

# Chidham and Hambrook Parish Plan





**Hambrook Post Office from Hambrook Hill**

### **Parish Plan Steering Group**

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### **Parish Map**

The image on the front cover is a photograph of a large (160 x 110cm) fabric map of the parish produced by a 30-strong group of enthusiasts from Chidham, Hambrook and Nutbourne. Many other residents each added just one stitch representing a railway sleeper. Numerous flora and fauna of the parish are shown with, for example, a watercress plant representing the watercress beds of Hambrook. The famous Chidham wheat, a highly productive crop developed in the 18th century and used across southern England for many years, is also evident. The map, in common with the parish photobook, was made to celebrate the millennium. It currently hangs in St Mary's Church, Chidham.



# Contents & Introduction

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The essential part of this Parish Plan is a set of Action Points indicating what the people of Chidham and Hambrook want to happen, or not happen, in the parish.

The Plan is based on what you told us in the Parish Plan Questionnaire last year. Questionnaires were returned by 82% of households, an amazingly high return rate. Most people answered most of the questions. Where questions received a high response, percentages have been used to reflect views. For questions with a lower response we have stated actual numbers, in order not to mislead.

The Parish Plan Steering Group has interpreted what you told us and now recommends appropriate Actions. Most of the Action Points refer to recommended actions that would need to be taken by the Parish Council, either directly or through delegation to other organisations or individuals. Some may already be 'in hand'. The decision whether, or how to act on each particular recommendation is that of the organisation indicated in the Action Point. Consultation and co-operation are the key to effective implementation of the Action Points. It must be stressed that these are recommendations that the residents wish the appropriate bodies to consider. Their implementation may have legal and practical ramifications. Some will require funding and/or an extended time-frame.

For some Actions it is hoped that the Parish Council will help set up voluntary groups to undertake the work, perhaps agreeing to provide ongoing support, if asked.

In addition to the Action Points and their justification, this Plan describes in detail the careful process by which they were derived. It also provides information about the parish, obtained from the Questionnaire responses and other sources.

The Steering Group wishes to thank the many people who supported the Parish Plan process and wishes to record its appreciation of the wholehearted way in which residents of Hambrook and Chidham have welcomed the venture.

Cliff Archer  
On behalf of the Steering Group

June 2005





# Parish Plans

## Parish Plan Pointers

### Why prepare a Parish Plan?

- Everybody then knows what people want to happen in the Parish
- A Parish Plan helps to obtain funds to undertake projects; it is evidence of need
- Undertaking the Parish Plan process brings people together

### What should be in a Parish Plan?

- A list of positive ACTIONS that the people in the Parish want to be taken
- Details of what was done to find out what people want
- Details of the results of the consultation process

### Key points of a successful Parish Plan

- Everybody in the Parish must be consulted
- Several different consultation techniques must be used
- All relevant organisations and authorities must be consulted
- The consultation must cover all the appropriate issues that concern the people of the Parish
- The focus should be on future ACTIONS

### How does the Parish Plan process work?

- A Parish Council applies to the Countryside Agency and to other bodies for grants
- A Steering Group is set up in the Parish
- The Parish Council holds the funds and authorises expenditure by the Steering Group as necessary
- The Steering Group operates the process. It decides which questions to ask and how people will be consulted

### How do we know that Parish Plans work?

- Direct contact with many Parishes has revealed that they are all very pleased with the outcome of their Parish Plan
- More than 200 Parishes in the South East Region have prepared a Parish Plan

## Information

The government backed Parish Plans following the Rural White Paper in November 2000

Parish Plans, sometimes called Parish Action Plans, are part-funded by the Countryside Agency, as part of the Vital Villages scheme

All relevant and affected organisations and authorities, including service providers, must be involved

A Parish Plan is prepared by a Steering Group, drawn from local residents, with the Parish Council taking the lead role

The Countryside Agency insists that external funding, in addition to its grant, must be obtained

The published Parish Plan must be a formal document that describes in detail the consultation processes used, the results of the consultation and the specific actions that the community wants to be taken





# About this Action Plan

## Information

<b>Inaugural Meeting</b>	October 2003
<b>Launch Event</b>	May 2004
<b>Questionnaire</b>	June 2004
<b>Draft Plan</b>	March 2005
<b>Consultation Event</b>	March 2005
<b>Parish Plan</b>	June 2005

## Some interesting statistics

- 70 people attended the Inaugural Meeting
- 26 Steering Group members
- 52 Supporters' Group members
- 200 people attended the Launch Event
- 47 Entries in children and young persons' Painting and Photographic Competitions
- 101 Draft Plan Feedback Sheets returned
- 30 Action Points in Plan
- 18000 page views on the Parish Plan website at [www.chidham.org](http://www.chidham.org)

## Questionnaire statistics

- 54 questions
- 705 Questionnaires distributed
- 577 returned (82%)
- 29 spoilt
- 548 analysed
- 3000 written comments

## Competition Prize Winners

### Painting Competition

4 - 11 years

Aimee Sanders

### Photographic Competition

12 - 16 years

Phoebe Tier

Chidham Parish Council called a meeting in October 2003 to determine the level of support for a proposal to undertake a parish action plan for Hambrook and Chidham. At a lively meeting in Chidham Village Hall 70 residents unanimously agreed to proceed with the initiative.

Volunteers came forward to be members of either a Steering Group or of a Supporters' Group. The Steering Group appointed, from its membership, an Executive Group to facilitate effective progress and the Parish Council appointed Cliff Archer as its parish plan co-ordinator.

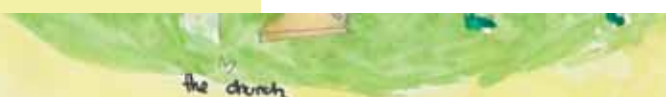
A prime task of the Steering Group was to produce a Parish Plan Questionnaire to be distributed throughout the community. The Questionnaire was to cover as many issues of relevance to residents as possible, so the Steering Group worked in topic area groups to assist in producing 54 appropriate questions.

A Launch Event in May 2004, held in St Wilfrid's Church Centre, enabled residents to inspect a parish plan information display and give their views on the Draft Questionnaire and on what was needed to be done in the parish. There was also a display of parish photographs and paintings by young people. The visitors enthusiastically took part in a workshop, which involved their fixing post-it-note comments on a giant map of Chidham and Hambrook.

The Steering Group studied all of the feedback and appropriately modified the draft questionnaire. The final Questionnaire was delivered to and collected from every household by 56 members of the parish plan team. The Questionnaire responses were entered by volunteers into the computer, using special parish plan software. Detailed analysis of the information led to the production of a Draft Parish Plan, which was delivered to each household.

A Consultation Event, held in March 2005, enabled residents to view all of the questionnaire responses, including 3000 written comments, and give their feedback on the Draft Parish Plan. The Steering Group used the 101 Feedback Sheets received to guide its preparation of the final Parish Action Plan that you are reading now.

A dedicated website was set up at the start of the parish plan process to keep residents informed on progress. Its address is [www.chidham.org](http://www.chidham.org).





# About the Parish



Chidham is a small, attractive rural parish situated five miles west of Chichester and is comprised of two villages - Hambrook and Chidham. The residents of part of a third village, Nutbourne, are also part of the Chidham and Hambrook community and were included in the consultation process. The parish is cut by two east-west lines of communication - the A259 and the Portsmouth to Brighton railway line. The Chidham peninsula extends southwards into Chichester Harbour and lies within an Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB). The whole of the parish, with the exception of two Settlement Policy Areas (SPA's), lies within the Rural Area, as defined in the Chichester District Local Plan.

**A picture emerges of a mixture of residents who have moved here recently or lived here for many years**

There are 705 households in the area consulted, with a total population of about 1800, including children. The population is spread over the consultation area with, perhaps, three areas of greater concentration. There is no single focal point in the parish. 41% of the households consulted lie to the north of the railway line and 49% to the south; the remainder are outside the civil parish.

The parish is served by a railway halt and a half-hour bus service along the A259. There is a primary school, a church, a village hall and a church centre. Facilities include a post office/shop, a garage/shop, two Inns, two riding stables, three caravan sites and three residential nursing homes. Further employment is provided through arable farming, market gardening, nurseries and orchards and also a national concrete product manufacturer and several small rural businesses. The youth of West Sussex and elsewhere are catered for by two activity centres, each having a strong sailing bias, located adjacent to the Bosham Channel where there is also a dinghy park and slipway. The parish is served by a network of public footpaths, some running along the harbour side. Apart from the foreshore, the parish has little public open space.

The people of the community are evenly divided between the sexes (48% male, 52% female) and the age distribution of people over 11 years old is more uniform than might be expected. 8% of residents are aged between 11 and 17 years and 9% are aged 75 years or more. Children under 11 years old constitute 14% of the population.

A significant proportion of residents are relatively new to their current home, with 36% having lived there for less than six years. On the other hand, 18% have occupied their home for more than twenty-five years. The picture that emerges is a good mix of length of time that people have occupied their home. What is not known is the proportion of people who have moved to their current home from outside the parish. Most homes (83%) are owner-occupied and 99% of dwellings are the household's main residence.





Detached houses are the most common type of dwelling (44%), with bungalows and semi-detached houses constituting 24% and 22%, respectively, of the total. Terraced houses and flats/maisonettes form a low proportion at 8% and 1%, respectively.

The Questionnaire results indicate that 85% of homes are connected to the mains drainage system; the remainder rely on septic tanks, cesspits and chemical toilets for sewage disposal. Foul sewer and surface water flooding has been of significant concern to some people for many years, particularly in Hambrook. North of the railway line,

**The tidebanks are generally in good condition**

12% of households report a foul sewer flooding emergency in the last two years and 17% report a surface water flooding nuisance or emergency in the same period. The Chidham peninsula is potentially at risk from tidal flooding. The west tidebank is in a parlous state, but the Harbour Conservancy proposes to realign a section of the bank in Autumn 2005; this will have the added benefit of creating 22 hectares of intertidal habitat. Elsewhere, the tidebanks are in generally good condition. Three households have experienced tidal flooding problems in the last two years.

The civil Parish of Chidham was increased in area in April 2003, when the west side of Broad Road north of the railway line, Priors Leaze Lane, Hambrook Hill South and Shepherd's Meadow were included. This brought the whole of the Hambrook community into the parish. However, a similar proposal to bring part of Nutbourne into the parish was not implemented.

Over the last 10 years from 1995 to date, there have been approximately 72 new houses built within the current parish of Chidham. Most of these are to the north of the railway line in Hambrook. In addition to these, several conversions of existing buildings into dwellings have also taken place and approximately 10 new houses have been built within the additional consultation area in Nutbourne. The Shepherd's Meadow development in 1999 is of note in that 36 houses were constructed on a single site, allocated in the Local Plan, between Hambrook Hill South and Broad Road.

Community organisations located in the parish include Chidham Parish Council and the Hambrook and District Residents' Association (HDRA). The Parish Council has nine elected members and serves Hambrook and Chidham (see back cover for a map of the civil parish). The HDRA currently represents 126 households. Chidham WI meets monthly in the Village Hall and draws members from both within and outside the parish. St Mary's Church has a thriving congregation and the popular and successful Chidham Parochial Primary School, with 91 pupils, has an active Parents, Teachers and Friends' Association. Clubs and societies meet in both the Village Hall and St Wilfrid's Church Centre.

