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PREFACE

The government first proposed the idea of Parish plans in the Rural White paper November 2000 and subsequently made funds and support available to Parish Councils to develop plans. The idea was to enable communities to “identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved”.

Many people have contributed to the development of this Parish plan from ideas put forward through the questionnaires to formal and informal discussions.

We believe we are presenting a fair and honest picture of the views of the Parish and proposals to implement their wishes for change. The plan as outlined is the start and we now have to achieve some results. The plan is a starting point not the last word, over time we will need to review and develop ideas and hope that the Parish continues to support the Parish Council and others such as the D.S.S.A. who will work to implement the plan.

Our thanks go to all those who contributed and particularly to Dr. John Cordell who played the major part in bringing together the efforts of the different groups into a coherent final document.

Marian Limb, March 2007
(Chairman, Dean & Shelton Parish Council)

DEAN & SHELTON PARISH PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Parish of Dean & Shelton lies in the old hundred of Stodden . Three small villages, Upper Dean, Lower Dean and Shelton lie in a shallow valley on the extreme northern borders of Bedfordshire. Residents are made constantly aware of its fringe position by the use of a Peterborough post code and three telephone codes (Bedford Huntingdon and Rushden).Its location has meant it is relatively unspoilt by housing development or through traffic. Indeed environmentally little has changed since the days of HE Bates (ref the Larkins), a frequent visitor to the Parish who wrote of Nether Dean in his short stories and whose book Love for Lydia was filmed using the Parish for some location filming. However whereas a hundred years ago most employment was on the land or in domestic service today's resident will more typically work in an office away from the village or run a small business from home. Then the residents were mainly there by necessity whereas now it is mainly by choice. Today people seek to live in this rural environment because of its underdeveloped nature and to enjoy its leisure opportunities.

The desire that the villages remain largely undeveloped came through loud and clear in the results of the Parish Plan questionnaire (see Appendix 4) though a need for more “affordable” housing was also expressed. It also highlighted threats to our environment from increasing road traffic, noise from various sources, light pollution etc. This desire to retain an essentially underdeveloped rural environment is not merely for the benefit of local residents. Visitors from local towns enjoy rural pubs, walking, riding, cycling and cricket in our locality. Bed and Breakfast facilities for travellers and riders draw in people from further afield.

We therefore see the duty of the Parish Plan to help preserve our village inheritance for both residents and the wider community. To do this in a changing world requires positive action, taking into account new social trends e.g. new employment patterns and new technologies e.g. in electronic communications, changing retail outlets. Most of all it requires maintaining and developing a vibrant community that looks after its people and environment, one which avoids becoming merely a collection of dormitory villages.

With these objectives in mind we have developed the plan under three main themes, namely:

A. Protecting the environment

1. Housing & business development
2. Issues concerning roads

3. Home and countryside

B. Improving access to retail and other services

1. Retail
2. Utilities
3. Transport
4. Security, health & social services

C. Developing our community

1. Assets
2. Social and educational activities
3. Communications
4. Other

Notes on Project Tables:

Priority = A composite view taking account of the projects potential impact, feasibility & importance as expressed through the questionnaires. They should be reviewed annually by the Parish Council.

Leader = Parish body or parish person designated to lead

Partner = Persons or bodies with an interest in the outcome

Resources = Potential providers of manpower or money

Abbreviations

AMEY = Bedfordshire County Council's contractors for road repair

BBC = Bedford Borough Council

BCC = Bedfordshire County Council

BT = British Telecom.

DSSA = Dean & Shelton Social Association

EDF = Electric Grid Provider

MP = Local member of parliament

PC = Dean & Shelton Parish Council

PPP = Parish Paths Partnership

RCC = Rural Community Council

RSL = Registered Social Landlords

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

A1. HOUSING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Background

The parish is formed from three villages sited beside the rivers Til and Kym. The total number of households is 161. A planning envelope exists for Upper Dean which is a conservation area. No envelope has been defined for Lower Dean and Shelton which are regarded as open country with a presumption of no new housing. The new rural development strategy for Bedford proposes the retention of this planning status.

Responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire show a desire to preserve the character of the villages. A preference was expressed for future development to be smaller dwellings and the provision of social housing (possibly with shared equity), both having potential to enable young people from the parish to remain here and for older residents to down size. To ensure that provision was for people with village connections it would be preferable to have Parish control over letting or equity share in any social housing. This might be achieved through a Community Land Trust but with a small population it might be practical only through co-operation with neighbouring villages.

There are 7 farms in the parish with farmers resident and one workshop providing maintenance of agricultural and grass cutting machinery. There are a number of small enterprises which are tourist or leisure related; bed and breakfast, livery, training ride and drive horses. The one remaining public house provides employment for villagers as does the school and post office. There are 2 small office developments from barn conversions, one is occupied, provides employment and produces some commuting into the village, the other has remained unoccupied for some time since it was completed. For the most part employment within the parish is working from home, one micro-business employs a small number of residents in consultancy in community development and others work in a variety of occupations such as management and I.T. consultancy and translation.

There is a strong desire to retain the public house, post office and school. There is also support for additional leisure related business. We would like to support working from home and the reduction in commuting traffic that would ensue.

Projects

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Survey of housing need	Carry out a survey to establish the size of any need for social rented or equity share social housing.	Medium	Parish Council	BBC & Local Housing Associations	
Explore the feasibility of providing housing through a Community Land Trust.	Further enquiries into available options	Low. Depends on survey above.	Parish Council		
Liaise with neighbouring villages to establish if there is scope for co-operation in the provision of social housing.	Direct liaison between local parishes and BBC housing / Registered Social Landlords	Low. Depends on survey above.	Parish Council	Adjacent parishes. BBC Local RSL's	
Prepare a "Conservation Area Character statement" for the 3 villages to provide guidelines for future B.B.C. development and planning permission which will preserve the character and landscape of the villages.	Commission work from appropriate body or organisation	High. Important way of influencing any area development plan.	Parish Council	BBC Planning	Funding application may be required

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

A2 ISSUES CONCERNING ROADS

Background

In the questionnaire that was circulated to all residents, 180 people responded to all or some of the questions on this subject. This level of response represents a high level of interest in this topic though it cannot be claimed that there is a large volume of traffic through our village or that we suffer from significant freight movement locally.

Before summarizing the response, below, two different categories of complaints and therefore possible solutions, can be identified. Speeding, particularly danger spots, and road maintenance were highlighted by (in each case) about two thirds of the respondents. Obstructive parking and excessive speed in driving through this area is not committed by Martians or even strangers. It is a fair bet that much of it is perpetrated by residents or at least those who live in a five mile radius. The remedy therefore lies significantly in our own hands.

The second category is the physical characteristics of the roads, footpaths and the adjacent areas. Solutions to these matters are largely feasible but require support and money from others – mainly the County Council. Without such assistance they are not achievable.

33 replies (nearly 20%) complained of speeding everywhere in the area. Locations specifically identified were the S bend at Lower Dean (17), the High Street in Upper Dean (14) Shelton and Brook Lane. A further 32 respondents cited other (or general) locations and/or times of day where speeding took place.

135 respondents identified particular danger spots. Lower Dean junction (49), Brook Lane (21), Shay Lane/High Street (20), bend by Dean Grange/Dalton Hall (14) and B645 junction to Lower Dean (8) were the most frequently mentioned.

The questionnaire also invited general comments and some 40 respondents took up this invitation.

Parking at Eileen Wade school with attendant difficulties of congestion and pedestrian safety were cited under both this (and other) sections by 12 respondents. Others commented adversely on the size and speed of school buses and on inconsiderate parking though only one third of respondents answered yes to the specific question as to whether other peoples parking constituted a nuisance. Few people (15%) use the bus, though it is certainly possible to construe from comments on this topic that more would do so if services were better.

Projects

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Reduce speeding in villages	Speed humps Chicanes Flashing signs	Medium. Polarized view whether or not action is necessary	Parish Council	BCC Police	BCC & Police
Reduce speeding between villages	Rumble strips, cameras SIG, road narrowing	Low. See above	Parish Council	BCC Police	BCC & Police
Alleviate congestion around school area	Discuss options with governors (incl Dalton Hall drop off)	Medium	Parish Council	Parents & governors, BCC	
Limit size of school buses	See BCC, T Wootten, before next contract is placed	Medium. Cause of road & verge damage	Parish Council	BCC	
B645/Shelton turn- extend 40 mph speed limit	Liaise with Hargrave Parish Council	Low. Await decision on Chelveston airfield development	Parish Council	Hargrave PC NCC	
B645/L Dean rt turn- improve safety		Low	Parish Council	BCC	
S bend in L Dean- improve safety for cars & pedestrians	Discuss options with BCC (AMEY). Consider pathway onto private land	High. Initial response from BBC not encouraging	Parish Council	BCC	Landowner
Maintenance-survey all roads & verges	Joint with BCC	High. Surveys on-going	Parish Council	BCC	
Passing places on Shelton L Dean road	As part of monies available BCC	Low. No consensus on need.	Parish Council		
Quiet Lane status on village loop road	Approach BCC & survey village opinions	Low. No consensus on need.	Parish Council		
Footpath Dean to Dalton Hall (Safety & encourage use of Hall)	Survey use by Dean residents	Low	Parish Council		

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

A3 HOME & COUNTRYSIDE

Background

The majority of respondents to the questionnaire were satisfied with the state of the footpaths; did not find horses a problem; did not suffer from litter problems or dog fouling problems. There were some places where these issues did cause anxiety for a minority, and possible solutions have been addressed by the committee.

Wild plants, tree planting, birds, and animals were of overwhelming importance to the majority of respondents.

A significant minority had problems from surface water and storm drainage. There needs to be some research as to responsibility for streams, ditches and drains flooding. A solution to some of the problems is for residents to clear the road drains near their own homes.

There was also a significant minority who suffered from noise: traffic, motorcycles, and also light aircraft.

A proposed project that links up with *Developing the Community* 'Produce a History of the Parish or Stodden Villages,' is to produce an environmental audit in photographic form – now and in five years time.

This committee has also attempted to address environmental issues on a broader scale and suggests the collation and dissemination of energy saving and environmental information. This links up with the committee *Developing the Community C2 Social and Educational Activities*, which mentions a Project Centre on the Environment and a Centre for Environmental Activities.

Projects

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Environmental Audit- What is special to Dean and Shelton	Photographic snapshot now and in five years' time. Photographic survey of key points of interest.	High. Link to Conservation Area Character Statement , see A1	Parish Council	BCC	Council funding
Footpaths- Survey the state of the footpaths, and signage; consider suitability for upgrading for disability access	Select 2 to survey	High	PPP rep	Volunteers	
Map of footpaths next to each village notice board	PPP representative to contact Council	High	PPP rep	BCC & PPP	Borough funding
Map board to leave space for 'Country Code and Practice' note	To be compiled	Medium	Parish Council	BC & PPP	Borough funding
Publicise PPP	Annual insert in Honeycomb for Dean and Shelton	High	PPP rep		
Produce walks leaflets for villages	Identify best walk	Low	PPP rep volunteers	BCC & PPP	Borough funding
Brook- Ongoing review in all 3 villages to identify dangerous or dirty areas	Annual reminder insert in Honeycomb for Dean and Shelton Possibly co-ordinate with bulk skip days	Medium. Also see Flooding, below	Parish Council	Environ. Dept Volunteers	Ensure continuation of bulk skip

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Hedges and Boundaries- Monitor where there are any that border roads or footpaths that are dangerous	Annual reminder insert in Honeycomb for Dean and Shelton Possibly co-ordinate with bulk skip days	Medium	Parish Council	Encourage individuals responsible	
Litter- Bins where the school bus stops at L. and U. Dean. More litter bins at the Dalton Hall – children’s playground, by the seats, at the tennis court	Contact the council and check on the likelihood of them being emptied regularly	Medium	Parish Council	DSSA & BCC	Council funding
Encourage carrying of plastic bags in order to pick up litter whilst walking.	<i>Annual reminder in Honeycomb for Dean and Shelton.</i> Remind people to take litter home.	Medium	Parish council	Encourage individuals responsible	
Dog mess	Check existing bin status. Ask where more are needed. Remind people to take home where necessary.	Medium	Parish Council		
Disturbances Off roaders: bikes	Have a box to stop them going through in the ‘off’ season	Low	Parish Council	BCC	Borough funding
Off roaders: 4 wheelers	Check on legal and/or political situation	Low	Parish Council		

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Flooding Identify whose responsibility it is to clear drains and ditches Take expert opinion on drainage	Inform those responsible – householders or farmers or borough and follow up. Consult Borough engineers.	High	Parish Council	BCC, Riparian Owners, AWA, Env. Agency	
Recycling- Investigate viability of having a centre at the Dalton Hall or the pub. Possibly with a separate entrance and fenced area: bottles, clothes and shoes and cardboard	Talk to DSSA, Brewery, Parish Council, Bedford Borough Council	High. Also see B2 comment on Bottle Bank	Parish Council	DSSA Brewery Parish and Bedford councils	
Swop Shop- Encourage swapping goods etc. rather than throw them away; recycling unwanted goods and those that need repair	Monthly insert in Honeycomb for Dean and Shelton. Co-ordinate with bulk skip, web site.	High	Parish Council	All three villages	
Compile an 'Environmental Pack' with information re: solar panels and heating, environmentally efficient boilers, water recycling etc	Investigate means of storing the information, updating it and making it readily available E.g. website, see C3	Low	Parish Council	Village volunteers	
Additional reminders on various environmental issues	Periodically in Honeycomb	Low	Parish Council	Village volunteer	

IMPROVING ACCESS TO RETAIL & OTHER SERVICES

B1. RETAIL

Background

For the last fifteen or more years, since the village shop in Upper Dean and the dairy in Lower Dean closed, the villagers have had to rely on a milkman and mobile greengrocer from outside the village. We feel that possibly these services are not well enough publicised and this could be addressed by distributing a broadsheet of useful telephone numbers and appropriate services. A community shop such as the one in Stevington could attract local authority funding to set it up, but would need committed and ongoing voluntary help to make it work. The other possibility is to encourage one of the local farmers to open a farm shop.

