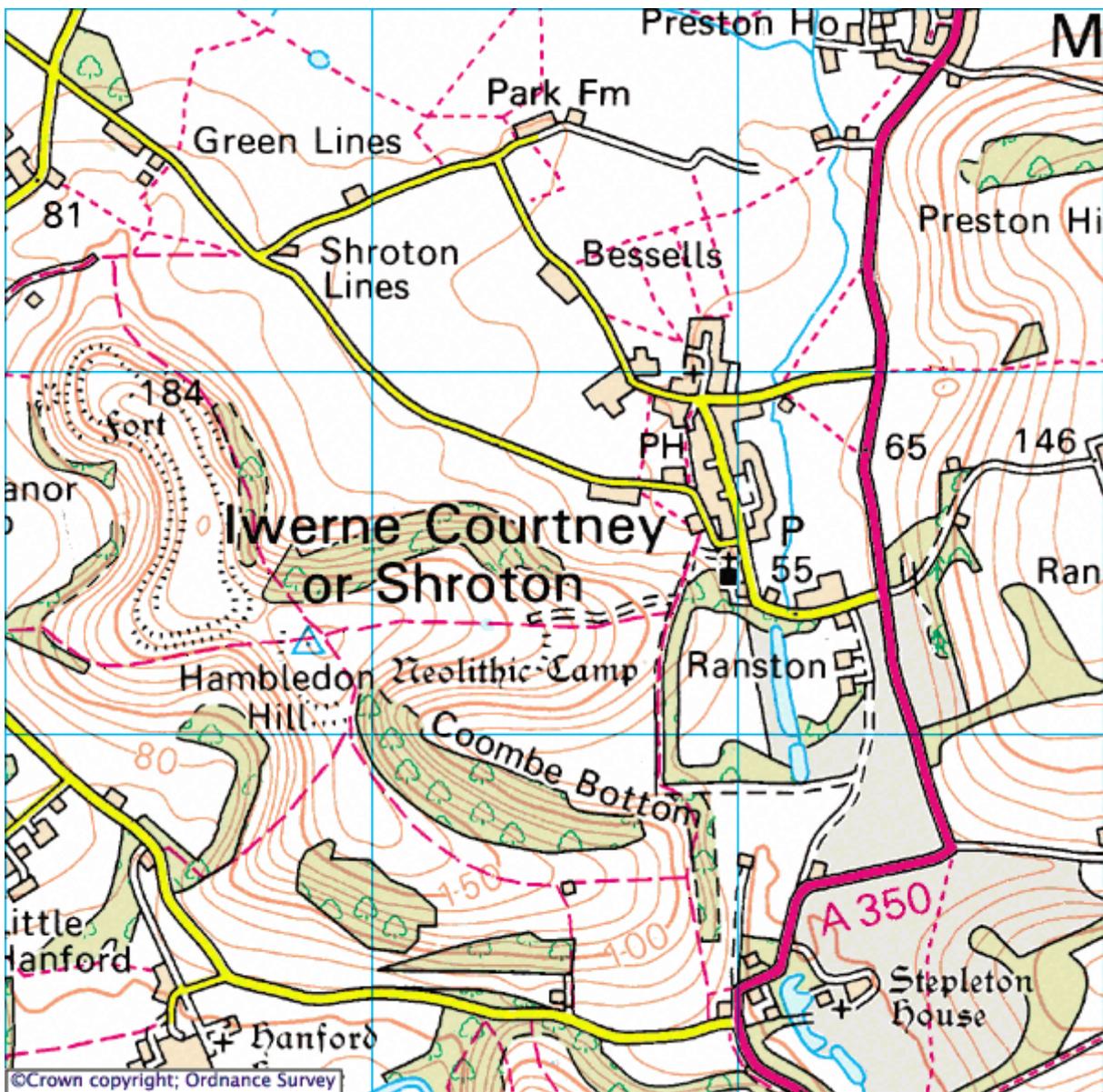


# Result of Village Survey and Shroton Parish Plan



Produced with support from the Countryside Agency

Dedicated to the memory of Sydney Browse,  
a much respected resident of Shroton for many years,  
and a member of the Shroton Parish Plan Committee  
until his untimely death in April this year.

17<sup>th</sup> July 2005

# SHROTON PARISH PLAN

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- Household
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## **Acknowledgements**

- Photographs: The Countryside Agency, Mike Scott, Michael Bird
- Maps and Aerial Photography: Crown Copyright; Ordnance Survey, The Environment Agency and Multimap.com

## **STEERING COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Ed Mulley

Members: Dorothy Abbott, Jim Bird, Sydney Browse, Lizzie Kingsbury,  
Bob McCrae, Andy Rees, Mike Scott

## **Note from Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Iwerne Courtney & Steepleton Parish Plan was inaugurated at a meeting of the Parish Council in May last year. Counsellor Ed Mulley undertook to recruit a Committee from within the Parish to undertake the project and he himself became Chairman. The Committee has worked tirelessly and with much enthusiasm. Its initial task was to compile a Questionnaire leading to a Parish Plan, which would set out the vision for the future of the Parish, and to identify action needed to tackle the issues of current local concern.

The Questionnaire was circulated to every household in the Parish, a total of 198, of which 148 were returned with 284 individual respondents to the questions. Not only were there full responses to the actual questions themselves but also many individual additional comments on the various matters. This high level of participation fully justified the work of the Committee but also means that the Plan itself will carry considerable weight when dealing with future issues with the various Statutory Authorities.

As well as expressing my thanks to everyone who completed the Questionnaire, may I thank on your behalf all those who have made the preparation of the Plan possible. It is invidious to mention names but we are most grateful to Ed Mulley for leading from the front and to Lizzie Kingsbury who has acted as Secretary and whose computer has been sorely tried.

On a sadder note, the Committee has expressed the wish that the Plan should be dedicated to the memory of one of their Members, Sydney Browse, who sadly passed away near the completion of their task.

Please take time to read the Plan and give it the merit that it fully deserves.



Maurice Case  
Chairman of the Parish Council  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2005

# CHAPTER ONE

## Introduction

The Parish of Iwerne Courtney, also called Shroton, consists of the main village, which lies just off the A350 under the shadow of Hambledon Hill and the two small hamlets of Farrington two miles away, and Iwerne Steepleton/Everley, which are on the notorious Steepleton Bends on the A350. The Steepleton cluster tends to join in with the main village including attending St Mary's Church whereas Farrington is a separate entity and those who attend church go to the Orchards. However members of Farrington do join in with many village events including Shroton Cricket Club, various Village Hall activities and the Village Fete to name a few.

## Background

Three years ago the Government produced a White Paper "Our Countryside – the Future" in which they promoted the preparation of Parish Plans to set out a vision for the future of Parishes, to identify action needed to tackle issues of local concern and to map out the facilities to safeguard the community's future. This initiative was taken up by the Countryside Agency, since defunct, and is now backed by DEFRA.

The Shroton Parish Plan was launched with a presentation to the Parish Council and the village at a Parish Council meeting. A group of volunteers was sought to form a Steering Committee. The Committee applied successfully for grants, held over 12 meetings and produced the Parish Questionnaire from which this paper flows.



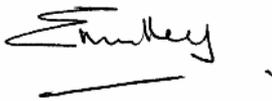
## **Aims and objectives of the Parish Plan**

A Parish Plan is part of the "Vital Villages" scheme initially funded by the Countryside Agency and administered by Dorset Community Action. The aim of the Shroton Appraisal and Parish Plan is to consider local conditions and opportunities for the Parish as a whole. It makes links between these issues and sets out a broad vision for the future. To achieve this vision will require action. This includes encouraging people to participate in and help influence not only the future direction of the Parish but also policies, decisions and action carried out by other bodies.

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

To find out more about people's perception of the present and vision of the future in the Parish of Shroton, a questionnaire was delivered to every house. However, before sending out the questionnaires, a great deal of time and thought was put into the content of the survey. It needed to be both comprehensive and relevant to our purpose, but not so long as to be off putting to the recipient. These deliberations proved to be invaluable since an 80% return was achieved, which was extremely encouraging.

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



Ed Mulley  
Chairman of the Shroton Parish Plan Steering Committee  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2005

## CHAPTER TWO

### Historical background of the Parish

Hambledon Hill dominates the village and was the site of an Iron Age settlement, which was conquered by the Romans. They did not settle on Hambledon but built a fort on Hod Hill and settled in the valley below Hambledon. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century General Pitt-Rivers, an archaeologist and Lord of the Manor of Iwerne Courtney, excavated the site of a Roman villa on what is now Park Farm.



The field under the hill, now called the Fair Field, was the scene of Shroton Fair which dated from 1261 when Henry III granted to Master John Courtney and his heirs for ever, a market on Wednesdays and two fairs yearly, one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May and the other on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. The first seems to have lapsed but the second continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and was one of the “largest in the West of England”. Today it continues in a different manner as the Great Dorset Steam Fair.

The name of Iwerne Courtney comes from the Iwerne stream (a name of Celtic origin) and that of the Norman family, the Courtneys, who were descended from King Louis the Large and the niece of William the Conqueror. Robert Courtney died at his manor of Ywern (Shroton) on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1242. In 1541 the Courtney family were in serious trouble and lost the Manor of Iwerne Courtney. King Henry VIII gave it to his Queen, Catherine Howard, for life. And so, for a short time, the village had a Queen as its Lord of the Manor.

