

Stretton under Fosse

Parish Plan Survey Report



L.Collins

Autumn 2007

Responses to a questionnaire developed on behalf of the Parish Council
by:

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The questionnaire production and analysis was done in association with
the Health & Lifestyles Applied Research Centre at Coventry University

Background

In May 2006, Stretton under Fosse Parish Council decided to undertake the process of drawing up a parish plan. A Steering Group, consisting of volunteers from the village and one councillor, was formed. Following the results of an initial survey, a parish plan questionnaire was developed, based on issues highlighted by the survey. The questionnaire was given to Stretton under Fosse residents in July and August, 2007. A short questionnaire was also given to the owners of businesses in the parish. Copies of these questionnaires are attached in the appendix.

This report brings together the responses to the above questionnaires, highlighting issues and concerns of residents and business proprietors. The responses will form the basis for the Parish Plan which will then sit within a statutory framework, carrying considerable weight when dealing with change in, for example, the built environment or countryside.

The next stage

The next stage of the Parish Plan project will be to hold a consultation meeting involving all village residents and businesses. The purpose of this meeting will be to talk about the findings of this report and suggest ways in which the various issues can be dealt with. The resulting suggestions will form a key part of the Parish Plan.

Findings

184 questionnaires, of which 13 were in the 13 – 18 age group, were delivered to residents of the parish. 92 (50%) were returned. Nine business surveys were also delivered to business premises, and all of these were returned.

The questions posed to residents were under the headings:

1. About you
2. Transport & Highways
3. Social, Entertainment & Leisure
4. Retail & other Facilities
5. Housing & Planning
6. Employment
7. Emergency Services
8. Crime & Disorder
9. Our Village Environment
10. Information & Communication
11. Health & Facilities

12. Business Questionnaire

This report outlines the pattern of responses in each section. Some respondents did not complete all questions, hence not all totals add to 92 (or 100%), and some percentages are reported from responders only. There may also be rounding errors, when percentages are recorded to the nearest whole number. Business responses are only reported as numbers, due to the small numbers involved.

1. About you

Of the 87 respondents who gave their gender, 53% were female. Ninety respondents gave their age group, as tabulated below (Table 1.1), the majority of people being aged 31 to 65. Ninety gave their employment status (Table 1.2). Of those retired, 3 do voluntary work and 3 are in part-time employment. Three people in full-time education are employed part-time.

Table 1.1

Age group	Number (%)
13 – 18	9 (10)
19 – 30	8 (9)
31 – 50	42 (46)
51 – 65	20 (22)
66 – 80	8 (9)
81+	3 (3)
Total	90 (98)

Table 1.2

Employment status	Number (%)
Employed full-time	37 (40)
Employed part-time	12 (13)
Homemaker	6 (7)
In full-time education	10 (40)
In part-time education	1 (1)
Unable work due to health	1 (1)
Retired	15 (16)
Self-employed	8 (9)
Total	90 (98)

2. Transport & highways

Traffic

Table 2.1 indicates the proportion of responses to levels of concern about travelling in, and through, the village. Of most concern is the speed and size of traffic through the village, with volume of traffic coming next. Parking on the main road together with condition of the pavements in the village cause a little concern, and position of bus stops is of least concern.

Table 2.1

Concern about travelling related to:	Very concerned n (%)	A little concerned n (%)	Not concerned n (%)	Missing n (%)
Speed of traffic through the village	64 (70)	22 (24)	6 (7)	0 (0)
Size of vehicles through the village	60 (65)	26 (28)	6 (7)	0 (0)
Volume of traffic through the village	45 (49)	35 (38)	10 (11)	2 (2)
Parking on the main road	18 (20)	43 (47)	29 (32)	2 (2)
Lighting of pavements in the village	12 (13)	23 (25)	54 (59)	3 (3)
Condition of pavements in the village	9 (10)	37 (40)	44 (48)	2 (2)
Position of bus stops in the village	3 (3)	14 (15)	70 (76)	5 (5)

80 (87%) of respondents indicated that they thought there was a need for traffic calming measures, and 7 (8%) were not sure. Of those who replied positively, Figure 2.1 indicates suggested calming measures. The most popular suggestion was for a chicane or gateway with a speed warning/flashing signal and 20-mile an hour speed limit as second and third choices. Installation of a speed camera was also a popular suggestion. Traffic lights were the least popular suggestion. Two other suggestions were made, and incorporated into the given suggestions: "*gateway, but not as Pailton*", and "*possible*" one-way traffic lights

