

WYLYE, FISHERTON DE LA MERE
AND DEPTFORD PARISH PLAN

January 2014

The main conclusion you will see in the plan is that a working group must be formed to progress the recommendations. If you are willing to join a group to undertake this work – which should not be onerous – please contact me, Tom Cox, at 01985 248597 or tomcox4@aol.com , or Jenny MacDougall (Clerk to the Parish Council) at 01722 790339, or any members of the Parish Council itself

opened with trains stopping at many of the villages on the way. The station at Wylve in 1918/1919 employed around 10 full-time staff including those responsible for local track maintenance and level crossing gates. In nearby Codford at the same date the total recorded was 23 as this was a wartime freight centre. Many small village schools in the valley depended on these trains which only closed to passenger traffic in 1955. When the trains stopped running many of these schools closed as well. This together with the loss of affordable housing has led to many families with young children being forced to move away from the Wylve area with an inevitable impact on the average age of local communities.

It was the railway that began to open Wylve to the outside world followed by the gradual and then rapid spread of motor transport. The combination of these two forms of transport meant the inevitable end of the self-contained communities of permanent inhabitants who commonly lived and worked in one place for the whole of their lives. As late as 1908 the village of Heytesbury, although served by the railway, was the only village in the area with a main street coated with tar. A recent history of Wiltshire records the dust in summer as being damped down by sprinkling water from a barrel on a horse-drawn cart. The dust, the mud and the holes in the road which were filled with stones also presented problems for travellers.

Twenty two council houses were built at Wylve in the 1930s, 50s, 60s and 70s. Between 1970 and 1995 nine private houses were built in Church Street and 18 in terraces between Teapot Street and Town's End. The whole village was designated a conservation area in 1975. These new houses are reflected in the population figure, which rose by 100 between 1981 and 1991. The village still has a church, post office and pub, but sadly the school closed in 1973. Wylve was bypassed in 1975 when a section of the A303 was moved to farm land west of the village. The Swan Inn was a victim of this change as there was no longer enough passing trade to support two public houses.

During the 1980s the memories of several residents who had lived in Wylve during the 1920s and 30s were collected and preserved. At that time there were still farmers, a baker, a grocer and two butchers. A local man also ran a fish round. His fish was sent down to Wylve by train from Grimsby every Tuesday and Friday. Wylve also had a successful motor engineers and haulage contractors business called Smith Brothers. This firm started by supplying coal, coke and firewood, later opening a petrol station and car repair garage. It also charged wireless batteries, and in the 1930s it progressed to wiring houses for electricity although for quite a few years there was little demand for electricity or water to be supplied because of the cost involved. The villagers did not want to pay extra rates when they were happy drawing water from their wells. They felt the same about electricity; the Bull family was one of only six houses that had electricity installed c.1933. Mr Bull was very keen for his wife to have an electric iron. He paid £3 each year for three lights, one plug and the use of 120 units of electricity.

Wylve's long association with sport goes back to 1798. This was the year that a group of men from Salisbury and their opponents from Stockton met at an inn at Deptford to celebrate the first recorded cricket match in Wiltshire. The Deptford inn was also the meeting place of the first hare coursing club in Wiltshire, which was formed in 1819. Foxhunting was well established in the county by the 1820s, including the South and West Wilts Hunt. The Wylve Valley Hunt was formed in 1919. In the 1950s the river was rented by two clubs, the Wylve Club and the Wilton Fly Fishing Club, both having been formed in the 19th century. There was a Football Club in the village, many of the players being employed at the railway station. There was also a brass band in existence in the 1920s.

Dramatic and painful changes in village life also took place as a result of both World Wars. In the First World War many wounded survivors from the Australian and New Zealand forces were brought to the UK to recover before returning to their home countries and were housed in several of the large houses in the area that had been converted for use as nursing homes. Tragically many of these men, having survived the hell of the trenches, were then killed by the great influenza outbreak of 1918/1919. There is a memorial recording many of their names in a beautiful setting just outside Codford.

In the Second World War the area around Wylve was one of the congregation areas for the preparations for D-Day and the roadside camp on the A36 at Knook still exists as do some of the huts hidden among the trees just off the road to Dinton. Many crash sites of planes exist around Wylve and are increasingly being investigated and recorded by local historians while contemporary knowledge of these incidents is still available. The crash site of a French plane that had crossed the Channel in 1940 was excavated in 2007 near the river at Hanging Langford and the smell of the aircraft fuel that had saturated the ground was still easily recognisable.

