



2005

Report and Action Plan

Results from the Survey and Village Day Event

Funded by:



Bishop's Hull
Parish Council

and assisted by:

Taunton Deane Borough Council



**Community Council of
Somerset**

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FOREWORD

There is much change taking place within Parishes. People are more and more being asked to contribute to the way their “parish” or village is developing and finding out what makes it tick and how that may be improved or varied to suit their own village’s particular needs. This heralded the initiation of the Parish Plan.

The opportunity for us in Bishop’s Hull to take part in a plan was brought about by firstly the decision taken by the PC to support the Parish Plan Review and secondly, but most importantly, by the small group of people who came forward to find out what Bishop’s Hull wanted in their Parish Plan.

With Larry Fogg at the forefront and a small band of helpers the survey of the village was done.

From the results of the survey, the team have produced this plan.

The job is now to evaluate how we take this forward to the next stage – implementing it. Some of the “wants” may be impossible to achieve in the lifetime of some of us, others will take only a moment. Each will be fundamental to how the Parish Council works in the future as the Plan will have to be considered in all forward planning, seeking funding and distributing support.

It doesn’t stop there either as other local government bodies, Taunton Deane Borough Council and the Somerset County Council, will also have to have regard to it.

This is a great achievement and my thanks go to that small team who took up the challenge.

Marilyn Jorgensen,
Chair,
Bishop’s Hull Parish Council
February 2005

WHY WE DID IT !

Vital Villages Scheme

The Parish Council decided to take advantage of the Countryside Agency's initiative and the funding, which has been offered to all Rural Villages from 2000 onwards. This 'Vital Villages Scheme' aims

to help rural Parishes identify what their residents feel is important in their community and to help to map out the facilities which the community need for the future.

Bishop's Hull Parish Council wanted to find out what is currently needed in the village and also to look towards the future need of ALL the villagers. The only way to do this was to get residents to tell them what they wanted.

The Bishop's Hull Way

The way Bishop's Hull undertook this was for the Parish Council to ask for interested residents to get involved by advertising on the Parish notice-board and holding a series of open meetings. The Parish Council asked for an independent Chair of the group, who is a local resident but not a Parish Councillor. A grant of £5000 was obtained from the Countryside Agency to enable the Parish to devise its own Survey and Plan. Volunteers were organised into a Steering Group who produced, distributed and analysed the Survey questionnaire that went to all villagers.

The end result of this village wide consultation exercise is this document, known as **'The Bishop's Hull Village Plan'**.

Objective of the Exercise

- To have a comprehensive consultation with the community throughout the Parish.
- To enable a representative sample of views throughout the Parish to be expressed.
- To establish existing problems and unmet needs within the community.
- To find out what future needs are for the Parish.
- To provide quantitative and qualitative information that could be used to establish a Parish Plan together with a community strategy and Action Plan.

INTRODUCTION

The Village

Bishop's Hull is an ancient village straddling the old A38 route from Bristol to the South-west. We are about 1 mile to the west of Taunton - the county town of Somerset and 5 miles to the east of Wellington. To the north is Norton Fitzwarren with the main London – Penzance railway as a barrier. The village sits on an escarpment to the West which rises up from the flood plain of the River Tone, the hill that starts from Haydon's Farm is where the "Hull" gets its name; the view from the top of the village to the west is stunning and, of course, we would like to see preserved.

Taunton derives its name from the River Tone, a natural barrier that crosses the village and acts as an eastern boundary on the edge of Taunton. There are many small hamlets and villages around us. To the South is Trull, to the West lies Oake and abounding Bishop's Hull the already-mentioned Norton Fitzwarren, until recently home for many years to the famous Taunton Cider.

The Population

The population of Bishop's Hull is very settled, with over 70%¹ living here for more than 6 years. It is a popular retirement choice, as over 10% have moved here since retirement. Other reasons given for moving to the village were attraction to village life (16%) and the availability of housing (20%). This could be related to the housing estates built during the 1960-70 period.

The population is biased towards the elderly, with nearly 50% more than the national average of people over 75 living in the village. There are also a large number of permanently sick or disabled within the population.

Village Concerns

These two groups will have a great need for health and Social Services support, and with the population ageing, there is an even greater pressure to ensure that there are services in place.

A large number of villagers had difficulty in getting to essential services such as the doctor's surgery and hospital, and these were mainly in the elderly age range. Better transport for them is needed, or a local chemist facility and/or a part time doctor's surgery facility could be offered in the village.

The age of the population will matter in a few years. If these trends continue we could lose more classrooms in the local village school. It is vital that there is a mix of age groups within the village to maintain its vitality.

¹ Of respondents to the survey

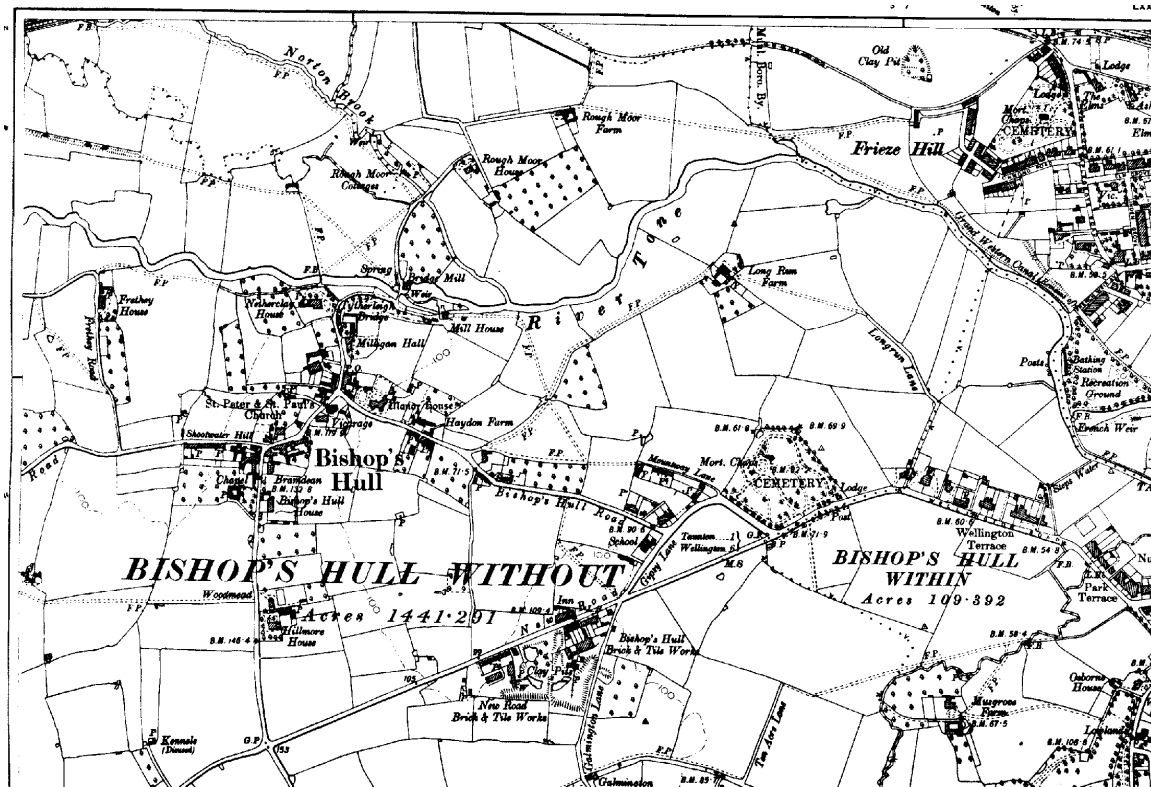
One major concern is the lack of affordable homes, in particular starter homes for young people. Divisive results from the survey regarding housing reveal some 44% of responders want no more development, while 56% want some development. The survey on housing should certainly be redone in 4-5 years time.

There are a number of young people in the village and their needs are not being met currently. This could result in a major threat to life blood of village life and recommendations are made within the survey to address their issues.

WHERE IS BISHOP'S HULL?

Where we are in the grand scheme of the Southwest





1901 ordnance survey map of the area

This shows how the area was an important road link to the South West as the main Midlands route to Cornwall ran through the village.

On this map Bishop's Hull sat astride the A38 and a more recent map will show the village bisected by a new A358 known locally as "Silk Mills Road" currently under redesign to incorporate a bridge over the London-Penzance railway - another division to the village - both physically and emotionally.

Village Changes

Several major issues have impacted on the village over the previous 5 years. These include the expansion of the Musgrove Park Hospital, the enlargement and expansion of the Somerset College of Art and Technology and the construction of the Silk Mills railway bridge with introduction of a Park & Ride system. One main route in the village will have a bus gate introduced, and Park & Ride buses will run frequently down that route through the Village area. Local people, however, will not be able to board these buses travelling through the centre of their residential area.

WHAT DID WE DO

Decisions

Volunteers who attended the meetings initiated by the Parish Council (to which all villagers were invited) formed a Steering Group of interested residents. This group took advice from the Countryside Agency, from the Community Council, Parish Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council and also talked to other groups who had already gone through this process, before making any decisions. It was decided that a written questionnaire would be the best way to gather the information from all villagers. This questionnaire would be delivered to all homes within the Parish boundary and therefore all residents would have an opportunity to **air their views and have their say**.

Questions

The group drafted sample questions for a test run of the survey, which went to 100 homes. The feedback from this helped to finalise the design and content of the final questionnaire.

The areas that villagers found important were roughly subdivided and questions fell into these areas of expressed interest:

- Transport
- Environment
- Youth
- Housing
- Religion
- Security and Safety

Communication

At the same time, the group set about raising the profile of the plan, 'talking it up' and advertising around the village. Members regularly manned a stall at the car boot sales held on the village playing fields to promote as wide an interest as possible.

The Steering Group produced a special one-off colour edition of the monthly Community Newsletter to be delivered to all homes in the Parish, just before the questionnaires went out to residents. The local media were also involved with a centre-spread article in the Taunton Times newspaper and during the same week the Chair went on the local radio. All this was done to gain maximum publicity to ensure that villagers were aware of what was being done and to generate enthusiasm for the process.

Surveys

Surveys were then hand-delivered to the 1,329 dwellings in the Parish, by a band of dedicated volunteers, and a further Commercial Survey went to 72 local businesses. The volunteers then went back at a later date to collect them!

The surveys represented the opinions of 1,034 people in the Parish, which at the last census totalled a population of 3,018. The details relating to the survey can be found in the Appendices.

Other Activities

Additional involvement of villagers was generated through other activities.

We are very grateful to the local Primary School for supporting a competition among the pupils to design a Village Logo, the winning Logo was designed by two pupils, Rebecca aged 6 and Nicole aged 9.

The children also built a model of the village highlighting things that they found important, which when used during the village Consultation Day generated more ideas about village amenities and helped gain further useful information.



Local school children busy building the base of the model village

Local children were given disposable cameras and asked to take photographs of things

they felt were important to them in the village.



We hate it when people leave rubbish

Sometimes we can't use the field because of the cricket



We hate dog mess, especially when we walk in it

We love playing in the park



Can we have stuff for the older

I get muddy going to school and mum gets cross. Can we have a path across the park?

We love walking down here with the dogs

It's great to have picnics by the river





I love my school

We like walking to



We play tennis here in the summer



We spend our pocket money in here



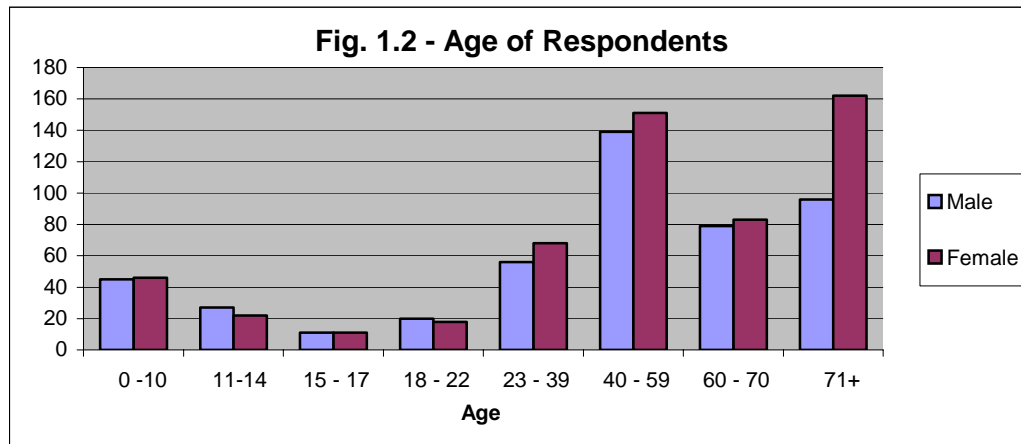
Village Consultation Day

The village held an Open Day where the initial results of the Surveys were presented and villagers attending were invited to make further comments. This generated further good ideas about both what the residents wished for and what they didn't like about the village and its amenities.