Figure 2.1 Type of traffic calming measure suggested (n = 80)

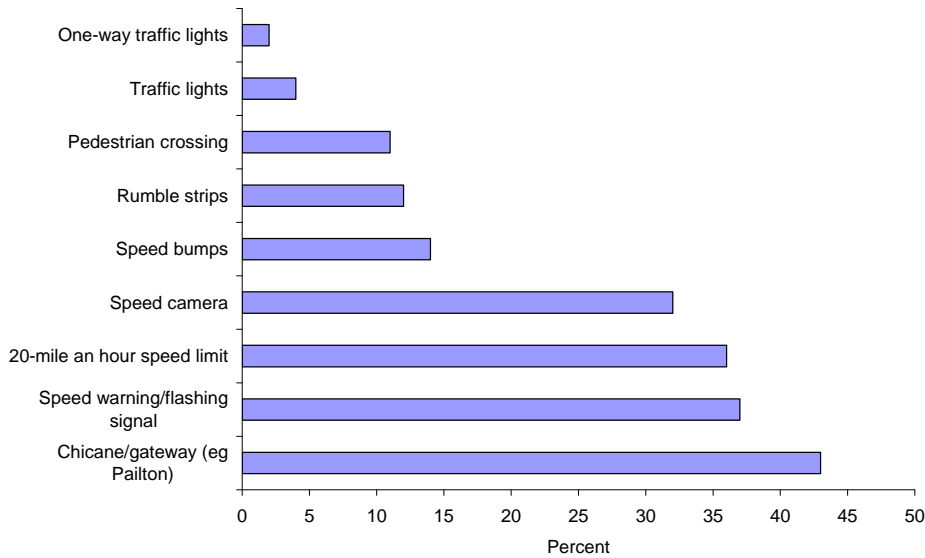
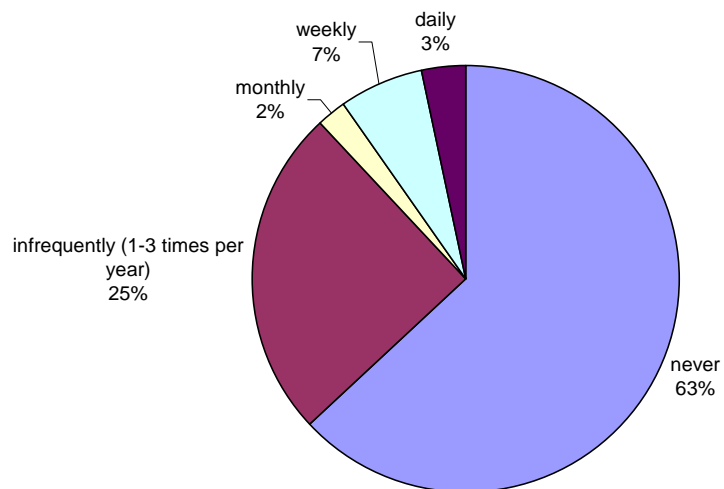


Figure 2.2 Bus service use (n = 92)

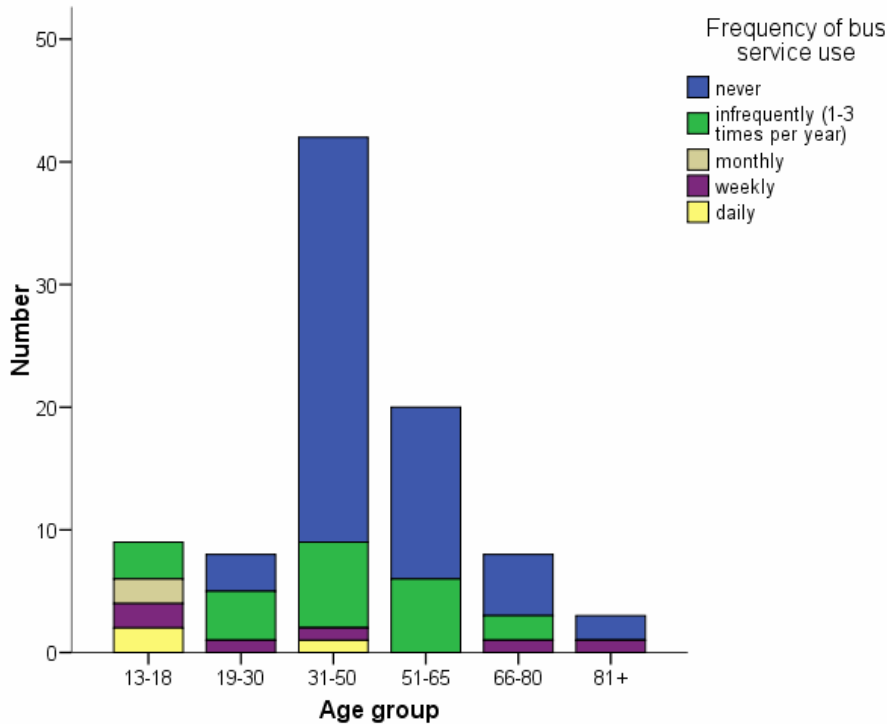
Sixty-three percent of respondents reported never using the bus and 3% daily. Figure 2.2 shows the overall break-down of bus usage. Figure 2.3 shows the use of bus service by age group, showing that the majority of 'never' users were in the 31 to 65 age group. Overall, however, there was a similar pattern of usage.



