

# Sampford Peverell Parish Plan

THE SAMPFORD PEVERELL PARISH PLAN is derived from a community survey conducted in 2008-2009, comprising some 50 questions on four main areas considered by the task force to be of particular interest to local residents; and an additional section addressed specifically to local businesses.









# Parish Planning – what's it all about?

Parish Planning is a government-sponsored initiative encouraging consultation with members of smaller communities on subjects considered likely to be of local interest. The consultation is generally via a questionnaire focussing on those issues and extending to more general topics such as community services, crime, environment, planning and the like.

Where there is a substantial response on particular topics, those items can then be incorporated into a plan which seeks to improve the local situation by identifying specific actions, with timescales and success criteria, so that progress can be periodically monitored, once the final plan has been published.

## Introduction

Sampford Peverell ('A sandy ford on land owned by the Peverell family' – the name derives from gifts of land made to invading French families after the Norman conquest) is a rural community of some 5000 hectares, lying largely to the West of the M5 motorway at junction 27: the parish is bisected by the A361 North Devon Link Road and by the Grand Western Canal. This latter is the only surviving navigable remnant of a scheme intended (but never completed) to link the Bristol and English Channels, and gives a distinctive character to the area, being the longest navigable man-made inland waterway in the South West peninsula.

At the 2001 National Population Census, the population was reported to number 1225 inhabitants, but housing developments since the survey have probably increased that figure. A further Census is due soon, but the results may not be published for some time thereafter.

For the purposes of this exercise, Tiverton Parkway rail station and M5 junction 27, both of which technically lie just outside the boundary, have been included in our deliberations, where it seemed sensible to do so.

## The findings

The results of the questionnaire were double counted by the Parish Plan Group Members and entered into an Excel Spreadsheet.

In excess of 700 individuals over the age of 11 gave their views on the questions asked.

For questions requiring ticks in boxes the percentages were calculated based on this total.

For those questions that asked for an opinion, percentages were calculated of those opinions, based on the total number of people who expressed an opinion.

Any questions relating to families used the number of households that had replied, to calculate the percentages.

## Sections

People and Community

Businesses

Transport and Communications

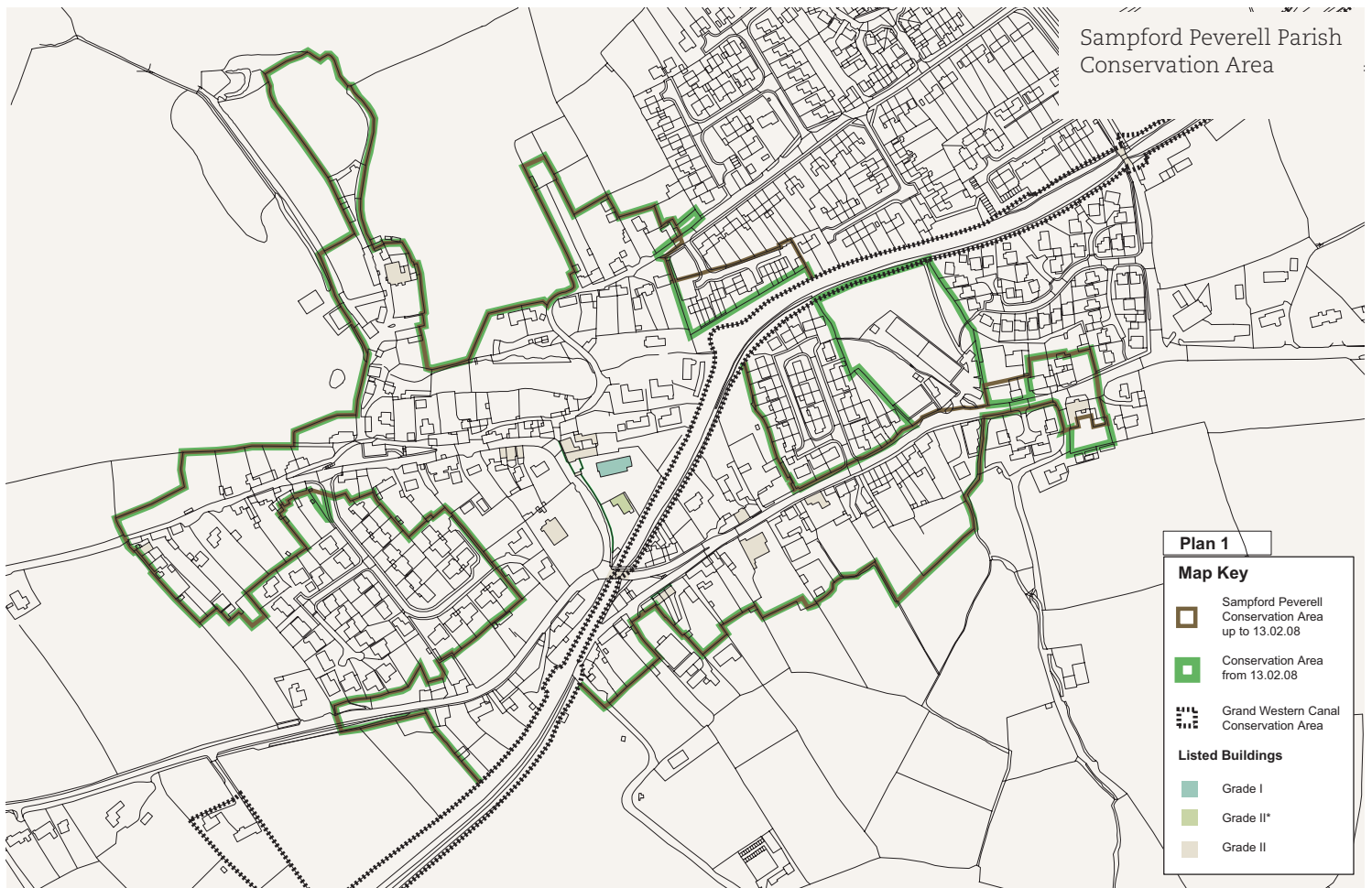
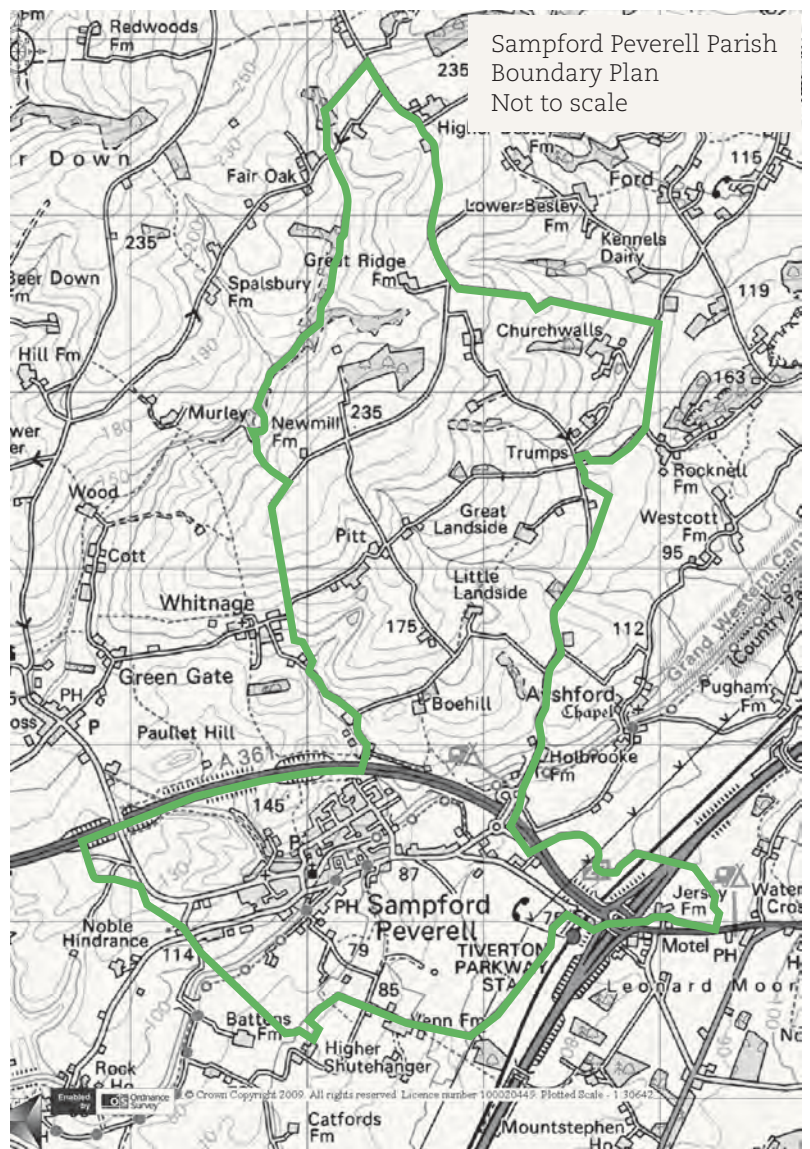
Building and Planning

