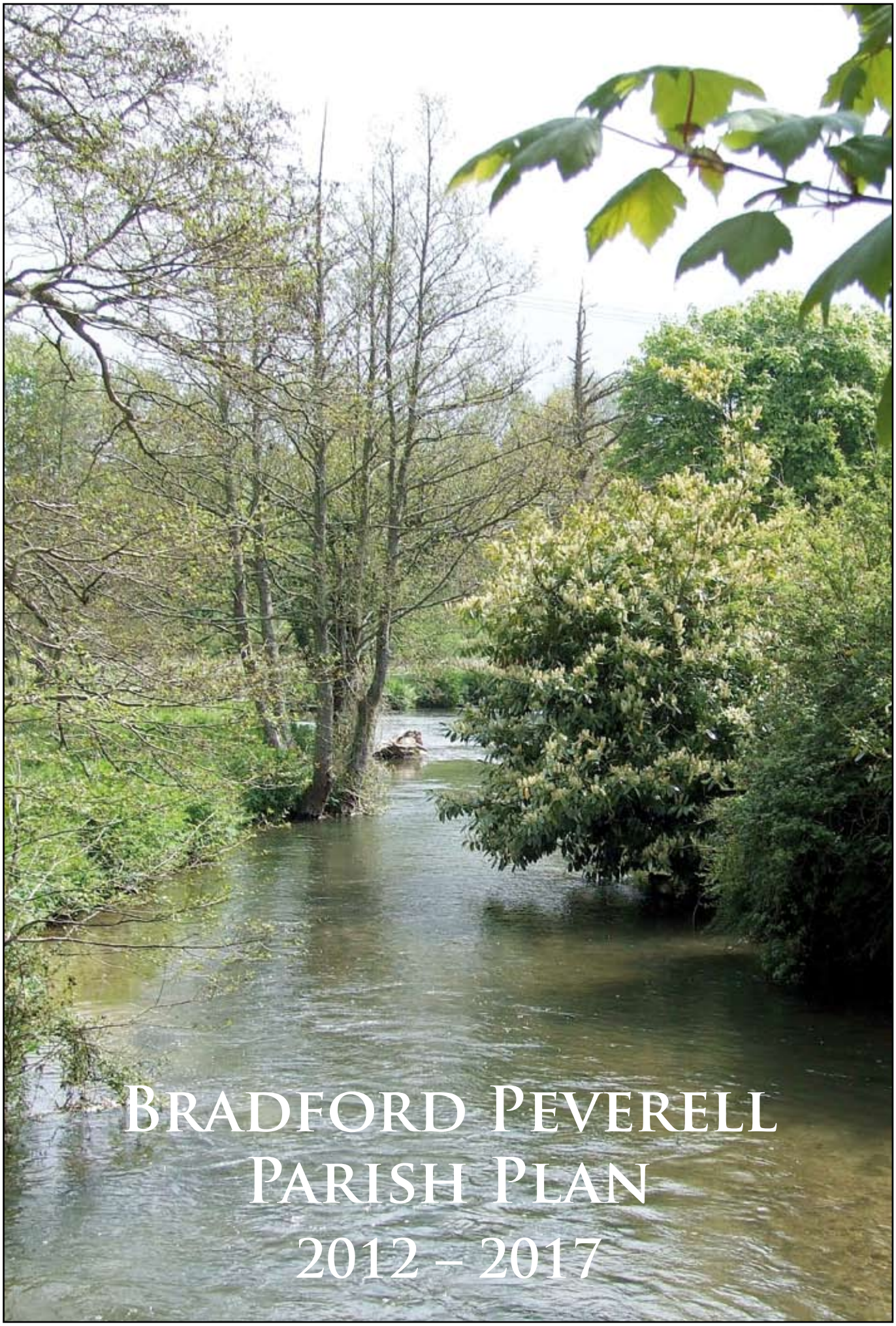

Bradford Peverell Parish Plan 2012 – 2017

Information And Contacts

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Website

Further details about Bradford Peverell can be viewed on the parish website:
www.bradfordpeverell.org

Summary

Bradford Peverell's Parish Plan, initiated by the Parish Council (PC), is based on the views expressed by its residents in two surveys of opinions, two open meetings, consultations with representatives of the West Dorset District Council (WDDC), Dorset County Council (DCC) and a number of other organisations concerned with supporting communities, notably Dorset Community Action (DCA). The development of the plan has been progressed by a steering group comprised of members of our local community. A series of meetings over the past two years have analysed and discussed the information collected in order to reach a consensus view of the key issues and actions to be taken over the next five years to develop our community and improve the quality of life of its residents.

What is most apparent from the surveys is the value our residents place in the very positive community spirit, the facilities of the village and the rural landscape surrounding it. A majority very much like the overall ambience of the environment within which they live and are reluctant to see change that might adversely impinge upon it. However, the perceived increase in traffic using the road network passing through the village is considered a threat that needs to be addressed. Equally, there is concern that the essential local infrastructure of roads, verges, drainage, riverbanks and trees should be regularly maintained and where necessary, improved. Some residents also wish to have faster broadband and improved television reception.

Some changes to the layout of village hall amenities are supported, primarily to enhance its use for small group meetings and leisure activities. There is also minority support for additional facilities such as allotments, a tennis court and a community orchard. An extension of the much used and valued network of paths around the village including a riverside walk, would be greatly appreciated.

Although car ownership in the village is very high, there is concern that the bus service through the village should be maintained for a minority who do not have access to private transport. The view of many residents is that there would be increased use of the bus service if it ran more frequently and at more convenient times. There is also interest in making greater use of the Weymouth to Bristol rail service if the halt at Ash Hill reopened at a future date.

An issue that did divide opinion is that of increasing the housing stock in the village. A small majority do not want any further expansion of the village but a significant minority favour provision of some additional houses if this helps attract young families into the village.

To translate the plan into action will require its adoption by the Parish Council, its consideration by both District and County Councils and involvement of residents as volunteer working groups focused on developing and advising on the issues and actions as outlined in the Action Plan Summary.

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1. Introduction

Our Parish Plan is the outcome of a working partnership between the local authority and the community residing in the Parish of Bradford Peverell. The plan describes the parish and the views of its residents. Contained within our plan are many positive aspects of both our community and its environs that are much valued by us all. It also identifies issues of concern that the community seeks to improve; in particular, it identifies the social, economic and environmental issues that are the backdrop against which the Parish Plan has been developed. These features and characteristics of our parish and village, and the amenities it has, are set out in some detail in Sections 2 and 3. The information they contain helps to place the outcomes of the questionnaires in context. The questionnaire results contained in Appendix 1 and 2 validate the discussions of issues covered in Sections 5 and 6 and support the recommendations of the Action Plan, Section 8. In the plan, little is said about the needs of the young people of the parish but they will be considered further during the next five years as our Parish Plan is developed.

Bradford Peverell's Parish Plan aims to provide a "snapshot" of the community and places it on record as it is in 2010-2011. It identifies and prioritises the key issues that affect the community. An action plan has been developed that sets out the needs and aspirations for developments over the next five years.

Through the vehicle of the Parish Plan our community will engage with planning at both district and county levels in order to influence and promote changes that will benefit all. The maintenance and creation of local community services and enhancement of the quality of life within the parish are specific aims of the plan.

Finally, because the Parish Plan has been developed by undertaking a process of consultation with its community, it provides an extensive base of evidence that can be used to back up funding bids for future development and community activities.

2. The Parish

The Parish of Bradford Peverell covers approximately 10 sq km (4 sq miles) in West Dorset. It lies close to the thriving county town of Dorchester and is entirely within the designated Dorset Area of Outstanding Beauty.

The main area of settlement lies on the edge of the flood plain and the rising ground to the south of the River Frome. There are additional clusters of dwellings at the hamlet of Muckleford, New Barn and on Bradford Down between the village centre and the main A35, which marks the boundary of the parish in the south. In addition, there are a number of more isolated farms and cottages. The boundary of the parish and its main features are shown on Diagram 1.

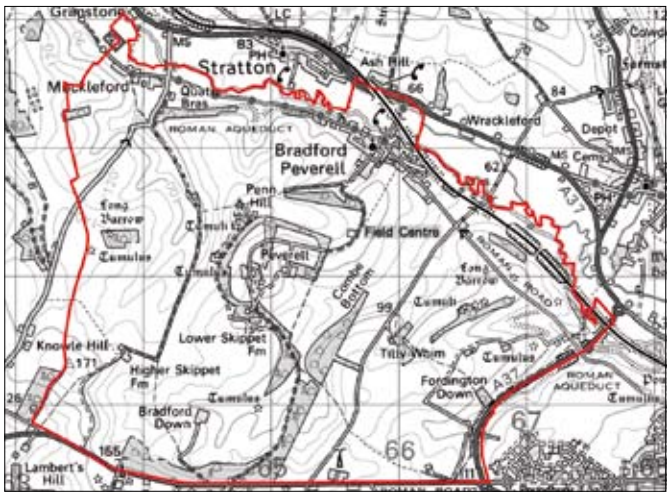

Diagram 1: The Parish of Bradford Peverell, West Dorset.

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Apart from the alluvial floodplain of the Frome, the geology of Bradford Peverell is chalk and the majority of the parish is in agricultural use with both pastoral and arable activity, together with a small amount of woodland.

Numerous prehistoric remains on the downland attest to a long settlement history and permanent occupation certainly extending back to the Neolithic Age. The Roman period saw the development of two major roads through the area linking Roman Dorchester north to the Fosse Way at Ilchester and westward towards Exeter. In addition, a significant Roman aqueduct serving Dorchester was constructed, and its remains, a scheduled ancient monument, follow a contour route above the Frome through the village. The present single track road from the Village centre to Dorchester follows the route of the Roman road although the original ford used by this route crossing towards Stratton is no longer visible. It was probably this crossing which later led Anglo Saxon settlers to name the settlement Brade (Broad) Ford.

