



**AWRE, BLAKENEY & AREA  
PARISH PLAN  
2005-2008**



*Bideford Brook crossing under Awre Road at Nether Hall Farm*

**Supported By:**



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The effort and commitment from all concerned has been truly amazing and we look forward to building a sound future for our Parish based on the things that are seen as being the most important to those who live and work in the community.

This report has been referenced against the following strategies and plans

Forest of Dean Corporate Plan 2005-2008  
Forest of Dean District Community Plan 2004-2009  
Forest of Dean District Local Plan (LPD 83-86) May 2004  
Forest of Dean Economic Development Strategy 2004-2009  
Forest of Dean Tourism Strategy 2003-2008  
Forest of Dean Housing Strategy 2004-2007  
Forest of Dean Integrated Rural Development Programme 2000-2005  
Lydney Community Strategy Plan Economic Report (Nick Bromfield) May 2004  
Lydney Community Strategy Plan Rural Report (Tim Cowhig) May 2004  
The Rural Economic Strategy for Gloucestershire 2003-2010  
Gloucestershire Economic Strategy 2003-2012  
Gloucestershire Rural Economical Strategy 2003-2010  
Gloucestershire Structure Plan (Chapter 7 only) April 2004  
Community Strategy for Gloucestershire 2004-2014  
South West Regional Corporate Plan 2003-2006  
South West Regional Economic Strategy 2003-2012

Bob Watters  
Chair, Awre Parish Plan Steering Committee  
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# 1

## INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the vision of the Awre Parish community for their future. It describes a potted history of the parish and looks at changes over time and what needs to be done to prepare it for the future. The initial plan covers a period of 3 Financial Years from April 2005 – March 2008.

It covers the Parish Plan process and explains how public consultation events have been organised to maximise community participation.

The plan will address issues at various levels. Lower levels will include issues that can be resolved within the community. These initiatives will be designed to improve local community activities and events which will very much be achieved without any external influence. Higher level issues such as housing, roads, transport and social services will be delivered through District Council, County Council and Central Government plans. The wishes of the local community will be used to influence the development of higher level plans, principally at District level, and targets will be set and progress/performance monitored.

An action plan will be developed which will support a number of project plans. Each project plan will include a summary of the action to be taken, lead players and partners, how much it will cost, timescale and performance measures.



*Blakeney Village from Blakeney Hill*

# 2

## THE PARISH PLAN PROCESS

The plan was developed through 4 key stages:

High level design:	July 2003 - November 2003
Preparation:	December 2003 – February 2004
Research:	March 2004 – October 2004
Quick Wins:	October 2004 onwards
Full Deployment:	April 2005 onwards

The high level design phase included consultation with other interested parties to gauge the interest in developing a plan; production of a high level design document; submission of a grant application to The Countryside Agency and development of a milestone plan. An overview of the key issues covered and lessons learned is shown at Appendix A.

The preparation phase included setting-up a dialogue with other villages within the Forest of Dean District; consultation with leaders of local organisations, clubs/societies, businesses and Agencies; holding an open public consultation meeting and forming a steering committee and working groups from local volunteers. An overview of the key issues covered and lesson learned is shown at Appendix B.

The research phase included widening of public consultation using a questionnaire delivered and collected from every household in the parish; data input and analysis; sharing progress with the community and preparing a draft report. An overview of the key issues covered and lesson learned is shown at Appendix C.

The deployment phase includes the delivery of easy to do, no cost issues; clarifying assumptions; drawing-up an action plan and publishing the 3 year plan. The Parish Council has now assumed responsibility for the plan and will implement the action plan shown at Appendix G. Partners will be brought-in, as appropriate, and actions built into strategic plans. Progress will be published at regular intervals. The planning process will become cyclical with a new year added to the plan each anniversary.

The most important part of this process has been the engagement of people within the community as it is their plan and has been developed to reflect the way they would like to see the Parish develop over the years. The first consultation was with leaders of groups/clubs, opinion formers and businessmen and established 16 key themes. The titles, in order of importance, are shown in Section 6 of this report. A summary of the information gathered in this first consultation is shown at Appendix D.

The theme titles from the first consultation were then presented at an open public meeting on blank sheets. 117 residents (10% of the local population) entered a total of 570 comments on the sheets. This was later consolidated into 199 issues. A summary of the information gathered at the public meeting is shown at Appendix E.

The 199 issues were consolidated into 84 questions and a multi-age group questionnaire delivered to, and collection from, every household in the Parish. 52% of the community completed the questionnaire. A summary of the comments gathered is shown at Annex F.

The data from the questionnaires was analysed and solution options developed for each of the issues.

These options are described in Sections 7-22 of this report.

# 3

## THE PARISH OF AWRE – ITS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

The parish of Awre is situated on the Roman Gloucester – Chepstow road and lies 16km southwest of Gloucester between the River Severn and the Forest Of Dean. Its nearest town is Lydney and its immediate neighbour is Newnham The Parish covers an area of about 2500ha (5800 acres) of which some 400ha (920 acres) is located within the river and foreshore.

Roman remains dating back to 75AD have been found in the parish. A detailed history can be found dating back to the early 1000's where the parish is listed in the Bledisloe Hundred. A "Hundred" is a geographical area which was assigned a "production" target. At that time the Bledisloe Hundred comprised Awre Manor and village, Bledisloe, Etloe, Purton and Poulton. Blakeney was in St. Briavels Hundred until 1608. Etloe Duchy, formerly a manor of the Duchy of Lancaster, was included in the Bledisloe Hundred in the 17c. The Hundred was within the jurisdiction of the Forest of Dean from about 1150 until 1668 when it became part of the Lydney estate of the Winter family and later their successors, the Bathurst family. From the 14c onwards the woodlands were gradually removed until today only one area of forest remains in the parish located to the west of Blakeney. The ancient meeting place of the Hundred took place on a high ridge on Newnham Road near where Severnview Garden Centre stands today.

Awre manor can be traced back to Edward the Confessor in 1066 and has for much of its existence been connected with royalty until sold in 1600 to Sir John Winter who sold it eight years later to Gloucester Corporation so as to clear his estates of the heavy financial burden imposed on them following the Civil War. A manor called Etloe Duchy – part of the Duchy of Lancaster was held by the Crown until sold in 1609. No records exist for the manor after 1866. The manor of Bledisloe, severed from Awre manor before the Conquest passed through a succession of families until it was sold to John Birkin of Hagloe and became part of the Hagloe estate which was sold to the Crown in 1853. Hagloe Farm was sold by the Crown to private owners in 2003. The manor of Poulton dates back to shortly after the Conquest. The estate and the manor house called Poulton Court was part of Westonbirt manor until attained by the Duke

of Somerset in 1552. It was sold by the Crown in 1555. Through succession it eventually became part of the Hagloe estate which was sold to the Crown in 1853. A medieval dwelling at Poulton Court was within a circular moat which survives today. Poulton Court Farm was sold by the Crown in 2003 to private owners.

The River Severn forms the long boundary on the north-east and south-east of the parish, the north-west boundary follows the watercourses such as Hiae brook and the south-west boundary follows Lanes brook. Historically the parish comprised ancient farmsteads, fishing, the industrial and trading village of Blakeney which overtime replaced Awre village as the principle centre of population and the small but commercially significant riverside hamlet of Gatcombe. Today, the parish comprises the villages of Awre, Blakeney, Gatcombe and Etloe and surrounding hamlets of Blakeney Hill, Hagloe, Brains Green and parts of Viney Hill and Two Bridges. The index of multiple deprivation which, based on seven factors, assesses the deprivation level for each district and parish lists the Forest of Dean as the most deprived district in Gloucestershire and within the Forest of Dean District, Awre Parish is listed as third most deprived from a total of 42.

Over the years the parish boundary has changed mainly as a result of demarcation of local election wards but also as a result of land erosion due to shifts in the main channel of the river. A major shift in the 13c and again in the 17c resulted in Slimbridge being removed from Awre parish boundary. Erosion of the Awre bank in the "Great Floods" of 1741 removed several dwellings known as Woodend and the loss of a lane joining it with the Blakeney Road. All that remains today of this lost village is a scatter of bricks and stones which can be seen at low water on the sands.

The Severn's fisheries and river trade were prime sources of income and employment in the parish. The dangers of the river are evident from the number of burials in Awre churchyard where some headstones can be seen today. One of the heaviest losses was in 1732 when 17 people drowned in the wreck of the Newnham trow. The River Severn and numerous streams powering mills and forges and extensive woodlands all

contributed to the strong trading and industrial element of the local economy.

The main road, now the A48, was a turnpike until 1870 with toll gates situated at Nibley Green and at the Etloe/Gatcombe/Purton fork. Toll gates were also sited on the two roads leading to the Forest. Road improvements in the 19c led to the curving approach road into Blakeney which replaced the steeper and more direct descent of Swan Lane which is today a footpath.

The main railway line through Awre was approved in 1846 under which the Gloucester and Dean Forest company was to build the line as far as Hagloes and the South Wales company to continue it southwards. In the events the whole line through the parish, opened in 1851, was built by the South Wales company which amalgamated with the Great Western Railway in 1863. The parish was served by a station in Purton although it was called Gatcombe until 1868 when Awre junction station was built beside the Awre-Blakeney road to join with the Forest of Dean Central railway. Awre Junction station was closed to passengers and general freight in 1959 and to coal in 1961. The site is now marked by a level crossing and contains only a derelict signal box and newly installed control cabin which will house information and communication technology required by European Law to improve rail safety. The line running to Awre Junction through Blakeney village, where there was a goods yard, was opened in 1868 but was never a commercial success, running trains only on three days a week at first and less frequently later. Traffic ceased to run on the line west of Blakeney in 1932 and between Blakeney and Awre Junction in 1949. A proposed rail extension into the Forest and to a proposed new dock at Blimspill for shipping coal and timber both failed to occur but a tunnel under Nibley Green and a bridge over Purton Road, now a listed building, can still be seen today. The goods yard in Blakeney is currently being considered as a site for 16 new houses.

The population of Awre parish was 60 in 1300, 130 in 1500, 250 in 1600, 700 in 1700, and 1000 in 1800 where it remained until 1950. As a result of parish boundary changes in 1953, the population rose to 1800 by 1960. It fell to 1500 by 1980. Today the population is 1680.

Awre parish's leading inhabitants were members of long-established yeoman families, the A'Deanes, Birkins, Trippetts, Hopkines, Bayleys, and Keddicks. Thomas Sternhold and John Hopkins who produced the first English

metrical versions of the psalms, published in 1551, both lived in the parish, the former at Hawfield on Newnham Road and the latter at Woodend in Awre. (The psalms were first sung in St. Andrew's Awre). A family named Awre is thought to have taken its name from the village of Awre in the 1600's and is still resident in Awre village today. During the 17c and 18c, presumably because of the close connexion through river trade, a large number of Bristol men owned land in the parish and many of Awre's inhabitants had relations in that city.

In the Middle Ages, ironworking was carried-out in the Forest and a forge operated in Etloe in 1220. The Etloe forge was thought to be responsible for the large quantity of cinders dug out during road building in 1750's. In Gatcombe a works making blacksmith's anvils operated in 1700.

Five mills operated during the 18c in Blakeney village presumably using the water from the leat running through the village to drive them. One mill remains today located next to Sydenham House in the High Street. Other mills, including a paper mill, operated in Awre village.

Fisheries, principally for salmon, provided a valuable asset for the parish the rights of which belonged to the lords of the manor. In the early 1920's these rights were sold to local residents. By that time over 70 men were fishing with lave nets around Gatcombe and Awre.

Much of the parish in the 1500's comprised arable land although Poulton Court Farm did change the trend with a move towards pasture land in 1596. All but a few acres were growing cereals or pulse with no attempt to introduce root crops into the rotation. Orchards, mostly for cider apples were widespread. Fruit growing and cider making had become specialised in the early 20c. A perry pear tree, known as the Blakeney Red, was widely planted and cider orchards at Bledisloe were acquired by Schweppes Ltd in the 1920's

By 1900 animal husbandry had taken-off to counter the effect of the slump in the cereals market. Dairying was particularly popular although other livestock enterprises, such as sheep, pigs and chickens were well represented.

The Foot & Mouth outbreak in 2001 hit the parish badly resulting in the loss of livelihood for a number of local farmers and change in working practice for most others. The first affected was at Old Street farm near Nibley, confirmed on 10

March. The next month saw visible signs of the disease appearing across the parish. Blakeney became invaded with TV crews and newspaper reporters. A stand-off at Oaklands Park drew national coverage. Culling commenced almost immediately and no-one in the community could escape the change to normal everyday life. The spreading of disinfected straw across roadways and farm entrances, the heavy lorries carrying timber and coal, the army, the MAFF officials, the vets, the slaughter men and the sound from their pistols, the smell of burning and then...the silence.

**Awre Village** - its isolated situation near the river in the east of the Parish comprise a loose connection of small farmsteads. It was once larger, though probably always scattered in layout; a number of houses were lost before the late 18c, some as a result of amalgamation of holdings and others by coastal erosion. There was a small concentration near the parish church and where there was a small village green known as Churchend in 1490. The Red Hart inn nearby opened in 1796 and in the 19c the village pound and smithy were located there. A small green, called Vertues green in 1699 and later Awre green was the site of Awre National School built

**"I chose to live in Awre as it's a small peaceful village – I would like to keep it that way"**

in 1855. The school was renamed Awre Cof E school around 1910 and due to the falling number of pupils closed in 1922. The building is now Awre Village Hall which is in need of major renovation. A second inn was located on the riverbank to the north-west of the village in 1796 and probably named the Three Doves. Today it is a converted house called the Priory. Further north-west was the Manor of Box (now the site of Box Farm) and there is evidence of a vanished hamlet of Box. There are records of a considerable number of people surnamed Box or Boxcliff (Boxclive) which is probably where it got its name from.

**Blakeney** – the village grew up on the main Gloucester-Chepstow road around the junction of the Soudley and Blackpool brooks which powered a number of mills in and around the settlement. During renovations on one of the houses near Blackpool Brook, a large high-status Roman villa was discovered. This building not only had a heating system, tiled roof and a stone courtyard but also a slipway on the stream, indicating it was accessible by boat from the

Severn. Pottery on the site dated its construction to 75AD, making it the earliest villa in the Dean. It was occupied for around sixty years until being demolished in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. It is thought to have been the residence of a high ranking Roman official from the legionary fortress in Gloucester. Trade and industry of Awre parish was concentrated on Blakeney Village where the streams provided water for the mills (described above) and tanneries and the main Gloucester-Chepstow road stimulated commerce. By the beginning of the 18c fairs were held in Blakeney on May Day and All Saints Day and for nearly 200 years they continued dealing principally in livestock. Blakeney's role as a centre for craft and trade began in the 1270's when there was a smith, a weaver, a baker and a butcher as well as the traditional forest tradesmen. The numbers of tradesmen and shopkeepers increased in the early 19c as Blakeney began to serve the forest settlements on the hillsides above it and from passing trade on the main road. A brewery was opened in 1870 and worked until 1915. There was a bank by 1897. The railway did not provide any real benefit to the village but the growth of the motor trade in the early 20c did and at one time supported two garages. By the mid 1930's there were 20 shopkeepers and 15 other tradesmen or small businesses including 2 filling stations and 8 pubs, but by the 1950's Blakeney's role had declined mainly as a result of growth of Lydney as a business and shopping centre. Today there are 5 shopkeepers, 5 small family businesses and 2 public houses. In the late 1600's Blakeney rather than the isolated Awre village became the principle focus of parish life. Blakeney's chapel came to attract larger congregations than the parish church. The church house adjoining the chapel was used for meetings and was also an inn called the Bird in Hand. It was demolished in 1819 to make room for the enlargement of the chapel. The oldest part of the village is Church Square (which is actually triangular in shape) in the centre of which the chapel stands today. House building extended from the square along the main road in the 1620's into a part later to be known as Bridge Street. Blackpool brook formed a principle feature of Bridge Street flowing alongside it for the whole of its length and crossing it at one point. There were two bridges in the village, one crossing the Blackpool brook and the other crossing the Soudley brook. In 1790 both were packhorse bridges no more than 5 ft wide. In the 1920's Blackpool brook was culverted and a 21ft wide bridge built across Soudley brook to enable vehicles to pass through the village. The oldest surviving building in Blakeney, the former 16c Swan Inn, now called Swan House, stands near All Saints Church at the foot of Swan Lane



which was once the main road nearby. It was once a temperance hotel which closed in the early 1900. The houses around Church Square were mostly built in 18c and comprise fairly substantial dwellings of brick or stone which indicates the affluence of the time. A house on the corner of Awre Road was also an inn and took the name of the Bird in Hand from the former church house in about 1825 and remained until the 1959. It is now a hairdresser and the skittle ally at the rear has been converted to flats. The Yew Tree Inn next to the Church opened in 1817 and closed in 2002. Its future is currently under discussion. Further along Bridge Street (now High St) is the small 17c Brook Farm House and opposite is the 18c Kings Head Inn. Apart from these the majority are 19c buildings in the dark Forest sandstone. The most prominent is Sydenham House, a substantial L shaped building which was a departmental store from 1876 and today is a home for the elderly. The late 18c and early 19c was probably the period of Blakeney's greatest prosperity. The village was enlarged by the building of stone cottages on Awre Road and Lowfield Lane (later renamed Church Way) and on Millend Lane where there were already a few houses grouped around a corn mill in 1740's. A small estate of council houses was built in 1949 at Highfield on the Ayleford road and others were built in the 1950's on All Saints Road north of Church Square and on Awre Road. The Smithy off the High Street and Butlers Mead off Millend were added in the mid-late 1990's. South-west of Blakeney the small roadside hamlet of Nibley had been established by the early 17c with a corn mill at the bottom of Blackpool brook valley which was one of the earliest buildings. The animal pound was located at Nibley for many years. Nibley Farm which was renamed Old Nibley Farmhouse in 1989 dates back to 1678 but was rebuilt in about 1800. Today it is a Bed and Breakfast hotel. The Cock Inn possibly dates back to the early 1700's. It was certainly opened by 1822 when it served as a staging post for a South Wales Coach Company. The Cock Inn was so named because at one time it was a coach house with stables where "fresh" horses were kept and used to pull carriages up the hill to Nibley crossroads. Gas was introduced to Blakeney in 1876 and electricity came in 1935. Houses remained dependent on wells for water until the early 1950's when they were supplied from the reservoir on Blakeney Hill which remains today as a reserve supply. Some drains had been built by the 1860's but some houses discharged sewage into the stream running through the village as late as 1910. A refuse collection service started in 1937 although residents of Two Bridges had to wait until the

1950's for the service to be extended to them. Blakeney had a friendly society meeting at the Swan Inn by 1791 and a lodge of the Oddfellows was founded in the village by 1824. A brass band was in regular demand for events in the Forest area during the mid 19c. Other clubs and associations that existed in the early 1900's include, Blakeney Association Football Club, Blakeney Women's Institute, Blakeney Nursing Cadets, Blakeney and District War Memorial Hall Committee and Blakeney Branch British Legion. The village's old National school at the bottom of Lowfield Lane (now Church Way) was in use as a public library in 1879. In 1905 the building was vested in trustees for church purposes and today is used as All Saints' church rooms. A new school was built in 1873 on the hill leading out of the village towards Gloucester. In 1885 it had an average attendance of 80 pupils and as Blakeney CofE school in 1910 could accommodate 176 and an average attendance of 98. The average attendance fell to 51 by 1922 and to 32 by 1932 and the school closed in 1935. Today it is a private home. In 1852 a British School was built in Blakeney attended by 60 pupils whose parents paid a fee based on the number of subjects studied. Between 1905 and 1908 the school was enlarged to accommodate the children from Blakeney Woodside Cof E school which had closed and was renamed Blakeney Council school. By 1930 the school could accommodate 380 children but the average attendance was only 250 and falling. Today it is attended by just over 100 infants and juniors. A new village hall was built in Millend Lane in 1927 as a memorial to the dead of the First World War. In the mid 1980's it was demolished when a community centre was built on playing fields on the north side of the village. The 8 acre playing field had been purchased from Sydenham House in 1947 for £870. The community centre and playing fields remain today.

**Brains Green** - located on the western boundary of the parish on the Blakeney to Ayleford road (Cinderford Road) in an area once known as Woodside, lying below a wooded plateau at the edge of the Forest. The settlement on Brains Green was linked to Howell's Lane which leads from the A48 to Two Bridges, via an ancient lane, disused in 1989, which roamed into the deep valley of Soudley brook which was once the main road to Awre.

**Etloe** - probably took its name from an ancient burial mound as did Hagloe. In the 16c Etloe included part of Blakeney village although

most on Millend Lane had been demolished by the early 19c

**Gatcombe** – the riverside hamlet of Gatcombe from which a busy trade was once carried on stands at the pill at the end of a long wooded steep valley. This provided sheltered anchorage for larger vessels as well as the pill into which smaller boats could be drawn. Gatcombe was at one time Gloucester's chief outlet for maritime trade. It played an important part in the litigation between Bristol and Gloucester which culminated in the new Gloucester dock in 1580. It traded in fish, bark, cider, copper, coal and other commodities both around the UK and with Ireland and the Continent. Gatcombe was involved in shipbuilding in the early 1600's and there are claims of ships up to 600 tons being built there although 200 tons is probably more likely. Houses date back to the 1500's although there have never been more than 6 or 7. A pink house named Drakes House, built in about 1600 is said to commemorate a visit by Sir Francis Drake to Gatcombe to view timber for ship-building. In 1763 the house was probably an inn called the Boat House which changed its name to the Sloop in 1792 before closing in 1901. Another inn was called the Ship during the early 19c closed in the 1820's and became the meeting place of the manor court of the Etloe Duchy and was re-named The Court House and remains that name today. Oatfield Farm built in the early 1600's is connected to Gatcombe by an old hollow way and was at one time part of the Hagloe estate until being sold in 1976 when it was extensively restored and converted into a conference centre and holiday flats .

**Hagloe & Poulton** - Poulton Court, the site of a manor from the early middle ages, was later absorbed into the large Hagloe estate centred on the early 18c Hagloe House. The surrounding smaller farmsteads, few of which survived into the mid 1900's were probably

established in the mid 16c. At Little Hagloe (formerly Upper Hagloe) two small farmsteads on either side of the lane were farmed by the same family for 200 years. By 1900 the land belonged to the Crown who built some farm cottages which were later abandoned by the tenants and were demolished in 1989. Little Box, which dates back to the early 18c still stands at the site on the Awre – Blakeney road but other buildings such as Old Box have since been demolished leaving only the barns which are currently being restored.

**Oaklands** - located to the north-west of Awre Village was originally the site for a house called Cox. Oaklands Farm dates back to the late 16c. In 1790 a new house was built and later enlarged and now is known as the Mansion, Oaklands Park. In 1976 the house and the park were bought by the Camphill Village Trust a charity for the care of mentally retarded adults and today the occupants are employed in craft work and in the large kitchen garden attached to the house.

**Two Bridges** – located at the north-west corner of the parish close to the main Gloucester – Chepstow road, Two Bridges is split across Awre and Ruspidge/Soudley parishes due to the boundary which runs along the Haie Brook. At the crossing was a beer house called Two Bridges in the late 19c. Today it is a private dwelling bearing the name the Old Inn.

**Viney Hill** – located on the South-west boundary of the parish Viney Hill is split across Awre and Ruspidge/Soudley parishes. There was a dwelling on the road from Nibley Green to Viney Hill by 1600 and two small farmhouses, Upper Viney which might date from 17c and Lower Viney which is dated 1741 still standing today. The Hayes on the south side of Viney Hill which was the manor house of Blakeney manor is now just outside Awre parish boundary.

*\*There used to be many clubs in the villages for most age groups - but they need dedicated people with time to run them. Unfortunately as the club organisers got older they were not replaced. Children are now transported everywhere - times have changed. Let's hope that this will change again and a village life become more of a focus\**

# 4

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

### PROSPERITY FOR ALL

#### Vision

A parish which has a happy and vibrant community and where activities exist which will satisfy the aspirations of all age groups. A parish which is an idyllic place to live or work and where there is investment to enable it to grow and prosper. A strong and durable local economy built on developing our community strengths and grasping new opportunities which sustain the quality of life the parish has to offer. Excellence in learning, training and skills development for all age groups and better, more targeted vocational and social training which provide lifelong opportunities for all. Growth and prosperity that brings wealth to the whole of the community

#### How it will be achieved

We will manage the environment by communicating what is special about the parish and provide everyone with the opportunity to have a say in planned developments. We will challenge planning applications that do not support the views of the majority and we will ensure that planning regulations are applied consistently and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy. We will support new and existing businesses so that they can grow. We will ensure that the local traditional industries, like agriculture and fishing, which have suffered in recent years, get a boost from national initiatives to return them to their former status. We will provide access for training in traditional skills and provide re-skilling where necessary to ensure that local businesses remain competitive and successful.

### A UNITED COMMUNITY

#### Vision

A parish which has a good cross-section of all age groups with the existing status quo of numbers being sustained for at least the next 20 years.

#### How it will be achieved

We will develop the right environment for local people to live in which means integrating original residents and newcomers so that conflict of interests are minimised and so that areas of mutual dependence can be developed. We will invest in affordable housing which gives the young a chance to get on the property ladder and provides sheltered accommodation for the older generation. We will manage the delicate balance between mass building and a housing stock which meets the demand of the local changing community.

### HEALTHY AND ACTIVE

#### Vision

A parish community with a healthy lifestyle that assists its prosperity and strengthens its well-being and which sustains the changing needs of the population. Access to social and health care professionals which is available and timely for everyone irrespective of age or social circumstances

#### How it will be achieved

We will provide the facilities which give everyone an opportunity to take an active role in improving and maintaining their health and leading active and interesting lives. We will lobby for a modern social health care service which provides timely provision of a GP and nursing facilities within easy reach of the whole of the parish. Investment in local hospitals is critical to ensure quick and effective treatment of minor ailments and we will strive along with other parishes to ensure we have modern major hospitals which provide excellent intensive specialist treatments, where social and health care professionals provide health and community care and where NHS Direct provides an effective means to enable people to deal with health problems in the best way possible.

### A SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Vision

Access to public transport both for social and work purposes available to all age-groups that improve the lives of those within the community. A viable alternative to the use of private cars for those who have them and which will contribute towards the effort to reduce pollution.

#### How it will be achieved

An effective transport system to and from the parish at all times will be developed. Cost effective alternatives will be evaluated to cater for times of the day and night where a lack of critical mass travellers makes the provision of a public service uneconomic. These will include services running on main routes with feeder services from remote area and more use of public taxi buses and innovative new transport programmes.

### SAFE AND SOUND

#### Vision

A parish where crime levels and anti-social behaviour is consistently low and where there is active support within the community for initiatives to counter new threats.

#### How it will be achieved

We will ensure that Awre parish is a place where people feel safe and are safe, where there is an adequate provision of law enforcement and support for Neighbourhood and Rural Watch Schemes and a prompt response when circumstances call for it. We will ensure that the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families and communities are properly balanced.

# 5

## STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS

**Strengths** are the things we are good at or are unique to our parish, such as an active community willing to help itself. We use our strengths to overcome **Weaknesses**, such as poor police cover. **Opportunities** are the things that either present themselves or are instigated by us to improve parish life, such as developing cottage industries. **Threats** are things we may face now or those that a changing society presents, such as rising crime or vandalism. The matrix below was developed at a public meeting and serves as a log to capture the issues which will help us to exploit our strengths and opportunities and better equip us to counter weaknesses and threats.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Local services: pubs, post offices, shops, school, Church Community/leisure facilities: playing fields, youth group Two community halls Active parish council Local community groups and clubs Parish magazine Local footpath network Beautiful landscape, good location Parish history and traditions Community spirit Diversity of skills/talents/experience Medical care Climate/growing conditions	Poor police street cover Lack of low cost housing Limited facilities for young/elderly and lack of leadership/volunteers Few sports facilities Lack of local employment Poor integration of new residents Few pathways and pavements Traffic noise /speed Lack of public transport Inadequate car parking facilities Communications (incl Broadband) State of Village Hall Lack of support for tourism/insufficient publicity Cleanliness/street maintenance Waste recycling/collection points Play area for small children
Opportunities	Threats
Make more use of community halls More clubs/activities Skills bank Plant more borders Restore the leat Tourism – (threat also) Development of B&B's Walking, cycling, horse riding Cider & perry making Locally produced goods for sale Work together as a community	A48 speeding/accidents/heavy traffic Crime and vandalism Closure of local services and facilities Ageing population People moving to find employment Increasing house prices (forced-up by newcomers) Tourism – (opportunity also) Shrinking membership of clubs Agricultural policy Flooding Badgers Apathy

**Quote from a resident : "It is important to concentrate on realistic objectives which can be funded by income. This is a low income area and any increase in taxation to cover the cost will be counter productive. Equally, cosmetic exercises are meaningless and are unlikely to produce real community benefit. It needs a balanced approach which will be a challenge to achieve"**

# 6

## THE THEMES

The key themes or action areas have been established through one to one interviews, public consultation and a questionnaire delivered to and collected from every household in the parish. Issues that impact on more than one theme are shown against the theme where the effect is greatest. The themes listed below are in the order of highest number of issues raised rather than the priority for action:

- Community Facilities
- Environment
- Local Services
- Housing
- Roads
- Leisure
- Health
- Public Transport
- Tourism
- Crime & Safety
- Elderly
- Education
- Local Economy
- Religion
- Children

Young People is included as a stand alone as it is based on a separate survey



# 7

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### Key Findings

#### Village Halls

From a total of 511 residents who made a comment 401 (78%) thought that Blakeney and Awre village halls should be expanded or improved. Both village halls are currently under-utilised and efforts are being made by each village hall management committee to increase bookings. Generally, Awre people use Awre village hall and Blakeney people use Blakeney village hall which is understandable but can result in missed opportunities. For smaller events, Awre is the better choice and for larger functions Blakeney is better equipped. The village halls are within a couple of miles of each other but this can make the difference of residents walking or driving which can be a key influencer.

The village halls are also in “competition” with other venues such as, the Youth Club, Church Rooms, School Hall and British Legion Hut. There is no co-ordination of bookings or organised events which has led to conflict. All are in need of funds and all are competing for the same local audience.

Both village halls are in need of investment. Blakeney has replaced doors and undertaken some redecoration which has been provided by local fund raising events. It is in need of a new kitchen and better facilities for the disabled which might mean an extension. Awre village hall is in need of major repair including re-wiring, heating, windows, kitchen, toilets and damp proofing.

The shifting priority of major funders has meant the virtual drying-up of cash for village hall capital works. The burden of new regulations is making it increasingly difficult to maximise the potential of village halls and family commitments are impacting on the time volunteers have to offer. Without volunteers, clubs and organised events in the parish will not happen and the village halls will become less utilised.

Much of the funding available for village halls currently seems to be directed towards turning village halls into multi-purpose centres accommodating community services and Information Communication Technology (ICT). This kind of “venture culture” is not without danger of possible conflict between charitable/social aims and enterprise.

Funding is, however, available provided the investment supports one or more of the sponsor’s key priority areas and provided the need can be justified and that there is widespread support for the project from the community. Sponsors will normally provide up to 70% of the investment with the remainder generated by the community.

To enable the village halls to prosper requires a cash injection to get things moving and innovative ideas that capture the imagination of the community. Some residents have suggested re-kindling activities which were successful in the past but any investment for that purpose will need careful consideration.

The contrast in views and aspirations between villages, especially Awre and Blakeney is evident and the plan will need to ensure that the issues and priorities raised by individual communities are developed within the overall plan. This variation is not unusual and not totally unexpected.

#### Public Toilets

The closure of the public toilets in Blakeney High Street raised an unexpected level of interest. 544 residents commented of which 432 (79%) thought they should be re-opened. 343 people also mentioned re-opening under the Tourism theme. The Parish Council has now negotiated a contract

with the District Council and the toilets have been re-opened and a maintenance/improvement timeline agreed.

### **Communication**

Many residents commented on the lack of communication within the parish and some suggested that it is the reason for poor response to organised events.

Some local events are advertised by word of mouth and most are promoted by notices in shops and post offices and on street signs. No local events appear to be advertised outside the parish which might be a source of new income although neighbouring parishes do advertise in Blakeney. There is no formal communication between organisations.

The Parish Council provides a summary of its monthly meeting in the local press and has a well-maintained web site which contains a wealth of information and is equipped to take comments and suggestions. About 70% of the community has the ability to access the site.

The parish Council does have 2 small notice boards – one in Blakeney High Street and the other outside Awre Village Hall. Very few residents read the notice boards. Neither is sited in a position ideal for passers-by. The notice boards are maintained but look old and shabby and probably need to be larger and visually more attractive.