**The school has 91 pupils and an active involvement with the community**





# Action Point Schedule

<b>Point</b>	<b>Housing, Development and Land Use</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
1	Housing Development	Ongoing
2	Affordable Homes 1	2006
3	Affordable Homes 2	If and when appropriate
4	Commercial Development	2005 and as necessary
5	Planning Applications	2005 and lobbying
6	Housing Development & Parish Amenities	2005
<b>Traffic and Roads</b>		
7	Speeding	2005 - ongoing
8	Road Safety	2006 - ongoing
9	Street Lighting	Ongoing
10	A27 Road Noise	2005
<b>Amenities</b>		
11	Children's Play Area	2005
12	Recreation Ground	Consultation/feasibility study 2006
13	Village Green	Consultation/feasibility study 2006
14	New Village Hall	Consultation/feasibility study 2006
15	Farm Shop	Ongoing
<b>Public Services</b>		
16	Sewerage and Drainage	Ongoing
17	Public Services	2005
18	Police Community Support Officers	2005 and ongoing
19	Chidham Cemetery	2005
<b>Environment</b>		
20	Public Footpaths and Bridleways	Ongoing
21	Accessible Woodland	Ongoing
22	Litter and Dog Mess	2005, then ongoing
23	Hedges, Ditches, Trees and Verges	2006
<b>Community and Communication</b>		
24	Voluntary Groups - Mobility	2005 start
25	Voluntary Groups - Social	2005 start
26	Voluntary Group - Environment	2005 start
27	Considerate Behaviour	2005, then ongoing
28	Parish Magazine and Website	2005 start
29	Parish Directory	2005 start
<b>The Future</b>		
30	Parish Plan Steering Group	Ongoing



# Action Points

## Housing, Development and Land Use Action Points

### 1. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Representations should continue to be made by the Parish Council that housing development should only take place within the existing Settlement Policy Areas, on brown-field sites, or through the conversion of existing buildings.

See Action Points 2 and 3.

### 2. AFFORDABLE HOMES 1

The Parish Council should determine whether or not it is possible to devise schemes for appropriate homes that are both affordable and for people of the parish only, if possible in perpetuity. The District Council and other relevant experts should be consulted to determine the extent of the need for such affordable homes for people of the parish.

### 3. AFFORDABLE HOMES 2

If there is a specific proposal for a development of affordable housing to meet the genuine needs of the people of the parish that cannot be met within the constraints of Action Point 1 above, the Parish Council should take fresh soundings of public opinion before deciding whether or not to support such a scheme.



In this section, 30 specific Action Points are proposed. Each Action Point is shown in a coloured panel and a summary of the relevant results from the Questionnaire responses is given in the main text. The complete set of responses to the Questionnaire is given in chart form in the Questionnaire Results section. A separate document, available from either the Parish Clerk or the Parish Council Chairman, contains the responses in numerical form.

## Housing, Development and Land Use

The current Local Plan gives the parish protection against inappropriate development because most of the parish is defined as being within the Rural Area, with two areas being defined as Settlement Policy Areas (SPA). The District Planning Authority seeks to consolidate new development in the SPAs. Additional protection is provided for those parts of the parish lying within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within the Harbour Amenity Area.

### What you told us

About half of respondents object to any more housing. At least a quarter feel that the parish needs homes for young people, small family homes and low cost/affordable housing, respectively. There is less, but not negligible support for other types of accommodation, including homes for people with disabilities, large family homes and homes for single people. Sheltered accommodation and social housing are each deemed necessary by about 6% of respondents. Q54 asked people to identify the most important change they would like to see in the parish. 108 of the 722 comments are about development and these show a similar overall picture.

Single dwellings and/or small groups of ten head the list of types of housing development that would be acceptable in the parish. Just under a quarter of respondents express this view for each of the two options. When asked about the design and layout of any housing development, a quarter of respondents opt for different designs of house on the same site and a quarter opt for properties for people of different ages. Uniformity in design and size receive little support.

### If more houses were built, where would we put them?

Development control is changing. The District Council, in conjunction with parish councils and other bodies, has started the process of producing its new Local Development Framework (LDF). This will set out where

and how much development should be allowed in the period up to 2016. The current Local Plan specifies that development on land outside the two Settlement Policy Areas in the parish will be restricted to those uses appropriate in a rural setting.

Many people favour conversion of redundant buildings, and housing on brownfield sites (44% and 26% of respondents, respectively). Those who object to development of The Dell for housing have received support from the District Council; its land has been transferred to the Harbour Trust for sensitive habitat management, but with access for people. 22% of respondents want no development outside the Settlement Policy Areas (SPAs). Some people suggest that additional housing could be as infill in large gardens (this is one feature of SPAs), but others specifically ask that this should not happen. Several possible particular locations for housing development are suggested, but no one site is suggested by more than a few persons.

It is clear that a majority do not favour housing development except as constrained in Action Point 1. However there is a perceived need for affordable housing for local people. Such a development is unlikely to be met within the constraints of Action Point 1. Public opinion may vary when a specific need has been identified and a concrete proposal for a limited development of affordable housing has been formulated.

#### **Do you want other kinds of development?**

It is clear that people in the parish love the area in which they live and there is a strong view that things should generally stay as they are. However, running in parallel with the feeling against development are views that some development is in fact necessary.

Farming related-development, intended to generate jobs, is welcomed by 419 people. Some support is also given to the use of brownfield sites for commercial, manufacturing, service sector and retail use, but the use of greenfield sites for these purposes is not generally supported.

#### **Planning Applications**

Nearly half of respondents do not think that sufficient publicity is given to local planning applications; a third have opposing views. 61% of respondents feel that the Parish Council is either fully aware or quite aware of local opinion. About half feel that the District and County Councils are not aware.

The Parish Council, as a statutory consultee, must be consulted by the District Council when deciding upon planning applications. Each planning application is advertised on the three Parish Council notice boards.

Residents comment that the facilities and amenities such as open spaces, recreation, social and leisure facilities are generally inadequate for the people in the parish. Any housing development will exacerbate the problem and will also increase the pressure on schooling.

## **Housing, Development and Land Use Action Points**

### **4. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Parish Council should make the strongest representations that future commercial, manufacturing, service sector and retail development should only take place on brownfield sites.

### **5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Parish Council should endeavour to increase the publicity given to planning applications and continue its policy of contacting neighbours to ensure that they are aware of the application and to hear any views the neighbours may have on it. We also recommend that planning applications be required to contain more detailed information on environmental matters.

### **6. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND PARISH AMENITIES**

The Parish Council should press the case with the District Council that planning applications for housing should be assessed with respect to the adequate provision of amenities, including schooling, social, recreation and leisure facilities, and public open spaces.



## Traffic and Roads Action Points

### 7. SPEEDING

The Parish Council should continue to work vigorously towards reducing the problem of speeding in the parish. We suggest that the Parish Council, amongst other actions, provide the Police with appropriate Questionnaire Response data and also press for enforcement of the speed limits.

### 8. ROAD SAFETY

The Parish Council should prepare a road safety plan detailing remedial measures to deal with the problem of inappropriate parking and the possibility of providing cycle paths, as well as addressing the issues of speeding and street lighting. We recommend that the Parish Council press the Highway Authority to improve the level of maintenance of pavements in the parish.

### 9. STREET LIGHTING

The Parish Council should reduce the energy consumption and light pollution of its existing footway lights. We also recommend that the Parish Council consult more fully with residents on the need for additional lights in specific locations.

### 10. A27 ROAD NOISE

The Parish Council and the Hambrook and District Residents' Association should renew their efforts aimed at bringing forward the resurfacing of the A27 in Hambrook, to reduce the level of road noise.

**On average there are two vehicles for each household in the parish**

## Traffic and Roads

Nine questions in the Questionnaire relate to roads and traffic. This topic receives the greatest number of written comments in reply to the open-ended final question, Q54, and is clearly important to many residents.

### What you told us

On average, there are almost two roadworthy vehicles for each respondent household in the parish and 64% of respondents travel to work in their own cars. Speeding is the point of greatest concern, as indicated by the number of comments in response to Q54, and is at the top of the list of crimes and unacceptable behaviour that concern you. 55% of respondents want a 30 mph speed limit throughout the village, but it is noted in comments that the current speed limits are abused and not enforced by the Police.

Road safety is affected by the level of highway design and maintenance, and also by the behaviour of individuals. Inconsiderate parking is of concern to 39% of respondents and over half support action to improve road safety at four of the seven named 'danger spots'. 41% feel that existing pavements need improving and new cycle paths are supported by almost half of the respondents.

Views differ on the need for additional street lighting in the parish; 352 people want more streetlights, but 281 want no more streetlights. There is significant support for the view that streetlights should be environmentally sensitive.

There is substantial support in Hambrook for work to reduce the road traffic noise from the A27.



## Amenities

Residents were asked about parish amenities, including shopping needs, educational and recreational requirements for adults and young people alike, the use and quality of existing facilities and any unmet needs.

### What you told us

More than a fifth of the people in the parish are children or young people. Half of the respondents consider the local social facilities to be poor; more than a few comments in response to Q54 stress that we need to provide places for children to play and somewhere for young people to take part in activities.

The majority of respondents would like to see both a play area and a recreation ground for informal sports facilities.

Similarly, the majority of respondents would like to see a Village Green established. Many residents indicate the Broad Road area as the preferred location.

Many people are, or would like to be active in a sport or similar activity. The majority of the 804 respondents say they would attend a swimming pool in the Parish, if one were to be provided. Many respondents are prepared, if necessary, to leave the Parish to pursue their chosen sport. Some of these activities are, or could be accommodated within the existing structure of the Parish without great expense.



## Amenities Action Points

### 11. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The Hambrook and District Residents' Association should complete the children's play area in Broad Road, with continued financial and other support from the Parish Council.

### 12. RECREATION GROUND

The provision of a recreation ground should be promoted by the Parish Council, working in conjunction with appropriate authorities and individuals. It is suggested that a central location be sought.

### 13. VILLAGE GREEN

The provision of a village green in a central location should be pursued. It is suggested that the Parish Council co-ordinate discussion by appropriate bodies and individuals.



**A farmshop selling local produce would be welcomed in the village**

## Amenities Action Points

### 14. NEW VILLAGE HALL

The possibility of providing a new multi-purpose village hall/social centre should be pursued. It should be located on a central site, possibly associated with a village green, and sufficient for the consolidation of existing facilities. It is recommended that the Parish Council co-ordinate discussion by appropriate bodies and individuals.

### 15. FARM SHOP

The Parish Council should support the introduction of a farm shop within the community for locally produced foods.



**A number of residents would like a new purpose-built hall with modern facilities**

**Residents showed their support by wearing badges saying 'I like the Parish Plan'**



When asked about the venues they would prefer to attend for village / fundraising/social events, residents give the Village Hall and St Wilfrid's Hall similar support, about 48% each, and the School 29% support. At the time of the Questionnaire, it was not known that the School would have a new badminton-sized hall by January 2006. The most common reaction, across all ages, to local social facilities is that they are poor. Comments indicate that some respondents think that the Village Hall and St Wilfrid's Hall, although both popular, are out of date and lack modern facilities and that a new purpose-built hall would be preferred.