Environment

Appendices

Additional comments

Acknowledgments



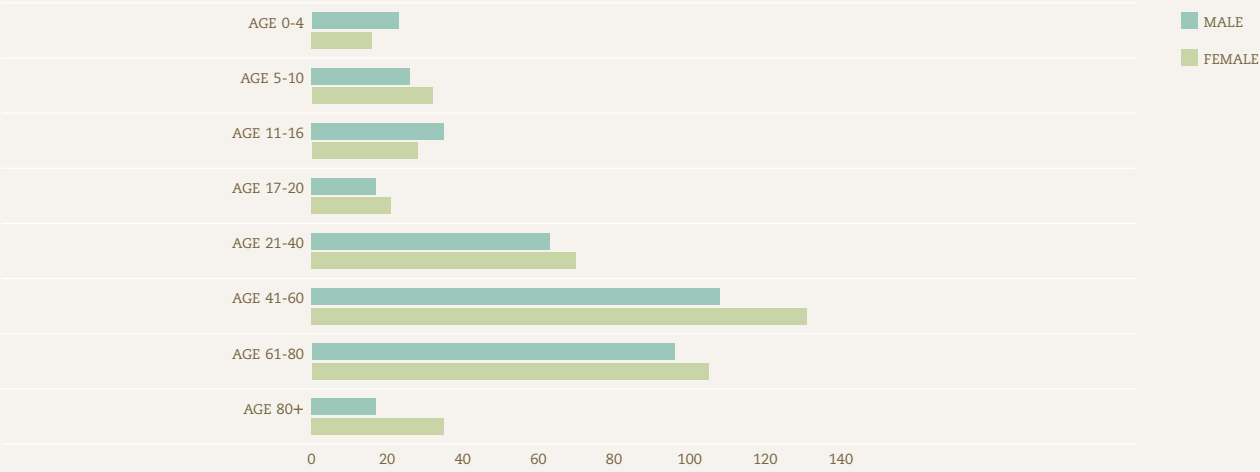
# People and Community

## The number of people living in the parish

Of those households who completed the questionnaire 325 live within the village and 27 in outlying areas.

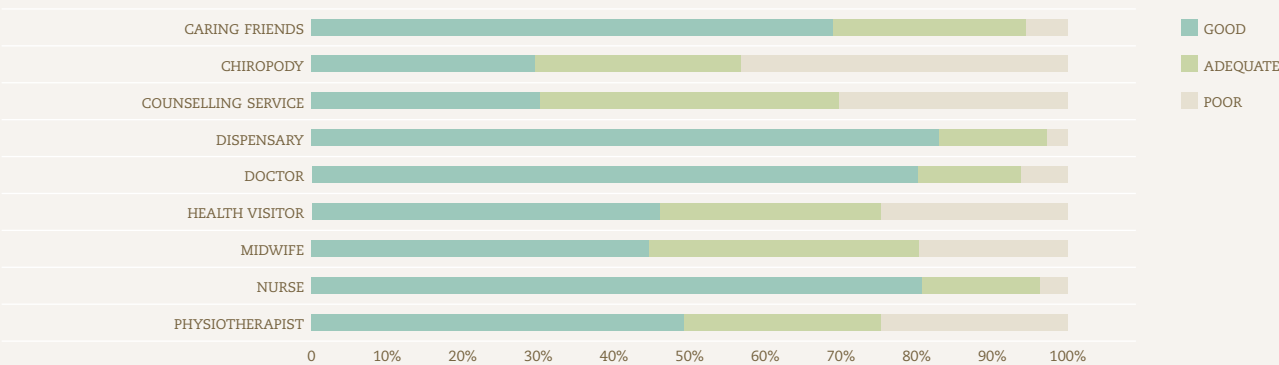
This number is 79% of the total number of households in the parish.

### Age profiles in respondent households



## Services available at Sampford Peverell Surgery

Services were rated as follows



Sampford Peverell is fortunate to have its own surgery and dispensary with access to counselling and physiotherapy provided on a referral basis and chiropody organised by Tiverton Hospital.

Overall the services available at the surgery were highly rated: in particular the doctors, nurses and dispensary. In addition the Caring Friends provide a valuable voluntary service.

About 20% of households who responded are registered with other surgeries.