Projects

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Publicise existing services i.e. Milkman & greengrocer	Produce list of available services Distribute to every house	High	Parish Council	Possible sponsors	
Farm stall at Dalton Hall		Low	Parish Council		
Farm Shop	Approach local farmers	Low	Parish Council		
Community Shop	Would require start up funding	Low	Parish Council	BBC & RCC	BBC

B2 UTILITIES

Background

Telephone/Broadband

There is a high level of dissatisfaction with these services. One of the problems is that each village is on a different exchange. It may well be some time before BT gets its act together.

Electricity Supply

Maintenance of overhead power lines in rural areas is the problem. The Parish Council is already in contact with EDF.

Refuse/Recycling

The survey indicated a need for a bottle bank. After consultation with Pat Wooding at the Three Compasses a facility could be in place in the near future.

Projects

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Telephone /Broadband	See C3, Communications				
Electricity	Parish Council already in contact with EDF	Low. Recent service has improved	Parish Council	EDF	
Bottle Bank at Three Compasses	Contact Landlord.	High. Landlord is willing	Parish Council		

B3 TRANSPORT

Background

The bus service from Bedford to St Neots is not heavily used and it seems highly unlikely that it would be viable to increase this service. Community bus services currently run two services through Dean & Shelton, once a month to each of Peterborough and St. Ives through St. Neots. They are not well used so how long this will last is uncertain A bus to the new Asda store in Rushden is being explored.

Projects

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Publicise current bus times	Include with list of services	High	Parish Council	Possible sponsors	
Request increased service	Contact Cedar Coaches	Low	Parish Council		
Bus to the new ASDA	Contact ASDA	Medium	Parish Council	Villager Bus & RCC	
Request community bus service to include northern villages	Contact community bus operator	Medium	Parish Council		

B4. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Background

Police

Police visibility in the villages is a widespread concern. Inviting them to village functions such as the Flower Show would be a way of enabling villagers to get to know their police better.

Ambulance

Response time has been a major concern and this has been taken up at high level by the Parish Council

Projects

Action	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resources
Improve the Police profile in the villages	Invite to the Flower Show and other local events	Medium	Parish Council	All event organisers	
Ambulance service response times	Parish Council to pursue with Ambulance Service	High. Initial discussions stalled by reorganization. Need for P C to follow up	Parish Council	Ambulance Service and MP.	

DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY

C1. ASSETS

Background

Social and leisure activities take place at a number of locations. These may be ‘one off’ occasions, perhaps celebrating a particular national or local event, or the annual carol singing that visits houses in both Upper and Lower Dean. However, there are 3 main groups of assets in which village activities may take place.

1. Dalton Community Hall and adjacent open space

This is owned by the Dalton Charity Trustees and the Parish Council is represented on its management committee. The hall was built in 1986 and includes a main room, kitchen and toilet facilities, and changing rooms, plus car parking. Its location at the northern end of Upper Dean has led to some criticism that it is poorly situated and not within easy walking distance for users. However, given its need to serve as the hall for 3 villages, plus the lack of any more suitable available site, there is no proposed alternative facility. The building is modern in comparison with many other village halls and has the potential to provide a long-term community focal point. It could be developed to accommodate a greater range of activities to meet all age groups’ requirements, in an improved physical environment, and to broaden its scope beyond the purely leisure sphere.

Since 1996 the hall has been leased and managed by the Dean and Shelton Social Association (a registered charity), whose committee includes representatives from the Parish Council, the PCC and the Dalton Charity, and the main user groups plus elected representatives from the villages. In addition to any events hosted by the DSSA, the hall may be hired by any other group or individual.

The adjacent open space (also leased by the DSSA) totals over 2ha and comprises:

- The cricket field which is in turn managed by the local cricket club
- Tennis and netball courts which are managed by the Dean Sports Club
- A children’s play area with play equipment.

2. Dean and Shelton Churches and the Dean Chapel:

In addition to serving as places of worship, the churches and chapel provide facilities for a limited number of social and leisure activities to raise funds for the Parochial Church Council and individual congregations. There are church choirs, plus bell ringing at Dean. In addition Dean hosts various craft and musical events. Both church buildings are limited in their potential due to their age

and overall configuration, but there may be some scope for wider village use. The Chapel has an adjacent schoolroom that can accommodate for a range of activities. At present, for example, it is used by Dean Rainbows and by the Parish Council for a number of its meetings. This room has potential to cater for additional small-scale activities.

3. The Three Compasses Public House

This is owned by Charles Wells Brewery and situated at the southern end of Upper Dean. It is the only public house left in the Parish and is currently host to a league skittles team and the local cricket club's quiz night. At present it does not serve as a venue for any parish-promoted events. However, having recently been refurbished and with a restaurant area and garden, the premises has the potential to be considered more widely as a community leisure and social facility.

Projects

Activities	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resource
Dalton Hall facilities upgrade plans phase 1	Extension to create extra storage facilities	High. Underway	DSSA	Dalton Charity & PC	DSSA monies + 3 rd party funding
Dalton Hall facilities upgrade plans phase 2	Internal upgrade & additional facilities for the disabled	Medium	DSSA	Dalton Charity & PC	DSSA, Dalton & PC monies + 3 rd party funding
Dalton Hall - DSSA & PP upgrade plans phase 3	Energy saving devices et al as PP identifies e.g. café, PO, internet etc	Medium	DSSA & PC	Dalton Charity and others	Funding to be investigated & programmed
Chapel School Room – upgrade of facility	Decorate plus new furniture	High	Chapel Trustees	PC	Cost & funding to be agreed
Construction of BMX track & Skateboard ramp(s) at Dalton Hall field (<i>also see youth project in C4</i>)	BMX track (as part of DSSA plans) ; both schemes suitable for local 'self-help'	Medium	DSSA	Dalton Charity, PC & others	Funding & implementing to be investigated/ programmed

DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY

C2. SOCIAL & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Background

Social and leisure activities and the facilities required to service them featured prominently in the responses to the Parish Plan survey questionnaire. Top of the list were maintaining and improving facilities – thereby:

- Helping to strengthen the community spirit
- Preserving village life

There were aspects of village life, for example, safeguarding the public house and post office that also concerned villagers and these interact with social and leisure activities and influence the most effective use of the facilities available. The survey also showed:

- A desire to see a youth club established as part of activities for the young in general
- An increased use of the Dalton Hall (e.g. for club activities)
- Continuing support for the Flower Show
- A desire to have a village fete

The 2001 Census showed that 18.4% of the parish population was in the 0 – 14 age range, so that a high proportion of these will still be teenagers during the Plan's implementation period. 32.9% was in the 45 – 59 age range, nearly twice the borough and national average, and so there is also a need to consider carefully the older elements of the population as this 'bulge' progresses.

In addition to events traditionally hosted within the Parish, there is a wide range of activities that take place in the other villages that make up the 'Stodden' parishes and centred on the village halls in Yelden, Melchbourne, Swineshead and Pertenhall. As with Dean and Shelton events, many of these rely heavily on support from all the villages and form an integral part of the annual social calendar. Kimbolton and Tilbrook, and to a lesser extent Rushden and Higham Ferrers, also provide a wide range of activities from annual events such as the Kimbolton firework display, to yoga and keep fit classes. Many of the smaller-scale social activities, educational or special interest groups could be hosted within the Parish. These many options are not listed here and can only succeed with sufficient local demand and enthusiastic individuals. However the Parish Council and DSSA should encourage and facilitate such individuals, particularly to help develop the Dalton Hall site as a key focal point in the village. Some additional activities are listed below.

Projects

Activities	Method	Priority	Leader	Partners	Resource
A community LETS (Local Exchange Trading Scheme) e.g. Gardening Club	Survey support. Centre on Dalton Hall and website	Low	Parish Council	DSSA & Dalton Charity	
Various retail (see B1 RETAIL)					
Youth Club & Youth Projects Centre e.g. on environment	Survey parish youth support & examine options for sharing with other villages	Low	Volunteers needed	PC, DSSA, Dalton Charity	Opportunities for grants?
Centre for environmental activities (see A3)					

DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY

C3 COMMUNICATIONS

Background

One source of information in the village is word of mouth, gossip! Based on the village school, a pub and a large number of social events this route must not be underestimated.

More structured information is given by “Honeycomb” and four village notice boards.

Honeycomb is a magazine produced monthly by the Parish Church Council and delivered to all houses in the three villages. Its contents are mainly religious but with some secular contributions e.g. Parish Council minutes and social events. It is sustained by advertisement revenue and a small contribution from the Parish Council. Whilst used to announce village events of various types a major disadvantage is the three weeks editorial lead time necessary. Never-the-less the questionnaire indicated a wide readership and an little enthusiasm for additional paper circulations. There was support for an increase in secular content.

The village notice boards are maintained by the Parish Council, open to all, contain miscellaneous announcements and adverts and are infrequently read.

The Stodden web site provides interesting background information on the parish and beyond. It has the potential to be developed further as an interactive vehicle but has not achieved the critical mass of functionality or customer base to form either a source of up to date information or an interactive communication vehicle for the parish.

The main problems identified in village communications are:

- No central source of key information on events, dates etc
- Long lead time in making announcements on key events and issues
- Laborious printing and distribution of newsletters and flyers
- Little means feedback to Parish bodies other than via formal meetings
- Difficulty in communicating with peers in villages except verbally.

Electronic production and circulation of information (e-mail and website) would clearly address many of these issues. Problems remain on the poor quality of internet connection in the village (the villages are served from three different telephone exchanges, all with poor service levels) and how to cater for the electronically deprived.

Projects

Activities	Method	Priority & Comments	Leader	Partners	Resource
Seek urgent improvements to the broadband network	Survey current need and status (private & business use). Lobby BT & providers	High	Parish Council	BT	
Establish electronic newsletters, events diary, notice boards for PC and/or Church etc (paper cc if without internet access) Phase 1. PC news & Honeycomb upgrade via e-mail Phase 2. Extend to others areas via web site	Start with e-mail distribution and upgrade to website	High	Parish Council	Parish Church, Village clubs/societies	Opportunities for grants?
Provide links to County and other info sites e.g. BRCC Comment Box	Dependant on success of web site	Low	Parish Council	BCC & BBC	
Establish electronic comments & complaints process for main parish bodies (e.g. PC, DSSA, church)	Dependant on success of web site	Low	Parish Council	Parish Church, Village clubs/societies	
Establish a 'skills bank' to promote community spirit; inter-trading and support for local enterprise	Dependant on success of web site	Low	Parish Council		
Establish online discussion forums for various village bodies (Chat room facility) - particularly young people	Examine need by survey	Low	Parish Council		
Establish car share scheme for, particularly for youth & elderly	Examine need by survey	Low	Parish Council		
Re-Establish 'Self Employed Group'	Examine need by survey	Low	Parish Council		

DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY

C4 OTHER

Background

This is a collection of various other activities that help to make residents feel part of a caring community and not just a dormitory. As such it covers aspects such as the look and feel of the place – a parish identity- and taking care of more vulnerable minorities such as the young and old.