The difficult bit will be in creating a framework which will best allow intentions to be fulfilled; a framework that will lead to action by all those living in Wylve. At the moment we have three main committees in the village – the Parish Council, the Wyvern Hall committee, and the Parochial Church Council (which manages our two churches). These cannot carry out the work alone. The Parish Council is three short of its needed strength and the churches run with only one church warden; the Wyvern Hall is well represented, but still needs more support. "Principal Recommendations" are listed here, but the important matter is in the following section: "The Way Forward". This section emphasises the need for an enabling team, probably about six to eight people. This team can decide on priorities and delegate specific parts of the work that should be done.

However work is needed not only in internal activities. There must be a constructive relationship with service providers and, above all, with the Wiltshire Council. This will become a major part of the enabling team's work.

Methodology

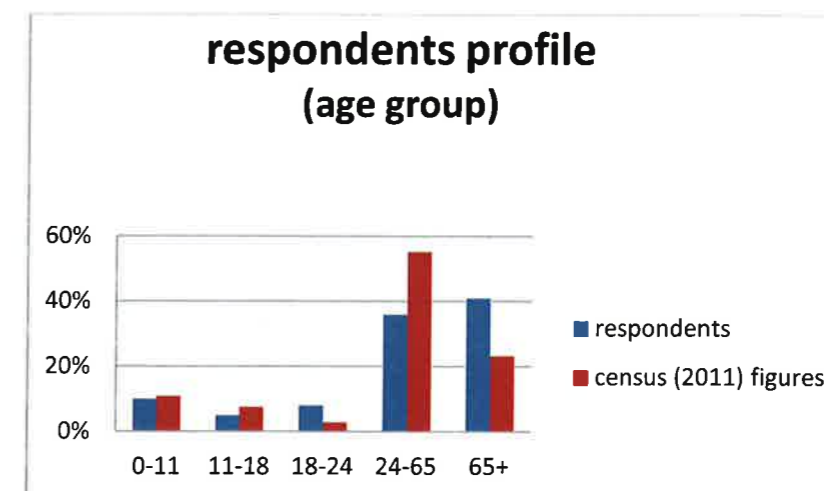
The idea of the Parish Plan was initiated towards the end of 2011, and presented to the village at a well-attended meeting in the Wyvern Hall. A committee, to progress the work, was then formed - the members being:

Lucy Cassels	Emma Hussey
Ron Copp	Frances Richchardson (part time)
Tom Cox (chair)	Mark Saunders
John Emmerson	Mark Shuldham
Heather Everett	John Tarran
Katherine Heppinstall	Patrick Woodward (part time)

Initially, a rough form of a questionnaire was put together. This was designed to obtain the basic information that, in turn, would show clearly the wants and concerns of the village. Early in 2012 there was a further village meeting where the more detailed form of the project was outlined and comments taken.

During the first quarter of 2012 the final questionnaire was formed, containing some fifty questions. The larger part were multiple choice or required simple yes/no responses. The document was circulated to all houses (200), and completed forms received by the end of September. Unfortunately the initial response (only 50 forms returned) was poor - this figure being insufficient to provide a meaningful profile of the village. It was therefore agreed to re-send the document in January 2013. The second response was much better with an ultimate total of 110 completed forms returned. This allowed a good profile of the village's views to be developed.

Although the responses were anonymous, we obtained some background to those who contributed. It is interesting to compare the responding age groups with the demographic profile of the village (The figures reflect the make-up of the households, rather than actual age of the respondents!):



The results show a weighting towards the older population, but, in general, the profile will give a good representation of the village's main concerns.

when dealing with matters such as the reinstatement of the bus service, possible negotiations with the owners of the Bell, etc.

I hope that all who read this will, at the least, see that we live in an active community. We may not cry out for great change, but we are aware of the short-comings that at present exist. I trust that there will be people who will come forward to make our recommendations happen.

Tom Cox 1 January 2014

Schools	1) Develop areas of communication and cooperation with schools. In particular, look at methods of supporting funding needs.	
The Bell, the Wyvern Hall, the church	1) Establish a programme of lectures, films, fitness classes etc to allow more social use of the Wyvern Hall.	
	2) Support the Parochial Church Council in working to enhance the importance of the church in the community.	
	3) Develop an approach that can lead to the Bell being restored to its former glory as a village pub.	
Village Appearance	1) Establish a programme of regular village clean-up days.	
	2) With Wiltshire Council, establish a reliable service from the parish steward.	
	3) Ensure, at suitable points, that bags are available for the collection of dog fouling.	
General Items	1) Ensure that information is available on methods and subsidies that can help with energy costs.	
	2) Encourage more participation in the parish committees - Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, and Wyvern Hall Committee.	
	3) Establish a village web site.	
	4) Investigate ways in which digital radio, mobile, and tv reception can be improved and press for high speed broadband.	