A large majority of respondents currently shop outside the village. 73% of respondent households indicate that they would use a local farm shop for some of their shopping. Some comment that it should be well stocked, have good opening hours and be competitive. Some people place emphasis on the need to stock locally produced, organic food.

## Public Services

We live in an attractive rural/coastal parish with a generally low population density. Services are considered to fall below that which might be expected in an urban environment.

### What you told us

Residents' opinions were sought on the standard in Chidham and Hambrook of ten environmental services. One of these, street lighting, is the subject of Action Point 9.

### Sewerage and Drainage

The inadequate drainage system in Hambrook is one reason for objections to housing development there. In the parish as a whole, 29% of respondents feel that the drains and sewers are poor, whereas in Hambrook the proportion is 38%. Housing development does not necessarily have to rely on the public sewers for drainage. Acceptable self-contained sewage treatment systems for individual houses are available.

### Other Services

Generally, half or more of the respondents indicate satisfaction with the other public services, but a sizeable minority think that roadside care/street cleaning (33%) and refuse collection (21%) are poor. 15% of households are not on mains drainage and 97 people say they want to be connected to mains gas. More than half of respondents state that Hambrook and Nutbourne Post Offices are important to them.

**More than half of the respondents said the local post offices were important to them**



## Public Services Action Points

### 16. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The Parish Council should continue to bring the utmost pressure to bear on Southern Water to improve the poor sewerage/drainage system in Hambrook. We recommend that, until the situation is rectified, the Parish Council continue to object to planning applications for development in Hambrook that rely on public sewers for drainage.

### 17. PUBLIC SERVICES

The Parish Council should convey the views of residents and the detailed evidence from the Questionnaire responses about public services in the parish to appropriate providers of services, including the Police, District Council, County Council, Southern Water and Transco. We encourage the Parish Council to increase the frequency with which it invites appropriate officers from the service providers to attend Parish Council meetings, and to advertise such occasions.



## Public Services Action Points

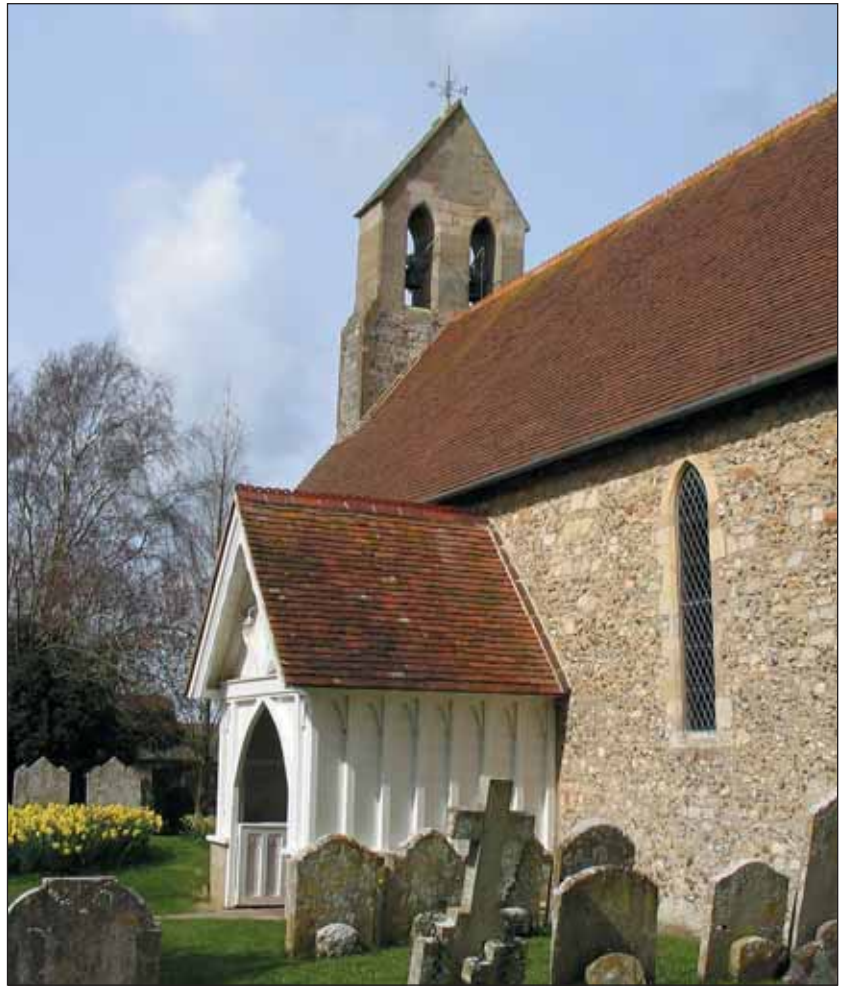
### 18. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

The Parish Council should discuss with the Community Support Officers the concerns expressed in the Questionnaire responses and invite them to attend Council meetings. The Council should work closely with the Support Officers to address relevant issues.

### 19. CHIDHAM CEMETERY

The Parish Plan Steering Group will pass the information gained about residents' wishes, concerning burial or interment of ashes in Chidham cemetery, to the Parochial Church Council. The data will include an analysis of age range.

**20% of respondents  
wish to be buried in  
St Mary's cemetery**



#### Police

53% of respondents think that Police coverage of the parish is poor. Speeding, vandalism and theft, for example, are a worry to 66%, 43% and 31% of respondents, respectively. The recent appointment of two Police Community Support Officers to cover the Bournes Forum group of parishes is a step in the right direction. (The Bournes Forum consists of ten parishes, including Chidham and Hambrook, whose parish councils work in collaboration with the District Council).

#### Transport

Residents tell us that the car is their main means of transport to work, training and study. Rail is the most used form of public transport with 5% of respondents using it daily and half (542 people) using it on average once a month. The equivalent figures for bus use are 4% and 223 people. However, more than half of respondents consider both the rail and the bus service either important or very important to their life.

#### Chidham Cemetery

The Questionnaire addresses the limited space available in the church cemetery and the possibility that new arrangements might need to be considered. 20% of respondents wish to be buried in the cemetery and 17% wish their cremated remains to be interred in the cemetery.



## Environment

The rural surroundings are important to people for leisure and quality of life. There is a general desire that the pleasant environment should remain much as it is at present.

### What you told us

Footpaths, bridleways and coastal paths are thought to be very important. More than half of respondents would welcome the opening of more footpaths and bridleways, but nearly a quarter think that this is unnecessary. 68% of respondents think that paths should be made more accessible to those with disabilities.

The provision of open access woodland receives support from the majority of respondents.

The questionnaire responses indicated concern about other issues affecting our environment. There was particular concern about Litter and Dog Mess.

Respondents also felt that the environment could be improved by management of hedges, the planting of more trees, and better ditch and verge maintenance.



## Environment Action Points

### 20. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

The Parish Council should pursue the need for, and the possibility of providing additional public footpaths and bridleways at appropriate locations in the parish. We further recommend that the Parish Council similarly investigate making appropriate paths more accessible to those with disabilities.

### 21. ACCESSIBLE WOODLAND

The Parish Council, working with the Harbour Trust, District Council and others, should pursue the possibility of providing new woodland with access for people, in addition to that being made available at The Dell.

**Management of trees and hedges will help improve our environment**

## Environment Action Points

### 22. LITTER AND DOG MESS

The problem of both litter and dog mess and the need for responsible behaviour should be brought to the attention of residents.

### 23. HEDGES, DITCHES, TREES AND VERGES

The Parish Council should develop the strategy for managing hedges, planting more trees, and maintaining ditches and verges to improve the environment and attractiveness of the village.



**Our pleasant  
environment should  
remain much  
as it is at  
present**



**More paths should be  
accessible to those  
with disabilities**

The Oxford Book of Place Names gives the name Chidham (Chedeham in 1193, Chudham in 1237, Chideham in 1243) as derived from the Old English word CEOD meaning a bag, referring to one of the bays on which Chidham is situated and HAM meaning a settlement. Therefore Chidham was the settlement at the pouch-like bag. However, HAM at the beginning of the name means a rock, and thus Hambrook is the place where the spring gushes from the rock at the foot of the hill. The little stream flows on to Nutbourne which simply means the stream where the nuts grow.



Extract from *Some Aspects of the History of Chidham and Nutbourne* by Doreen Stewart. Copies of the book are available from Chidham WI.

## Community and Communication

At the heart of a community are the people who live in it. It is clear from responses to the Questionnaire that there is an underlying wish to be truly part of the community of Chidham and Hambrook. Stemming from this is an evident desire for more information about parish issues and social/leisure activities, and a feeling that there should be greater dialogue and more interaction between residents, local authorities and public service providers. A significant number of people are prepared to make a contribution to village activities.

### What you told us

The majority of 604 respondents feel that there is a need for volunteer schemes in the village to help people with mobility problems and to undertake projects to improve the environment. Over 100 people offer to help with the community's mobility problems. In the parish, there are 136 people who have a health problem or disability that restricts their life style, 31 people who are permanently sick or disabled and 8 carers. There are some people who have difficulty getting to hospitals, doctors, etc, and there will be people who might welcome help in other ways. Their numbers may not be great, but for each individual involved, the need for help is real and significant.

It is apparent that two things need to be done; a register of willing helpers should be set up and maintained, and the people who would welcome help must be identified.

Respondents identify a need for organised clubs for all ages, especially pre-school, youth and senior citizens. Existing facilities for such activities are perceived to be poor, ill equipped or non-existent.

Improvements to the environment of Chidham and Hambrook generally sought by residents include further litter clearance, ditch maintenance and management of hedges as a habitat for wildlife, and the planting of more trees. 388 people support the setting up of a volunteer environmental projects scheme. 186 people indicate that they would volunteer as a worker on such a scheme.

The importance of being a good neighbour is stressed by many people and there is concern about a wide range of crimes and anti-social behaviour. The nuisance caused by dog mess and litter is a problem to at least half of the respondents, and vandalism and inconsiderate parking are a worry to 43% and 39% of respondents, respectively. Comments on anti-social behaviour include references to bonfires and the inconsiderate use of motorcycles.

The need to improve communication within the parish is a recurrent theme in the Questionnaire responses. Residents were asked about the ways in which they get information about local events. Word of mouth is the most common method, but responses show that a significant number of people nevertheless feel that there is a

## Community & Communication Action Points

### 24. VOLUNTARY GROUPS - Mobility

The Parish Council should support the identification and formation of appropriate voluntary groups to serve the community. These groups should include one that offers support and/or transport for people with mobility problems.

### 25. VOLUNTARY GROUPS - Social

The Parish Council should determine the extent of the demand for voluntary groups such as Mother and Toddler, After-School, Youth and Senior Citizen groups. We recommend that the Parish Council then support the formation of appropriate groups.

### 26. VOLUNTARY GROUP - Environment

The Parish Council should support the formation of a voluntary group to take appropriate action on environmental projects within the parish.



**Volunteers could be organised to help with environmental projects**

## Community & Communication Action Points

### 27. CONSIDERATE BEHAVIOUR

The need for responsible and considerate behaviour generally, and the specific concerns raised in the Questionnaire responses, should be brought to the attention of residents. Dog mess, litter, vandalism and inconsiderate parking are of particular concern. We recommend that the Parish Council investigate possible remedies and take appropriate action.