Projects

Activities	Method	Priority	Leader	Partners	Resource
Produce ‘Welcome Packs’ for in-coming villagers	Paper copy initially, then on website	Medium	Parish Council	DSSA, Churches	
Explore the feasibility of constructing village “Gateways” (Develop identity & reduce speeding)	Link villages to “Stodden “	Low	Parish Council	BCC	BCC grant?
Examine potential sites for enhancement via flower beds, trees, seats or other features e.g. verges around Dalton Hall		Low	Parish Council	RCC	
Produce a history of the Parish or Stodden villages	Examine feasibility of different formats	Low	Parish Council	PC	Grants?
Investigate potential self build training project, particularly aimed at Youth – BMX track/Skateboarding ramps at Dalton Hall field (<i>see also C1</i>)	On back of current DSSA plan	Medium	Parish Council		Grants?
Investigate potential training projects, particularly aimed at Youth – Environmental Area	Dependant on other environmental projects undertaken	Low	Parish Council		Grants?

Investigate potential work placements/experience within village businesses for young people	Via web site	Low	Parish Council		
Examine a role for the Parish Council to assist youth projects and specialist club activities (e.g. soccer or table tennis, possibly in conjunction with DSSA)	Propose process and call for ideas	Low	Parish Council	DSSA	PC, DSSA monies & grants
Examine opportunities for locally based training/education courses	Discuss with BBC & village survey of needs	Low	Parish Council	RCC	
Examine methods for improving communication with and caring of the elderly (e.g. transport to shops, surgeries, social facilities etc.)	Link with re-launch of Home Watch	Low	Parish Council		

APPENDIX 1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ON DEAN & SHELTON PARISH – Source 2001 Census

TOTAL POPULATION 386, 161 dwellings, 151 households in an area of 1383 ha

AGE STRUCTURE

0-14	18.4%
15-19	5.3%
20-29	4.9%
30-59	53.6%
60-74	11.7%
75+	6.3%

ETHNIC ORIGIN

British	95.8%
Other White	3.4%
White/Asian	.8%

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

UK	93.8%
EU	1.8%
Other	4.4%

RELIGION

Christian	80%
Other religions	1.6%
None/not given	18.1%

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Single	13.4%
Married/cohab	74.5%
Sep/divorced	5.3%
Widowed	6.9%

HOUSING

Owner occ	86.1%
Social rent	4.0%
Priv. rent	9.9%

EMPLOYMENT

Total active	70.5%
Inactive	
Retired	10.5%
Home	9.8%
Disabled	2.8%
Student	2.8%
Other	35.3%
Other	3.5%

EMPLOYMENT AREA

Industrial	26.8%
Wholesale, retail	9.6%
Business	25.3%
Educ.& health	23.7%
Other	14.6%

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Higher mngt & prof	12.5%
Lower mngt & prof	28.7%
Intermediate	9.0%
Small & self employd	10.4%
Lower sup & tech	4.2%
Other	

APPENDIX 2 -CONSULTATION PROCEDURES

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jul 2005 | Organising team established by Parish Council. |
| Sep 2005 | Questionnaire drawn up and circulated to all residents. |
| Jan 2006 | Results analysed and communicated back to parishioners in public exhibition at Dalton Hall. Further comments noted. |
| Mar 2006 | Working groups established to address key issues arising |
| Sep 2006 | Working group inputs consolidated into list of possible projects |
| Dec 2006 | Project lists circulated to all households for further comments on priorities |
| Feb 2007 | Draft project report and project list discussed at Parish Council meeting. Priority projects and responsibilities for progression & revision agreed. |
| April 2007 | Report published |

APPENDIX 3. PARISH PLAN TEAM

ORGANISING TEAM (Questionnaire & analysis)

Marian Limb (Chairman), Bill Ashby, Jackie Ashby, Gillian Aylott, Annette Brooks, John Cordell, Jo Cordell, Charlotte Dowling, Denise Halson, Frances Kent, Roy Shultz

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (Project development)

1. Development planning, housing & employment

Ron Grasmeder, Marian Limb, Jonathon Stuart, Robert Ward.

2. Road maintenance, use and safety

Gillian Aylott, Jo Cordell , Louise Jones, Michelle Ormisher, Roy Shultz

3. Village services e.g. retail, health, utilities & transport

David and Karen Andrews, Bill Ashby, Sara Brett, John Reynolds

4. Environment & waste management

Annette Brookes, Denise Halson, Frances Kent, Mike Moncaster

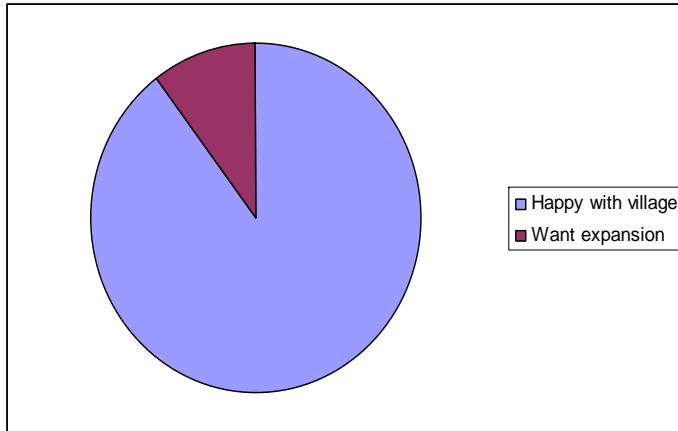
5. Community development e.g. sports, leisure & communications

Jackie Ashby, John Braga, John Cordell, Lin Evens Nick Leigh,

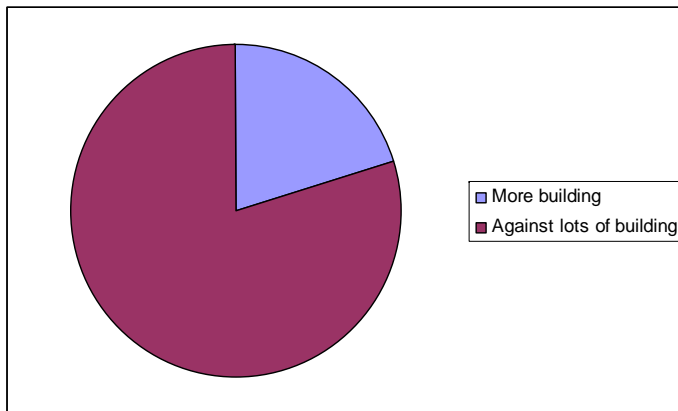
APPENDIX 4. MAIN RESULTS FROM QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION 1 – HOUSING

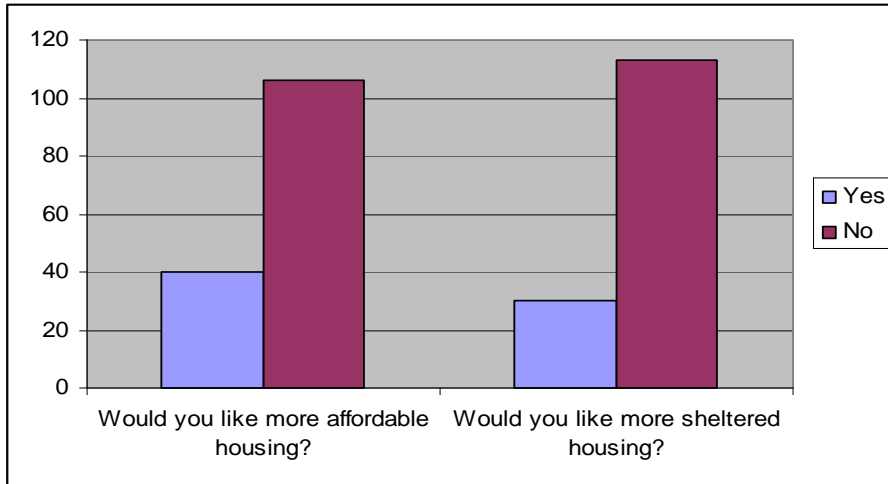
Would you like your village to remain relatively undeveloped?



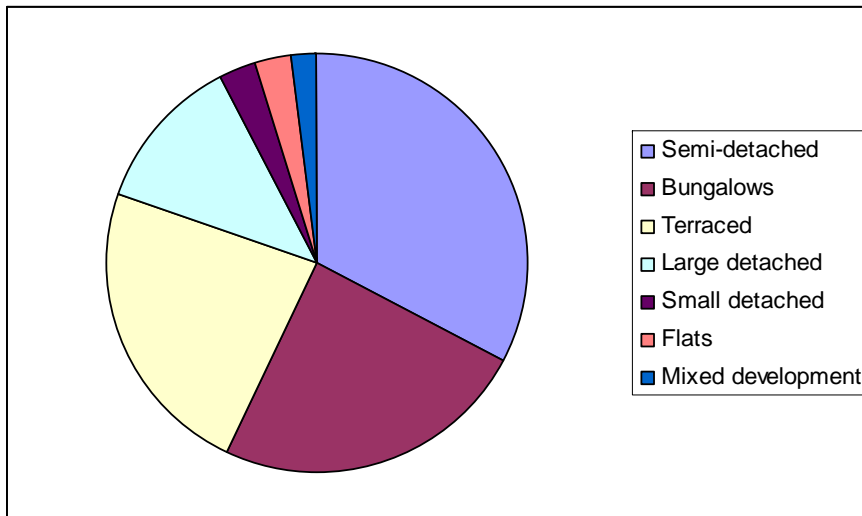
Would you welcome new houses and a larger population?



Would you like to see affordable Association housing or Sheltered accommodation?

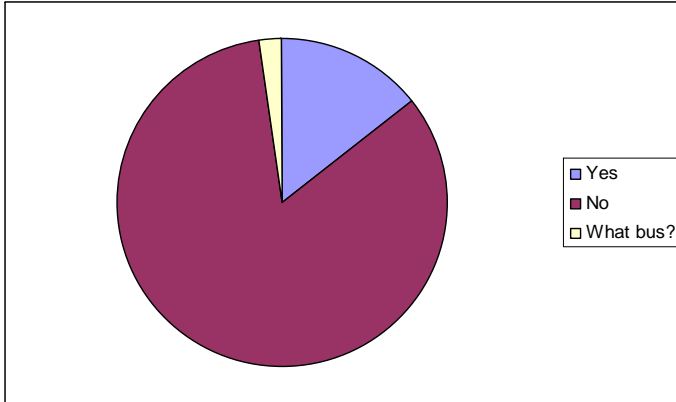


What type of accommodation do you feel is needed?

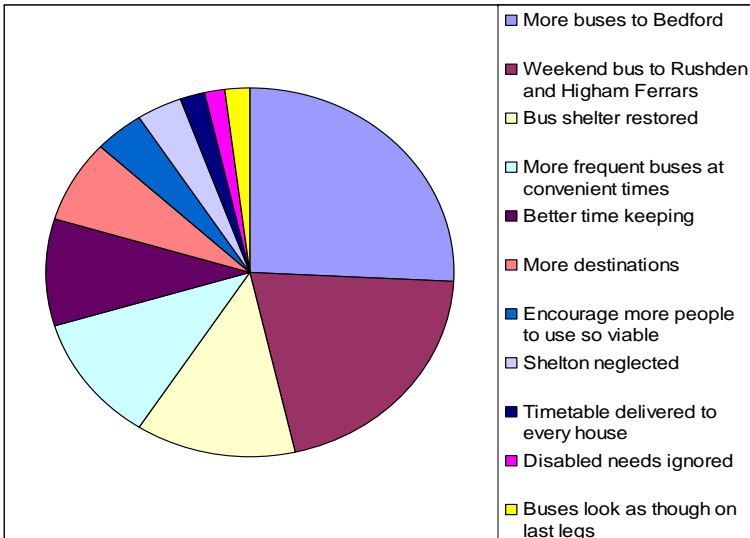


SECTION 2 – TRANSPORT

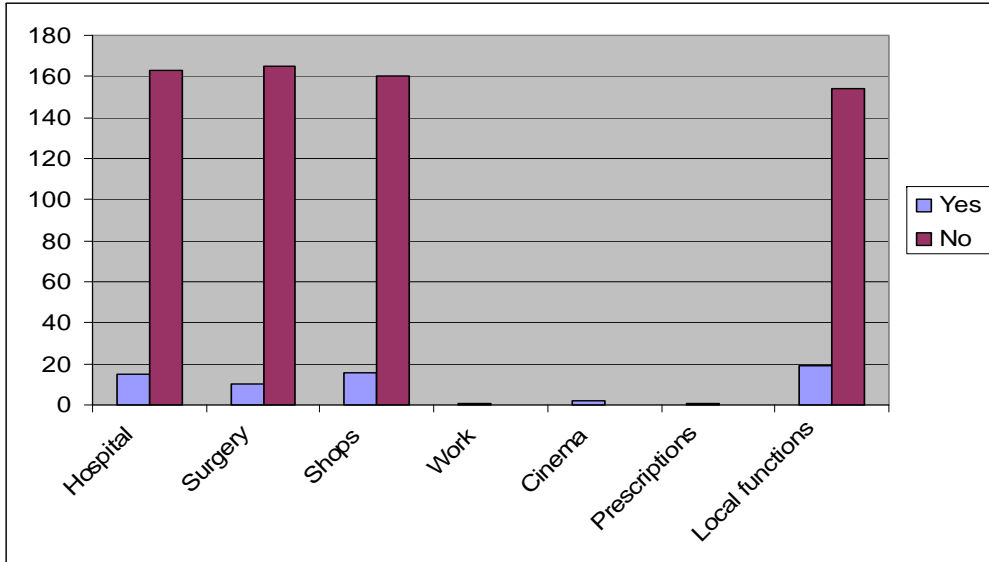
Do you make use of the local bus services?