70% of the 53 (58%) who responded, were satisfied with the bus service. Suggestions for improvement included smaller buses and a more frequent service, running until later in the evening.

Thirty respondents (33%) considered that there is a need for bus shelters, and suggest they could be sited where the current bus stops are, by the Farm Shop and telephone/post box.

Figure 2.3 Bus service use by age group (n = 92)



3. Social, entertainment & leisure

Figure 3.1 Village Hall use (n = 92)

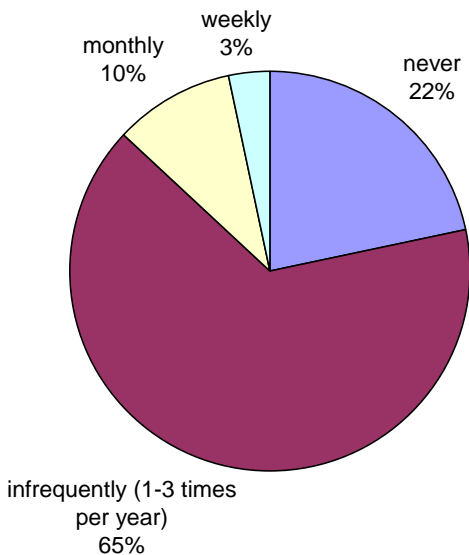


Figure 3.1 shows the pattern of use of the Village Hall, with most people (65%) using it 1-3 times a year. Respondents reported not using the Village Hall because of access and parking. Sixteen (17%) have used the Village Hall for their own use.

68 (64%) of responders completed the section about adult education classes/activities that they would be interested in being provided at the Village Hall. The majority, 56 (82%) of those responding suggested that evenings would be the most convenient time for any activity to be held. See Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.2 Convenient time to use Village Hall (n=68)