Summary of the Results

The Household

The first question asked was how many people lived in the household and invited one member of the household to complete this section. Most households, that is, over 74% comprised of just one or two people, the remainder being a mix of, in one case, up to seven residents.



The question regarding the age of the person was completed by almost everyone². Age distribution showed that the highest number of respondents, that is 28%, were in the 40-59 age group with the over 70's representing 25% of the total. There is a marked difference in the lower age group where, figures showed 9% were 0-10 years old, 5% 11-14 years and just 2% aged 15-17.

Humanities

The questions in this section were aimed at getting an idea of the mix of the village population. Identifying how long people have lived in the village, where they were before this and their reasons for moving to the village.

To Q3.18 '***How long have you lived in the village?***' the responses were interesting.

This is a very settled population, with over 70% of respondents having lived here for more than 6 years. The majority of respondents seem content to stay in Bishop's Hull. Only 4% of villagers who responded have lived here less than 1 year. However, just over 6% have lived here either over 51 years or for their whole lives.

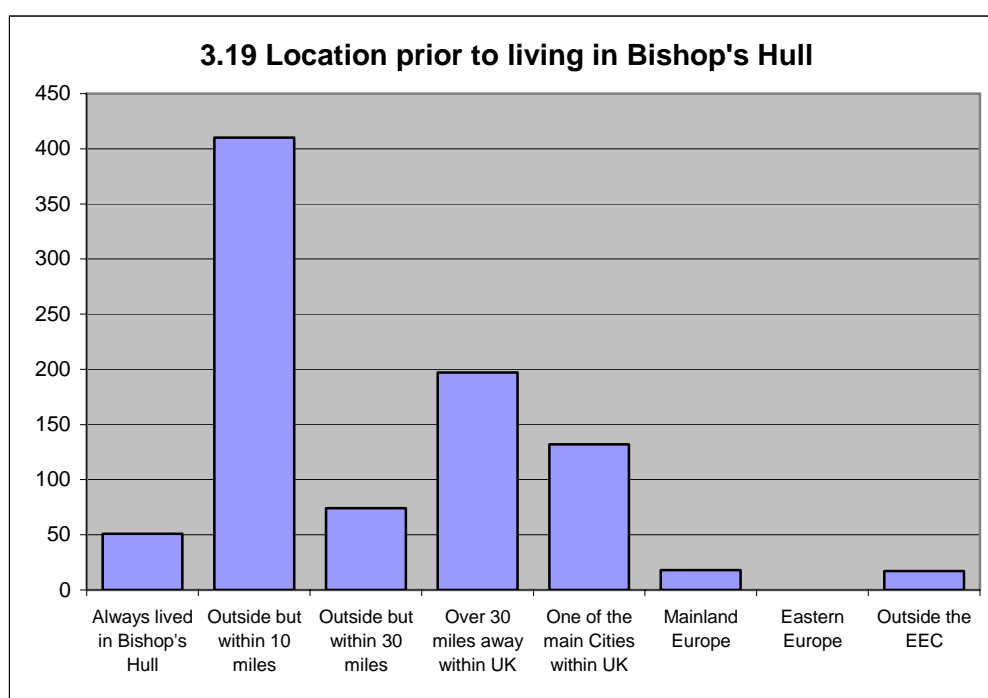
² but one or two Surveys did contain data entered in the wrong age column.

Bishop's Hull seems to be a popular retirement choice, as over 10% of the population have actually moved here since retirement. This may be because of the facilities for this age group, in that there are several Nursing Homes in the area and also Warden supported housing in the village.

We asked in Q3.19, '**Where did you live prior to living in Bishop's Hull?**' and received the following responses.

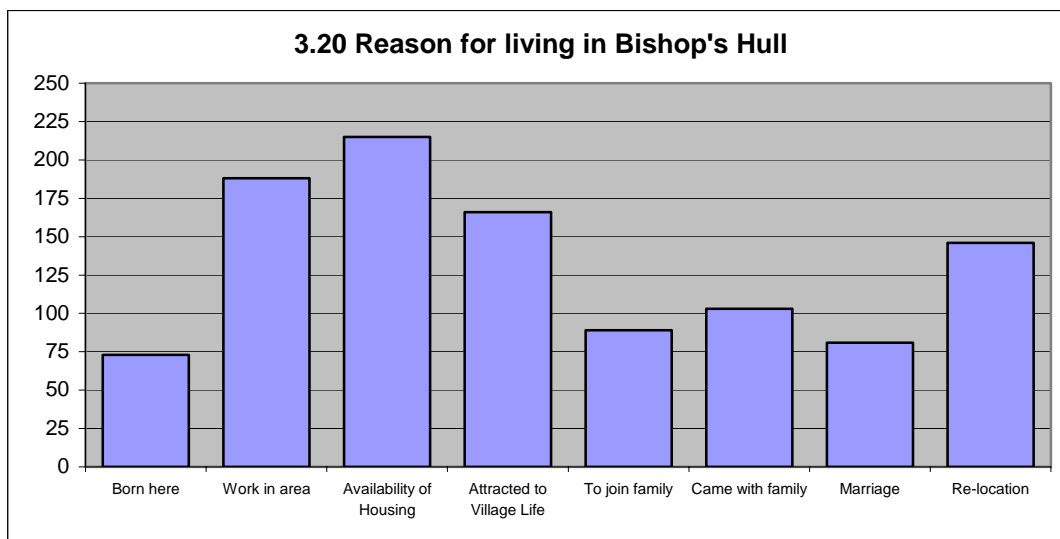
The majority of respondents, (46%) had come from within a 10-mile radius of the village. A further 22% came from over 30 miles away and 15% from one of the main cities within the UK.

In terms of respondents from abroad, 2% are from mainland Europe and another 2% from outside the EEC.



We asked in Q3.20 '**How did you come to live in Bishop's Hull**' in order to find out people's reasons for living in the Village.

Of those who responded, over 20% were attracted by the availability of housing and a further 18% by work in the area. However, 16% were actually attracted to Bishop's Hull because they wanted to become part of village life. 5% of respondents over the age of 21 were born in the village and are still here!



We asked about '**employment status and where residents worked**' in Q3.21 and Q3.22.

An overwhelming 42% of respondents are retired, which reflects the population of the village. There are 23% in full time employment, 12% in part-time employment and 6% are self-employed. As is the national trend, over 50% more women than men are in part time employment. 3% of the population are actively engaged in voluntary work.

A very high proportion of those that responded (8%) are actually permanently sick or disabled, although of these 62% are over 65. Only 1% of respondents are actively seeking employment. The majority of residents, some 43%, work/study or train in Taunton. A small number work/study or train in Bristol or Exeter and a number commute to London or Birmingham. 6% of residents actually work from home and 33% are not at work/study or training.

Bishop's Hull does not suffer from the levels of unemployment that other villages do as it is based so close to a major town.

Issues:

1. Over 10% of respondents have moved to Bishop's Hull since retirement. This reflects the statistics regarding the overall population of the village.
2. The village has a very high number of residents aged 75 plus; in fact 14.4% of the population, that is nearly 50% more than the National Average of 7.6³.
3. There is a falling birth rate and this is an issue for all schools within Taunton. The village needs to retain its school and therefore either needs to attract children outside the school catchment area or the Parish Council needs to be making plans for attracting younger members to join the community.
4. There is a very high level of people who are sick and disabled within the village

³ National Statistics - 2001

community. This is reflected in the overall statistics with 21.8% of Bishop's Hull stating that they have a limiting long-term illness as compared to National Average of 18.2%⁴.

5. As there are a significant number of residents who were attracted to live in Bishop's Hull because of its village appeal, we need to ensure that it retains its village characteristics, whilst growing to meet the demands of the future

Actions:

- ***To investigate ways to make sure that Bishop's Hull village remains energised and vital, and still retains its characteristics as a village***
- ***Parish Council to work in conjunction with other organisations within the village to produce a futures plan that will encourage younger people to move to the village to ensure that there is a balance in population***
- ***Parish Council and the local school to liaise about possible future issues. The school needs to be included in the futures planning exercise***
- ***Parish Council to review the needs of the elderly population given the other comments within the survey, for example access to facilities such as surgeries etc***

TRANSPORT

Issues for Bishop's Hull

It is acknowledged that mobility is a key issue to modern living, and the transport and travel issues surrounding the Bishop's Hull area have featured in local planning traffic proposals for a considerable number of years.

Plans and counter-proposals have been discussed and public meetings held on the issues of parking problems brought about by the influx of workers and visitors into the area to the Musgrove Park Hospital and the Somerset College of Art and Technology, both situated in close proximity on the busy A38 at one edge of the parish boundary. Both are either seriously short of long stay staff parking facilities or imposing high parking fees on site. The result of this is a steady increase in the overspill of vehicles parked daily in the unrestricted local side roads close to the two centres.

A road bridge over the Silk Mills rail-crossing has been on the local and County agenda for at least the past 25 years! Now programmed for completion by December 2005 this scheme will critically impact on the main arterial routes through the Parish and three main arteries of the village itself. The imposition of this project alone is going to result in strict curtailment of parking sufficient to cause considerable ongoing problems to local residents. There is also worry that additional cars will use the village as a 'rat run' and

⁴ National Statistics - 2001

there are already issues with speeding on certain roads.

A number of questions in the Survey were devoted to how people get to work and how many drivers use their cars regularly as opposed to using public transport.

Regular Drivers

From replies to the Survey 63% of people indicated they were car drivers with access to vehicles, there was an almost even divide between male and female with the bulk of drivers 58% between the ages of 22 – 59.

The South-west as a whole has the highest car ownership rates of any region in the UK apart from the South-east. Approximately 2 million cars are licensed. (SW Regional Planning Guidance GOSW 2001)

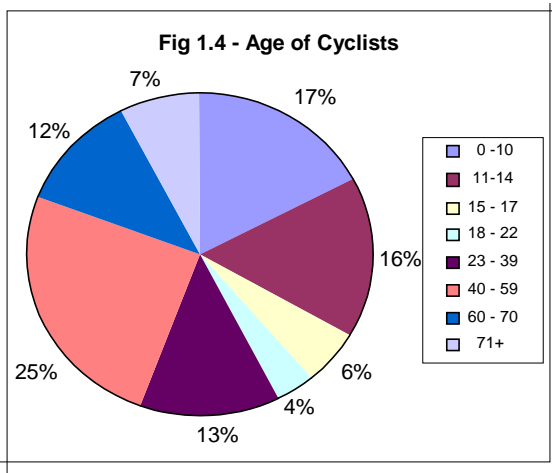
Cycling

Q1.4 asked ***'How many people use a pedal cycle regularly?'***

The 279 who answered the question represented a mix across all age groups. The majority (31%) were aged 40-59, which represented 29% of all survey participants in that age range. However, in the younger age group (under 18), although they represented only 33% of the total who replied, it is interesting to note that actually over 57% of survey participants in that age range cycled.