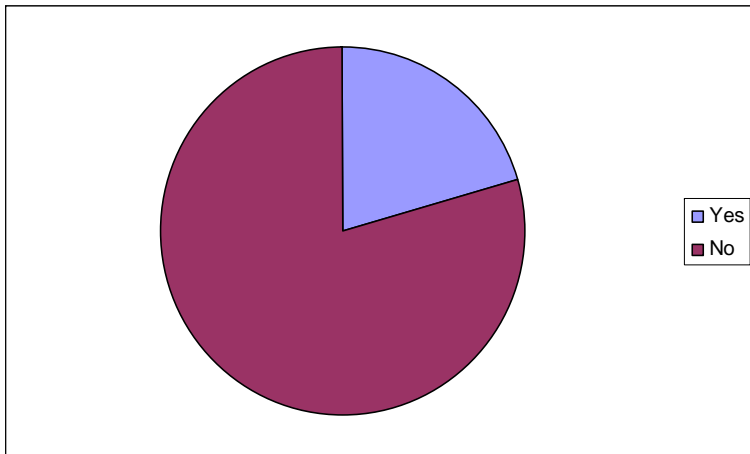
What improvements in the service would you like to see?

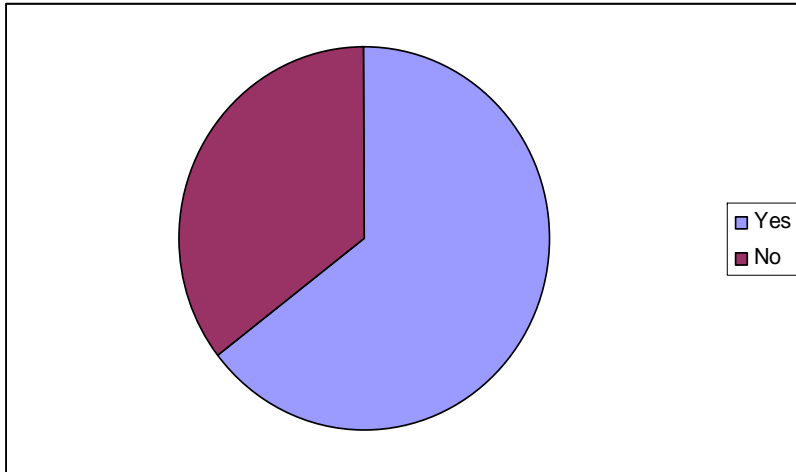


Do you have difficulty in arranging transport?

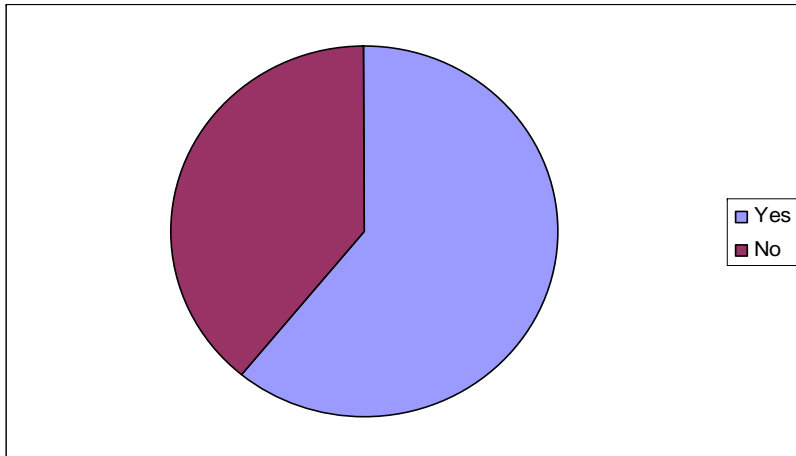


Do you find the lack of pavements/walkable verges a problem?

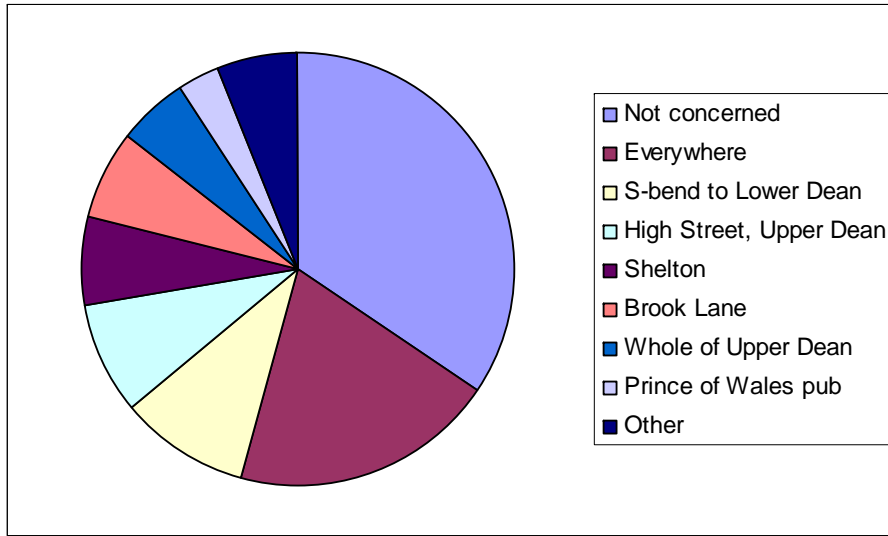


Are you concerned about any particular danger spot?

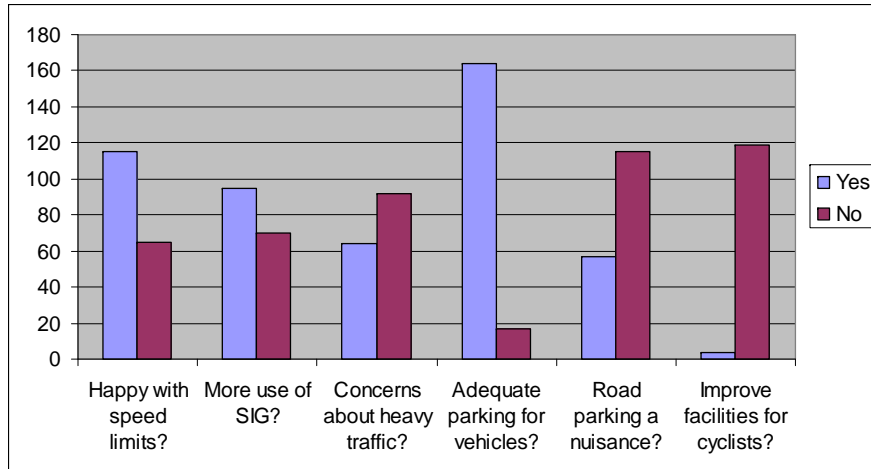
Where? Lower Dean junction, Brook Lane, Shay Lane/High Street junction, Bend by Dean Grange Farmhouse, B645 turning to Lower Dean, Children waiting for buses, High Street, Upper Dean, Cars outside the school, Road surface in Shelton, Village to Three Compasses, School buses are too big and too fast, Base of Shadbolt Hill, Church fence/subsidence, especially in the Dark, Street lighting needed, Crossing for school children needed, Lack of pavement between the Deans, Bull in field, Top Farm entrance.

Have you concerns about the maintenance of the road network?

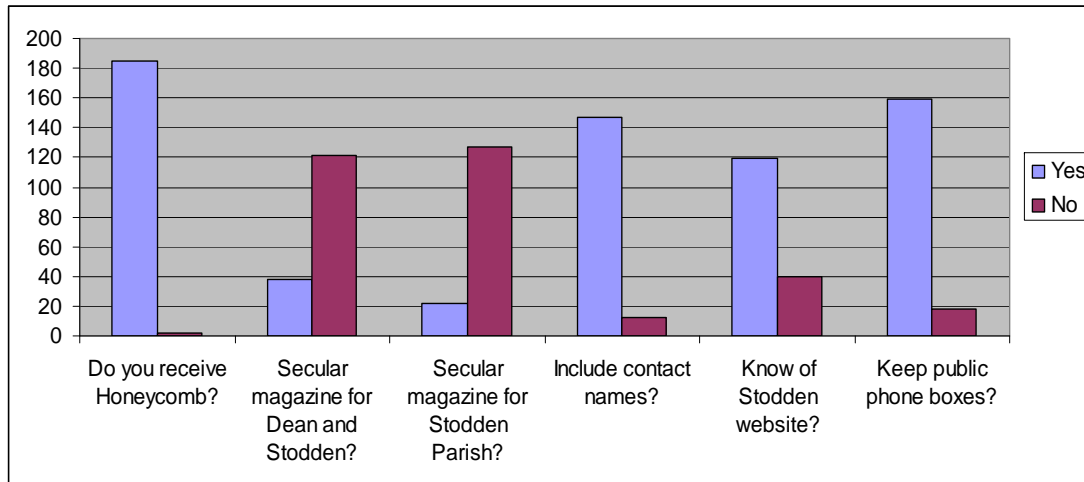
Are you concerned about speeding in certain areas?



Speed limits, traffic, car parking and cycling facilities.

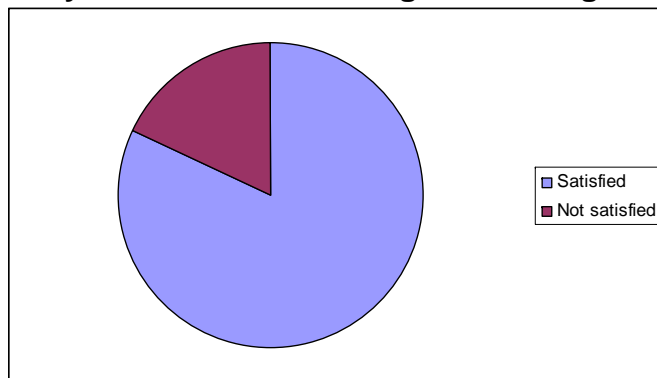


SECTION 3 - COMMUNICATIONS

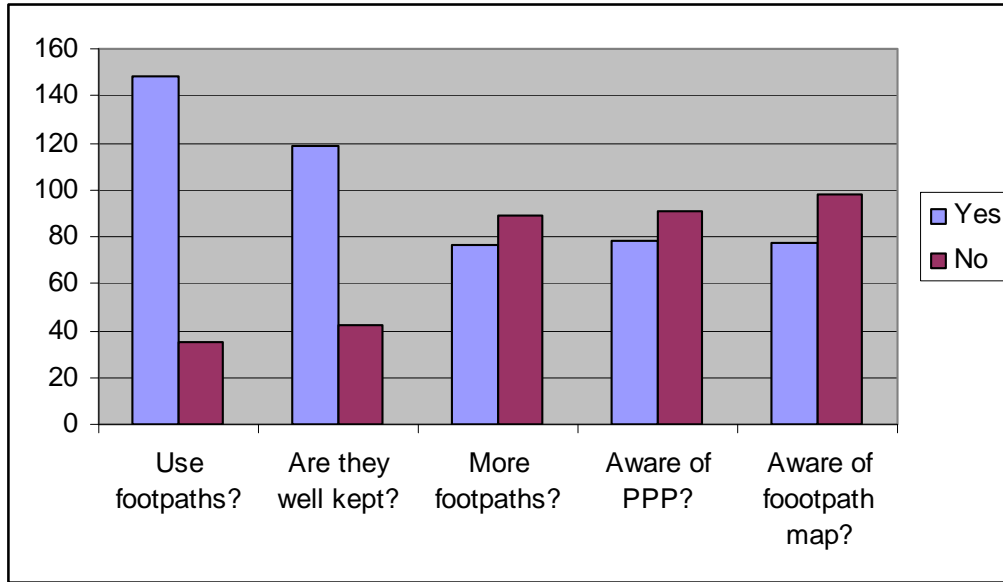


SECTION 4 ENVIRONMENT & COUNTRYSIDE

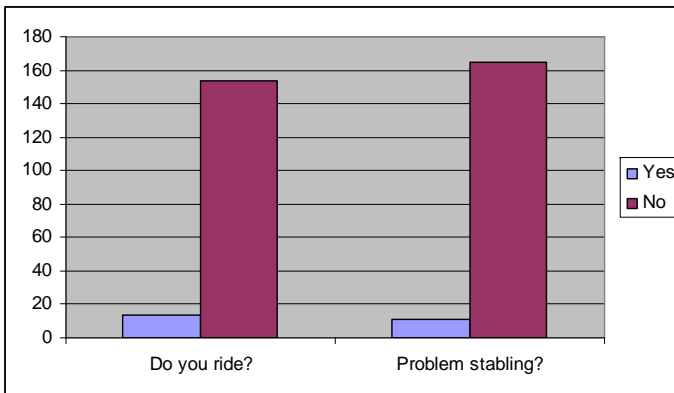
Are you satisfied with the grass cutting service?