### 28. PARISH MAGAZINE AND WEBSITE

The Parish Council should encourage a single Parish Magazine and linked Website.

### 29. PARISH DIRECTORY

The Parish Council should publish as soon as possible a Parish Directory. This should contain parish information such as the names and contact details of local clubs, societies, facilities, organisations, producers, suppliers, businesses, tradesmen and also details of current projects and initiatives.

**A significant number of people are prepared to make a contribution to village activities**



need for a village 'news and social' newsletter. The printed sheet, delivered to each house, is the preferred method for 500 people, but 352 residents opt for a newsletter delivered through the Internet. It is interesting to see that 60% of respondents use the Internet at home.

The majority of respondents feel that the Parish Council is reasonably aware of local opinion, but half feel that they are insufficiently informed about the activities of the Council. The District Council and the County Council are viewed as performing noticeably less well on both counts.

Good communication can contribute to the quality and social cohesion of village life by fostering community spirit. A few people suggest combining the existing parish publications. Although residents' preference is for a delivered printed newsletter, the majority access to the Internet raises the possibility of a co-ordinated parish website, which would make possible more rapid communication. It seems that we need to find a way further to encourage awareness of local issues, provide a means of finding volunteers, raise awareness of initiatives proposed by authorities or volunteer groups, inform people about social and leisure activities and provide a forum for dialogue.

An action of benefit to the community that could usefully be taken would be to publish and regularly update a directory containing local information.



# The Future

Many of the recommended Action Points involve no cost, but some require funding. Some people indicate that they would be prepared to help fund improvements to the village in various ways. 46% of respondents would participate in village fundraising activities, 26% would contribute directly to a project fund and 32% would give help in other ways. 12% of respondents say that they would be willing to pay more in Council Tax to support improvements. It is apparent that the Parish Council will need to take these responses into account when implementing Action Points.

Parish Plans must be living documents that are kept up to date. In its application to the Countryside Agency for funding, the Parish Council committed itself to an annual review of the Action Plan and a major review every three years. The Parish Plan Steering Group wishes to support the Parish Council in the implementation of current and future Action Points.

## The Future Action Points

### 30. PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Parish Plan Steering Group will continue in operation after the publication of the Parish Plan in order to assist implementation and monitor progress.



The Steering Group will support the Parish Council in implementing the Action Points





# Questionnaire Results

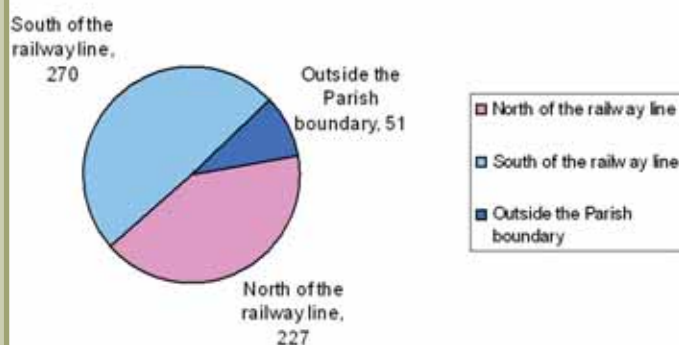
The Questionnaire contained 53 questions requiring quantitative responses (ticks or numbers). Some of these questions provided in addition an opportunity for residents to give written comments. Question 54 asked people to identify the single most important change they would like to see.

This section contains the complete set of quantitative responses to the Questionnaire in chart form. A separate document, available from either the Parish Clerk or the Parish Council Chairman, contains the responses in numerical form. A further document, containing the 3000 written responses, is available for purchase from the same sources.

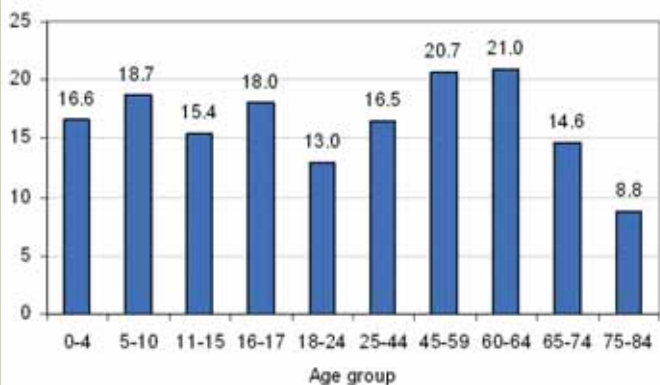
Q1. How many people including children normally live in your household?

**Total number: 1412**

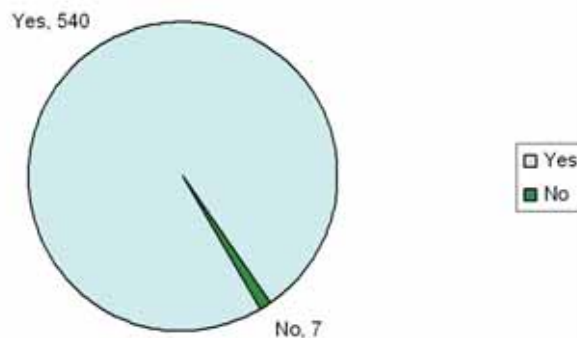
Q3. Number of households in survey by geographical area



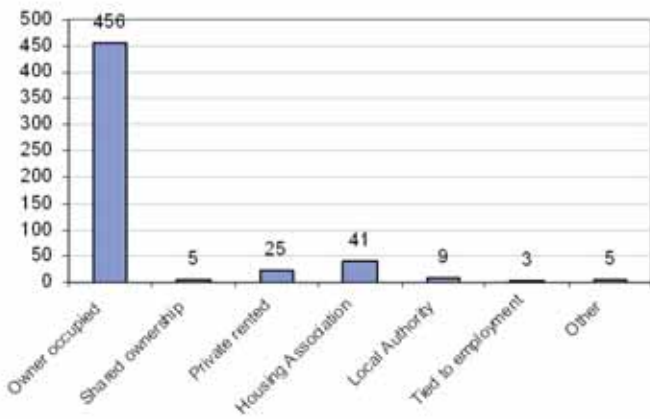
Q2. Average number of people in the village with the same age, shown by age. (Averaged within age group.)



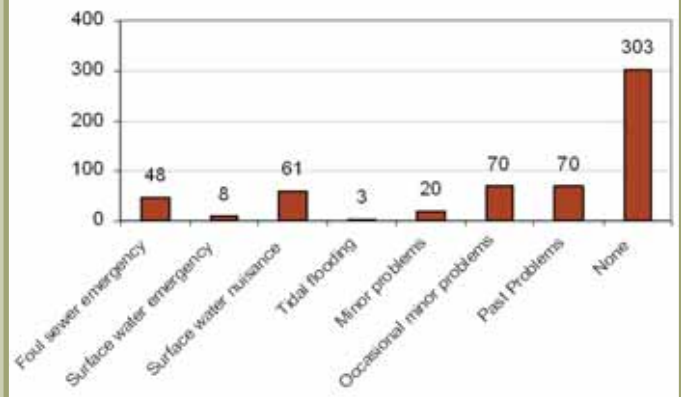
Q4. Is your house your main home?



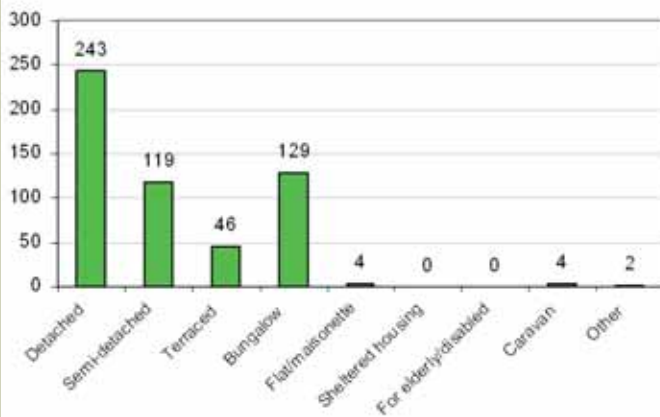
Q5. Is your home..?



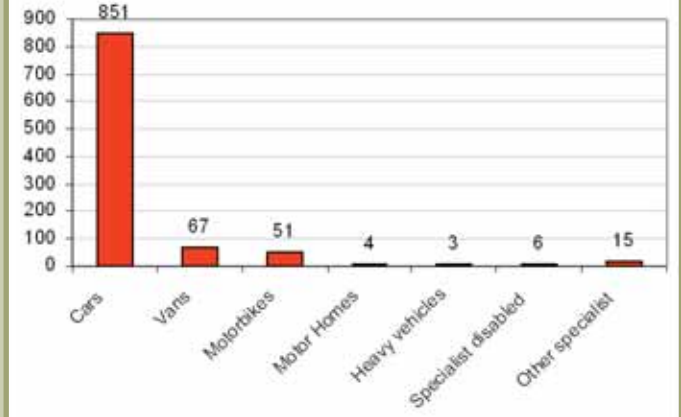
Q8. Number of people reporting sewer or drainage problems



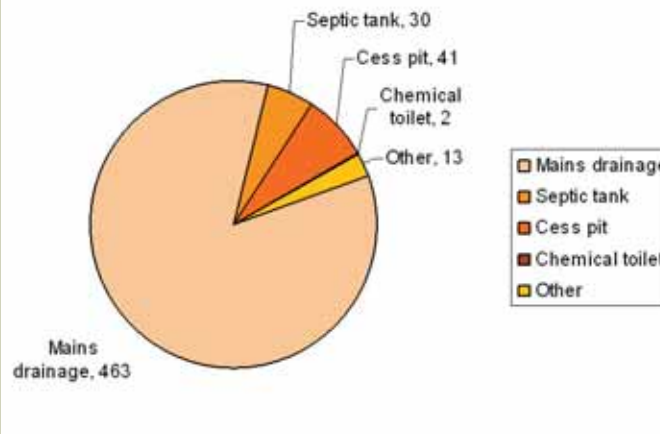
Q6. What type of home..?



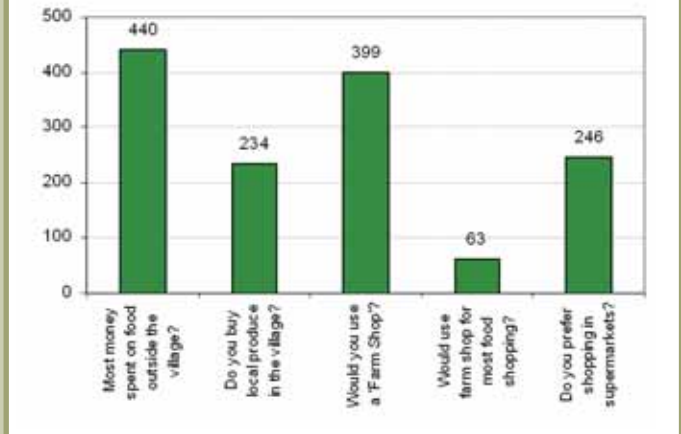
Q9. How many vehicles..?