There is no newsletter serving the whole of the community. A monthly magazine is published by the Church which is not exclusively used for Church matters and covers a wide range of community service information and local interest issues. It is, however, a subscription magazine with a few copies on sale in Blakeney post office and in Churches. Most households in Awre village subscribe but over the whole of the parish only 19% of households take a copy.

The community is technologically aware and of the 543 residents who commented on Broadband (high speed internet access) 263 (48%) said that they would subscribe if it were available. Most thought that lack of Broadband had an impact on their ability to communicate effectively and that it has an impact on the local economy. A business case for enabling the local BT exchange, using DEFRA guidelines, was submitted in July 2004 and agreement obtained to provide Broadband by March 2005.

An option to provide an internet or cyber café in a local shop or village hall was not supported by the community. Of the 568 who commented 477 (84%) said they would not use the facility if it were provided.

There is a wealth of skill and expertise within the parish but no formal publication, register or directory which would enable talents to be advertised and used by residents which would benefit the community.

### **Child Minding/Day Care**

There is no organised day care for children in the parish. While there was no definitive evidence to suggest that this is having a major impact on the local economy there is a view that parents would be able to take-part in wider interest activities or take part-time work if child care facilities were available. However, there is a greater threat on the horizon resulting from rising local house prices. If young couples are to compete for local properties it will probably mean that a dual income will be needed to cover the cost of a mortgage and the need for cost-effective child care will become more critical.

The issue seemed to be of greater significance to parents in Blakeney than Awre. This may be due to the fact that there are a greater number of children in Blakeney or that Awre parents currently look after each others children or have the support of their parents or perhaps a mix of these and other factors. However, the overall number of residents responding to the question of a need for child minders/day care was quite high and of the 416 who commented 273 (66%) thought something needed to be done to improve facilities.

There are some activities for tots and under 5's in Blakeney organised by a committee of mothers but the facilities they have are need of improvement. Ideally the groups should be located more closely to Blakeney School.

### **Public Seating/Benches**

513 residents commented on the public seating around the parish of which 402 (78%) thought that more should be provided outside village halls/playing fields and in bus shelters.

### **Recommendations**

- C1 This plan must recognise that solutions to most community issues can be generated from within the community itself but relies heavily on volunteers. Changing attitudes to voluntary work could prevent some initiatives getting started and changing life styles has meant that people today may not have the time to give to voluntary causes. Some of the local issues summarised above will require funding and as a guide 30% will have to be generated from within the community and the remainder coming from sponsorship. Sponsors are unlikely to donate funds without an assurance of sustainability for projects or priorities of their choice. The organisation of regular clubs and activities can be extremely time-consuming and even the time needed to arrange small one-off events should not be underestimated.
- C2 A detailed study should be undertaken to identify what activities Village Hall Management Committees are prepared to support and what capabilities they have from within the community to manage them. Business Cases should then be prepared and bids submitted for financial support. The cost of modernising of Awre Village Hall is estimated at between £30k-£60k and an extension to Blakeney Village Hall is estimated at £20k. A test case has already been submitted by Blakeney Village Hall Committee who, in exchange for running a regular luncheon club for the elderly, will be given funding to install a new kitchen and for new furniture.
- C3 Consider the future of the Youth Club and possibly include within and a larger extension to Blakeney Village Hall. This would enable better access to the playing fields for young people, make more use of the Village Hall and reduce overheads and possibly reduce the level of admin required. The Youth Club if retained could become a learning centre, neighbourhood "college" or rented space. If disposed of the asset used in the new village hall and surround.
- C4 As a alternative, and only if refurbishment options fail, consider the much longer-term needs and aspirations of the community and feasibility of building a new community complex which provides specialist facilities on behalf of the Forest plus local services for the all villages in the parish incorporating a health centre, library, multi-age group learning centre including both vocational and leisure interest courses and workshops, sports coaching, clubs, facilities for all social activities and cafeteria/small restaurant. This project would be supported by both paid employees and volunteers.
- C5 The "competition" for use of venues and lack of coordination of events needs to be eliminated. This could be achieved by the formation of a new panel comprising representations from Club Leaders, Village Hall Committees, Church (PCC) Youth Leaders, Parish Council, Blakeney School and Event Organisers. The role need not be a time-consuming and the panel will only be required to meet from time to time as need demands. The panel should be formed so that it can address the following key issues and may have different representatives on each to share the work:
- Representatives to attend a quarterly meeting to agree a diary of events and integration of special celebrations. This would avoid possible conflict of interest so that different activities do not "chase the same small audience" and so that equipment could be shared and best use made of venues to maximise participation



- Representatives to form a community activity group which meets as necessary to formulate non-profit making events which serve all sectors of the community. These may include day trips for the elderly and young people, club events and family fun days
  - Representatives to form a fund raising committee designed to generate external investment into the local economy
- C6 Replace the two existing notice board in Blakeney High Street and outside Awre village hall with larger and vandal proof displays. They should be re-sited so that they are more visible for passers-by. In Blakeney the notice board should be self-standing and sited at the junction of Butts Lane and Brook Street where the road crosses the brook. In Awre it could be re-sited close to the Red Hart pub.
- C7 A regular newsletter, ideally monthly, should be produced and delivered to every household in the parish. The publication should include a summary of current issues, community services information and “club” news and forthcoming events. Local businesses and organisations should be approached to sponsor the cost of publication. Volunteers will be required to deliver the newsletter but if a sufficient number can be found, say, to deliver to their street or in the immediate vicinity where they live it should not be an onerous task.
- C8 The parish web site should be used to provide more detailed information about issues summarised in the newsletter. Residents who do not have access to the web site should be able to request hard copies of specific items .
- C9 A community skills directory should be produced and re-issued twice a year. A copy should be delivered to every household in the parish and a version with search and find capabilities should be added to the parish website. The web version should also allow new users and existing access to the systems administrator for additions, amendments and deletions at any time.
- C10 Options for the improvement of child minder/day care provision should be explored including:
- Setting-up a community rota of parents using own homes
  - Professional care using community halls
  - Organised car share to take/collect children to/from nurseries outside parish
- C11 Provide public seating in existing and new bus shelters, outside Blakeney Village Hall and on Blakeney Hill overlooking Soudley

### **How the community can help itself**

Volunteers to help with the refurbishment of village halls

Register your interest in child minder/day care provision

Help organise a monthly club for the elderly

Get involved with outings and trips for various age groups and interests

Support family community events

Deliver the monthly newsletter in your street

If you have children or teenagers with particular interests or if you have an interest of your own consider starting-up a group for those with similar interests

# 8

## ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

### Key Findings

#### Planning Regulations

In the survey 496 people commented on planning regulations and 405 (82%) thought that the current approach is too bureaucratic, subject to inconsistencies and poorly enforced/regulated.

Most support, in principle, the need for controls in building of houses and business site development but there are tensions between the level of protection of the landscape and the need for economic sustainability.

Inconsistencies in the planning application process are making it increasingly difficult for private and business development and sound opportunities may be missed as a result. Business applications are time-consuming and costly to produce and there are currently no clear guidelines to enable applicants to gauge either what is required to avoid re-submissions or to assess the level of likely success or failure to make the investment worthwhile.

There appear to be inconsistencies across the county and while evidence suggests that Forest of Dean District takes a more pragmatic approach to planning applications, for which it should be congratulated, there is a suggestion that inward investment may suffer as a result of the variation.

There is a perception that planners are untrained and unaware of what makes communities tick. Cases have been quoted where officers have objected to aspects of applications but have been unable to suggest alternatives. There are examples of applications which have satisfied the conditions laid down that suddenly to become subject to “new rules” which were not mentioned at the beginning of the process. Precedents sometimes apply and sometimes are ignored and the rationale itself is vague.

Enforcement Offices appear to be too thinly spread to manage the workload which can lead to a perception that “offenders” may be “getting away with it” by some in the local community.

#### Village Cleanliness & Maintenance

572 residents commented on the cleanliness of the villages within the parish with 343 (60%) satisfied with the current standard. A number of local residents do currently pick-up litter and the residents of Awre organise an annual clean-up day. 188 residents said that they would be willing to take part in a village clean-up from time to time.

Fouling of streets by animals, principally dogs and horses, was raised by 430 residents. It is not an offence for horses to foul roadways but fouling by dogs does render the owner liable to a fine. While some thought that more should be done to enforce fines others thought that a more effective solution would be gaining the co-operation of owners.

Mess on public roads caused by farmers is an issue for some especially in more rural parts of the parish. This can probably be overcome with the co-operation of farmers and residents. The non-farming community must accept that weather is a factor which contributes to the state of roadways near farms and farmers must accept that they have a social obligation to residents and should clean-up immediately when the work has been completed or when conditions allow.

Some residents felt that more should be done to trim hedges and verges. The periodic trimming of hedges is the owner's responsibility but council contractors cut back where they can but this is seen by some as futile due to the small area of hedge and verge actually trimmed. Most farmers provide an

autumn or spring cut-back which is more effective but in some parts of the parish hedges have been allowed over the years to grow to such a height that they now meet overhead and cause damage to school buses and lorries.

Maintenance of ditches was also raised as an issue as no-one appears to be taking responsibility for keeping them clear which could lead to local flooding.

Cleaner streets and villages will improve the aspect of the parish and make it more attractive for both residents and visitors. 75% thought that the planning of more trees/shrubs on approach roads to villages would enhance the parish.

398 (73%) of the 545 residents who commented on maintenance thought that the timescale for repair was unacceptable. The main highway (A48) is thought to be well-maintained but other highways and lanes lack the same level of attention. Most residents thought that the time taken to fill potholes and repair broken pavements was unacceptable.

### Re-Cycling

Of the 574 residents who commented about re-cycling 303 (53%) thought that the facilities provided by the council were adequate.

The main issue concerning residents is the current policy for the disposal of plastic. At present plastic is only disposed of as a part of normal household waste and there are three reasons why this is the case. First, it is very expensive to collect and store such light material. Second, the environmental cost as well as the economic cost of transporting plastics to nearest recycling centre that can accommodate them is prohibitive. Third, the many different types of plastic cannot be collected together and again it is very expensive to sort them. The policy for disposal of plastic is being considered as part of the Gloucestershire Waste Management Strategy for the next 20 years and this strategy will address issues such as using plastics to generate energy. While recycling is a valuable tool in saving the planet it is not necessarily the best or only tool. The use of plastic has reduced the impact on the environment by for example reducing the pollution impact from the carriage of heavier containers such as glass and the reduction in wastage and contamination of food has helped reduce the amount of methane from rotting food.

**“Recycling of organic kitchen waste is something most of us can do and everyone benefits – it reduces landfill, helps the environment, can generate jobs and waste disposal savings can be redistributed to the local community”**

### Heritage

Of the 530 who expressed a view 376 (71%) thought that buildings and monuments should be preserved. Some thought that listing added an unnecessary level of bureaucracy. Some cases were sited which demonstrated how enforcement could become unmanageable for both owners and officials which could lead to buildings being left to decay.

### Utility Supply

Of 544 residents who expressed a view about the supply of gas 455 (84%) thought that supply should be more widely available. Most felt that gas was a more eco-friendly form of energy and supply via a pipeline would reduce the amount of transport needed for delivery of oil, coal or liquid gas therefore reducing traffic congestion and contributing to a reduction in pollution.

The majority considered that water quality is acceptable although some thought that chemicals could be reduced to improve taste.

The majority think that electricity supply is acceptable after being given an assurance that a spate of power failures in Blakeney was only temporary and the problem would be rectified.

Some residents complained that terrestrial television reception is poor and cannot be improved with antennas or boosters.

## **Recommendations**

- E1 The planning application process needs to be more widely understood and inconsistencies removed. A simple guide should be produced showing the key stages in the Council's assessment criteria so that applicants know the level of detail that needs to be included. A response timescale should be incorporated for each key stage, eg, application desk assessment completed within x days, site inspection carried-out within x weeks and decision with x days of completion of qualifying stages.
- E2 The dog fouling issue should be addressed by either the provision of dog litter bins sited in places where the problem exists or by co-operation with owners using scoopers or something similar. The cost of providing bins and proper disposal could be expensive and will have to be funded by local residents. This should be adopted as a last resort. Education and co-operation by dog owners may be a far better approach. A low cost campaign using posters and notice boards will not only bring the issue to the attention of dog owners but also other residents who will probably act as observers who are likely to spot offenders and remind them of their responsibility.
- E3 Review the responsibilities for hedge, verge and ditch maintenance and define standards of cutting and frequency. Monitor adherence to standards
- E4 Assess the potential for planting of trees or shrubs on approach roads to villages. Where these are inappropriate due to an impact on road safety consider planters as an alternative.
- E5 Every opportunity should be seized to undertake small local heritage projects as these will enhance the character and protect ancient sites and landmarks. Full funding is available for a wide range of initiatives especially projects within conservation areas.
- E6 Gas suppliers should be advised of the demand for supply within the parish and an understanding of their expansion plans obtained. It might be necessary to form an action committee to lobby for action.
- E7 Broadcast Authorities should be approached for a stronger signal to improve television reception in affected areas

## **How the community can help itself**

Volunteer for periodic village clean-up days

Report path and road damage to Forest of Dean District Council

Let the Parish Council have details of any local heritage initiative you are considering and how much it will cost



*The River Sever at Awre*



*The Royal Forest of Dean*

# 9

## LOCAL SERVICES

### Key Findings

Residents were asked how often they used the post office in Awre or Blakeney. There was no overall majority but most common from the 590 who answered was, weekly

Residents were asked how often they used a local shop in Blakeney or Brains Green. There was no overall majority but most common from the 593 who answered, weekly.

Local shops are used by most for convenience with a high percentage using food stores in Lydney for their “weekly” shopping and larger shopping centres in Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bristol for other consumer goods.

Residents were asked how often they used a local pub in Awre or Blakeney. There was no overall majority but most common from the 591 who answered, was “never” and “less frequently than monthly”.

Residents were asked how often they used the mobile library that visits Blakeney, Awre and Etloe. Of the 587 who commented 541 (92%) answered, never.

Residents were asked to rank the services they would like to see provided in a village hub if one was established and the highest scoring were, local produce, a café and cashpoint. Lowest scorers were employment advice and training/educational advice

### Recommendations

LS1 The findings for use of post offices should be used to counter any threat of closure.

LS2 Local publicans should be encouraged to take a more active role in the community by encouraging league matches which bring teams into the villages and more family events

LS3 The need for the mobile library should reviewed. It may be a lifeline for the few that make use of it but there could be cost effective alternatives which would be equally acceptable to users. As a first step it needs to be more widely publicised.



LS4 The provision of a village hub could be an option if a new community centre were to be considered but in the absence of any radical change there is potential to establish a mini-hub selling local produce which could be held, say, weekly in a village hall. There are legal liability issues to understand and manage but it could provide a viable outlet for trade and boost the local economy.

### How the community can help itself

Support your local shops and use local services wherever possible

Use your local post office more to counter any threat of closure

# 10

## HOUSING

### Key Findings

588 residents commented on the scope for new multiple housing of which 311 (56%) thought that no more could be accommodated.

There is a view that single dwellings within existing settlement areas would be acceptable.

There is no outright majority view on the type of housing but more favoured affordable housing for locals especially younger people than any of the other options.

265 (56%) of the 476 residents who expressed a view think that funds should be prioritised to meet the needs of particular groups. There was no majority but most think that young people should be given priority over others in the community.

Homes within the parish are highly sought by people wanting to move into the area. 70% of enquiries about homes on the market come from outside the area. This may inflate prices and further restrict local purchasers, especially younger people.

### Recommendations

- H1 The findings should be built into the housing needs assessment and the views of the community build into Forest of Dean District Council's Housing Strategy and Local Plan.
- H2 Suitable sites should be nominated for the development of single or small clusters of dwellings. The build design should conform to the area in which the new house(s) are sited.
- H3 Planning applications for other developments especially outside settlement areas should be resisted.
- H4 The need for local affordable housing and innovative ideas to meet the demand for homes, such as, self-build, shared ownership and refurbishment grants should be developed as part of the housing strategy
- H5 Affordable housing must be kept in perpetuity so that future generations will also benefit.

### How the community can help itself

Those looking for affordable housing should register their name with Forest of Dean Housing as soon as possible.



*The Smithy*

# 11

## ROADS/TRAFFIC

### Key Findings

Most residents raised concern about the number of heavy lorries using the A48 and the speed of traffic generally.

Parking, especially in Blakeney, is a key issue which some residents think has been ignored for too long. Enforcement of parking restrictions near bus stops is non-existent and lorries delivering to the convenience store in Blakeney regularly use the bus pull-in for unloading forcing buses to stop in the middle of the road which endangers passengers boarding and leaving the bus. For years residents have complained about parking at the junction of Awre Road and the main A48 which is a dangerous bend and compounded by the parking of cars which restrict sight of on-coming traffic. Many believe a major accident is inevitable and that authorities are just waiting until it happens before taking action to prevent it.

A blind spot at the junction of Church Sq and the main A48 in Blakeney which carries the traffic from All Saints housing estate is also considered to be an accident hazard.

Residents were asked if they would support a bypass for Blakeney to help resolve the issues raised and of 524 who expressed a view 255 (49%) said, no

Residents were also asked if they would support de-trunking of the A48 but of those who expressed an opinion only 26% said they would. The majority feel that de-trunking will do nothing to reduce the level of through traffic and that it would place an additional financial burden on the community as they would be liable for upkeep of the road. A fair number believe that heavy lorries only use the A48 to avoid paying the toll on the Severn Crossings and think that a toll should be applied to the A48.

The majority think that speed checks should be introduced, especially on the A48 where it passes through the parish but most feel that speed cameras are not the answer.

### Recommendations

- R1 Options for introducing a toll should be considered and proposals put to Highways Agency and County Highways through the A48 Road Committee. However, a restriction on through traffic will impact on local heavy vehicles which could impact the local economy – see commentary at section 19 of this report.
- R2 Speed restriction options such as, flashing speed indicators or calming measures but excluding speed cameras, should be considered and proposals put to Road Authorities and the Road Police Unit through the A48 Road Committee.
- R3 Changes to road layout at junction of Church Sq and A48 to improve access to All Saints including possibly removing part of the barrier wall to be prepared for discussion with Road Authorities. Also a feasibility study to be undertaken to provide a second access point to All Saints on Blakeney Road near the Old School House.
- R4 Options to be considered to restrict parking in Blakeney High Street including the painting of double yellow lines at near junctions and bus stops.
- R5 Develop options for the provision of more car parks .
- R6 Road signage should be reviewed. In Blakeney High Street there are numerous signs in quick succession which could cause accidents rather than prevent them. Outside the villages signage at accident black spots should be considered. Brown information signs should be positioned

to both inform drivers of approaching sites and also to warn others of slowing or turning vehicles. An example of this is outside Severnview Garden Centre on Newnham Road (A48) which is an accident black spot that has suffered one fatal accident. This will require a change to existing policy for use of “brown signs” which are currently used for tourist information rather than accident prevention.

### **How the community can help itself**

Avoid parking on busy roads especially near shops and bus stops. Make use of the public car parks close-by.

Support plans for more car parks.

Support plans for yellow lines and traffic calming measures on main roads.

Observe speed restrictions.



*Approach to Blakeney Village from Gloucester*



*Blakeney High Street*



# 12

## LEISURE FACILITIES

### Key Findings

Residents were asked if they would support a social club which meets regularly for various activities to which they gave a 50/50 response for and against.

When asked what clubs/activities residents do or would attend if provided about 20 alternatives were suggested. There is no majority view on any of the alternatives with just small numbers of people interested in each. Many, however, chose more than one alternative. The most popular choices are, travel/day trips, keep fit, walking /rambling, and arts/crafts. Team games such as football, Rugby and cricket were amongst the lowest scorers.

Residents were asked what prevented them from taking part in local activities/clubs and there are a few responses which mention, other commitments, time of the event, expense, travel, etc but the vast majority, 66% , gave their reason as, "Do not want to"

### Recommendations

- L1 Given the 50/50 response for a social club a series of "trial" events should be arranged rather than trying to organise regular activities from the outset. These could include a barbecue, fete, treasure hunt, sports day, dog show craft fair , mock casino, pantomime, Christmas party, film shows and theme suppers.
- L2 While it is not viable to try to provide all of the clubs/activities which residents declared an interest in it could be worthwhile working with our immediate neighbours (and others) and joining them if they already provide these activities. It may even be possible to co-ordinate transport to venues using cost-only volunteers.

### How the community can help itself

Get involved in local events even if it is only once in a while.

Support those who are trying to get things started and make sure you have your say in what you think should be happening.



*Awre Village Hall*

# 13

## HEALTH SERVICES

### Key Findings

Satisfaction with local health services was high in respect of both the local practice and local A&E and minor treatment hospitals . A number of issues were raised about new services which if addressed and resolved could move the service provision in the parish from mid to upper quartile .

Some residents commented on the usefulness of the practice newsletter which is produced periodically and available from the surgery but communication of NHS information leaflets and brochures is seen as a weakness. The recent “Out of Hours” changes brochure was given as an example.

61% think that waiting time to see a doctor is acceptable. Many of the 39% who were dissatisfied put the reason down to a shortage of doctors following resignations and retirement of local GP’s at the time of the survey. New doctors have now been appointed.

When asked if the surgery provided for all health needs 461 (83%) answered, yes.

Residents were asked what new services they would like to see and most popular answers are, screening, advice on complementary and alternative medicine and podiatry.

### Recommendations

HS1 A communication link should be established with the local surgery and West Gloucestershire NHS Communications Dept so that announcements and publications on general health issues, self help and other advice from either of these sources can be included on the parish web site and where necessary distributed with the parish newsletter to households. The local practice web site, when commissioned, should include a link with the parish web site.

HS2 The provision of new services should be explored with the NHS preferably as a joint initiative with the local practice and include:

- Scope for the provision of mobile screening and a visiting clinic facility either using the surgery premises or village halls
- Scope to provide lectures on complementary and alternative medicine, healthy living and first aid courses to be held in the village halls
- Scope for providing services identified by residents that are not currently available such as, dentistry, physiotherapy and podiatry.

### How the community can help itself

Raise awareness with family and friends of the health benefits of physical exercise

Raise awareness of the health benefits of eating a healthy diet, especially young people

Use NHS support services to give up smoking

Help sustain our very low number of cases of alcohol and drug misuse by raising awareness of the risks

Encourage those around you to be vaccinated against flu if they are susceptible to attack or have a medical condition which may make them vulnerable.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### Key Findings

10% of households in the parish do not have access to a car or van. 87% of households have access to between one and three cars or vans.

The bus service between Gloucester and Newport runs hourly and is reliable. There are no late evening services and service at weekends buses run infrequently.

The lack of evening services means that some, especially young people, are unable to access services and entertainment in towns. Many parents operate a “taxi” service for young people which would not be necessary if public transport were available.

There is no bus service for villages around Blakeney, apart from a once a week service to Gloucester.

The rail service is not within easy access. The nearest station is Lydney where there is very restricted parking space and only a few of the trains that pass through are scheduled to stop.

A few residents want Awre station re-opened but when asked if they would use the train service if the station did re-open with more trains stopping in peak hours 66% of the residents answered, “less than monthly or never”. Given the lack of interest and the fact that it is highly unlikely that rail authorities will agree, the proposal has been dropped. The campaign to improve both service and parking at Lydney will continue as will support for a proposed new park and ride at Elmbridge Court.

Residents were asked what improvements they would like to see in the public bus service and the most popular answers were more weekend and evening services, hail and ride hopper buses around villages and cheaper fares.

### Recommendations

Given the number of passengers it is unlikely that more services will be a viable proposition for private service providers and alternatives need to be explored including:

- T1 Long-term loan of scooters or mopeds, especially for young people for journeys to work or college
- T2 Opportunities to use Dial-A-Ride vehicles during the period they are not in use
- T3 Formation of a Community Car Scheme using volunteers own vehicles for specific journeys charged on a not for profit basis
- T4 Provision of a Community Bus service operating around villages on a hail and ride basis linking with main bus routes
- T5 Partnership in the mini-bus brokering scheme and the loan of vehicles for use by community organisations

- T6 Investigate the potential for demand responsive transport which could allow passengers to ring to book a journey
- T7 Involvement with the Taxi Bus pilot commencing in November 2004
- T8 Secure fare subsidies in rural areas
- T9 Improve access to information about travel by publishing timetables and maps on notice boards and at bus stops and advise residents of change to services in the newsletter and a link to the from the parish website to the traveline web site.
- T10 Erect 2 bus shelters on the Lydney to Gloucester side of the A48 at the corner of New Road and outside the general store in Blakeney High Street.

### **How the community can help itself**

Use public transport whenever practicable to do so.

Support initiatives to generate investment into new services

Lobby for improved fare subsidies for rural services

Join the Public Transport Action Group

*"How can youngsters go to see a film at the cinema. While I rarely use public transport now, when I did I endured such a misery waiting for dirty, often late buses whose fare to Lydney was almost the same amount to go to Gloucester – terrible – and there was nothing on a Sunday then at all and no late (early evening that is) buses to anywhere"*

*"I cannot get to work using public transport but would use it if it were available"*

*"I accept that due to the number of passengers an evening bus service is not viable but we do have a rail service to and from Gloucester or Newport and beyond late into the night most of which run empty because they don't stop anywhere, certainly not here. Is that what you call a 21<sup>st</sup> century public transport service? And you want us to stop using our cars to protect the environment – you must be kidding!"*

# 15

## TOURISM

### Key Findings

Tourism is worth £830m annually in Gloucestershire and suffered a 30% drop during the Foot and Mouth epidemic. Marketing of the county has started to restore visitor numbers but most campaigns appear to focus on the Cotswolds rather than the Forest of Dean. The Cotswolds is particularly popular with American visitors but 9/11 has dramatically reduced the number travelling. Today, the largest numbers of overseas visitors to Gloucestershire are Chinese and Japanese.

Tourism in the Forest of Dean earns £40m annually and employs, directly and indirectly, about 2000 people (7% of working population). The Forest receives about 3 million day visitors each year and 250,000 overnight stays. Over the last 10 years there has been a substantial decrease in the number of overnight stays but an increase in day visitors. The amount visitors spend is low at about £14 on average while in Monmouthshire, just a few miles away, the average spend is £41.

Tourism in the parish is not big business but there are a number of local quality B&B's, pubs offering overnight accommodation, a holiday complex and a growing number of holiday lets. While the market towns provide the draw for visitors there are opportunities to encourage more visitors to visit and stay in the parish.

Community support for visitors is high with only 2% of those surveyed opposed to tourists although there is perceived impression that visitors are not wanted here which may stem from forest traditions and a view that "locals" speak their mind.

Residents have mixed views of what needs to be done to increase the number of visitors but the majority think that communication of what is on offer locally and better information for visitors once they are here need to be improved.

### Recommendations

- V1 Publish information about the parish and what makes it special taking into consideration what tourists want.
- V2 Improve information about places of interest and where to stay in the parish.
- V3 Install tourist information boards around the parish and provide guide leaflets and brochures in local shops and pubs.
- V4 Maintain the cleanliness of villages, especially toilets and include flowers and plants to make it more attractive.
- V5 Give visitors a reason to come to the parish by developing attractions, such as shows, fairs, exhibitions and special commemorative events.
- V6 Design and publish a footpath map. Improve footpath signage and footpath maintenance.
- V7 Lobby for the abolition of parking charges in the Forest.
- V8 Become actively involved in the Forest of Dean Tourism Strategy

## **How the community can help itself**

Promote the parish to encourage visitors and make them welcome so that they come back again.

If you are planning a community event publicise it outside the parish to encourage visitors.

If footpaths cross your land keep them open.

Support a sensible balance between maintaining the parish as it is and the development tourist attractions necessary to stop it falling into decline.

Get involved in tourism projects.

Bring friends and relatives to the parish.



The Royal Forest of Dean – natural and unspoilt

# 16

## CRIME & SAFETY

### Key Findings

Crime within the parish is low and people generally feel safe. Crime statistics last year were showing an increase in crime, albeit on low numbers, but Police Authorities have since ceased to publish results on a parish by parish basis. Our parish is now included in Forest North which is showing a declining crime trend.

A lack of a more visible police presence is a concern of many residents but there is unlikely to be a return to traditional policing. Some community police officers have been appointed and more are promised. While this is welcomed these new officers do not have the powers of the constables and the value they have to offer is questionable.

Street wardens, employed by the council, have been appointed to build community confidence by helping to reduce crime and the fear of crime and in deterring anti-social behaviour. They have no powers and are very limited in number.

Of the 599 residents who commented on policing, 537 (90%) thought that the police do not have a high enough profile in the parish.

Many complained about the increase for policing included in council tax which is up by over 20% in 2 years and with no perceived benefit for the local community.

To provide a more cost-effective means of local policing, a mobile police station (Bobbie Bus) now visits the parish. 97% of residents said when asked that they had not visited the mobile police station and many did not see it as serving any useful purpose.

91% of residents said they would support a neighbourhood/rural watch scheme.

### Recommendations

- P1 Secure agreement with Police Authorities for a more visible police presence in the parish such as “floating police officers”. This will be an alternative to the reinstatement of the beat policeman which is unlikely to happen unless national policy is changed by the Home Office.
- P2 Assess scope for a zero tolerance test, say for a period of 3 months, with pre and post crime or complaint measures to evaluate effect.
- P3 Provide and publish consistent local crime statistics so that trends can be measured and sound decisions made on the results
- P4 Abandon the routine visit of the mobile police station (Bobbie Bus) and put the resource to better use.
- P5 Improve response times especially answering at the Call Centre.
- P6 Improve publicity and communication of self-help advice.

### How the community can help itself

Report suspicious circumstances or information you have about people committing a crime to the police

Work as a community to combat anti-social behaviour – join the new neighbourhood/rural watch scheme

# 17

## HELP FOR THE ELDERLY

### Key Findings

30% of residents are aged over 60. The average age is currently 45 and the average is increasing. This is significant for the future of the parish.

Of the 730 households, 92 (12.6%) are occupied by pensioners living alone and 78 (10.7%) are all pensioner homes.

Currently, there are no clubs or activities specifically for elderly people where they can meet socially within the parish. This could have a detrimental effect on the lives of those who either live alone or may be living with relatives but are alone during working hours and possibly beyond.

These residents can be socially excluded given that they do not have the opportunity to mix with others or to voice their opinion on current issues.

They may have particular problems or concerns but are unsure of where to go to get help and advice and this can lead to a perception of being unwanted in our busy modern society.

Some elderly people may be in need of practical help to remedy household faults but are fearful of inviting strangers into their home and/or concerned about the cost of repair.

Residents were asked if there should be a "Friends Club" for the elderly which meets regularly for lunch, gossip and entertainment. From 531 responses, 487 (92%) agreed

Residents were also asked if there should be organised outings throughout the year. Of 503 responses 451 (90%) agreed that there should be.

When asked if they would be prepared to help run the club and outings 165 (40%) of 408 responders said, yes.

### Recommendations

A1 Organise a club for the elderly to attend regularly which includes the provision of a hot meal, activities and periodic outings to venues of their choice. This will involve:

- Establishing a panel of volunteers who are prepared to make a regular commitment and are willing to be actively involved in preparing meals, organising activities, arranging for speakers and entertainers and generating on-going fund raising events
- Enlisting professional skills required to facilitate well-being for the elderly including legal requirements such as food hygiene certificate and risk assessment
- Strengthening the links with social and welfare bodies including agencies, public bodies and voluntary organisations

A2 Arrange an open day where elderly residents, their relatives and carers can drop in for advice about any topic that concerns them. It might be necessary to make special arrangements, such as home visits, for those who are unable to attend the venue.

### How the community can help itself

If you are over 60 or you are a carer join the Friend's Club when it starts-up

Encourage elderly friends and relatives to join the club

Become a helper – it will only take-up about 4 hours of your time each month and less if there are more volunteers

Offer practical support to an elderly neighbour, friend or relative.

Make use of the Forest of Dean "handy man" for small jobs you cannot manage yourself



## EDUCATION/TRAINING

### Key Findings

The Forest of Dean has a large proportion of people with a low level of qualification and skills. This may be due to the characteristics of the area which traditionally has relied on recruiting for elementary occupations.

The results of the parish survey reveal that 76% of those who commented were satisfied with school standards.

241(61%) of the 397 residents who commented think that there are insufficient lifelong learning opportunities. Education and training establishments believe that there are plenty of opportunities but that there is a lack of take-up. This could be to do with the fact that there are few better local job opportunities as an incentive to make the effort worthwhile.

Local residents are well aware of the decline in traditional skills and 25% of those responding to the survey recognised a need for re-skilling. The question remains, however, re-skilling for what? It is unlikely that new skills will be in big demand within the parish and those who wish to benefit from the effort of learning will have to join the current 40% of the working population who commute outside the area.

New business start-up and support are seen as a high priority needs as is Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This indicates an aspiration to move from employed to self-employed taking advantage of regional priorities for emerging sectors which are supported by grants.

The survey also showed that there is still a keen interest in developing skills in mechanical and engineering sectors and in tourism.