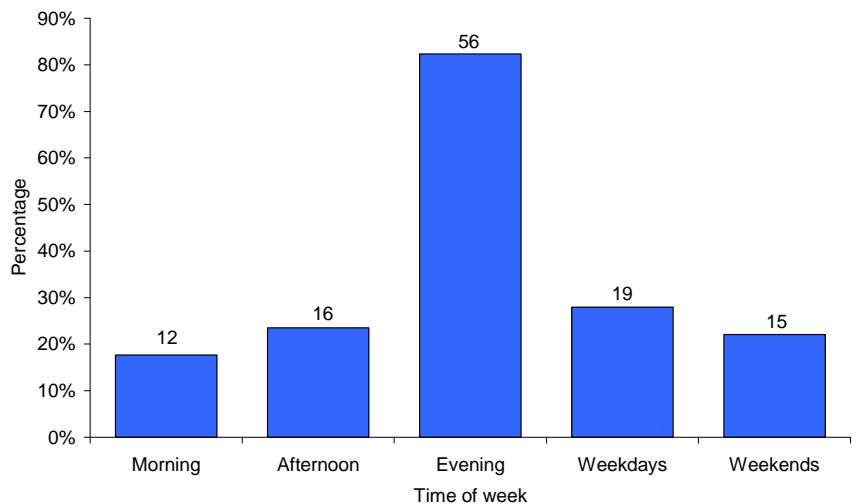


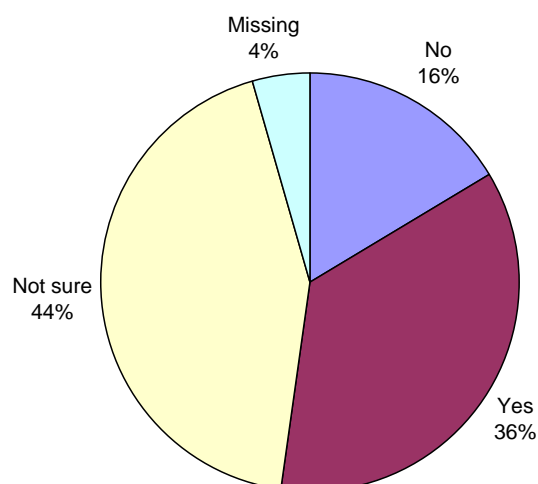
Table 3.1 Activities of interest in the Village Hall

Activity	Number	Activity	Number
Quarterly village events e.g. race nights	33	Flower Arranging	10
Fitness/aerobics class	21	Reading Group	10
Digital Photography	18	Children's group	8
Gardening/Horticulture	14	Music	8
First Aid	13	Youth club	7
Languages	13	Toddler group	6
Arts & Crafts	12	Accountancy	4
Wine tasting Club	12	Photography club	4
Yoga class (existing)	12	Senior citizen leisure club	4
Computer training	11	Bridge	2
Family History	11	Internet Café	2
Interior Design	11	Creative Writing	1
Local History	11	Chess Club	0

Table 3.1 shows numbers interested in suggested Adult Education-type Classes/Activities, in order of interest. Most interest was expressed in quarterly village events, followed by fitness/aerobics classes and digital photography. Least interest was shown in chess, creative writing, bridge and an Internet Café. Other suggestions included table tennis and a drama and dance group(s) for all ages, including children. Quiz nights were suggested for a village event.

Twelve percent of respondents expressed an interest in joining a running club, 17% a cycling club and 27% a walking/rambling club. Also, in each case at least one person showed interest in starting a club for these activities. Two people expressed interest in joining and starting a youth club and an arts & craft club. Forty-two percent considered there is a need for a children's play area with the rest equally split between no need and not sure about a need.

Of those who considered a need for a children's play area, many suggestions were made for near the farm shop (café and toilets close by), and by Farriers Court. Other ideas included on the edge of the village, by Woodland Spinney/ Back lane/ towards Prison College, in the 'Union Jack' paddock. The dangers of crossing the road were raised. Any space could be used for other events.



Most people in the village (44%) were not sure if there was a sense of community although 36% felt there was - see Figure 3.3. The suggestion is that some residents do not contribute to the 'community'. Ways in which a community feeling could be promoted were for more social events for children and adults to be encouraged, including fêtes, summer barbecue, bonfire, village in bloom and perhaps a youth/social club.

Figure 3.3 Does Stretton-under-Fosse have a sense of community?

There is, however, a need for a safe, green space for outdoor events. Several residents requested that the 'pub' be rebuilt, or perhaps a tea shop! Villagers need encouragement to attend events, and an enhanced website and a village newsletter were also requested.

4. Retail & other facilities

Sixty percent of respondents reported using the Malt Kiln farm shop regularly and the rest sometimes, and 46% would like to see the range of goods stocked in the shop to be expanded, although 33% were not sure. Suggestions to expand the range of goods included newspapers, magazines & stamps, general grocery items (some at cheaper prices), alcohol and a café area. There was concern that local or UK, free range/organic produce should be more available.

There were requests for sweets & ice cream, pasta and naan bread, low fat products, a deli counter and toiletries. There was one request for a cash machine facility and mention that there is no disabled parking. Two respondents were quite happy with the already excellent range of goods stocked. Over 50% reported no interest in having more shops/retail facilities. Of the 25% responding positively, suggestions for retail facilities included a pub, newsagents, post office, butcher, baker, tea room and general convenience store.

It should be noted that since the questionnaire was completed the Farm Shop has expanded and addressed some of the points raised above.

Of the services and businesses based at The Wharf, 27% use Fosseway Vehicle Services Ltd and 17% use Rose Narrowboats. Seven and 4 percent use Lanney's Lagoon and Warwickshire Narrowboats Ltd, respectively.

5. Housing & planning

Figure 5.1 shows what respondents think about the number of houses built in the Parish over the last 15 years. All but 5 people responded, and no-one thinks they are too small! Just over half think the building has been 'about right'. There was a comment that the "*pub ... housing was out of keeping with the village*".