By the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) this was a well established village and it was later owners of this landed estate who provided the Peverell part of the present name, Robert Peverell having been awarded the Manor by the Crown. This family and its descendants remained in control until the sale of the estate in 1770.

The oldest buildings are situated in the centre of the settlement and the core of the village is a designated Conservation Area with a number of listed buildings, including the Victorian Parish Church (designed by Decimus Burton and constructed from 1849 to 1851) which replaced the original Medieval Church. The Village Design Statement, published in February 2000, (see www.bradfordpeverell.org) provides further detail on the Village's setting and buildings, while a detailed parish history by Robert Greenland was published in 2001 by the Parish Council.

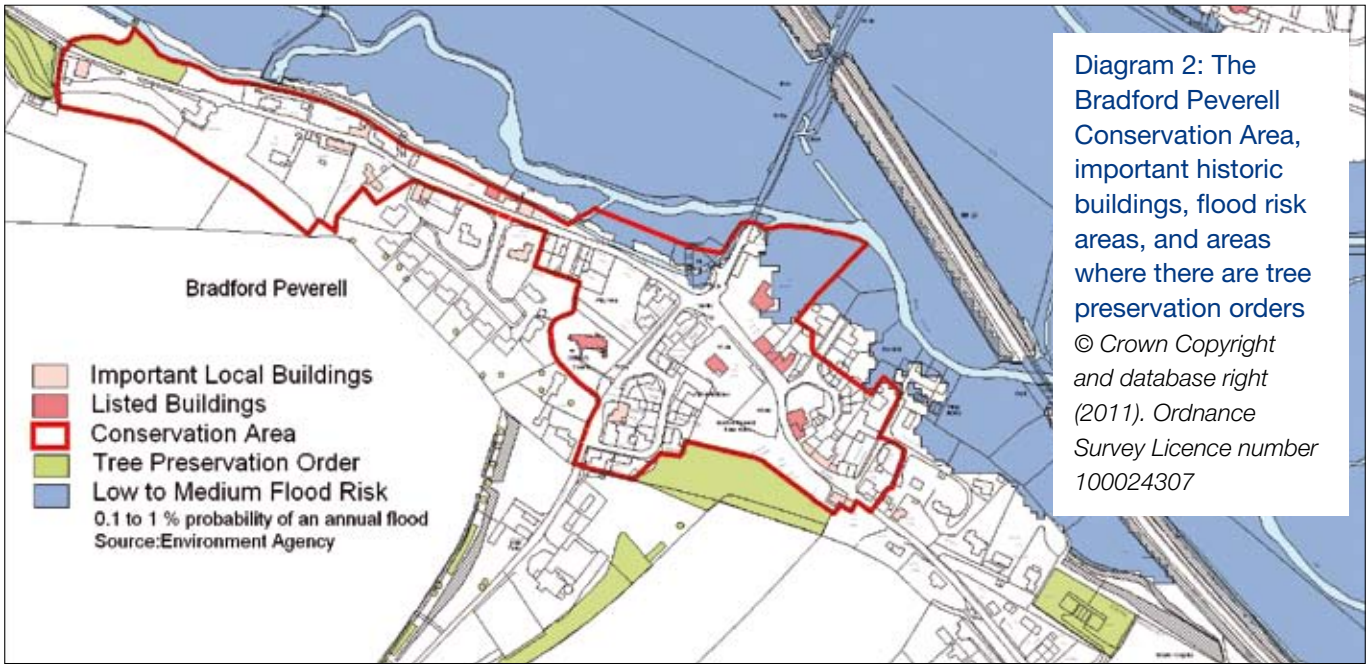

Diagram 2: The Bradford Peverell Conservation Area, important historic buildings, flood risk areas, and areas where there are tree preservation orders

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Diagram 2 provides details of the designated conservation area in the centre of the village, together with information on listed and other historic buildings, the officially designated flood risk area and land on which there are current tree preservation orders.

For the majority of its history Bradford Peverell has been an agricultural village and largely remained so until the 1950s. During the past half-century significant changes have taken place with new building of a residential nature and a rapid decline in agricultural employment.

Since the First World War the parish population has remained reasonably stable and NHS data for 2009 indicates that there were 356 residents, see Diagram 3. An age breakdown is shown in Diagram 4 and of significance is the large number of older residents, 110 were 65 years or older, but also that there are younger families and 66 residents under 19.

The most significant changes to the village have occurred since the Second World War with a

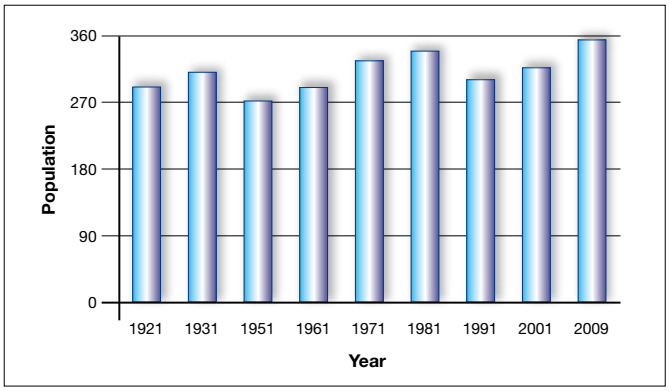


Diagram 3: Bradford Peverell Population, 1921-2009

Note: There was no annual census in 1941 and there were boundary changes in 1921, 1931 and 1951. Data from the Censuses 1921-2001, and from NHS data for 2009.

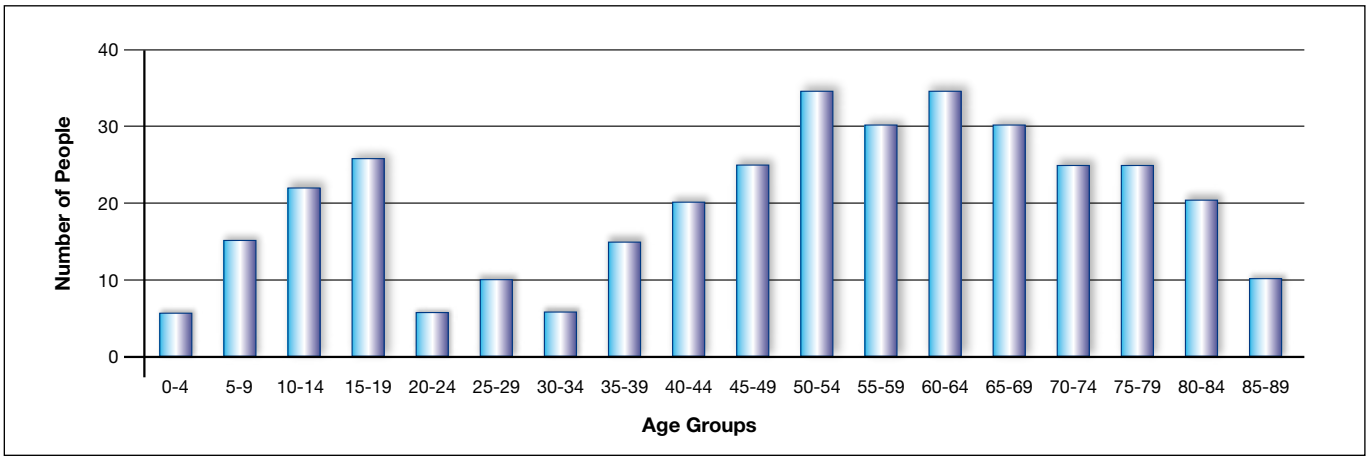


Diagram 4: Age Distribution of the Population, 2009

number of small scale residential developments at Frome View, Glebe Fields and Meadow View, followed by Toli Mill, the land around the old Manor House and Yew Tree Close. This has changed the density of occupation, for in 1870 for example, there were 75 houses and a population of 361 (4.8 persons per dwelling), whereas in 2009 there were 161 houses and 356 residents (2.2 persons per dwelling). Only a small number of additional dwellings have been constructed outside the historic core of the village and several older buildings have been renovated and brought into residential use.

Thus the present village has a radically different appearance from that of only half a century ago and no longer has a school, post office or shop. The population is now much less engaged in agricultural occupations. Also, proximity to Dorchester means that, as in most similar villages, the employment is diversified and often located in and around the County Town. The village has also become a residential centre of preference for those of retirement age and as noted above, there is approximately 30% of the population over the age of 65. This has important consequences for social provision and the future of the village community. Unlike some other nearby villages there are very few second or holiday homes and the majority of houses are in permanent occupation.

The latest published census statistics for the village are from 2001, and although a little dated, are helpful in providing an outline of the social and economic position. 89% of the houses in the village were owner occupied and only 5.5% of households had no car. Of those in employment, 67% were in the 'Professional, Managerial & Technical' category (against the national figure of 38%) and 63% of all the employed residents worked in the service sector (including Banks & Finance). However, there was still significant employment in 'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing', with 25% in that sector as against the national figure of just under 2%.

3. Village Amenities & Activities

3.1. Recreation Fields

There are two public recreation areas in the village, the Jubilee and Millennium Fields. The Jubilee Field, adjacent to the church, comprises a small playground for younger children with a climbing frame, swings and a slide and a larger grassed play area used for a variety of ball games. It is also used for village functions such as the fete and, on one occasion, a wedding reception. The Millennium Field, at the eastern end of the village, has a large grassed area with goal posts but is less well used.