Issues

1. There is nowhere at all that is safe to cycle with children
2. Marked Cycle paths between Bishop's Hull and the rest of Taunton are incomplete and are on major roads, which are highly dangerous
3. There is no cycle route directly between Bishop's Hull and the centre of Taunton town and other cycle routes



Comments - There were many comments about the lack of cycling facilities:-

'We need cycle paths on the Wellington Road'

'We need a cycle path on the Silk Mills Road'

'We need a cycle path at the rear of SCAT to French Weir'

'It is ridiculous that there is no safe cycle path into the town'

Comments from Children:-

'Bikes are best and we need more space'

'Bikes should be given more importance'

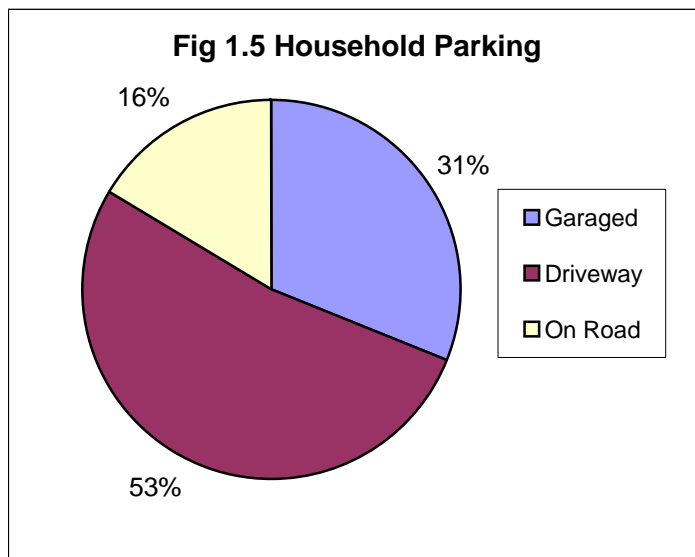
Action

- ***Provide a cycle link between Bishop's Hull and Taunton via French Weir***

Parking

On the parking issue, residents were asked in Q1.5 '***how many vehicles have you at your household and where are they usually parked?***'

Of those that answered the Survey 31% of vehicle owners confirmed they garaged their car on their own property, while a further 53% used their private driveway. Only 16% stated they used the public highway to park.



Issue

1. There are problems with parking identified by residents in:

Shutewater Hill, where cars sometimes take more than one space up leaving nowhere for residents to park, and

Mountway Road, where non-residents park their vehicles

Comments

'Parking should be banned near the Post Office and play area'

'We would like more disabled parking facilities'

'Can we have delineated parking spaces on Shutewater Hill (divide up spaces with white lines)'

'Could we use some space on the playing field for parking'

Actions:

- ***Parish Council to raise the issue with TDBC concerning the parking of vehicle by non-residents into the Bishop's Hull areas to ensure adequate parking facilities are available for the local community.***
- ***Provide delineated parking for Shutewater Hill***
- ***Parish Council to look at the other issues***

Bettering Public Services

In Q3.1 '**How often do you use the bus service from Bishop's Hull,**

56% of those answering confirmed never having used public transport and a further 36% used public buses very occasionally. 9% of respondents use the buses at least once a week or more often.

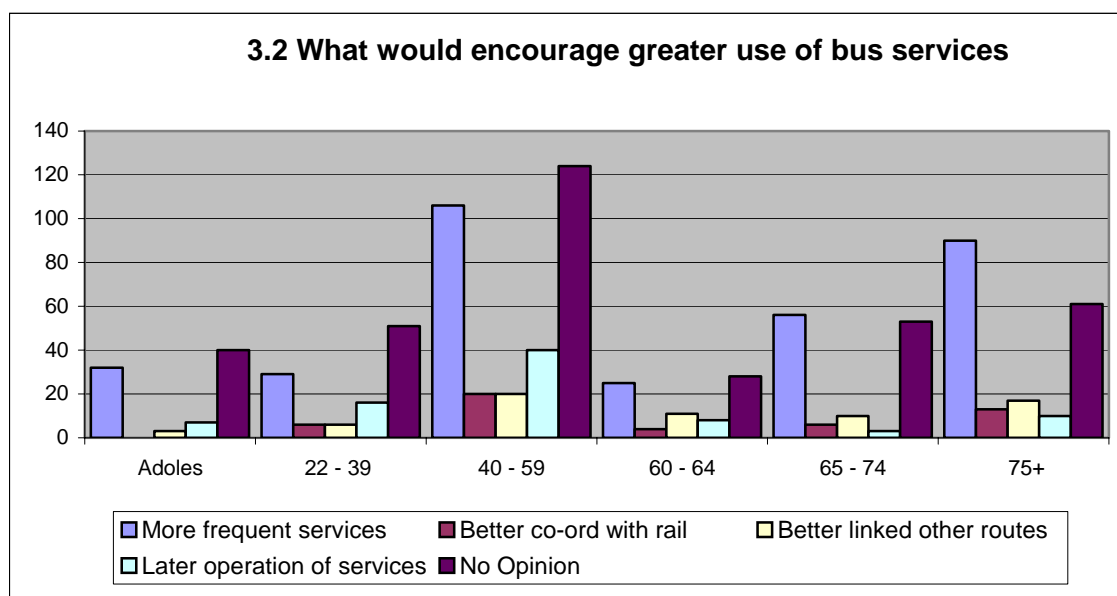
Householders were asked in Q3.2 "**If you answered Never or Occasionally what would encourage greater use of the bus service**"

38% stated that more frequent services would definitely help, against 40% who had no opinion. Better co-ordination with rail services was suggested by 5%, better links to other routes by 8% and later operations of services would encourage 9% to use the buses more frequently.

Some comments have been made by concerned householders

*'Little thought has been given when planning public transport'
'Musgrove Park Hospital and College Way Surgery are very near to the road used by the bus. Why can these places not be included on the route'
'Walking Aides - no help given to lift them onto the bus'
'Climbing onto the bus is almost impossible for elderly and disabled'*

'Proposed bus routes do not offer access to either the local Hospital or the local Medical Centres despite being a small distance off proposed routes. Can the buses not be routed by both these very near locations to improve access to householders of the village that do not have access to private transport'



Issues:

1. To get to local Surgery Centres and the local hospital by public transport requires travel into town and change buses to travel back out again.
2. Public bus services stop too early in the evening and are too infrequent particularly on Sundays
3. The villagers are going to have to put up with a severe permanent upheaval in the accommodation of the Park & Ride Scheme. The buses will run through the village at 10-minute intervals, however they will not stop in the village to pick up passengers. The buses involved in this should also offer a service to the local villagers en route with pickup and put down points.

Actions:

- ***Local Authority to be approached to see if the above comments can be accommodated within the scheme of the proposed services.***
- ***Bus Company to be approached to relay comments regarding access and assistance difficulties***

Difficulty in Getting to Local Services

Q3.15 asked the question, ***'Do you experience problems getting to the following'*** with Health Services listed.

Out of the 1407 respondents, 50% had no difficulties, but the other 50% experience problems getting to services, the majority of these residents are in the older age range. 46% of 60-64 year olds experience difficulties, 55% of 65-75 year olds, rising to over 82% of those aged 75 plus experiencing difficulties getting to services, in particular the doctor's surgery, the chemist and the hospital.

Issues

1. The older population of Bishop's Hull have difficulties in gaining access to Health Services.

Action:

- ***Parish Council to assess the need for services and address this issue.***

Traffic in Bishop's Hull

Question 3.3 and 3.4 dealt with envisaged problems associated with the effect of parking restrictions in the main artery routes of the village, Bishop's Hull Road, Mountway Road, Bishop's Hull Hill and Heron Drive.

Of the 901 drivers answering 5% stated that they would be seriously affected by parking restrictions in Mountway Road and a further 9% would be inconvenienced. 36% of drivers felt it would not cause any inconvenience to them, 21% thought it might improve their journey and just fewer than 30% had no opinion either way.

With regard to Bishop's Hull Road, Bishop's Hull Hill and Heron Drive 17% of the 1,018 who responded were of the opinion it would improve traffic flow, but conversely 23% thought it could possibly encourage speeding. 25% of respondents thought it would simply shift parking problems to other areas, as these cars need to park somewhere and 26% had no opinion on the matter.

Issues

1. Residents already experience shortage of parking space due to the influx of non-resident parking during the working week.
2. Due to the physical characteristics of many of the original roads, parking presents an everyday difficulty in many areas at all times.
3. Current problems could be exacerbated by increased demand being placed on local parking once the Park & Ride commences and people become familiar with our area.

Actions:

- ***Reveal the number of residents requiring parking facilities in the areas earmarked for restriction.***
- ***Establish what restrictions are envisaged by the local authority and the extent of their encroachment into the existing unrestricted parking.***
- ***The effect on the parking problems in the Village should be monitored and the local authority informed on a regular basis where problems are evident to avert problems escalating into major situations.***

Safety and Neighbourhood Speed Watch

Residents were asked to express interest in the possibility of a Neighbourhood Speed Watch Scheme in view of the complaints and fears regarding vehicles exceeding speed limits on several arterial routes through the village. 9% of respondents indicated they were interested and 40% of these took the trouble to complete an additional Volunteer Form to say they were interested in becoming actively involved.

Issues:

1. Residents are concerned with the overall problem caused by speeding

mainly by non-residents using the routes as a short cut.

2. Speeding restrictions are called for on all the major routes through the area.
3. Concerns are being expressed over the traffic calming proposals, which appear to be still subject to finalisation, by the local authority.

Action:

- ***Parish Council to pursue and arrange the setting up of a Speed-watch with the volunteers and the local police authority***

Bishop's Hull Car Scheme

Discussions and meetings had already taken place regarding the set up of a Shared Car Scheme within the village. This was initiated through the United Reform Church who realised that many Parishioners were experiencing difficulty attending services and also getting to local facilities, such as doctors and the hospital.

The survey asked '... ***Would you or do you know of someone who would have a need, or could volunteer as a driver?***'

In order to increase awareness and gather feedback from the householders of the village questions centred on two issues:

- a) Was there a need for such a Service and
- b) How many people could come forward and offer some sort of help if such a service were to be made available to the villagers.

56% of the 90 villagers, who responded to this question, expressed a need and an interest in this service, with a further 43% who said they knew someone who may possible benefit from this.

There was a positive response to offering help and assistance, with some 6% of respondents offering help with driving.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

We wanted to seek villager's ideas about things that could improve their quality of life in Bishop's Hull. Q3.16 asked '***What would you like to see to improve the overall environment within the village?***' and asked to tick one or more of nine boxes.

There were nearly 2,500 responses to this question and other comments were also identified during the village consultation exercise. Answers to the specific suggestions in the questions are shown as a % of the 2,496 who responded to the question and also as a % of the 1,034 answering the questionnaire.

Recycling

16% would like improved recycling and a wider range. (When applied to the total of questionnaire respondents this is a significant figure of 39%) Currently there is a 2 weekly collection of household bottles, clothes, shoes, cans and newspapers. Currently excluded are cardboard and plastic bottles. There is also a green collection of garden rubbish fortnightly throughout the summer.

The village is a fair distance away from the full recycling depots so we need a wider range of recovery of recyclable materials.

Street Cleanliness

Improving street cleanliness was suggested by 16% of respondents. (again when applied to the total questionnaire this is a figure of 39%)

Respondent's comments included:

'We need more litter bins'

'People should pick up their rubbish'

'I wish more residents would take more pride in the village and pay more attention to it'

Doggy Bins

More doggy bins were suggested by 10% of residents (equating to 23% of the total questionnaire respondents). More specifically during the consultation day, more bins were requested at the beginning of the Woodland walk. These bins must also be emptied regularly to be of any use.

Weed Control

Weed control would seem to be a concern with 12% suggesting it as an improvement (that is 28% of the total questionnaire respondents) **5% would like more garden areas on the green patches.**

It would appear that residents are keen to improve the view in the village with suggestions such as:

‘Could we enter Bishops Hull into the Village in Bloom’

‘We could put up hanging baskets all around the village’

‘Could we have a community Christmas Tree?’

Lower Speed Limits

Lower speed limits in congested areas were suggested by 15% of respondents (equating to 37% of the total questionnaire respondents). The issue of speeding has been raised time and again during the consultation process with specific areas being shown to be dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. These include amongst others, the area around the Post Office, where visibility is limited and also the area on the corner of Netherclay by the War Memorial.