Learning a foreign language was also mentioned as a key priority in the survey which is inclined towards social rather than vocational skills but is equally important.

### Recommendations

- ET1 The discrepancy between the opportunities for training and development and take-up rates need to be clarified and the issues addressed.
- ET2 Communication about what is on offer and where to obtain more information or advice needs to be included in the parish communication programme.
- ET3 Develop solutions to the local issues through integration with the Education and Lifelong Learning theme within the FoDDC Community Plan
- ET4 Explore the opportunity to provide local learning centres using village halls where numbers make it a viable proposition. This may be appropriate for leisure courses and one-off workshops.
- ET5 Utilise training & development organisations located within the parish and local resident skills to provide a cost-effective alternative to courses offered by colleges.
- ET6 Investigate the potential for a Community Training Programme which could be used as a foundation for individuals prior to taking more formal training. It could cover a range of personal development skills such as confidence building, assertion, negotiating skills, developing networks and involvement in community issues.

### How the community can help itself

Check-out the vocational and leisure courses and workshops offered by colleges and organisations within the Forest and surrounding area. Raise awareness of any shortfall in available courses

Seek help in getting to training venues with the organisers if you have transportation difficulties

Take advantage of vocational training courses offered by employers

Join local classes and workshops that are organised from time to time

## LOCAL ECONOMY/BUSINESS/EMPLOYMENT

### Key Findings

There are 81 businesses within the parish employing 286 people which is about 20% of the available parish workforce.

78% of businesses within the parish describe themselves as small family run enterprises. They are mainly in retailing and agriculture but there are a few cottage industries and some specialists working from home in advisory and consulting roles.

In common with the surrounding area, there are few productive sectors such as business and finance and there are no branches, offices or outstations of larger organisations excluding the local GP surgery and post offices.

The area is dependent on manual skills and has very few opportunities for high-skill occupations which means daily commutes to Bristol, Swindon, Gloucester and beyond for many of residents although this is common for much of the Forest of Dean.

All businesses that took part in the survey were aware of the financial support available from various national schemes to help generate new jobs and improve productivity. Some of those mentioned include, Youth Employment Scheme, Rural Renaissance Initiative, Market and Coastal Towns Initiative and others linked to the Common Agricultural Policy.

No local businesses are thought to be currently taking advice or are in consultation with organisations such as, Business Link or Federation of Small Businesses .

Communication and/or networking between local businesses has been suggested as in need to be improvement.

The SW Regional Development Agency (SWERDA) has defined priority areas for the support of business growth which include some that could benefit this local economy. They are; food and drink (which is wider than just agriculture) and tourism. The SWERDA is also supporting emerging sectors where there is significant growth potential such as creative industries and this parish is amongst the very few in the area to already have a presence in the sector. International trading is seen as a key support area and one company, at least, within the parish is actively developing overseas markets. Training and development of employees is given high priority and there are businesses in the parish are active participants of Investors in People (IPP).

The Index of Deprivation shows that this parish is amongst the most deprived in Gloucestershire based on the employment measure which compares the number of people who want work but are unable to. 1.4% within the parish are unemployed. It should be noted that the index measures the parish as a whole and not individual villages within the parish.

Low average wages is seen as a greater problem than unemployment. There is a growing discrepancy between wages and local house prices. This is particularly relevant to the 20-35 age group where it is becoming increasingly difficult for young families (including those commuting out) to enter the housing market or to move up the property ladder.

The availability of Broadband has become a serious problem. Some businesses believe that they have been competitively disadvantaged and while agreement has now been reached for the local exchange to be enabled by March 2005 many think that the damage has already been done.

There is a mixed view concerning heavy traffic passing through the parish. The social view is that heavy lorries should be banned or charged a toll whereas some in the business community feel that any restriction will lead to isolation and be economically damaging.

Some farmers are reporting falling revenues and very low or in some cases no profit margin. A few are predicting significant change in farming over the next ten years which could mean diversification unlike any seen before. It is currently unclear if these views are based on fact or pure speculation.

The use of available land for commercial development or relocating businesses is not supported. Only 11% support the development of a small manufacturing site and just 5% support development of a business park.

There is support for the development of a locally run scheme for selling food.

Using local people for local work is seen as a way to both improve the local economy and raise the opportunity for employment and is supported by 36% of residents.

Some residents think that more should be done to develop conditions for local trading and would like to see the development of a share/swop/barter system. (Often called LETS or Local Trading Scheme)

There is an interest in the provision of small financial loans for local residents which are protected against high interest charges.

## **Recommendations**

EC1The Index of Deprivation should be used to exploit opportunities for funds to support local business initiatives.

EC2Pressure needs to be applied to Lydney Area in Partnership (LAiP) for more support for the local economy especially from the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative which has provided funds for development within Lydney and its hinterlands but so far has been used solely in Lydney

EC3A local business seminar, workshop or information share session should be set-up with Business Link Federation of Small Businesses or similar organisation to offer free generic consultation on productivity and development initiatives. Follow-up sessions will be subject to the needs of individual businesses or group of common interest non-competing businesses and may result in the development of a local business forum. The forum could be used to drive for targeted support and inward investment for sectors in most need.

EC4The issue of heavy goods vehicles needs to be considered taking account of both social and economic views. Any decision needs to take account of latest traffic statistics which actually shows a decline in the number of through vehicles and an increase in intra area traffic. An ideal solution would be to encourage those who do not need to pass through the parish to do so without taking draconian measures that reduce the competitiveness of local businesses and dissuade new businesses to migrate into the area. The best solution is cessation or reduction of toll on the Severn Crossing but the case for such a change and loss of revenue to bridge owners is very weak.

EC5The future of agriculture in the parish needs to be assessed. While the numbers employed are relatively small (estimated at 4%) a large proportion of the parish is farmland. If the agricultural industry is threatened, as some predict, a campaign to mitigate the effect will be required. The solution to this national issue is outside the scope of this parish plan but the plan should act as a device to enable the views of local farmers to be heard. If diversification does become necessary then innovative ideas will be needed to protect the countryside as far as is possible. One of the aims of diversification of agriculture is to enable farmers to make flexible use of their resources. Farms are to have "mixed uses". This includes enterprises that reduce the need to travel, saving energy and keeping facilities local which is supported by this plan. Radical change of land use if it comes to it could, for example, lend itself to major national sporting events being established in the parish. These options, if viable, satisfy the wishes of

residents who want to protect the existing landscape and environment and avoid the development industrial sites.

EC6 Establish a Local Enterprise/Economy Trading Scheme (LETS). This could either be restricted to non-business in a Fair Shares scheme where individuals provide a service for others in exchange for credits or an all embracing social and business venture which provides for exchange of goods as well as services.

EC7 Assess the need for low interest rate local loans and if viable organise a Credit Union partnership within the community.

EC8 Promote the use of local people for local work using the community skills directory. Maximise the opportunities for local contractors for public works contracts.

### **How the community can help itself**

Use local traders whenever possible

If you are a local trader consider community discounts

Support local producers of produce

If you run a local business, communicate with other businesses to share best practice.

Get involved with initiatives to secure inward investment and business grants

Diversify into growth and supported sectors if possible

Source materials locally whenever possible

Support local credit trading schemes by exchanging the skills you have to offer for those you do not have.

Join the Credit Union



**Village Store Blakeney**

## RELIGION

### Key Findings

There is support for the Church and its value within the community is acknowledged. However, there are considerable differences in the size of the congregation vs the size of the population in Awre and Blakeney.

299 (65%) of the 460 people who commented on integration of the Church within the community thought that more needs to be done.

Most recognised that the Church is in need of funds to carry-out repair and maintenance within the parish and that fund-raising should be better co-ordinated with other activities.

283 (55%) of the 514 residents who commented on planned maintenance of Churches and Churchyards thought that it should be supported by the parish council but disagreed with a suggestion that an annual grant funded from council tax should be provided

### Recommendations

- R1 Parochial Church Council (PCC) representatives should become members of the community organising committee.
- R2 Fund-raising for Church restoration should be arranged so that its potential is maximised in common with other activities and conflict of interest avoided.
- R3 Parish Council to consider funding support for specific works as part of its donation policy if requested by the Church and based on need and subject to availability of funds and its other responsibilities to good causes
- R4 Monies willed to the Church should be used solely within the Parish

### How the community can help itself

Take part in voluntary work such as keeping churchyards tidy and supporting fund-raising events.

Join clubs and leisure activities organised by the Church especially those for children



*St. Andrew's Awre*

## CHILDREN

### Key Findings

Parents answered questions in the survey about the interests of children under 11. While there was no overall majority for activities for children many said that there is a need for after-school activities

The lack of playground facilities is an issue to be addressed. There is support for the development of one and indeed in Blakeney volunteers to build it. There are, however, concerns by some parents about safety and who takes responsibility if there are accidents and possible compensation claims.

32 parents said that they are willing to check the playground and the equipment for safety and to supervise it on a rota basis including organisation of activities.

There is a lot of interest in horse and pony riding.

Indoor activities are also supported and these do not appear to carry the same concerns for safety of the children. Most popular is music and dancing with junior discos especially mentioned.

There are two parent and children groups running in Blakeney. Accommodation and storage facilities are currently inadequate.

### Recommendations

IN1 Develop options and costing for the construction of playground(s) and in consultation with The Playing Fields Association assess the safety issues, risk and legal liability considerations.

IN2 Scope the provision of planned indoor and outdoor activities for children to support existing playgroups

IN3 Provide improved accommodation and storage facilities for parent and child groups in consultation with the SPARC project.

### How the community can help itself

Parents to encourage the participation of children in playgroups and community events

Volunteer to help organise clubs and events for children after school, during school holidays and at weekends

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### Key Findings

45% of young people living in the parish completed the special questionnaire aimed at 11-17 year olds

The majority of young people completing the questionnaire attend secondary school.

74% of those surveyed think that the subjects they are being taught are appropriate and will prepare them for further education or a job in their chosen profession. Of those who disagree, the majority think that more specialist subjects are needed.

Of those currently in education the majority want to go on to college or university. 15% want to get a job locally when they leave school and only one respondent is planning to get a job elsewhere.

The majority spend their spare time at home watching TV, DVD or videos.

The majority spend their spare time out of doors in activities with friends including games, walking and riding on cycles.

The type of leisure activity they would like to see in the parish is varied. The most popular choices are: cinema/theatre, music (both listening to and playing in a band) swimming and tennis. Of least interest are: boxing/wrestling, gymnastics and skittles.

The majority travel to Lydney for entertainment.

55% rely on parents for transport to and from entertainment venues.

Reasons for not taking part in local activities/clubs are because they take place at the wrong time, or because they are unsafe or attract the wrong crowd or because of getting to them. 19% gave the reason as, "Don't want to".

The most popular day trip events are to theme parks, concerts, major sports events and shopping mall.

The most popular choices for new facilities in the villages are, café/coffee bar, music/live events, and a place for young people to meet.

### Recommendations

- Y1 The future of the youth club needs to be considered and either re-vitalised or closed and the village hall/recreation ground developed for use by young people. It may be necessary to provide a trained youth leader funded from a grant to get activities re-started
- Y2 Start-up a youth forum so that young people can have the opportunity to make their own decisions on what they want and to give them a voice on other issues.
- Y3 Set-up a partnership with Young Gloucestershire to provide a wide-range of activities run locally. These might include roadshows which demonstrate and test interest in drama, circus skills, arts/crafts and team events. Trial activity days which will give young people an opportunity to take part in sporting events, based on their "wish list" which are not currently available. Arrange roadrunner days which provide an opportunity undertake motorbike training and pre-car driving tuition. For those, possibly in the upper age level, arrange youth leadership courses to provide continuation of activities lead by the young people themselves.

- Y4 In partnership with colleges and training organisations set-up local computer skills workshops developing existing skills where necessary but concentrating on creative applications such as digital photography, digital music and graphic design and systems maintenance.
- Y5 Improve access for young people to activities not available locally but which are held in neighbouring areas. This might involve identifying venues and arranging transport if there are sufficient numbers.

### **How the community can help itself**

Provide support for young people and volunteer to help organising events.

Encourage young people to take advantage of any events and activities organised and give them an opportunity to have a say in what they would like to see developed for the future.

Become a mentor to a young person or group with the similar interests .

Show young people that they are valued – they are our future

Everyone can make a difference – it only takes a small amount of time and it won't just benefit young people, but the whole parish.



# APPENDICIES

**AWRE PARISH DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
ACTIVITIES COVERED IN STAGE A**

**This summary covers the period May 2003-November 2003**

**Overview**

Nine key tasks were built into Stage A of the Awre Parish Development Plan and all have been completed.

In May 2003 Awre Parish Council sought advice from the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) on the Parish Plan Development Process and studied the Rural White Paper – Our Countryside: the future and provisions of the Vital Villages Programme. This provided the framework for Council members to produce a high-level design statement.

In July the Council registered its intent with The Countryside Agency and assessed the level of public interest and support for the development of a strategic plan to address the issues of greatest concern to the majority of the parish community.

The high-level design statement, which included a summary of cost and techniques to be used to involve the whole community, was used as the basis for the grant submission to the Countryside Agency in October 2003. A 62.8% grant towards the total cost of the development process was awarded in November 2003.

The high-level design statement was re-formatted into a milestone plan and adopted by the parish council on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

During the period, the process for gaining support from District, County and Agencies commenced and this continues in Stage B. Through meetings arranged by GRCC, town and parish councils have been brought together to share progress and best practice and further meetings are to be held in January 2004.

**Lessons Learned**

Due to other personal commitments the project leader resigned from the Council in September which left a void that took some time to fill. This resulted in a request to The Countryside Agency for an extension of time allowed between registering intent and submission of a grant application. Council members have since improved internal communications so that any temporary or permanent loss of key players can be quickly remedied.

Bob Watters  
for Awre Parish Council  
December 2003

**AWRE PARISH DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
ACTIVITIES COVERED IN STAGE B**

**This summary covers the period December 2003–February 2004**

**Overview**

Fourteen key tasks were built into Stage B of the Awre Parish Development Plan and all have been completed. The milestones are shown below.

In December 2003 a questionnaire designed by Awre Parish Councillors was sent to leaders of clubs and associations within the parish seeking their views on issues affecting their organisations. The same questionnaire with some additional questions was sent to businesses. The target was to get a response from 50 leaders/opinion formers was not achieved with only 30 fully completed responses received. A different questionnaire was sent to County and District Council Officers, councillors and Government Agencies. This was designed to advise these bodies of the development of a parish plan for Awre and sought “in principle” support. There was a very positive response from Forest of Dean District Council officials and councillors. There was little response from Gloucestershire County Council and when challenged they responded by saying that they never get involved with issues at a local (parish) level but only work with committees representing larger bodies. There was no response from Agencies despite reminders.

The outputs from the questionnaire and one to one discussions with local opinion formers and clubs was used as a basis for developing 16 key themes used in a public consultation meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2004. Press, radio, newsletter and street signs were used to advertise the event. A total of 117 people from 5 villages and representing 8% of the residents attended the public consultation meeting. This was double the expected turn-out. The meeting generated 570 inputs to the 16 key themes which were later consolidated into 200 individual issues. There was widespread publicity after the event through press, notice boards, newsletter and the parish web site.

Residents attending the public meeting were asked to volunteer for various roles to develop the plan. These included steering committee members, working groups, delivery agents and catering. A total of 30 people volunteered.

At the Steering Committee’s inaugural meeting held on 17th February 2004 Terms of Reference were ratified, officers elected and roles, based on expertise, assigned.

The Steering Committee analysed the Opinion Formers Survey and outputs from the public consultation meeting and from them designed a questionnaire for delivery to and collection from each of the 730 households across the parish. The questionnaire comprised 4 sections. Section 1 was for completion by every member of the household aged 18+ and included a section for parents to complete about activities for younger children. Section 2 was about personal information such as gender, age and length of time living in the parish. Completion of Section 2 was optional. Section 3, also optional, was about the household for completion by one member of the family. Section 4 was for completion by young people aged 11-17 years.

Questionnaires are to be printed and delivered during March and responses collected by early April. The programme is currently one month ahead of plan.

**Lessons Learned**

Agenda timing for the public consultation event was too short and one agenda item dropped. The activity was picked-up by the Steering Committee but it would have been better to have had the public discussion. The number of people attending the event was significantly under estimated which added to the time issue and there should have been a contingency plan in place, i.e., break-up the number of exercises into smaller groups rather than have every group do the same task. The number volunteering for the steering committee and other roles was encouraging but it may have been the result of the “popularity” of the event as a number withdrew before the inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee. As a result some key areas of expertise have been lost.

Bob Watters  
Chair, Awre Parish Plan Steering Committee  
February 2004

**AWRE PARISH DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
ACTIVITIES COVERED IN STAGE C**

**This summary covers the period March 2004-October 2004**

**Overview**

Sixteen key tasks were built into Stage C of the Awre Parish Development Plan.

In March 2004 a summary of the information gathered from the Opinion Formers survey and the public meeting were published in the press, on notice boards and in the parish magazine. A more detailed report was published on the Parish Web site and the site address was included in all other publications to raise public awareness.

Questionnaires designed by the Steering Committee were delivered to 686 of the 730 households listed on the electoral register during April 2004 by 23 volunteers. The shortfall in the number of households delivered to was due to a combination of unoccupied properties including holiday lets, locked gates and no letter box, refusals by occupants to take part and a few remote cottages that volunteers were unable to find. Delivery volunteers were asked to knock at each household and give a brief explanation for the questionnaire to encourage participation. A guidance note for completion plus a contact number for independent help was attached to each questionnaire. A space was provided for delivery volunteers to insert the date on which they would call to collect the completed questionnaire with a recommendation of allowing 7-10 days for completion. Questionnaires were delivered and collected at weekends or evenings to maximise contact. The delivery and especially collection of questionnaires proved more time-consuming than anticipated and took until the middle of May, about 5 weeks, to complete.

Results were disappointing with only a 52% response rate against a target of 70%.

Considerable time was spent on designing a data capture framework to anticipate every conceivable analysis that would be required. This proved to be time well-spent. 60 hours were spent on actual data capture which was within the estimate of 72 hours that was based on a 70% response.

58 key issues were identified from the analysis of questionnaires. A matrix of options was developed by the Steering Committee and suggested solutions proposed and circulated for comment from the Parish Council, leaders of clubs and organisations council officials and other public bodies and agencies as appropriate.

A display showing the key issues and take away explanation leaflets for each of the key themes were placed in village halls in June.

Quick wins were deployed from June onwards. These included the re-opening of public toilets, repair to the church clock, design of a local skills register and publication of a news sheet.

During the period June to August a study was undertaken to test understanding of the more complex points raised; to sense-check suggested solution options against existing plans and strategies and to set-up a high level exercise to assess resource capabilities and cost options. Business cases were written for two time-critical issues and funding requests submitted.

A progress report was published in July and delivered to every household.

A draft plan was published in September comprising an overview of the parish plan process, details of the key issues in 20 themes and recommendations for each. The plan also included supporting documentation such as copies of surveys and questionnaires showing the level of response and comments, a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats matrix, a history of the parish and a vision for the future.

The consultation period was extended from 4 to 6 weeks to allow more time for comments. Views shared by a majority were included in the final plan and other points included as observations.

**Lessons Learned**

The time and effort required for the delivery and collection of questionnaire was grossly under-estimated. Physical hand delivery and knocking on doors was time consuming but collection took even longer. Most volunteers called back on households 3 times. The option of postal returns was considered but decided against to improve response rates. Some residents did use the contact address to return the questionnaire but most underpaid the postage which incurred expensive surcharging by Royal Mail. Some questionnaires were handed in at local shops suggested by volunteers but shop keepers had not been consulted which led to confusion. A few residents later complained that no-one called for completed questionnaires and felt cheated when the summary of issues was published.

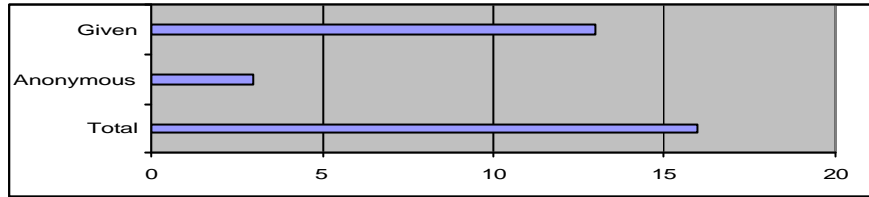
Bob Watters,  
Awre Parish Plan Steering Committee  
October 2004

# Parish Plan – Opinion Formers Survey – Findings

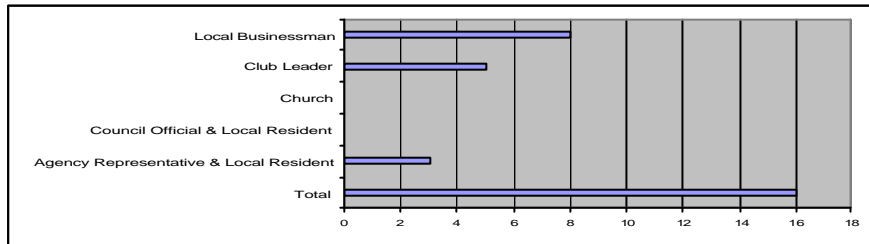
Notes:

Figures represent all those who answered the question - those who put N/A ignored  
 Some questions have been abbreviated  
 Percentages rounded to whole numbers  
 Graph shows numbers only - not percentages

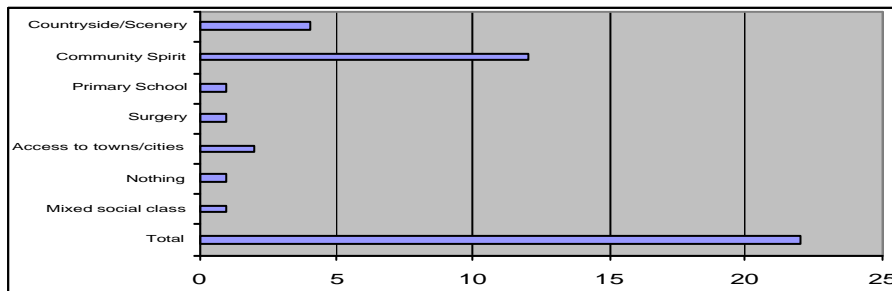
Q1 Your name and address (optional)	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Given	13	81
Anonymous	3	19
Total	16	100



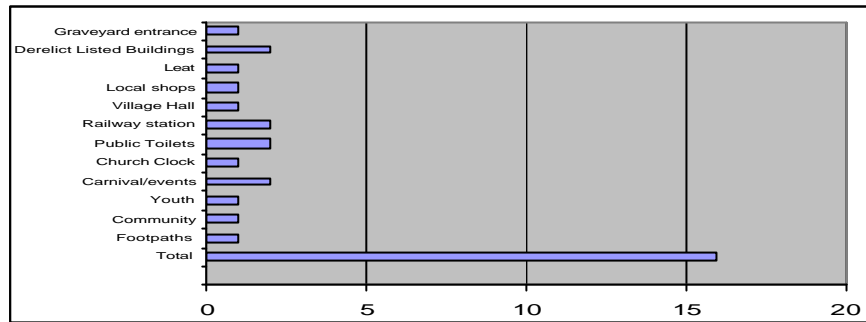
Q2 Your Role/Position	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Local Businessman	8	50
Club Leader	5	31
Church	0	0
Council Official & Local Resident	0	0
Agency Representative & Local Resident	3	19
Total	16	100



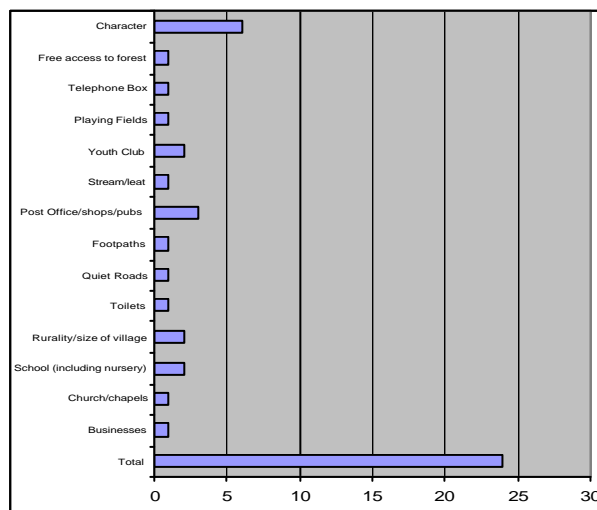
Q3 What do you value	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Countryside/Scenery	4	18
Community Spirit	12	55
Primary School	1	5
Surgery	1	5
Access to towns/cities	2	9
Nothing	1	5
Mixed social class	1	5
Total	22	100



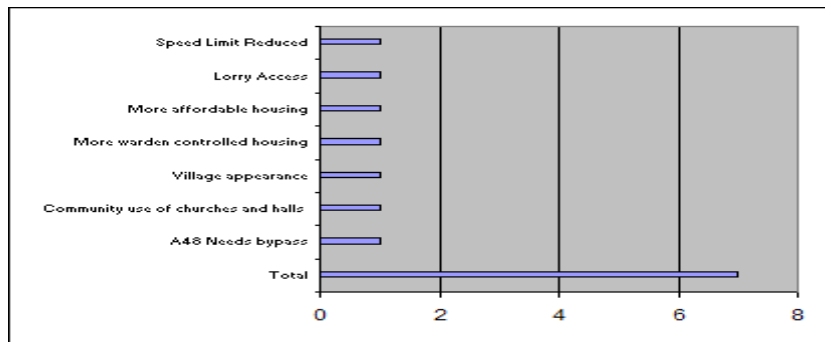
Q4 (a) What should be restored	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Graveyard entrance	1	6
Derelict Listed Buildings	2	13
Leat	1	6
Local shops	1	6
Village Hall	1	6
Railway station	2	13
Public Toilets	2	13
Church Clock	1	6
Carnival/events	2	13
Youth	1	6
Community	1	6
Footpaths	1	6
Total	16	100



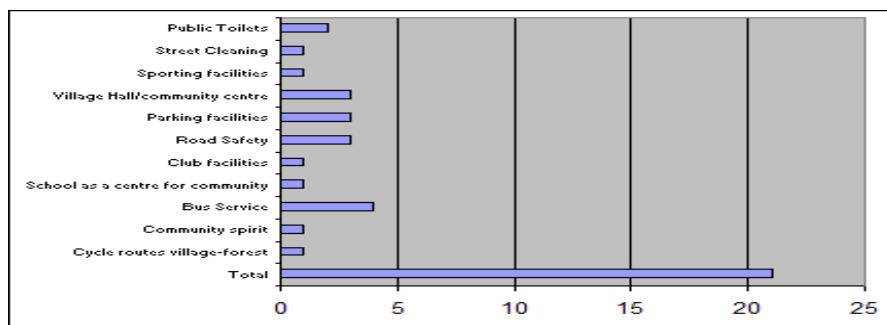
Q4 (b) What should be Preserved	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Character	6	25
Free access to forest	1	4
Telephone Box	1	4
Playing Fields	1	4
Youth Club	2	8
Stream/leat	1	4
Post Office/shops/pubs	3	13
Footpaths	1	4
Quiet Roads	1	4
Toilets	1	4
Rurality/size of village	2	8
School (including nursery)	2	8
Church/chapels	1	4
Businesses	1	4
Total	24	100



Q4 (c) What do you think should be changed	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Speed Limit Reduced	1	14
Lorry Access	1	14
More affordable housing	1	14
More warden controlled housing	1	14
Village appearance	1	14
Community use of churches and halls	1	14
A48 Needs bypass	1	14
Total	7	100

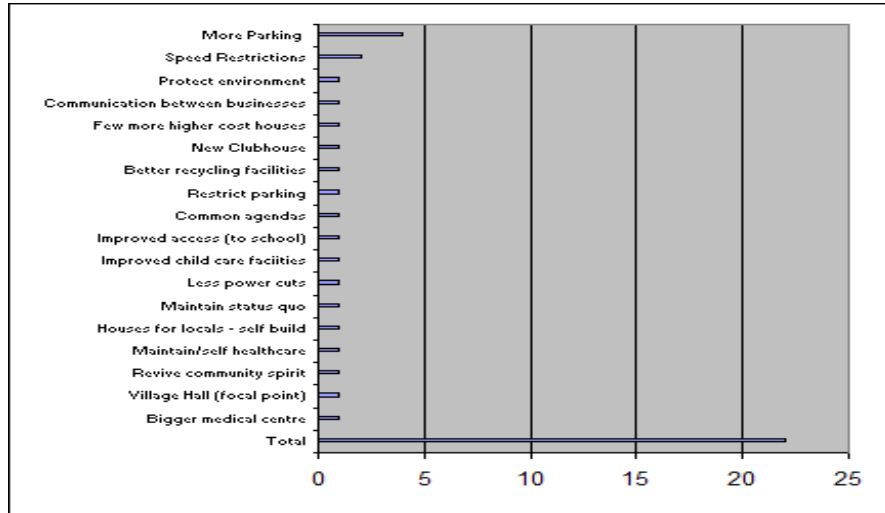


Q4(d) What do you think should be improved	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Public Toilets	2	10
Street Cleaning	1	5
Sporting facilities	1	5
Village Hall/community centre	3	14
Parking facilities	3	14
Road Safety	3	14
Club facilities	1	5
School as a centre for community	1	5
Bus Service	4	19
Community spirit	1	5
Cycle routes village-forest	1	5
Total	21	100



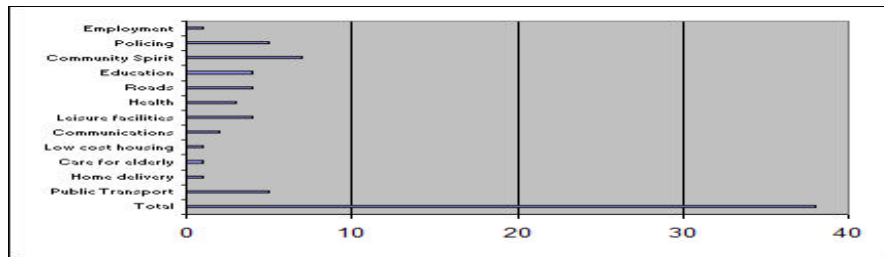
Q5 What would make it a better place	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
More Parking	4	18
Speed Restrictions	2	9
Protect environment	1	5
Communication between businesses	1	5
Few more higher cost houses	1	5
New Clubhouse	1	5
Better recycling facilities	1	5
Restrict parking	1	5
Common agendas	1	5
Improved access (to school)	1	5
Improved child care facilities	1	5
Less power cuts	1	5
Maintain status quo	1	5
Houses for locals - self build	1	5
Maintain/self healthcare	1	5

Revive community spirit	1	5
Village Hall (focal point)	1	5
Bigger medical centre	1	5
Total	22	100



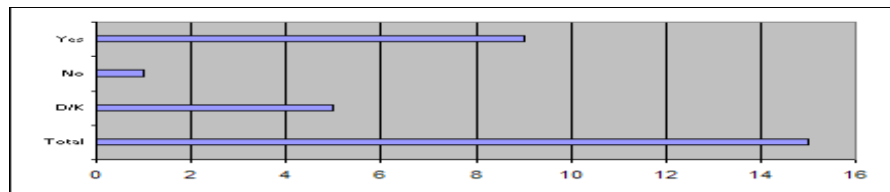
Q6 What are the most important issues

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Employment	1	3
Policing	5	13
Community Spirit	7	18
Education	4	11
Roads	4	11
Health	3	8
Leisure facilities	4	11
Communications	2	5
Low cost housing	1	3
Care for elderly	1	3
Home delivery	1	3
Public Transport	5	13
Total	38	100



Q7(a) Satisfaction with Parish Council

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	9	60
No	1	7
D/K	5	33
Total	15	100

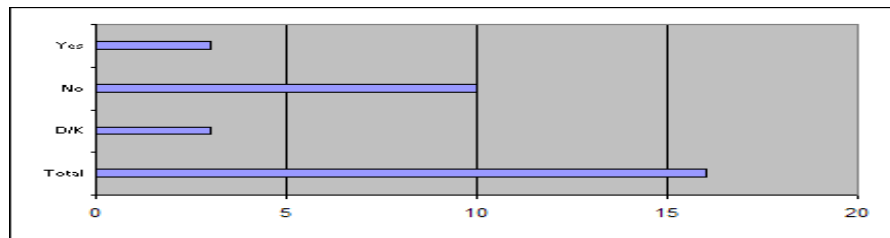




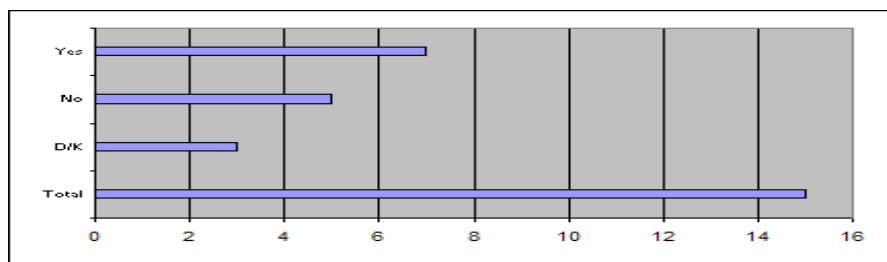
Q7 (b) Satisfaction with District Council	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	6	40
No	5	33
D/K	4	27
Total	15	100