3.2. Village Hall

The village hall, a registered Charity, is run by a Management Committee that is elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Hall is the focus of village life and the venue for a number of regular activities including:

- Bradford Peverell and Stratton Women's Institute
- Annual Garden and Cookery show each autumn
- Occasional Quiz evenings
- Patchwork and Quilting Group
- Sewing Circle
- Twinning Association meetings and functions
- Portrait Group
- Bradford Peverell & Stratton Ladies Thursday Group
- Tuesday Lunches held monthly
- Occasional Artsreach Performances
- Parish Council Meetings

3.3. St Mary's Church

The Parish of Bradford Peverell with its Anglican Victorian Parish Church is one of a group of parishes sharing a vicar who is helped by the three clergy living in the benefice and by a licensed lay minister. Church members organise a number of activities including the Know Your Bible Group and the Men's Rendezvous. There is an active bell ringing team that practices once or twice a week. Each year during the week before Christmas a group of volunteers sing carols around the village.

3.4. Education

As there is no school in Bradford Peverell, most young people living in the village attend Charminster First School moving on to St. Osmund's Middle School and then to Thomas Hardye School in Dorchester. Some of the younger children may attend first schools in Dorchester, Winterbourne Abbas or Cerne Abbas. There are dedicated school bus services that take students to schools in Dorchester.

3.5. Chalk Stream Magazine

Volunteers from the various villages within the benefice publish the Chalk Stream Magazine 10 times a year. It is distributed free to every household in the benefice and is funded by voluntary contributions and by advertisements for local activities, services and retail outlets.

3.6. General Activities

The Village Fete, held in July in the Jubilee Field, raises substantial sums for the three village charities, the parish church, village hall and playing fields.

There are limited local bus services on Mondays to Saturdays to Dorchester and Yeovil, stopping at the bus shelter situated in the centre of the village. There is no service provided on Sundays.

The local authority's mobile library visits the village fortnightly on Monday mornings for 30 minutes.

There is an identified Police Community Support Officer who can often be seen walking around the village, who currently holds a monthly "drop-in" session in Stratton.

The village has numerous well-used footpaths and bridleways. National Cycle Network route 26 runs through the village heading northwards from Dorchester through the Frome Valley. This route is complimented by a cycle track running along the nearby A37 from Dorchester to Grimstone.

At the southern end of the village is the New Barn Field Centre which has residential facilities for the large number of school parties that visit the centre. It is a wildlife reserve and conservation centre producing some of its own power and has a re-created Celtic village. It also houses a pottery that is open to the public during August.

4. Developing The Parish Plan

In the autumn of 2009 the Parish Council decided to support the development a Parish Plan. An open meeting for all villagers was held in early December 2009 addressed by a member of Dorset Community Action. The advantages of a Parish Plan were outlined and advice given on how to access funding to support its development. Later in the month a Steering Group was formed from residents in the parish to take forward the task of developing our Parish Plan.

An application for support funding to cover the costs of gathering information and publishing the plan was submitted to Dorset County Council early in 2010. A grant of £2355 was awarded in mid February which was supplemented by an additional contribution of £170 from the Parish Council.

An initial survey, devised by the Steering Group, was distributed to the162 households of the parish in late February 2010. It sought the community's views on what they liked about the village, what they did not like and what they thought the future needs of the village might be. Over 40% of households replied providing valuable information on their concerns and thoughts about the future developments in the community.

Villagers' responses to this initial survey were analysed and findings distributed to all households. Additionally, an open meeting was held at the village hall on March 5th 2010 at which the results of the initial survey were presented, so providing an opportunity for further discussion by the community. A range of issues was identified from the analysis of the initial survey responses and an open meeting discussion. These then formed the basis of a more in-depth survey that was prepared and distributed to every household in the parish early in July 2010.

There was an excellent response level of 62% which provided both quantitative and narrative data. More than 50 members of our community, councillors and service providers, attended an open day meeting held at the village hall on October 23rd 2010, at which the findings were presented and debated. Subsequently, the findings were summarised as key issues and actions related to the six major topic areas of Traffic, Transport, Environment, Amenities, Leisure and Future Development. The summary document was then circulated to both District and County Councils and a number of other service providers in both the public and voluntary sectors in order to gain further strategic input to the views expressed.

Developing The Parish Plan

January 2009	Parish Council decides to develop Parish Plan. Inaugural meeting addressed by Simon Thompson, Dorset Community Action.
February 2010	Support Development Grant of £2355 awarded by Dorset County Council supplemented by £170 from the Parish Council.
February 2010	Initial survey distributed to 162 households to obtain community views – 40% returned.
March 2010	Open meeting to discuss initial survey findings. Range of issues covered formed the basis of the main survey.
July 2010	Main survey distributed to 162 households to obtain detailed views on issues identified in the initial survey – 62% returned
October 2010	Open meeting to discuss main survey findings with residents and representatives of statutory organisations.
November 2010	Key issues and actions identified under six section headings. List circulated to District and County Council and other service providers for feedback.
Feb to Dec 2011	Parish Plan drafted, reviewed by the Parish Council.
Jan to March 2012	Parish Plan printed and distributed. Open community meeting to lauch the Plan.

Diagram 5. Parish Plan Development

Drafting of the Parish Plan occurred between February and November 2011. It was reviewed by the Parish Council in December 2011 and then passed to the printers. The document was published in February 2012 and distributed to households in readiness for its launch at an open meeting in March 2012.

Our Parish Plan reflects the current state of our community, our vision of how we wish to develop it during the next five years and the way forward for resolving our problems in order to achieve our goals. Above all else, the objective of our Parish Plan is to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of our community.

5. Initial Survey

It was clear from the initial survey that people like living in the parish which lies within a very attractive rural landscape. The view was firmly expressed that the majority of residents like the village as it is and do not wish to see its character changed by further development. There would certainly be resistance to the introduction of any changes in the local environment that overtly supported "manicuring" or "urbanising" it. In this respect, there was an overwhelming opinion that the lack of street lighting was a positive advantage.

Residents particularly like:

- The strong sense of community cohesion as manifest by the friendliness of the people and the neighbourly support they provide to each other
- The proximity of the village to Dorchester for easy access to shopping, support services and recreational facilities
- The well appointed and maintained village hall
- The rural nature of the village and its network of paths that take us into surrounding agricultural landscape
- The extensive range of community based activities organised throughout the year that bring people together, demonstrate their talents and cultivate friendships and good working relationships
- The fund raising events that benefit both local and national charities and nurture a sense of good will and community spirit
- The parish magazine, "The Chalk Stream" covering the four parishes of Bradford Peverell, Stratton, Frampton and Sydling St Nicholas that keeps us all informed and in touch with our neighbouring parishes
- The style of recent new housing developments that are sympathetic to the traditional vernacular architecture of rural Dorset

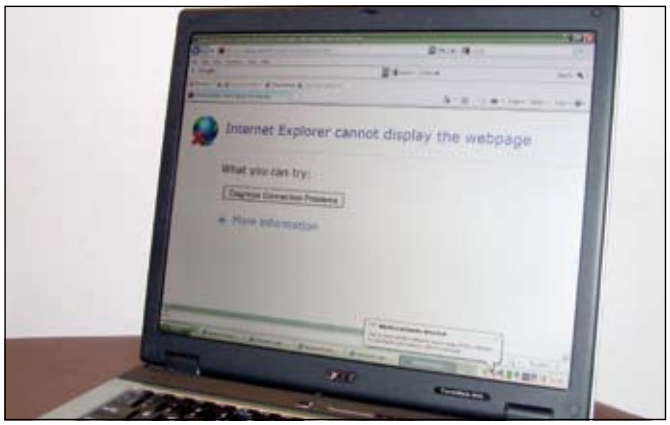
All of these factors contribute in a very positive way to the quality of our lives in Bradford Peverell. However, the main issues that detracted from, or threatened, that quality of life residents so much value, appears to revolve around traffic, maintenance of the environment and limited access to services and some facilities, particularly for those residents without private transport. The view was that the current bus service is not adequate and there was a call for a more regular and conveniently timed bus service through the village. The amenities within the village are limited and the lack of easy access to a post office and shop is viewed as a disadvantage particularly by those who are dependent on public transport.

Key concerns include:

- The speed and volume of traffic passing through the village. It is felt that both have increased significantly over the past decade
- The inappropriate use of our rural roads by HGV's travelling to and from the Dorchester industrial estates
- The lack of any measures to enforce speed restrictions to ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclist and horse riders travelling along the main thoroughfares of the village where there are no footpaths
- The deposition of rubbish and waste materials on privately owned land that detracts from the general attractiveness of our village and in some cases, adversely impinges on the aspect of neighbouring properties
- The relatively poor road and drain maintenance both within and around some areas of the village.
- The lack of access to the riverside in most parts of the village
- The very poor state of the riverbanks of the Wrackle adjacent to the A37 following the recent clearance of undergrowth and overhanging trees
- Difficulties with radio/television reception and the very slow broadband speed

Initial Survey

Of foremost concern is finding an acceptable solution to restricting both the speed and volume of traffic passing through the village. In addition, there are several other areas of concern where residents would like to see improvements or the consideration of changes that will be of benefit to the community in the future. These include improvements to particular aspects of the local environment, transport and facilities as well as new developments to ensure our community continues to thrive.



Some residents would like to see:

- Measures taken to reduce both the speed and amount of commuting traffic passing through the village as a means of accessing the main A35 and A37 trunk roads and the Poundbury industrial estates
- Provision of a more regular and conveniently timed bus service through the village
- Extension or modification to the village hall to provide one or two additional small meeting rooms
- Removal of any visible unsightly scrap materials in the parish
- Improved maintenance of roads and drains

In the initial survey, residents were asked for their views on potential future developments they would like to see in the parish.

Responses included:

- A riverside walk and picnic area by the Frome
- More facilities for younger people in the community
- Faster broadband
- The provision of some affordable housing
- More young families in the village

The findings from the initial survey, underpinned the development of a more detailed survey which was distributed to all households in July 2010. This more detailed survey is referred to as the 'main survey'.

6. Main Survey

The main survey was undertaken during the summer of 2010 and was completed by 100 households (62% of the total in the village). The following findings are reported from both the main survey results and the discussion held during an open meeting to which all villagers were invited.