7% of residents would like to see improved street lighting. This may also improve the feelings of safety expressed by residents in the questions about crime.

Actions:

- ***More Doggy Bins to be installed particularly on the Playing Field and Woodland area.***
- ***More Litter Bins throughout the Village***
- ***Parish Council to pursue the entering the Village in Bloom competition***
- ***Wider range of recycling facilities and more frequent collections***

FOOTWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

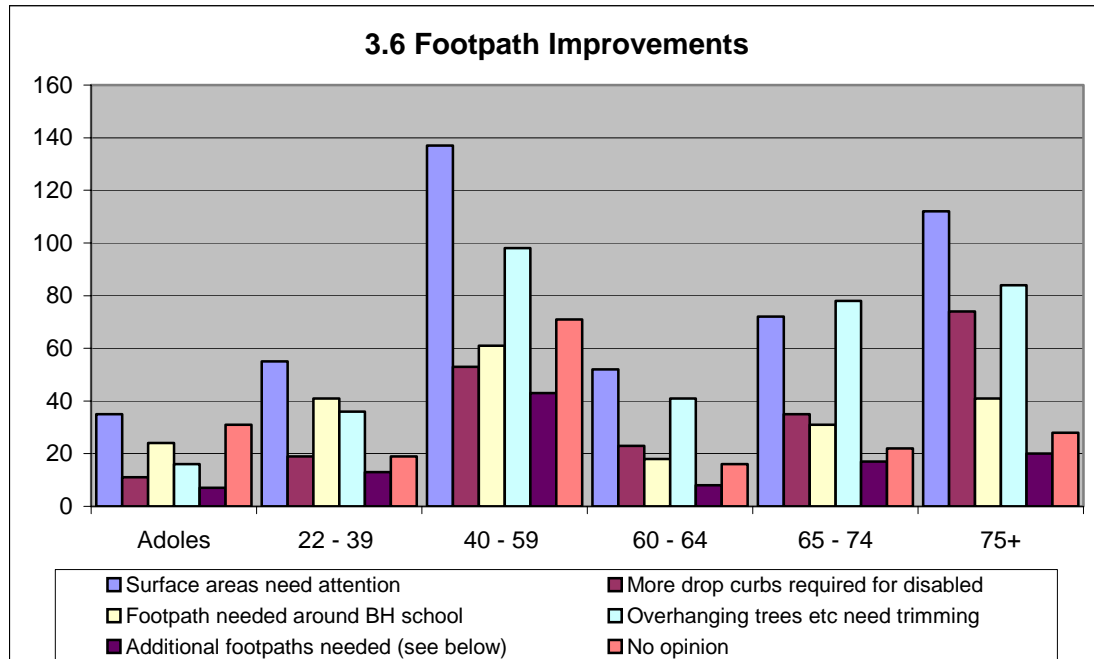
It is worth defining the difference between footways and footpaths here as there is confusion about this.

A footway is a pavement or walkway abounding a roadway, whereas a footpath is a right of way across a piece of land that cannot be taken away without legal sanction.

It is important to make this distinction, as there are several issues regarding this within the village comprising both built up areas with footways and countryside with many footpaths and walks.

Q3.6 asked '***Do you think improvements are required to footpaths or walkways***'

A total of 1,542 answered this question and other comments were made during the consultation day.



Surface Areas

30% of residents felt that surface areas needed more attention. Residents commented that:

'The pavement by Hamwood Terrace badly needs resurfacing'

Drop down Kerbs

13% of respondents would like to see more drop-down kerbs. This is particularly important given the number of elderly and disabled residents in the village.

Access around the School

Currently there is a footpath directly through the school grounds, which is a right of way at all times. This is contrary to all initiatives within schools now where it is policy to keep grounds and buildings secure from entry during school time. Discussions have been ongoing about re-routing the path or walkway around the school grounds instead.

14% of respondents (equating to 21% of the total questionnaire respondents) want this access route around the primary school concluded and a number of residents commented:

'Resolve the footpath around the school'

'The issue regarding the footpath around the school needs resolving now, not in a years time'

Overhanging Trees

22% of residents were concerned that overhanging trees need trimming, although it is unclear exactly where in the village. It should be noted that some trees are the responsibility of the homeowner and that they receive no payment or subsidy for maintaining these assets to the village.

Footpaths

A number of residents would like to see additional footpaths where possible across available land.

Comments:

'We need more footpaths and they need to be sign-posted'

Residents commented:

'We would like more drop down kerbs'

Walkways

There are some areas in the village where there is no walkway and it can be dangerous for pedestrians. It was noted that a number of residents wanted

'A continuous footway along Bishops Hull Road from the Post Office to Wellington Road'

Road Signs and Repairs

Residents also commented on road signs

'Replace street roads/signs as many are dilapidated'

and also the quality of the road surfaces themselves

'When repairs are done to road surfaces could they not be done in the new quiet tarmac surfacing'

Issues:

1. There are areas of busy road within the village without a safe walkway which pose a hazard to the safety of pedestrians.
2. In view of the high number of elderly in the village drop down kerbs are becoming essential to afford easier and safer mobility.
3. Walkway Surface areas in many places urgently require attention and repair.
4. Access walkway around the Primary School is now an urgent matter for resolution in the interest of safety of pupils.
5. Additional walkways in the areas identified to be provided in the interest of safety of both adult and child pedestrians.

Action:

- ***Parish Council to take action with the appropriate authorities to resolve the issues raised in concern regarding the overall problems existing within the village.***

WOODLAND



Taunton Deane Borough Council has set up the Netherclay Community Woodland on our doorstep - utilising fields mainly used for grazing cattle, alongside the River Tone. It is a great asset to the village and is used by many for recreation and walking.

These two fields have now been planted (many by the local primary school children) with many varied and attractive varieties of local species. The planting is set so that there are long walks between the trees and there are interesting carvings from wood set at intervals. Consideration is currently being given to the purchase of further land adjoining the fields.

Q 3.7 asked about '*awareness of the woodland and willingness to assist in its upkeep*'.

Out of 1,065 respondents, over 43% are aware of the woodland and 29% have actually been to the woodland. A smaller number (20%) were unaware of the Woodland.

A number of residents (2%) were willing to assist in the care of the woodland and suggestions were made to

'Plant flowers among the woodland'

'Why don't the people of Bishop's Hull purchase more land'

A number of comments were made about the bulls kept in the field adjoining the woodland where there is a footpath.

'Keep bulls off the footpath in the fields'

'Children become quite frightened about the bulls. At the very least provide fencing between the river and the field with the path on the riverside'

- If the purchase of additional land became a reality then this will remedy the situation.

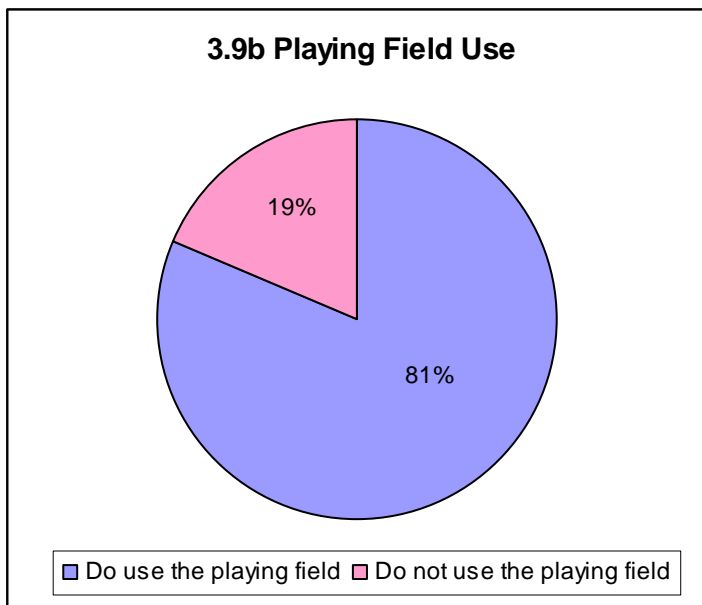
Action:

- ***Parish Council to pursue interest shown in maintaining the Woodland.***

PLAYING FIELD

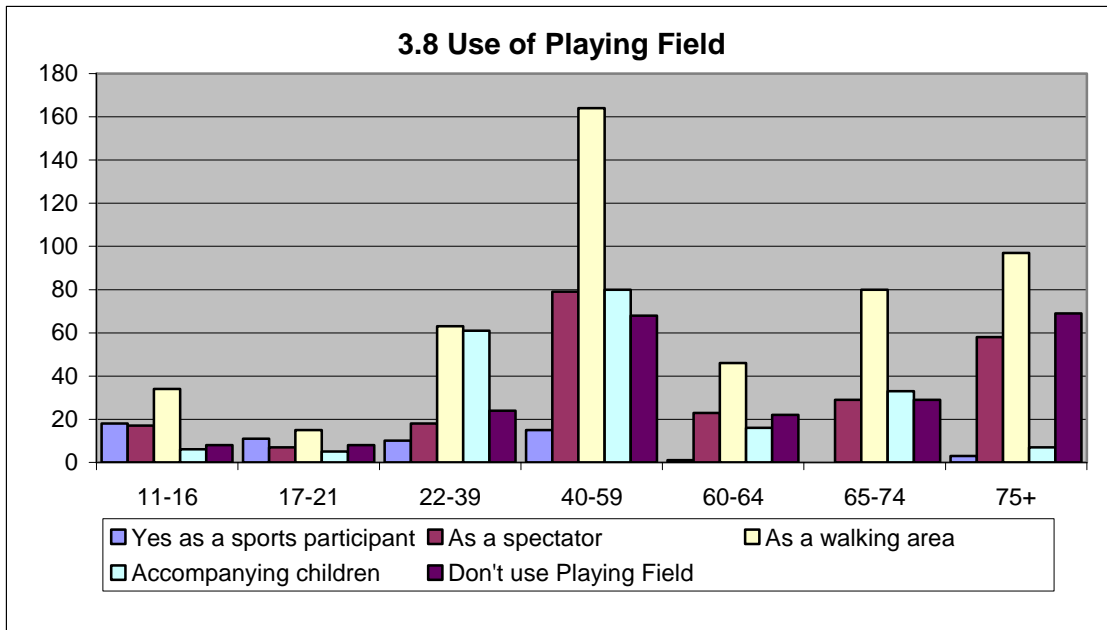
Bishop's Hull residents are fortunate in being able to enjoy the benefits of the playing field already in place. This is mainly thanks to Sybil Gwyther, who fought for and won a battle to persuade the local authority to purchase the land from the developers who had already obtained planning consent for a large number of houses.

Q3.8 asked '***Do you use the playing field?***' in order to find out what use is made of this village amenity.



Only 228 out of 1224 respondents did not use the field at all.

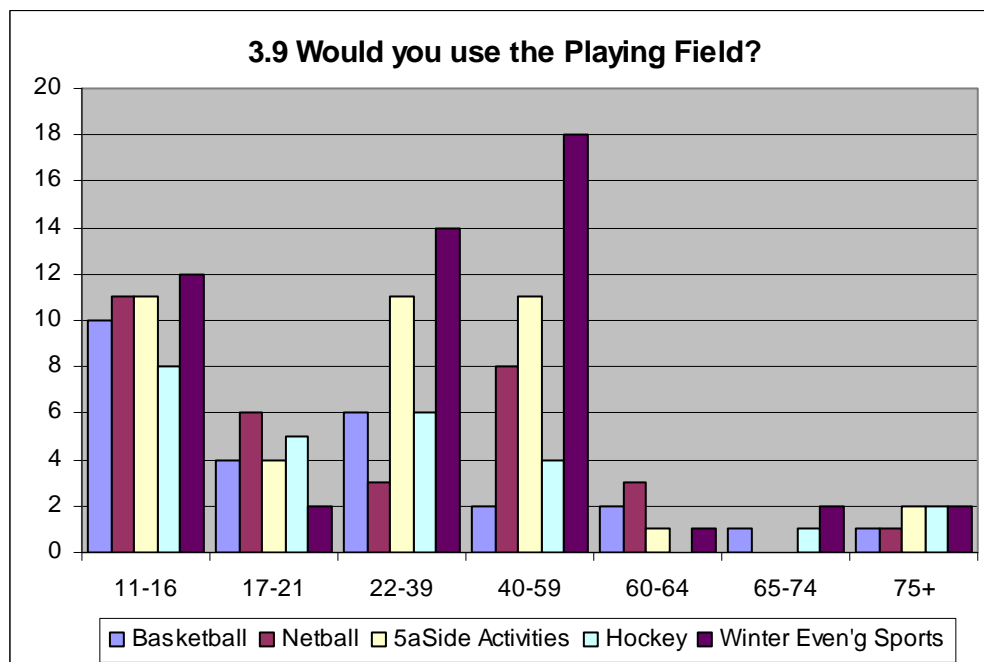
This means that over 80% of the village population actually use the playing fields for such activities as, spectating, participating in sports, walking or accompanying children.