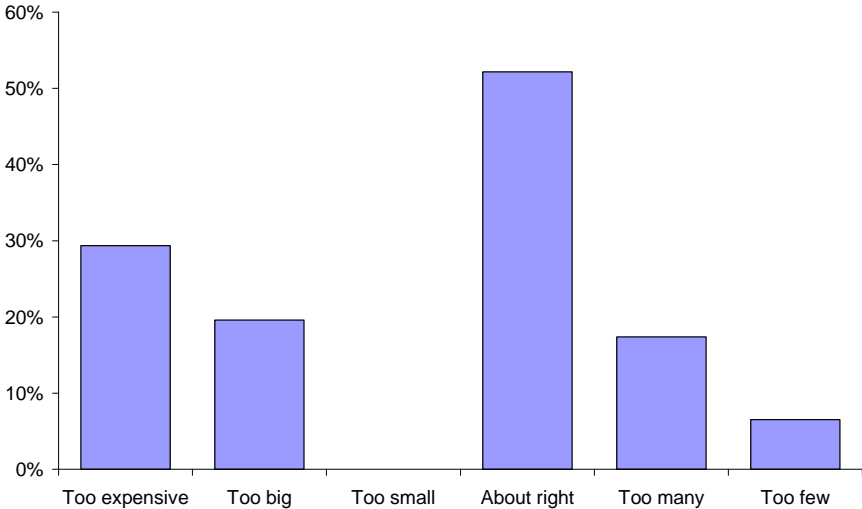


Figure 5.1 Percentage of thoughts about houses built in the Parish in the last 15 years

Table 5.1 indicates the kind of housing respondents feel is needed in the Parish. The majority (45%) think that no further homes are needed, with starter homes suggested by 28%. Of those suggesting locations for new buildings, the majority advocated infill plots and on the edge of the settlement with some proposals for green field sites, such as Smeaton Lane, and by the Wharf.

Table 5.1 Housing needs in the Parish

Kind of housing	Number (%)
No further homes are needed	41 (45)
Starter homes	26 (28)
Homes for young people	19 (21)
Restricted sale to local people	16 (17)
Extension to existing property	10 (11)
Detached	9 (10)
Homes for older people	8 (9)
Terraced	7 (8)
Sheltered housing	4 (4)
Specially adapted	1 (1)

Factors influencing people when thinking of moving out of the village or staying in the village were broadly similar and concerned issues of location (work and environment), school provision and other children, traffic (noise and quantity), transport, affordable housing and provision of suitable accommodation for the elderly, community (family and neighbours), safety and security, amenities (both from those satisfied with existing facilities and those wanting more, e.g. shops and pub) with many people enjoying 'village life' – *"I love my home and living in the village"* and *"[like the] close access to the countryside"*.

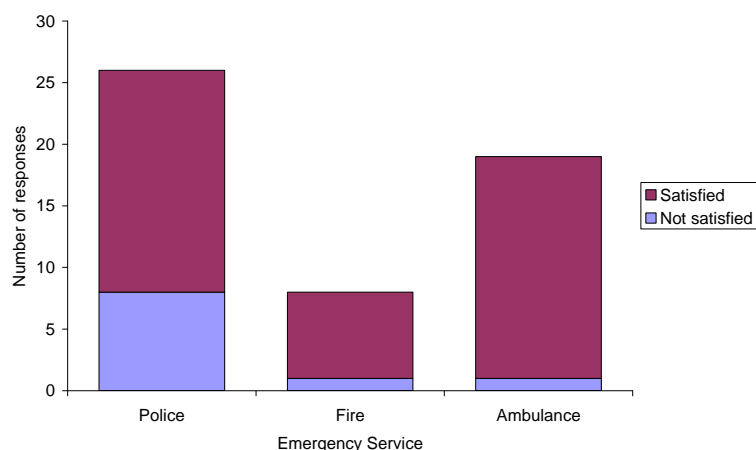
6. Employment

Of the 8 responding to being prevented from seeking work, 1 cited lack of childcare and 3 cited cost of childcare. A further 3 cited transport issues and 2 respondents cited disability and experience. No-one suggested lack of training. There were a few suggestions for employment opportunities in the village, which included opportunities for youngsters (e.g. a paper round). *"some flexibility"* and *"what about a restaurant and associated employment?"* were suggested by 2 respondents.