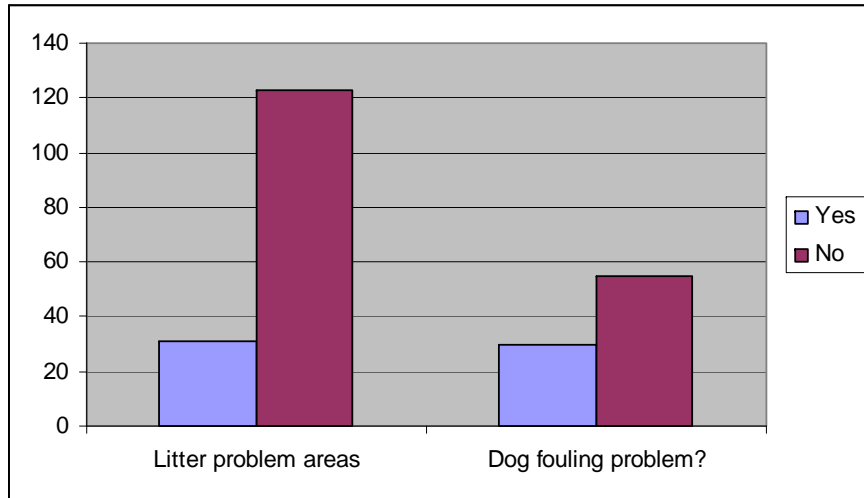
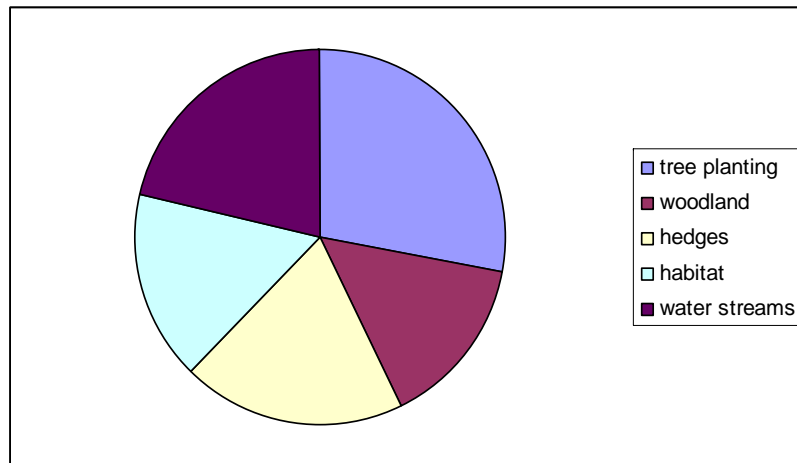


Footpaths

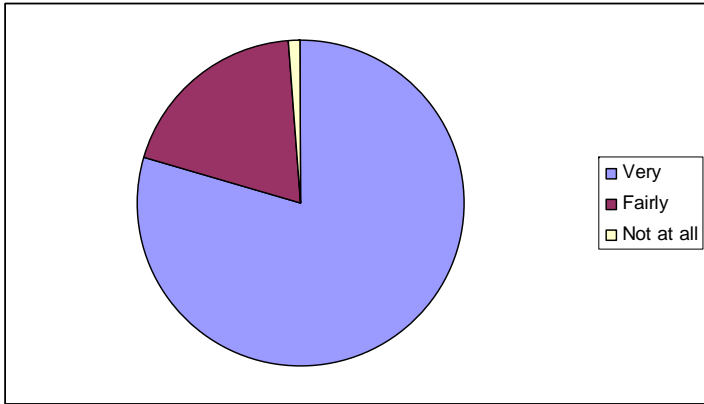


Horse-riding

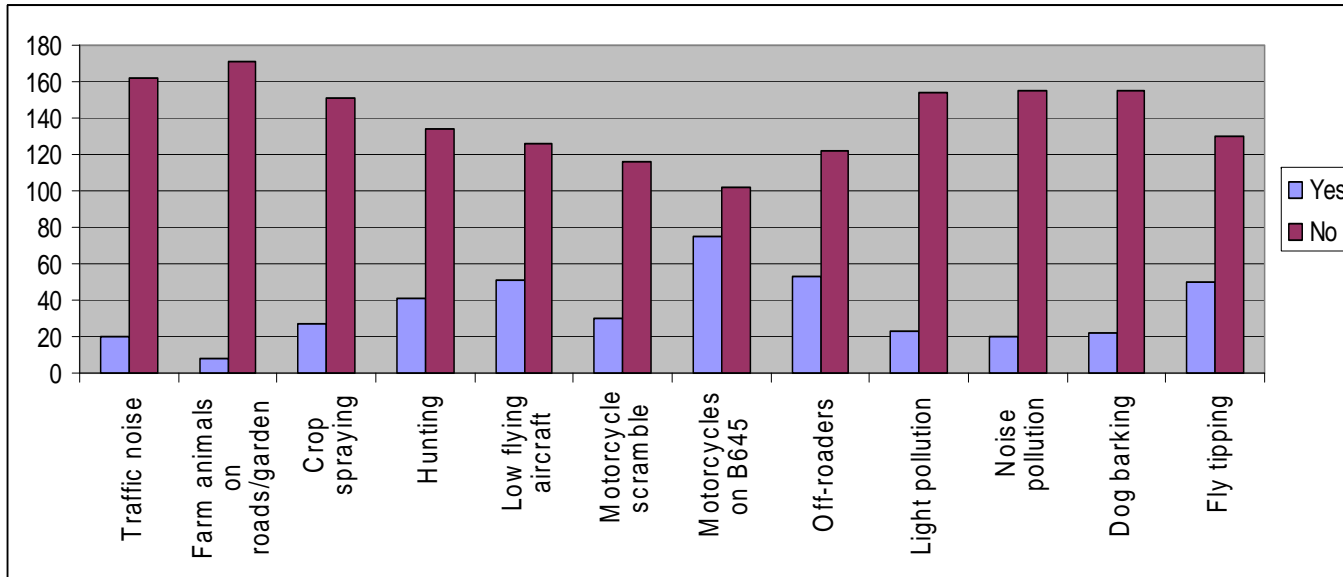


Litter**What do you think could be done to improve the environment of the villages?**

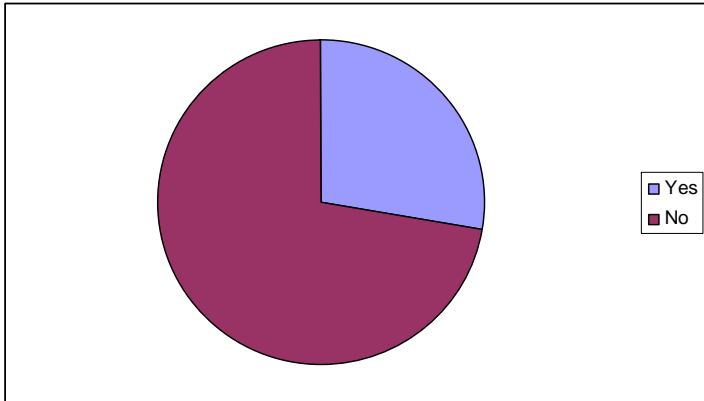
How important are wild plants, birds and animals to you?



Do you suffer from any disturbances?

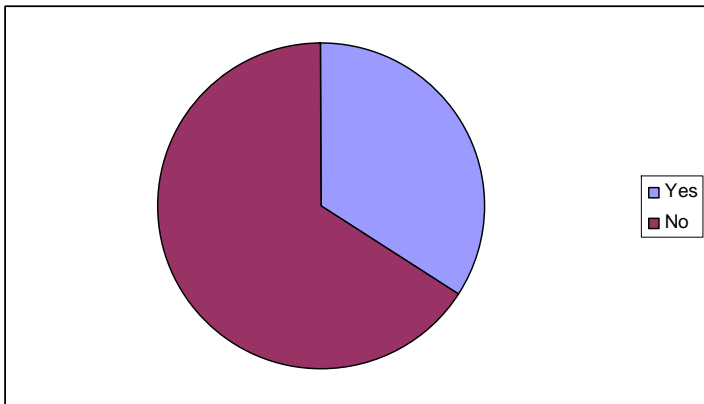


Do you have flooding problems arising from surface water or storm drainage?

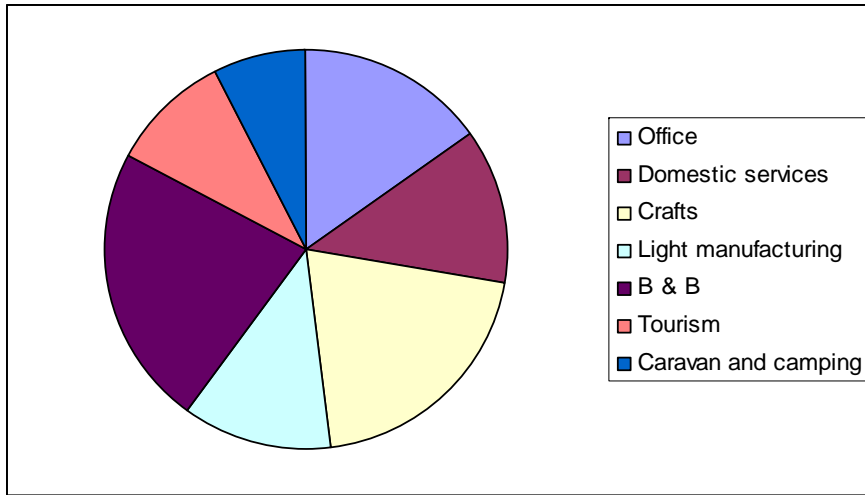


SECTION 5 EMPLOYMENT

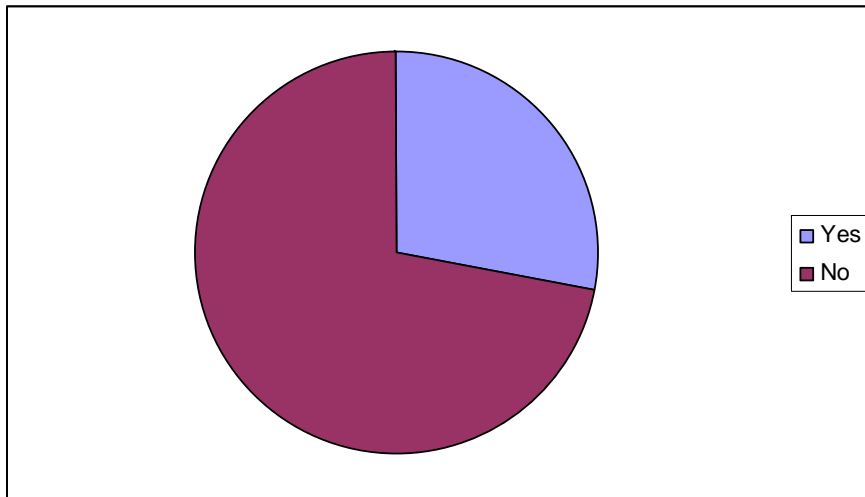
Would you welcome further business development within the village?