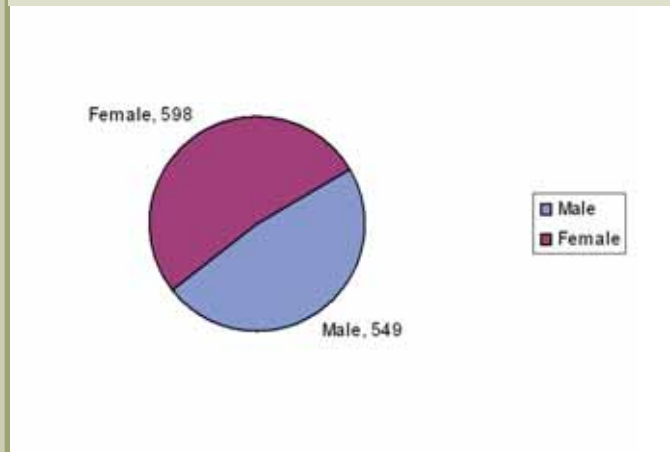
Q7. Sewage disposal system..?



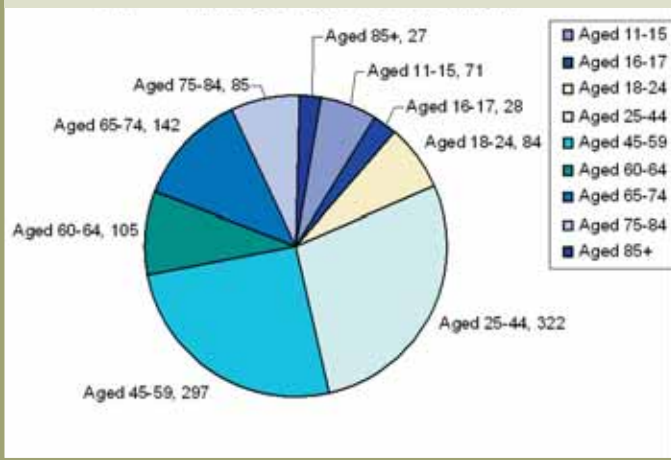
Q10. Interested in locally produced food?



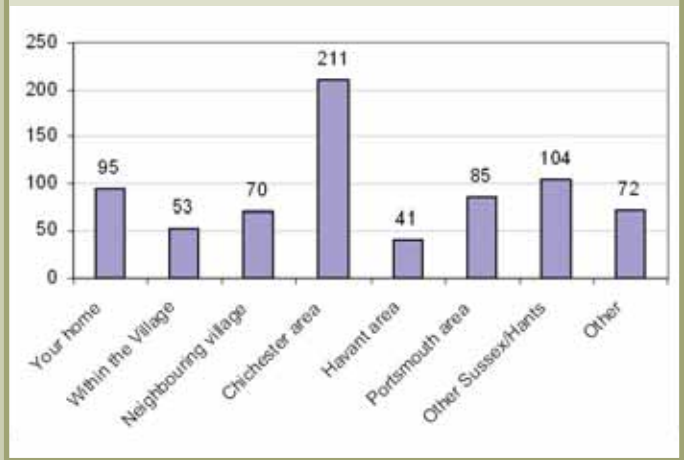
Q11. What sex are you?



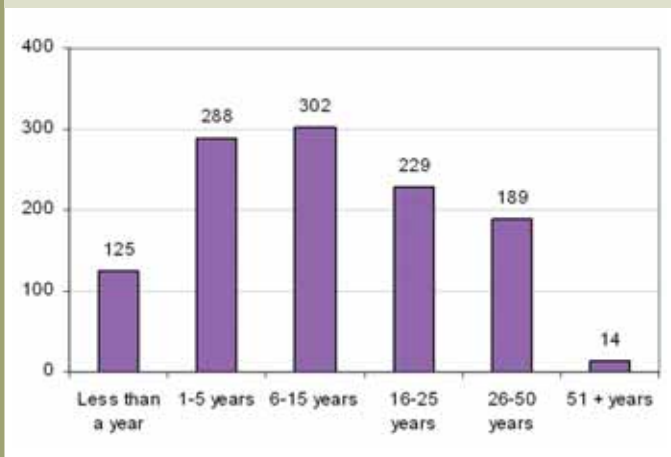
Q12. What age range do you belong to?



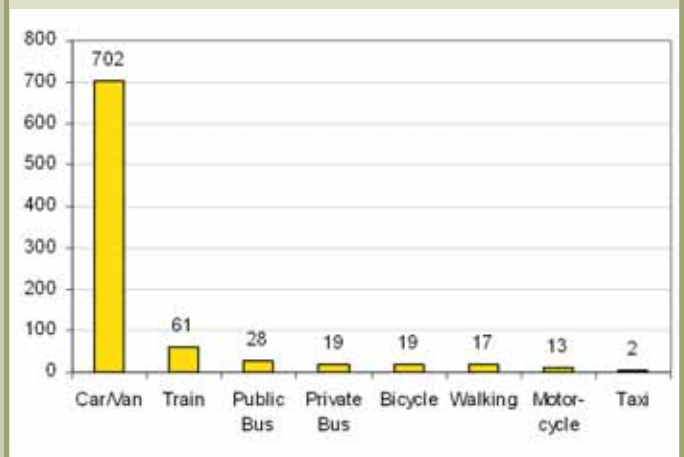
Q15. Where do you work?



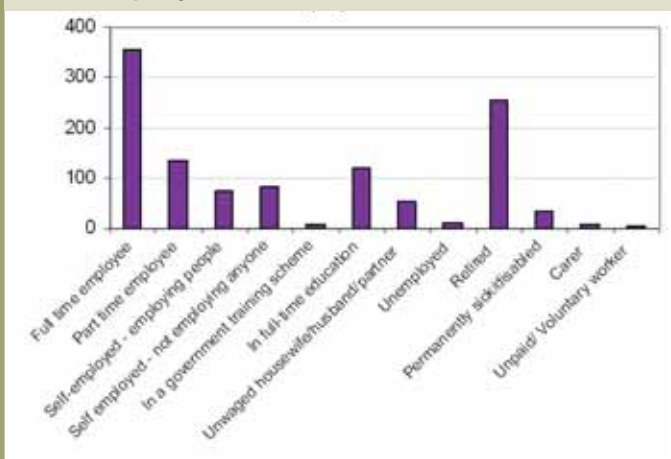
Q13. How long have you lived in your home?



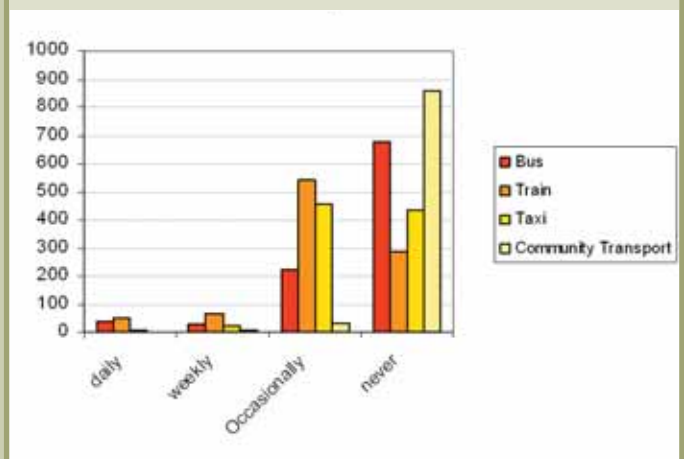
Q16. How do you get to work?



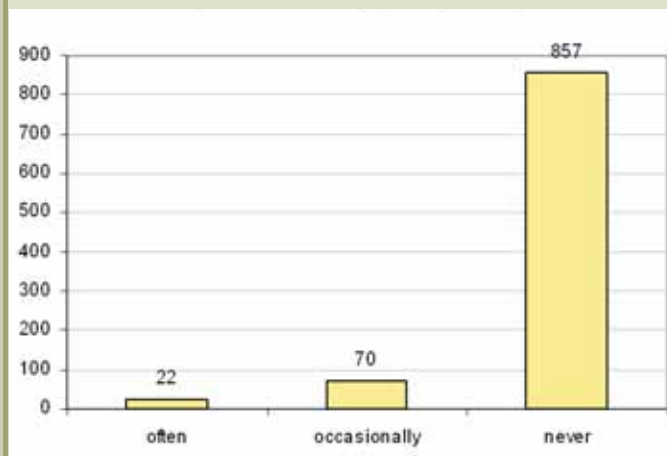
Q14. Employment status



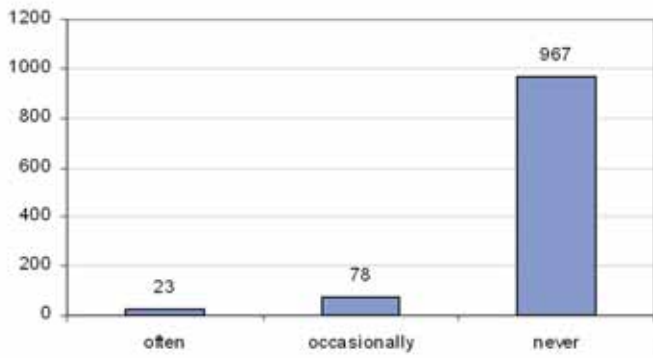
Q17. How often do you use...?



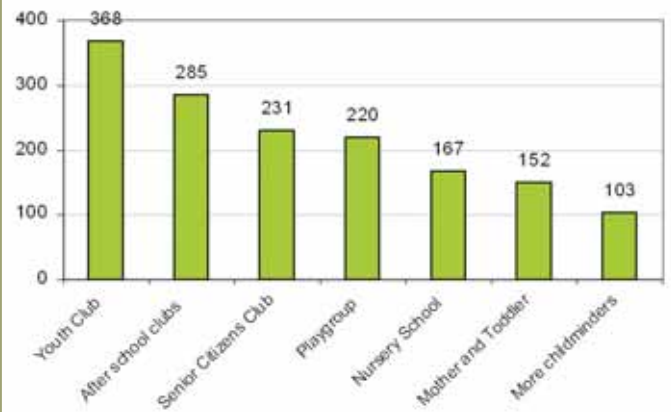
Q18. Do you have difficulty getting to Hospital?



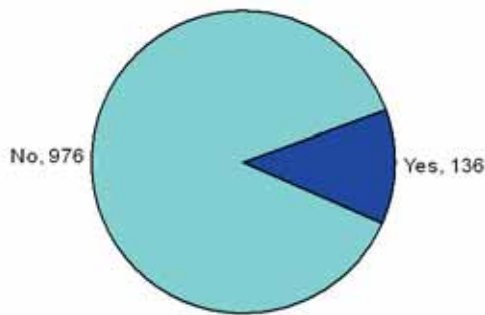
Q19. Do you have problems getting to Chichester?



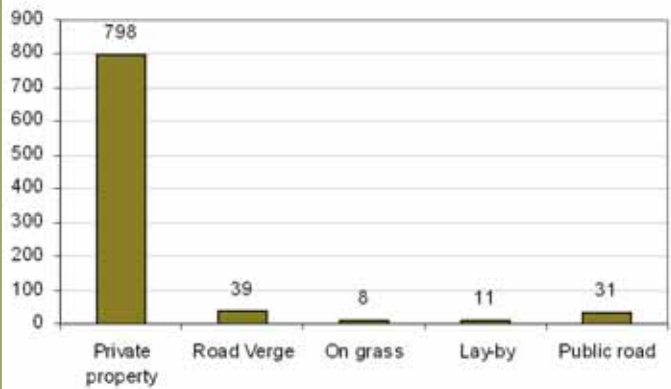
Q22. Do we need...?