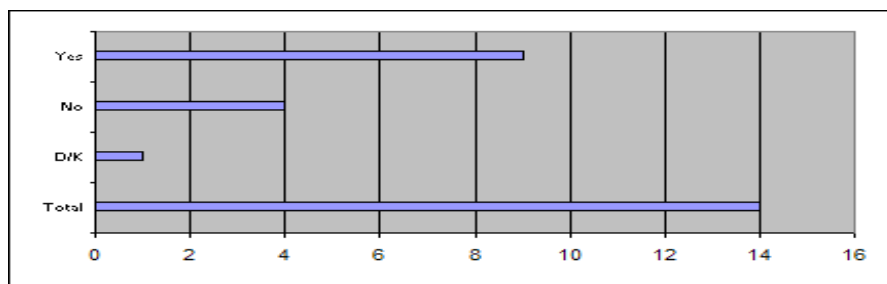
Q7 (c) Satisfaction with County Council	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	3	19
No	10	63
D/K	3	19
Total	16	100



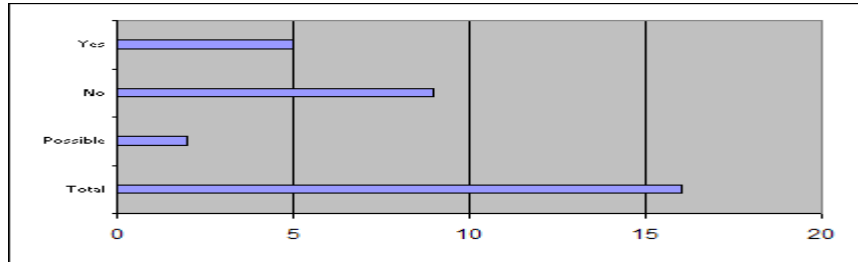
Q8 More decisions by Parish Council	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	7	47
No	5	33
D/K	3	20
Total	15	100



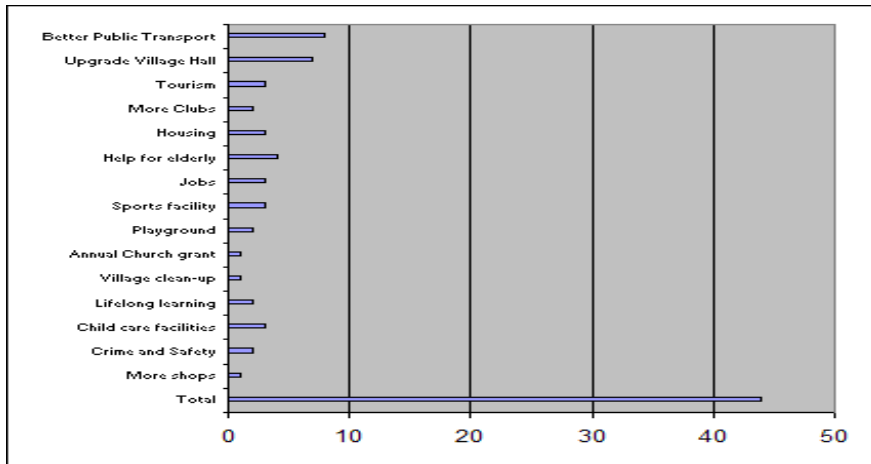
Q9 Transfer of powers	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	9	64
No	4	29
D/K	1	7
Total	14	100



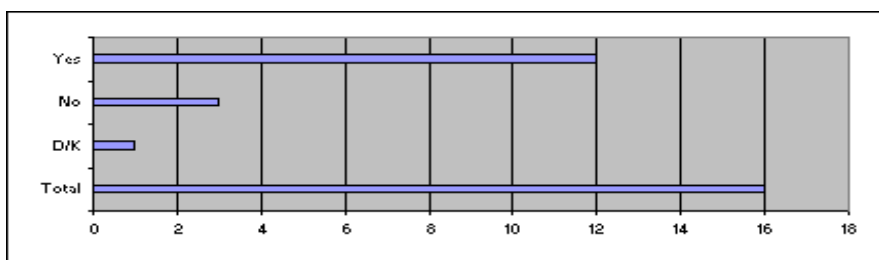
Q10 Involvement in developing Plan	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	5	31
No	9	56
Possibly	2	13
Total	16	100



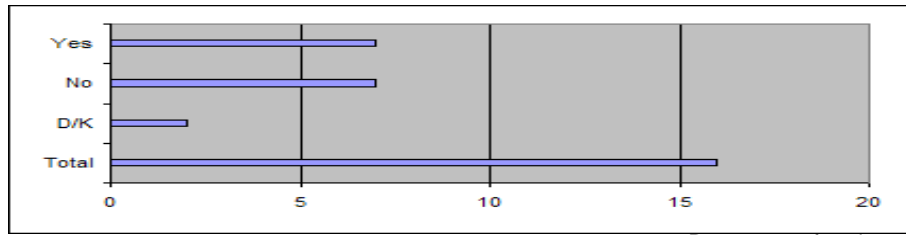
Q11 Top Priorities (Combined)	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Better Public Transport	8	18
Upgrade Village Hall	7	16
Tourism	3	7
More Clubs	2	5
Housing	3	7
Help for elderly	4	9
Jobs	3	7
Sports facility	3	7
Playground	2	5
Annual Church grant	1	2
Village clean-up	1	2
Lifelong learning	2	5
Child care facilities	3	7
Crime and Safety	2	5
More shops	1	2
Total	44	100



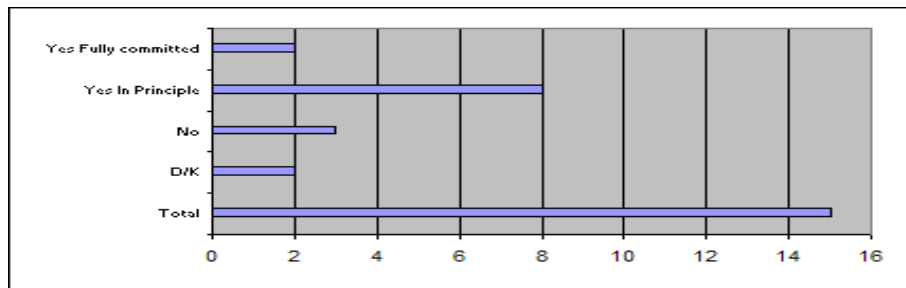
Q12 Support increase in precept	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	12	75
No	3	19
D/K	1	6
Total	16	100



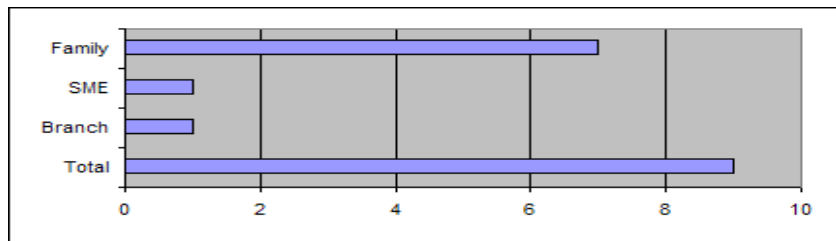
Q13 Support Business Park development	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	7	44
No	7	44
D/K	2	13
Total	16	100



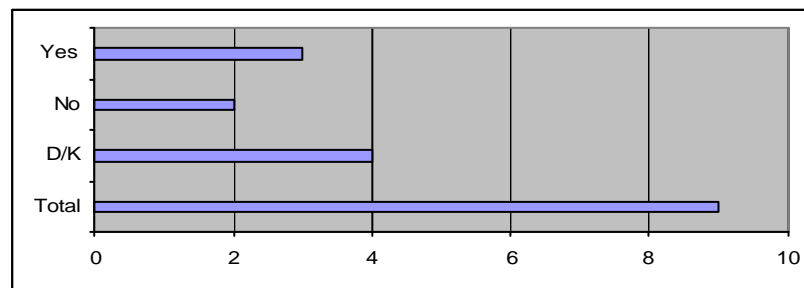
Q14 Prepared to lobby for change	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes Fully committed	2	13
Yes In Principle	8	53
No	3	20
D/K	2	13
Total	15	100



Q15 Type of Business	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Family	7	78
SME	1	11
Branch	1	11
Total	9	100

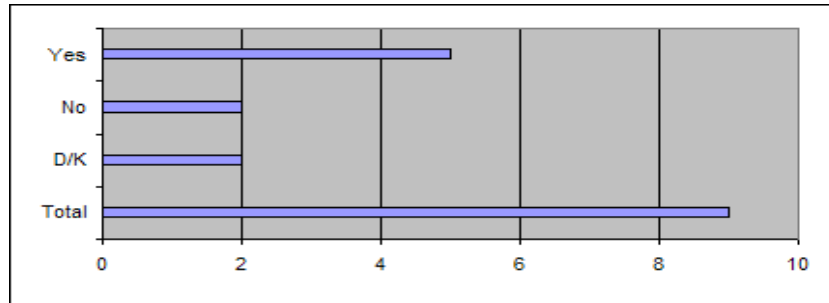


Q16 Job for trainee	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	3	33
No	2	22
D/K	4	44
Total	9	100



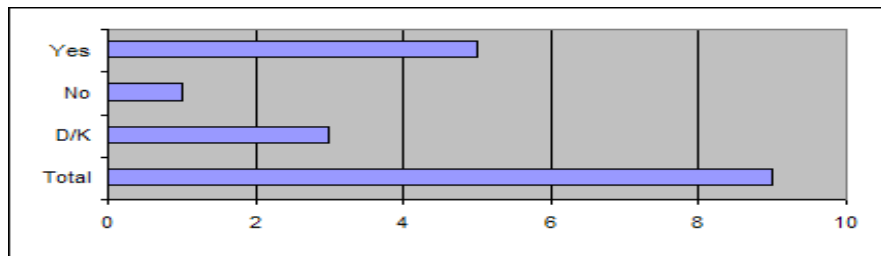
Q17 Offer NVQ level training

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	5	56
No	2	22
D/K	2	22
Total	9	100



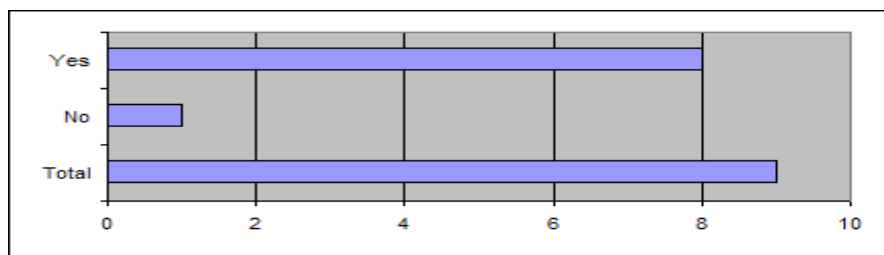
Q18 Co-operate with local colleges

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	5	56
No	1	11
D/K	3	33
Total	9	100



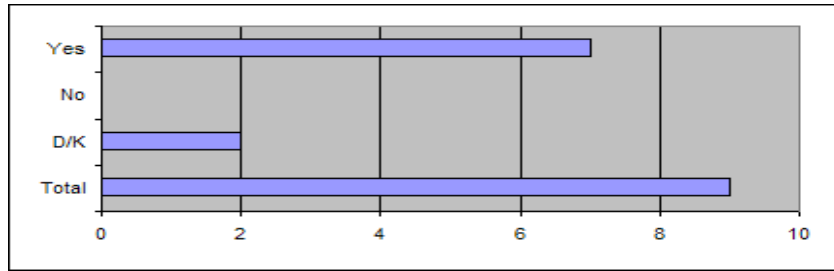
Q19 Aware of Gov funding

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	8	89
No	1	11
Total	9	100



Q20 Include in Directory of local services

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	7	78
No	0	0
D/K	2	22
Total	9	100



Q21 Other comments

Parking x1

Vandalism x1

Speed restriction/cameras A48 x3

Signage A48 (for Garden Centre) x1

We have a Proactive Parish Council x1

Annual grant for church x1

War memorial in Blakeney x1

NHS policy means recruitment from outside village so not able to support local job creation and training

Return to traditional way of thinking and working together as a community

Expand website to include:

updated list of facilities/events

roads and housing developments or plan for restrictions

vision for future medium-long term

neighbouring community integration plans

conservation plans - heritage and wildlife

plans for aesthetic improvements

village notice board

link to doctors site (when launched)

**SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED AT THE PUBLIC MEETING**

**Appendix E**

Description	Number of respondents
<b>CHURCH</b>	
Make more use of Church facilities	4
Planned maintenance of churches and churchyards	2
Do something about Baptist Church (Blakeney)	1
Repair church clock (Blakeney)	1
Annual Grant for church (Awre)	1
Total	9
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES</b>	
Expand and improve village hall & gardens (Blakeney)	25
Re-open public toilets (Blakeney)	22
Christmas Lights in the Yew Tree at Awre	10
Expand and improve village hall & gardens (Awre)	7
More family activities/events needed (Blakeney)	5
Broadband	5
Produce a register of people's skills accts, cook,garden,sports	4
Internet café	3
Seating at bus stops, outside village hall and playing fields (Blakeney)	2
Parish Newsletter	2
Child minder/day care provision	2
Development of/support for c ommunity leaders/community workers in voluntary sector	2
All -age drop in centres	2
Integration of original residents and newcomers	2
Children's recreation areas needed (Blakeney)	1
Set -up Community Club Management Committee	1
LETS scheme	1
Encourage local artists, craft workshops, exhibitions	1
Community skip monthly	1
Total	98
<b>CRIME</b>	
More community wardens on patrol (recruited locally)	10
Reverse the growing crime level up 38% vs last year	6
Neighbourhood/Rural Watch Scheme	5
Publish crime prevention measures that the community can do for themselves	1
Total	22
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
Help for those less able to become more involved in local activities, building skills/confidence	4
Provide "yellow" school buses for secondary school pupils, suppress school runs	2
More education facilities, eg, churches, halls etc	2
Permanent facility for playgroup	1

More help needed at school, i.e., reading, escorts for outings, parenting/help groups	1
Skills based training	1
Set-up partnership with local schools/colleges to provide evening/weekend tutorials	1
Fund raising events for Blakeney school	1
Free fruit for younger children	1
Continued education for 16+ to be offered to all	1
What standards do we have/want	1
Total	16

#### ELDERLY

Friends club/Lunches	6
Organised outings throughout the year	2
Adopt a granny scheme	1
Vegetable co-operative for those without garden or cannot manage one	1
Warden controlled accommodation needed	1
Improved local delivery services	1
Support for carers/respite for family carers	1
Schemes to enable elderly to stay in their own homes	1
Provide voluntary home repair/maintenance service	1
Total	15

#### EMPLOYMENT

Light industry to be situated in villages rather than industrial parks	1
Need small manufacturing businesses	1
Skills bank - free training or coaching offered	1
Promote job creation by supporting community ventures and free use of redundant accommodation	1
Develop opportunities for new business parks	1
Protect full and part-time employment through support for local businesses	1
Total	6

#### ENVIRONMENT/CONSERVATION/HERITAGE

Proper enforcement of all planning laws and regulations (so that illegal operations like the scrap yard in Awre are stopped)	12
£1000 fine for dog fouling	7
Repair broken pavements	6
Poop a scoop bins	5
Litter control/regular village clean-up days	4
Hedges not cut until birds have eaten winter food	4
Improve footpaths, more signs (waterproofed) indicating wildlife etc and local events	3
Re-cycling facilities locally	3
Older buildings should be preserved - more should be listed	3
Recycle organic kitchen waste - reduces landfill, environmentally beneficial (can provide employment)	3

Plant more trees/shrubs (Blakeney)	2
Remove planning inconsistencies - speed-up process	2
Open places - development and upkeep	2
Map of area with interesting features	1
Reinstate Millend leat	1
Protection against rising seabed	1
Regular upkeep of the brook (Blakeney)	1
Forest Commission to clear debris in forest area	1
Open gardens every 2-3 years	1
More tolls to reduce traffic pollution	1
Preserve landscape/character	1
Safeguard woodland	1
Resist any widespread development of green field sites for major industrial development	1
Nature reserves - provision and safety	1
Gas supply for all	1
Improve water quality	1
Turn waste ground into allotments	1
Total	70

#### Health & Social Services

Doctor availability (Waiting time for appointment)	4
Promote/encourage inoculation for all age-groups	2
Nearer A&E hospitals/Access to hospitals	1
Offer of free skills, eg, foot massage	1
Tap into complimentary healing available around/throughout the forest	1
DIY Health Care, i.e., keeping fit, nutrition, preventative checks, etc	1
Volunteers drivers for hospital runs	1
Longer surgery times	1
More home visits	1
More investment for local hospitals	1
Promotion of better health for all through co-ordinated social policies	1
Improve the partnership between social services and providers in the private and voluntary sectors	1
Nurse availability	1
Develop provisions of NHS Trust	1
Promote exercise and healthy eating for all	1
Encourage smoke free pubs/clubs	1
Equitable distribution of benefits	1
Total	21

#### HOUSING

Support District Plan - no expansion in Awre	10
No new houses in Awre	10
Affordable housing for younger generation	6
Land assigned for self-build	1
Improvements co-ordinator needed	1
Maximise use of existing housing and redundant buildings	1
Warden controlled housing (xref elderly)	1
Management of housing stock/housing strategy- survey needed	1



Accessibly to housing trust for repairs maintenance	1
Total	32

#### LEISURE FACILITIES/CLUBS

Social club, eg, Bingo, Dances etc that meet weekly	15
Re-open Yew Tree pub after complete refurbishment	9
Reinstate Duck Race	8
Team events, Rugby, Tennis, Cricket, Darts, Snooker, Bowling, Baseball, Skittles including coaching	4
Art/crafts/drama/local band/yoga/dancing/keep fit	4
Special Interest Groups - Local History/Ramblers/Cars/Motor/Bikes/Music/Films	4
Playgroup/Toddler Group	2
Link school/free time sports activities	2
Travel Clubs/Day trips	2
Clubs/activities for children/teenagers during school holidays	1
Floodlights on sports field	1
Skateboard area	1
Make leisure facilities affordable for all the community	1
Total	54

#### LOCAL ECONOMY/BUSINESS

Broadband access	20
Start-up a small manufacturing business	9
Mobile Internet café visit all villages (kept in lock-up)	3
Overcome resistance to change	3
Re-open shops	1
Start-up a vegetable co-op	1
Introduce share/swop/barter system for equipment, skills etc	1
Shop for ladies clothes.accessories.special occasion outfits	1
Set-up business to manage resources to protect environment and for financial long-term benefit	1
Use local resources/materials for new industries, eg, paper, clay	1
Income re-invested in the local economy	1
Where practicable use local people for local work - managed through a business directory	1
Financial support for food and drink industry (wider than just the current agricultural subsidy)	1
Locally managed community transport using local volunteers	1
More locally produced goods	1
Generate inward investment by promoting local skills and strengths	1
Improve circulation of money within the community. Currently it is thought that money changes hands only twice (before passing out of the local community) but other communities are achieving 7 local exchanges thereby generating more local wealth.	1
Involve chamber of commerce, fed of small businesses, Business Link and other professional bodies in local development issues	1
Set-up a local business centre	1
Community Farm, i.e., local vegetables	1
Total	51

#### LOCAL SERVICES

Keep Awre and Blakeney Post Offices	8
Install cash machines at Post Office	2
Make more use of pubs as meeting place for clubs	2
Café	1
Veterinary Service	1
More centralisation to reduce cost to the provider but without the expense of transportation being borne by the consumer	1
Total	15

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Train station at Awre	8
Better public transport - late night service	5
Regular reliable Sunday bus service	5
More public transport from Awre to Lydney, Coleford, Cinderford, eg, Hopper Buses	4
More bus stops	2
More trains in rush hour	1
More Forest timetables	1
More trains from Lydney	1
Train station at Elton	1
Bus shelters on route from Lydney to Gloucester	1
Transport for those living on Blakeney Hill	1
Introduce car share scheme	1
Discounted local travel for over 60's (current scheme inferior to other Counties)	1
Total	32

#### ROADS/TRAFFIC

Stop parking on corner Awre Road/A48. Double yellow lines required	13
Speed reduction on A48 (traffic calming) through Blakeney and on New Road, Cinderford Rd, Viney Hill, Soudley Rd	8
Don't install speed cameras	8
Farmers to clean-up mess from tractors on lanes	8
Toll on A48 for lorries	5
We need Blakeney Bypass	5
Slow down traffic in Church Sq but not by using speed ramps	5
Reduce/abolish toll for lorries on Severn Bridge to stop heavy thro traffic on A48	4
De-trunk A48	4
Street lighting (Blakeney) out for months	4
Install speed cameras	3
Control speed on A48 rather than de-trunking	2
Install chicanes & road humps in Newnham	2
Clean-up litter esp. after dustmen	2
Need more parking in Blakeney	2
Poor road surfaces - pot holes, cracks especially Awre Rd	2
Double yellow lines outside Chippy and Atlas	1
Accident black spot Viney Hill	1

Move bus stop from outside Londis to create parking space	1
Demolish Youth Club, use land for car park	1
Working street lights in Awre	1
Speed ramps in Millend for safety of children	1
Total	83

#### TOURISM

Publication of local map showing footpaths etc	4
Scrap parking charge at Mallards Pike	2
Encourage overnight stays	2
Better signed footpaths	1
Tourist information board in Blakeney/info service in shops and PO	1
Tourists not wanted here	1
Relationship with Forestry Commission regarding tourism weak plus a threat	1
Village guide printed and on Web	1
Teas at Awre Church and Blakeney Church in Summer months	1
Total	14

#### YOUNG PEOPLE

Give more say to 14-18 year olds	5
More support for teenagers less criticism	5
Brownie/cub scouts	5
More facilities/clubs - obtain a list of interests from teenagers	4
Places for teenagers to go to	4
Re-start youth club	3
Youth Worker for the Parish	3
Internet café in Blakeney for teenagers	2
Erect a youth shelter	1
Total	32

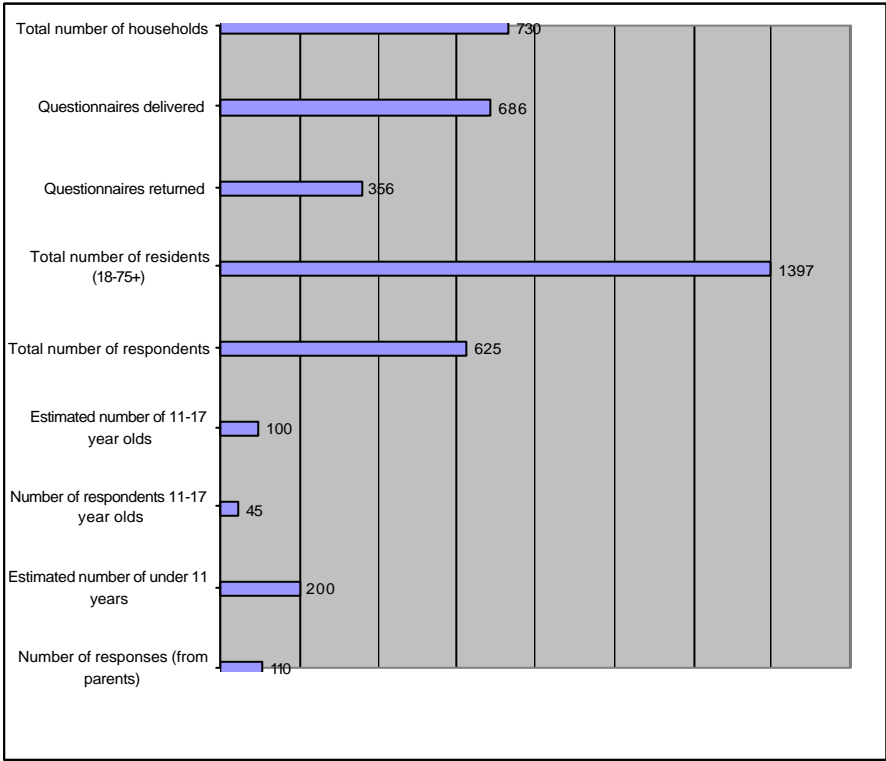
Grand Total	570
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# Parish Plan - Public Questionnaire Results

**Notes:**  
**Figures represent all those who answered the question**  
**Percentages rounded to whole numbers**  
**Graph shows numbers only - not percentages**

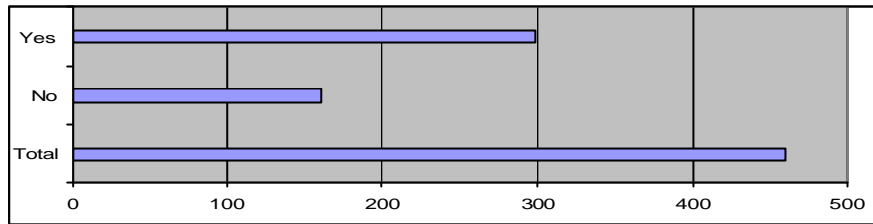
**Summary**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Total number of households</b>	<b>730</b>	
<b>Questionnaires delivered</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Questionnaires returned</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Total number of residents (18-75+)</b>	<b>1397</b>	
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Estimated number of 11-17 year olds</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Number of respondents 11-17 year olds</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Estimated number of under 11 years</b>	<b>200</b>	
<b>Number of responses (from parents)</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>55</b>

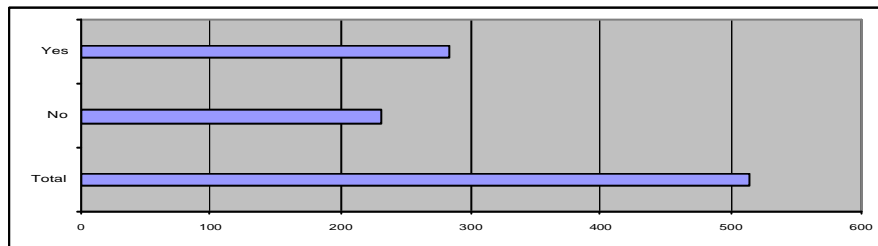


**Section 1**

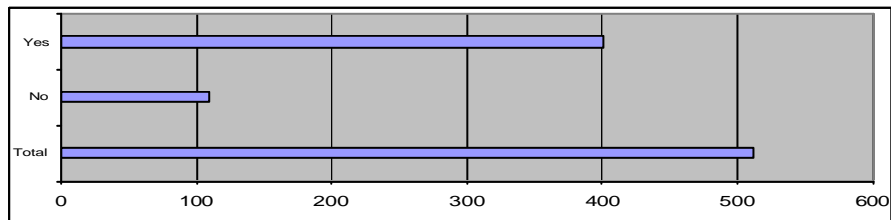
<b>Q1 Do you think that the church should be more integrated within community</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Yes	299	65
No	161	35
Total	460	100



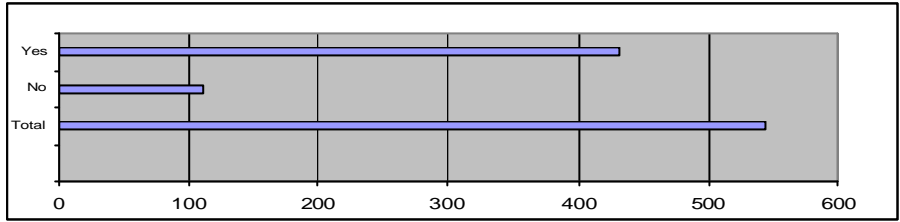
<b>Q2 Should there be planned maintenance of churches and churchyards supported by an annual grant funded from council tax</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Yes	283	55
No	231	45
Total	514	100



<b>Q3 Do you think that Blakeney and Awre village hall and gardens should be expanded and/or improved</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Yes	401	78
No	110	22
Total	511	100



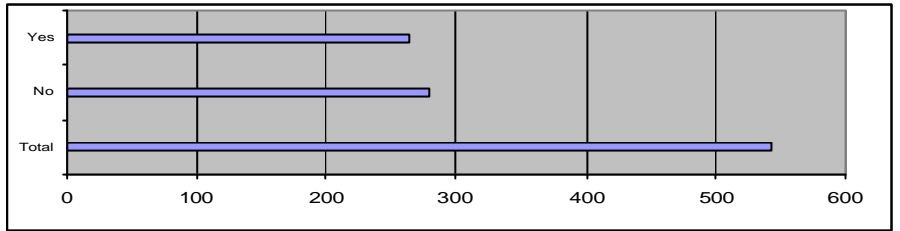
<b>Q4 Do you think that the public toilets in Blakeney should re-open</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Yes	432	79
No	112	21
Total	544	100



**Q5 Would you subscribe to Broadband (high speed internet access) if it were available**

Number of Responses Percentage of total response

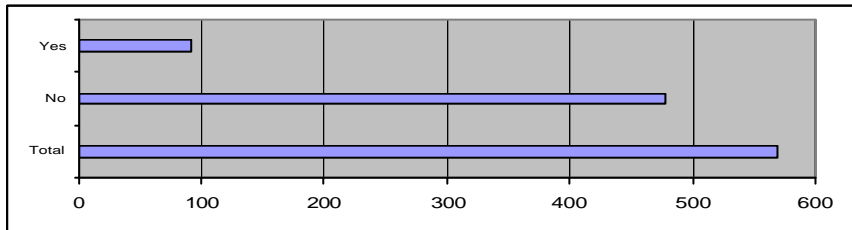
Yes	263	48
No	280	52
Total	543	100



**Q6 Would you use a local shop for internet access if one were provided**

Number of Responses Percentage of total response

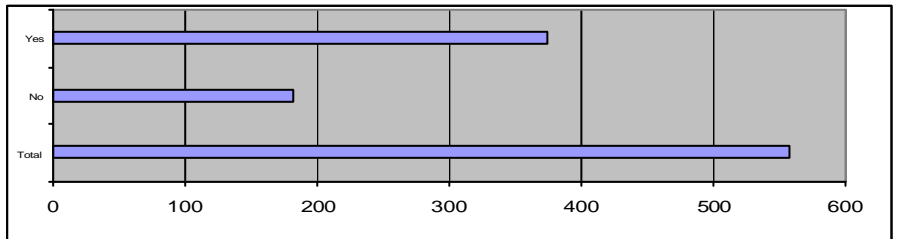
Yes	91	16
No	477	84
Total	568	100



**Q7 Would you like to see the development and publication of a local register of people's skills, eg, cooking, gardening, sports, etc**

Number of Responses Percentage of total response

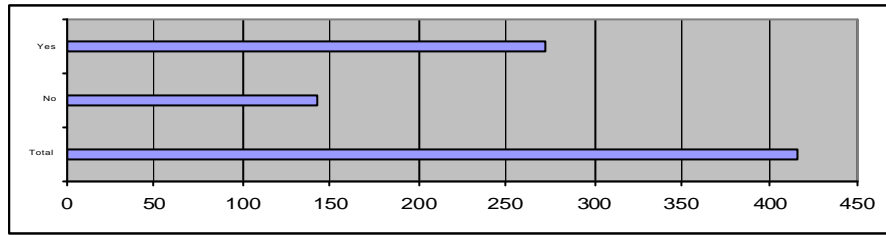
Yes	375	67
No	182	33
Total	557	100



**Q8 Do you think there is a need for child minder/day care provision**

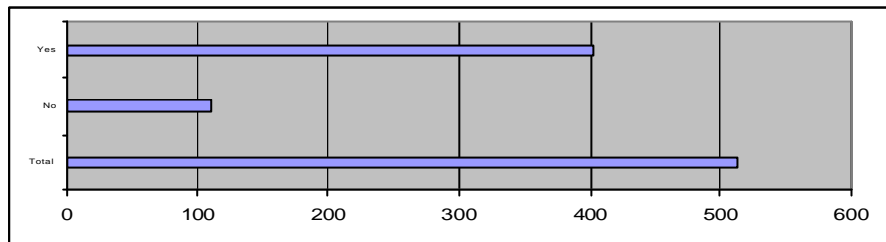
Number of Responses Percentage of total response