7. Emergency services

Figure 7.1 shows the satisfaction with the response time of the few people with personal experience of the police (20%), fire (9%) or ambulance (21%) services. Details of non-satisfaction included the slow response of police to incidents and lack of local knowledge. 64% of respondents are aware of the Police Community Support service in the Village, but would like to see the Police Community Officer around more, particularly at the Wharf.

Figure 7.1: Satisfaction of those with experience of the Emergency Services



8. Crime & disorder

Table 8.1 records the few responses to problems with issues relating to crime and disorder in the Parish in the last 3 years. Most problems which occurred were reported, apart from nuisance behaviour and theft from cars. There were one robbery and one trespass not reported. Three other issues were reported with reference to a stolen vehicle and an accident.

Table 8.1 Crime and disorder problems

Issue	Number occurred	Number reported
Drug abuse	0	N/A
Domestic burglary/break-in	5	5
Intimidation	2	2
Nuisance, drunkenness or anti-social behaviour	4	1
Robbery/mugging	1	0
Theft by bogus officials	0	N/A
Theft of vehicle	2	2
Theft from vehicle	8	4
Trespass, vandalism or damage to property	3	2
Violence/personal attack	0	N/A

Suggestions for improvement to safety and to help crime reduction and their importance are listed in Table 8.2. Other suggestions made were for lighting on the main road leading to the main drive to the College and a good community spirit.

Table 8.2 Suggestions for improvement to safety and to help crime reduction and their importance

	Very important n (%)	Important n (%)	Not important n (%)	Don't know n (%)	Missing n (%)
Neighbourhood watch scheme	38 (41)	33 (36)	4 (4)	2 (3)	15 (16)
Improved street lighting	17 (19)	21 (23)	18 (20)	5 (8)	31 (34)
More visible policing	41 (45)	27 (29)	5 (5)	1 (1)	18 (20)
Use of CCTV in the	12 (13)	2 (22)	23 (25)	9 (10)	28 (30)

9. Our village environment

Figure 9.1 Footpath usage (n = 91)

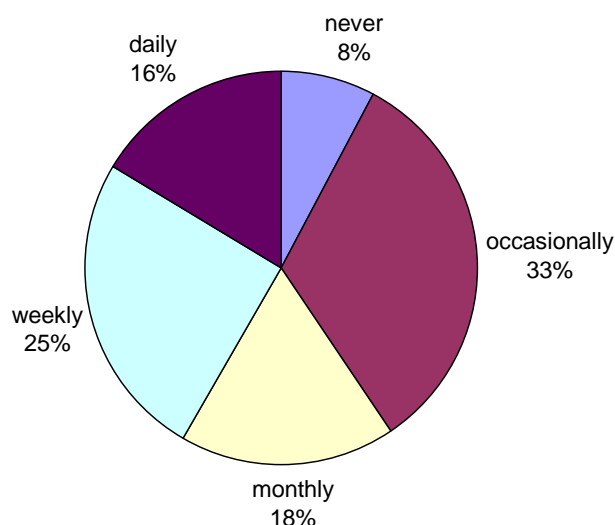


Figure 9.1 shows footpath usage in the Village, including 8% who never use the footpaths.

Table 9.1 shows what respondents think of the condition of some environmental aspects in and around the Village. Concerns were raised about the overgrowth onto the footpath up to the College, one "shabby building" and light pollution.

Table 9.1 Condition of some environmental aspects in and around the Village

Aspect	Excellent n (%)	Good n (%)	Satisfactory n (%)	Poor n (%)	Don't know n (%)	Missing n (%)
Designated footpaths (not pavements) & bridleways	3 (3)	34 (37)	36 (39)	11 (12)	3 (3)	5 (5)
Green verges	1 (1)	34 (37)	37 (40)	16 (17)	0 (0)	4 (4)
Mature trees & hedges	7 (8)	44 (48)	32 (35)	5 (5)	0 (0)	4 (4)
The Smite Brook	3 (3)	28 (30)	26 (28)	13 (14)	12(13)	1(11)
Open countryside/Green belt surrounding the village	13 (14)	47 (51)	22 (24)	1 (1)	3 (3)	6 (7)
Canal & towpaths	6 (7)	40 (44)	28 (30)	6 (7)	6 (7)	6 (7)
Business premises	0 (0)	19 (21)	28 (30)	4 (4)	29(32)	12(13)
Telephone box	4 (4)	19 (21)	40 (44)	9 (10)	15(16)	5 (5)