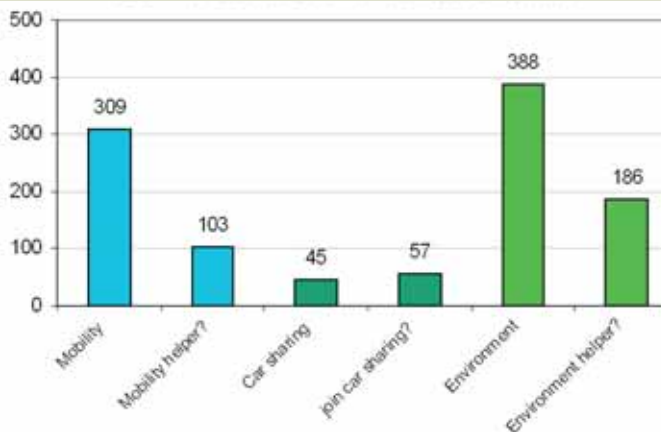
Q20. Do you have a health problem that restricts your lifestyle?



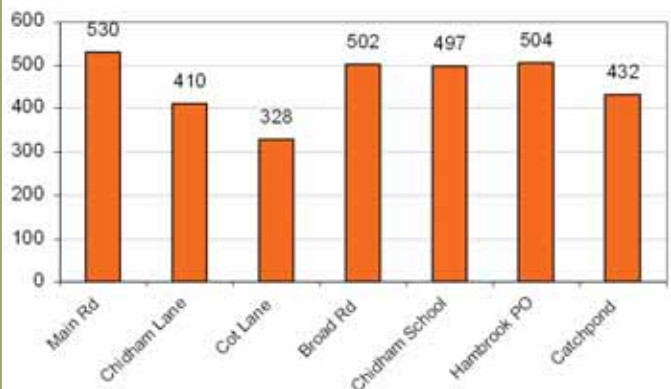
Q23. Where do you park your vehicle?



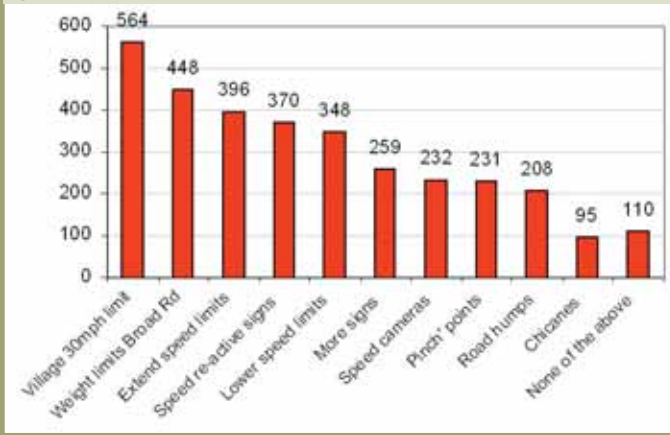
Q21. Is there a need for volunteer schemes?



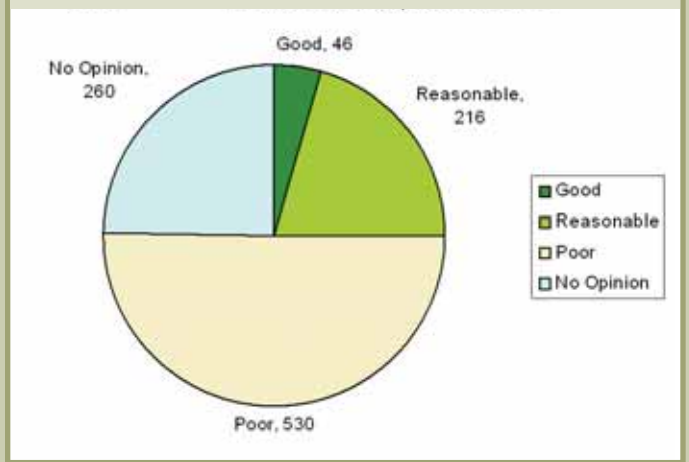
Q24. Where would you support road safety action?



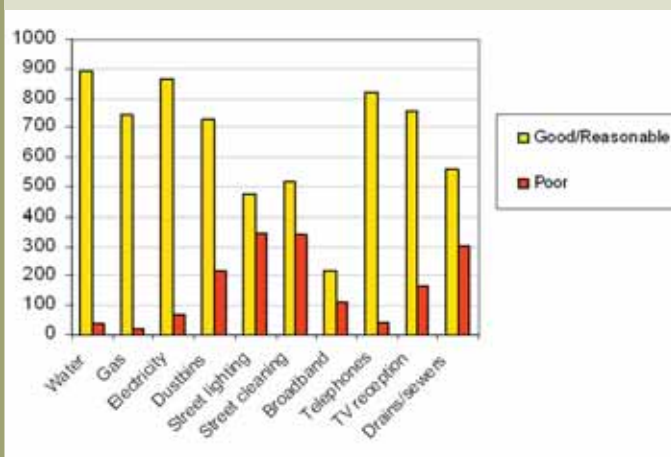
Q25. What should be done to control traffic speeds?



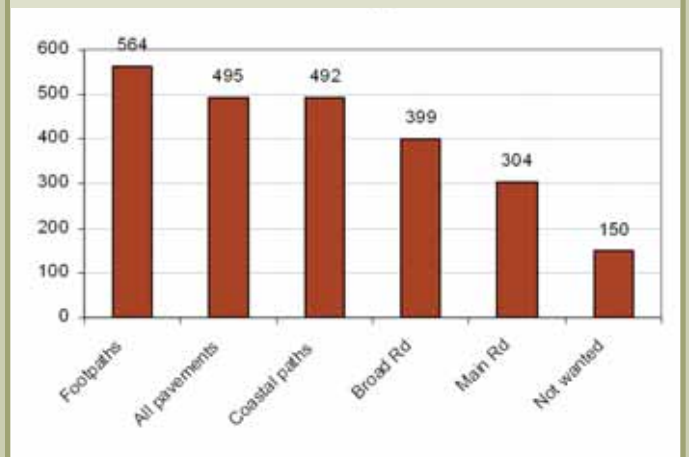
Q28. Do we have adequate litter bins?



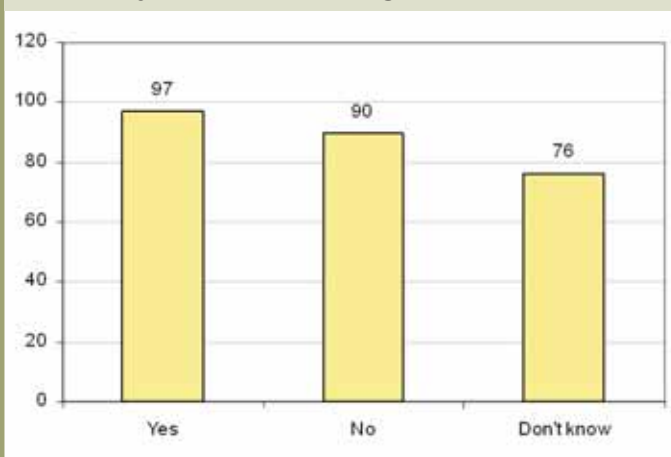
Q26. What do you think of...?



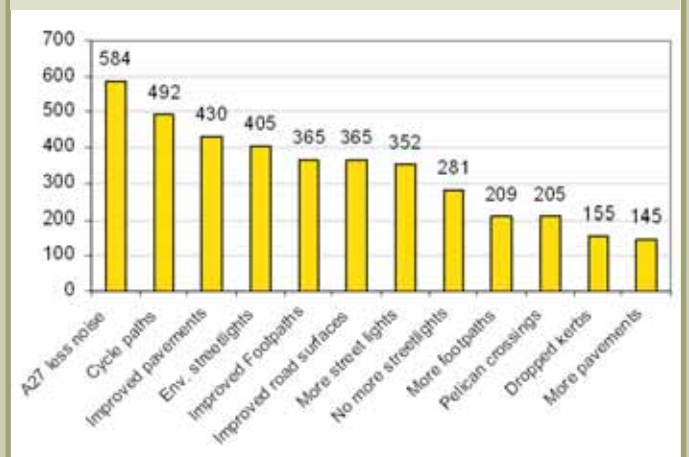
Q29. Where are 'dog mess' bins wanted?



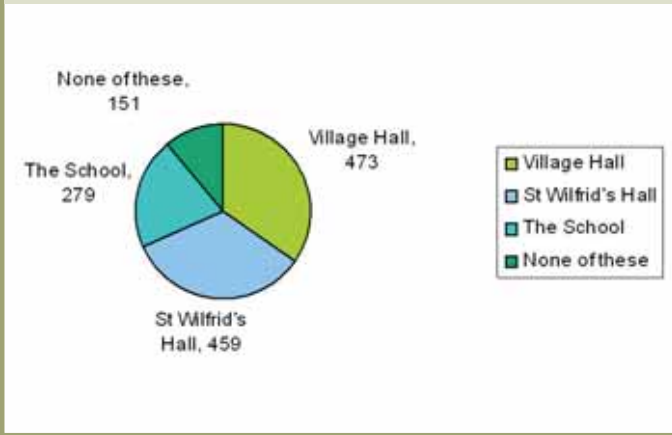
Q27. Do you want mains gas?



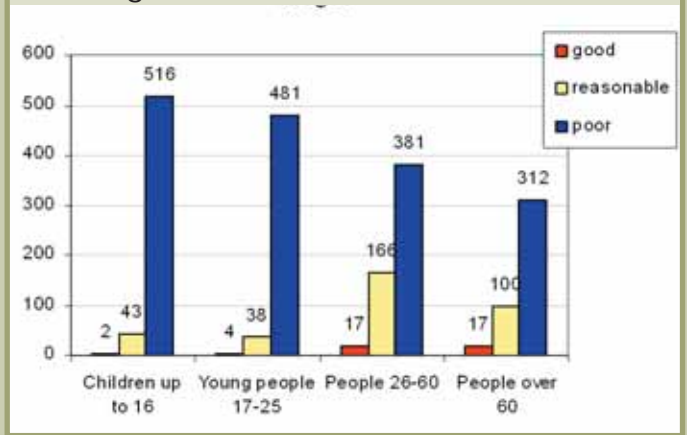
Q30. What improvements would you like?



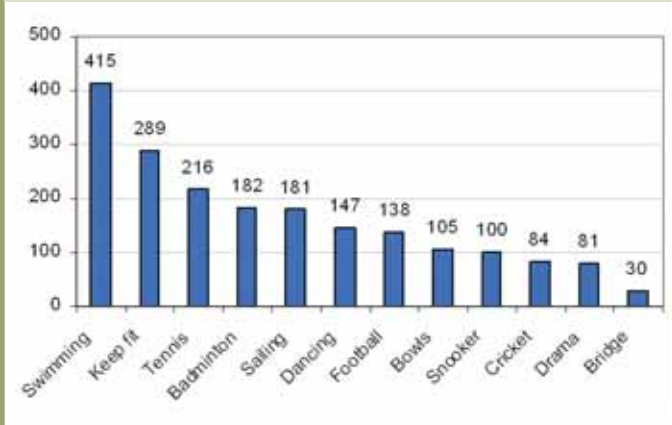
Q31. Where do you prefer village events to be held?