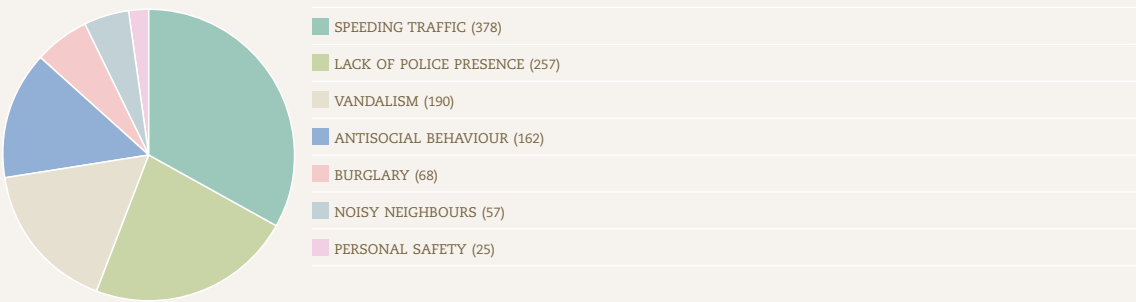
A number of people indicated that they would appreciate access to alternative therapies such as homeopathy and acupuncture and some out of hours service provision.

### Recommendation

Extend range of services and hours of provision.

Law and order concerns

Number of responses



Speeding traffic is of greatest concern throughout the village, particularly in Higher Town, followed by Lower Town/Turnpike and Boobery.

A quarter of respondents are concerned about antisocial behaviour and vandalism and a third are worried about the lack of Police presence.

Recommendations

- 1) Implement traffic speed control measures.
- 2) Request increased Police presence, at appropriate times.

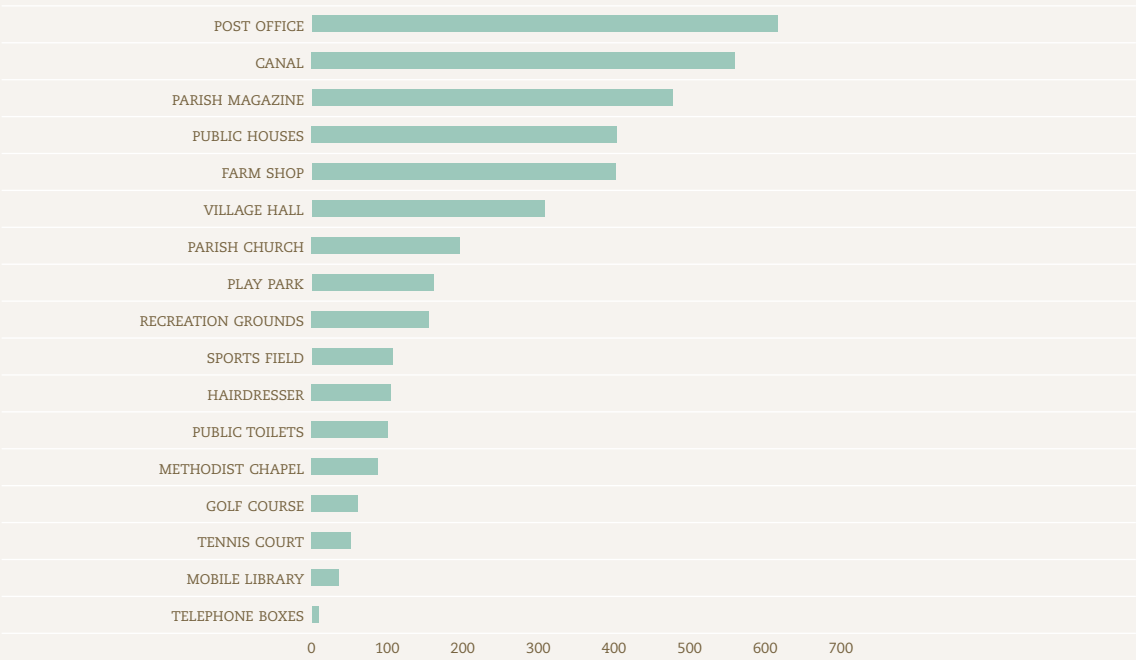
Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch

Replies reflected a general lack of knowledge of any Neighbourhood Watch Schemes but indicated an interest to be involved.

Recommendation

Develop more proactive Neighbourhood and Farm Watch.

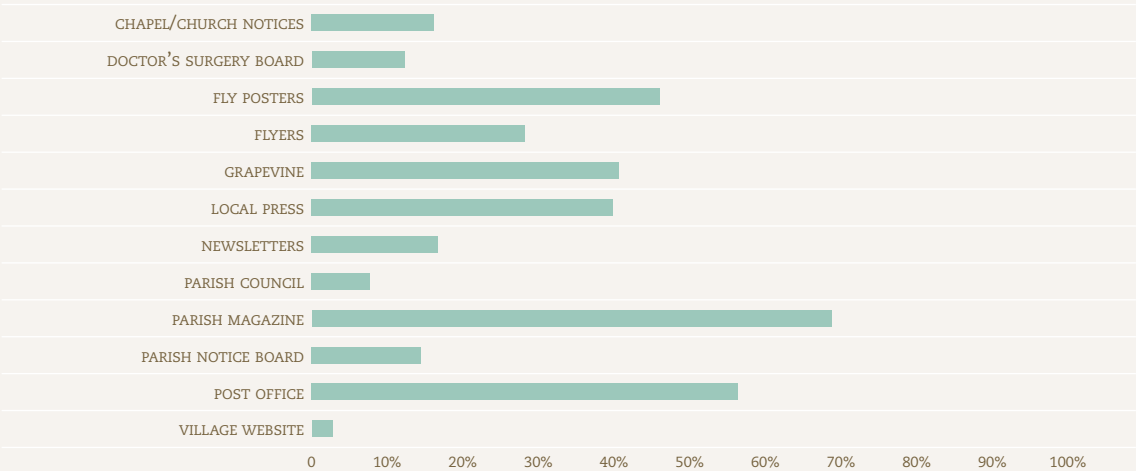
Services used in the village from September to December 2008



Recommendation

Continue to encourage use of community services which might otherwise be threatened with closure – for example the shops and the Mobile Library.

Information sources for parish activities, events and services



It is evident that without the Post Office and Parish Magazine the village would be at a loss!  
Unfortunately the village website appears underused.