- ***There is clearly declared support within the village for keeping the playing field amenity.***

Interest Shown for Other Open-air Activities

Q3.9 asked '***Would you use the Playing Field if other activities were encouraged?***'



Although of the 619 respondents, some 71% had no opinion on this matter, the positive answers came from the under 60-age group. Of the 175 that answered positively, 15% would play Basketball, 18% Netball, 23% would be interested in 5-a-side and 15% in playing Hockey.

Issue:

1. Although there is support in keeping the playing fields, it would seem that there is a lack of understanding about what the Playing Field Trust is and why it was formed. This is shown by some of the comments regarding car boot sales, with some villagers saying

'We would like to stop advertising for the car boot sales on the village signs' and 'we would like to prohibit traders at car boot sales'.

whereas there were others who stated

'The car boot sales have been an enormous benefit for the village' 'Signs have significantly increased the numbers at boot sales which has kept the Trust's income in the black'.

2. Villagers also commented about a division within the Village:
'There seems to be a divide between the Trust, the school and the village and we need to work together to help the village' and 'The issue between the Trust and the school is making this a divided community'

Actions:

- ***To communicate the importance of the work of the Playing Field Trust to villagers***
- ***To make available minutes of meetings of the Playing Field Trust in an accessible place***
- ***Continue to support the Playing Field Trust in their work in maintaining this valuable resource in the village***
- ***Parish Council to hold a meeting with the Primary School and the Trust to discuss issues***

FACILITIES

The village has a thriving network of several well-established commercial enterprises serving the local community. The centre of the village, boasts a butchers shop, and local convenience store with Post Office. The local pub' almost opposite, was once two adjacent pubs now knocked into one. In addition to the nearby-established hotel there are an assortment of scattered B&Bs to cater for visitors and tourists to the area.

There are two Nurseries offering a full range of horticultural goods and services. Outside the immediate centre of the village there are two Inns and a local Farm Shop on the A38 main route to Wellington and the second nearby junction of the M5 motorway.

The village has more than one meeting centre but all are restricted in their use due either to their limited size or times of availability.

Many parts of the central original village area comprise Grade 2 listed buildings. These are still fully occupied and maintained and contribute to the appeal and attractiveness of the village centre.

One of the two churches in the village enjoys a high open location alongside the Playing Field which backs onto the local Primary School, whilst the other occupies a position on the 'high top road' facing open fields and a wide ranging view across open countryside to the parish boundaries and beyond.

From the higher parts of the village it is possible to look down into the adjacent areas of the main town of Taunton, which is far enough away to retain our individuality yet near enough to offer a pleasant walk to the town centre.

Virtually every business property throughout has managed to blend and retain a village character externally in its appearance regardless of its business activity, which serves to mask the commercial activities taking place within. We are fortunate in not having any 'out of place' commercial property or visually offending manufacturing industry in the village itself.

On the edge of the community there is a conventional bustling trading estate which draws a constant stream of traffic from adjacent areas.

Historic look at past facilities

A few years ago the village had 3 small local corner shop type stores, the largest of the 3 was the first to close in face of the invasion of supermarkets into the main town. The smallest of the 3 located close to the village centre was the next to change into a B&B leaving just one general stores cum post office and the butchers shop.

Facilities for local shopping are therefore now limited and the opening of a further supermarket between Bishop's Hull and the town may eventually impact further on the day to day shopping services that the village can offer.

Possible Future Facilities

In the Question 3.14 inquiring into the envisaged use of a Chemist facility in the village.

32% of respondents said that they would use it regularly with a further

35% stating they would use it, but had a low need.

It should be noted that many Chemists will deliver prescriptions but there is a charge for this service.

Other Comments by Respondents for Facilities included:

'We would like a pub with a child friendly garden'
'We would like a coffee shop café'
'We would like a rental facility for wholesome DVDs and Videos'
'We would like to see more events centred on the village pub as it is underused'

Action:

- ***Parish Council to seek a way to improve existing Chemist services by increasing awareness of existing services available***
- ***Local businesses to look to see how they can improve their services***

Who's Who and What's Going On

One of the suggestions in the Volunteers Opportunity section of the Survey was for the village to produce a Who's Who and What's Going On. Several people indicated they were interested in being included and would be prepared to take up advertising space to assist with the funding of the publication.

Action:

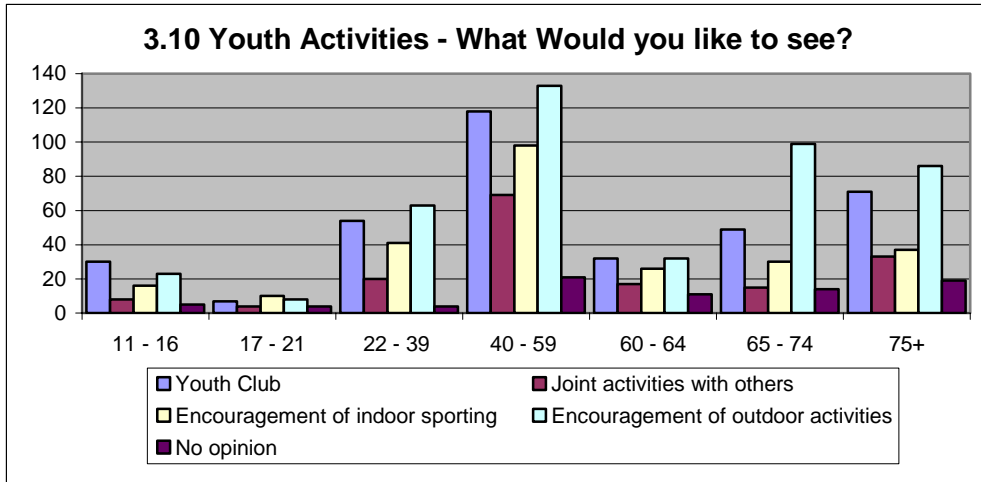
- ***Parish Council to organise the setting up of the Who's Who***

YOUTH

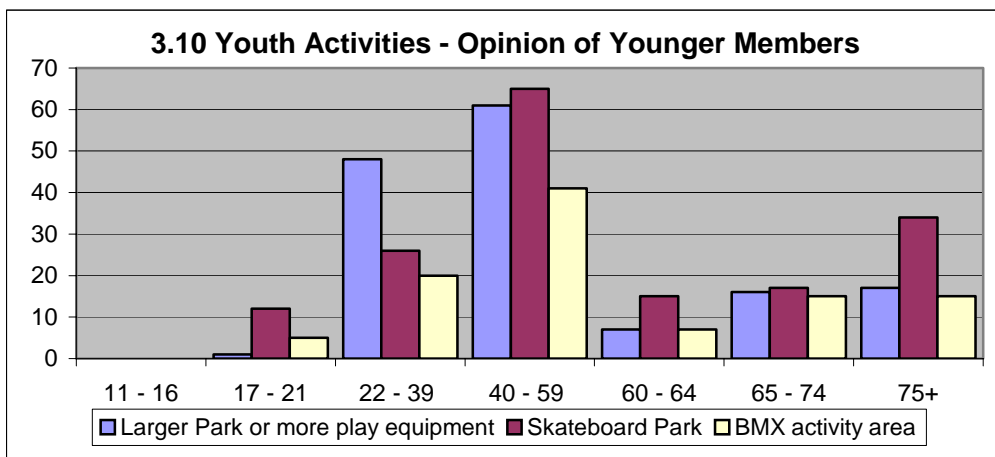
What Villagers wanted for young people

To find out what sort of activities villagers would like to see for young people, we posed the question, Q3.10, '***What would you like to see organised for youth in Bishop's Hull?***'

Sporting activities featured highly, with 20% wanting to encourage more indoor sports and 34% would encourage more outdoor activities.



In terms of opinion about Younger members, 36% felt that they benefit from a larger park with more play equipment, 38% would like to see a skateboard park and 26% a BMX activity area.

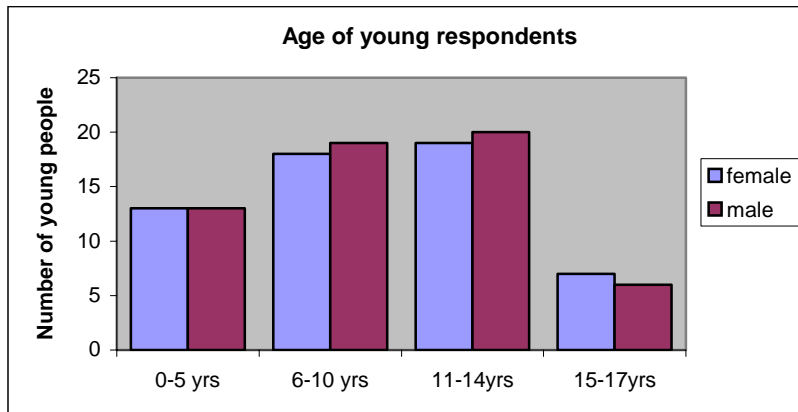


It was very interesting to note that there were few respondents who had no opinion on the matter of youth. Only 6% of respondents had no opinion on the matter. This shows that there is strong feeling that the village needs more young peoples' facilities.

A large number of people, 107 in total, offered assistance with Youth Activities, although many had limited time available. This is very positive in terms of getting any youth project off the ground in the future.

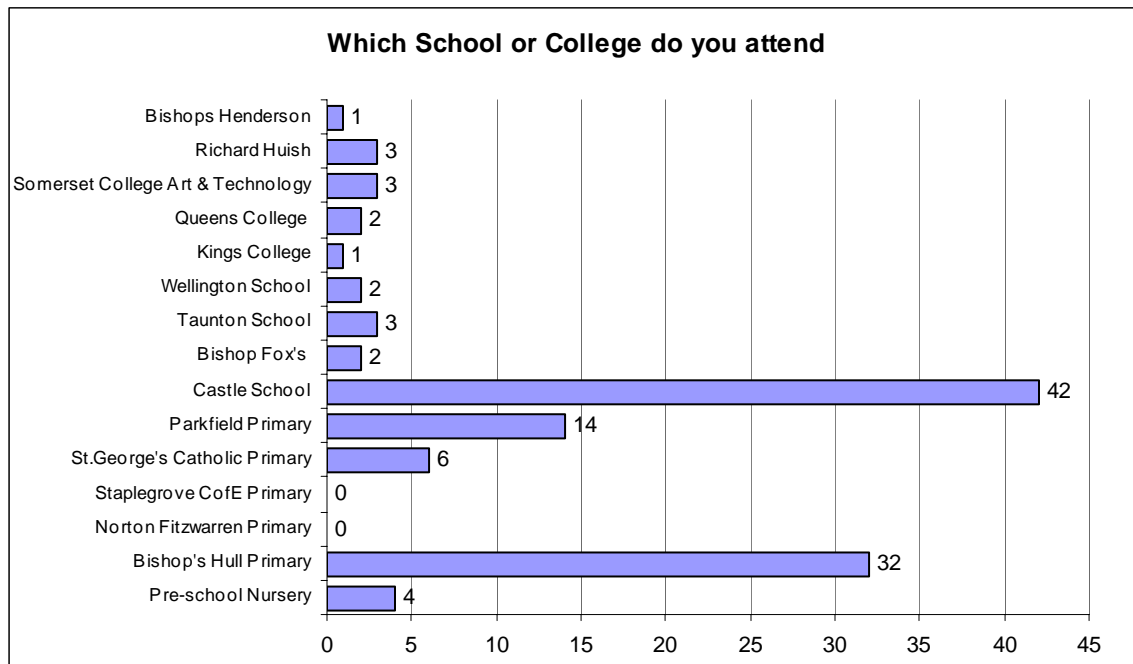
YOUTH – What young people wanted for themselves