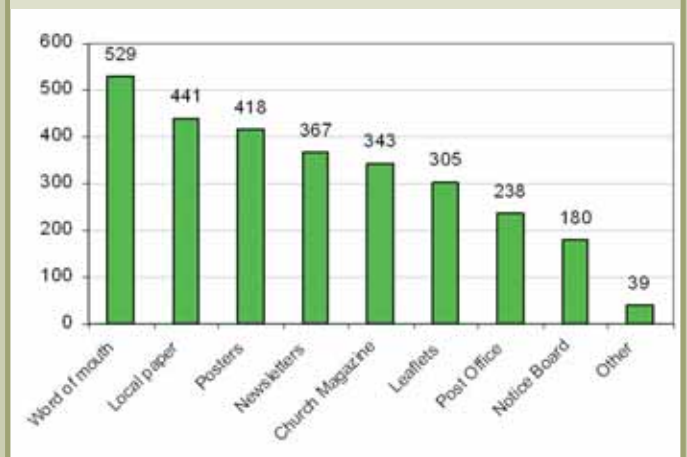
Q34. What do you think of social facilities in the village?



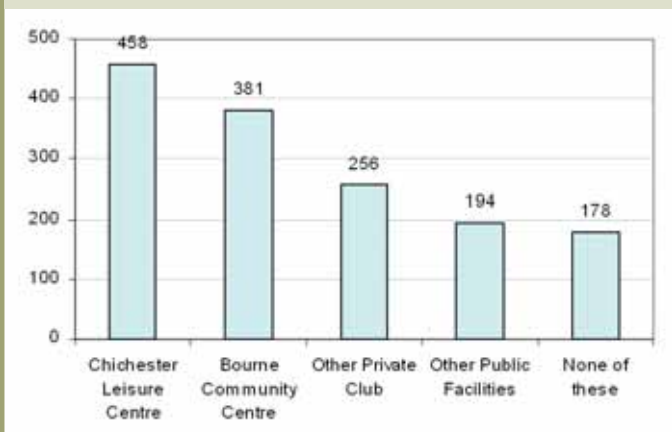
Q32. Which sports facilities would you like in the village?



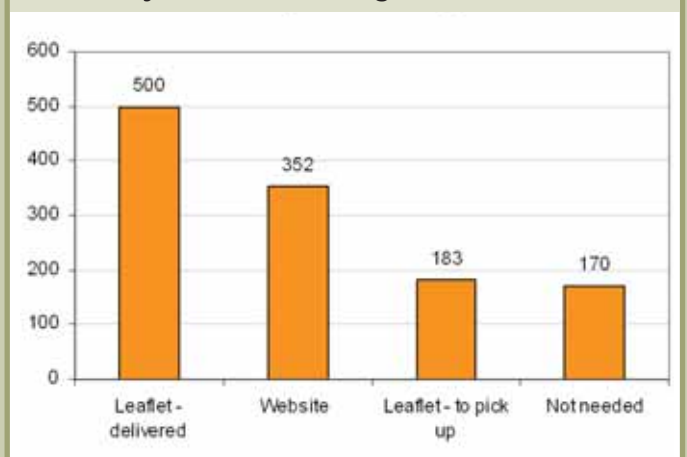
Q35. How do you hear about village events?



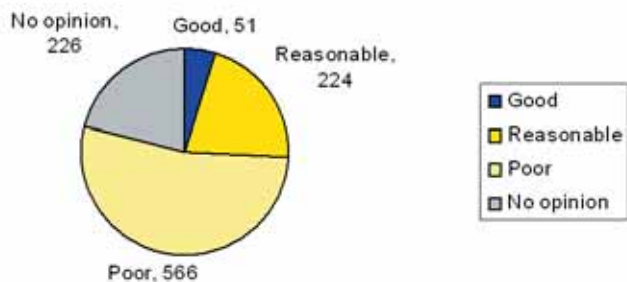
Q33. Where else would you go for sports facilities?



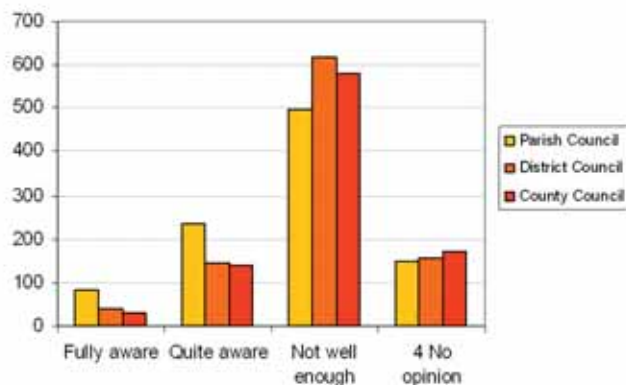
Q36. Do you want a village newsletter?



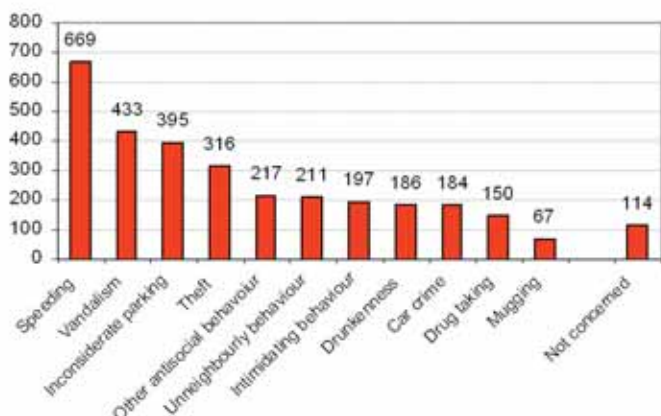
Q37. What do you think of police coverage of the village?



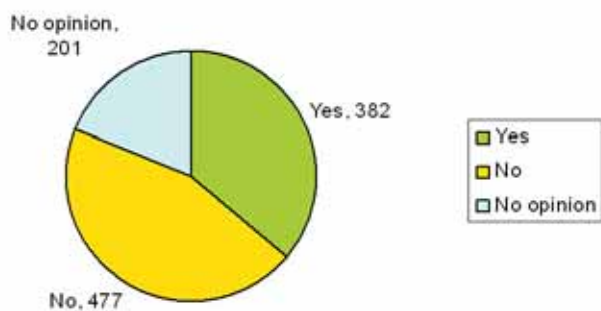
Q40. Are you informed about what your Council is doing?



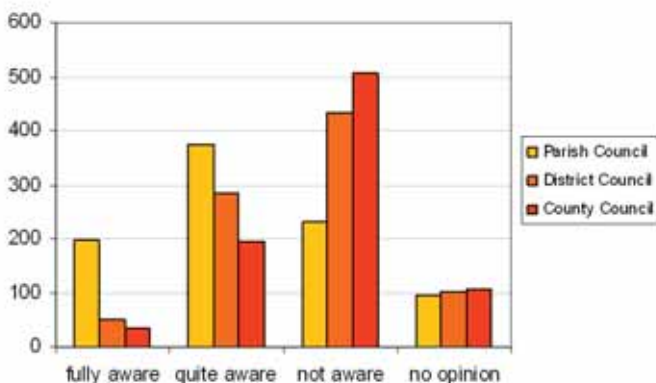
Q38. What crimes or behaviour concern you?



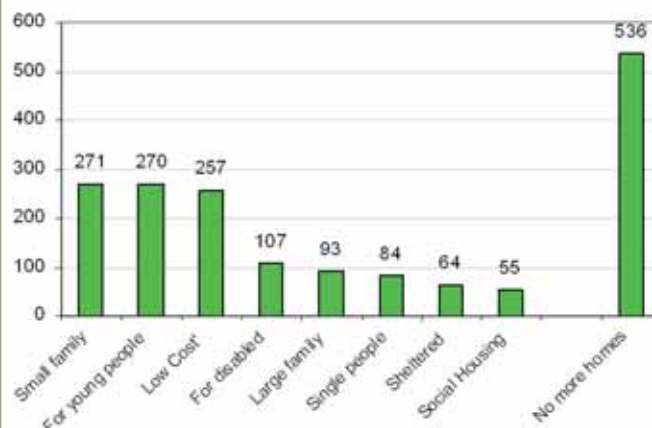
Q41. Is sufficient publicity given to planning applications?



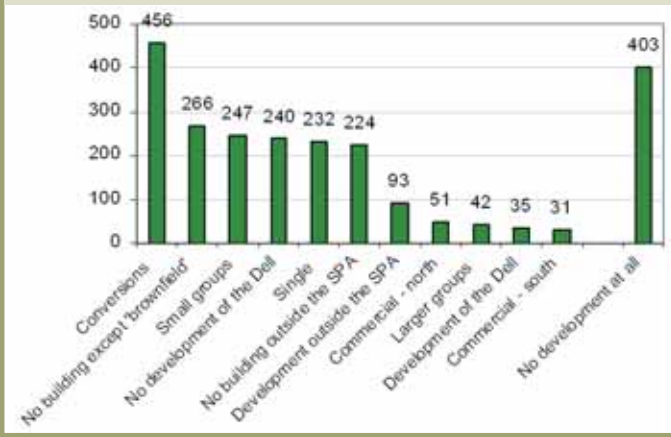
Q39. Do you think you council is aware of local concerns?



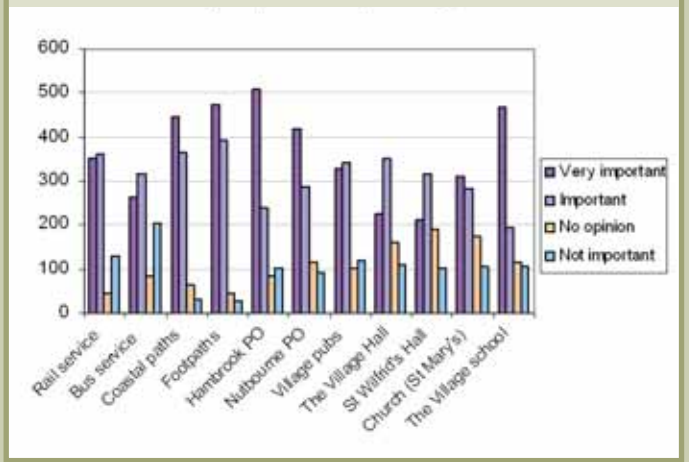
Q42. What kind of new homes do we need?



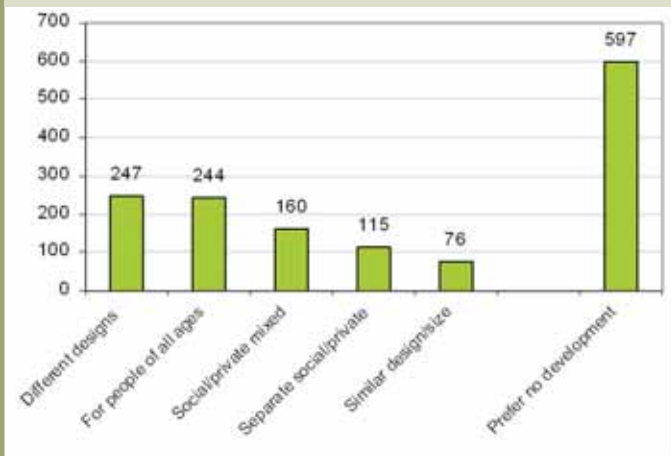
Q43. What kind of development should there be?