6.1. Traffic

A substantial majority of residents thought that there should be a reduction of both the speed and volume of traffic passing through the village. A few villagers felt that not much could be done about the volume of traffic but high levels of concern were expressed about the inappropriate use of the village roads by HGV's accessing the Poundbury industrial estates. Discussion at the open meeting suggested the possibility that satellite navigation systems were inappropriately directing HGV's through the village.

There was also concern about the increase in traffic through the village when diversions are in place from the A37. This is usually following accidents and road works. This might be mitigated by more appropriate regulation of traffic and its redirection on alternative routes to avoid the very hazardous country lane between Muckleford and Bradford Peverell.

On the issue of speed reduction, it was considered that the best way forward would be to raise awareness of drivers to proceed with greater caution. It was felt that this could be achieved through the use of flashing speed indicators positioned at the main entrances to the village, non- intrusive road markings, a reduced speed limit of 20 mph and random speed checks.

Villagers also suggested the traffic from the new Poundbury development should continue to be prevented from accessing directly onto the Poundbury – Bradford Peverell road.

Traffic: Aim

To ensure that traffic moves through the village within the prescribed speed limits and at all times does not put at risk other road users particularly in those parts of the village where the road is single track and there are no footpaths or verges.

Traffic: The Way Forward

- Form a Steering Group to investigate all aspects of traffic control
- The Steering Group should work with the PC, DCC, WDDC, Highways Agency, Dorset Police and other authorities to ensure that appropriate advisory speed limit signage is installed and speed limits are enforced
- To explore and determine measures that can be taken to prevent commercial vehicles using the road through the village solely as a route to or from the Poundbury industrial estates
- Consider what action can be taken to regulate or prevent traffic using the Muckleford - Bradford Peverell lane during diversions from the A37
- Consider what steps can be taken to enhance the safety of pedestrians and other road users along the main roads through the village

Traffic: Your involvement

- Set an example by driving cautiously through the village at all times and respecting others using its roads
- Avoid inconsiderate parking in the main thoroughfares through the village
- Bring to the notice of the Parish Council any traffic hazards that you feel put road users at risk

6.2. Transport

Car ownership is very high in Bradford Peverell with only 6% of households without one. Nearly 60% have two or more cars hence demand for public transport is limited. The majority of cars are garaged on the owner's own property at night so generally on-road parking is minimal and does not present a problem to traffic flow in the village.

As the village has no shop or other public amenities, the bus service through the village is particularly important to the minority who do not have access to cars. 24% of residents who responded to the survey use the bus service from time to time and findings suggest it is likely that more would do so if the service was more regular and conveniently timed. This view is supported by the fact that those without private transport use taxis more often than the bus service to access facilities, particularly in Dorchester. There was a majority in favour of attempting to reopen the disused railway halt at Ash Hill which could then provide regular rail access to Dorchester and Weymouth and to other destinations onwards to Bristol.

Transport: Aim

To maintain and improve public transport and so reduce dependence on private transport to access shops, health support and other public amenities.

Transport: The way forward

- The Parish Council to monitor the use of the bus service and support the case for its improvement
- Investigate further the feasibility of reopening the railway halt at Ash Hill

Transport: Your involvement

- Use the bus service whenever possible in preference to your car
- Give support to a feasibility study for the reopening of the rail halt at Ash Hill

6.3. Environment

The majority of people in our parish want to retain and enhance the rural character of the village and its environment. The river Frome and its valley, the surrounding farmlands, country lanes and historic buildings within the village together create the unique beauty of the setting in which we live.

A majority of residents thought that there was a need to improve the maintenance of roads and verges. Whilst a majority were satisfied that flood drain maintenance had been substantially improved and flood prevention was now well managed, it is felt that there is still a need to ensure that water

drainage systems are regularly checked and maintained.

Many residents were in favour of regular clearance of riverbanks and landscaping them where necessary. There was also clear support for making visual improvements to areas within the village for the general benefit of the community.

Environment: Aim

To maintain and improve our village environment and the surrounding countryside.

Environment: The Way Forward

- The Parish Council to advise DCC, WDDC and the Highways Agency of any required maintenance to our roads and verges
- Ensure that the appropriate authorities within DCC and WDDC regularly check and maintain the water drainage systems within the village and along the parish roads
- Consult local landowners about maintenance of riverbanks and preservation of the local flora and fauna. In this respect the advice of Dorset Wildlife Trust should also be sought on the maintenance of the eco-habitat of the river bed and its banks
- Discuss with local landowners the clearance and improvement of unsightly areas in the village
- Request Rail Track re-paints the railway bridge across the causeway road into the village to improve its appearance
- Seek arboricultural advice on the trees in front of Frome View to restore the view across the Frome valley for the residents of that locality

Environment: Your Involvement

- Ensure that you keep the village free of litter and dog mess
- Join community working parties on verge tidying and litter clearance days
- Maintain your property and ensure its immediate landscaping is attractive

6.4. Amenities

Clear support was shown for the improvement of facilities at the Village Hall. The possibility of an additional smaller meeting space, the provision of some community facilities such as access to Post Office services and some health care provision were especially highlighted.

A bus shelter at Giles Close, a pick-up point for school children, was well supported.

From the initial survey, four specific amenity topics were identified as desirable; the provision of allotments, a community orchard, faster broadband and improved television reception.

The broadband service in this parish is slow with the majority of recipients experiencing download speeds

of less than 1.3Mbps. Broadband is now part of our lives and our village should be at the forefront of any future improvements.

Amenities: Aim

To investigate the feasibility of implementing the identified improvements, to work with village and outside agencies and explore possible sources for their funding.

Amenities: The way forward

- Form a steering group to consider all aspects of the desirable additional village amenities
- Ask the Village Hall Committee to identify whether any of the suggested improvements/changes are affordable, acceptable and achievable
- Investigate planning considerations and funding sources for the erection of a bus shelter at Giles Close
- Conduct a comprehensive investigation to establish the extent of village support for the provision of allotments and a village orchard
- Interact with the County Council to ensure that high speed broadband is brought to the parish
- Improve television reception in the parish

Amenities: Your Involvement

- Contact the Village Hall Committee or Parish Council and offer your help
- If you have any ideas for raising funds for a bus shelter, contact the Parish Council Clerk

6.5. Leisure

With the pressures of modern living, it is essential that countryside access is maintained and, where possible, extended.

The village has numerous well-used bridleways, cycle paths and footpaths that are used by riders and ramblers. There is a cycle path from Dorchester following the A37 to Grimstone. In parallel to this path, National Cycle Network Route 26 follows the old roman road from Dorchester, through our village and onto Maiden Newton following the western side of the Frome valley.

There is a good network of footpaths within the parish but no river walks.

Findings from the main survey indicated broad agreement that riverside walks together with picnic areas would be an attractive bonus to the existing network of walkways. More specifically, a good majority of villagers were in favour of a designated pathway to Dorchester that avoids both the A37 and the old Roman road.

Survey findings also showed good support for the provision of a village tennis court. Finally, villagers identified additional social activities that could take place in the village hall such as short mat bowls, a youth club, a whist club, bingo and darts.

Leisure: Aim

To provide villagers in the parish with social activities and amenities that promotes a sense of community and wellbeing

Leisure: The Way Forward

- Explore the possibilities of opening riverside walks with picnic areas, including a route to Dorchester avoiding the A37
- Investigation of the actual support, ramifications and funding sources for a village tennis court
- Increase the present scope of activities in the village hall
- Identify outside agencies that have a direct bearing on rights of way and establish what is possible and achievable

Leisure: Your Involvement

- Contact the Village Hall Committee or Parish Council and offer your advice or help
- Support the Parish Council in development of these additional facilities

6.6. Future Development

An overarching view from villagers who contributed to this plan is a sense of liking the village as it is. A clear majority are opposed to any suggestion that street lights should be introduced. A significant proportion of villagers did not want to see an increase in the number of houses in the village; conversely, there was a significant minority who did want to see an increase. A similar divergence of views was demonstrated in answers to the question about affordable housing.

The village has a conservation area whose boundary follows a somewhat erratic path. A high percentage of villagers knew about its existence and would like to see it extended.

With the continuing increase in energy costs and improvement in renewable energy technologies there was majority interest in support for local development of this resource. There was also support for recycling facilities within the village.

Future Developments: Aim

To ensure that any future developments planned for the parish are in keeping with the views of villagers and retain its rural charm.

Future Developments: The Way Forward

- Form a Steering Group to look into all the identified leisure activities
- To establish the definitions of, and limitations on, private, affordable and social housing within the district
- To consider the possibility of extending the village conservation area
- To investigate all aspects of renewable energy that would be appropriate for the village.
- To investigate the possible provision of appropriate and practical recycling facilities within the village

Future Developments: Your Involvement

- Contact the Parish Council Clerk and offer your ideas and help
- Ensure you engage with any community meetings where potential developments are discussed

7. Conclusion

Amongst Dorset villages, Bradford Peverell has two significant features: its proximity to Dorchester but linked only by single track roads to the main trunk roads leading towards town and its total lack of facilities beyond those of its parish church, village hall and children's' playing fields. These two factors combined have almost certainly impacted on the development of the community. They have fostered a supportive and caring community spirit as manifest by the many interest and faith groups in the village and their associated activities. They have also resulted in the majority of residents being reliant on private transport to gain access to shops, medical care, public facilities and entertainment leaving a vulnerable minority dependent on public transport.

The calm rural environment in which the parish is located is much cherished by residents and there is a high level of satisfaction with most aspects of life within the village. Many want to maintain the status quo but are concerned about the impact of external pressures on the life of the community such as the perceived increase in non-local traffic passing through the village and relaxation of planning regulations that may allow new housing developments to be imposed on the village. There is a balance to be struck between protecting and conserving the life of the village and its environment and nurturing new developments such as high speed broadband, addressing the needs of young people in the community and supporting the opportunities for young families to live in the village in order to ensure that the vitality of the community is sustained.