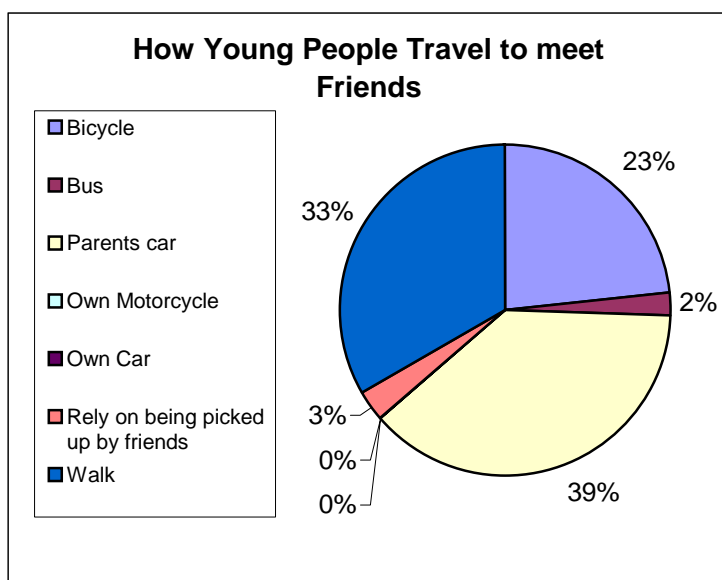
An additional section was included in the questionnaire aimed specifically at getting young people's opinions and ideas of what they wanted from the village. A total of 115 replied. They were evenly spread over the age groups and also amongst males and females.



Schooling

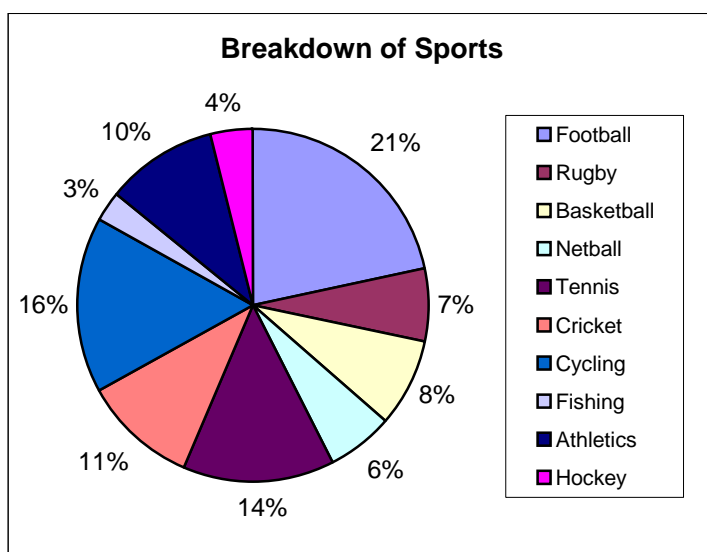
In terms of schools, the survey confirmed that the majority attends Bishop's Hull Primary School (28%) or Castle School (36%) for secondary education.





The young people were asked how they travelled to meet friends.

The majority either travel by parent's car, walk or cycle themselves.



The young people were asked whether they were members of uniformed clubs. Out of 11 respondents, 5 are members of scout/guides and 5 other. For information, 71 young people out of 85 have access to a computer and the Internet.

We asked what sports the young people enjoyed. They enjoyed a wide variety, as can be seen in the diagram below.

Current facilities for young people

There are some outside facilities within the village for young people; the park play area is suitable for under 8's. The playing fields are available as open space or use of football pitches, as are the cricket nets, and out of school hours the tarmaced area of the playground becomes available. There is also the enclosed playground, which sometimes has basketball hoops and in the summer has a tennis court, but again only available out of school hours.

There is little in the way of other facilities, except for the local church run Sunday School groups which also have occasional (quarterly activity) for primary age children and a Brownie group which meet in the Community Room of the school.

For the pre-school age children there is a toddler group which meets once a week during term time only. It has recently moved to the Primary School site.

Q3.1 asked '***What facilities would you like to see introduced that are not at present available either in the village or available within the near vicinity?***'

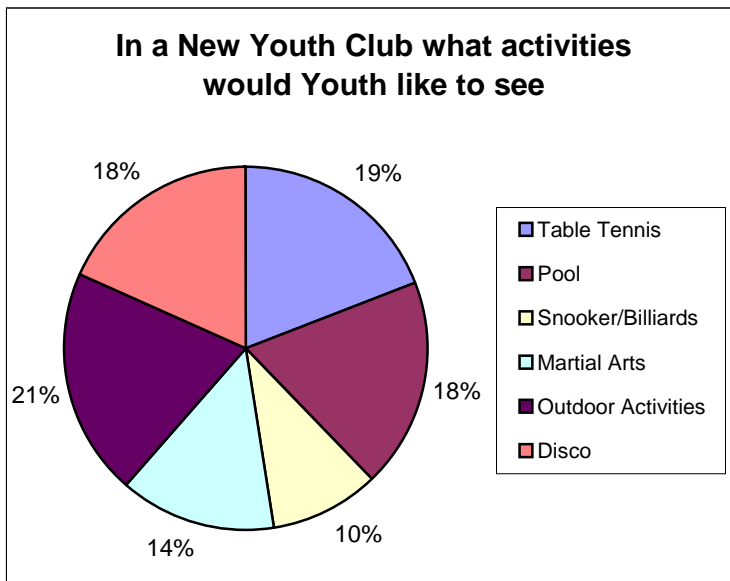
There were 67 suggestions (see Appendices), the most popular of which received 16% of the total vote was for a **Youth Centre**.

In Q4 we asked '***If a youth club were established in the village, would you support it?***'

The overwhelming answer was yes, **89% would support a youth club in the village**. Although the majority wanted a youth group, those in the 0-5 year group are not old enough. Of the remainder who wanted a club, 40% are in the 6-10year bracket and 34% in the 11-14year group.

These two groups have differing requirements and two separate youth sessions for the different groups should be considered.

Q4.1 asked '***In a new youth club, what activities would you like to see available?***'



The majority who answered the question were in the age group 6 – 14, which again shows that the need for an 'organised' club is within this range. Interest in each activity was evenly spread.

Most of these activities could be provided at a youth club within a building suitable for such activities.

The young people were asked about the **Junior Football** club in the village. Interestingly 41 out of 73 answered that they were not interested in football, although a further 20 were not actually aware of the junior club in the village. Many young people are members of either school clubs or other football clubs outside the village. And they made the comment that:

'We would like football competitions.'

They were asked whether they would support a **Tennis** club if it were to be established.

- 63 out of 83 would support a tennis club, now or when older.

They were asked whether they would support a **Hockey** club if it were to be established.

- 32 would support a hockey club, 49 not.

They were asked whether they would support **Off-road Motorcycling**.

- 21 out of 72 would support.

Ad-hoc comments

Many young people made comments either informally, or during the Consultation Day, about things they would like to see happening for themselves in the village. Examples of things they asked for:

'Junior badminton and table tennis'

'A carting track'

'A cycle track'

The most popular suggestions were:

Drama

'We would like a drama club'

Bikes

'We would like a cycle club'

'More long places to cycle without cars'

'More bike racks'

'We would like a big bike park with lots of ramps'

Shelter

There is no area for young people to shelter from the elements. In the evening they hang around the park area and if there is bad weather they shelter under the church porch. There is a need for some shelter and this was picked up in several comments

'We would like shelter from the sun or the rain'

Under Five Age Group

No specific questions were asked relating to this age group, but comments were made either informally through conversations with committee members or at the various meetings, car boot sales and the consultation day about the needs for this age group. Several people asked for a toddler group and were perhaps unaware that there is a toddler group in the village, which meets regularly down on the school site during term time.

Other requests were for:

'a community nursery providing options for 9-3 sessional care which has good outside space'.

There is a privately run nursery and a community pre school within the village but nothing that currently offers what these residents requested.

Issues:

1. Currently there is very little youth provision in the village, apart from organised uniform groups (Brownies) and the Church youth group (Allsorts). There is obviously a great need for some additional facilities for young people within the village, which is recognised by all residents, not just the young people themselves.
 2. It is not just a question of providing activities for young people; they need their own space that isn't organised by adults and yet is safe and secure for everyone. A youth centre with both organised activities but also a drop in facility would be the ideal.
 3. Although the village has a very high proportion of elderly residents, it is very heartening to see that they believe that the young people need to be supported with facilities. Residents over 50, have access to the Frank Bond centre with all its facilities.
- **It is important that Bishop's Hull Parish makes sure the balance is right, and that *all* residents have access to facilities they need.**

Actions:

Short Term

- ***Appoint a Parish Council Member responsible for Youth***
- ***Liaise with Somerset Youth to help to set up Youth Club(s)***
- ***Organise Volunteers into group***
- ***Borrow facility for skateboard/BMX from Somerset Youth on a regular basis***
- ***Make a place for kids to shelter from both the sun and the rain***
- ***Organise sporting activities in the form of competitions for some of the sports identified – football, netball, tennis***
- ***Advertise the football club, martial arts etc***

Medium Term

- *Seek to set up Partnership Groups with others*
- *With this in mind set up steering committee to include Parish Council, Volunteer residents, School representative, Police representative, Somerset Youth, Health Visitor etc to oversee all aspects of welfare/needs of the 0-18 age group within the village*
- *Produce a strategy for youth for the village*
- *Seek funding to appoint a youth worker to get projects off the ground and support volunteers.*

Long Term

- *Look at a larger play area with more facilities including BMX/Skateboarding facility*
- *Investigate further the possibility of setting up a Youth Centre in the village*

VILLAGE HALL

The Community Hall, together with the Community Room, was built in 1978 at the same time as the Primary School and is within the Primary School building itself. The money was raised from various fund raising activities, mainly organised by Sybil Gwyther and donated through the Playing Field and Community Hall Trust, to provide a shared facility that could be used by both the school and the village.

Over the years, legislation and concerns regarding child safety have forced the school to withdraw school-time use of the hall from public access. The community room can therefore now only be used during school hours by those who have been police checked.

This severely limits the use of these facilities and creates pressure on the many organisations that would like to make more use of them.

The facilities comprise a main hall, which can seat up to 200 adults, with good audio-visual equipment and a well-equipped kitchen capable of catering for 150.

A further small meeting/syndicate room (known as the Community Room) can seat up to 80 and cater for up to 40 for parties. It is used every morning by a local playgroup and by a mother and baby group. The Playing Field and Community Trust and other groups use it for meetings.

Other meeting room facilities within the village include:

Robin Close

This is a facility provided mainly for the use of residents of the Robin Close Housing area, who use it for many types of meetings and presentations to them by social and educational services.

The Church Hall

Next to the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul is another meeting room that can hold approx. 100 people. It has a kitchen that can be used for re-heating foods but not large catering, and beverages for up to 70. It is used by many clubs in the village on a regular basis and is often used as a meeting place, partly due to its competitive hire costs.

Frank Bond Centre

Facility donated to the village by the benefactor Frank Bond comprising two meeting rooms and conservatory and gardens for villager's use by over 50's.

Q3.12 asked '***Does Bishops Hull need a Village Hall?***'

Out of the 881 responding to this question, 29% said "Yes – Today's needs not catered for by existing facilities while another 35% said "No - Existing facilities appear to cater well, with 36% saying "no opinion"

Q 3.13 went further to enquire '***If You answered Yes existing facilities Not Sufficient - what use would you like to see taking place***'. prompted a response of 223 different activities covering all age needs.