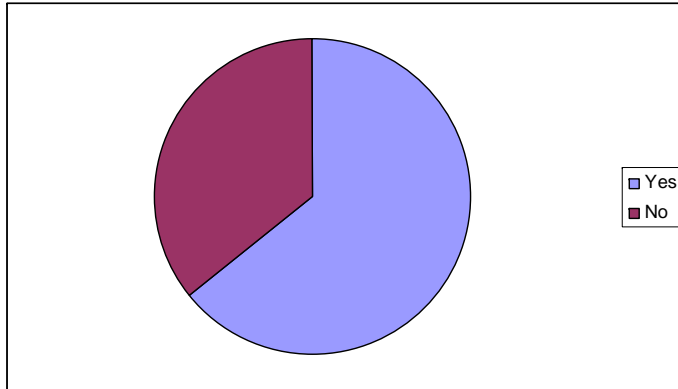
What type of business?



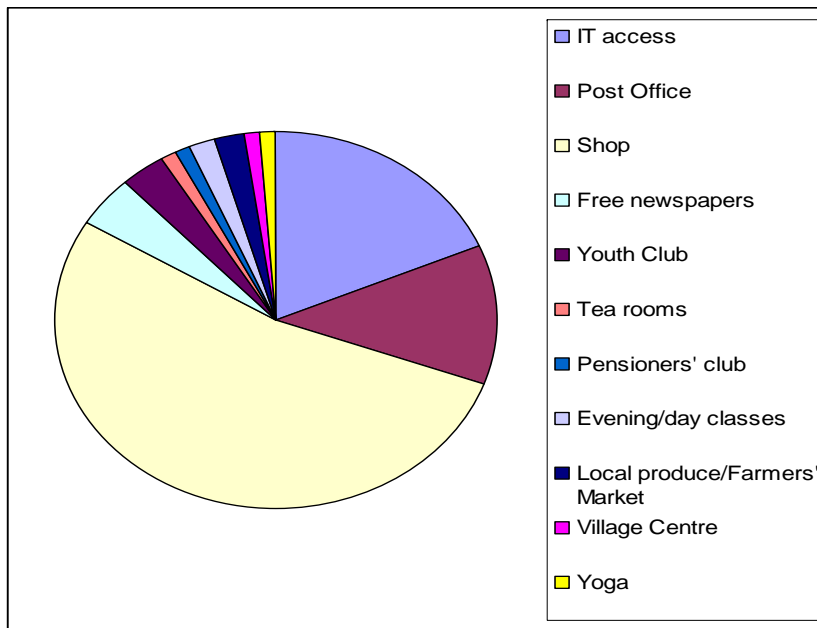
Do you feel the village infrastructure could support more business?



Would you like to see the public buildings used for community services?

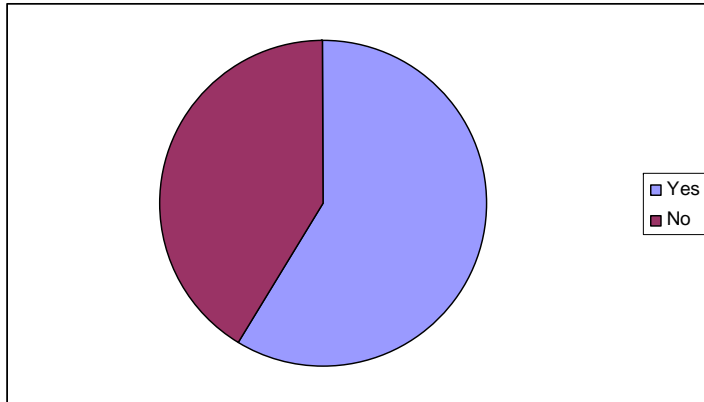


Uses for the Dalton Hall

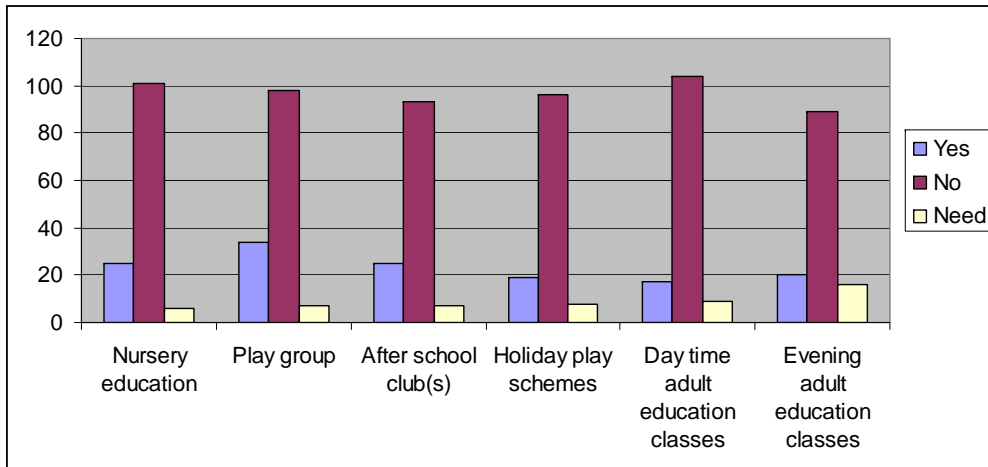


SECTION 6- EDUCATION

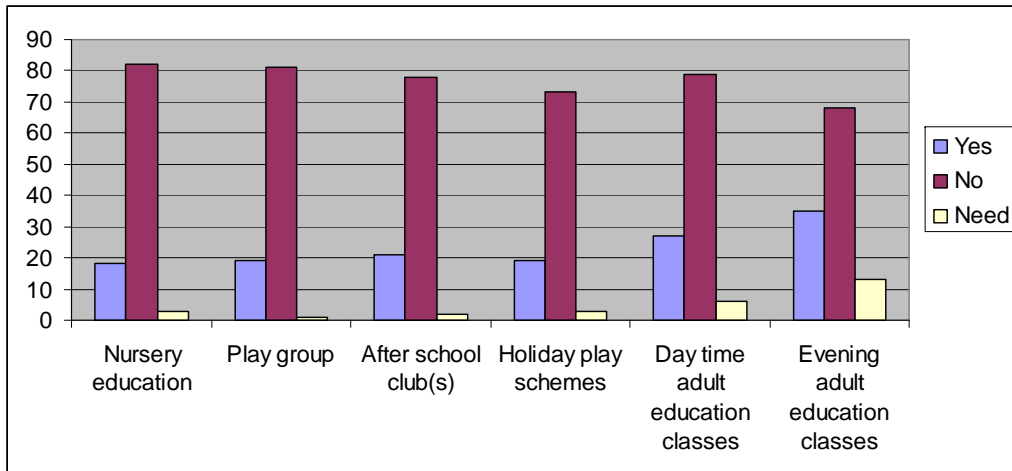
Do you see a need for a Youth Club and Youth work?



Does your household make use of, or feel the need for, the following in the village?

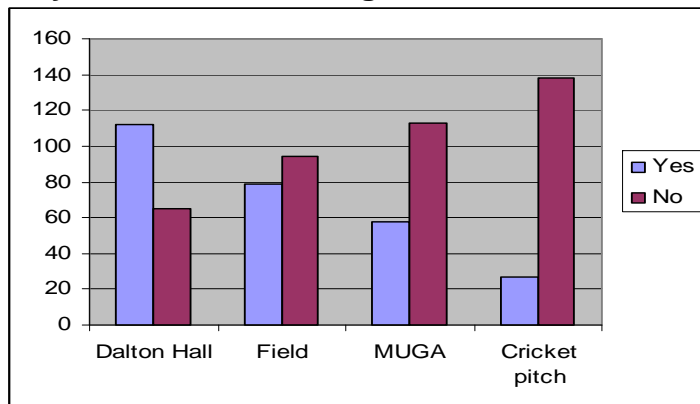


Does your household make use of, or feel the need for, the following within 5 miles of the village?

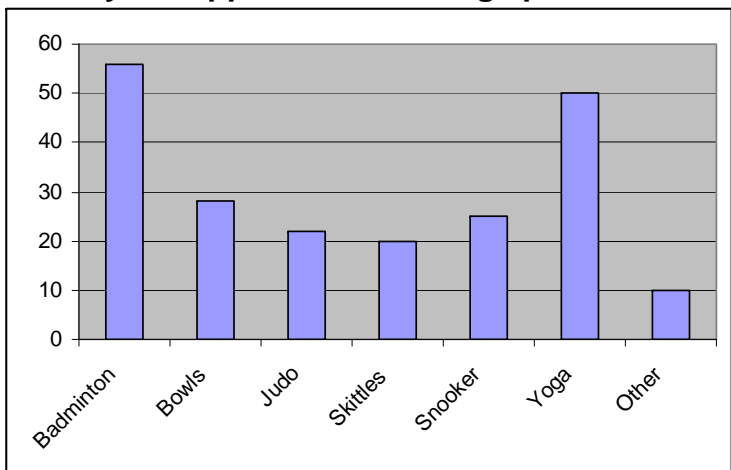


SECTION 7- SPORTS, SOCIAL & LEISURE

Do you use the following facilities?

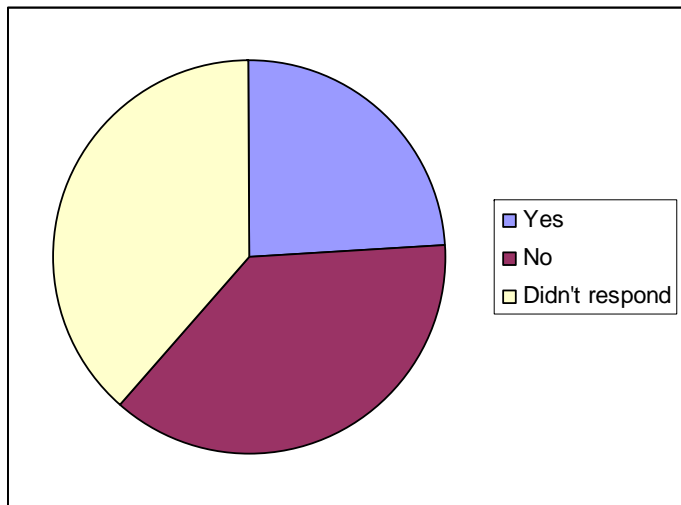


Would you support the following sports?



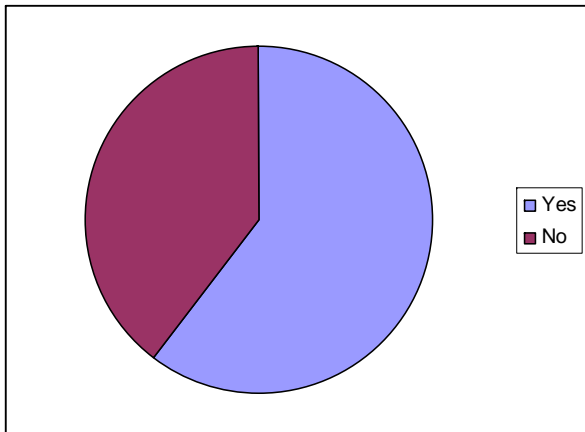
Other interest: table tennis, karate, darts, ménage, equestrian club, art club and life drawing.

Do you feel there are other facilities that are missing?