A Proposed Way Forward

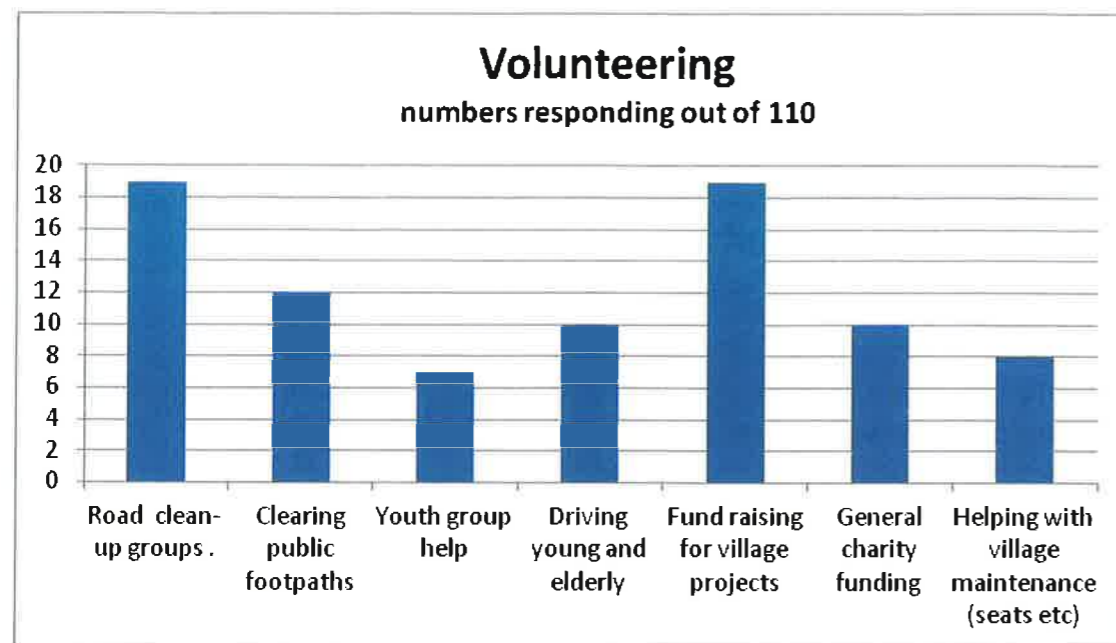
The recommendations for action give guidance as to what the village wants to see done and the form for the village in the future. The major problem will be in turning intentions into actions. Our principal need will be the formation of an enabling group that can delegate work to individuals. This group would be made up of some half dozen persons who, individually, would be willing to take responsibility for a particular tranche of the work. The group would keep in close contact with the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, and the Wyvern Hall Committee, to ensure that its actions had their full support.

There will be a great need to work with external agencies, Wiltshire Council, police, schools, highways, NHS etc. Therefore one must understand each of the relevant agencies. Only then can the optimum way be seen to achieve the individual goals. For example, with roads, the framework of Wiltshire roads and environmental maintenance must be determined. In addition, Highways must be contacted, so that matters that involve the A303/A36 intersection can be followed up.

We should see, initially, a brief information document being prepared for each agency – this would describe the agency, and identify which of the listed recommendations would involve dealing with it. There could be a case for sharing this work with neighbouring villages.

Once the external agency framework is understood, the individual needs and actions can be progressed. Again, this will need individuals to push the various projects.

Progress reports will be needed – we suggest quarterly, being directed to the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, and the Wyvern Hall Committee, as appropriate. Ideally the reports will be shown also on the village web site, when it comes into being. The plan itself will probably need a full review within 5 years.

