1.3%)
Fundraising	630 (76.5%)
Sponsorship	513 (62.3%)
Other	118 (14.3%)

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