Table 9.2 Suggested improvements and their importance

Improvement	Very important n (%)	Important n (%)	Not important n (%)	Don't know n (%)	Missing n (%)
Better signposting of paths	11 (12)	49 (53)	22 (24)	1 (1)	9 (10)
Access to footpaths	18 (20)	56 (61)	1 (11)	(0)	8 (9)
Guided walks	5 (5)	12 (13)	53 (58)	8 (9)	14 (15)
Availability of maps of local footpaths	15 (16)	37 (40)	25 (27)	2 (2)	13 (14)
Wildlife habitats/wildflower areas	3 (33)	42 (48)	5 (5)	2 (2)	13 (14)
Care of green verges	27 (29)	53 (58)	4 (4)	(0)	8 (9)
Maintenance of trees & hedges	29 (31)	52 (57)	3 (3)	(0)	8 (9)
Clearance of streams & drainage ditches	34 (37)	51 (55)	2 (2)	1 (1)	4 (4)
Canals & towpaths	2 (2)	55 (60)	7 (8)	1 (1)	9 (10)
Business premises	7 (8)	33 (36)	2 (2)	16 (17)	16 (17)

Table 9.2 indicates the importance respondents attached to improvements to the local environment. The most important improvement appears to be the clearance of streams and

ditches (92% responded important or very important to this). Of least importance appears to be guided walks. One respondent commented that most footpaths are OK, but "*certain landowners appear to obstruct access*", and concern was expressed about the condition of the pavements by the Wharf and gutters of the roads which needed clearing. The missing responses were often from the same people.

Table 9.3 lists environmental issues which respondents consider to be a problem within the village. Again, the missing responses tended to come from the same participants. Day and night-time noise issues were mostly heavy traffic noise and speed from lorries driving through the Village, or from the M6. Other issues raised included noise from night-time drunkenness and occasional aircraft, low-flying helicopters and ambulances.

Environmental issues of most concern appeared to be related to traffic noise and volume, fly tipping, protection of the greenbelt, dog fouling and recycling. Further issues raised included climate change, crop spraying, possible expansion of Coventry airport and Brinklow quarry.

Table 9.3 Problem environmental issues

Issue	Problem n (%)	Not a problem n (%)	Don't know n (%)	Missing n (%)
Dog fouling	33 (36)	42 (46)	10 (11)	7 (8)
Fly tipping	28 (30)	45 (49)	10 (11)	9 (10)
Litter	28 (30)	51 (55)	5 (5)	8 (9)
Graffiti & vandalism	0 (0)	7 (76)	6 (7)	16 (17)
Preservation of Green Belt	16 (17)	49 (53)	14 (18)	13 (14)
Recycling	34 (37)	43 (47)	5 (5)	10 (11)

Appearance and cleanliness

In terms of the general appearance and cleanliness of the village 73% of respondents indicated that individual villagers could take responsibility for their immediate areas, and 66% indicated a similar responsibility for businesses to clear up outside their own premises. Fifty percent suggested the Parish/Borough Council should take responsibility. Approximately a third suggested that villagers could take responsibility for a defined area and tidying it voluntarily. However, almost a third (31%) responded that they did not think the village could be improved by villagers taking responsibility for a particular area while 29% said 'don't know' or didn't respond.

Tree preservation orders

Twenty-three people (30% of 76 responders) suggested there should be tree preservation orders, suggesting most mature trees in the Village, and in particular, those near the College, and on roads between the Village and the M6 to the north and Brinklow and the Village to the south. Two respondents thought all the trees should be preserved.

Recycling

About 50% were satisfied with the recycling system currently in operation. Fifty-three suggestions for improvements were made from 48% of respondents, including better opportunities for recycling a wider range of waste, e.g. plastic, cardboard, materials and shoes. The majority of these requests were for more kerbside plastic recycling (66%), although designated recycling areas were suggested/implied by some. There were 8 requests for more recycling bins (4 for households) to be provided and better information and labelling to be displayed. Better containers and more regular emptying of them were proposed by 2 respondents.