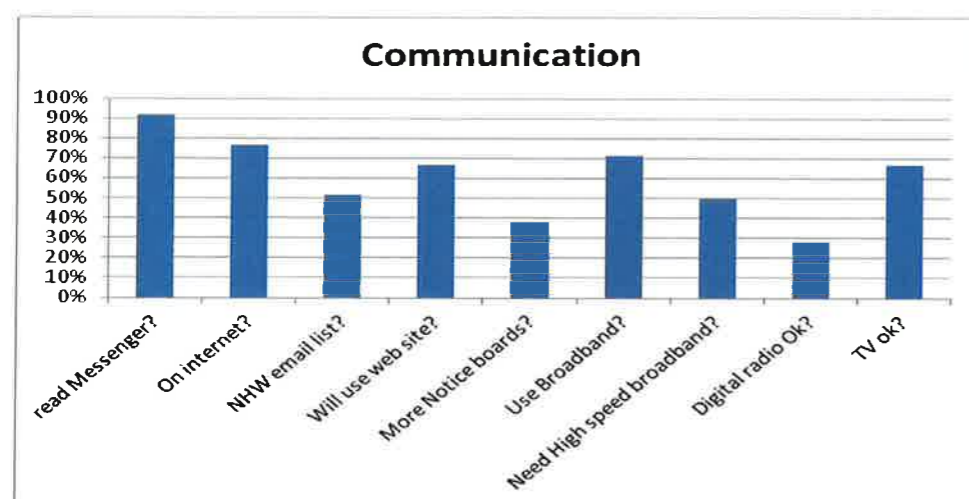


Recommendation

- Move to put together volunteer groups for the various topics. . (see “The Way Forward” above)

12 COMMUNICATION

We ended the questionnaire with enquiries about communication. Internet, which is now important in so many ways, is used by only 75% of the respondents. This is probably close to the national average for a village such as ours. Supplier used (predominantly BT) is seen as good to adequate by 80%, though 50% would like to see high speed broad-band. Other topic responses are shown on the graph below. Essentially, all read the Messenger, which is the prime source of regular village information. Digital radio, and possibly TV, reception still seems to be poor for many in the village. Virtually all those using the internet would expect to use a village web-site, when created.



2 History

An excellent short history of Wylde Parish has been prepared for this report by John Emmerson, and is given in Appendix 1. The following is a short summary.

The original Wylde parish boundary was defined in the 10th century and contained two distinct communities, Wylde and the tithing of Deptford; the land belonging to Deptford being north of the river, Wylde being south of the river. In 1934 the size of the parish increased from 936 hectares to 1,608 hectares when Fisherton de la Mere village and parish was added. The village is named after the river but its origins are uncertain.

The areas of high ground on both sides of Wylde were natural defensive positions with ready supplies of water and so became fortified areas of settlement from very early times. To the north of the river Wylde massive fortified remains are clearly visible from the A303 at Yarnbury Castle and to the south a similar but less dramatic site exists at Bilbury Rings or Wylde Camp.

Wylde itself was essentially an agricultural community with most of the land in the surrounding area being held by one or more of the great landowners. In 1086 the Manor of Wylde was acquired by Wilton Abbey and ownership remained unchanged for nearly 500 years until the dissolution of the monasteries. During the following years ownership passed to Sir William Herbert, who was created Earl of Pembroke in 1551.

The Pembroke Estate remained the owner of most of Wylde on the south side of the river until death duties led to its sale by auction in 1918 and the Manor was broken up into three farms (Manor Farm, Wylde Down Farm and East Farm). Deptford Manor on the north side was sold by the Duke of Somerset, also by auction, in 1919.

Farming for many centuries was the main source of employment throughout the parish of Wylde and the surrounding area. In 1851 the land in the parish supported six farms ranging from a 200 acre farm employing ten labourers to the 1,700 acre farm at Fisherton which employed 52 labourers. 30% of the population were working on a farm.

An important factor in the development of Wylde in the 19th century was the introduction of railways and the construction of the Andover to Exeter stretch of the GWR. A branch line between Salisbury and Warminster was opened with trains stopping at many of the villages on the way. The station at Wylde in 1918/1919 employed around 10 full-time staff.

It was the railway that began to open Wylde to the outside world followed by the gradual and then rapid spread of motor transport. The combination of these two meant the inevitable end of the self-contained communities of permanent inhabitants who commonly lived and worked in one place for the whole of their lives.

Twenty two council houses were built at Wylde in the 1930s, 50s, 60s and 70s. Between 1970 and 1995 nine private houses were built in Church Street and 18 in terraces between Teapot Street and Town's End. The whole village was designated a conservation area in 1975. These new houses are reflected in the population figure, which rose by 100 between 1981 and 1991. The village still has a church, post office and pub, but sadly the school closed in 1973. Wylde was bypassed in 1975 when a section of the A303 was moved to farm land west of the village.