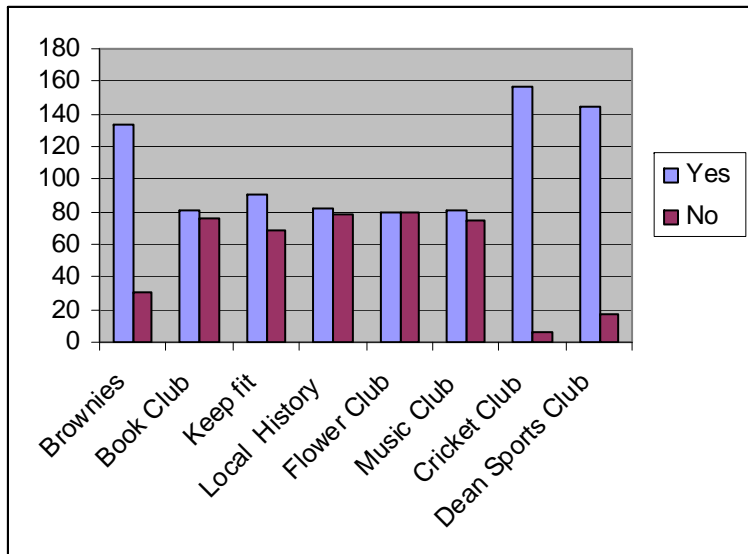
Clean toilets (2), modern kitchen (4), better basketball hoops, better access to toilets, monthly bar/social (2), table tennis/darts board (2), raised stage (5), scrabble, community storage (7), period board games evening, more skateboarding (2), Youth Club, separate room, storage and toilets for Grasshoppers, bar (2), swimming pool (3), Jacuzzi, sports centre, discos, BBQs, horse club, sound system, litter bins, events for older people, more fundraising events, football (5-a-side and normal - 6), film nights and bar, disabled parking close to the door, small meeting room, card games/lessons, any for those who are less well off, IT facilities, gym/circuit training, stocks(!), cricket nets, cycle/rollerblade/skateboard track, after school club, BMX track (2), keep fit, older people's facilities, comfy chairs, squash court, evening craft classes, play area improvements (wood edging dangerous) (2), evening aerobics, shop, rugby pitch, running track, floodlights

Would you like to see more facilities for young people?



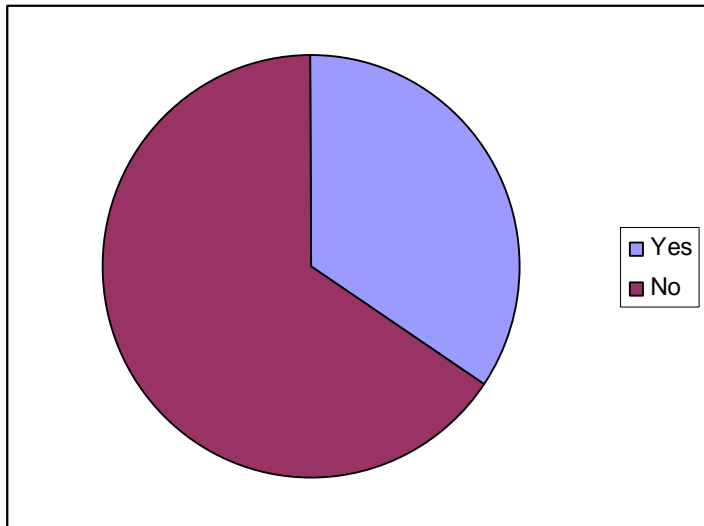
Suggestions included skate ramp(14), socials, Youth Club (18), games, football club (8), work(!), gym, clubs (2), probably would rather go into town (2), badminton (2), snack bar, karaoke, ask them, café club, activities in Dalton Hall, anything for young adults, wider range of sports facilities, skittles, dance lessons, pool table, cricket nets, archery, use of hall for band practice (2), chill out space, bike track, table tennis, photography, bird watching, sports, clubs, beavers, cubs, rugby posts (2), stage for music, BMX ramp.

Are you aware of the following clubs?

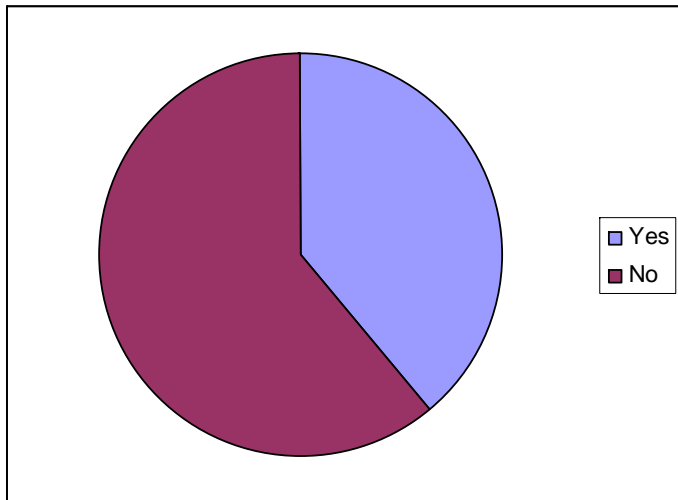


Other clubs people mentioned included Karate (Margaret Beaufort School), Army Cadets (Sharnbrook), Grasshoppers, PPP for walks, Rifle Club (Kimbolton School), Riverside Runners (St Neots), Kimbolton Rotary, yoga and pilates, Spanish, football (all in Kimbolton), TGI Sunday, rugby (Huntingdon), Flower Show committee, Mums and Tots, tennis.

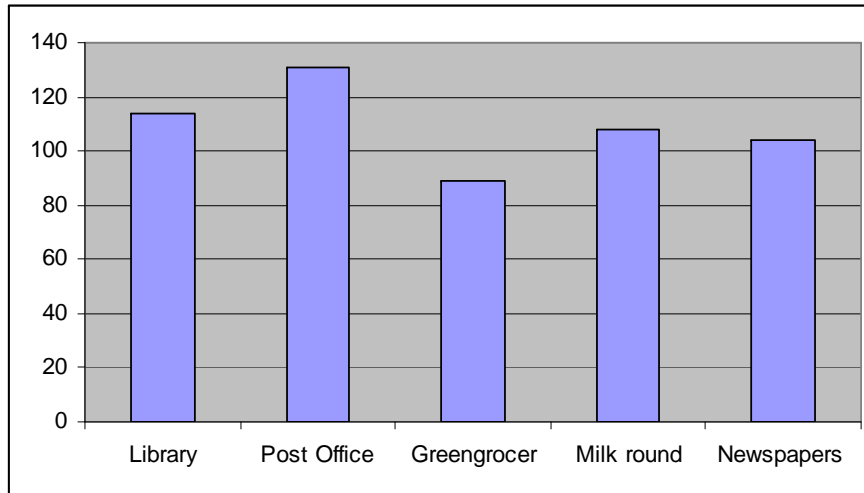
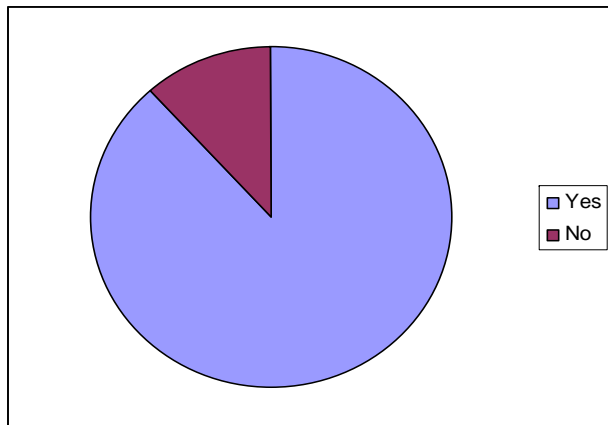
Did you respond to the DSSA questionnaire?



Are there other events you would like to see?

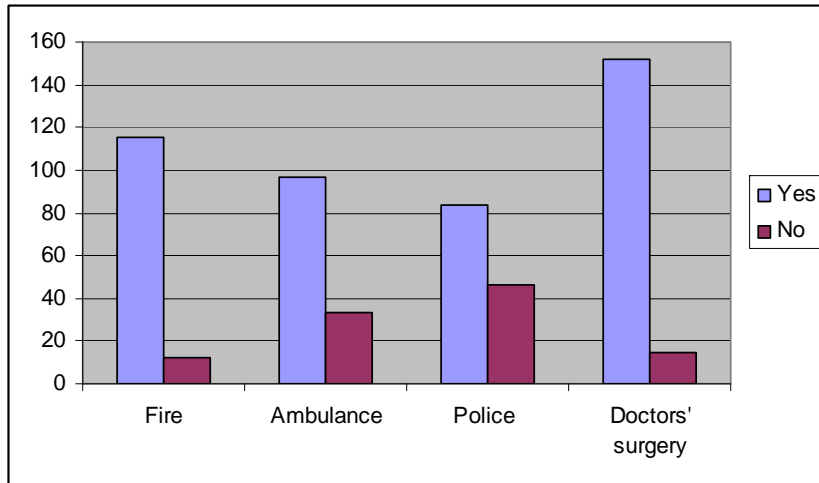


Suggestions included: village fete (10), flower show combined with a village fete (3), any (2), Christmas craft show, BBQs (2), scarecrow festival, film nights, discos, fundraising (s), younger residents to organise, Burns Night, sports day, rock concert by Snarling Beasties, village day, DSSA should sponsor the Art Show and Flower Show, free ones, summer ball (3), Flower Show as it is fine, any community event but this needs volunteers, village bike race, jumble sale, car boot (2), antique fair, winter events, something for pensioners (2), DSSA committee – lots of ideas, Christmas fair, cricket match at the Flower Show, more sports, family bowling, coach outings, Shakespeare at the George, Hampton Court Flower Show.

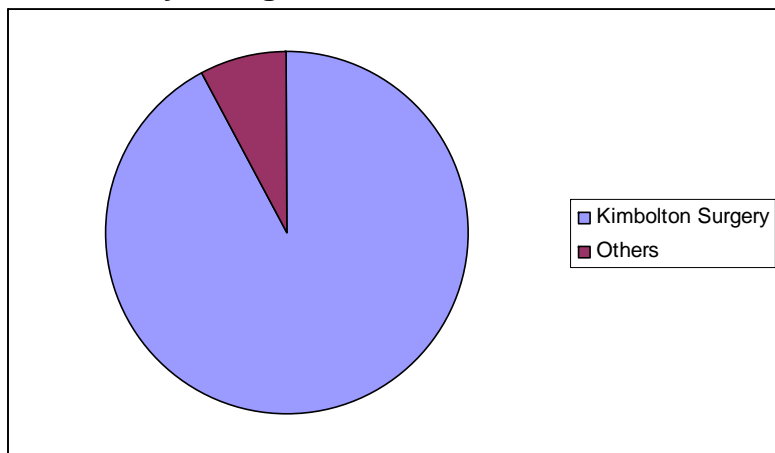
SECTION 8-RETAIL OUTLETS & SERVICES**Do you feel the Parish Council should lobby to keep services?****Do you value having a Post Office in the parish?**

SECTION 9 –HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

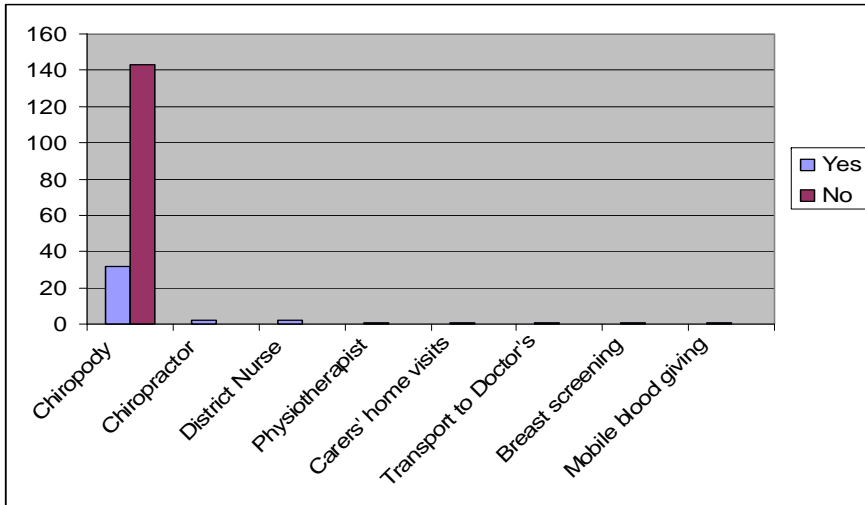
Are you satisfied with the following services?