**Recommendation**  
Encourage further development and use of the village website.

Participation in activities within the village

These are the activities we enjoy:

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
Aerobics	7	Mothers' Union	15
Bell Ringing	15	Pool	17
Charitable events/organisations	152	PTFA	33
CHUFFS	9	Royal British Legion	36
Church Choir	10	Sampford Peverell Society	67
Community Players	24	Sampford Singers	35
Cricket	42	Senior Citizens	35
Cycling	95	Skittles	37
Fishing	15	Tap Dancing	8
Football	36	Tennis Club	30
Gardening Club	30	Traidcraft/Charity Luncheon	68
Golf	39	Twinning Association	34
Hiking Group	22	Walking Groups	30
Jazz Dance	3	Yoga	7
Knitting Circle	14	Youth Club	16
Ladies' Group	11		

What a busy village!  
Many other activities were suggested.  
Please see Appendix 1.



# People and Community continued

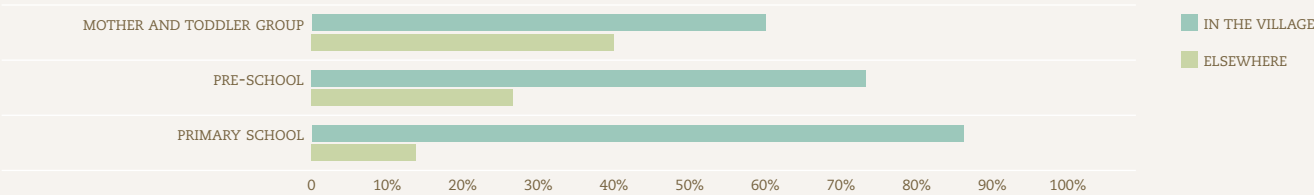
## Issues which prevent people taking part in village activities

From responses received 216 people said they were too busy to take part in village activities. Some respondents indicated that insufficient information was available. Fortunately transport is generally not an issue. A few respondents said they didn't feel sufficiently welcomed.

### Recommendation

Improve publicity for all parish activities and encourage and welcome new members.

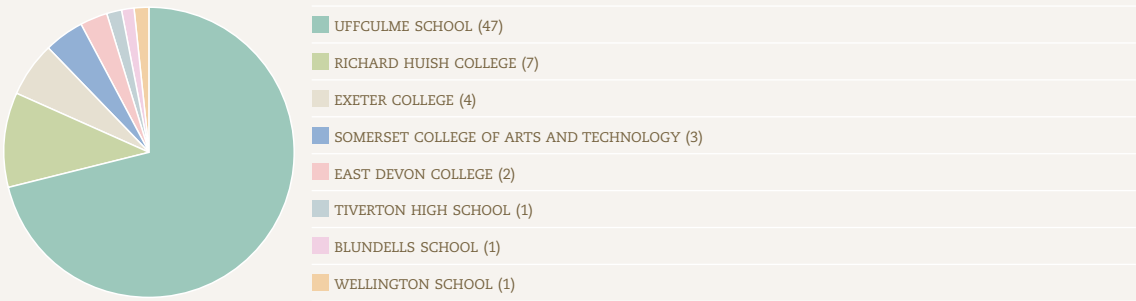
## Children attending Toddler Group, Pre-School and Primary School



Most local children attend the village Primary School. Fewer local children attend Pre-School or Mother and Toddler Group within the village. Parents who take their children out of the village do so for a variety of reasons. A number of children were unable to attend the parish Primary School because there were no places available at the time of the questionnaire.

## Children attending Secondary and Further Education

Number of children



## Adult Education within the village

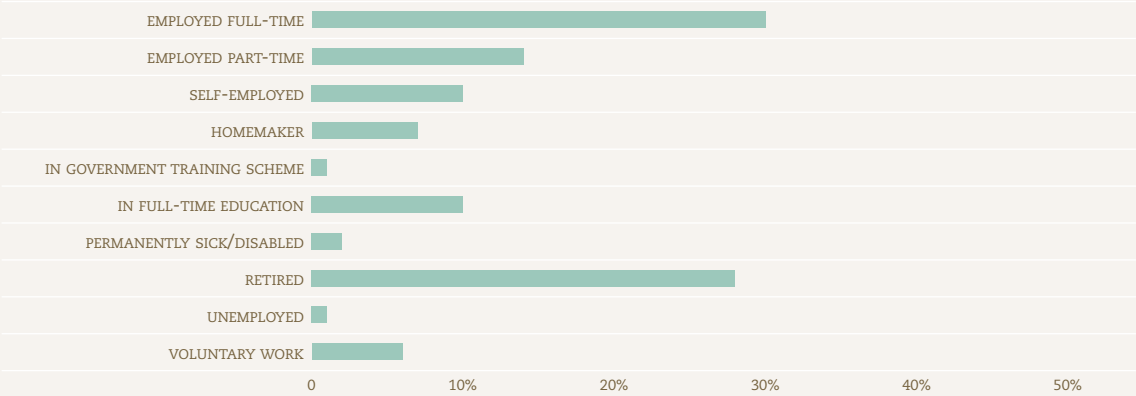
A third of respondents would be interested in taking part in adult education in the village. A variety of subjects were suggested, including 32 for IT and 20 for languages. Please see Appendix 2.

### Recommendation

Invite the Local Education Authority to provide some further adult education courses within the village.

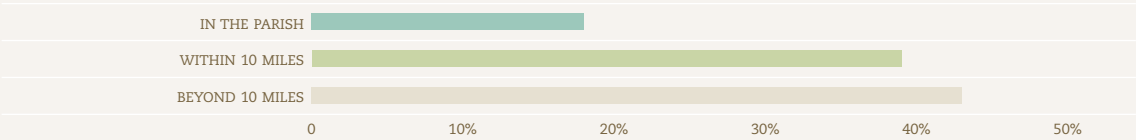


Respondent's occupations



Of the total respondents approximately 54% are in employment and 28% are retired.