The Parish Plan attempts to identify the character of our community, what in it should be preserved and what should be developed constructively for the benefit of all. Everyone in our community should be involved in addressing and tackling the aspirations and necessary challenges we will face as the world around us changes apace. The Parish Council has a vital role in developing and carrying forward the strategies we require in order to create a thriving community in Bradford Peverell. They will be the primary vehicle through which our aspirations and needs are communicated to both local government and other external organisations. They both deserve and need your help in the form of volunteer action groups to realise many of the actions identified in our Parish Plan.

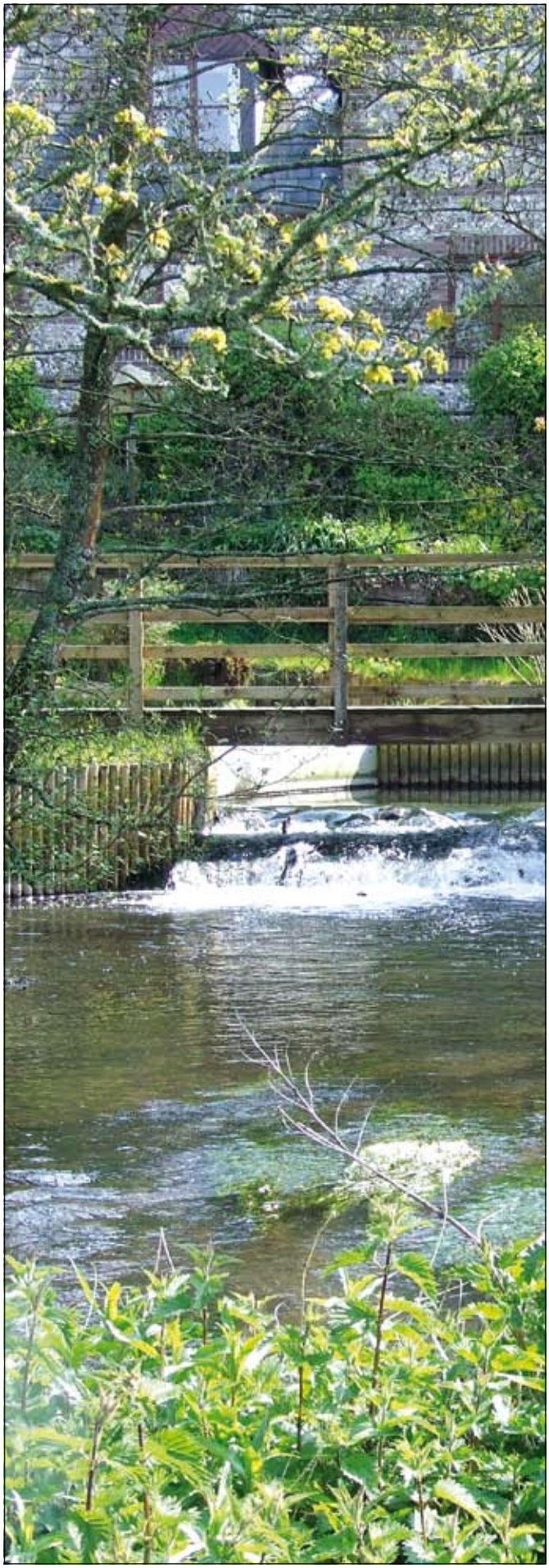
8. Action Plan Summary

Issue	Actions	Timescale	Lead Partner	Other Partners
TRAFFIC	• Form a steering group (Group A) • Consider reducing and enforcing the speed limit • Prevent commercial vehicles passing through the village • Regulate or prevent traffic using Muckleford – Bradford Peverell lane during diversions from the A37 • Protect non-vehicular road users	2 years	Steering Group A Parish Council	Dorset Road Safety
TRANSPORT	• Monitor the bus services with a view to improvement • Explore reopening the railway halt at Ash Hill	6 months	Parish Council	DCC
ENVIRONMENT	• Ensure the maintenance of water drainage systems is carried out • Consult local land owners about: · Maintaining river banks · Preservation of local flora and fauna · Improvements to unsightly areas • Request Rail Track to refurbish the bridge across the causeway • Seek advice about management of the trees at Frome view	Ongoing	Parish Council	DCC WDDC Dorset Wildlife Trust
AMENITIES & LEISURE	• Form a steering group (Group B) • Consult with the Village Hall Committee on sugested changes to the hall • Support the building of a bus shelter at Glebe Close • Establish the feasibility of: · Allotments · Orchard · Tennis court · Extend the footpath network · Riverside walk to Dorchester • Investigate measures to improve television reception • Form a steering group specifically for broadband (Group C)	5 years	Steering Group B Village Hall Cmte Parish Council	WDDC Dorset Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	• Form a steering group (Group C) • Investigate the ramifications of: · Affordable and social housing · Extending the conservation area · Renewable energy · Recycling facilities within the village	5 years	Steering Group C Parish Council	DCC WDDC

9. Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people and organisations for their encouragement and support while developing our Parish Plan.

- Dorset County Council for provision of a grant to develop our Parish Plan
- Bradford Peverell Parish Council for initiating the Parish Plan.
- Dorset Community Action and, in particular, Simon Thompson and Chris Hallett for their advice and guidance.
- West Dorset District Council and, in particular, Maria Clarke and Emily Altham for their assistance.
- The Parish Plan Steering Group for their consistent and dedicated effort over the course of two years to develop the Parish Plan.
- The residents of the parish who completed the questionnaires and attended the Open Meetings.
- County councillor Jill Haynes and District Councillor Sarah East for their advice and sustained interest in the development of our Parish Plan.
- Julian English, POPP Community Leader, for his interest, information and advice on matters pertaining to community support



10. Appendices

Appendix 1: Initial Survey Results

Number of Questionnaires Delivered	162
Number of Questionnaires Returns	65

WHAT YOU LIKED	No.
Friendly mixed community	39
Few but good facilities including Hall, Church, playing fields	21
Rural nature of the village	18
Close to Dorchester and its amenities	18
No street lights	11
Good walking from village	10
Good events in the village	9
Good place to live	7
Good people	6
No pub or shop	6
Good new buildings and house design	5
Interest groups and activities	3
Church bells	3
Has reached peak of development	2
Chalk Stream magazine	2
Playing fields footpaths and lanes	2
Moviola	1

DISLIKES	No.
Traffic volume and speed	27
Waste materials on site above Church Lane	12
Lack of regular public transport	11
No pub or shop	8
Poor maintenance of roads and drains	7
Slow Broadband connections	6
Road noise from A37	6
Lack of salt/grit bins	4
Lack of affordable housing	3
Ugly riverbank clearance (Wrackle)	3
Threat from Poundbury development	2
Decrease in enthusiasm for voluntary activity	2
No allotments	2
Poor parking on roads	2
Too few young families	2
Lack of access to land and river	1
Light pollution from private outside lights	1
Heavy traffic passing up lane to New Barn	1
Litter on roadsides	1
Poor TV reception	1
Not enough for older children/teenagers to do	1
No more building (Muckleford)	1
Mobile library only stops at the centre	1
No post box at east end of village	1

Appendix 1: Initial Survey Results (cont.)

CHANGES AND FUTURE NEEDS	
1. TRAFFIC	**No.**
Stop/reduce through traffic/reduce speeding	21
Ensure no industrial traffic flow to and from Poundbury or Poundbury Industrial Estate	8
Increase off-road car parking provision	4
Reduce road noise from A37	4

2. TRANSPORT	
Improve public transport	21
Re-open rail station at Ash Hill	4

3. VILLAGE HALL & OTHER AMENITIES	
Need for Village Hall extension/meeting rooms etc	7
More frequent bingo at Village Hall	1

4. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE	
Better maintenance of roads, clearance of drains and dog litter bin	13
Clear rubbish etc in Church Lane/track (and other unsightly areas)	10
Protect water meadows	1

5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS & NEEDS	**No.**
Provide some affordable housing	13
Provide village stores, coffee bar, pub etc	11
Improve broadband speeds and TV reception	10
Do not change the village character	8
Encourage young families into the village	8
Develop riverside walks and picnic area, including riverside walk to Dorchester - Sort out rights of way	7
Provision of more facilities for younger people	7
Provide allotments and community orchard	5
More help for the aged	4
Re-open closed public footpaths	3
Develop possibilities for sustainable energy production (wind and water)	3
Village map showing the house names	1
Protection for roman aqueduct	1

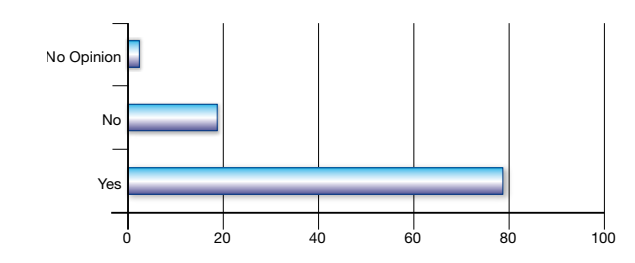
Appendix 2: Main Survey Results

Results as percentages, unless otherwise stated.

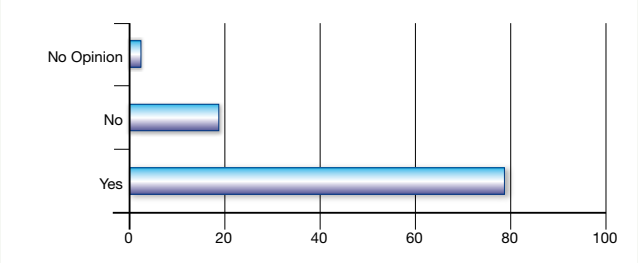
Number of Questionnaires Delivered	162
Number of Questionnaires Returns	100

A Traffic

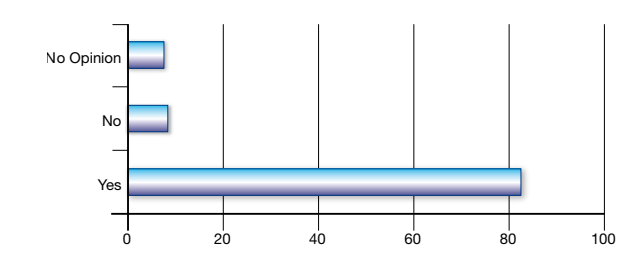
A1 Should there be preventative measures to reduce the SPEED of vehicles through the village?