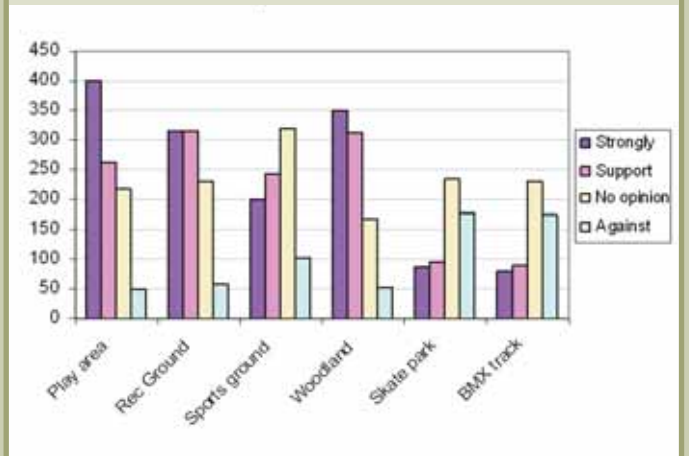
Q46. Things important to your village life?



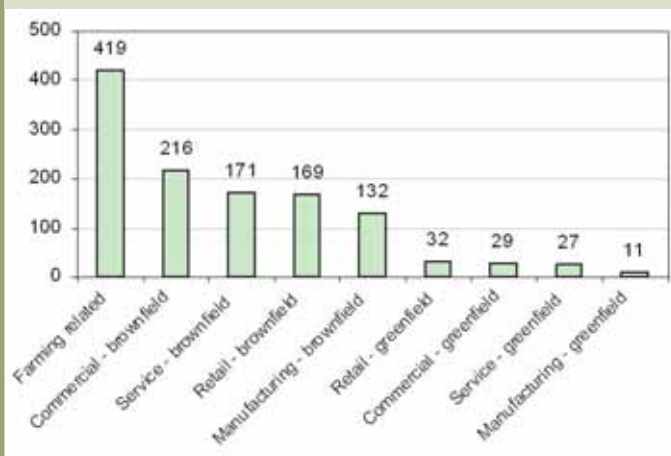
Q44. What kinds of housing developments?



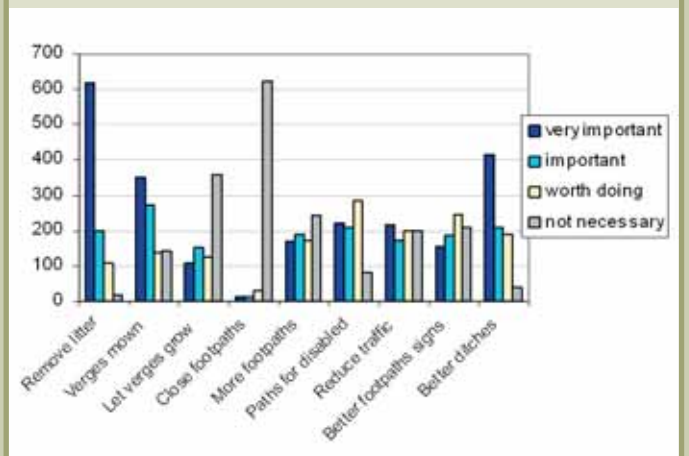
Q47. Would you want...?



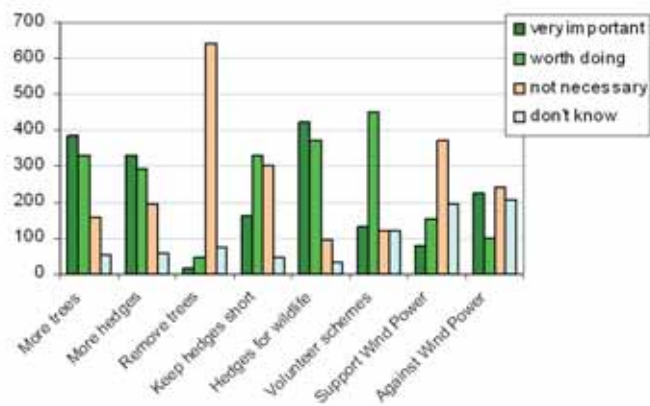
Q45. Do do want these types of development?



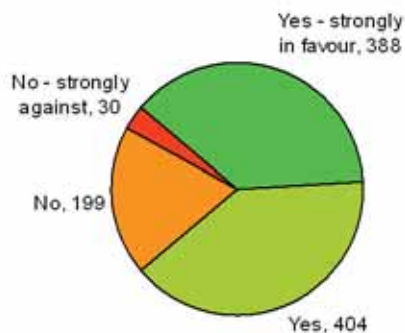
Q48. What could be done...?



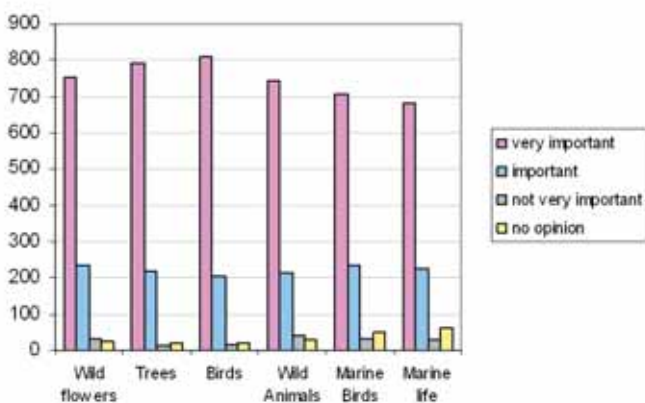
Q49. How could we improve the environment?



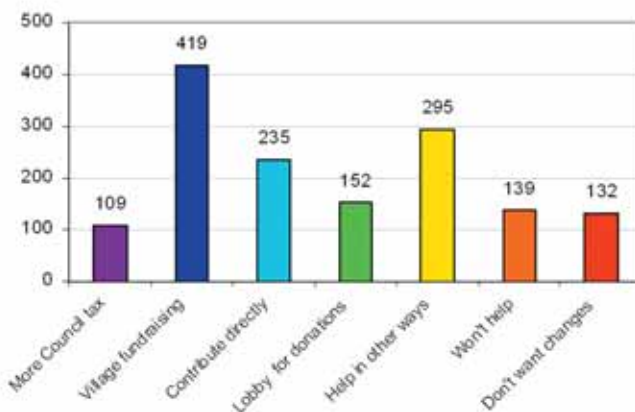
Q52. Would you like a village green?



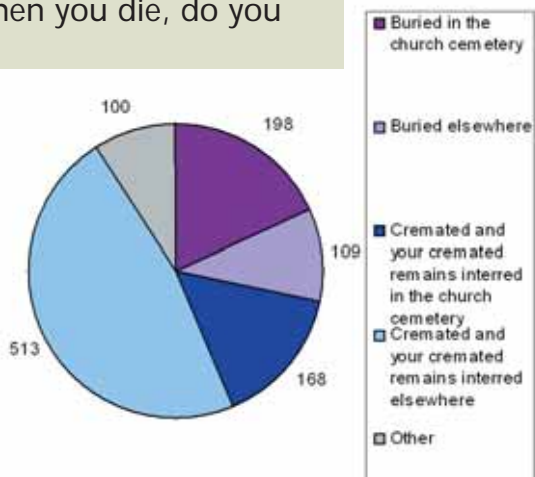
Q50. How important are...?



Q53. How should we pay for the changes?



Q51. When you die, do you want...?



**Question 54**  
 This asked everyone to state the single most important change they would like to see. The top five issues in order of priority are:

- Traffic**
- Development**
- Leisure/Sport**
- Amenity/Social**
- Roads**



# Information



## What do we mean by Chidham and Hambrook?

The civil parish of Chidham extends from the A27 in the north to Cobnor Point in the south. Most of Hambrook village lies within Chidham parish, as does the Chidham peninsula. Please see the Map on the back cover.

## Which area was covered by the Questionnaire?

The questionnaire was distributed throughout Chidham and Hambrook, and also to some areas outside the civil parish boundaries.

These areas technically outside Chidham and Hambrook include: Maybush Drive, Main Road to the west of Broad Road, Pottery Lane, Flatt Road.

Although these areas are technically within the civil parish of Southbourne, many people living there are part of the Chidham and Hambrook community and we wanted to include them in the questionnaire.

## What are Settlement Policy Areas?

The current Local Plan defines Settlement Policy Areas (SPA's) as selected existing settlements, in which the District Planning Authority will seek to consolidate new development.

The land outside SPA's is defined as the Rural Area, in which development will be restricted to those uses that are appropriate in a rural setting. Further restriction of development, in the northern part of the parish, arises from the existence of the Strategic Gap. This is a corridor of land between Emsworth and Chichester, whose purpose is to allow the settlements within it to retain their separate identity and amenity.

## Where are the Settlement Policy Areas?

There are two Settlement Policy Areas (SPA's) in Chidham and Hambrook, as follows:

- o Hambrook SPA
- o Nutbourne East SPA

They are shown in yellow on the Map on the back cover.

The Hambrook SPA lies completely within the civil parish boundary.

The Nutbourne East SPA is divided by the Railway line. The northern part of this SPA is in Hambrook and the southern part is in Southbourne.

## What are Brownfield and Greenfield Sites?

A 'brownfield' site is land that is, or has been developed, with a permanent building and infrastructure. A 'greenfield' site is land that has not been developed in this way.

## What was the Parish Plan Budget?

	£
The Co-op	250
Chidham Parish Council	500
Chichester District Council	1000
Chichester Harbour Conservancy	1000
Countryside Agency	3355
	<u>6105</u>





The Catchpond, Chidham

## Acknowledgements

The Steering Group gratefully acknowledges the overwhelming support from many individuals and organisations. Of particular note is the sterling work of the Executive Group, who have met formally on numerous occasions and whose email systems have been on overload on behalf of the Parish Plan. Members of the Supporters' Group have helped in so many different ways, including assisting with the Launch Event, the associated painting and photographic competitions and also the Consultation Event. 44 residents kindly allowed A3 poster boards to remain in their gardens for 15 months!

The organisations listed in the Parish Plan Budget section on the adjacent page provided grants and the following organisations assisted with the competitions:

- The Co-op
- Sussex Camera Centre, Chichester
- Key Print Office Services, Emsworth

The grant from the Countryside Agency was conditional upon there being sufficient voluntary support. This 'in kind' help is valued by the Agency at £1250.

Throughout the Parish Plan process, Action in Rural Sussex has provided invaluable guidance and reassurance and many organisations, both within and outside the parish gave useful feedback on the draft plan. The Chichester Harbour Conservancy undertook the graphic design of this publication. The City, District and County Councils loaned display boards for the information events.

Finally, this Parish Plan is just *the end of the beginning*, to quote Sir Winston Churchill. We must now endeavour to implement the Action Points identified in this plan and others that may emerge over time.