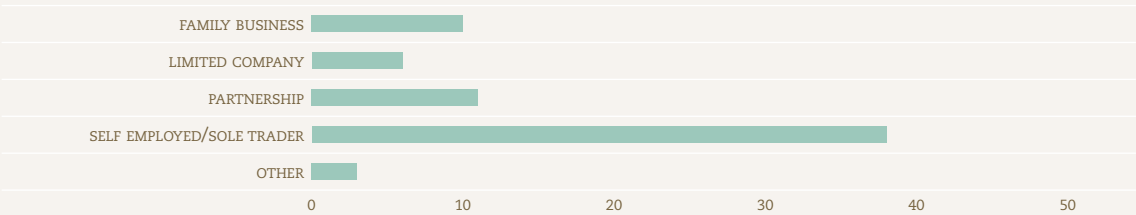
Place of work or full time education



# Businesses

68 Businesses replied to the Business Questionnaire.

## Type of business



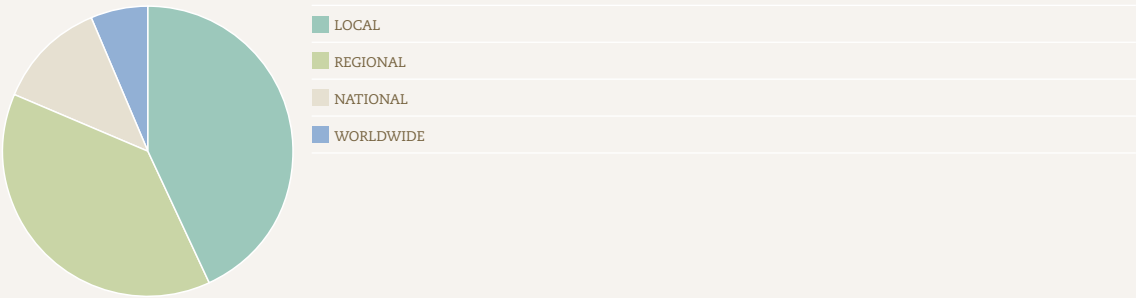
## The number of people employed in the above businesses



## Category of business

Agriculture	11
Trades allied to agriculture	3
Building/construction	13
Carpentry	5
Childcare	2
Domestic services	4
Electrical services	2
Financial and business support: computer consultancy	1
Hotels and catering /tourism	3
Landscaping/gardening/countryside services	4
Manufacture of other goods	2
Painting and decorating	3
Plumbing	4
Professional services: lawyer/accountant/estate agent	2
Wholesale and retail trade/repairs	3
Other	19

## Markets served by parish businesses





# Transport

## Views on private vehicles

There was significant interest in car sharing – any one interested should contact [www.carsharedevon.com](http://www.carsharedevon.com) for information – telephone: 08700 11 11 99.

## Public transport

Fewer than 105 respondents use any form of public transport more than once a week.

The principal reason given was that services were too limited.

### Recommendation

Results of survey to be given to bus and train operators.

## Local bus service

There was limited interest in the local bus service even if the service was improved.

## Lighting along the station road

Two thirds of respondents felt that safety in the station road would be improved by street lighting.

### Recommendation

Bring to the attention of Sampford Peverell Parish Council.

## Secure cycle racks at station

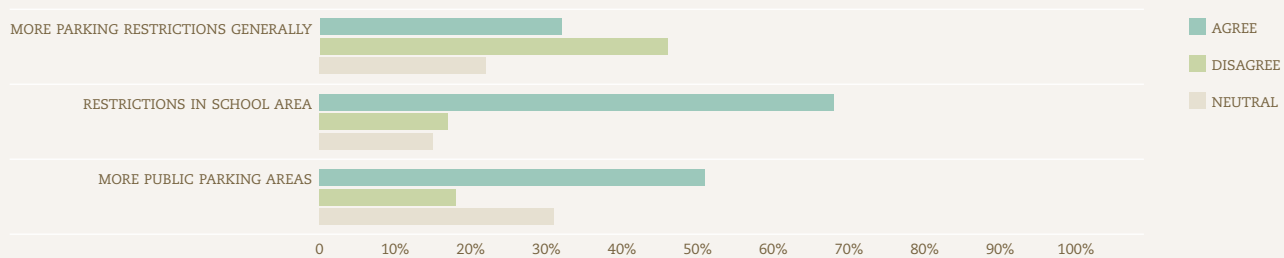
249 respondents said they would be interested in secure cycle racks at the station.

### Recommendation

Advise Station Operator.

## Parking issues

### Responses to parking issues



Outside the School, adjacent to the Whitnage Road Sports Field, and near the Chains Road/Lower Town Road junction are seen as major parking problem areas – suggestions were made for the introduction of parking restrictions in these locations.

## Lower Town Public Car Park

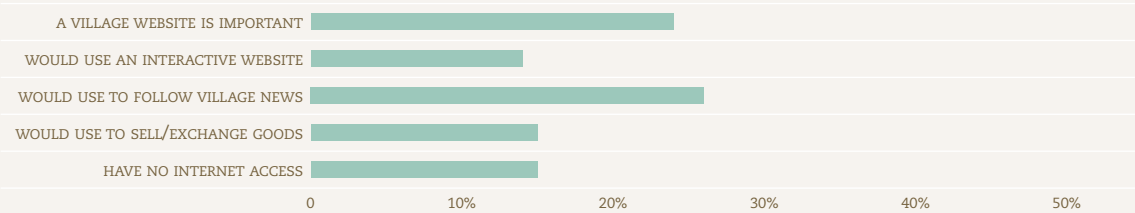
Majority of respondents felt the Lower Town Car Park was adequate.

## Parish Highways

The speed of traffic is the prime concern of the residents within the parish with suggestions of much lower speed limits or traffic calming measures.

Village website

Views on/use of village website



Parish Magazine

Two thirds of respondents felt that the Parish Magazine was an adequate source of local information.

Mobile phones

Only 3% of respondents felt that the current mobile phone reception was inadequate.



# Building and Planning

## Protection of parish Conservation Areas

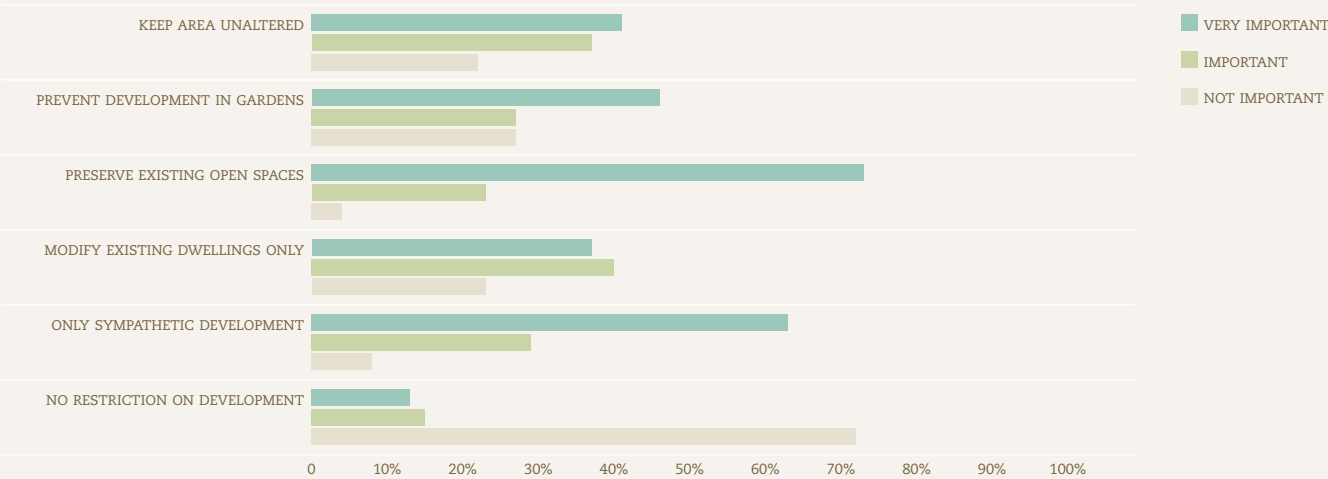
Of those households who completed the questionnaire 55% are quite satisfied with the status quo – but 23% are dissatisfied.