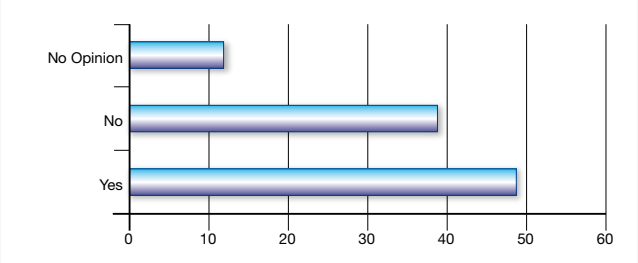
A2 Should there be preventative measures to reduce the VOLUME of traffic through the village?



A3 Should traffic from the Poundbury development be prevented from accessing directly onto the Dorchester-Bradford Peverell road (Roman Road)?

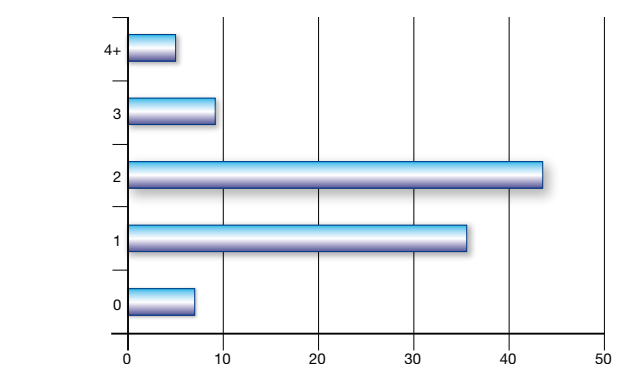


A4 Should measures be taken to provide more protection for pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders using roads without pavements in the centre of the village?

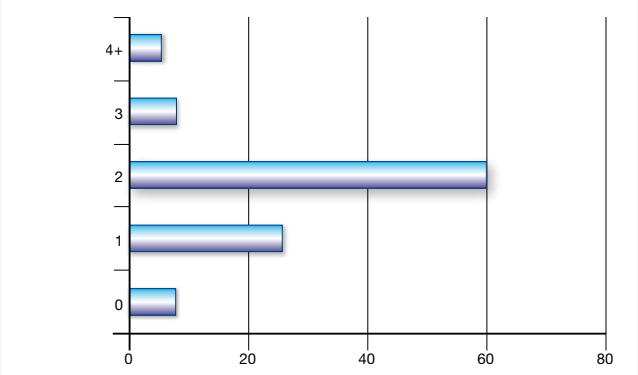


B Transport

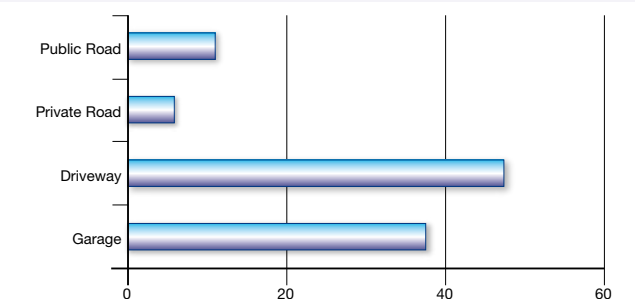
B1 How many cars does your household have available for personal use? (Actual numbers)



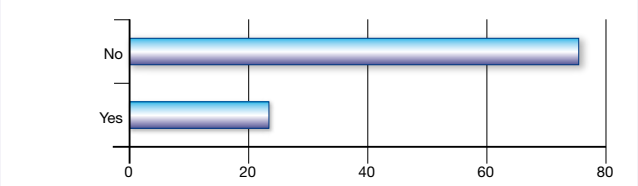
B2 How many drivers are there in your household? (Actual numbers)



B3 Where do you normally keep your car(s) overnight? (Actual numbers)



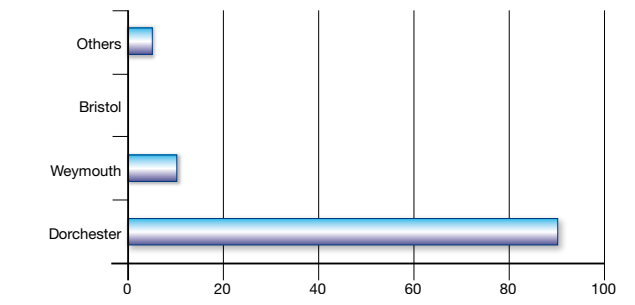
B4 Do members of your household use the local bus service?



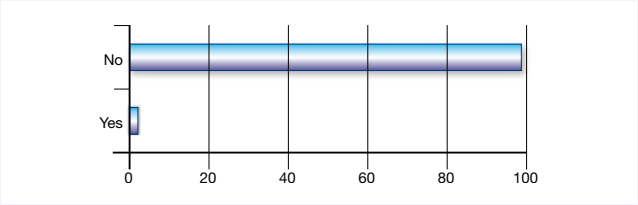
Appendix 2: Main Survey Results (cont.)

B Transport (cont.)

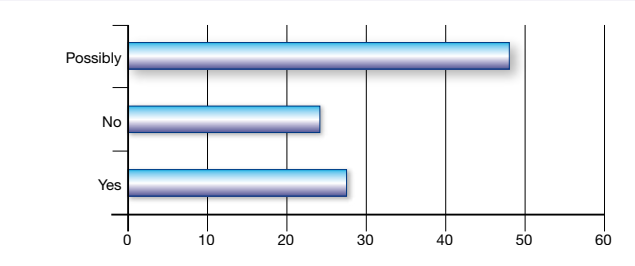
B5 If yes, what is your most regular destination?



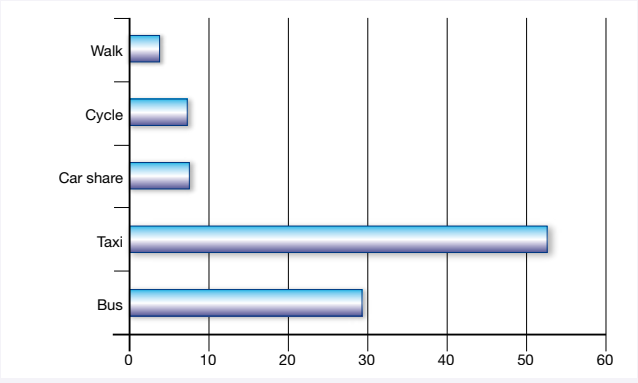
B6 Do you use the local bus service to travel to and from work?



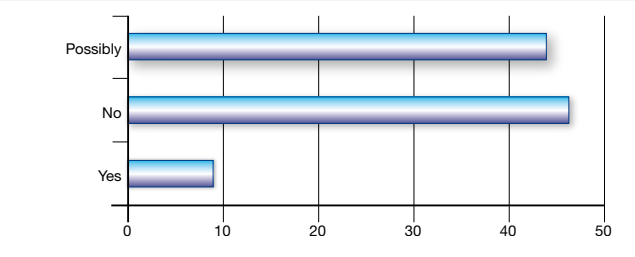
B7 If the local bus service ran at regular intervals throughout the day, would you use it?



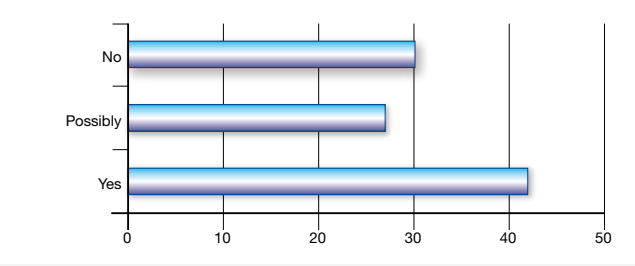
B8 If you do not have use of a car, how do you normally access shops, health services, entertainment and social activities? (Actual numbers)



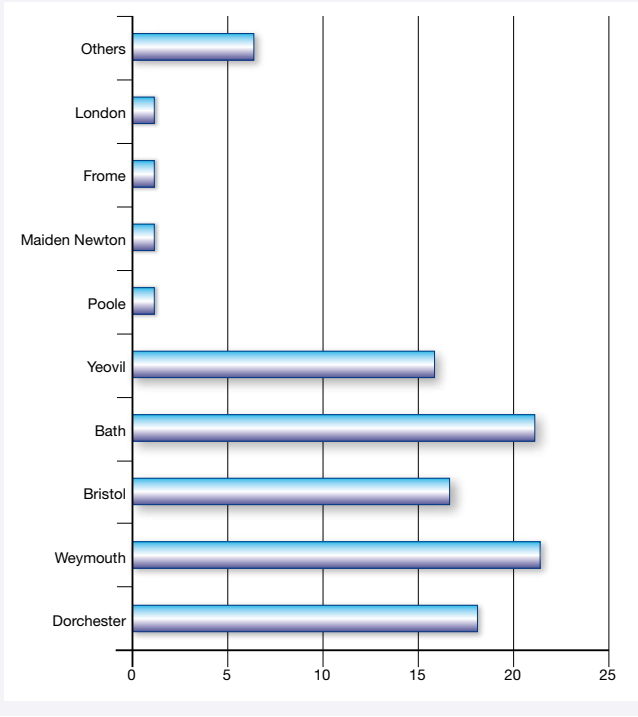
B9 If a community taxi service was set up, would you use it?