10. Information & communication

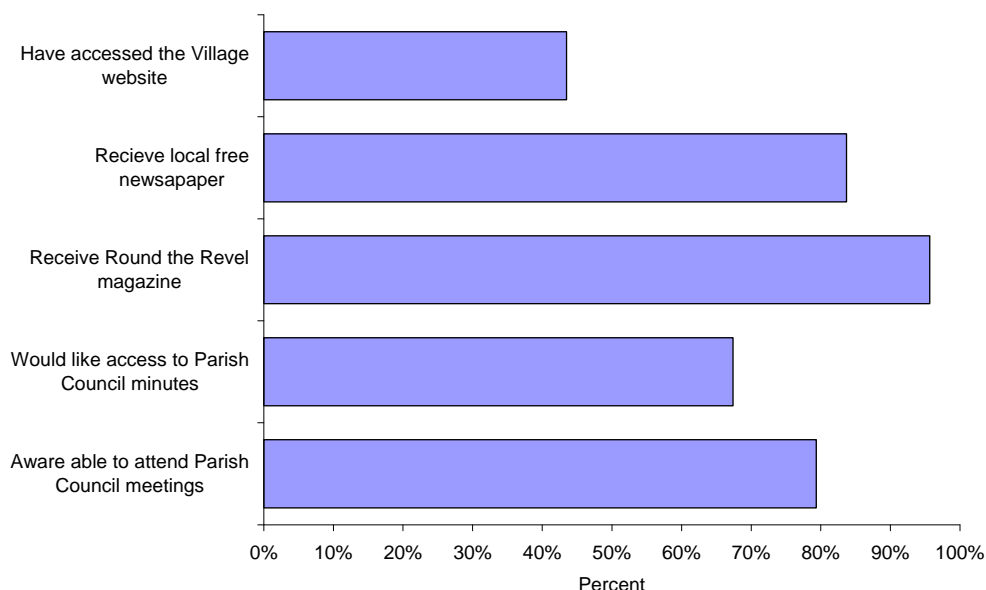


Figure 10.1 Information sources used by respondents

Figure 10.1 shows responses to questions about information sources. Sixteen people (17%) reported that they were not aware that they could attend Parish Council (PC) meetings, with 3 not being interested. Fifty-six would like access to PC minutes, with most (68%) of these saying via the Village website. Thirteen respondents "didn't know".

Other routes were via notice board (34%), email (20%) and of 5 responding "other", one suggested the post. Eighty-eight receive the Round the Revel magazine, with one not interested response.

Forty-four percent of respondents have accessed the village website, and all but 18% found it useful or very useful. Three respondents commented that they were not aware of the existence of the Village website, and someone pointed out that you could not 'Google' it.

Suggestions for content on the website included: access to minutes and planning applications, history of the Village (photographs), information about Village and local events, recycling, local tradesmen and local issues, competitions, a discussion board for Village residents, e-Round the Revel and SuF blog and online Village Hall booking. Seventy-five percent of respondents use broadband and 36% would use Cable if it were available.

11. Health & facilities

The majority of respondents (97%) are registered with Brinklow GP Practice, and most (96%) responded that the practice meets their needs. The few suggestions for improvements were for more doctors and availability of quicker, late and Saturday appointments. One respondent requested "... *reception staff more friendly*".

Villagers use a variety of dental services in the surrounding area, with most in Pailton (46%), Coventry (18%) or Rugby (16%), and 93% report that their dental services needs are met, apart from one response that "... *difficult to access appointments for children who are NHS not private*", and another "*could not register in Pailton*".

Opticians in Rugby (48%) and Coventry (34%) are most used, but there were 15 missing responses to this question. Of those using optician services, 93% report that their needs are met. A chiropody service was suggested by one respondent.

12. Business responses

There were 9 responses from businesses; 3 partnerships, 4 limited companies, 1 sole trader and 1 from the public sector. Number of employees ranged from none to 20 to 150, including both full- and part-time. There was a mix of businesses represented providing inspection, training, retailing and maintenance services and manufacturing. Markets were described as local (4), regional (3) and national (6). Suggested serious additional training needs included manual-handling, fork lift and first-aid training.

Table 12.1 Expansion needs of businesses

Need	Number
Land	1
Buildings	4
Storage	3
Office space	2
Workshop facilities	3
Staff	2 – 10

Six respondents reported planning to expand their business by the end of the decade, 2 said not, and the prison service was unknown. Table 12.1 shows the number of responses to the needs for expansion potential in their business. Only 3 businesses reported no further needs, and 1 specified that any buildings and workshops would have to be on the existing site. Six responders reported future plans for staff increases, ranging from 2 to 10, with the College giving an unspecified quantity.