In the sixth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Manor was granted to Robert Freke. It remained in the family until the death of Thomas Freke in 1714, which left it to George Pitt who became Lord Rivers in 1776. You can still see the huge ornate memorial to the Frekes in the village church, St Mary’s. In 1610 Sir Thomas Freke rebuilt the Church and Chancel leaving the ancient Church Tower in its place. The Church is also well known for being the prison for the Dorset Men (the Club Men) who fought and lost to Oliver Cromwell in 1645 whilst defending Hambledon Hill. The dead were buried in a long grave to the south of the Church Tower and included the Rector of Compton Abbas.

In 1756 General Wolfe formed a camp at Shroton prior to his defeating the French in Canada. This camp and the steep slopes of the hill, greatly assisted in the training for this campaign. The camp consisted of six battalions of infantry, six squadrons and two troops of light horse with twelve pieces of artillery. The name of Shroton Lines bears witness to this large camp and General Wolfe Close commemorates his name.

Ranston Estate and house was the seat of the Baker Baronetcy since 1802. The first holder of the title was Sir Edward Baker Littlehales, afterwards Baker, who died in 1826. The Estate is now run by his descendents and is the biggest employer and landowner in the Parish.

Farrington in the past was the moot or meeting place because it stood on an ancient ridge way that stretched across England west to east by way of the downs above Sutton Waldron. Today it is a small cluster of houses and farms.



Steepleton adjoins Ranston to the South of the village. The name indicates that in Saxon times it had a church with a steeple. The owner was a Saxon thane, Godwin, who also owned Wolfeton House near Charminster. The Domesday Book shows the owner at that time to be William de Moion. Steepleton House and Park was the home of Peter Beckford the author of "Thoughts on Hunting" published in 1781, of which it has been said "no one has written a better summary of the fox hunters' lore". He was buried in the little church in 1811. Today it is a private house within its own parkland and the church is redundant with services held two or three times a year.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **Results of the Survey and Views of the Residents**

The village survey was conducted in May 2005 and questionnaires were delivered by hand to all households. There are 198 households in the Parish and at the time of the survey 10 were empty. 148 completed questionnaires were collected and this gave an extremely high and creditable response rate of 80% from the Parish, which means that the results have high statistical credibility and can be relied upon as truly reflective of the views of our community. The complete breakdown of all the questions is given as an Annex to this report and not all the replies are needed by the Parish; many apply to either or both NDDC and DCC and the relevant Services i.e. Police, Health and Fire.

In the following sections is an analysis of the responses received with the main free text comments from those questions that allowed a 'free text' option. The analysis is in nine sections, which follow the sections in the Questionnaire, namely:

- Household
- Transport and Roads
- Employment and Learning
- Housing
- Health Issues, Young People and the Elderly
- Emergency and Local Services
- Village Design and Facilities
- Local Government and Information
- The Environment and the Countryside

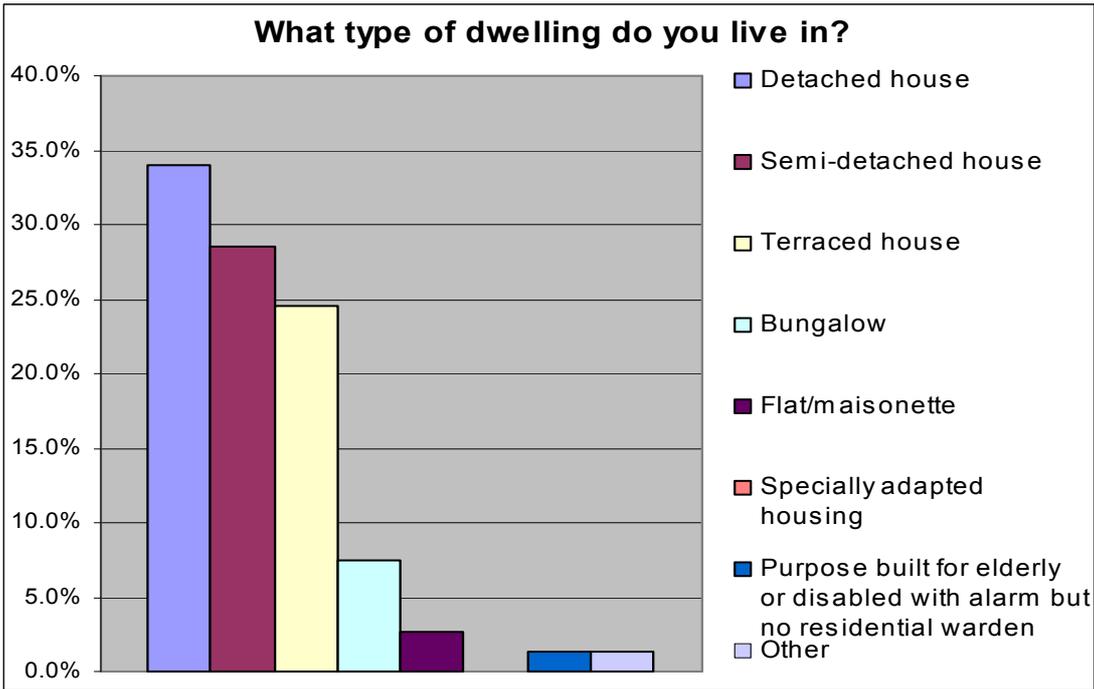
The analysis of the responses to the survey of the sections above provides the basis for the final part of this document, which is the Parish Plan. We acknowledge that some residents who responded to the Questionnaire want little or no change to the village and must assume that a proportion of those who did not respond feel the same way. However everyone had the opportunity to reply and state their feelings and 80% responded; we feel that this gives your Committee a mandate to produce a Plan that states the will of the majority.

**Household**

The main population of the Parish as we all know lives in Shroton, with only 6.8% in Farrington or Steepleton. The comments and points made in this paper will therefore only apply to the main village, Shroton, unless otherwise stated.

From the attached Annex, we can see that the village is not full of retired people but has a healthy mix with the majority under 60, the largest group (29.6%) being in the 45-59 age range. There are enough children to form a youth club, with 25 children between the ages of 11 to 17. At present there are no organised activities for them in the village with the exception of cricket.

The types of dwellings in the village are shown in Chart 1.



**Chart 1**

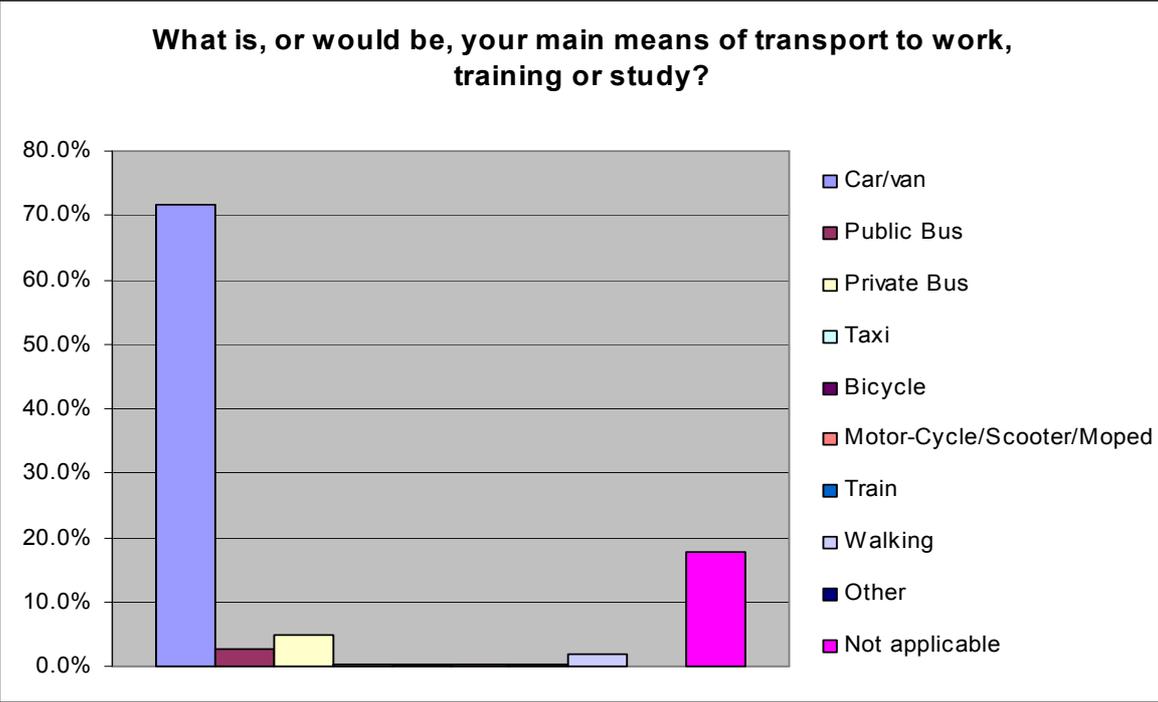
It can be seen that there is a good mix of “normal” housing but very few special houses for the elderly (1.4% of village housing) or “low cost” housing.