Yes	273	66
No	143	34
Total	416	100



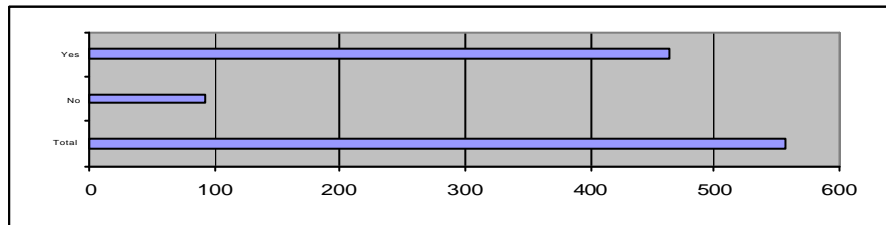
**Q9 Do you think there should be more benches outside Blakeney village hall/playing fields and in bus shelters**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	402	78
No	111	22
Total	513	100



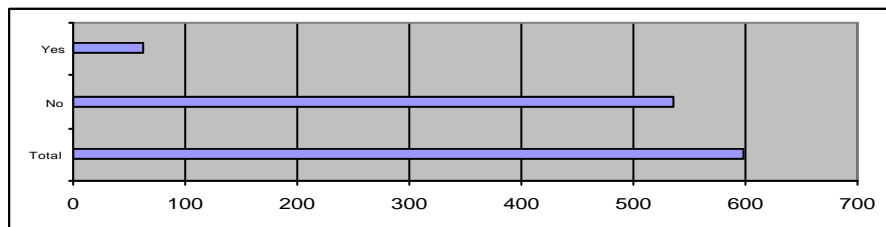
**Q10 Do you think we should publish a parish newsletter**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	464	83
No	93	17
Total	557	100



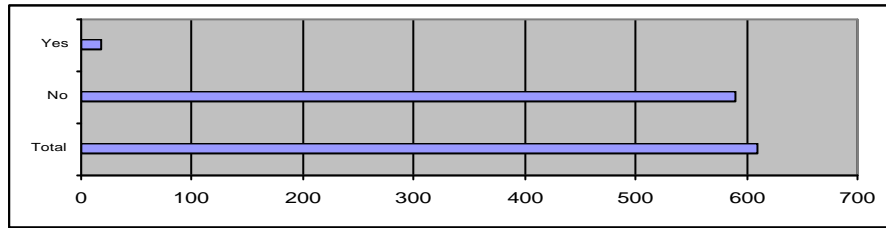
**Q11 Do you think the police have a high enough profile in the parish?**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	62	10
No	537	90
Total	599	100



**Q12 Have you visited the mobile police station (Bobbie Bus)?**

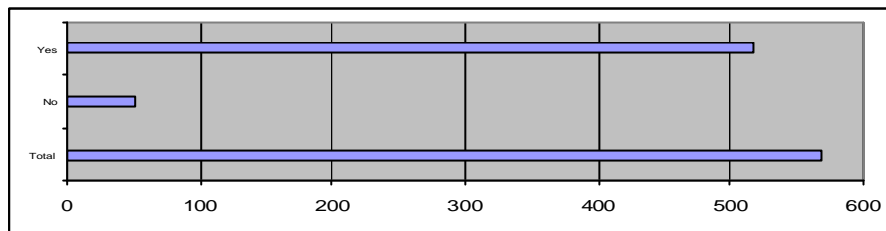
	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	20	3
No	590	97
Total	610	100



**Q13 Do you/would you support Neighbourhood/Rural Watch Schemes?**

Number of Responses      Percentage of total response

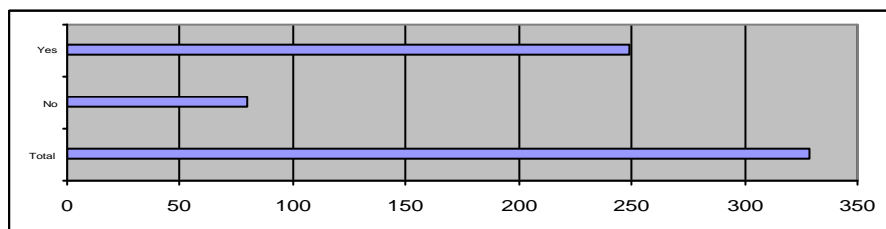
Yes	517	91
No	51	9
Total	568	100



**Q14 Are you satisfied with school standards within the area**

Number of Responses      Percentage of total response

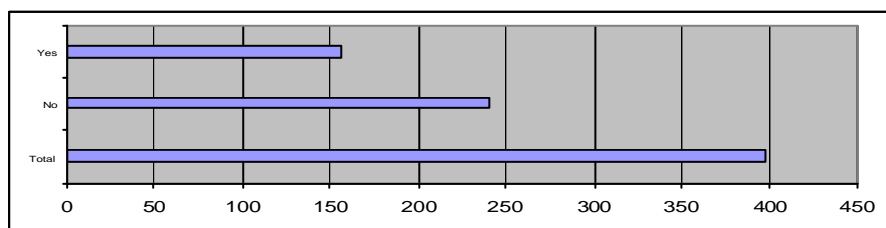
Yes	249	76
No	80	24
Total	329	100



**Q15 Do you think there are sufficient lifelong learning opportunities**

Number of Responses      Percentage of total response

Yes	156	39
No	241	61
Total	397	100



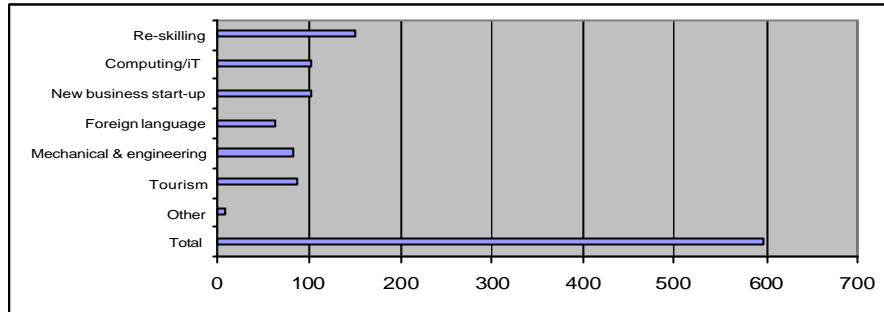
**Q16 If answer to Q15 is no - what is lacking**

Number of Responses      Percentage of total response

Re-skilling	150	25
Computing/iT	102	17
New business start-up	101	17

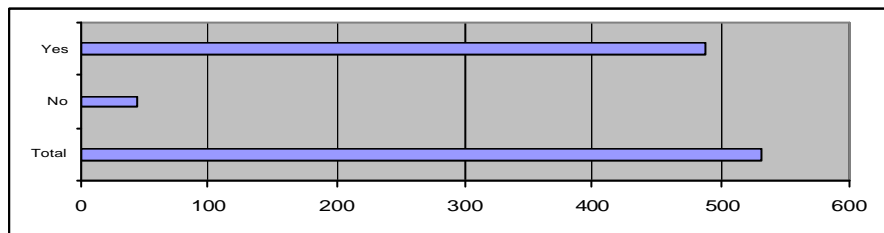


Foreign language	64	11
Mechanical & engineering	83	14
Tourism	87	15
Other	9	2
Total	596	100



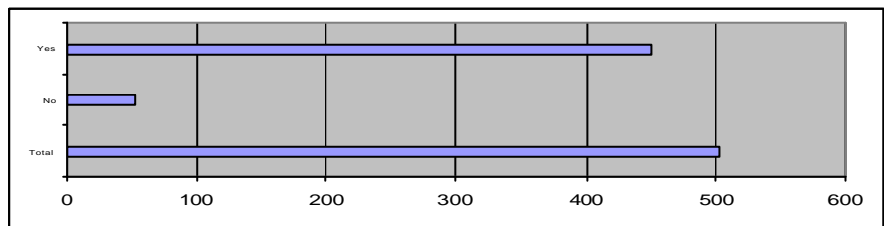
**Q17 Should there be a "Friends Club" for the elderly which meets weekly for lunch,gossip and entertainment**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	487	92
No	44	8
Total	531	100



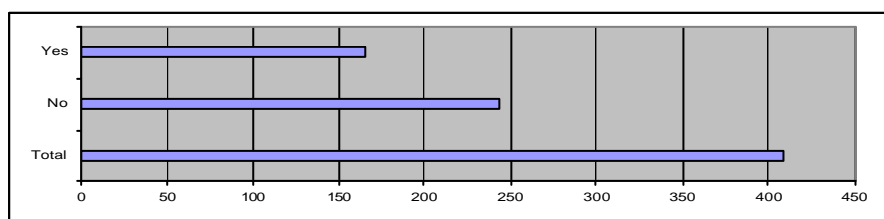
**Q18 Should there be outings throughout the year for the elderly**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	451	90
No	52	10
Total	503	100



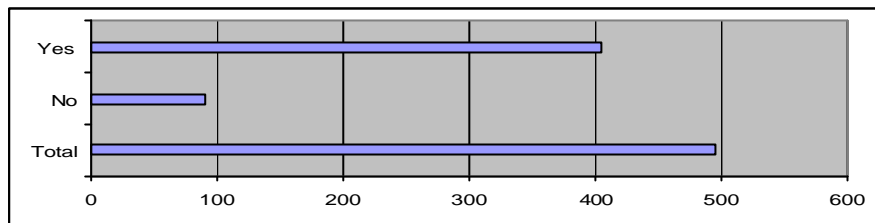
**Q19 Are you prepared to help run community events/facilities**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	165	40
No	243	60
Total	408	100



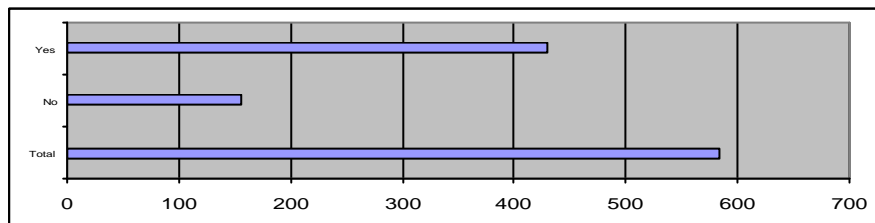
**Q20 Do you think that the current planning regulations are too bureaucratic, subject to inconsistencies and poorly enforced/regulated**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	405	82
No	91	18
Total	496	100



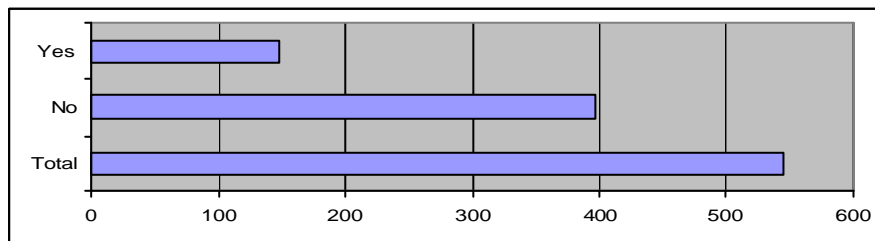
**Q21 Do you think it worthwhile trying to enforce fines for dog fouling**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	430	74
No	155	26
Total	585	100



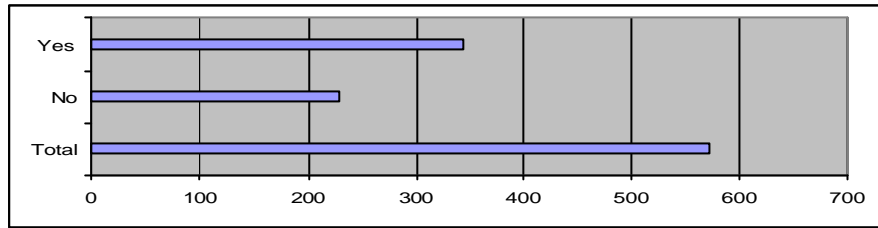
**Q22 Do you think that broken pavements, potholes etc are repaired within an acceptable timescale**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	147	27
No	398	73
Total	545	100

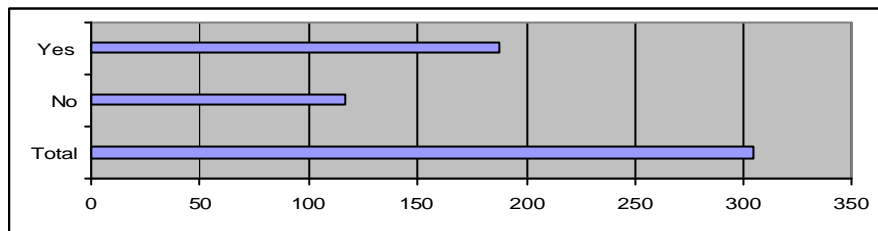


**Q23 Do you think that village cleanliness is acceptable**

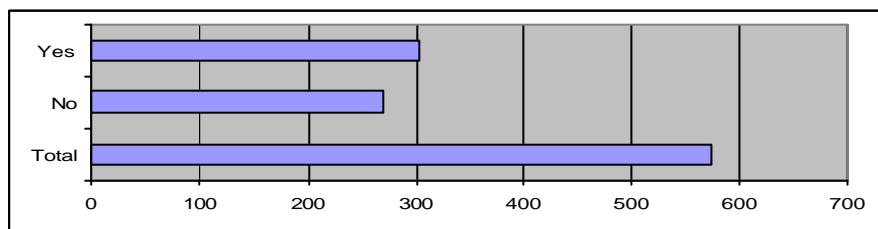
	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	343	60
No	229	40
Total	572	100



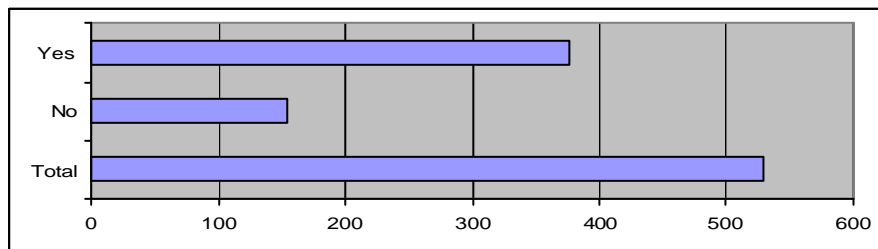
Q24 Are you willing to take part in a village clean-up	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	188	62
No	117	38
Total	305	100



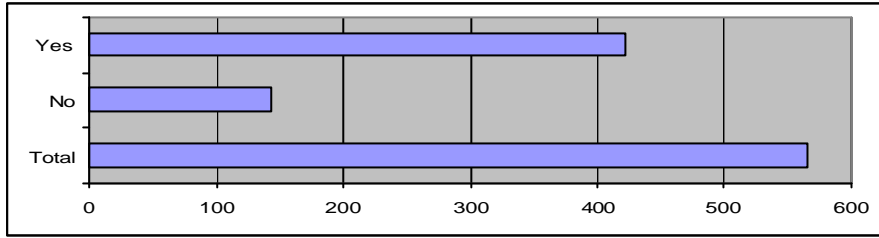
Q25 Do you think that there are adequate re-cycling facilities in the area	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	303	53
No	271	47
Total	574	100



Q26 Do you think that more old buildings should be preserved/listed	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	376	71
No	154	29
Total	530	100

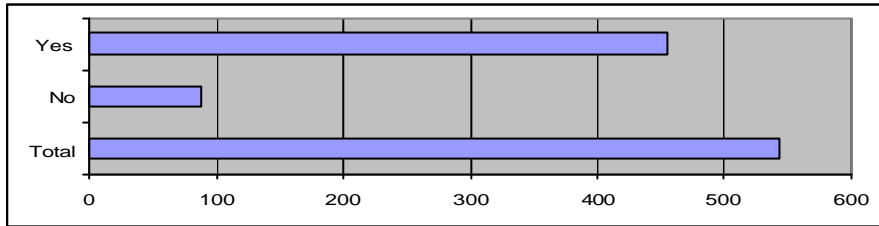


Q27 Do you think that more trees/shrubs should be planted on approach roads to villages and around village halls	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	422	75
No	143	25
Total	565	100



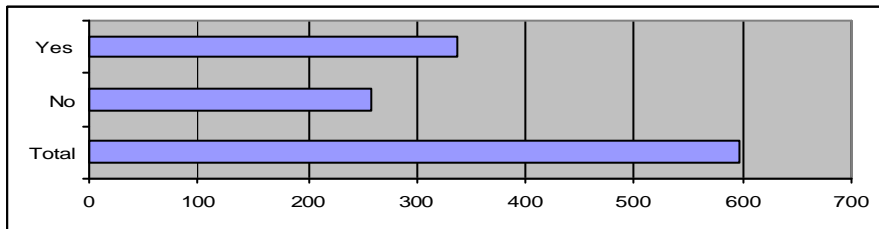
**Q28 Do you think that gas supply should be more widely available**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	455	84
No	89	16
Total	544	100



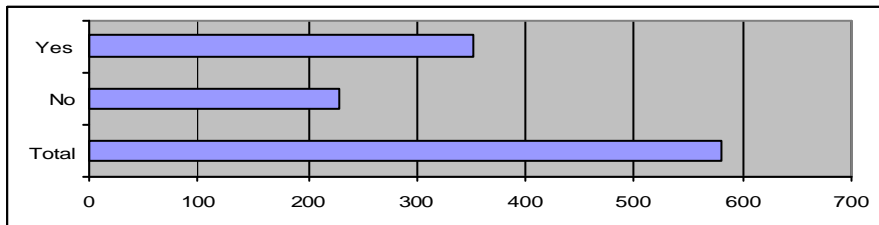
**Q29 Is water supply up to the level of quality you expect**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	337	56
No	260	44
Total	597	100



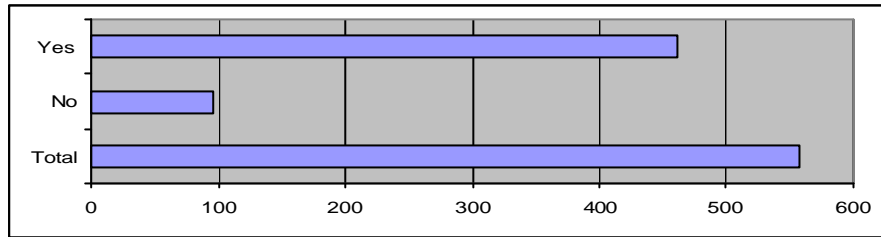
**Q30 Do you think that waiting time to see a doctor is acceptable**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	352	61
No	229	39
Total	581	100

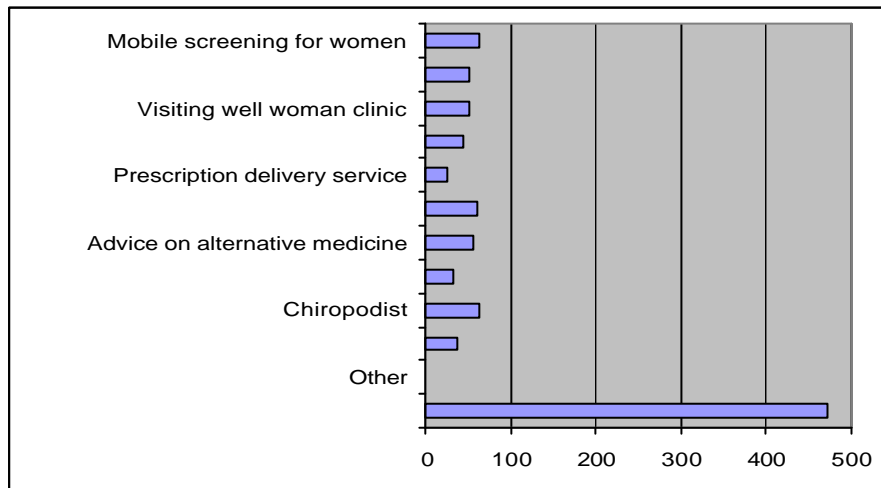


**Q31 Does the surgery provide for all your health needs**

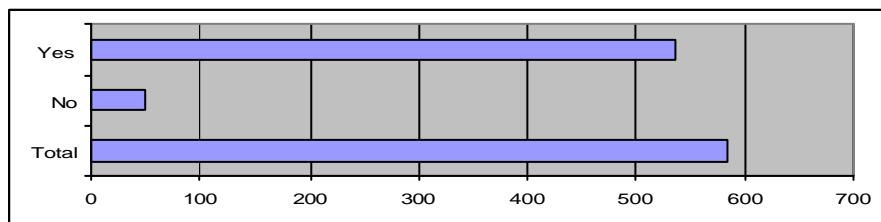
	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	461	83
No	96	17
Total	557	100



Q32 If Q31 is No what is missing	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Mobile screening for women	61	13
Mobile screening for men	51	11
Visiting well woman clinic	50	11
Visiting well man clinic	43	9
Prescription delivery service	24	5
Advice on complementary medicine	58	12
Advice on alternative medicine	55	12
Advice on healthy living/self help	32	7
Chiroprapist	62	13
First aid courses	37	8
Other	0	0
Total	473	100

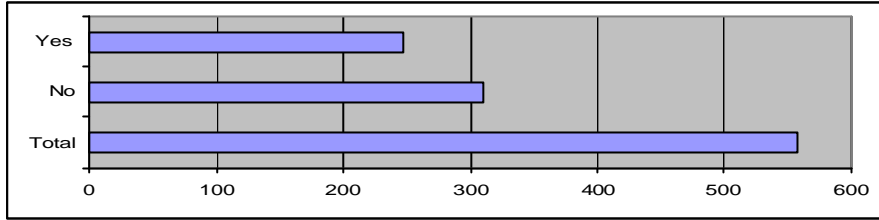


Q33 Do you think that local A&E and minor treatment hospitals are within easy reach	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	536	92
No	49	8
Total	585	100



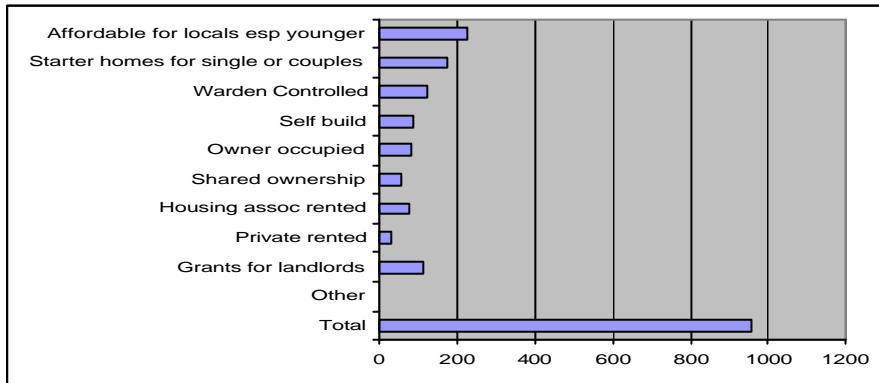
**Q34 Do you think that the parish can accommodate new housing**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	247	44
No	311	56
Total	558	100



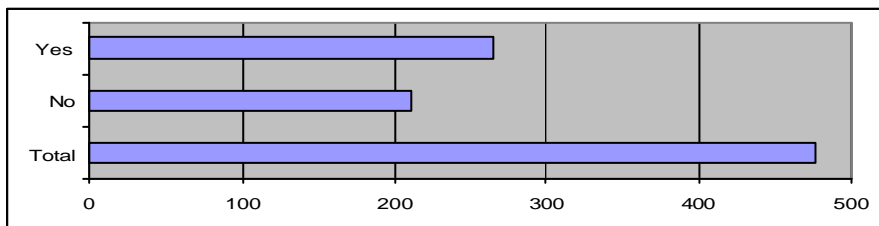
**Q35 If Q34 is Yes what type of housing should it be**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Affordable for locals esp. younger	224	23
Starter homes for single or couples	175	18
Warden Controlled	124	13
Self build	84	9
Owner occupied	81	8
Shared ownership	56	6
Housing assoc rented	73	8
Private rented	30	3
Grants for landlords	110	11
Other	0	0
Total	957	100



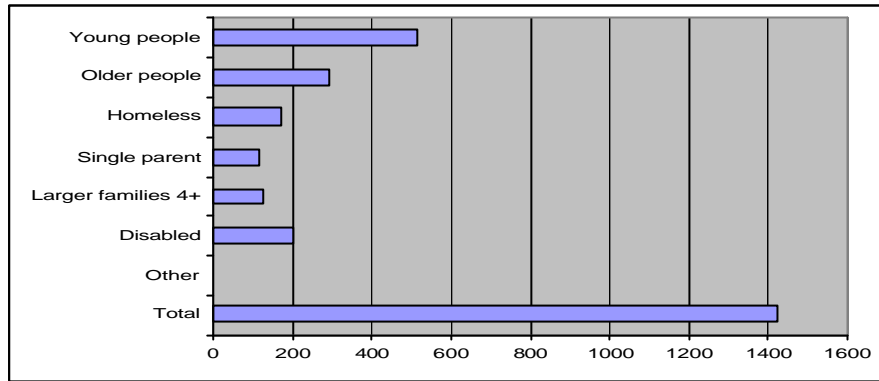
**Q36 Should housing funds be prioritised to meet the needs of particular groups**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	265	56
No	211	44
Total	476	100



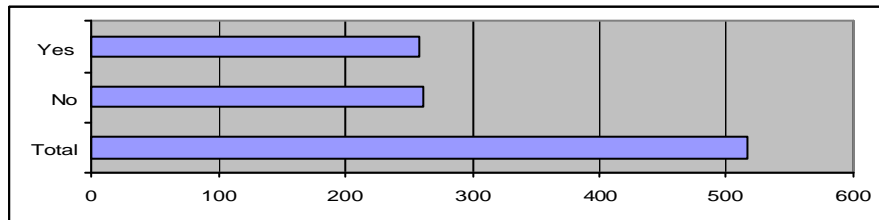
**Q37 If Q36 is Yes please list the following 1-7 (1=highest priority)**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Young people	513	36
Older people	293	21
Homeless	170	12
Single parent	119	8
Larger families 4+	126	9
Disabled	202	14
Other	0	0
Total	1423	100



**Q38 Would you support a social club which meets weekly for bingo, dances, family activities etc**

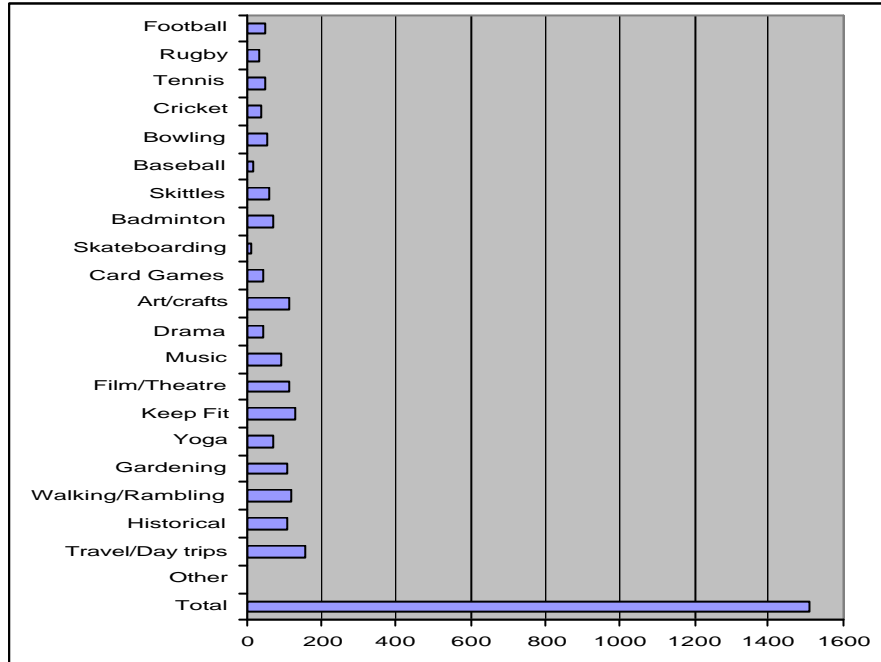
	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	257	50
No	260	50
Total	517	100



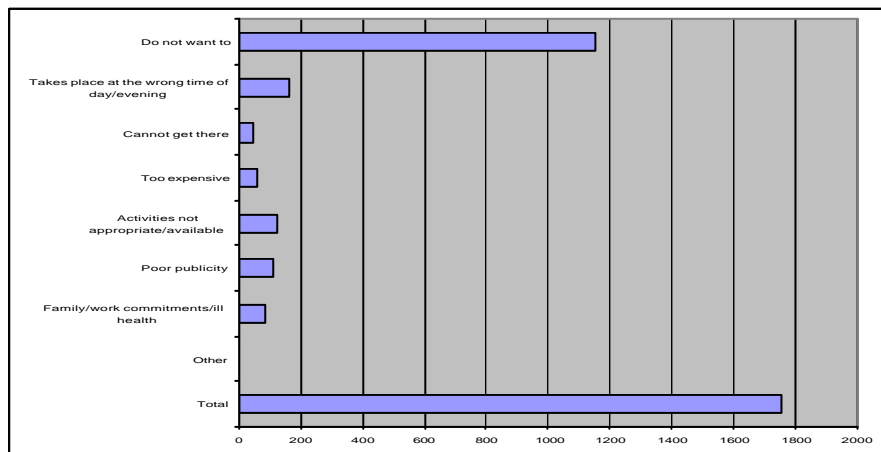
**Q39 What clubs/activities do or would you attend if they were provided**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Football	52	3
Rugby	35	2
Tennis	53	4
Cricket	39	3
Bowling	59	4
Baseball	14	1
Skittles	64	4
Badminton	70	5
Skateboarding	11	1
Card Games	45	3
Art/crafts	115	8
Drama	45	3
Music	94	6
Film/Theatre	115	8
Keep Fit	132	9

Yoga	73	5
Gardening	108	7
Walking/Rambling	120	8
Historical	111	7
Travel/Day trips	153	10
Other	0	0
Total	1508	100

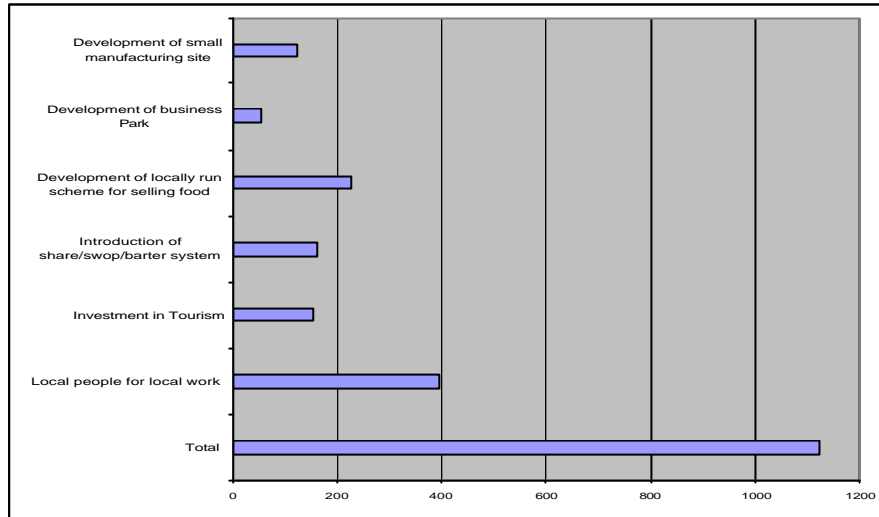


Q40 What does or would prevent you taking part in local activities/clubs	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Do not want to	1159	66
Takes place at the wrong time of day/evening	160	9
Cannot get there	43	2
Too expensive	61	3
Activities not appropriate/available	127	7
Poor publicity	113	6
Family/work commitments/ill health	90	5
Other	2	0
Total	1755	100

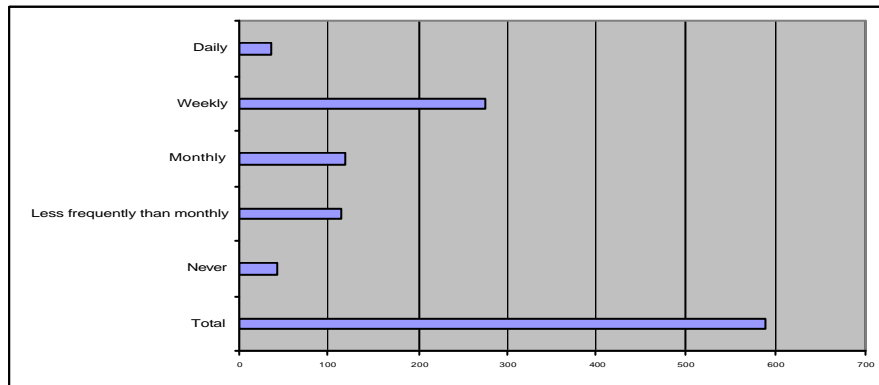




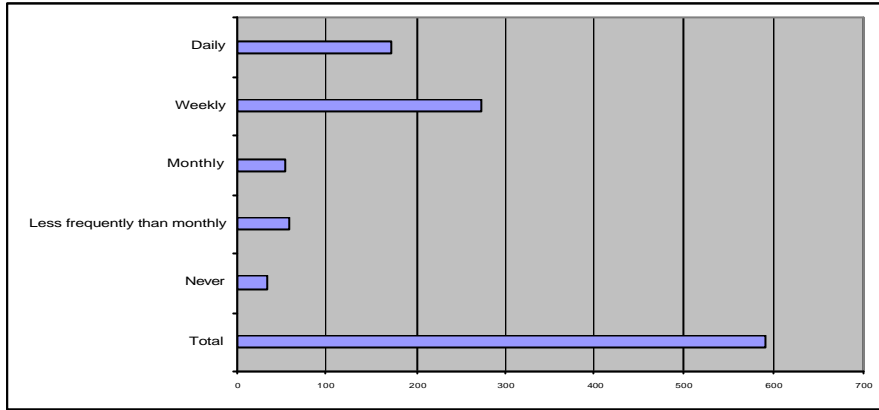
<b>Q41 Would you like to see the following</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Development of small manufacturing site	121	11
Development of business Park	57	5
Development of locally run scheme for selling food	227	20
Introduction of share/swop/barter system	162	14
Investment in Tourism	156	14
Local people for local work	398	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>1121</b>	<b>100</b>