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Questionnaire Analysis

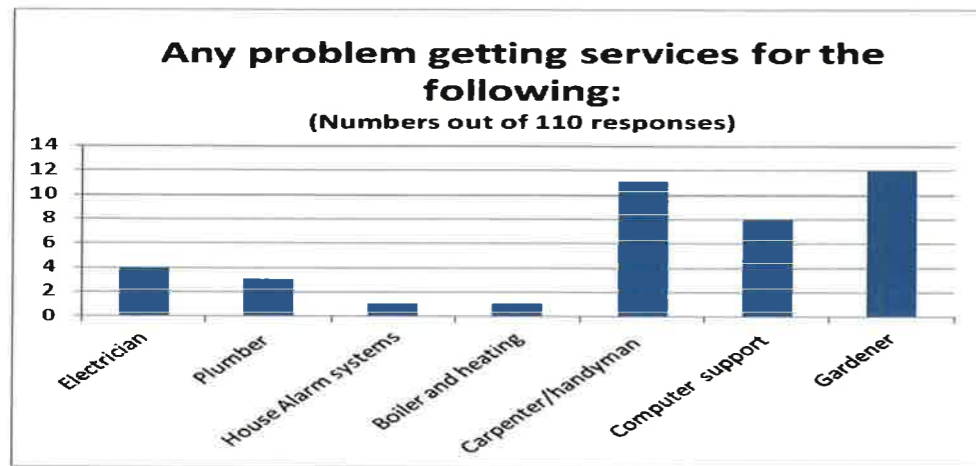
9 OTHER SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Medical Services.

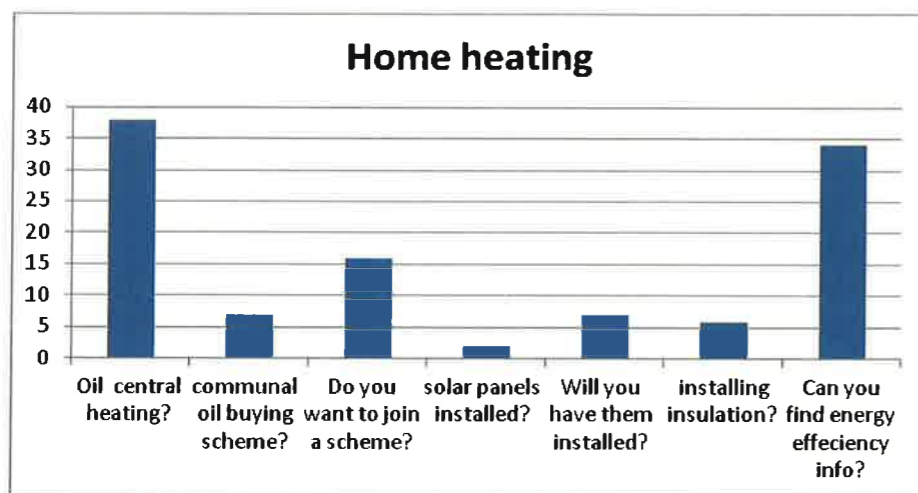
The large majority of respondents (80%) use the services of the Codford surgery. All seem reasonably satisfied, though there was some demand (30%) for more general information on health services. Occasional newsletters in the Messenger were suggested. In fact, there is a regular piece in the Messenger every two months or so, discussing services. Surprisingly, only 30% used the shop delivery service for prescriptions. One area where help is needed is in the provision of transport for those that find problems in getting to Codford (see recommendations on transport – section 3 above.)

General services

We asked how difficult it was for people to get help with home maintenance. The results (see below) show that help is generally available – though there is some need for more carpenter/handyman services, and there is more work for gardeners. Possibly a list of service suppliers in the immediate area could be maintained – though this is essentially supplied by notices in the shop and the Messenger.