23% of households have problems with flooding or surface runoff. The vast majority of survey respondents are not looking for alternative accommodation within the parish; only 3.4% of current households are in need of alternative accommodation. This suggests that the housing need is very small and concentrated in a few households.

**Transport and Roads**

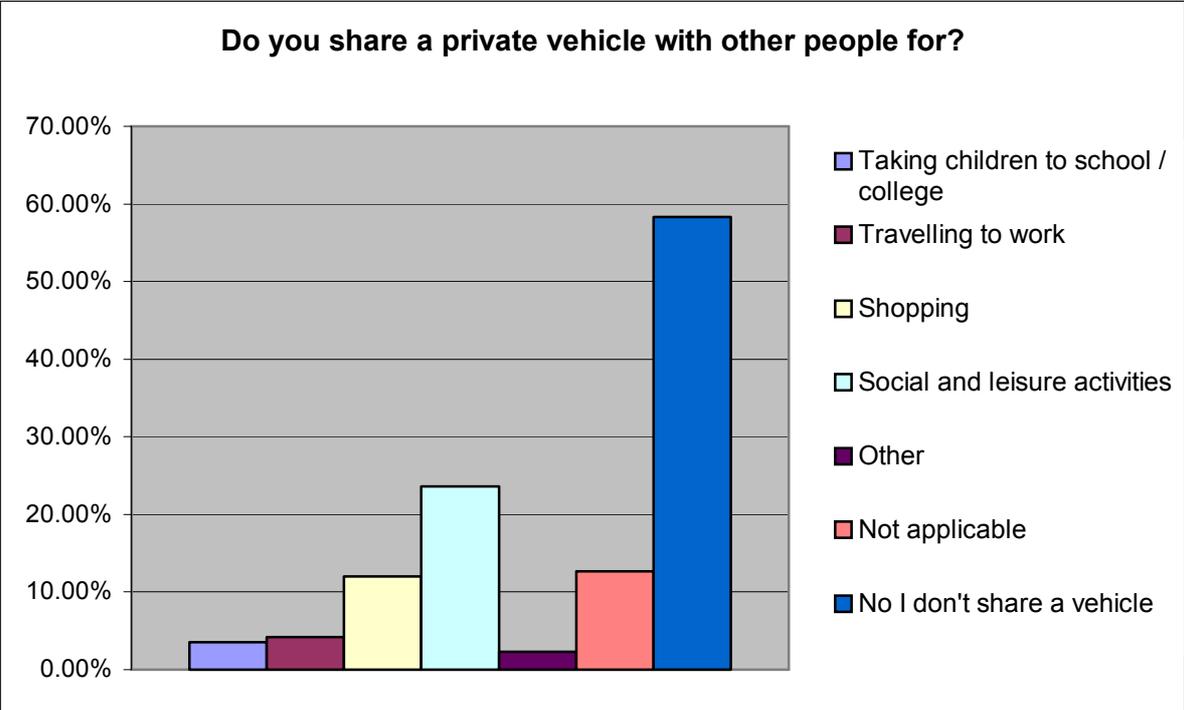
Being a rural village it is not surprising that the use of public transport is not high. The number in work is 55% including 13% who are self-employed, and of those, 72% travel to work or study by private car. Only 2.6% of those in work or study use the bus service. The retired members of the Parish, who make up 28% of the population, mainly use the bus. Outside of work the bus service is used by only 11% of the population and local taxis by 7.4%. A small number of villagers, 2.3%, registered a need for voluntary transport.

Chart 2 shows the main means of transportation used by the villagers to work, training or to study.



**Chart 2**

The response to the question “Do you share private vehicles with other people?” is typical of many rural communities. With only 57% of the population working within 10 miles of the village and 20% working over 30 miles away, it is not surprising that little vehicle sharing is done, and in fact 58% say that they do not share at all. It was however, encouraging to note that there is some evidence of car sharing for activities such as; social and leisure activities (over 23%) and shopping (12%).



**Chart 3**

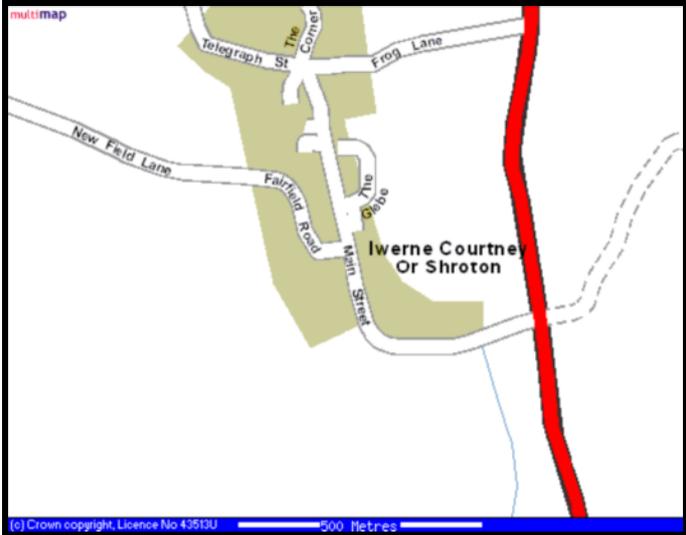
Car parking is one of the main problems highlighted, with 16.5% of cars parked on our narrow village roads. This produced comments from 41% of respondents who stated that parking is a safety risk in their location.



One main point from the survey is that 71% stated that there are major danger spots in the village and 58% say that speeding is a problem. Many would support the introduction of a speed limit (57%), traffic calming (25%) and children at play signs (40%). The majority support the NDDC policy to make the C13 the main route from Blandford to Shaftesbury (87%), which would solve the problem of access onto the A350.

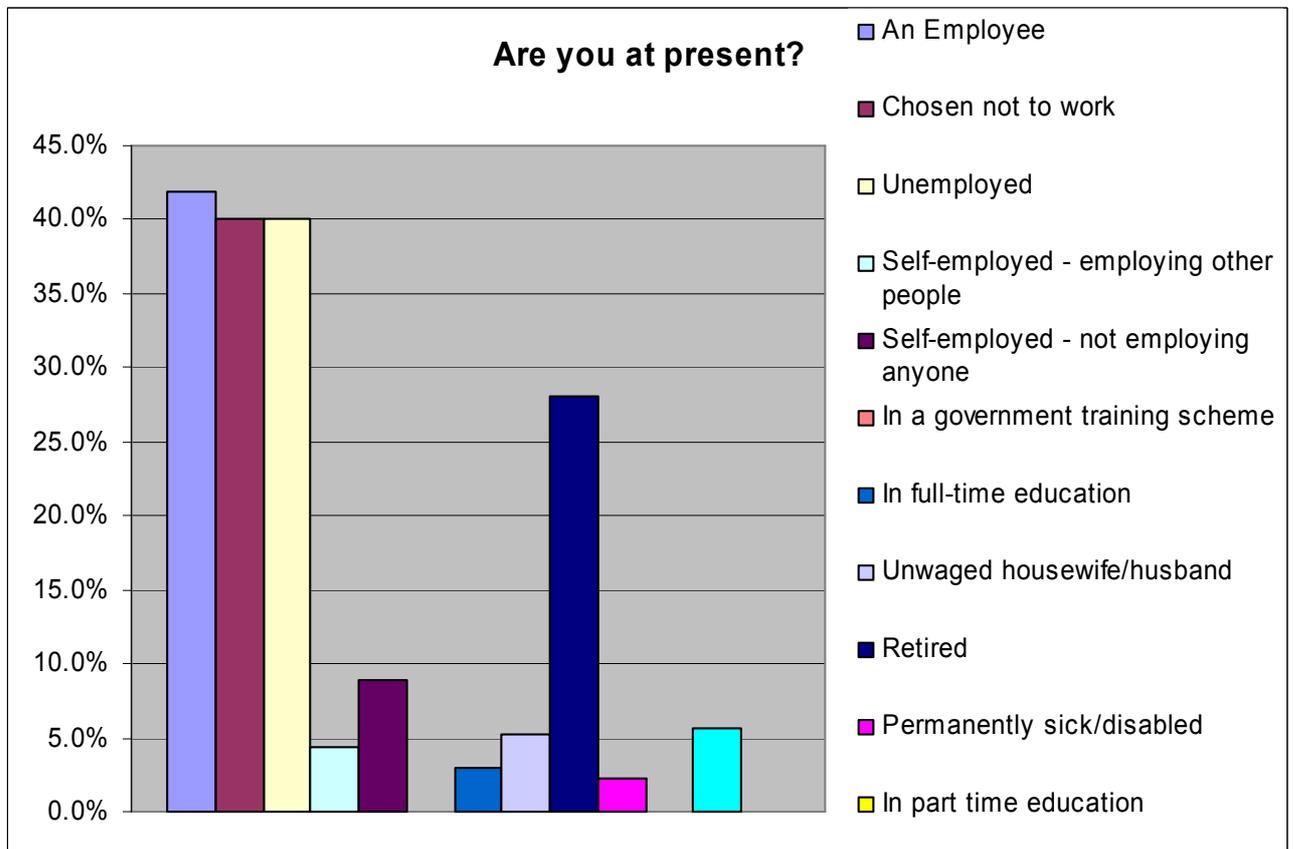
The following summarise most of the concerns raised in written comments regarding roads and transport:

- “Biggest concerns are the junctions at either end of the village with the A350.”
- “Danger spots are outside The Cricketers pub and the bus stop.”
- “The bends by the cricket field going towards Newfield.”
- “Parking and speeding in Chapel Lane.”
- “The turning into the Glebe.”
- “Shroton to Farrington road used as a rat run.”
- “Concern about tractors churning up verges in Farrington near the chicken farm.”