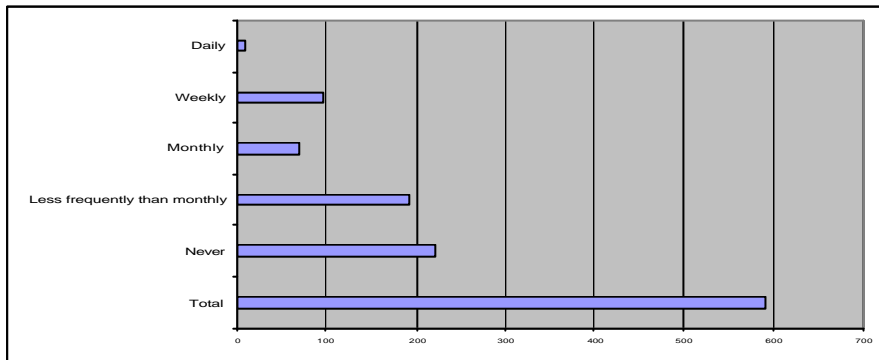
<b>Q42 How often do you use your local PO</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Daily	36	6
Weekly	276	47
Monthly	119	20
Less frequently than monthly	115	19
Never	44	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>100</b>



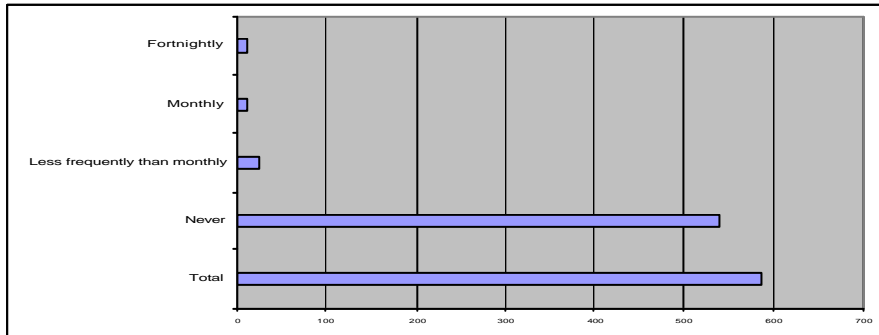
<b>Q43 How often do you use a local shop in Blakeney/Brains Green</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Daily	172	29
Weekly	275	46
Monthly	53	9
Less frequently than monthly	58	10
Never	35	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>100</b>



Frequency	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Daily	9	2
Weekly	98	17
Monthly	69	12
Less frequently than monthly	193	33
Never	222	38
Total	591	100

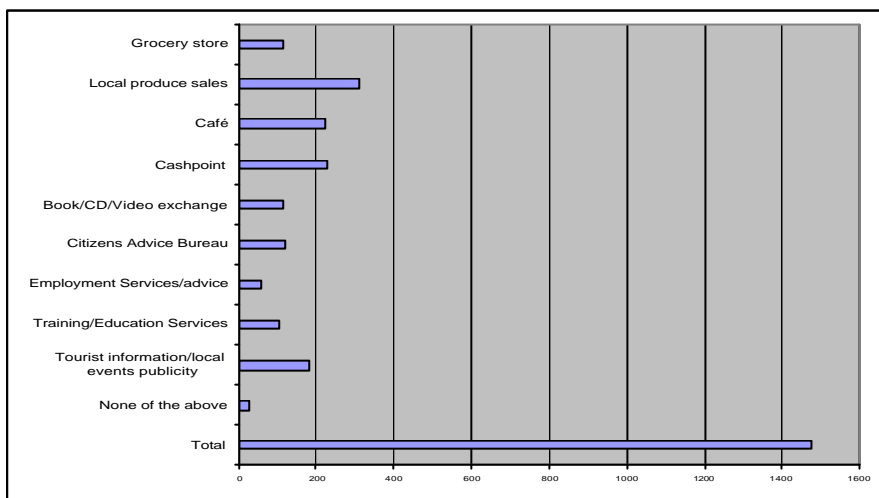


Frequency	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Fortnightly	11	2
Monthly	10	2
Less frequently than monthly	25	4
Never	541	92
Total	587	100



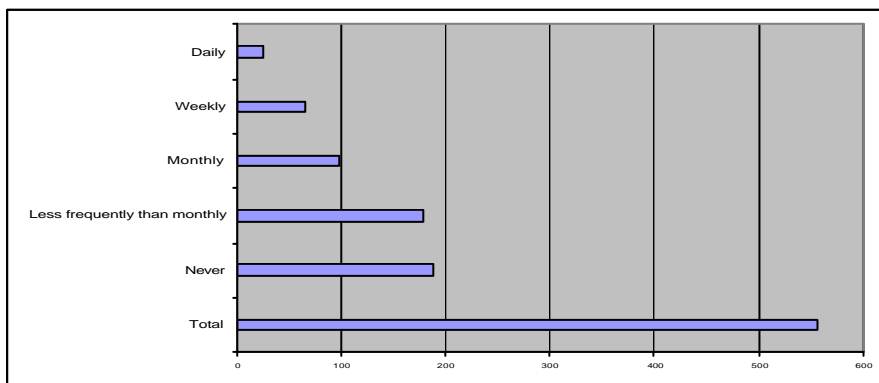
**Q46 Which services would you like to see included if a "village hub" (eg, in a pub, village hall or other unused building) were established**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Grocery store	114	8
Local produce sales	307	21
Café	225	15
Cashpoint	228	15
Book/CD/Video exchange	117	8
Citizens Advice Bureau	119	8
Employment Services/advice	59	4
Training/Education Services	105	7
Tourist information/local events publicity	177	12
None of the above	25	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1476</b>	<b>100</b>



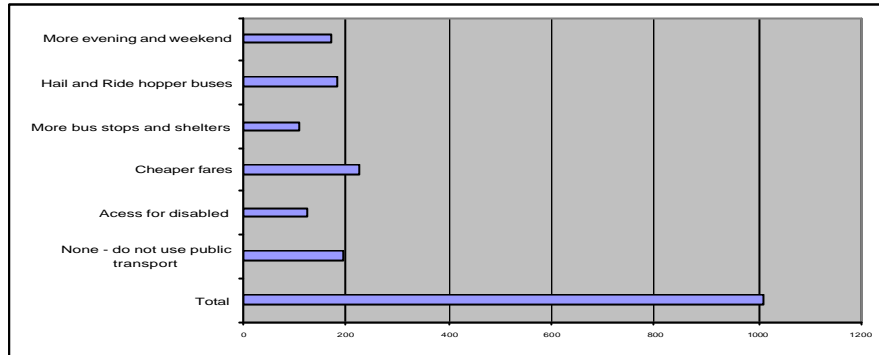
**Q47 If Awre Station were re-opened and more trains in peak hour were run, how frequently would YOU use the train service**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Daily	26	5
Weekly	65	12
Monthly	99	18
Less frequently than monthly	177	32
Never	189	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>100</b>



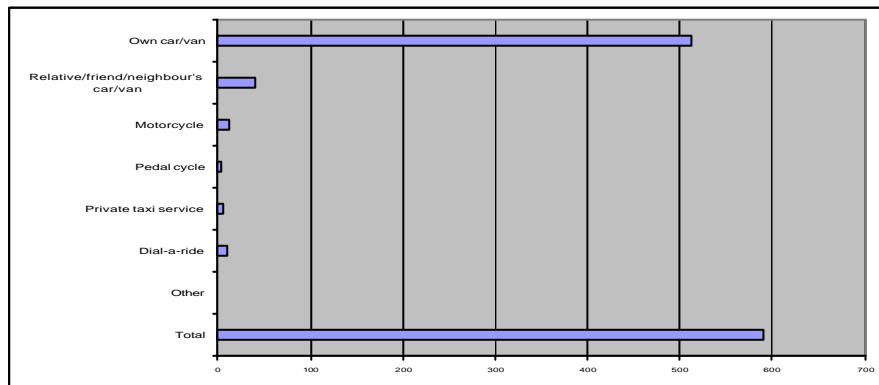
**Q48 Which of the following improvement in the public bus service would you like to see?**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
More evening and weekend	171	17
Hail and Ride hopper buses	183	18
More bus stops and shelters	110	11
Cheaper fares	225	22
Access for disabled	124	12
None - do not use public transport	194	19
Total	1007	100



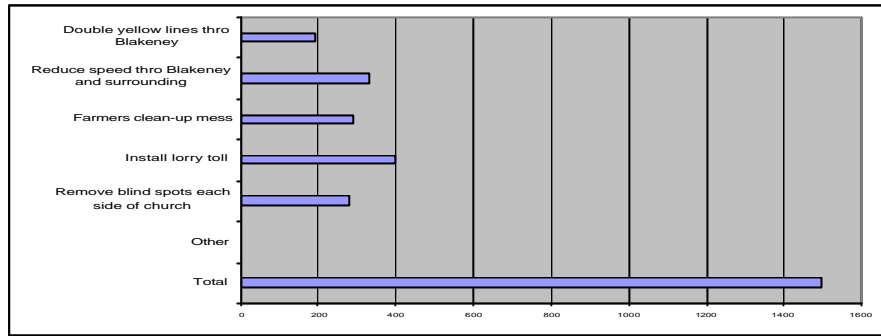
**Q49 What is your main means of transport**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Own car/van	511	87
Relative/friend/neighbour's car/van	41	7
Motorcycle	12	2
Pedal cycle	5	1
Private taxi service	7	1
Dial-a-ride	11	2
Other	2	0
Total	589	100



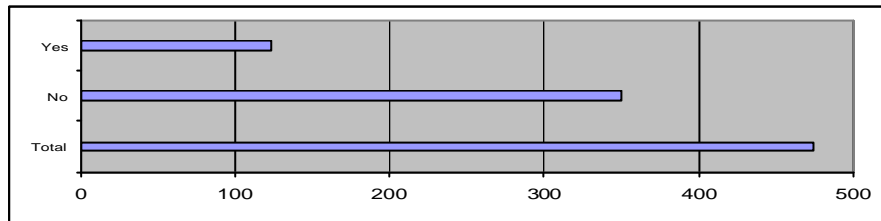
**Q50 Which of the following changes do you agree with**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Double yellow lines thro Blakeney	195	13
Reduce speed thro Blakeney and surrounding	335	22
Farmers clean-up mess	290	19
Install lorry toll	400	27
Remove blind spots each side of church	279	19
Other	0	0
Total	1499	100



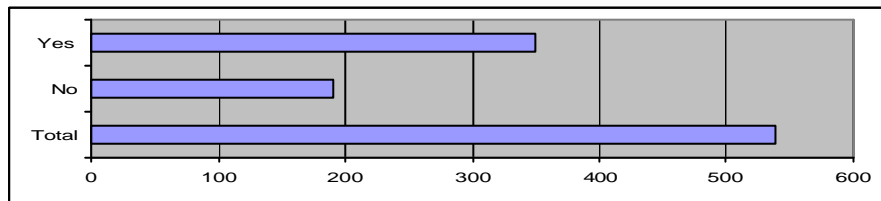
**Q51 Do you think that the A48 should be de-trunked (De-trunking may increase your council tax)**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	124	26
No	350	74
Total	474	100



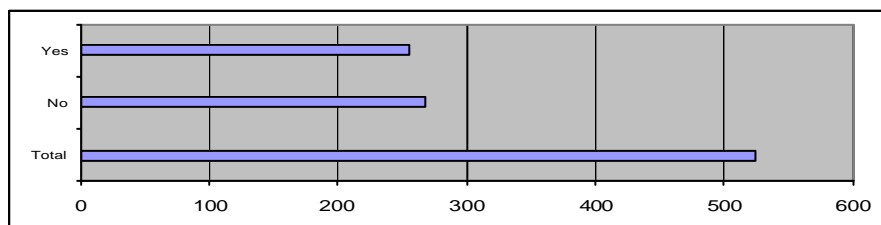
**Q52 Do you think that speed checks should be erected on the A48 through our parish**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	349	65
No	190	35
Total	539	100

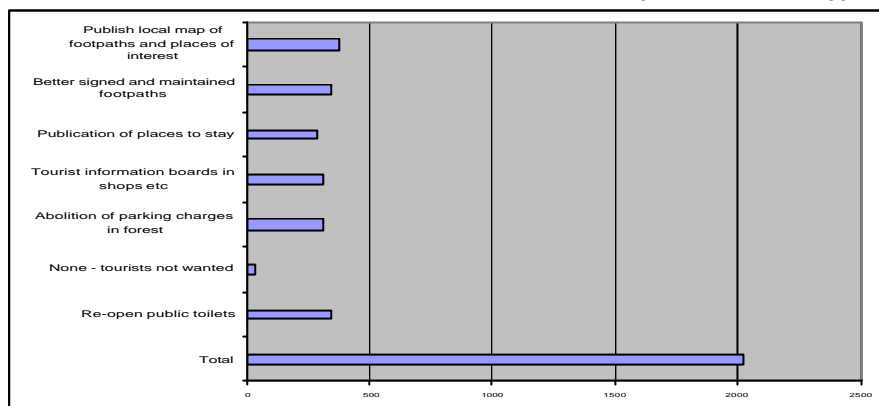


**Q53 Do you support a bypass for Blakeney**

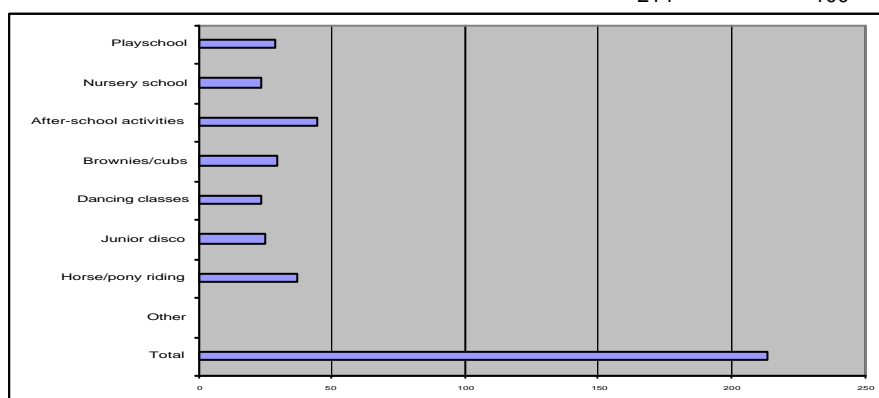
	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	255	49
No	269	51
Total	524	100



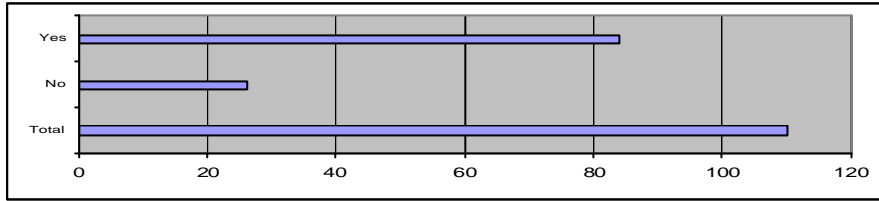
<b>Q54 Which of the following should be developed to increase tourism</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Publish local map of footpaths and places of interest	378	19
Better signed and maintained footpaths	345	17
Publication of places to stay	291	14
Tourist information boards in shops etc	315	16
Abolition of parking charges in forest	314	16
None - tourists not wanted	36	2
Re-open public toilets	343	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>100</b>



<b>Q55 If you are a parent or guardian do your children attend or would they attend the following if available</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Playschool	29	14
Nursery school	24	11
After-school activities	45	21
Brownies/cubs	30	14
Dancing classes	24	11
Junior disco	25	12
Horse/pony riding	37	17
Other	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>100</b>



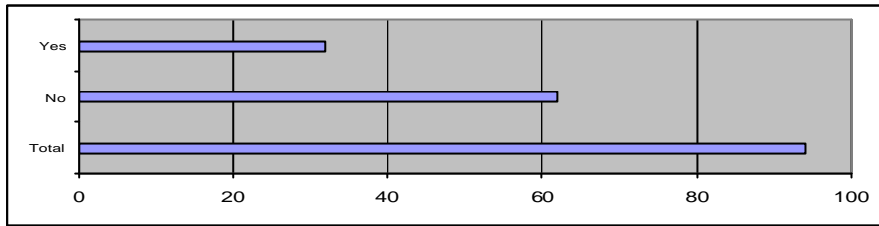
<b>Q56 Would you support the development of a playground for children</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Yes	84	76
No	26	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>



**Q57 Would you be prepared to help organising any of the activities and/or supervise the playground on a rota basis**

Number of Responses      Percentage of total response

Yes	32	34
No	62	66
Total	94	100



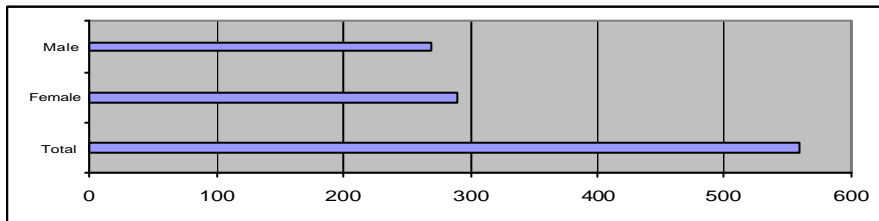
**Q58 Other comments issues/views– see pages 90-94**

**Section2 (About You)**

**Q1 Are You**

Number of Responses      Percentage of total response

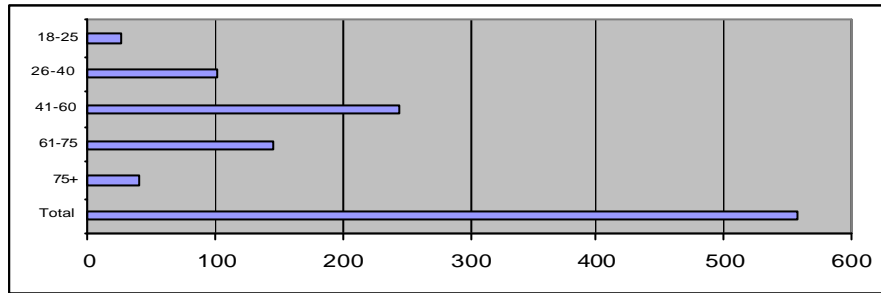
Male	270	48
Female	289	52
Total	559	100



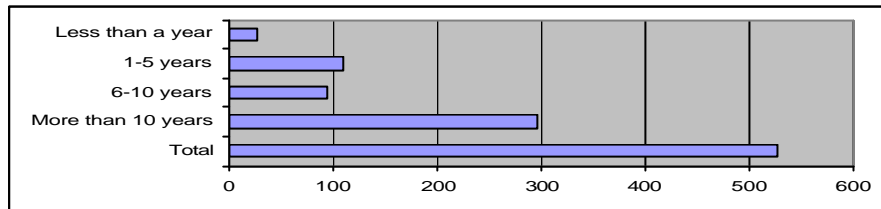
**Q2 In which age group do you belong**

Number of Responses      Percentage of total response

18-25	26	5
26-40	102	18
41-60	244	44
61-75	146	26
75+	40	7
Total	558	100

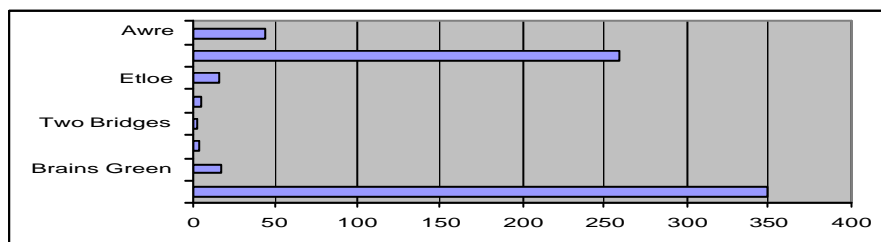


Q3 How long have you lived in Parish	Number of Responses	Percentage of total responses
Less than a year	28	5
1-5 years	110	21
6-10 years	95	18
More than 10 years	295	56
Total	528	100



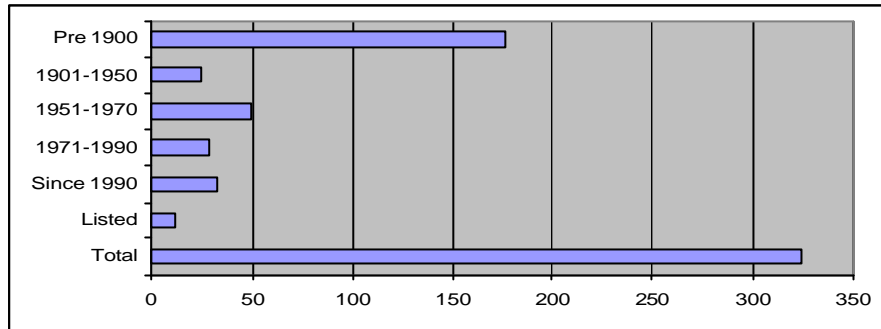
### Section 3 (About Your Home)

Q1 In which village do you live	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Awre	45	13
Blakeney	259	74
Etloe	17	5
Gatcombe	6	2
Two Bridges	2	1
Viney Hill	3	1
Brains Green	18	5
Total	350	100



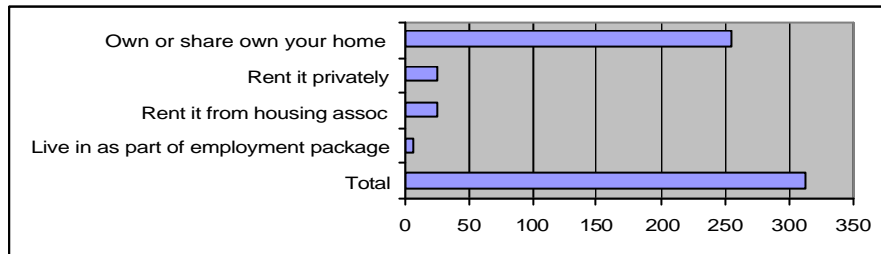
Q2 When was your house first built(ignore later alterations)	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Pre 1900	176	54
1901-1950	25	8
1951-1970	49	15
1971-1990	29	9
Since 1990	33	10
Listed	12	4
Total	324	100





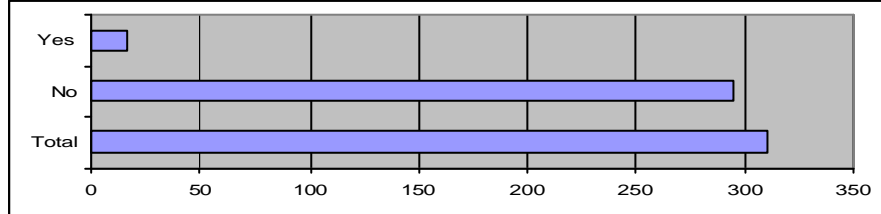
**Q3 Do You**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Own or share own your home	255	82
Rent it privately	25	8
Rent it from housing assoc	26	8
Live in as part of employment package	6	2
Total	312	100



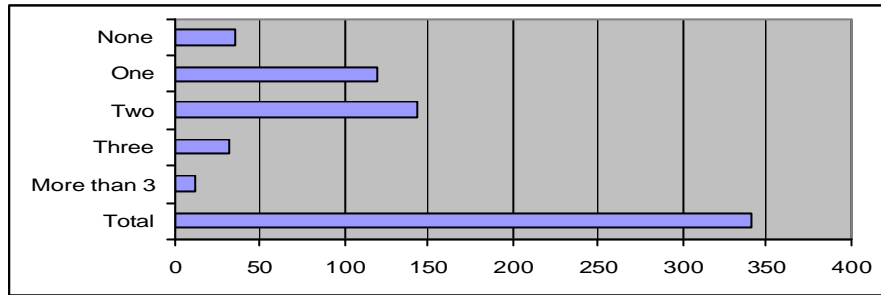
**Q4 Do You own more than one property in parish**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	16	5
No	295	95
Total	311	100

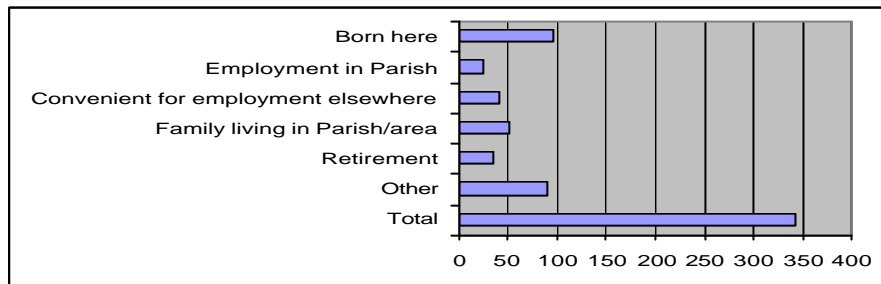


**Q5 How many cars/vans in your household**

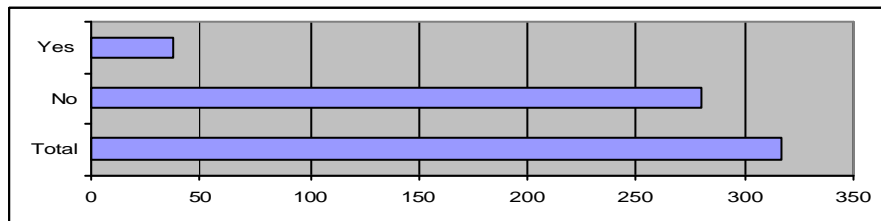
	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
None	35	10
One	120	35
Two	143	42
Three	32	9
More than 3	11	3
Total	341	100



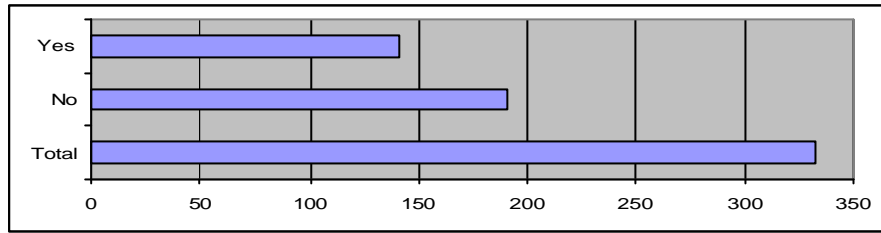
Q6 What brought you/your family to live here	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Born here	97	28
Employment in Parish	26	8
Convenient for employment elsewhere	42	12
Family living in Parish/area	52	15
Retirement	35	10
Other	90	26
Total	342	100



Q7 Is any part of your home used for business	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	37	12
No	280	88
Total	317	100

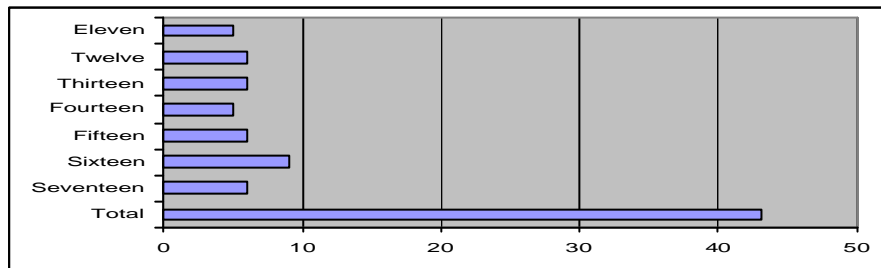


Personal details given	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	141	42
No	191	58
Total	332	100

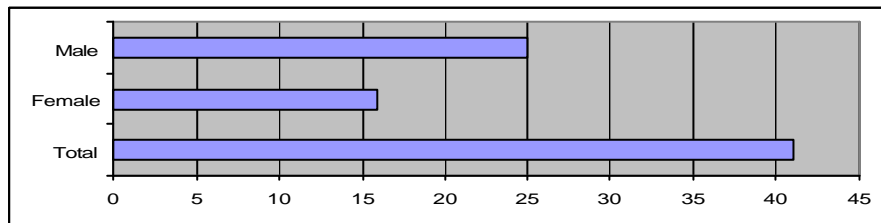


**Section 4 (Young People)**

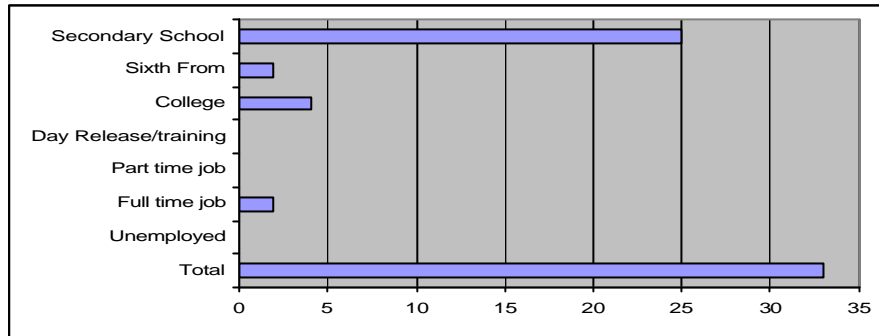
Q1 How old are you	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Eleven	5	12
Twelve	6	14
Thirteen	6	14
Fourteen	5	12
Fifteen	6	14
Sixteen	9	21
Seventeen	6	14
Total	43	100



Q2 Are You	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Male	25	61
Female	16	39
Total	41	100

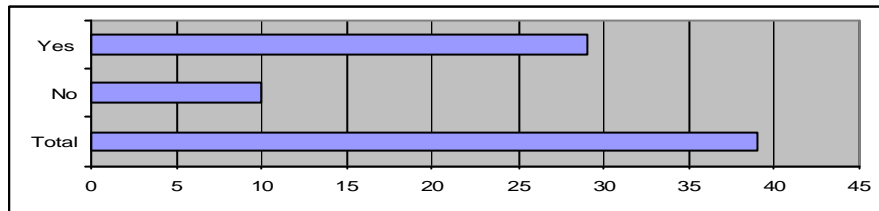


Q3 What best describes what you do	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Secondary School	25	76
Sixth Form	2	6
College	4	12
Day Release/training	0	0
Part time job	0	0
Full time job	2	6
Unemployed	0	0
Total	33	100



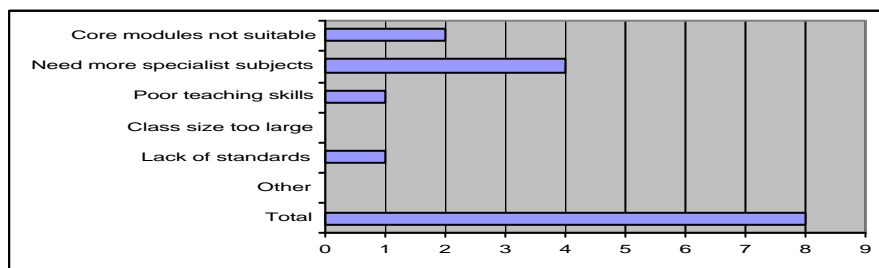
**Q4 If you are at school do you think that the subjects you are being taught are appropriate and will help prepare you for further education to get you a job in your chosen profession**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	29	74
No	10	26
Total	39	100



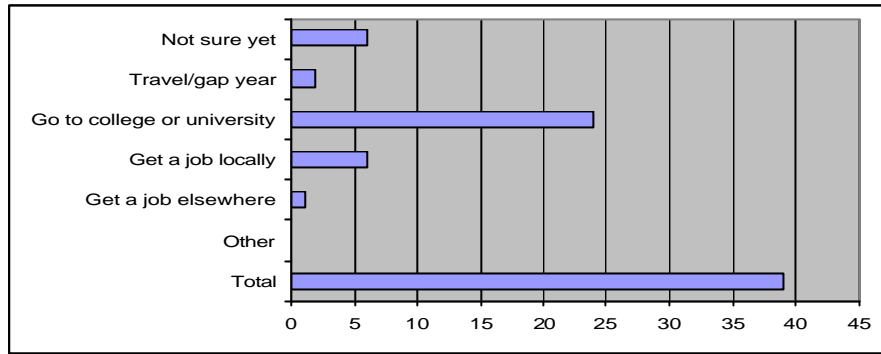
**Q5 If no, what are the reasons**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Core modules not suitable	2	25
Need more specialist subjects	4	50
Poor teaching skills	1	13
Class size too large	0	0
Lack of standards	1	13
Other	0	0
Total	8	100