## Importance of Conservation Area issues

95% of respondents wish the Conservation Area to be used to preserve open spaces.

92% of respondents wish only sympathetic development, to be allowed in the Conservation Area.

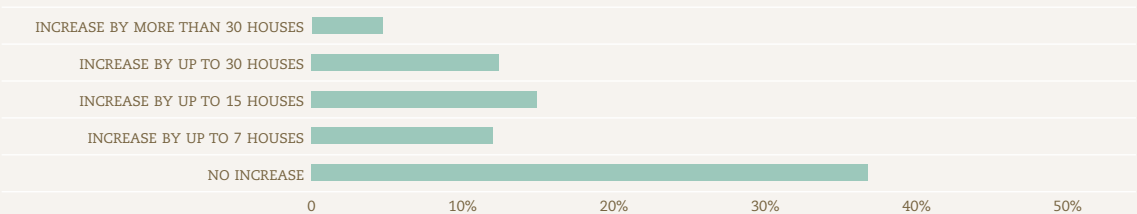
### Importance of Conservation Area issues



### Recommendation

Planning Authorities to increase the protection afforded by the Conservation Area.

## Amount of residential development in the parish in the next 10 years

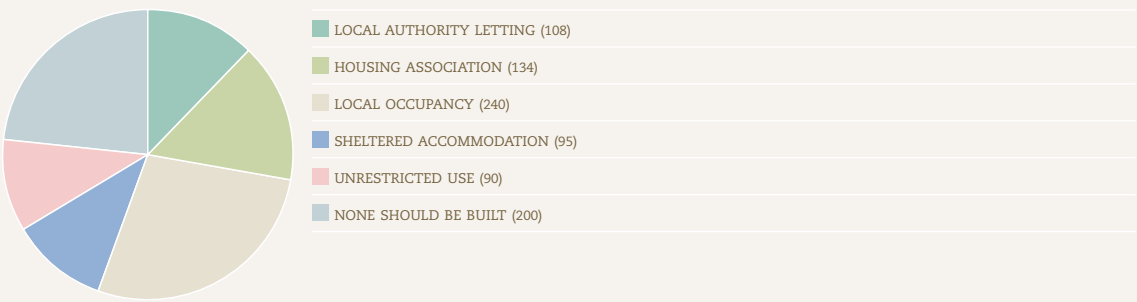


### Recommendation

Development should be limited to 30 or less houses over the next 10 years.

## Types of property preferred

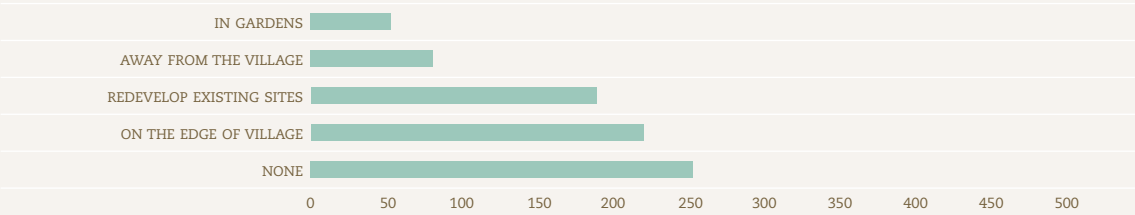
Responses were as follows:



# Building and Planning continued

## New residential development

Asked where further development would be accepted, responses were as follows:

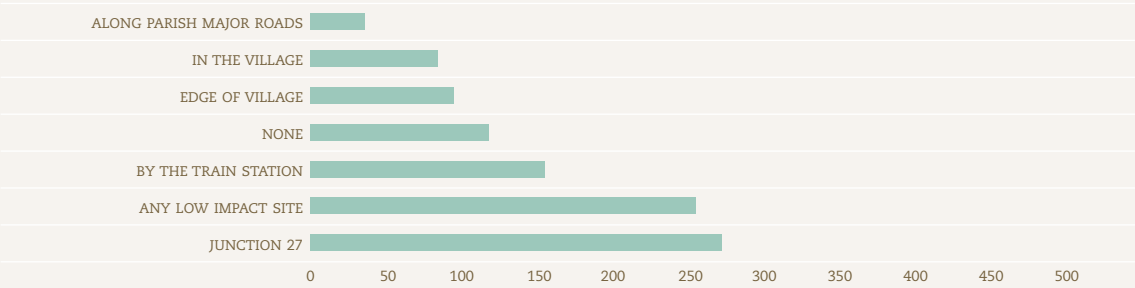


### Recommendation

Any new development should focus on the edge of the village or existing sites.

## New employment development

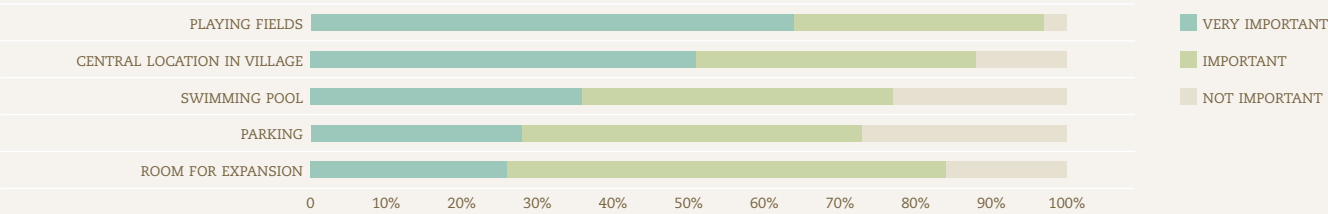
Number of responses



If new employment development is considered, most respondents are in favour of locating it at junction 27, followed by any low impact site.

## Important aspects of the School

As can be seen from the chart, playing fields are considered to be of most importance, closely followed by the need for the school to be centrally located. Room for expansion, the swimming pool and parking are clearly valued assets.