## Employment and Learning

The only employment within the village is on the Ranston Estate, the Cricketers and Manor Farm; numbers are very small and, in the pub, of a temporary nature. The survey indicated that over 13% of the Parish are self-employed; this figure includes businesses employing staff. Farrington has a business park and farms, including the egg farm; however this is not producing local jobs.



**Chart 4**

There are few prospects for more local jobs; the Tithe Barn project may result in one or two new appointments; and if a shop should be started within the village, some part-time jobs may arise.

There was an excellent response to the question on learning provision; with the majority of responses from people wishing to improve their fitness, particularly from the senior residents, to access local history, to develop computer skills and knowledge all within the village environment, with the Village Hall being the desired location.

Suggestions for classes included:

- Astro Navigation
- History of Art
- Fencing
- Carpentry
- Training in Childcare
- Tai Chi
- Pottery

Over 25% of the responses indicated that evening classes would have to be the preferred option for supporting any learning initiatives.

69% stated that they would attend lectures on local issues from, say, English Heritage, Farming Associations, National Trust or Dorset Wildlife Trust.

A large number would attend various clubs or activities if they were provided.

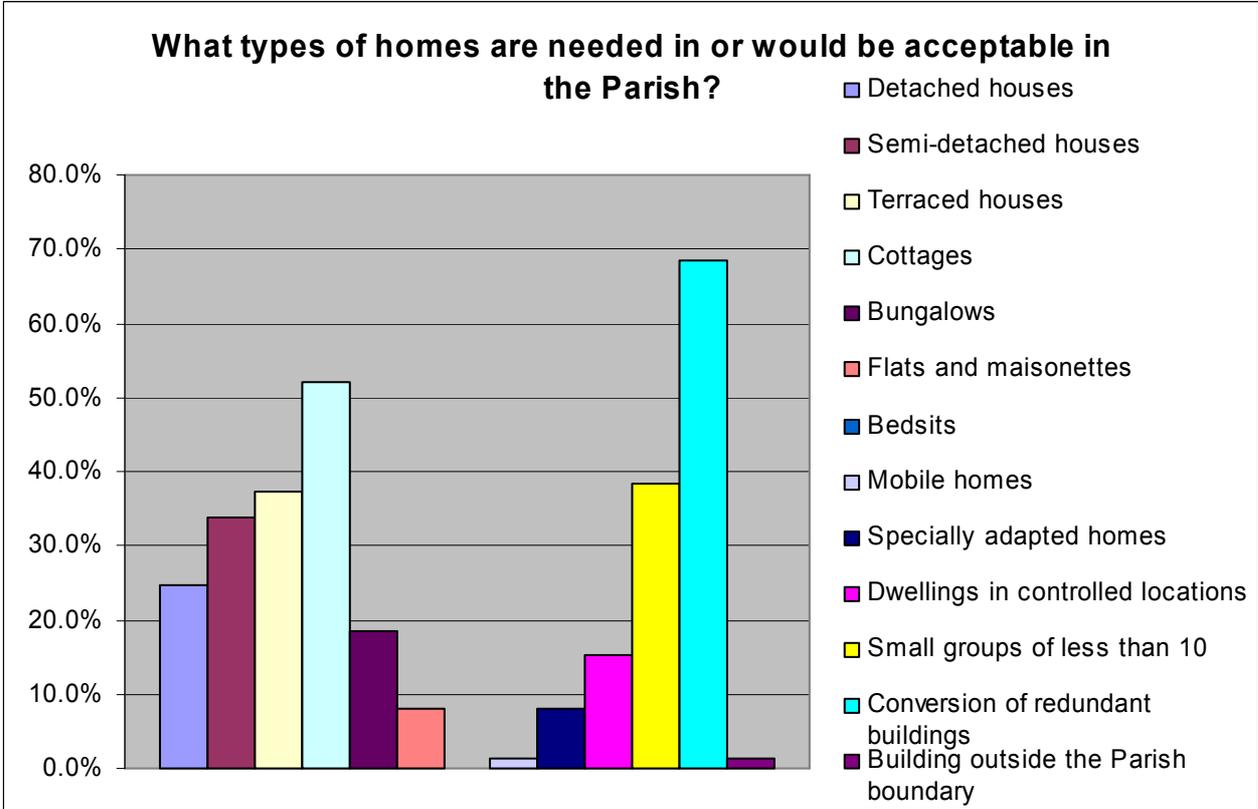
**Housing**

The questionnaire was well answered on the housing questions though there were not too many additional comments. The types of dwellings in the Parish have been shown in Chart 2 under the Household section. Various views were made of the type of buildings allowed in the past 10 years, 34% stating that it was “about right”, 32% that it was “too expensive”, and 31% that it was “too big”.

The replies on future housing were consistent in highlighting a desire for more affordable housing, either as starter homes or as accommodation for young families. Although there was comment on the lack of disabled housing it was felt that since there was no infrastructure in such areas as transport, it was not really feasible and not, at present, a problem.

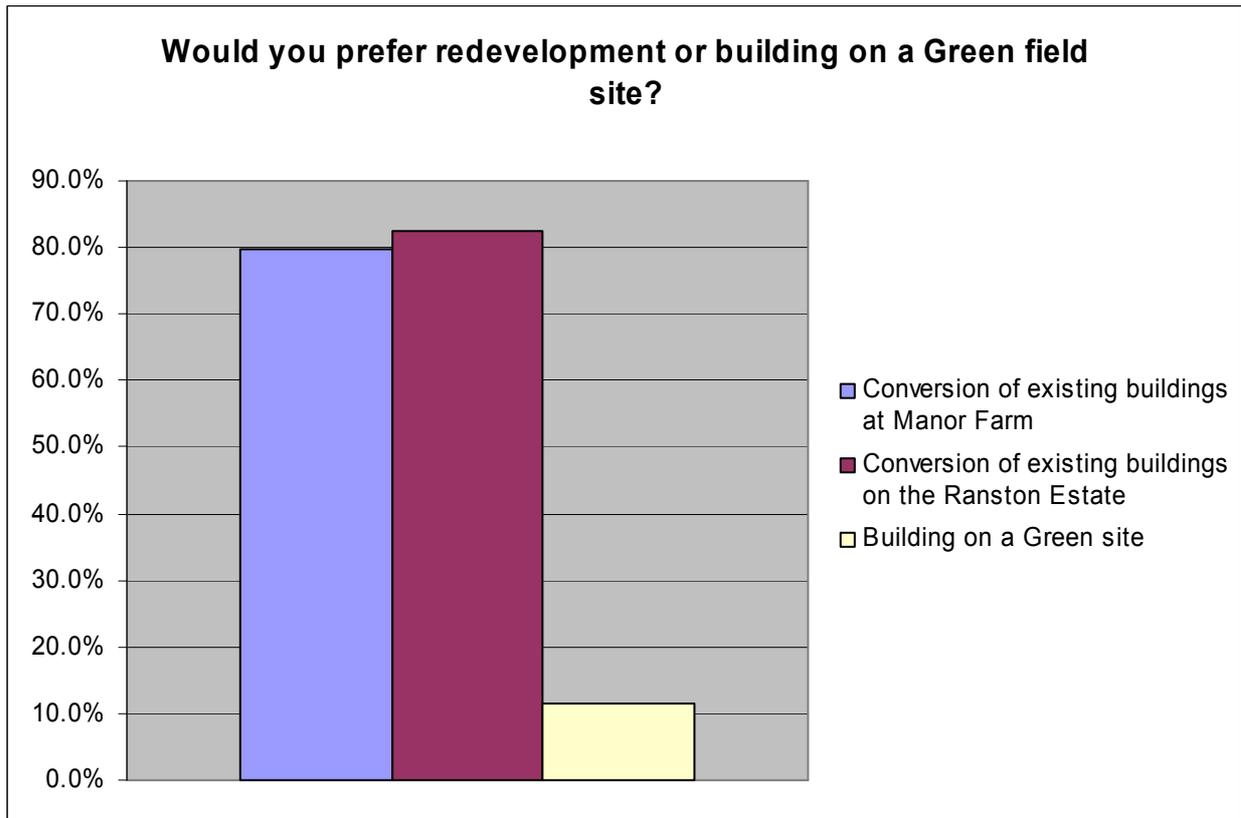
If new houses were to be built the consensus was that they should be designed in keeping with the village, should not be executive ones and should not be in-filling. 61% stated that any new building should be restricted to low cost housing for local people. The results of the answer to the question

Chart 5 displays the response to the question “What types of homes are needed in or would be acceptable in the Parish?”



**Chart 5**

The preferred location for any new housing was as shown in Chart 6 below:



**Chart 6**

The re-development of farm buildings was generally agreed, but if done, should be done carefully. On the question of building on a green field site, the preferred option in the written responses was the field in front of St Mary's church.