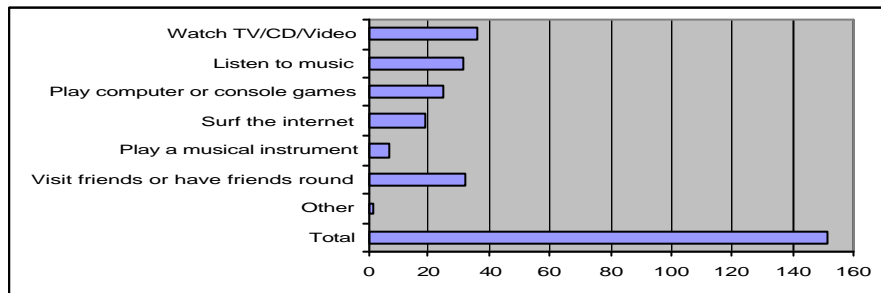


**Q6 If you are currently in education, what would you like to do in the future**

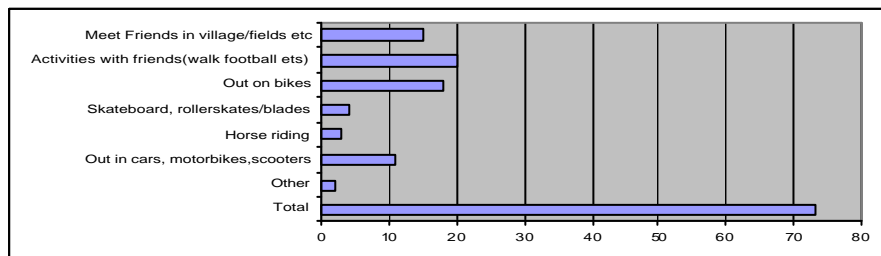
	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Not sure yet	6	15
Travel/gap year	2	5
Go to college or university	24	62
Get a job locally	6	15
Get a job elsewhere	1	3
Other	0	0
Total	39	100



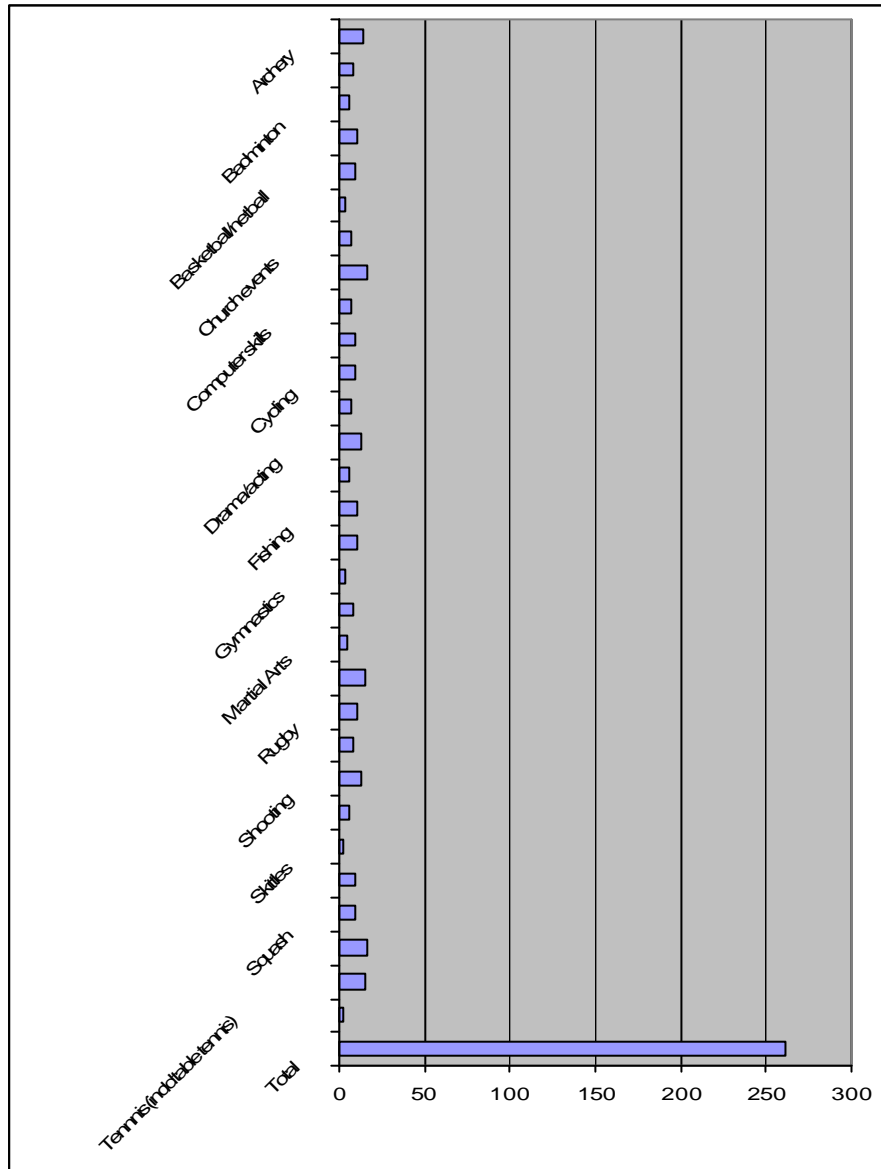
Q7 What do you do in spare time at home	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Watch TV/CD/Video	36	24
Listen to music	31	20
Play computer or console games	25	16
Surf the internet	19	13
Play a musical instrument	7	5
Visit friends or have friends round	32	21
Other	2	1
Total	152	100



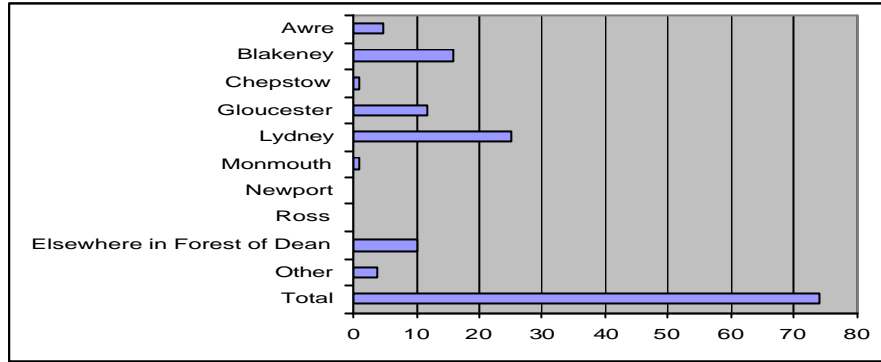
Q8 What do you do in your spare time out of door	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Meet Friends in village/fields etc	15	21
Activities with friends(walk football etc)	20	27
Out on bikes	18	25
Skateboard, rollerskates/blades	4	5
Horse riding	3	4
Out in cars, motorbikes,scooters	11	15
Other	2	3
Total	73	100



<b>Q9 What leisure activities do you or would you get involved in if they were provided</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of total response</b>
Archery	14	5
Arts/crafts	8	3
Badminton	6	2
Baseball/rounders	10	4
Basketball/netball	9	3
Boxing/wrestling	3	1
Church events	7	3
Cinema/theatre	16	6
Computer skills	7	3
Cricket	9	3
Cycling	9	3
Dancing	7	3
Drama/acting	12	5
Environment/Conservation/Heritage	6	2
Fishing	10	4
Football	10	4
Gymnastics	3	1
Hockey	8	3
Martial Arts	4	2
Music (listening to)(in a band) etc	15	6
Rugby	10	4
Running	8	3
Shooting	12	5
Skating/blading	6	2
Skittles	2	1
Snooker/billards	9	3
Squash	9	3
Swimming	16	6
Tennis (incl table tennis)	15	6
Other	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100</b>

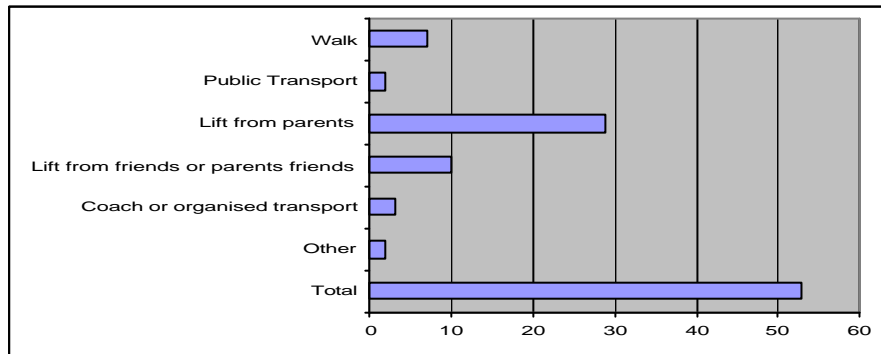


Q10 Where do you currently go to for these activities or for entertainment	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Awre	5	7
Blakeney	16	22
Chepstow	1	1
Gloucester	12	16
Lydney	25	34
Monmouth	1	1
Newport	0	0
Ross	0	0
Elsewhere in Forest of Dean	10	14
Other	4	5
Total	74	100



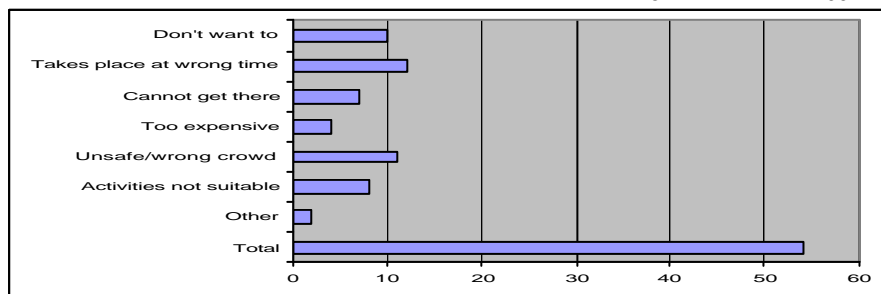
**Q11 How do you get there**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Walk	7	13
Public Transport	2	4
Lift from parents	29	55
Lift from friends or parents friends	10	19
Coach or organised transport	3	6
Other	2	4
Total	53	100



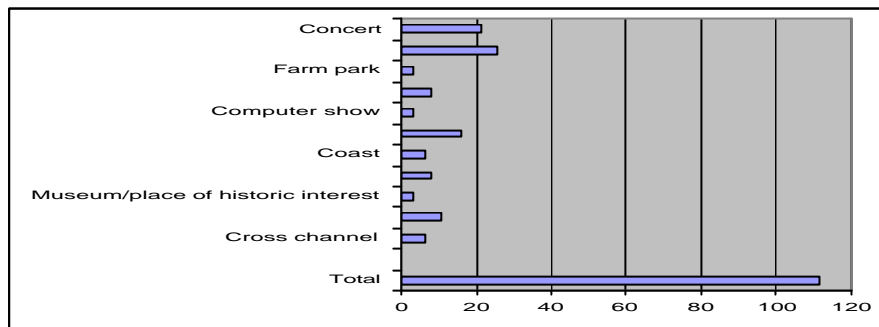
**Q12 What does or would prevent you from taking part in local activities/clubs**

	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Don't want to	10	19
Takes place at wrong time	12	22
Cannot get there	7	13
Too expensive	4	7
Unsafe/wrong crowd	11	20
Activities not suitable	8	15
Other	2	4
Total	54	100

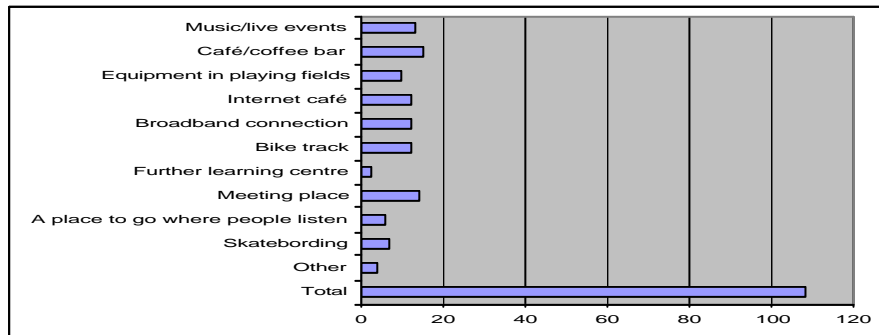




Q13 If trips organised where would you want to go to	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Concert	21	19
Theme park	26	23
Farm park	3	3
Fashion show	8	7
Computer show	3	3
Major sports event	16	14
Coast	6	5
Walk/ride	8	7
Museum/place of historic interest	3	3
Shopping Mall	11	10
Cross channel	6	5
Other	0	0
Total	111	100

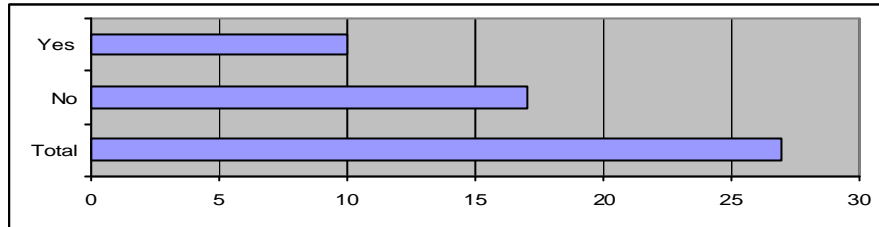


Q14 What facilities would you like have in the village	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Music/Live events	13	12
Café/coffee bar	15	14
Equipment in playing fields	10	9
Internet café	12	11
Broadband connection	12	11
Bike track	12	11
Further learning centre	3	3
Meeting place	14	13
A place to go where people listen	6	6
Skateboarding	7	6
Other	4	4
Total	108	100



Q15 Any other comments –see pages 94

Personal details given	Number of Responses	Percentage of total response
Yes	10	37
No	17	63
Total	27	100



Question Number

### OTHER COMMENTS

#### CHURCH

- 1 This question is unclear and over-generalised and cannot be answered in it's present form
- 2 Is grant for church legal
- 2 Should be done voluntarily
- 2 Yes but not funded from council tax
- 2 only if no interference from council
- 2 What was the reformation all about. You must be joking!!! It is fantastic that you should even consider asking such a question. Who has got to you and to what extent? If Cof E receives public funding so must All other religions and any quack or nutter who can pass himself off as a "religion". The question is a serious error of judgement and throws the whole of the questionnaire into doubt.

#### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- 3 Only for maintenance
- 4 Toilet block is an eye-sore - remove it
- 4 Toilets would be vandalised within hours of re-opening
- 4 Not without provision for inspection and maintenance
- 4 Bring toilets up to y2000 standards of hygiene, security and maintenance - why not have those loo boxes/kiosks that you pay for?
- 7 This is not an important issue
- 7 only if privacy can be respected
- 8 Who by? Not publicly funded
- 9 Of course!!
- 10 We have a parish magazine already
- 10 Via 15 Bells only- must not be in competition with 15 bells but there may be a case for an occasional news sheet to report on something particular - eg feedback from completed questionnaires - like the one produced by Blakeney surgery

#### CRIME

- 11 Never seen a policeman in blakeney
- 11 Police more accessible
- 11 The evidence is there for all to see
- 11 Bring back bobbie on beat if you want to prevent crime and solve it
- 12 No substitute at all
- 13 But its not an excuse for less policing

#### EDUCATION

- 15 Courses I wish to apply for are not provided for within this area or even at Gloucester
- 16 An opportunity for elderly people to record knowledge particularly how national events were received in the village and its reaction to them. There would haveto be a person who would write-up this information. A memorial Hall in Blakeney
- 16 U3A Adult Education
- 16 Accessibility of transport to already existing opportunities
- 16 Art music drama
- 16 Health and exercise
- 16 Leisure courses
- 16 Reskilling for disabled
- 16 Special needs adults education
- 16 Discussion groups for retired people on selected topics
- 16 DIY
- 16 Drama and music group
- 16 Handicraft
- 16 General crafts/arts
- 16 Leisure courses
- 16 Transport to colleges
- 16 It seems that government grants are for computing/it as there appear to be loads of these basic

- courses. Cost of courses can be extremely high - prohibitively so
- 16 Basic DIY skills for women
- 16 More vocational training we are not just here to work!
- 16 Finance
- 16 Education - no conversion courses in Glos, for switching from, eg, secondary to primary education

#### **HELP FOR THE ELDERLY**

- 17 Too much gossip already
- 18 Not at our cost
- 19 Does this mean that everyone willing and able to help have to have all relevant health and safety and hygiene et al training or would plain common sense do.

#### **ENVIRONMENT/CONSERVATION/HERITAGE**

- 20 Sadly, regulation is necessary
- 20 With particular reference to listed buildings
- 21 There are more important problems to tackle
- 21 Better to have sensible dog poo boxes in contact with soil
- 21 What about the horse shit up church way - enforce fines on that
- 21 How about just naming and shaming
- 23 Dog mess everywhere
- 24 Get the lazy dolers to clean up the village
- 24 But what happens next
- 25 Plastic re-cycling needed
- 25 Nothing for cardboard anywhere
- 25 Good except for kitchen waste in Blakeney- Dean Community Compost collect from Newnham could they perhaps extend their service to Blakeney
- 25 Need recycling for plastic
- 25 Plastic recycling could save a lot of rubbish and landfill
- 26 Preserved but not listed
- 26 If they are architecturally worth it
- 27 Only native trees and shrubs
- 27 Please replace the 2 trees taken down outside the surgery
- 29 Poor pressure
- 29 Too hard
- 29 Hard Water
- 29 It would be nice if the power didn't fail everytime the wind blows
- 29 Would like less chlorine
- 29 Too much limescale
- 29 Electricity supply is poor
- 29 Too much chlorine
- 29 Mains drainage badly needed due to increase in Awre water table over last 5 years

#### **HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

- 32 Doctors should have the authority to summons dial-a-ride when necessary
- 32 Easy Health Check facility
- 32 NHS Dentist needed in parish
- 32 Competent doctors
- 32 Prescriptions for homeopathic medicine
- 32 NHS Dentist
- 32 Physiotherapy
- 32 Weight control on the NHS
- 32 Acupuncture/osteopathy
- 32 Better diagnosis when referred to specialist
- 33 Lydney Hosp excellent
- 33 Ok but only if you have a car - otherwise no way good enough

#### **HOUSING**

- 35 Less hostility and jealousy towards genuine need for agricultural workers dwellings from locals and planning authority and more understanding from local people as to why they are needed
- 35 Bungalows or flats for elderly
- 35 Keep conversions in keeping with forest
- 35 Eco/flexible design for occupants changing needs
- 35 Affordable PRIVATE housing. Grants to landlords with the proviso that they do not benefit by selling at inflated prices after refurbishment
- 36 You must be joking - what happens now?
- 37 Middle aged couples forest born = 4x3
- 37 immigrants (1)
- 37 First time buyers for local people

#### **LEISURE FACILITIES/CLUBS**

- 38 Many of those listed already exist in one form or another within the Forest area
- 38 shooting
- 39 Dancing
- 39 Over 50's sports and recreation
- 39 Tai Chi and Self defence
- 39 Night clubs and entertainment venues
- 39 Singing (Choral)
- 39 Dancing, Church
- 39 Dance/Salsa
- 39 Bingo

- 39 Nursery and playschool
- 39 Photography, dancing, creative writing
- 39 Slimming, Line dancing, afternoon club, Concerts
- 39 Slimming Club
- 39 Tai Chi
- 39 College further education courses
- 39 BBQ's Theme evenings
- 40 What are the local activities

#### **LOCAL ECONOMY/BUSINESS/EMPLOYMENT**

- 41 Share/Swop - there is already a local FOD LETS scheme of which we are active members

#### **LOCAL SERVICES**

- 45 Lydney library is accessible
- 46 Chemist
- 46 Fax & photocopying service
- 46 Children's activity centre
- 46 Local taxi hire in Blakeney, More public phones through Blakeney and near areas
- 46 DIY Hardware. Decent Pub/bar
- 46 Local hub could be a venue for music, theatre etc

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- 47 Depends on price of it
- 47 Would there be parking How many trains would actually stop per day and how many trains would be cancelled.
- 48 Would like to see a taxi service
- 48 I cannot get to work on public transport but would use it if available
- 48 Do not use public transport only because it is not convenient and expensive
- 48 I would use bus if they ran every 15 mins to Gloucester/Chepstow
- 48 How can youngsters go and see a film at the cinema. While I rarely use public transport now, when I did I endured such a misery waiting for dirty, often late buses whose fare to Lydney was almost the same amount to go to Gloucester- terrible and there was nothing on a Sunday then at all and no late (early evening that is) buses to anywhere

#### **ROADS/TRAFFIC**

- 50 Install toll on A48 for all except public transport
- 50 Farmers mess absolute disgrace on lanes around Millend/Purton all due to one farmer council will do nothing about it even when reported
- 50 Other - car park in village taken up by vehicles from Dean Mowers so nowhere for anyone to park. Also Bridge St has become a rat run and needs to be one way or access only
- 50 Double yellow lines in Millend and by drs surgery
- 50 Install speed cameras
- 50 Introduce permanent speed awareness signs which show actual speed of vehicles
- 50 Lower speed limit on Brains Green incld the sharp bend on brains green corner
- 50 Only able to answer a few questions as we are new to the village
- 50 enforce "ghost pads" more patrols to prevent dangerous overtaking
- 50 De-trunk A48 at once and restore the quality of life to villages. It is scandalous that a two lane road for almost all of its length from Gloucester to Chepstow is still used by continental juggernauts. This is the single most important issue for the area and is not being pursued sufficiently either at local or national level
- 50 We know we are supposed to clean-up roads after use but not always possible due to weather. A little tolerance goes a long way
- 50 Clean out all ditches on Northington Lane Awre and then maintain regularly
- 50 Prevent cars turning left onto A48 from Blakeney Church
- 50 Double yellow lines on New Rd
- 50 Surely these are just pure fantasy
- 50 Install crash barriers on Lydney side of Viney Hill crossroads
- 50 Cover brook in front and back of Post Office to provide parking
- 50 Chicanes through Blakeney
- 50 Obscured view Awre Rd/A48 very dangerous caused by parked cars
- 50 Install speed humps
- 50 Sleeping policemen on Butts Lane to playing fields and speed cameras on A48
- 50 Bridge St for access only. Dean Mowers park so many mowers that you have to walk in road to pass
- 50 People park for the day in Bridge St and obstruct residents
- 50 Prevent parking by Atlas Films at junction with Mill End which is dangerous and illegal
- 50 Lights on footpath A48 from Oakland's towards Garden Centre
- 50 Pedestrian crossing at Oakland's Pk
- 50 Improvements for vehicle and pedestrians safety where Oakland's Pk meet A48, eg, footpath both sides of road (easy to achieve), hardshoulder/pull in/lay-by before the drive when travelling East (easy to achieve). This would make turning into the drive safer.
- 50 Install speed cameras on approach roads to Blakeney
- 50 Double yellow lines on All Saints Rd
- 50 Car Park
- 50 Car Park
- 50 Horses using public roads, pavement, public footpaths?
- 50 Cars parked on corner of Awre Rd/A48
- 50 People with garages should be made to use them which would leave street parking space for those without

- 50 Resident only parking
- 50 Blind spot at junction A48/Viney Hill is dangerous and mirror needed jct. New Rd and Clarks Lane
- 50 Bypass needed. Improve Viney Hill Junction
- 50 Mirrors on blind corners
- 50 A speed limit as our business and others are at risk because of excessive speed, poor visibility, no signage to slow traffic past our business entrance needs double white lines on road to prevent overtaking
- 50 Improve visibility junction Viney Hill cross roads
- 50 The A48 even as a trunk road does not carry a vast amount of traffic - compare it with A420 or A40. I have no problems with the A48 although I may feel differently if I lived in Blakeney - but then we would not have bought a house in Blakeney because of the road.
- 50 Reduce Severn Bridge toll by 50% but charge each way
- 51 Restrict parking on Awre lay-by to prevent obstruction to lane into Awre village off main A48. Stop articulated vehicles using A48 and limit rigid vehicle weight to 13t GVW
- 52 Nibley crossroads should be start of 40mph limit
- 52 Slower speed limit will do
- 53 Where the f\*\*\* would a bypass go and what would it achieve except more traffic. What a stupid idea
- 53 Rather a silly question as it's an impossibility

#### **TOURISM**

- 54 Convert toilet to internet site
- 54 Include environmental features on local map
- 54 Abolish parking charges - not only for tourists - what about locals
- 54 Make village attractive centre hub café, shops selling local produce and crafts with more parking to attract visitors- supports local businesses

#### **CHILDREN (UNDER 11)**

- 55 Swimming club
- 55 Martial arts
- 55 Youth Club
- 55 Re-open youth club
- 55 Gym for tots
- 55 Judo or Tie-kwado
- 55 Drama Classes
- 55 Football rugby tennis
- 57 Yorkley School

#### **OTHER COMMENTS,VIEWS,ISSUES NOT COVERED ABOVE**

- 58 Make up of Forestry Track Brains Green serving 5 properties, Sherwin, Clarke, Virgo, Jones, Robinson Approx cost £3000
- 58 It would be nice for the children to have a village playground with cctv to minimise vandalism
- 58 Name of village sign for Brains Green (and others)
- 58 NHS Dentist needed in parish. Walk-in or drop in health centre
- 58 We are both very concerned about the dangerous state of the road by the railway bridge. The council should ensure this is repaired before work commences over the brook (by Hall Farm). Other parishioners are also worried about being cut-off should the road collapse when the brook bridge is under repair
- 58 There are a number of men who are willing to get together and build a playground if money and site was available. Site having floodlights to deter vandals
- 58 A skateboard park for kids
- 58 ! Would like to see the youth club grounds revamped. Its such a shame that the club is hardly used - perhaps a club most nights for youths to go to with councillors there or someone that young people could talk to.
- 58 Regular and reliable transport to Glos so that I can commute to work without need to use a car
- 58 I would like to see a youth club in blakeney and a youth association allowing young adults to get more involved in the community
- 58 I think its time a playground was built for children as there are a lot of children coming into this area and we have nowhere for our children to go in school holidays and weekends
- 58 I feel there is nothing for young children. Other area have playareas, tennis courts, benches with gardens for people to sit (example Lydney Park) Shrubs and flowers for the elderly to enjoy. It would be nice to see a playarea maybe something for teenagers (skatepark). Something for all ages - young/teenagers. An area that is safe and well looked after.
- 58 Bus stop to Gloucester should be improved with at least a shelter. I think housing is adequate at present and no more green fields should be sacrificed for building development otherwise we shall no longer be a village but a dormitory suburb without character
- 58 We have had in the past playground facilities but they have always been wrecked by 'bigger kids' (vandalised and littered with cans bottles cigarettes and worse!
- 58 It is important to concentrate on realistic objectives which can be funded by income. The additional costs are unlikely to be covered unless by additional taxation in a low income area. Cosmetic exercises are meaningless to people on benefits and pension
- 58 Any bypass would ruin the countryside. It would be better to find a way of stopping lorries using the A48. I am strongly against any housing development. There is not enough work in this area and facilities are too poor to support a larger community. The proposed housing by Lydney bypass should be enough for this area
- 58 Buildings erected where they should not be
- 58 Re-introduce having a paid Youth Club leader to run local Youth Centre
- 58 My most pressing feeling about Awre is that considering it is a conservation area it is visually and

architecturally poor. Too many inappropriate usages of gardens for storage of building materials etc, hideous houses on the Blakeney Rd and farmers allowed to build huge intrusive piles of coloured bales anywhere they like.

58 I chose Awre to reside as a small peaceful village - I would like it kept that way. I expected I would need to travel for certain conveniences - that's living in the country

Page 18 There used to be many clubs in the village for most age groups- but they need dedicated people with time to run them. Unfortunately as club organisers got older they were not replaced. Children are transported everywhere - times have changed. Lets hope that this will change and a village life become more of a focus

#### **ABOUT YOUR HOME**

Sec3 6 Liked the area

Sec3 6 Lovely village

Sec3 6 Lived in Wye valley for 40 years and want to keep contacts here

Sec3 6 Moved from built-up area

Sec3 6 A miserable place to live

Sec3 6 Rehoused from Newnham

Sec3 6 Area appealed to us

#### **YOUNG PEOPLE**

sec4 07 Work

sec4 07 Football, swimming

sec4 07 Swim

sec4 08 Get fit, run, swim

sec4 08 Local leisure centre

sec4 09 Rowing

sec4 09 Ice skating

sec4 09 Horseriding

sec4 10 Cheltenham

Sec4 10 Bristol

sec4 10 Longhope

sec4 10 Cardiff

sec4 11 Drive

sec4 11 Motorbike

sec4 12 Provided at boarding school

sec4 12 There is not any (activity.clubs)

sec4 14 Off road running paths

Sec4 14 Youth Club

sec4 14 Basketball court

sec4 14 Would support and help clubs for this age group

sec4 15 Kick-boxing classes

sec4 15 Speed limit 30mph on cinderford rd

sec4 15 The council tax is too high for what we get. We would like the FODDC to rethink of the council tax for the FOD and to keep any further rise within the inflation for the coming years and members of the council to listen to the people

## Action Plan Summary


### Abbreviations

FODDC = Forest of Dean District Council; GCC = Gloucestershire County Council; GRCC = Gloucestershire Rural Community Council; GMTF = Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum; LAiP = Lydney Area in Partnership; LETS = Local Enterprise/Economy Trading Scheme; LSP = Local Strategic Partnership; PCC = Parochial Church Council; SPARC = strengthening participation: a regional comparison; SWERDA = South West of England Regional Development Agency; VAG = Voluntary Action Group

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES (C)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
C1	Assess Capabilities of local community	Meetings with village hall committees, clubs and voluntary groups	Parish Council	Village Hall Management committee (s)	Voluntary & Core Time: - Parish Council Advisor  Money: None	Start: Jan 05  End: Mar 05	Number of volunteers with appropriate skills or willingness to undertake training as a percentage of the community	Checkout: ⇒ National Village Halls Survey ⇒ VAG ⇒ LAiP Community Plan ⇒ GMTF (Healthchecks/Training)
C2	Village Hall(s) Upgrade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare feasibility studies .</li> <li>2. Develop business cases.</li> <li>3. Organise a fund raising committee and arrange events and sponsorship</li> <li>4. Prepare grant submissions</li> <li>5. Secure planning consent, if applicable.</li> <li>6. Commission renovation work</li> <li>7. Schedule regular and special events</li> <li>8. Post implementation Review</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Village Hall Management committee(s) GRCC FODDC Community Agencies	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Project team</li> <li>▪ Fund raising team</li> <li>▪ Event organisers</li> <li>▪ Working parties</li> <li>▪ Council and Agency advisors</li> </ul> Money: One Off Capital £50k-£100k over 3 years Revenue £8k (Y1 only) split 75% grant:25% match funding raised by organisers & parish council	Start: Mar 05  End: Feb 08	Level of community interest and support  Number of active volunteers  Number of Sponsors  Number of successful bids	Checkout: ⇒ Village Halls Survey  ⇒ Community funding case studies

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES (C)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
C3	Make better use of Youth Club site and facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review current use of Youth Club premises and ideas for improvement.</li> <li>2. Scope preferred options including linkage with C2 above, if applicable.</li> <li>3. Prepare business case for prioritised options.</li> <li>4. Prepare grant submission and match funding initiatives.</li> <li>5. Secure planning consent, if applicable</li> <li>6. Deploy development plan</li> <li>7. Commission work</li> <li>8. Post implementation review</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Youth Club Management Committee and trustees  Village Hall Management Committee  FODDC  Youth Agencies	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator Project Team</li> <li>▪ Fund raising team</li> <li>▪ Working parties</li> <li>▪ Youth Forum</li> </ul> Money: Capital cost, dependent on change of use, £20k (ballpark) split 75% grant:25% match funding raised locally by youth committee & parish council	Start: March 05  End: Sep 06	Level of community interest and support  Number of active volunteers  Number of Sponsors  Number of successful bids	This objective is closely linked to C2 and might be combined if, following the study, there is agreement that the Youth Club would be better co-located within Blakeney village hall - see Young People (Ref Y1 also)
C4	Mult-purpose Community Centre serving all of the Parish	To be defined - see comments  	Parish Council	To be defined	Voluntary & Core Time: High demand on volunteers  Money: High capital cost plus annual running cost to be defined	Start: To be defined  End: To be defined	To be defined	This objective will only be considered if all village hall refurbishment options fail. It is a longer term option for the disposal of existing village halls and other community venues which will be replaced by a multi-purpose centre
C5	Improve scheduling of events and use of venues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arrange meeting of organisers</li> <li>2. Form a coordination group meeting quarterly</li> <li>3. Form a community activity group</li> <li>4. Form a fund raising committee</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Village Hall Management Committees Club Leaders Church PCC's Youth Leaders School Govs Event Organisers	Voluntary & Core Time:  Existing Volunteers  Money: None	Start: Jan 05  End: March 05	Level of interest and willingness of leaders to share plans	This could be a quick win which only needs the support of current organisers.  Initial structured proposals have not generated support from organisers but a scaled down less formal process might be more acceptable. There are benefits for all organisations and the community as a whole from a joined-up approach