In the Special Section of the Survey inviting villagers to "Have Your Say" many of the activities requested could only come from use of a "Village Hall".

(The lists of all these choices can be seen in the Appendices at the back of this Report).

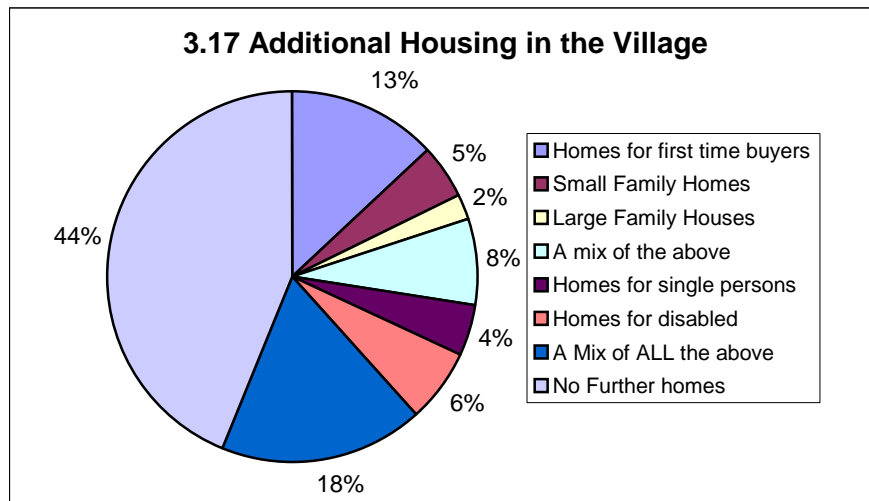
Issues:

1. Curtailed availability of the Community Hall means that it is **now not able** to fulfill its original purpose.
2. This issue has also led to friction amongst the community, not least between the Playing Field Trust and the Primary School itself whilst all are limited by the role of legislation and the Local Education Authority in the matter.
3. There are differing opinions as to the need for a dedicated Village Hall. In order to offer the range of facilities that villagers are requesting a dedicated and sufficiently large purpose designed facility is required in the village that would be fully accessible during all daytime hours as well as the evening.
4. Requirements from an active population are outgrowing the ability of existing restricted facilities to satisfy the expanding needs of the community.

Action:

- ***To pursue further this issue among the Playing Field Trust, Primary School, Parish Council and Local Education Authority***

HOUSING in Bishop's Hull



With many beautiful and old houses in the village, it is not surprising that many feel we should strive to preserve the character of the village! The results showed that about 40% of the 1,000 respondents in this section did not want any more houses

The remaining majority expressed that they recognised a well-balanced need for affordable family homes as well as homes for elderly and disabled.

From Taunton Deane Borough Council comment, it appears they would probably resist any building in the village for the next few years, with the proposed outline developments at Monkton Heathfield on the other side of Taunton.

What should be noted however is

- 1) that many long standing residents were attracted to the Village because of the availability of housing with the previous estate builds and
- 2) that the village residents have expressed polarised views.

- **This question should be re-addressed in a few years time**

SECURITY

Crime

This section aims to identify the villager's views regarding crime and policing within Bishop's Hull community.

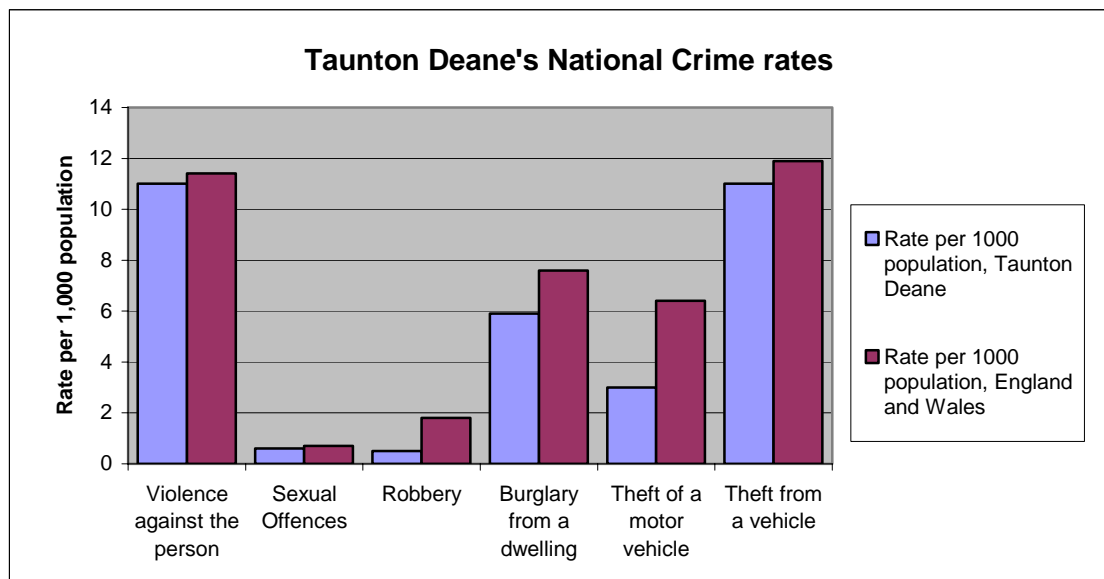
Q3.23 asked, '**Which of the following crimes and anti-social behaviour causes you most concern**'.

Out of 1932 responses, only 6% had no concerns about crime.

Activities that caused most concern to villagers were theft (20%) and vandalism (23%)

There were roughly equal responses from male and female. However, of the 10% of people that expressed a concern about fear of threatened violence, almost half of them (56%) were female.

Bishop's Hull actually has the lowest crime rate amongst all the wards in Taunton. The crime statistics for all of Taunton, per 1,000 population, are shown below in relation to England and Wales. Again, crime rates for Taunton are below the UK national average.



There were some significant answers to questions regarding policing of the village. When asked '**Are you satisfied with policing services?**' (Q3.24).

31% of respondents said yes, but that they would welcome more officers and 37% said no, as they thought there was not enough police presence

This means that overall 68% of the population feel the need for more police presence in the village!

This question also highlighted another vulnerable sector of the population. 9% of respondents were afraid to go out alone or at night, although over half of these were 75 plus, reflecting the vulnerability felt by Bishops Hull elderly population.

Respondents said

'It doesn't feel safe walking around at night'

Q3.25 When asked '**Should Bishop's Hull have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?**

29% would find great comfort from this and 35% felt that it should be organised, 3% were willing to help set up such a scheme and a further 12 residents were prepared to be co-ordinators.

Opposing Comments were made about crime to do with better, more visible, policing of the area:

'The village warden should patrol and deal with minor problems',
but conversely also

'We need better policing as wardens have no authority'.

Issues:

1. A large sector of the population feel threatened about either venturing out alone or at night, or are frightened by the threat of violence
2. A large sector of the population feels that there needs to be more of a police presence in the village. There is a 'Beat Bobby', but he also covers Norton Fitzwarren a large adjacent residential area to our north, so can only give limited visiting cover to the Bishop's Hull beat.

Action:

- **Parish Council to raise the police presence issue with the local police force**

COMMERCE

A separate Commercial Survey was distributed to businesses. There are approximately 100 commercial trading activities mainly centred in the Galmington Trading Estate, but many small businesses are dispersed throughout and around the actual village.

Out of 72 Surveys distributed 9 were returned each from a different mix of business. The single common remark where crimes had been committed against business was that without exception every case for police investigation resulted in the CPS decision not to proceed with a prosecution.

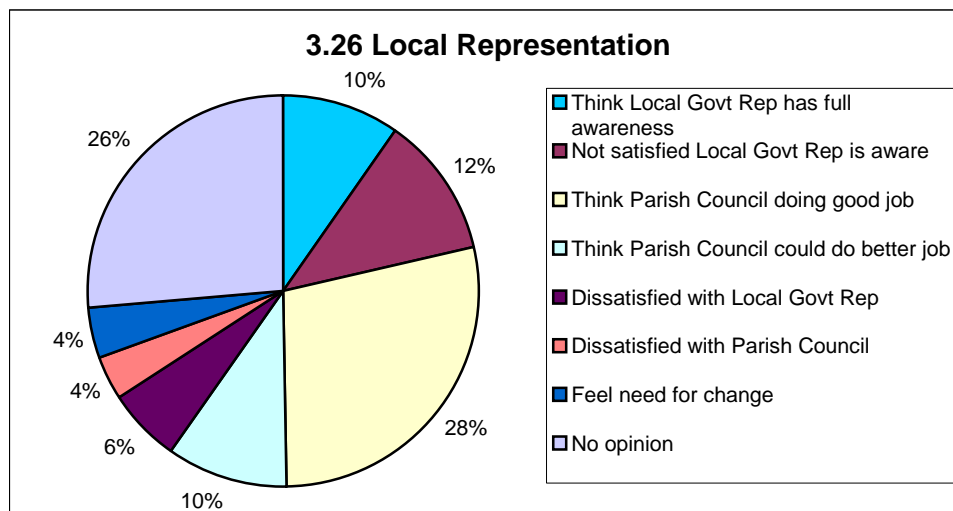
Most self-employed worked in or around Taunton - a small number worked further away. Approximately half the employers within the village were small one or two man bands, or family run businesses, the majority with a limited need for local employees.

What is clear is that local businesses need local support. The more we use local services the more chances we have for retaining local employment and keeping the village commercial activities thriving for the future.

REPRESENTATION

Members of the Parish were asked if they felt their elected representatives in local government were sufficiently aware of local concerns and issues.

With all that is going on in and around Bishop's Hull
10% thought local government has full awareness while
12% expressed doubt and were not satisfied.



The local Parish Council has good support with 28% of respondents stating they thought the Parish Council were doing a good job, 22%, however, thought they could do a better job.
This needs consideration by the Parish Council.

Dissatisfaction with the Local Government Representative was expressed by 6% of respondents. A much smaller 3% was dissatisfied with the Parish Council. 4% of respondents feel for a Need for Change, whilst 26% expressed they had no opinion on the representation issue either way.

The Parish Council needs to take note as to the meaning of this information.

Comment made by respondents

'Parish and District Councillors should find ways to explain their roles and limitations' as well as

'Parish and District Councillors should make minutes of meetings more easily read?'

'Perhaps this could be written onto the Village Website as part of a communication exercise'

Action:

- ***Parish Council to take note of above***

Computers and the Internet

One of the questions contained within the Survey asked if members of the village had their own computer with Internet access. It has to be borne in mind that the population of the village carries a higher than national average of retired folk, and has three Nursing Homes within its boundaries. All the residents of the Nursing Homes were invited to take part in the Survey and their responses do have a reflection on the findings.

Of the 892 responses 52% confirmed they had a computer with access to the Internet. 41% confirmed they had no computer, however of these, two thirds are over 65 years old.

Interest in having access to the Internet possibly by an Internet Café was expressed by 7% of respondents.

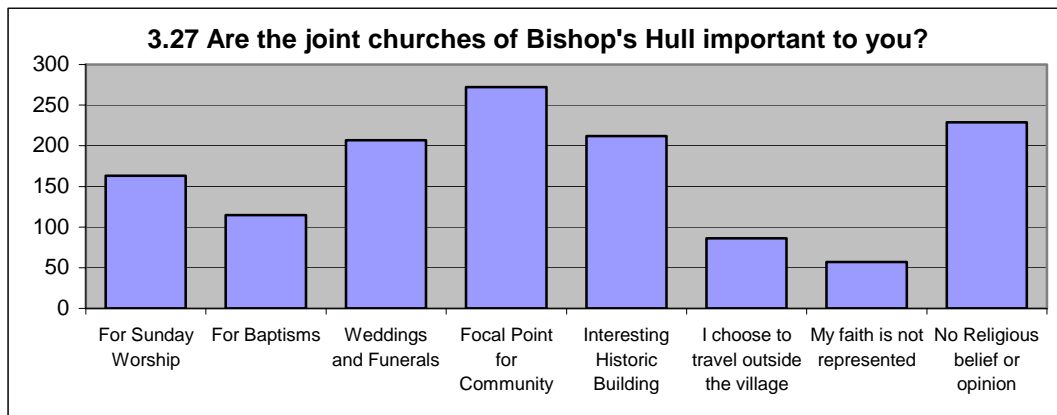
Action:

- ***Suggest that a commercial enterprise may wish to offer a web café facility***
- ***Parish Council to look into the possibility of providing a public access point at a suitable location within the Village to provide such a facility.***

RELIGIOUS MATTERS

The question was asked, '***Are the joint churches of Bishop's Hull important to you?***' to find out about resident's religious views.