There was strong support for car parking to be included in any new building within the village, 72%.

### Health Issues, Young People and the Elderly

There are no health facilities within the village. Chart 7 below shows that over 99% are registered with a doctor and the majority use one within 6 miles of their homes.

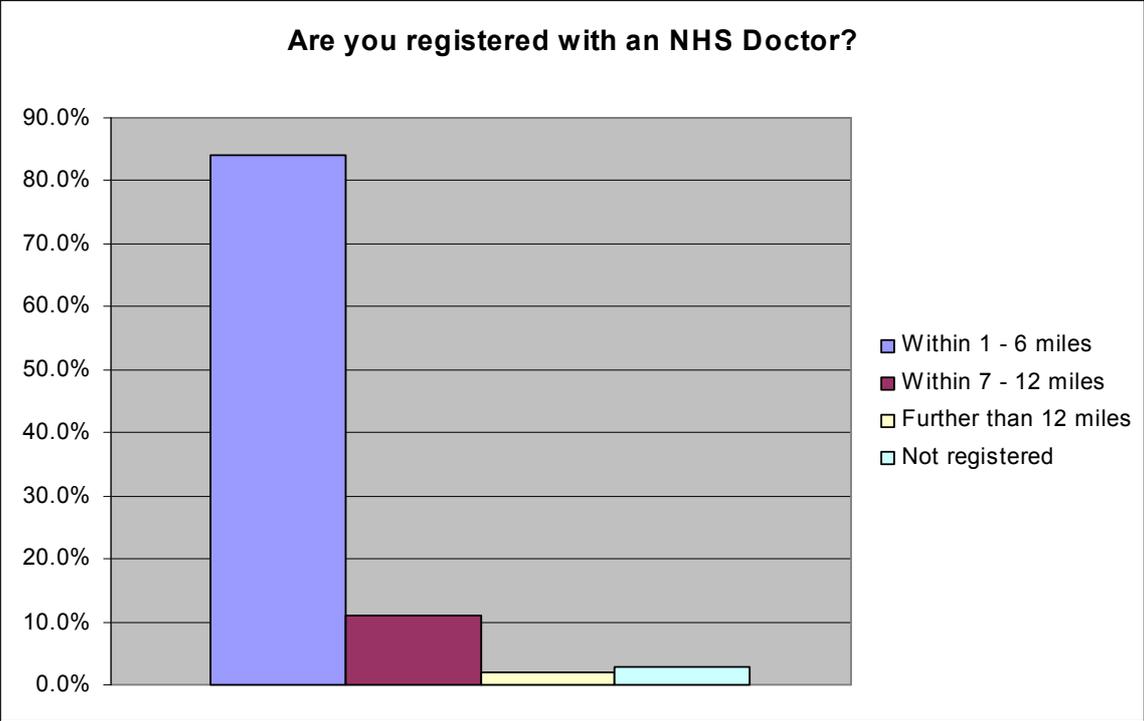


Chart 7

A number of issues were commented upon in relation to health services. Repeatedly, the lack of full accident and emergency provision at Blandford Hospital was mentioned, particularly as the emergency services at Poole, Salisbury and Dorchester are at least 30-40 minutes drive away. However 62% replied that Blandford Hospital was very important to them and fewer than 10% had some difficulty in getting to hospital for appointments.

New residents were aware that registering for NHS dental care in Blandford is virtually impossible and some are being forced to travel to Weymouth.

Finally, for elderly patients and non-drivers, the lack of public transport to the local surgery at Child Okeford is another problem.

The amount of usage of the health services is shown at question 38 in the Annex. 29 people replied to the question on disability access, and their replies are shown in the Annex.

## Emergency and Local Services

The response to these questions, which will be of interest to NDDC and DCC, are shown at questions 44 and 46 in the Annex.



What we think of the postal service is shown at question 47 with the majority of replies returning “good” or “reasonable.” for all questions except when asked if the post box will take large envelopes. Here the replies are more towards the “reasonable” to “poor”.

The Cricketers is very popular with visitors to the village and is used by the majority of the locals at some time.



The mobile library is only used by 20% of the population, and the milk, fish and newspaper delivery services are used slightly more.

The Internet has become more and more important to members of the village, not just for sending e-mails, but also for shopping, research, education and of course for music downloads. From 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004, BT lifted the limit for the distance you can be from an ADSL enabled exchange (Child Okeford is such an exchange). This means that households in Shroton can receive better.



Download speeds in the region of 256kbps to 512kbps are available in the village (better than 10 times the speed currently available on the old dial-up service), depending on how far you are from the distribution point, next to the telephone box in Main Street.

Households who are interested in Broadband should go to the BT website, follow the links to Broadband and enter your telephone number. The site will also list the huge number of providers available to you.

# Village Design and Facilities

## The Village Hall

The current Village Hall was the Village School and is situated in the centre of the community. It has served the population well and is for some a well loved building, some having fond memories of attending school there. However, for current usage it has several drawbacks, facilities for the disabled are lacking, the active short mat bowls team stopped using it several years ago as the floor was not up to standard, the ceiling is too low for badminton, the kitchen is inadequate and out of date, and the maintenance is becoming more and more costly. One of the questions posed was “Would you support the development of a new Community Centre?” The response was that nearly 76% stated that “Yes” they would.