### COMMUNITY FACILITIES (C)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
C6	Replace existing notice boards in Awre and Blakeney	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design notice boards</li> <li>2. Define new sites</li> <li>3. Secure funding</li> <li>4. Install</li> <li>5. Maintain</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Local Community FODDC LAiP	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Parish Clerk</li> </ul> <p>Money: Capital £800 split 75% grant:25% match funding from parish council</p>	<p>Start: Jan 05</p> <p>End: July 05</p>	Community satisfaction index	LAiP are considering support this investment and FODDC (Tourism) are also considering support in exchange for allocated space
C7/ C8	Distribute a monthly newsletter to every household	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design layout</li> <li>2. Set-up editorial team</li> <li>3. Seek sponsors</li> <li>4. Form delivery team</li> <li>5. Modify web site</li> </ol>	Parish Council	None	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Volunteer editorial team (councillors)</li> <li>▪ Delivery team (councillors &amp; residents)</li> </ul> <p>Money: Recurring annual revenue £600 split 75% local sponsorship; 25% parish council</p>	<p>Start: Jan 05</p> <p>End: Launch March 05 then on-going</p>	Community satisfaction index	Check-out proto-type supported by Parish Council
C9	Distribute a community skills directory 6 monthly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set-up editorial team</li> <li>2. Design layout and web page</li> <li>3. Source advertisers</li> <li>4. Source sponsors (from issue 2)</li> <li>5. Distribute</li> </ol>	Parish Council	None	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Volunteer editorial team</li> <li>▪ Delivery team</li> </ul> <p>Money: £500 (set -up and first issue only)</p>	<p>Start: May 05</p> <p>End: Launch September 05 – then on-going</p>	<p>Community satisfaction index</p> <p>Number of advertisers as a %age of community</p>	Check-out prototype supported by Parish Council

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES (C)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
C10	Improve child minder/day care facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scope needs and produce options</li> <li>2. Source venues</li> <li>3. Set-up management team</li> <li>4. Launch</li> <li>5. Review and modify</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Social Services FODDC GCC Private agencies	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator Management team</li> <li>▪ Council/Agency core time</li> </ul> Money: Start-up cost £500 split 75% parish council 25% organisers	Start: Sept 05 End: April 06	Number of attendees as a %age of community Number on waiting list	Options will include use of shared venues not necessarily within parish This initiative could be linked to Children Theme (Ref IN3) if it is possible to provide day care within the parish
C11	Public seating in and around villages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refine suggested sites contained in survey</li> <li>2. Secure resident agreement to proposed sites</li> <li>3. Assess cost and funding opportunities</li> <li>4. Commission installation</li> <li>5. Manage maintenance programme</li> </ol>	Parish Council	FODDC Playing Fields Association FOD Housing	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator Council Agency</li> <li>▪ Installation and maintenance team</li> </ul> Money: £400 per seat split 50% grant:50% parish council	Start: March 06 End: March 08	Community satisfaction index	2 year programme, say, 2 new sites per year

### ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE (E)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
E1	Provide consistency in planning applications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the existing planning process and raise issues of inconsistency</li> <li>2. Recommend changes to standardise the process</li> <li>3. Agree key measures including timescale</li> <li>4. Monitor progress towards measures</li> </ol>	FODDC	Parish Council LSP GCC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ LSP</li> <li>▪ Council</li> </ul> Money: None	Start: Aug 05 End: Ap 06	Adherence to key measures based on community satisfaction survey	

**ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE (E)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
E2	Provide a solution to dog fouling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a communication to win support of dog owners to clean-up after their animals</li> <li>2. Scope the provision of dog bins</li> <li>3. Assess clearance &amp; maintenance cost</li> <li>4. Scope funding options</li> </ol>	Parish Council	FOODC Community Groups	Voluntary & Core Time: Project Co-ordinator  Money: Bins £150 each Clearance £500 pa funded by parish council	Start: March 05  End: July 05	Community satisfaction survey	Provision of bins only to be considered if self-help communication fails
E3	Review responsibilities for hedge & verge cutting and ditch clearing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess shortfall in existing self-management</li> <li>2. Publish responsibilities of landowners/GCC highways</li> <li>3. Agree frequency and time of year</li> <li>4. Set standards and monitor adherence</li> </ol>	Parish Council	GCC	Voluntary & Core Time: Project Co-ordinator  Money: None	Start; May 05  End: Aug 05	Community satisfaction survey	
E4	Plant trees and shrubs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify potential sites</li> <li>2. Select plant/tree type suitable for potential sites</li> <li>3. Source funding sponsors</li> <li>3. Undertake planting</li> <li>4. Maintain site(s)</li> </ol>	Parish Council	None	Voluntary & Core time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Garden Club Committee</li> </ul> Money: Trees/Plans £400 over 3 years (50% sponsorship; 50% parish council)	Start: Oct 05  End: Sept 07	Community satisfaction index	Suggested 3 year programme
E5	Identify local heritage projects and secure funding for individuals/groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communicate local projects and organisers</li> <li>2. Secure authority to do the work and funding</li> <li>3. Undertake work</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Heritage Committee(s) GRCC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Working groups</li> </ul> Money: Funded from heritage grant generally up to £2K. Any shortfall to be funded by organisers	Start: April 05  End: March 08	Number of local funding applications  Successful bids as a percentage of total	To run for the full 3 year plan

**ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE (E)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
E6	Explore the opportunities for the expansion of gas supply	1. Consult with suppliers about the demand for gas supply and identify their expansion plans to cover whole of parish. 2. Lobby for change if plans fall short of community expectations 3. Monitor developments	TransGas	Parish Council	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Utility</li> </ul> Money: Utility core funds	Start: Sep 05  End Sept 07	Community satisfaction index	Assumes a 2 year phased roll-out programme subject to consultation with suppliers
E7	Improve television reception	1. Identify Home Office plans for upgrade of local transmitters 2. Communication timescale and act on community response 3. Lobby authorities if programme falls short of community expectation 4. Assess any short-term alternatives	Home Office	Broadcasting Authorities  Parish Council  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Volunteer lobbyists</li> <li>▪ Council and Government Agency</li> </ul> Money: Central Government development fund	Start: April 05  End: Oct 06	Level of interest as a percentage of community	Likely to be a lengthy process so other options such as short term subsidies for satellite will be explored

**HOUSING (H)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
H1/ H5	Build outputs from the housing survey contained in the parish plan into the 2005 consultation process	1. Pass housing findings to FODDC Housing Strategy Team 2. Input the following to the revised housing strategy to be developed in 2005: - nominate sites for single dwelling building - suggest innovative ideas for affordable housing which are kept in perpetuity - resist all other building development plans 3. Champion the needs of the community and input to the local plan	FODDC	Housing Assoc  LSP  Parish Council  GRCC  GCC	Voluntary & Core Time: Project Co-ordinator  Money: Housing Assoc core budget Private investment	Start: Dec 04  End: Dec 05	Community satisfaction index	This initiative is on-going and will extend the whole of the plan period

**ROADS/TRAFFIC (R)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
R1	Reduce number of heavy vehicles using A48 through parish	Prepare options for introduction of a road toll based and submit to A48 Committee	Highways Agency	A48 Committee Parish Council(s) LAiP FODDC GCC Police Authority LSP	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ (A48 representatives)</li> <li>▪ A48 Committee</li> <li>▪ Council &amp; Agency</li> </ul> Money: Highways Agency core budget	Start: Dec 04  End: Dec 06	Change in number of through vehicles  Community satisfaction survey	There is a balance to be effected in terms of social and economic needs of the community Links to Local Economy/Business/Employment initiative (Ref ET 4)
R2	Introduce speed restrictions	1. Consider alternatives 2. Prepare project case based on most popular options 3. Gain support of A48 Committee	Highways Agency  County Highways	A48 Committee Parish Council(s) LAiP FODDC LSP Road Police Unit	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ (A48 parish representatives)</li> <li>▪ A48 Committee</li> <li>▪ Council &amp; Agency</li> </ul> Money: Highways Agency & County Highways core budget	Start: Dec 04  End: Dec 06	Change in level of all types of accident  Community satisfaction survey	This will be a phased approach over a 2 year period
R3	Improve access to All Saints to and from Church Sq and A48	1. Undertake feasibility study 2. Prepare project case based on most popular options 3. Gain support of A48 Committee 4. Deploy	Highways Agency County Highways	A48 Committee Parish Council(s) LAiP FODDC Housing Assoc LSP Road Police Unit	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ (A48 parish representatives)</li> <li>▪ A48 Committee</li> <li>▪ Council &amp; Agency</li> </ul> Money: Highways Agency & County Highways core budget	Start: Dec 04  End: Dec 05	Community satisfaction survey	

### ROADS/TRAFFIC (R)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
R4/ R5	Restrict roadside parking in Blakeney to improve flow of traffic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define non parking zones</li> <li>2. Consider alternative parking facilities</li> <li>3. Develop project plan</li> <li>4. Deploy on phased basis</li> </ol>	<p>Highways Agency</p> <p>County Highways</p>	<p>A48 Committee</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>Road Police Unit</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ (A48 parish representatives)</li> <li>▪ A48 Committee</li> <li>▪ Council &amp; Agency</li> </ul> <p>Money: Highways Agency &amp; County Highways core budget</p>	<p>Start: Dec 04</p> <p>End Mar 06</p>	Community satisfaction survey	Phased deployment – yellow lines could be a quick win but finding sites and money to build new car parks will take much longer.
R6	Review the number of road signs and re-site or remove any to improve driving conditions and safety for all	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake review</li> <li>2. Prepare options</li> <li>3. Enlist the support of A48 committee</li> <li>4. Deploy</li> </ol>	<p>Highways Agency</p> <p>County Highways</p>	<p>A48 Committee</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>Road Police Unit</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ (A48 parish representatives)</li> <li>▪ A48 Committee</li> <li>▪ Council &amp; Agency</li> </ul> <p>Money: Highways Agency &amp; County Highways core budget</p>	<p>Start: Apr 05</p> <p>End: Sep 05</p>	Community satisfaction survey	

### LEISURE (L)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
L1	Organise a series of "trial events" to gauge interest level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Produce list of events to be trailed</li> <li>2. Organise an open day to share suggestions</li> <li>3. Arrange one-off events</li> <li>4. Repeat most popular events periodically</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>Village Hall Committees</p> <p>Club Leaders</p> <p>Private event organisers</p> <p>GRCC</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>GCC</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Volunteer event organisers</li> </ul> <p>Money: None – self financing</p>	<p>Start: April 05</p> <p>End: March 06</p>	<p>Number of participants as a %age of community</p> <p>Community satisfaction survey</p>	There will be an on-going programme after the 1 year trail based on the most popular events and number of volunteers

### LEISURE (L)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
L2	Work with parish and town neighbours to make use of their facilities	Review "wish list" of activities from parish survey and where numbers make it impracticable to run within the parish scope means to link with other parishes who offer facilities	Parish Council	Club/event organisers GRCC FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Volunteer organisers (including drivers)</li> </ul> Money: None – self financing	Start: Jan 06  End: July 06	Number of participants as a %age of community  Community satisfaction survey	

### HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (HS)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
HS1	Improve communication about health advice	1. Set up a link with West Glos NHS Communication Unit 2. Set-up link (including web sites) with local practice 3. Design a communication cascade process and launch	Parish Council	W.Glos NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT)  Local Practice Partnership  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Local Practice volunteers &amp; staff</li> <li>▪ NHS Comms Unit</li> </ul> Money: None	Start: Jan 05  End: Jun 05	Community satisfaction survey  Practice survey  NHS PCT index	This initiative links to C7/C8
HS2	Provide new services locally such as well-being clinics, alterative medicines and dentistry, podiatry and physiotherapy	1. Consult with local practice and W. Glos NHS PCT 2. Shortlist options 3. Gain agreement on options and development timescale 4. Identify venues 5. Organise pilots	W. Glos NHS PCT	Parish Council  Local Practice Partnership  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Local Practice volunteers &amp; staff</li> <li>▪ NHS Comms Unit</li> <li>▪</li> </ul> Money: NHS core budget	Start: Aug 05  End: Dec 06	Community satisfaction survey  Practice survey  NHS PCT index	

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT (T)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
T1	Provide long-term loan of scooters/mopeds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify local needs</li> <li>2. Produce a prioritised list</li> <li>3. Develop project case for parish using "jump2 criteria" and present</li> <li>4. Deploy on needs basis</li> </ol>	GCC Rural Transport Board	Parish Council  GRCC  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Council</li> </ul> Money: GCC core budget	Start: Sep 05  End: April 06	Number of applications as a %age of community  Number of successful applications as a %age of submissions	
T2/ T5	Make use of Dial-A-Ride vehicles when not in use and join mini-bus brokering scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore the needs of organised groups within the community for out-of-hours transport</li> <li>2. Scope the opportunities and cost to use Dial-A-Ride/mini bus vehicles with and without drivers</li> <li>3. If opportunities exist, seek volunteer drivers, cover legal requirements including a risk assessment analysis and constitution</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Dial-A-Ride (LAIp)  GCC  Community Groups	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Volunteer Group Leaders</li> <li>▪ Volunteer drivers</li> </ul> Money: None Cost of vehicle hire to be self financing	Start: Jan 06  End: Ap 06	Number of groups interested as a %age of total  Community satisfaction index	
T3	Formation of a car sharing scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scope the potential and interest in a car sharing scheme with groups, organisations and individuals</li> <li>2. Develop proposals for satisfying needs</li> <li>3. Canvass local community for a panel of drivers willing to operate on a cost only basis.</li> <li>4. Produce a volunteer constitution covering legal requirements</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Community Groups  GRCC  Neighbouring parish and town councils	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Volunteer drivers</li> </ul> Money: None - self financing	Start: Ap 06  End: Oct 06	Number of volunteers as a %age of total community  Community satisfaction index	This project is multi-purpose and may be beneficial for getting club members to local meetings or venues outside the parish and would serve all age groups especially at times when public transport is not available. It could also be extended to cover hospital trips, etc, who are unable to use other transport facilities
T4	Provide hail and ride rural bus service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scope potential and community preferences</li> <li>2. Consult with Transport Planning Group about options</li> <li>3. Build into local transport plan</li> <li>4. Organise pilots</li> </ol>	GCC Integrated Transport unit	Parish Council GRCC (parish plans group) GMTF LSP FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Council core time</li> </ul> Money: GCC core budget	Start: Ap 06  End: Ap 07	GCC customer panel  Community satisfaction index	



**PUBLIC TRANSPORT (T)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
T6/ T7	Provide demand responsive transport service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scope options</li> <li>2. Consult with GCC Integrated Transport Unit</li> <li>3. Link local needs into county plan</li> <li>4. Organise pilots</li> </ol>	GCC Integrated Transport Unit	Parish Council GRCC (parish plans group) GMF LSP FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Council</li> </ul> Money: GCC core budget	Start: May 06  End: May 07	GCC customer panel  Community satisfaction index	A Taxi bus pilot commenced in November 04
T8	Secure fare subsidies for rural areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compile table of fares to/from parish</li> <li>2. Set-up dialogue with GCC on subsidy options for various age groups and special needs individuals</li> <li>3. Launch pilot schemes</li> </ol>	GCC Transport Planning Unit	Parish Council GRCC (parish plans group) Social Services FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Council</li> </ul> Money: GCC core budget and/or interbusiness agreement with Social Services	Start: Jly 06  End: Ap 07	GCC customer panel  Community satisfaction index	
T9	Improve communication about transport services and displays	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a link with Taveline</li> <li>2. Design a mutually agreeable communication process</li> <li>3. Update existing information on displays at bus stops and maintain</li> <li>4. Replace existing poor quality display boards with vandal proof panels and possibly illuminate using solar energy</li> </ol>	GCC Traveline	Parish Council  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Council</li> </ul> Money: GCC core budget	Start: Dec 05  End Mar 06	GCC customer panel  Community satisfaction index	
T10	Install 2 bus shelters in Blakeney	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree design and obtain quotes</li> <li>2. Prepare and submit case for funding</li> <li>3. Consult interested parties about proposed sites</li> <li>4. Erect shelters</li> </ol>	Parish Council	FODDC  GCC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Council</li> </ul> Money: Capital £4630 split £2360 FODDC, £1500 GCC & £770 Parish Council	Start: Oct 04  End: Ap 05	Community satisfaction index	

### TOURISM (V)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
V1-V5	Attract more visitors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design and publish information about the parish and what makes it special</li> <li>2. Improve information about places to stay</li> <li>3. Install tourist information boards and provide guide brochures</li> <li>4. Arrange village clean-up days</li> <li>5. Organise visitor attractions</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>FODDC</p> <p>GCC</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Working parties</li> </ul> <p>Money: Print &amp; stationery £600 split 50% grant 50% parish council</p>	<p>Start: May 06</p> <p>End: Sep 06</p>	Growth in visitor numbers based on increased sales in local shops, pubs and accommodation	
V6	Improve footpaths	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult with Ordnance Survey on use of maps and obtain licence</li> <li>2. Design local footpath maps from local knowledge</li> <li>3. Review footpath signage and improve where necessary</li> <li>4. Introduce a routine maintenance programme</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>GCC</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Working parties</li> </ul> <p>Money: Fees &amp; printing £400 equally split GCC, FODDC, Parish Council</p>	<p>Start: Sep 06</p> <p>End: Mar 07</p>	Community satisfaction index	
V7	Change arrangements for parking charges in Forest to a more acceptable level for local people and visitors,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lobby Forest Enterprises for the changes in parking charges within Forest.</li> <li>2. Consider compromise options</li> <li>3. Test community opinion</li> <li>4. Take further action based on feedback</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>Other affected Parishes</p> <p>GRCC</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Lobbyists</li> </ul> <p>Money: No investment - small negative impact on Forest Enterprises</p>	<p>Start: Feb 05</p> <p>End: Jun 05</p>	Community Satisfaction index	
V8	Active participation in Tourism Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that a Parish Council is representative on "Towards 2015 partnership".</li> <li>2. Use the partnership to develop opportunities for the Forest in general and parish in particular using attractiveness criteria</li> <li>3. Seek suitable sites for tourist attractions and special events</li> <li>4. Involve local community</li> </ol>	SWERDA	<p>FODDC</p> <p>GCC</p> <p>GRCC</p> <p>Parish/Town Councils</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator/Partnership representative</li> <li>▪ Council</li> </ul> <p>Money: SWERDA (core budget)</p>	<p>Start: Mar 05</p> <p>End: Mar 08</p>	<p>Number of additional tourist attractions vs previous year</p> <p>Increase in number of visitors to Forest measured by GCC monitor</p>	Part of this initiative will be driven by V1/V5

### CRIME & SAFETY (P)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
P1/ P2	Provide better police coverage in villages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build case for more visible local police presence (not necessarily beat offices)</li> <li>2. Raise profile of Neighbourhood Watch</li> <li>3. Present case to Forest North Police and Neighbourhood Forum</li> <li>4. Agree compromise options</li> <li>5. Launch pilot study including a zero tolerance trial</li> </ol>	Glos Police Authority (Forest North)	Parish Council  Neighbourhood Forum  FODDC  LSP	Voluntary & Core Time: Project Co-ordinator  Money: Police core budget	Start: Jun 05  End: Ap 06	Community satisfaction/perception survey	
P3	Provide consistent crime level statistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lobby for reinstatement of parish crime stats</li> <li>2. Cascade results to the community quarterly</li> <li>3. Develop an action partnership which provides a link between the community and police</li> </ol>	Glos Police Authority (Forest North)	Parish Council  Neighbourhood Forum  FODDC LSP	Voluntary & Core Time: Project Co-ordinator  Money: Police core budget	Start: Mar 05  End: Sept 06	Change in crime levels measured by Police monitor Community satisfaction/perception survey	
P4	Review effectiveness of Mobile Police Station	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve communication about purpose of Bobbie Bus and date, time and place of visit.</li> <li>2. Review its current role as part of community policing and build options to change what is currently offered</li> <li>3. Cascade agreed changes to community and test effect</li> </ol>	Glos Police Authority (Forest North)	Parish Council  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: Project Co-ordinator  Money: Police core budget	Start: Mar 05  End: Sept 06	Community satisfaction/perception survey	
P5	Improve Call Centre Response Time	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collect evidence to support shortfall in response time from Tri-Service Centre</li> <li>2. Review emergency service response time standards and challenge as appropriate</li> <li>3. Publish core standards and achievement</li> </ol>	GCC (Tri - Service Centre)	Parish Council  Neighbourhood Forum  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: Project Co-ordinator  Money: Emergency Services core budget	Start: March 05  End: Oct 05	Call Centre Monitor Community satisfaction/perception survey	
P6	Improve communication of self-help advice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a link between Parish and Glos Police web sites</li> <li>2. Set-up a process for the distribution of police publications</li> <li>3. Build local stock of publicity material/merchandise for local call off</li> <li>4. Invite crime and safety speakers to community groups</li> </ol>	Parish Council	FODDC Glos Police Authority (Forest North)	Voluntary & Core Time: Project Co-ordinator Distributors Money: Police publicity core budget	Start: Nov 05  End: March 06	Community satisfaction survey	

### HELP FOR THE ELDERLY (A)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
A 1	Provide a Luncheon Club	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare Business Case</li> <li>2. Find volunteers,</li> <li>3. Arrange funding,</li> <li>4. Prepare venue</li> <li>5. Complete legal requirements</li> <li>6. Recruit members</li> <li>7. Plan activities</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Help the Aged  GRCC  Social Services	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Volunteers to cook and serve and run events</li> </ul> Money: Set-up cost £6,500 funded from grant and Village Hall Funds	Start: Oct 04  End: April 05	Member satisfaction survey, Number on waiting list	
A2	Arrange an information day for elderly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scope the type of information/advice elderly residents need</li> <li>2. Contact potential organisations to enlist support</li> <li>3. Agree a date with Village Hall Committee &amp; plan hall layout</li> <li>4. Advise community of date, time and purpose of event</li> <li>5. Follow-up hard to reach members of the community</li> </ol>	Parish Council	Village Hall Committee  GRCC  Invited exhibitors	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Volunteers to help on day</li> </ul> Money: Funded by exhibitors	Start Dec 04  End: Feb 05	Exit survey	

### EDUCATION/TRAINING (ET)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
ET1 ET2	Improve communication about training opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resolve the discrepancy between training on offer and take-up rate</li> <li>2. Set-up manual and electronic links with providers and organise new communication</li> </ol>	Parish Council	RFOD & Hartbury Colleges Learning & Skills Council GRCC GCC FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Colleges &amp; Councils</li> </ul> Money: Self-financing	Start: May 06  End: Dec 06	Change in number joining vocational and social programmes	

EDUCATION/TRAINING (ET)								
Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
ET3 ET4 ET5 ET6	Improve local opportunities for training and development	1. Parish to be represented on the FODDC Education and Lifelong Learning Forum 2. Explore the opportunity to provide local venues for cross parish training workshops 3. Identify local resident skills which could be used to develop and run programmes to meet needs 4. Scope the potential for a community foundation programme 5. Develop a programme of vocational and social courses	Parish Council	RFOD & Hartbury Colleges  Learning & Skills Council  GRCC GCC  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Colleges &amp; Councils</li> </ul> Money: Selffinancing	Start: May 06  End: Dec 06	Number of courses offered locally as a %age of all in FOD  Number of local venues as a %age of total  Consumer satisfaction survey	

LOCAL ECONOMY/BUSINESS/EMPLOYMENT (EC)								
Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
EC1 EC2	Support economic regeneration	1. Generate innovative ideas to grow local economy 2. Gain support from LAiP for investment in hinterland projects as part of Market & Coastal Town Initiatives 3. Provide evidence for local investment using the Index of Deprivation 4. Develop business plans	Parish Council	LAiP LSP GMTF Glos First GCC FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Councils</li> <li>▪ Partnerships</li> </ul> Money: To be defined	Start: Sep 06  End: Mar 08	Number of successful bids as %age of submissions  Community satisfaction survey	
EC3	Support growth of local businesses	1. Organise local business seminars, workshops & information share sessions 2. Develop a local business forum which meets periodically to spearhead inward investment opportunities	Parish Council	Business Link Fed Small Bus  FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ FODDC</li> <li>▪ Partnerships</li> </ul> Money: Selffinancing	Start Jly 05  End: Dec 05	Number of successful bids as %age of submissions  Community satisfaction survey	

**LOCAL ECONOMY/BUSINESS/EMPLOYMENT (EC)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
EC4	Reduce number of heavy vehicles passing through parish	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Study through traffic statistics to establish impact of reduction on local economy</li> <li>2. Prepare options that provide a solution to both economic and social issues</li> <li>3. Assess cross parish boundary issues</li> <li>4 Lobby for change based on compromise</li> </ol>	Highways Agency	Parish Council Neighbouring Parishes GCC FODDC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ FODDC</li> <li>▪ Partnerships</li> </ul> Money: Highways Agency core budget	Start: Aug 06  End: Mch 08	Reduction in through traffic vs economical growth  Community satisfaction index	Links to Local Roads/Traffic initiative (Ref R4)
EC5	Support Business Diversification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the future of traditional industries such as agriculture</li> <li>2. Consider options including re-use of land</li> <li>3. Short-list options and assess impact on sustainability and planning process</li> </ol>	FODDC	Parish Council Local Business Forum GRCC GMTF LSP	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ FODDC</li> <li>▪ Partnerships</li> </ul> Money: Private enterprise	Start: Ap 07  End March 08	Change in economic activity  Community satisfaction index	To effect this action FODDC will need to award the parish council the executive responsibility to input to the development of Supplementary Planning Guidelines
EC6	Establish a LETS or Fair Shares scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider options for a social scheme or social /business scheme</li> <li>2. Set-up a control group either within parish or link to wider administration</li> <li>3. Produce documentation for members use and constitution</li> <li>4. Organise a publicity campaign to announce launch</li> </ol>	Parish Council	LETS Forum GMTF GRCC	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Management Committee</li> <li>▪ Forums/Councils</li> </ul> Money: Selffinancing	Start: June 05  End March 06	Number of credit exchanges as %age of parish average  Community satisfaction index	
EC7	Organise a Credit Union	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publish details of Credit Union and develop a list of residents interested in joining the scheme</li> <li>2. Set-up a union within the existing structure</li> </ol>	Credit Union	Parish Council	Voluntary & Core Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> </ul> Money: Selffinancing	Start: Nov 05  End Mch 06	Number of members as a %age of residents  Community satisfaction index	This will be a campaign to raise awareness of the existing union rather than an attempt to set-up a new one

**LOCAL ECONOMY/BUSINESS/EMPLOYMENT (EC)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
EC8	Promote local people for local work	1. Organise a campaign to promote the use of local people for local work 2. Promote the use of the Skills Directory within the community 3. Enlist the support of advertisers to give discount to local residents 4. Link into the Council and Agency procurement process to give locals the opportunity to bid for service contract to be let in the parish 5. Organise local markets for the sales of produce (where legislation allows)	Parish Council	FODDC  GCC  Agencies	Voluntary & Core Time: ▪ Project Co-ordinator ▪ Village Hall Committee(s)  Money: Self financing	Start: Feb 06  End: Feb 07	Change in %age of contracts let locally  Community satisfaction index	This initiative is linked to Community Facilities (Ref C9)

**RELIGION (R)**

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
R1 R2	Improve integration of Church within the community	1. Persuade Parochial Church Council representatives to join the Community Organising Committee 2. Integrate Church restoration fund-raising initiatives with other fund raising events to maximise contributions	Parish Council	Parochial Church Council	Voluntary & Core Time: ▪ Project Co-ordinator ▪ Parochial Church Council  Money: None	Start: Jan 05  End: March 05	Community satisfaction survey	This initiative is linked to Community Facilities (Ref C5)
R3 R4	Standardise use of willed monies and grants	1. Seek agreement with for all monies willed to be used solely within the parish 2. Arrange for parish council support for Church to be subject to standard annual grant request process	Parish Council	Parochial Church Council	Voluntary & Core Time: ▪ Project Co-ordinator ▪ Parochial Church Council  Money: None	Start: Jan 05  End: March 05	Community satisfaction survey	

### CHILDREN (IN)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
IN1 IN2	Provide play areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop options for improved play facilities including a playground</li> <li>2. Shortlist and prioritise options and assess cost</li> <li>3. Prepare business case for selected option</li> <li>4. Arrange fund raising events and investigate grant opportunities</li> <li>5. Prepare volunteer constitution covering all legal requirements</li> <li>6. Design and build</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>SPARC Playing Fields Assoc FODDC GCC GRCC</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Children and Parent Committee</li> <li>▪ Council and Agency</li> </ul> <p>Money: £15k spilt 70%grant 30% local fundraising</p>	<p>Start: Jly 05</p> <p>End: July 06</p>	Community satisfaction survey	
IN3	Provide accommodation and storage facilities for parent and child group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify suitable existing venues or new sites within the parish</li> <li>2. Cost respective options</li> <li>3. Develop short-term solutions</li> <li>4. Arrange fund raising events and investigate grant opportunities</li> <li>5. Prepare business case</li> <li>6. Prepare volunteer constitution</li> <li>7. Arrange conversion or new portable installation</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>SPARC FODDC GRCC</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Children and Parent Committee</li> <li>▪ Council and Agency</li> </ul> <p>Money: £25k spilt 50%grant 50% local fundraising</p>	<p>Start Sept 05</p> <p>End Ap 06</p>	Community satisfaction survey	This initiative could be linked to Community Facilities (Ref C10)

### YOUNG PEOPLE (Y)

Ref	Objective	Action to be taken	Lead Responsibility	Supporting Partners	Resource/Cost Implication	Time Scale	Performance Measure(s)	Supplementary information
Y1/ Y2	Resurrect the Youth Club	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the interest in a youth club and its venue</li> <li>2. Set-up a Youth Forum</li> <li>3. Scope need for a paid youth leader</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>Youth Club Management Committee and trustees</p> <p>Village Hall Management Committee</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>Youth Agencies</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Project Team</li> <li>▪ Fund raising team</li> <li>▪ Working parties</li> <li>▪ Youth Forum</li> </ul> <p>Money: See C3</p>	<p>Start: March 05</p> <p>End: March 06</p>	<p>Level of community interest and support</p> <p>Number of active volunteers</p> <p>Number of Sponsors</p> <p>Number of successful bids</p>	This initiative is closely linked to Community Facilities (Ref C2 & C3)



Y3	Organise activity days and events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organise meetings with Young Gloucestershire</li> <li>2. Prepare a list of suggested activities</li> <li>3. Youth forum or representatives to shortlist options</li> <li>4. Arrange trial events</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>Youth Club Management Committee and trustees</p> <p>Village Hall Management Committee</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>GCC Young Gloucestershire</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Working parties</li> <li>▪ Youth Forum</li> <li>▪ Young Gloucestershire</li> </ul> <p>Money: Self financing</p>	<p>Start: May 05</p> <p>End: October 05</p>	Community satisfaction survey	
Y4	Organise Youth Workshops	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set-up partnerships with colleges and training organisations and clubs</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>Youth Club Management Committee and trustees</p> <p>Village Hall Management Committee</p> <p>Neighbouring clubs</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>GCC</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Working parties</li> <li>▪ Youth Forum</li> <li>▪ Council &amp; Agencies</li> </ul> <p>Money: Self financing</p>	<p>Start: August 05</p> <p>End: March 06</p>	<p>Change in number of participants as %age of community</p> <p>Community satisfaction survey</p>	
Y5	Improve access to venues outside the parish	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify clubs and organisations that provide facilities not available in the Parish</li> <li>2. Assess level of interest</li> <li>3. Assess need for transportation</li> <li>4. Set-up team of volunteer drivers</li> </ol>	Parish Council	<p>Youth Club Management Committee and trustees</p> <p>Village Hall Management Committee</p> <p>Neighbouring clubs</p> <p>FODDC</p> <p>GCC</p>	<p>Voluntary &amp; Core time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Co-ordinator</li> <li>▪ Working parties</li> <li>▪ Youth Forum</li> <li>▪ Council &amp; Agencies</li> </ul> <p>Money: Self financing</p>	<p>Start: March 06</p> <p>End: Sep 06</p>	<p>Change in number of participants as %age of community</p> <p>Community satisfaction survey</p>	