### Recommendation

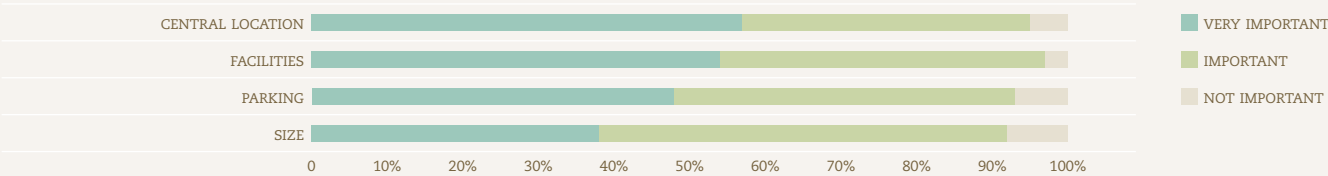
Support should be given to the School to maintain and enhance these assets.



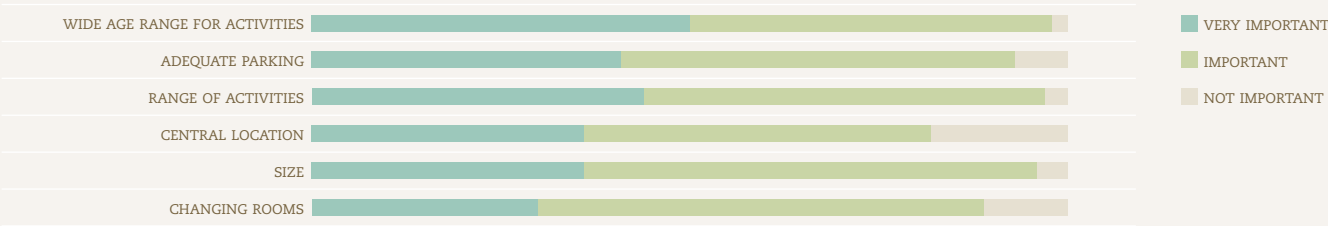
The Village Hall and Recreation Grounds

A high number of responses to this question reflects a considerable interest in the Village Hall and Recreation Grounds.

Important aspects of Village Hall



Important aspects of Recreation Grounds



Recommendation

Support should be given to the Village Hall and Recreation Grounds Charity to maintain and enhance these facilities.

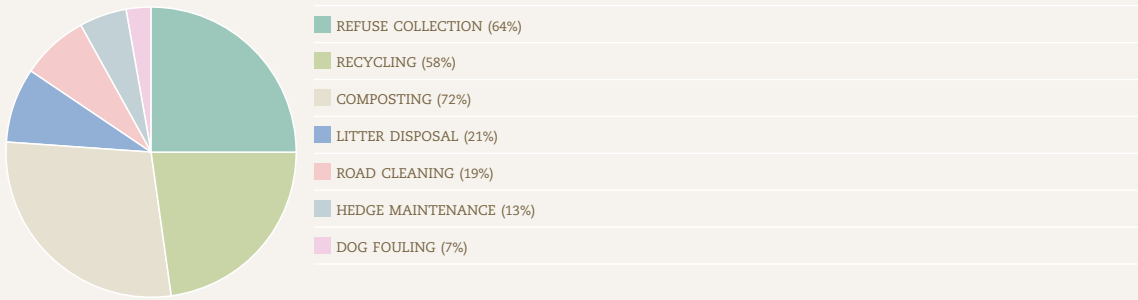
## Waste

Of those who expressed an opinion, the effectiveness of waste disposal in the village was considered to be good.

However the maintenance of the village environment causes concern, in particular disposal of litter, road cleaning and hedge/verge maintenance.

Only 7% of the respondents felt that dealing with dog fouling was effective – of particular concern is the Canal area.

### Services rated as good



### Recommendations

- 1) Request the Parish Council to supply additional dog foul bins.
- 2) Hedge maintenance and road cleaning should be more frequent and better planned.

## Tourism

The current level of tourism promotion in the village was considered about right by 42% of the respondents.

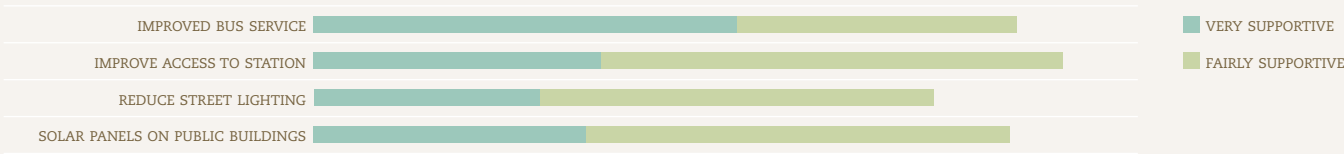
## Energy saving

Over 60% of the respondents would like improved pedestrian/cycle access to the railway station.

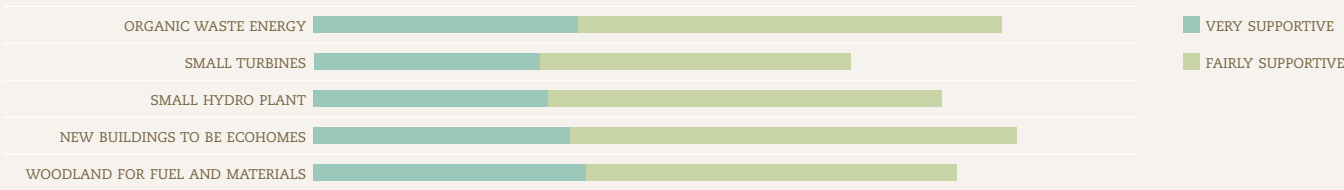
Energy saving initiatives were strongly supported – however comments received indicate that further information needs to be provided.

The suggestion of solar energy panels on public buildings was rated as very important by 56% of respondents.

### Support for energy saving initiatives (i)



### Support for energy saving initiatives (ii)



### Recommendation

Improve the station road for pedestrians and cyclists use – cycle track/pavement and street lighting.