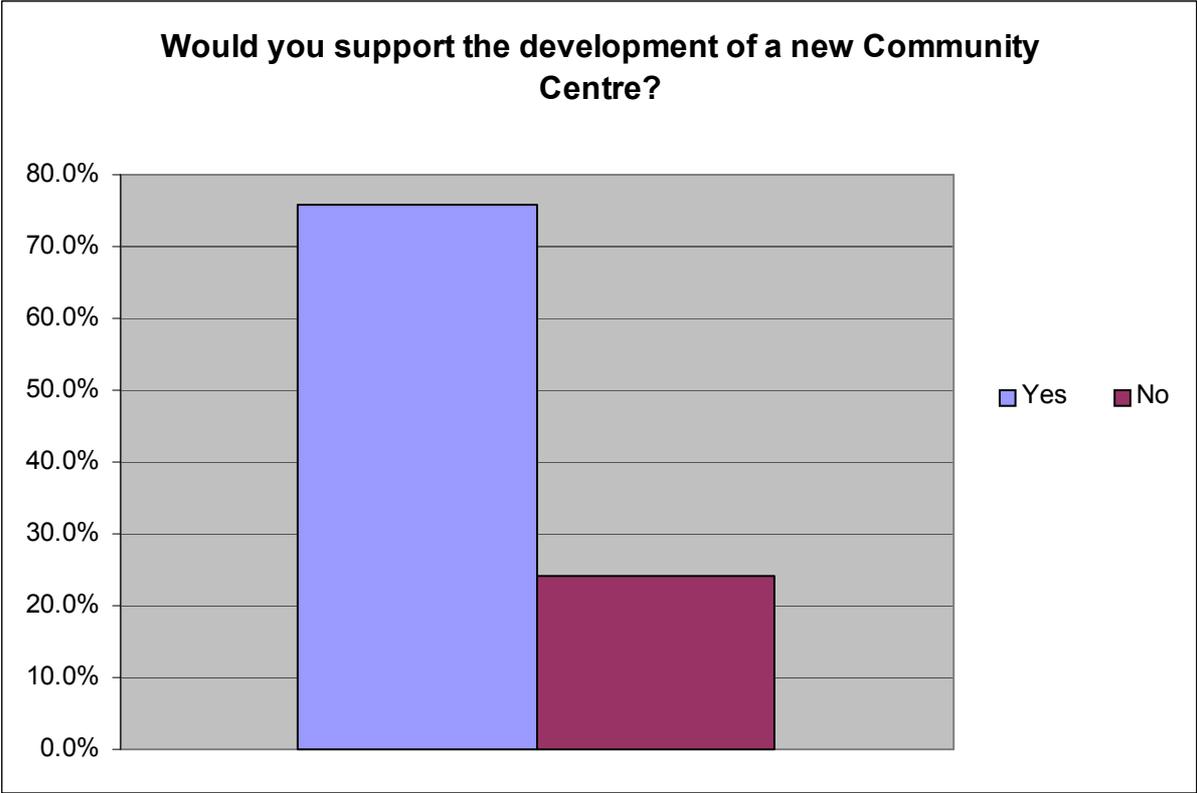


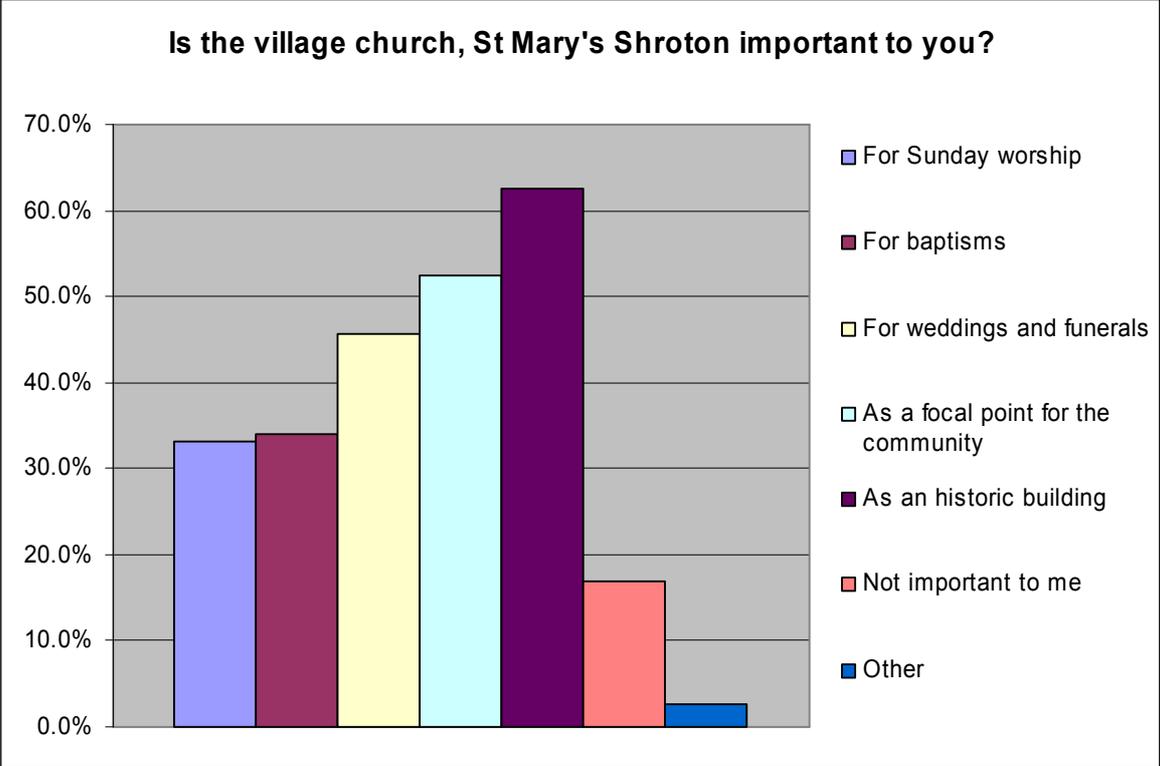
Chart 8

A further question asked what facilities they would like to see in the hall and the village was asked for a “wish list” for those facilities. Casting aside those wishes that were too hopeful e.g. “a swimming pool”, and too frivolous such as “pole dancing”, the “Top 10” serious suggestions are given below:

- Stage and lighting system for the drama group
- Projector, screen and sound system
- Fitted kitchen
- Disables toilet and access ramps
- Off-road parking
- Tennis court
- Flooring suitable for Short Mat Bowls
- Meeting rooms suitable for a range of group sizes
- Church Office
- A facility to be proud of!

**The Church**

People were asked if the church was important to them, and Chart 9 below displays the responses:



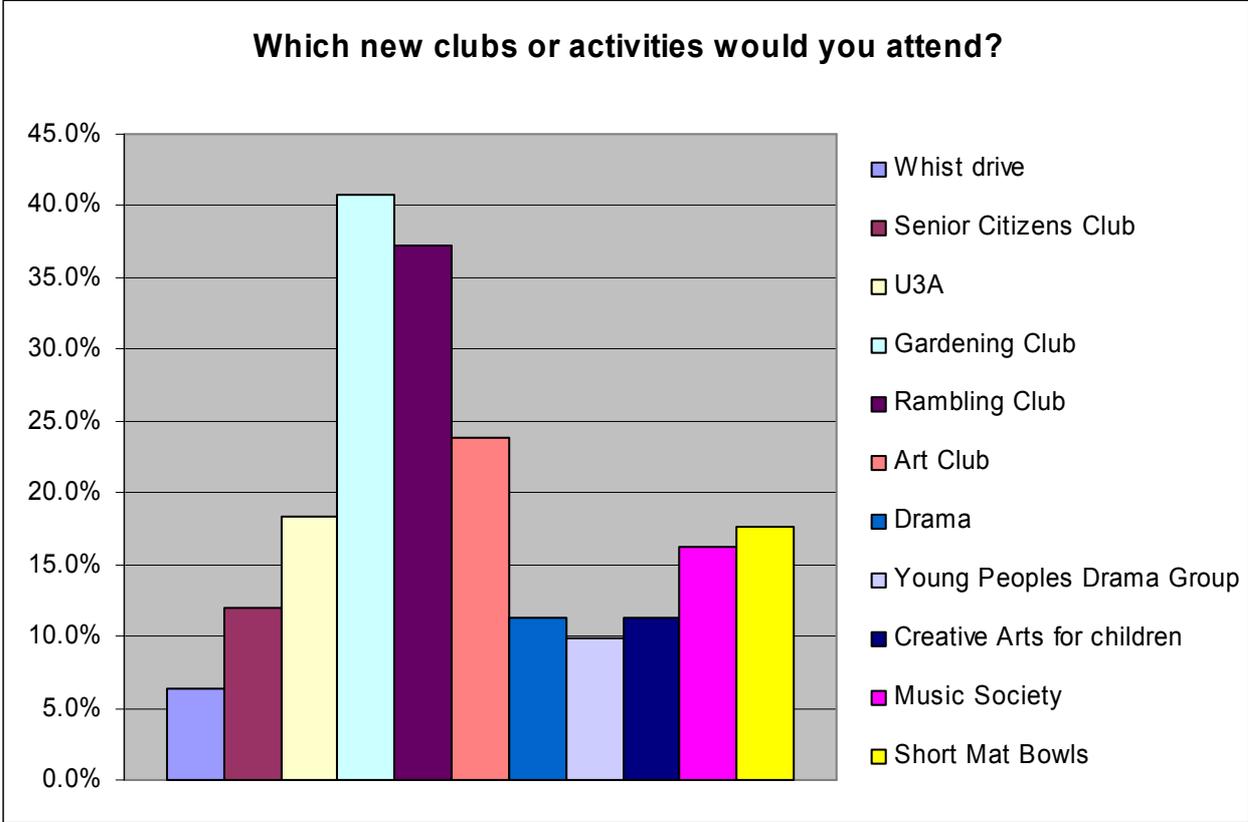
**Chart 9**

From this, it is clear that the church is still a major factor in village life for the three main events in our lives, baptism, weddings and funerals. 62% state that the building is important as an historic building and would not wish to see the church crumble. It was suggested that the building be used for other activities and there was strong support for concerts (62%), with lesser support for lectures (32%) and community projects (34%).



**Village Clubs**

Respondents also commented on a number of issues relating to leisure facilities. There was a wide range of suggestions for new clubs; see Chart 10 below:



**Chart 10**

However a considerable number regretted that they could not volunteer to help due to work and other commitments. This was not the case for help with children or youth activities where a large proportion of an admittedly small number of replies (37) stated that they would be willing to help.

**Village Shop**

There was a very large ‘yes’ for the inclusion of a shop in any future village plans, with 82% supporting the proposal. Half of the replies said that they would use the shop on a daily or weekly basis, and 36% would use it occasionally. There were some who stated that they would be willing to provide voluntary help. Although there are already well established shops in Iwerne Minster, Stourpaine, Fontmell Magna and Child Okeford, all with an established Post Office, it was shown that if a shop were to open in the village there would be support for it.

Below are some of the comments received both for and against the idea of a shop:

- “A shop is a must; sometimes I don’t see anyone for days.”
- “A basic shop would be nice for your everyday stuff, papers, milk bread etc., as long as prices were fair.”
- “Perhaps the shop could have a coffee/tea house so that locals who do not wish to go to the pub can meet.”
- “A village shop could not compete with supermarket prices.”

## **Local Government and Information**

57% of the survey responses indicated the local council acted reasonably well regarding its decision-making processes and activities with regard to planning matters. With regard to the replies on District and Central Government, the response was more negative on the control of local planning processes, such as:

- District Council with 47% of responses regarding the insensitive control of planning permission.
- Central Government with 29% responses saying that they thought there was a flagrant disregard of control for planning permission.

The notice boards in the Parish, together with the Shroton Lines and Blackmore Vale provide the Parish with access to local information and events.

Several written comments indicated that:

- They had no experience of local government or the detail involved in the decision-making processes.
- People did not understand the rationale of a “precept” under the auspices of the Parish Council.
- There should be much more openness and information about planning processes.
- There should be greater protection of our rural environment, and any proposed development should be sympathetic to our surroundings.
- The bridge over the Glebe should be replaced, and the stream kept clean.
- They would like more flowers on The Glebe green and around the village.

## **The Environment and the Countryside**

It was no surprise that 91% of the returns stated that the countryside was very important to the inhabitants of the parish as we chose to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty. There was an excellent response to which features of the countryside were important (see question 63 at the annex) and a lot of thought had gone into the replies on how do you think the local countryside could be improved (see question 64 at the annex).

Many (81%) wanted maps of local footpaths, better maintained footpaths and bridleways and stiles changed to gates. There was a good response from those who would be prepared to help maintain footpaths, protect wildlife habitats, clear streams and help with the Neighbourhood Watch. This untapped resource needs to be addressed.

Some of the written comments were:

- “Let hedges grow naturally in the fields”
- “Hedges to be cut and laid”
- “More bridleways as the roads are dangerous”
- “Better access for dogs at stile i.e. dog flaps”
- “Change stiles to gates as I am getting older”
- “How about a village task force to help with the work”?