Out of the 1,341 people replying, only 17% expressed no religious belief or opinion. 12% use the churches for Sunday Worship on a regular basis and a further 24% use it for Baptisms and for Weddings. It is seen by many, (20%) as a focal point for the Community and also 16% as an interesting historic building. Just over 11% of respondents however, either chose to travel outside the village for worship or felt that the local churches did not represent their faith.



IMPROVEMENTS TO LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

ANNUAL EVENT

Q3.3 asked ‘ **What would you like to see introduced as an improvement to life in Bishops Hull?**

Comments were many and varied and included:

- Entering Bishop's Hull into the Villages in Bloom competition,
- Putting together a village almanac or 'Who's Who and What's On',
- Having a community Christmas tree and
- Putting the cricket fixtures in the community newsletter

(NOTE: Where comments relate to particular topics e.g. the environment or transport, these have been included as villager's comments in the appropriate sections in the document).

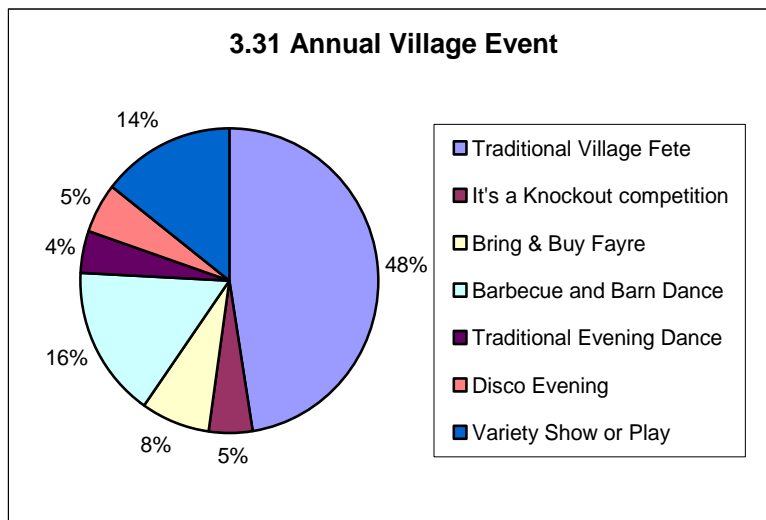
Actions:

- **To progress these ideas and make them happen**
- **Parish Council to review the requirement**

Q3.31 asked ‘**If the village were to hold an Annual Event, what would you prefer?**

The vast majority of respondents, 48%, would like to see a Traditional Village Fete. A Bar-b-Que and Barn Dance was also popular, with 16% of the vote.

Several of these ideas could be incorporated into a Village Day, (Fete, Bring and Buy, It's a knockout and BBQ) which could fulfil the wishes of the majority of residents.



Issue

There is no annual focal event in Bishop's Hull, as in other villages, e.g. Parties in the Park or Annual Fetes. A village fete used to be held every year, but this ceased several years ago. Various Fundraising events within the village have been very successful and supported by many of the local residents. This is positive in terms of experience of residents in being able to run village-wide events in the future

Actions:

- *Parish Council to review the requirements*
- *Progress the requirements and make them happen*



NEXT STEPS

Undertaking the survey and producing this report and Action Plan is the completion of the task of the Steering Group. The **volunteers** who have given their time freely were brought together solely for this purpose and will disband at the presentation to the Parish Council and the distribution of the report across the village and beyond.

It is the task of the Parish Council to set up a group or groups to drive forward some or all of the Actions we have highlighted on your behalf.

It would be expected that the Parish Council responds positively to the results within the survey and produce a Project Plan for “How to take the projects forward” within 3 months of the receipt of the Plan.

The Parish Project Plan must include:

- A list of the projects
- An owner for each i.e. Who will lead the project
- Time Scales: Short; Medium, or Long Term
- Resources needed, (to find out whether help needed in funding)
- Details of how the projects will be monitored

Volunteer Groups

The last page of the Survey asked villagers if they would “Volunteer” for one or more of 12 “Good Neighbour or Good Villager” schemes. These included Mother and Toddler Groups, Good Neighbours, Speed Watch, Managing the Woodland and Village Events.

A total of **84 members of the Bishop’s Hull community have volunteered** their support for 172 of the schemes, many people expressing an interest in more than one subject.

One meeting, organised by the Steering Group, has been held to welcome volunteers and to introduce them to each other. These volunteers need to be contacted as a follow up to this meeting, as at that time there was no clear process in place to follow up this session.

- **There is a high level of support and motivation within the village and this needs to be nurtured and developed in order to make these projects happen.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people to whom the Steering Committee would like to express its thanks for making this project a reality.

First and foremost must be the Countryside Agency, closely followed by the members of the Parish Council whose strong desire to constantly review the way local democracy is applied gave impetus and support to the project. Along the way David Greig of Taunton Deane Borough Council and others in the mapping, printing and other departments gave unstinting help and support. The editors Ray Court and Pam Mildon, of our own *Bishop's Hull Community News* and its team of distributors gave their wholehearted support.

Val Grainger of the Community Council for Somerset has also supported us in many ways, as have the Primary School staff and pupils with helpers from the village to make our Logo and the Village Model

Many of the small businesses in the village gave support with their gifts for our prize draws for which the Steering Committee give grateful thanks and hope their generosity will be appreciated by villagers using their products or services as much as possible.

Another group who needs special thanks is Management Matters – the company who helped construct and interpret the Survey data.

Special thanks go to Jill Coldicott who is helping set up a village website.

The final group of people to whom I owe a great deal are the rest of the Steering Group made up of John Cohen, Gwyneth Jones and Mary Best, with special acknowledgement and thanks to Jane Kilty and Ron Hicks, whose combined effort and steadfast support has made the project happen.

Larry Fogg,
Chairman Steering Group

Appendices

1. These are the full survey results for any group who wants to use them for grant applications.
2. There are also the village day results as well as the Youth and Commerce surveys.
3. See separate pages added from excel spreadsheets.
4. All this data is available electronically from the Parish Clerk.
Please contact:

Sue Watts
The Coach House
Bishop's Hull Road
Bishop's Hull
Taunton
TA1 5EP

E-mail sue.watts@southwest-ra.gov.uk

APPENDIX I

A total of 1,329 Surveys were distributed and 496 were collected or returned giving a return rate of 37%.

The surveys represented the opinions of 1,034 people in the Parish, which at the last census totalled a population of 3,018.

Parishioners expressed their appreciation of being asked to express their opinions, which are published throughout the Survey Report.

Each Survey had tick boxes by gender and 6 age groups, adolescence covering the ranges 11 year to 21yrs, 22-39 yrs, 40-59 yrs, 60-64 yrs, 65-74 yrs and 75plus.

A special separate Youth Survey was included for the benefit of the younger members of the parish where youngster were encouraged to add their comment and what they saw as needs and dislikes.

- Not all section of the Survey were completed by everyone
- Not everyone in each household filled in the Survey
- Percentages where given are a percentage of the persons who answered the questions.
- Percentages have been published to one decimal place to allow for a figure to be declared where the whole percentage of the question is less than 1.
- All percentages represented in the Survey results add to 100%
- To include as many comments as possible some have been condensed where many views were similarly expressed.
- Not everyone took the opportunity to make additional comments.

This Survey Report has been presented in a format that contains all the facts gathered within the answers received back.

End of Appendix I

APPENDIX II

ALTERNATIVE IDEAS FOR ANNUAL VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

The following cover the full range of suggestions raised by the residents of the Village either through written responses to the Survey or verbally at the Presentation Day.

Gymkana	Village Day	Antiques Day
Brass Band Concert	Fireworks Party	Carnival
Street Fair	Dog Show	Skateboard Tournament
Out of Doors Bowls/Boule	History Society	Rounders Tournament
Christmas Tree	Art Festival	Music Festival
Beer Festival	Tennis	Football
Walking Group	Bar-b-Que	Barn Dance
Quiz Night	Dance Classes	Yoga Classes
Sit Down Meal in Marquee	Beat the Retreat	Annual Week of Sports
Medieval Mystery Play	Inside Sports	Treasure Hunt

Other events suggested:

Annual Religious Service in the Park that is multi denominational

Thanksgiving Lunch or Dinner in the Park

Earlier Christmas Carols

Inexpensive Annual Event

More Integration of Clubs and Societies

Encourage Community Spirit

End of Appendix II

APPENDIX III

VILLAGE HALL

Question asked ‘ *What activities would you like to see in a Village Hall*’

The following cover the full range of suggestions raised by the residents of the Village either through written responses to the Survey or verbally at the Presentation Day.

Aerobics	Art Club	Book Club
Bingo	Badminton	Brownies (Girl Guide Assoc.)
Barn Dances	Bar Facilities	Bowls (short mat)
Clubs	Concerts	Civic Activities
Chess Evenings	Coffee & Chat	Children's Groups
Craft Workshop	Computer Classes	Community Activities
Dances	Dance Classes	Daytime Activities
Drama & Theatre	Disco's	Debating Society
Evening Classes	Evening Activities, Card & Board Games	
Games	Fairs	Family Functions
Film Shows	Food Co-op	Flower Arranging
Indoor Bowls	Indoor Sports	Indoor Activities all ages
Indoor Car Boot	Indoor Market	Jumble Sales
Keep Fit	Live Music	Meeting Place
Multi Gym	Music Circle	Meeting Place for Disabled
Musicals	Music Hall	Old Time Dancing
Private Functions	Quiz Nights	Social Functions
Scouts (Association)	Tai Chi	Talks
Whist Drives	Wine Club	Yoga Classes

Other interests suggested:

Under 5's (Mother & Toddler) Group

Youth Club

End of Appendix III

Appendix IV

Members of the Bishop's Hull Parish Council

Chairman:

Mrs M P Jorgensen
Magnolia House
Mountway Road
Bishop's Hull
Tel: 01823 282369

Mr E Rose
18 Morgans Rise
Bishop's Hull
Tel: 01823 257377

Vice Chairman:

Mr M Summers
21 Haydon Close
Bishop's Hull
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Mrs C Bulbeck
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Mr K A Burgess
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Bishop's Hull
Tel: 01823 331043

Mr A Debenham
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Taunton
Tel: 01823 321304

Ms S E Ravenhill
29 Ashley Road
Taunton

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs S Watts
The Coach House
Bishop's Hull
Tel: 01823 333567

Mrs S Searle
11 Chaffinch Close
Bishop's Hull
Tel: 01823 354564

Taunton Deane Councillors:

Cllr Ian Morrell
8 Daws Mead
Bishop's Hull

Mr J Lane
29 Farrant Close
Bishop's Hull
Tel: 01823 254891

Cllr Nigel Stuart-Thorn
15 Robins Close
Bishop's Hull

Community Police Officer
0845 4567000

End of Appendix IV

**A PLAN such as this CAN
STIMULATE ACTIVITY
ACT AS A VEHICLE TO OBTAIN MONEY
GENERATE SUPPORT
MAKE IT HAPPEN**

BUT

IT NEEDS THE COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT

What could it do for our community ?

The plan is a powerful tool which can be used for:

- Identifying projects for the village
- Showing village support for projects
- Seeking funding for these projects
- Establishing partnerships with others

Bishop's Hull Parish Council will initiate and lead these projects and will provide support. Taunton Deane District Council and the Community Council for Somerset can help in identifying funding sources for projects as well as other areas.

**However it will be down to individuals
within the village joining in, to make
these projects happen!**