B10 If the Ash Hill rail halt, on the Bristol to Weymouth line, was reopened, would you use it?

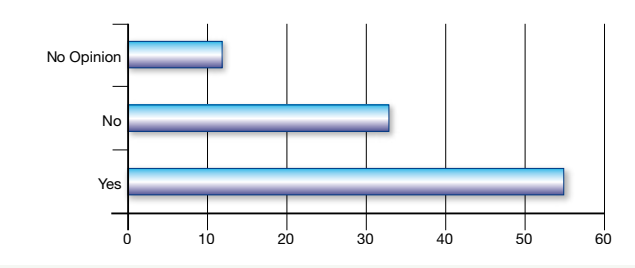


B11 If your answer is yes to question B10, what would be your most likely destinations? (Actual numbers)

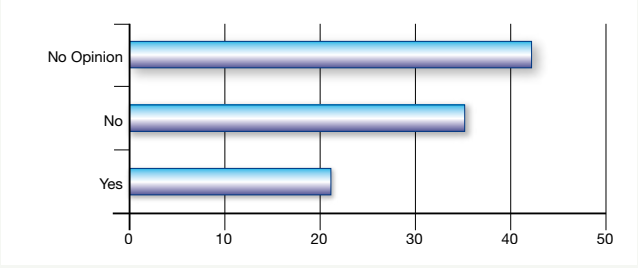


C Environment

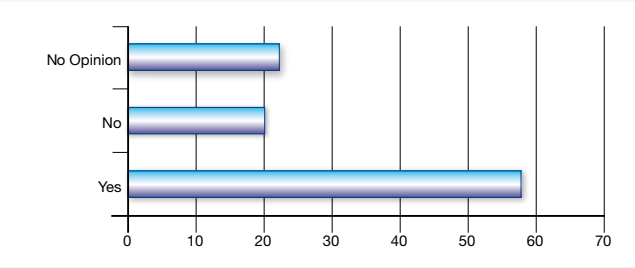
C1 Do you think there is a need to improve the maintenance of roads and verges within the parish?



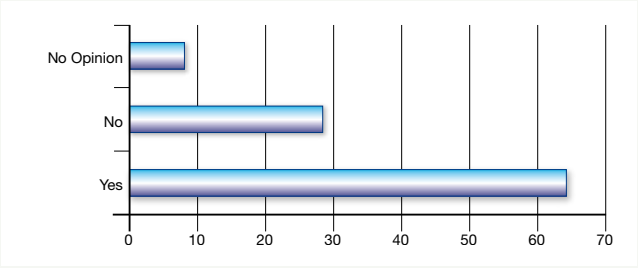
C2 Do you think there is a need to carry out more work on flood drain maintenance and flood prevention and if so, where?



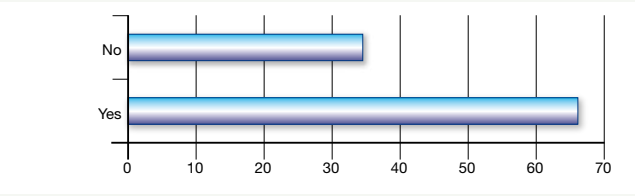
C3 Would you like to see regular clearance of river banks and landscaping of them where necessary?



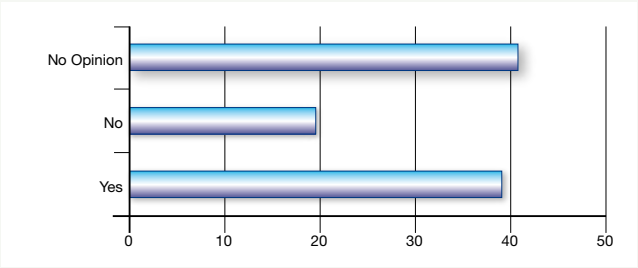
C4 Should measures be taken to provide more protection for pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders using roads without pavements in the centre of the village?



C5 Would you be prepared to help keep the village tidy and free from litter on a planned basis?

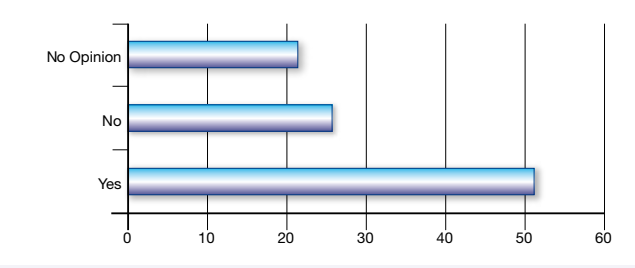


C6 Would you support a request to repaint the railway bridge over the approach to the village from the A37?

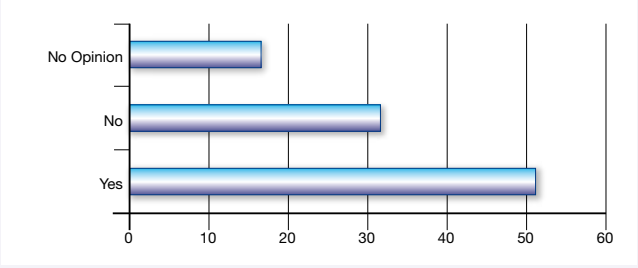


D Amenities

D1 Do you think the village hall would benefit from having an additional smaller room or rooms (for example, suitable for committee meetings or community health uses)?



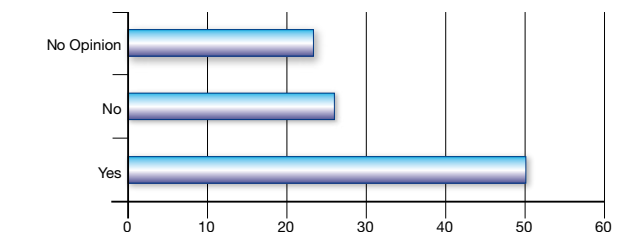
D2 Would you support the provision of a part-time Post Office service in the village hall or in other appropriate premises in the village?



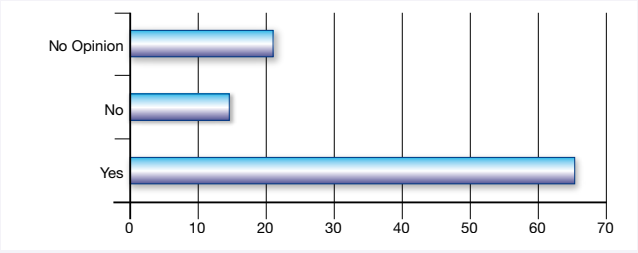
Appendix 2: Main Survey Results (cont.).

D Amenities (cont.)

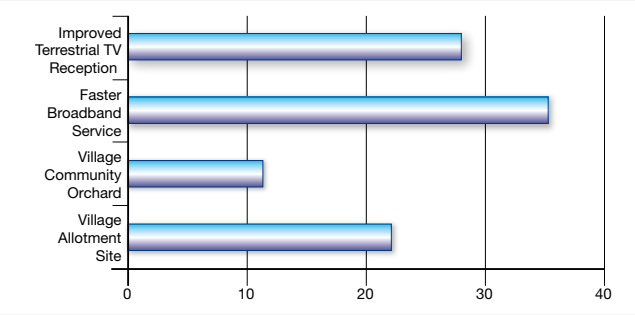
D3 Would you support the provision of health services such as chiropody, community nurse or health advice in the village hall or in other appropriate premises in the village?



D4 Would you support the provision of a bus shelter near Giles Close for children using the school bus?

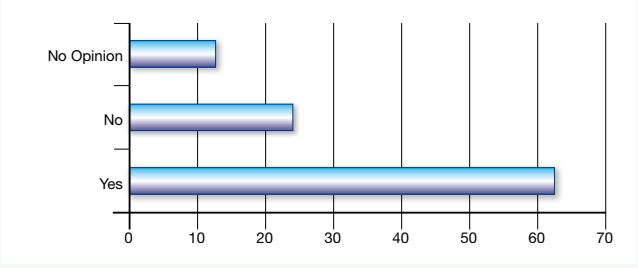


D5 Would you support the provision or development of the following facilities in the village? Please tick each box to indicate your support, choosing as many facilities as you wish. (Actual numbers)

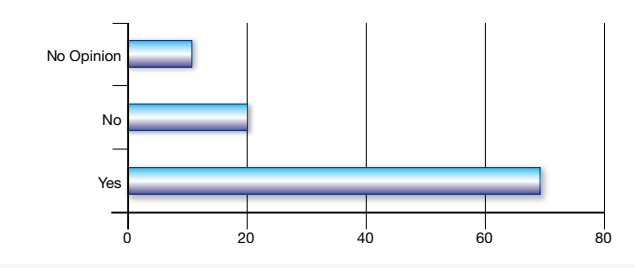


E Leisure

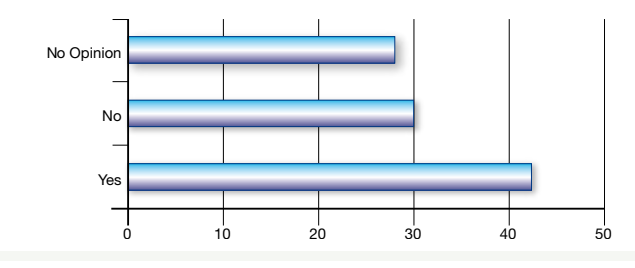
E1 Would you support the development of a riverside walk and picnic area within the village?