## CHAPTER FOUR

### The Parish Plan and Actions

From the analysis of the questions and the written replies, validated by the 80% response to the questions, the areas of the Parish Plan, which should be addressed, and also the authorities that need to take action to achieve the wishes of our community are shown in the following paragraphs:

### Village Structure

- The current dwellings contain a good mix of housing types and the housing need at present is small.
- Any future buildings should blend in with the type and style of the current village structure. **Action Parish Council and NDDC**
- Future housing should be affordable housing not large detached homes. **Action NDDC**
- New buildings to be on either or both Ranston Farm or Manor Farm sites. Green field sites to be the last resort. **Action Parish Council and NDDC**
- Any expansion on green field sites to use the Church Field. **Action NDDC**
- Any new building to have car parking space, off road. **Action Parish Council and NDDC**
- If possible a shop should be included in any future buildings. **Action Parish Council and NDDC.**
- The road access from the village onto the A350 to be improved. **Action DCC**
- A speed limit to be introduced to the village. **Action DCC and Dorset Police**
- Full support for the C13 initiative becoming the main Blandford to Shaftesbury route. **Action DCC.**
- A new Village Hall to be built to include:
  - Kitchen
  - Disabled toilets and access
  - Separate meeting room
  - Church Office
  - Stage and lighting
  - Cinema Screen and audio equipment
  - Flooring suitable for Short Mat Bowls
  - Outside tennis court
  - Off road Car Park **Action VHC and Parish Council**
- A local walking map notice board should be obtained. **Action Parish Council**
- The children's play area is now too small for the increased numbers of children in the village and several structures of play area equipment are in need of replacement.

- There is a need for a larger play area and the development of a planned replacement and improvement plan.
- It is suggested that a village led development and fundraising group/committee is formed to address and implement the provision of the replacement and improvements to this valuable community resource. **Action Parish Council.**

### **Current Structures**

- St Mary's church is still important to the village and could be used for non-church activities. Non-church attendees could be asked to help in its upkeep and maintenance. **Action PCC.**
- "The Cricketers" pub should be encouraged and continue to have village support. **Action all**

### **The Surrounding Area**

- The countryside should be maintained. **Action all**
- Change stiles to gates. **Action DCC**
- More bridleways. **Action DCC**
- Formation of a Village Task Force. **Action Parish Council/All**









**PERSONAL SECTION**

Question Number: 16

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

259

**Do you share private vehicles with other people for?**

Taking children to school or college	9	3.5%
Travelling to work	11	4.2%
Shopping	31	12.0%
Social and leisure activities	61	23.6%
Other	6	2.3%
Not applicable	33	12.7%
No I don't share a vehicle	151	58.3%

Question Number: 17

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

258

**Which of the following services do you use?**

Bus	29	11.2%
Train	21	8.1%
Coach	3	1.2%
Community Bus	1	0.4%
Taxi	19	7.4%
None	205	79.5%

Question Number: 18

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

**How do you rate the Community Bus service for?**

Route	<b>Unfortunately the analysis data is unavailable to this question due to a programme error. It is therefore not available for the final document.</b>	
Timetable		
Reliability		
Cost		
Access for those with disabilities		

Question Number: 19

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

227

**How often do you use the local taxi service**

Daily	3	1.3%
Weekly	4	1.8%
Monthly	13	5.7%
Occasionally	36	15.9%
Never	171	75.3%

Question Number: 20

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

263

**Do you have a need for voluntary transport?**

Yes	6	2.3%
No	257	97.7%









**PERSONAL SECTION**

Question Number: 40

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 240

**Do you have any difficulty in getting to the following?**

	often	occasionally	never
Hospital	3 (1.3%)	20 (8.3%)	205 (85.4%)
Doctor	3 (1.3%)	14 (5.8%)	212 (88.3%)
Chemist	3 (1.3%)	11 (4.6%)	201 (83.8%)
Chiroprapist	1 (0.4%)	5 (2.1%)	179 (74.6%)
Optician	2 (0.8%)	11 (4.6%)	197 (82.1%)
Dentist	2 (0.8%)	12 (5.0%)	202 (84.2%)
Other medical facility	0 (0.0%)	5 (2.1%)	182 (75.8%)

Question Number: 41

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 29

**If you have a disability of any kind do you feel that the following locations are adequately equipped for your disability?**

	good	reasonable	poor
Village Church	7 (24.1%)	13 (44.8%)	5 (17.2%)
Village Hall	9 (31.0%)	12 (41.4%)	5 (17.2%)
Village Pub	5 (17.2%)	12 (41.4%)	5 (17.2%)
Cricket Club	4 (13.8%)	9 (31.0%)	4 (13.8%)
Not applicable	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Question Number: 42

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 142

**Which new clubs/activities would you attend in your local community if they were provided?**

Whist drive	9	6.3%
Senior Citizens Club	17	12.0%
U3A	26	18.3%
Gardening Club	58	40.8%
Rambling Club	53	37.3%
Art Club	34	23.9%
Drama	16	11.3%
Young Peoples Drama Group	14	9.9%
Creative Arts for children	16	11.3%
Music Society	23	16.2%
Short Mat Bowls	25	17.6%

Question Number: 43

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 37

**Would you be prepared to help with the following leisure time activities for young people?**

The Summer Play scheme	11	29.7%
After-school club	0	0.0%
Uniformed organisations	11	29.7%
Outdoor activities e.g. coaching	15	40.5%
Youth Club	18	48.6%

**PERSONAL SECTION**

Question Number: 44

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

253

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

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion	have not used them
Fire	37 (14.6%)	23 (9.1%)	2 (0.8%)	6 (2.4%)	173 (68.4%)
Police	30 (11.9%)	32 (12.6%)	20 (7.9%)	5 (2.0%)	151 (59.7%)
Ambulance (Emergency)	46 (18.2%)	23 (9.1%)	14 (5.5%)	4 (1.6%)	153 (60.5%)
Hospital (Transport)	9 (3.6%)	8 (3.2%)	8 (3.2%)	9 (3.6%)	190 (75.1%)
Police (Emergency)	25 (9.9%)	27 (10.7%)	22 (8.7%)	7 (2.8%)	156 (61.7%)
Police (Bobby)	11 (4.3%)	30 (11.9%)	24 (9.5%)	10 (4.0%)	161 (63.6%)
Coastguard	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	253 (100%)

Question Number: 45

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

204

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

A greater police presence	114	55.9%
Better consultation between the police and local people	77	37.7%
Improved street lighting	43	21.1%
More drug/drink education/prevention	73	35.8%
More activities for young people	109	53.4%
CCTV	14	6.90%
Other	0	0.00%

Question Number: 46

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

253

**What are your views on the following environmental services in the Parish?**

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion	not applicable
Mains water supply	171 (67.6%)	59 (23.3%)	6 (2.4%)	5 (2.0%)	10 (4.0%)
Mains electricity supply	156 (61.7%)	86 (34.0%)	6 (2.4%)	3 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Refuse collection	173 (68.4%)	71 (28.1%)	5 (2.0%)	2 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Street lighting	22 (8.7%)	22 (8.7%)	55 (21.7%)	28 (11.1%)	102 (40.3%)
Roadside care/street cleaning, Winter weather service (snow clearance)	51 (20.2%)	80 (31.6%)	76 (30.0%)	23 (9.1%)	18 (7.1%)
Winter weather service (snow clearance)	34 (13.4%)	58 (22.9%)	63 (24.9%)	56 (22.1%)	18 (7.1%)
T.V. reception	78 (30.8%)	99 (39.1%)	60 (23.7%)	3 (1.2%)	3 (1.2%)
Radio reception	67 (26.5%)	98 (38.7%)	65 (25.7%)	7 (2.8%)	7 (2.8%)
Broadband connection	32 (12.6%)	27 (10.7%)	34 (13.4%)	35 (13.8%)	77 (30.4%)
Mobile telephone/pager systems	46 (18.2%)	73 (28.9%)	77 (30.4%)	17 (6.7%)	16 (6.3%)
Hedge/verges cutting service	66 (26.1%)	102 (40.3%)	51 (20.2%)	12 (4.7%)	2 (0.8%)
Dog waste collection	56 (22.1%)	44 (17.4%)	19 (7.5%)	60 (23.7%)	56 (21.1%)

**PERSONAL SECTION**

Question Number: 47

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

251

**How do you rate the postal service for your community?**

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion
Location of post boxes	143 (57.0%)	92 (36.7%)	8 (3.2%)	8 (3.2%)
Number of post boxes	97 (38.6%)	93 (37.1%)	34 (13.5%)	15 (6.0%)
Number of deliveries	81 (32.3%)	119 (47.4%)	27 (10.8%)	12 (4.8%)
Number of collections	78 (31.1%)	110 (43.8%)	21 (8.4%)	24 (9.6%)
Speed of service	69 (27.5%)	100 (39.8%)	46 (18.3%)	23 (9.2%)
Size of post box (will it take large envelopes?)	15 (6.0%)	98 (39.0%)	79 (31.5%)	48 (19.1%)