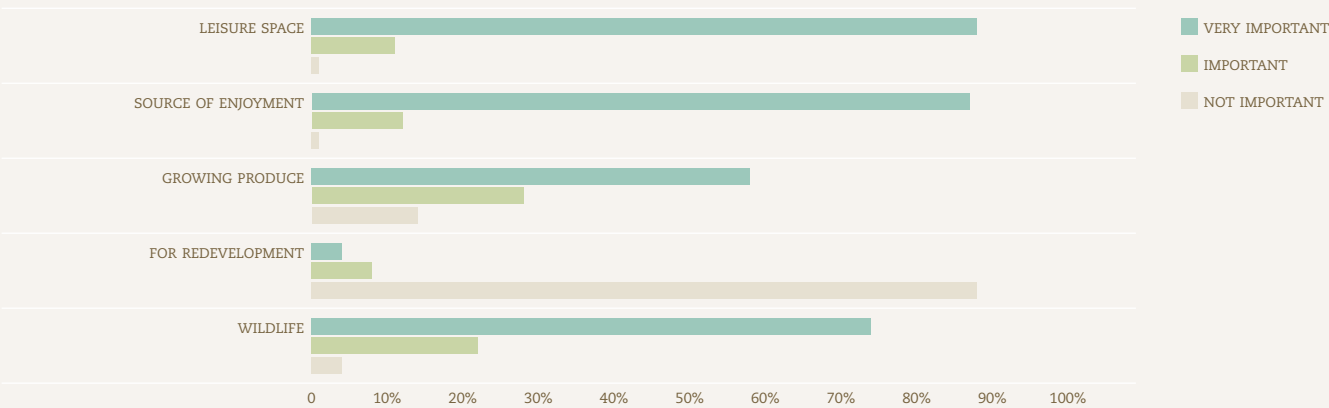
# Environment continued

## Green spaces including gardens

Respondents felt very strongly about the use of green spaces in the village including their gardens – there was minimal support for redevelopment of green spaces.

Over 85% rated green spaces and gardens as very important leisure spaces and sources of enjoyment.

### Importance of green space/gardens



## Recommendations

Planning Authorities to protect green spaces including gardens from future development.

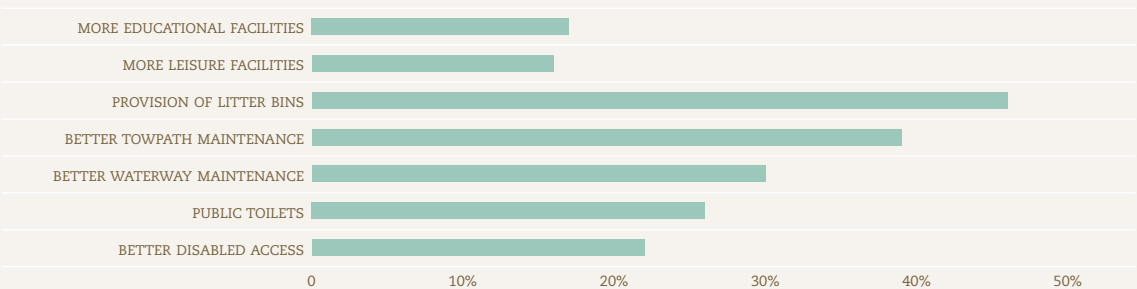
## Use of Grand Western Canal Country Park

The Grand Western Canal Country Park is valued and enjoyed – 95% of respondents enjoy walking and 60% cycling.

The respondents would like to see the provision of more litter bins and maintenance of the towpath as a priority.

Over 22% of respondents would like better disabled access.

### Improvements at the Canal





# Appendices

## 1) Other leisure activities parishioners would like

### Arts and pastimes

African drumming  
Guitar  
Classical music  
Photography Club  
Reading Group

### Dance

Ballroom  
Country  
Salsa  
Line  
Old time

### Environmental interests

Canal based leisure activities e.g. day boat hire  
Wildlife/conservation

### Sport

Badminton  
Bowling  
Canoeing  
Fencing  
Horse riding  
Keep fit  
Martial arts  
Netball  
Rugby  
Swimming – lessons in school pool in summer for whole community  
Tai-Chi

### Clubs for young people

A club similar to Youth Club, but for younger children  
Cubs/Beavers  
More junior branches of adult clubs  
Young Farmers

## 2) Adult Education courses parishioners would like

### Arts and crafts

Art history  
Embroidery  
Sewing  
Upholstery  
Flower arranging

### Computing

Beginners/advanced

### General interest

Parenting  
Creative writing  
Family history  
Literature  
Languages  
Dog training

## Text comments

Respondents to the above questionnaire were, in addition to 'ticking boxes', invited to record their personal views on topics considered to be of particular interest.

This resulted in several hundred individual comments, and wherever more than three very similar responses on any topic were received, these have been summarised for inclusion in the final published plan.

### People and Community

**Which other health related services would you like to see locally:**

Alternative therapies  
Out-of-hours counselling  
Dentist

**Law and order concerns:**

Speeding in Higher and Lower Town, Boobery  
Antisocial behaviour and vandalism in recreation area and Village Hall area  
Lack of Police presence  
Litter

**Information about parish activities events and services:**

The School is an important source of information

**Issues which prevent people taking part in village activities:**

Work commitments prevent some people from taking part  
Others feel they are too old!

### Transport and Communications

**Reduce fuel usage by:**

Using public transport where possible	Reducing vehicle use
Walking/cycling	Improved driving technique
Using local shops	

**Reasons for not using public transport:**

Journey times too long	Working hours
No early or late services	Age/infirmity
Too expensive	Unreliable
Too few stops	Impractical
Private transport more flexible	

**On-street parking restrictions needed:**

At the school/post office	Near The Globe/Merriemeade
In the station road (already actioned)	In Boobery
Near the recreation ground	At the Spar shop
Along Lower Town	

**Speed controls needed:**

Near the School  
Through Turnpike/Lower Town  
Near the station road/Buckland Bridge

**Pedestrian crossings at:**

The Blackdown View footpath entrance  
The Turnpike/Higher Town junction  
The Village Hall/Surgery

**Better road maintenance:**

Higher Town  
Boobery

### Environment

**Additional comments on following:**

Canal towpath (dog fouling)  
General dog fouling  
Plastics why no collection?  
Refuse and recycle goods should be collected weekly  
More litter bins (with regular servicing)

This full Plan is also available to view online at  
[www.communitiesinaction.org.uk](http://www.communitiesinaction.org.uk)

#### **Acknowledgments**

The development of this plan took some two years from the initial public meeting to its final launch. Thanks are due to all those who gave willingly of their time at any stage in this process, some of which involved many prolonged meetings and debates. They were: Simon Bartlett, Carole Bond, Gerald and Margaret Dinnage, Mavis Farley, Gill Gale, Robin Hazelton (who initiated and co-ordinated the project), Haley Keary, Christine Mason, Kit and Juliet Macleod (who designed the final publication), Sheila McMillan, Jenny Parsons, Janet Phythian, Richard Stagg, Keith Tarbox, Greta Tucker, Debbie Whiteway, Philip Worsfold. Also thanks to all those that provided photographs.

Three of the above were members of the parish council, to whom thanks are due for their support and funding; also to county councillor Ray Radford for his interest and for arranging further funding. Funds were also obtained from the district council and from Awards for All.

Expert advice and guidance were also provided by John Bodley-Scott from the district council, and by a number of people from other parishes who had engaged in the same process.

This Plan was produced with the knowledge and approval of Sampford Peverell Parish Council and Mid-Devon District Council.