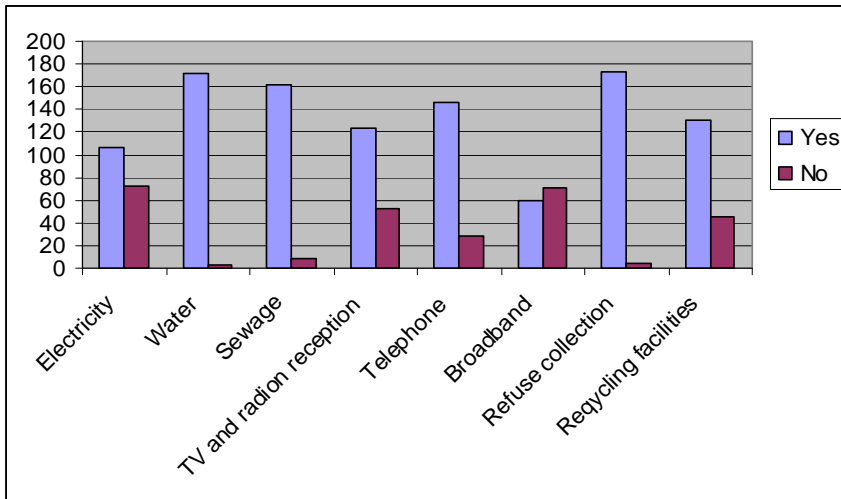
Where are you registered?



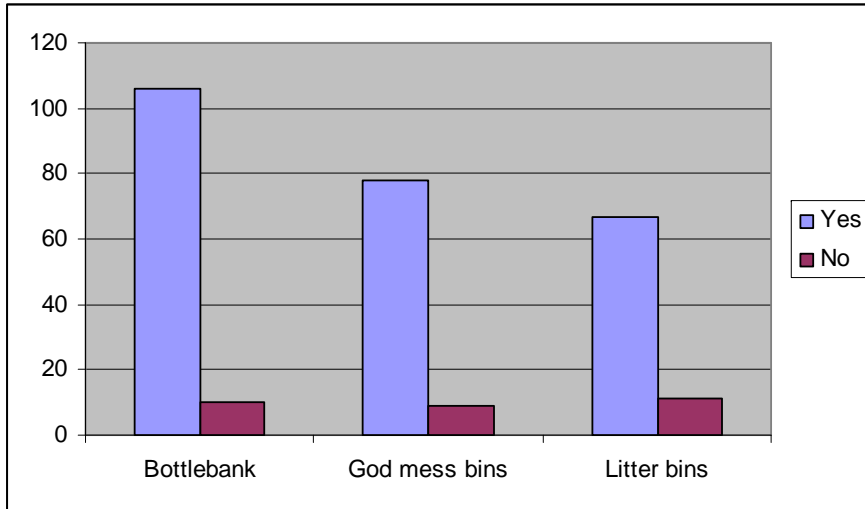
Do you have a need for other medical services?



Are you satisfied with the following services

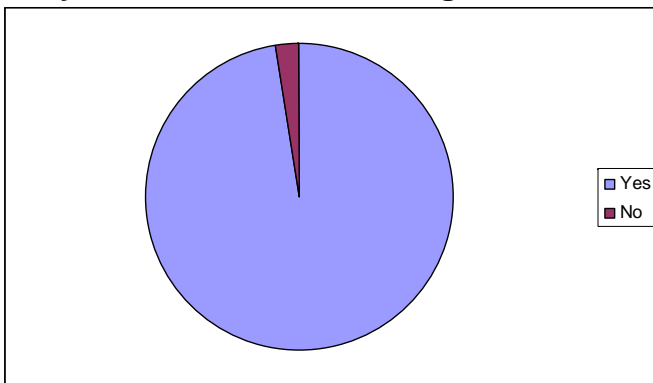


Do you see a need within our villages for any of the following?



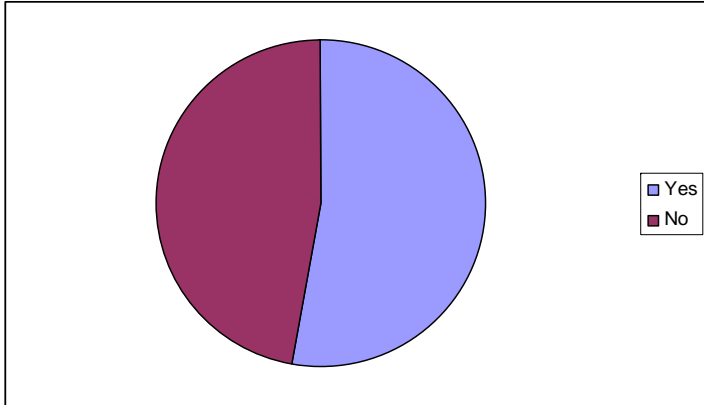
SECTION 10 -RELIGION

Are you satisfied with existing facilities for religious practices?

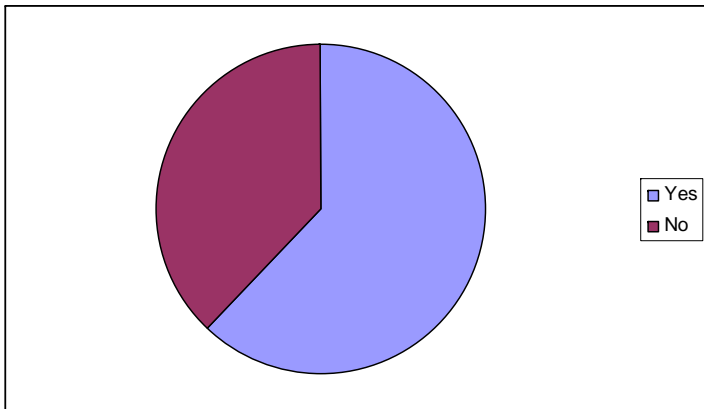


SECTION 11- ELECTORIAL LOCAL AUTHORITIES

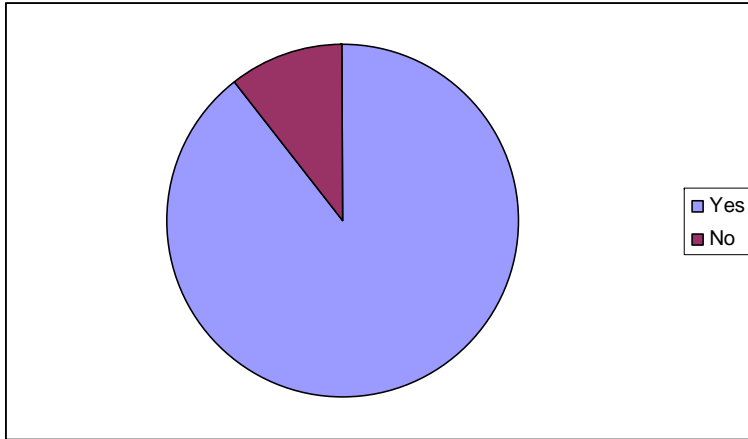
Are you aware which local authority is responsible for which community service?



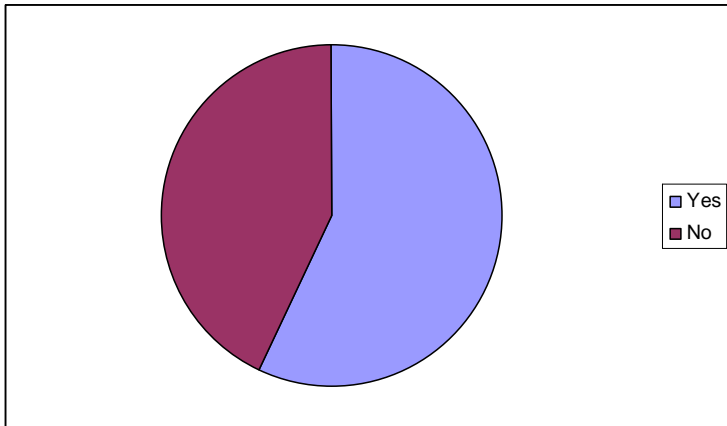
Would you be happy for the Parish Council to raise its Precept?



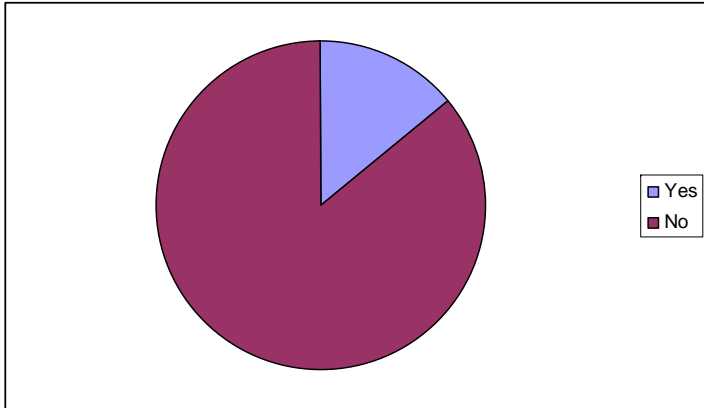
Would you put a limit on how much?



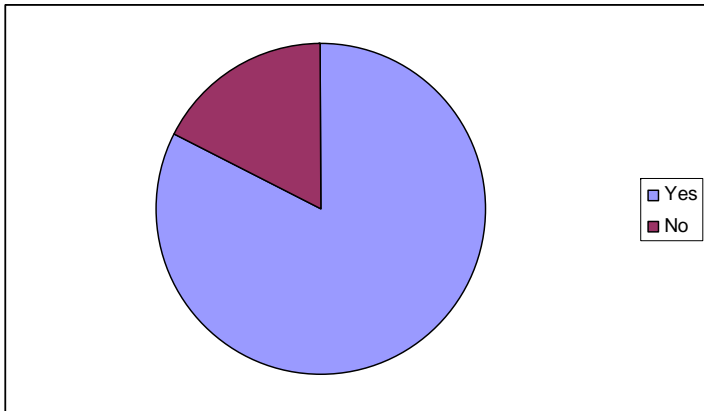
Would you be prepared to help reactivate the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme?

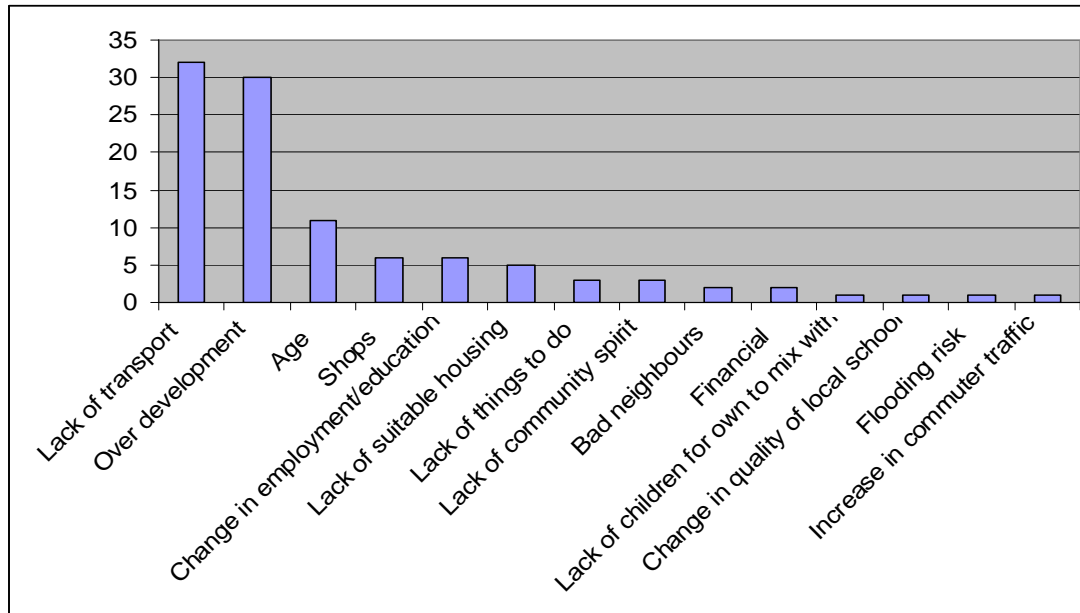


Would you consider standing for the Parish Council?



Do you know how to make your concerns known to the Parish Council?



What circumstances would make you move from the village?

SECTION 12-THE WAY FORWARD

What are the three most important issues to be addressed by the Parish Plan?

ISSUE	REPLIES
Maintain/improve social/leisure facilities, build community spirit	50
Preserving village life	27
Development planning (mainly limit)	22
Speeding and road safety, including maintenance	18
Improve the environment/energy/waste management	18
Transport provision	15
Provide (mainly affordable) housing	13
Maintain hedges, footpaths and verges	13
Flooding	11
Improve/maintain pub, shops, PO and bus shelter	9
Improve utilities	6
Address noise problems	5
Security	4
Problems with spraying/hunting/shooting	4
Mobile services	4
Street lighting	4
Prioritisation and deliver	3
Help/facilities for the elderly	3
Dog mess	3
Develop or support local businesses	2
Nursery	1
Expenditure control	1