Question Number: 48

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

264

**How often do you use the following shops and services?**

	daily	weekly	monthly	less frequently	never
Mobile Library	0 (0.0%)	10 (3.8%)	7 (2.7%)	23 (8.7%)	212 (80.3%)
"The Cricketers"	5 (1.9%)	43 (16.3%)	60 (22.7%)	105 (39.8%)	40 (15.2%)
Visiting fish round	0 (0.0%)	13 (4.9%)	8 (3.0%)	8 (2.3%)	222 (84.1%)
Visiting frozen food e.g. Eismann or "Fine Food"	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (2.3%)	6 (2.3%)	233 (88.3%)
Milkman	63 (22.9%)	14 (5.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	180 (68.2%)
Newspaper delivery	68 (25.8%)	26 (9.8%)	2 (0.8%)	2 (0.8%)	155 (58.7%)

Question Number: 49

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

236

**If a community shop were opened in the Parish how often would you use it?**

Daily	87	36.9%
Weekly	42	17.8%
Monthly	7	3.0%
Occasionally	86	36.4%
Wouldn't use it	14	5.9%
Don't know	0	0.0%

Question Number: 50

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

230

**Would you volunteer to help with the community shop in the following ways?**

	weekly	monthly	occasionally	could not help	don't know
Counter work	18 (7.8%)	11 (4.8%)	27 (11.7%)	146 (63.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Accounts	3 (1.3%)	5 (2.2%)	7 (3.0%)	164 (71.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Filling shelves	13 (5.7%)	9 (3.9%)	30 (13.0%)	146 (63.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Fetching supplies	9 (3.9%)	8 (3.5%)	21 (9.1%)	152 (66.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Growing produce for sale	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.3%)	12 (5.2%)	167 (72.6%)	0 (0.0%)
Making produce for sale	2 (0.9%)	3 (1.3%)	12 (5.2%)	167 (72.6%)	0 (0.0%)
Helping with deliveries	11 (4.8%)	13 (5.7%)	31 (13.5%)	148 (64.3%)	0 (0.0%)

**PERSONAL SECTION**

Question Number: 51

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 235

**If the existing village hall was found to be insufficient for the community's needs, would you support the development of a new community centre?**

Yes	178	75.7%
No	57	24.3%

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Question Number: 52

**If you were able to write a "dream list", what facilities would you like to see in your village hall or community centre?**

Results of this question prompted the respondents to generate a list of facilities that they would like to see in the Village Hall. The full list is available if required and the "Top 10" are on page 15 of this report.

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Question Number: 53

**The village has a very active and successful cricket club; what other sporting facilities would you like to see, and would be willing to support in your village?**

Results of this question prompted the respondents to generate a list of sporting facilities that they would like to see in the Village. Chart 9 page 16 details the results.

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Question Number: 54

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 231

**If you attend places of worship outside your local community is it because:**

Times better	6	2.6%
My religion/denomination not catered for	17	7.4%
Better facilities for children	1	0.4%
Access problems in local place	0	0.0%
Poor local information	0	0.0%
Not applicable	208	90.0%

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Question Number: 55

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 259

**Is the village church, St Mary's in Shroton important to you?**

For Sunday worship	86	33.2%
For baptisms	88	34.0%
For weddings and funerals	118	45.6%
As a focal point for the community	136	52.5%
As an historic building	162	62.5%
Not important to me	44	17.0%
Other	7	2.7%

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**PERSONAL SECTION**

Question Number: 56

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

233

**Would you like to see St Mary's Church in Shroton used for the following activities:**

	Yes	No	No opinion
Concerts	145 (62.2%)	35 (15.0%)	45 (19.3%)
Meetings	71 (30.5%)	52 (22.3%)	51 (21.9%)
Playgroups	33 (14.2%)	64 (27.5%)	58 (24.9%)
Lunch Clubs	26 (11.2%)	72 (30.9%)	57 (24.5%)
Lecture Series	75 (32.2%)	55 (23.6%)	47 (20.2%)
Community Projects	79 (33.0%)	50 (21.5%)	44 (18.9%)
Sport	8 (3.4%)	95 (40.8%)	46 (19.7%)
Village Theatre	49 (21.0%)	72 (30.9%)	53 (22.7%)
Other	6 (2.6%)	39 (16.7%)	65 (27.9%)

Question Number: 57

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

261

**Where do you usually get information about events taking place in you local community?**

Notice Board	137	52.5%
Local paper	105	40.2%
Post Office	13	5.0%
Library	4	1.5%
Shroton Lines	243	93.1%
Valley Views	96	36.8%
Blackmore Vale Magazine	223	85.4%
Radio/TV/Internet	9	3.4%
Other	17	6.5%

Question Number: 58

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

261

**How well does the local council publicise its decisions and activities?**

Very well	17	6.5%
Reasonably well	149	57.1%
Badly	40	15.3%
No opinion	55	21.1%

Question Number: 59

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

253

**Would you like to see more information about the activities of the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, and Church PCC?**

Yes	106	41.9%
No	85	33.6%
Don't know	62	24.5%

Question Number: 60

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

174

**How effective is the control of local planning processes within the following organisations?**

	appropriate control	insensitive control	no control	flagrant disregard
Parish Council	108 (62.1%)	25 (14.4%)	31 (17.8%)	4 (2.3%)
District Council	49 (28.2%)	82 (47.1%)	12 (6.9%)	20 (11.5%)
County Council	38 (21.8%)	70 (40.2%)	17 (9.8%)	23 (13.2%)
Central Government	22 (12.6%)	62 (35.6%)	12 (6.9%)	51 (29.3%)

**PERSONAL SECTION**

Question Number: 61

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 194

**The parish Council raises money through precept to pay for local items e.g. the new bus shelter and maintenance of the play area. Would you like to see the precept increased to fund more local work?**

Yes	126	64.9%
No	68	35.1%

Question Number: 62

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 274

**How important is the quality of the countryside around Shroton, Farrington or Iwerne Steepleton to you?**

Very Important	251	91.6%
Important	22	8.0%
Not very important	1	0.4%
No opinion	0	0.0%

Question Number: 63

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 256

**How important are the following features of the surrounding countryside to you?**

	very important	important	not very special	no opinion on them
Small woods	206 (80.5%)	37 (14.5%)	2 (0.8%)	2 (0.8%)
Orchards	135 (52.7%)	62 (24.2%)	22 (8.6%)	16 (6.3%)
Hedges	195 (76.2%)	41 (16.0%)	2 (0.8%)	4 (1.6%)
Ditches	163 (63.7%)	50 (19.5%)	15 (5.9%)	14 (5.5%)
Meadows and green fields	212 (82.8%)	30 (11.7%)	1 (0.4%)	4 (1.6%)
Modern farm buildings	39 (15.2%)	48 (18.8%)	114 (44.5%)	29 (11.3%)
Traditional farm buildings	143 (55.9%)	84 (32.8%)	10 (3.9%)	6 (2.3%)
Farm woods	164 (64.1%)	58 (22.7%)	6 (2.3%)	9 (3.5%)
Village Green(s)	184 (71.9%)	51 (19.9%)	4 (1.6%)	3 (1.2%)
Hambledon Hill	234 (91.4%)	18 (7.0%)	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.8%)
Footpaths	206 (80.5%)	40 (15.6%)	2 (0.8%)	6 (2.3%)
Bridleways	148 (57.8%)	64 (25.0%)	15 (5.9%)	14 (5.5%)

Question Number: 64

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 250

**What do you think could be done to improve the environment of your local community?**

	very important	worth doing	not necessary	don't know
Plant more trees	117 (46.8%)	77 (30.8%)	21 (8.4%)	6 (2.4%)
Cut down some trees	6 (2.4%)	28 (11.2%)	138 (55.2%)	20 (8.0%)
Look after woodlands	182 (72.8%)	44 (17.6%)	7 (2.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Preserve single trees in special places	153 (61.2%)	54 (21.6%)	10 (4.0%)	5 (2.0%)
Preserve old orchards	122 (48.8%)	69 (27.6%)	20 (8.0%)	10 (4.0%)
Plant new orchards	73 (29.2%)	91 (36.4%)	35 (14.0%)	17 (6.8%)
Keep hedges short and tidy	118 (47.2%)	58 (23.2%)	40 (16.0%)	5 (2.0%)
Let hedges grow naturally	23 (9.2%)	67 (26.8%)	93 (37.2%)	16 (6.4%)
Plant more hedges and trees	94 (37.6%)	67 (26.8%)	40 (16.0%)	12 (4.8%)
Plant a community orchard	34 (13.6%)	60 (24.0%)	88 (35.2%)	24 (9.6%)
Don't know	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.8%)	8 (3.2%)

**PERSONAL SECTION**

Question Number: 65

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

227

**In relation to footpaths and bridleways - would you like to see any of the following?**

Maps of local footpaths	183	80.6%
Leaflets of walks available to buy	132	58.1%
Guided walks of the area	58	25.6%
Change stiles to gates	78	34.4%
Better maintained footpaths	146	64.3%

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Question Number: 66

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION:

213

**Would you be prepared to help with any of the following?**

Protecting wildlife habitats	87	40.8%
Clearing ponds	37	17.4%
Surveying trees	36	16.9%
Maintaining footpaths	45	21.1%
Clearing streams	63	29.6%
Maintaining a community compost	25	11.7%
Helping farmers	22	10.3%
Neighbourhood Watch	81	38.0%
Assist in the event of an emergency	171	80.3%

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