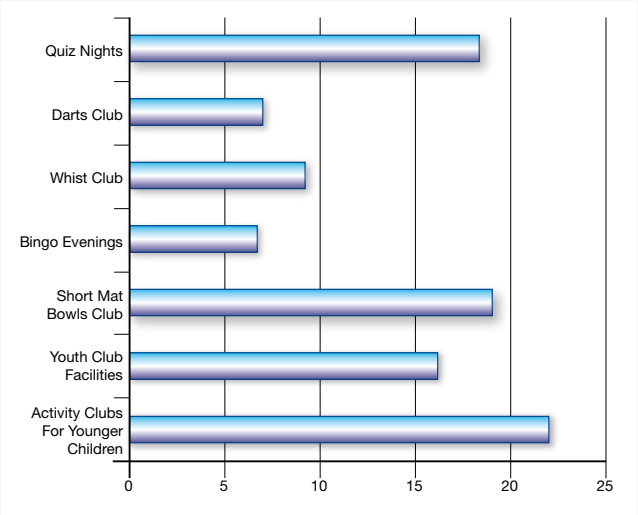
E2 Would you like to see new footpaths opened in the parish including a route to Dorchester avoiding walking along the A37?



E3 Would you support the provision of a village tennis court?

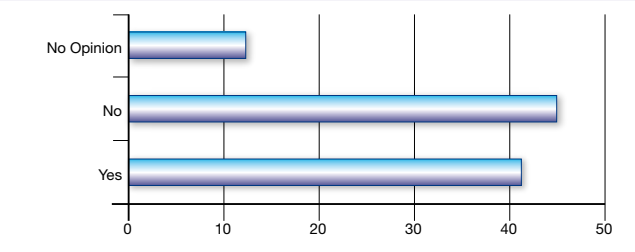


E4 Do you think that any of the following community activities should be organised in the village hall? Please tick each box to indicate your support, choosing as many facilities as you wish. (Actual numbers)

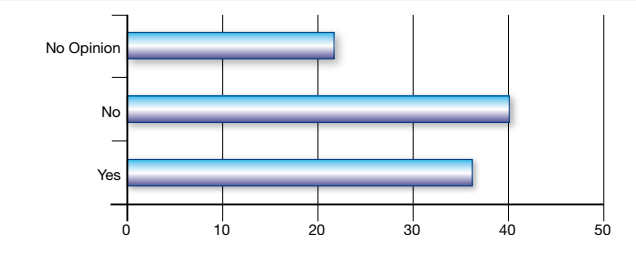


F Future Developments

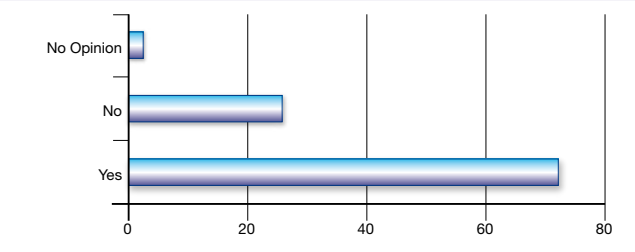
F1 Do you think more new houses should be built in the village?



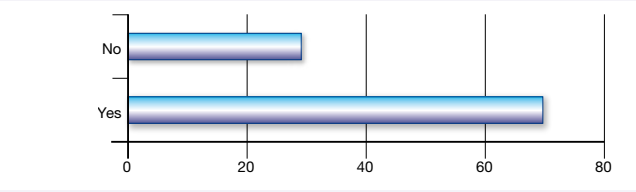
F2 Do you think there is a need for more affordable housing in the village?



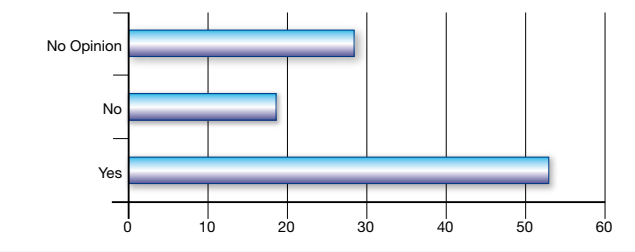
F3 Do you know that there is a conservation area covering the central part of the village?



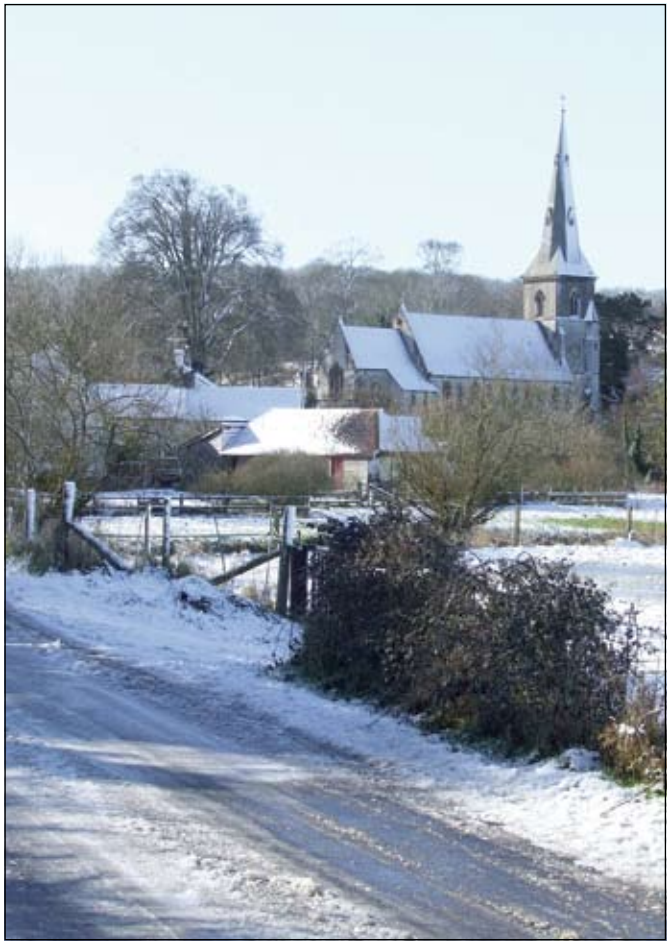
F4 If your answer to the above question is yes, would you be in favour of expending the conservation area to cover other parts of the village?



F5 Would you support the development of community renewable energy and/or recycling schemes within the village? If yes, please suggest what you consider to be the priority ones.



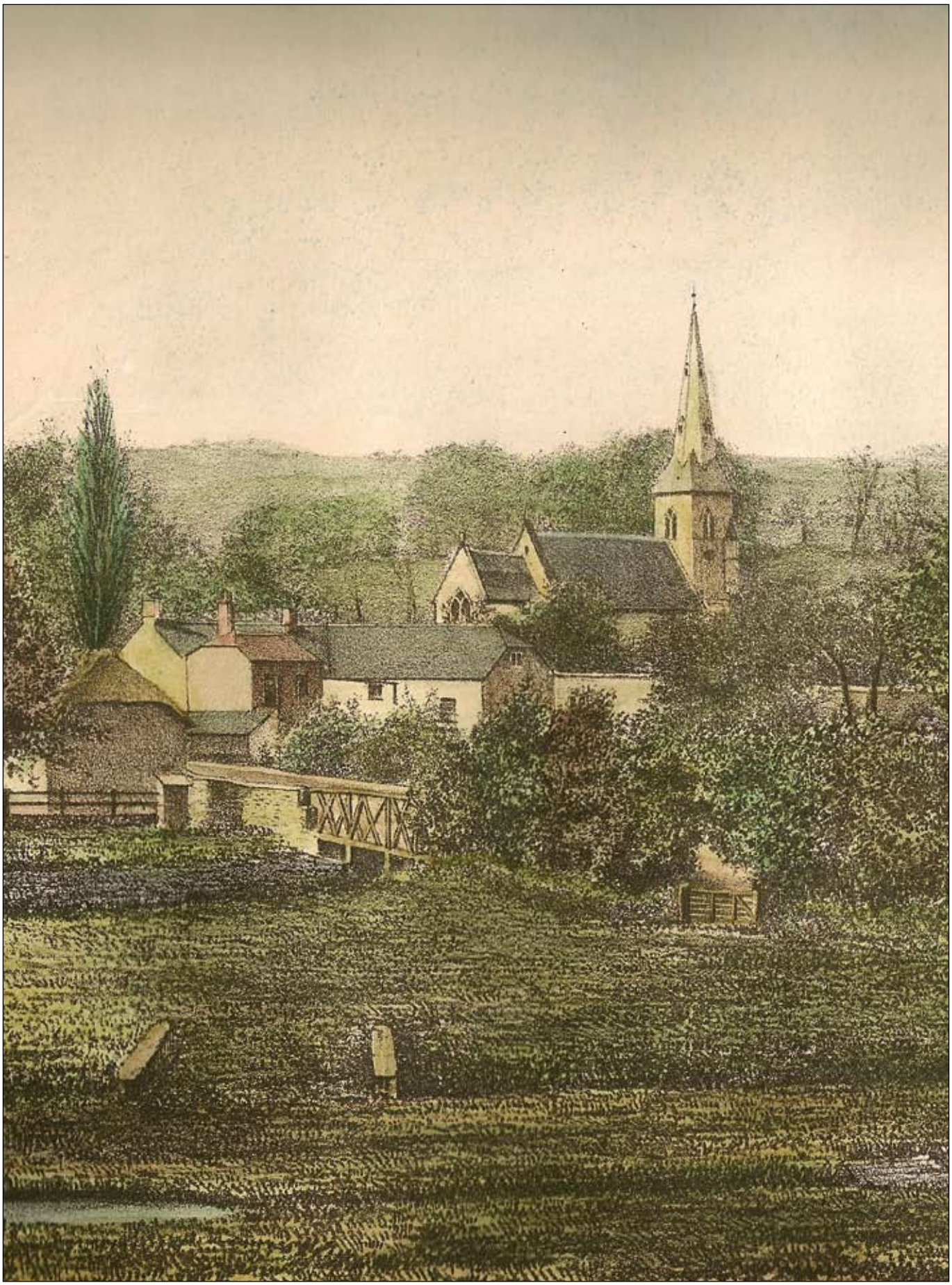
POST OFFICE



"Our Village"

Warren Cooper aged 7

Picture of the main road in Bradford Peverell



"Bradford Peverell – 1850's"