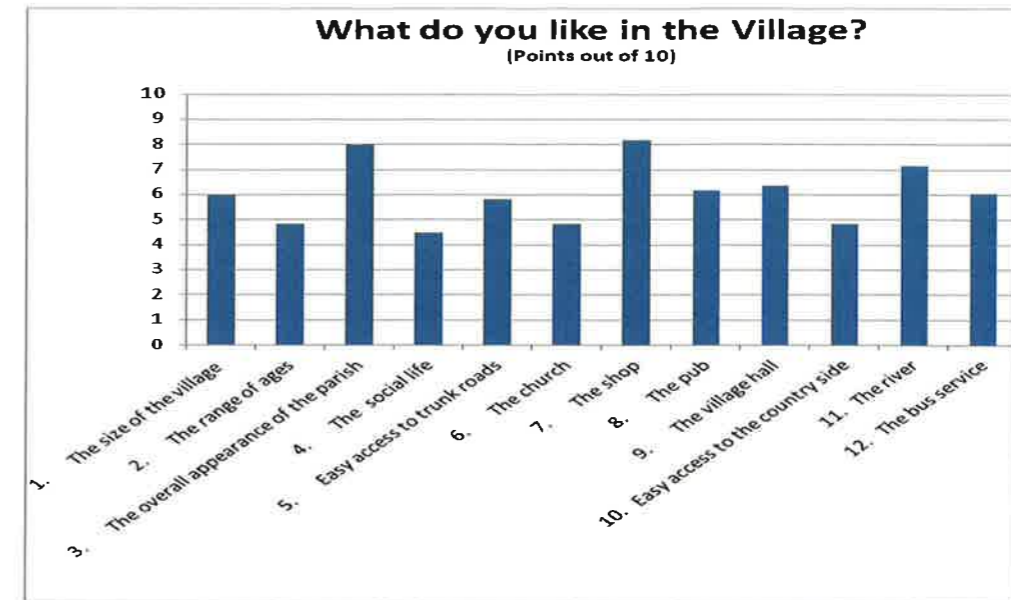


We also asked about home heating. The responses are shown below.



As expected, the large majority use oil central heating. There is no great enthusiasm (20%) for communal oil buying, since supply needs and timing can vary so much from home to home. 55% know where to find energy

1 THE VILLAGE AND ITS APPEARANCE.



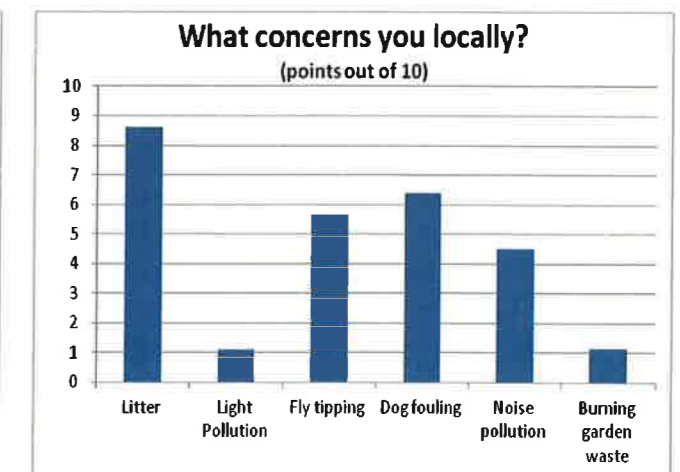
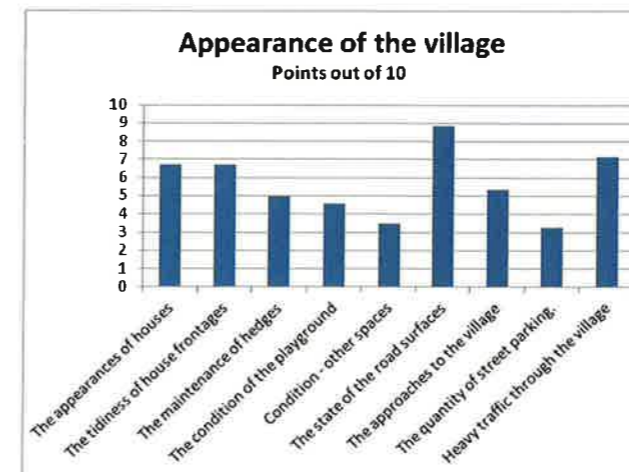
We asked what really influences your view on the quality of life in Wylve. Responses show that the four most appreciated factors are: the shop, the overall appearance of the parish - in particular the river, the pub, and the village Hall. This is to be expected, since they, in many ways, express the village as it is – particularly to visitors. Comments emphasised that effort was needed to support the shop and pub.

Recommendation

- Ensure that the Parish Council registers “an expression of interest” in the Bell and the shop with the Wiltshire Council. This will legally allow the village a period of time to look at options, should either be put up for sale or change of use. This was, in fact, completed in Summer 2013.

2 What concerns you locally?

The factors having the most important effect on the village are seen to be the state of the roads and the presence of heavy transport in transit. Litter, noise pollution from the A303/A36, and dog fouling (particularly in the playground area) are also seen as significant problems.

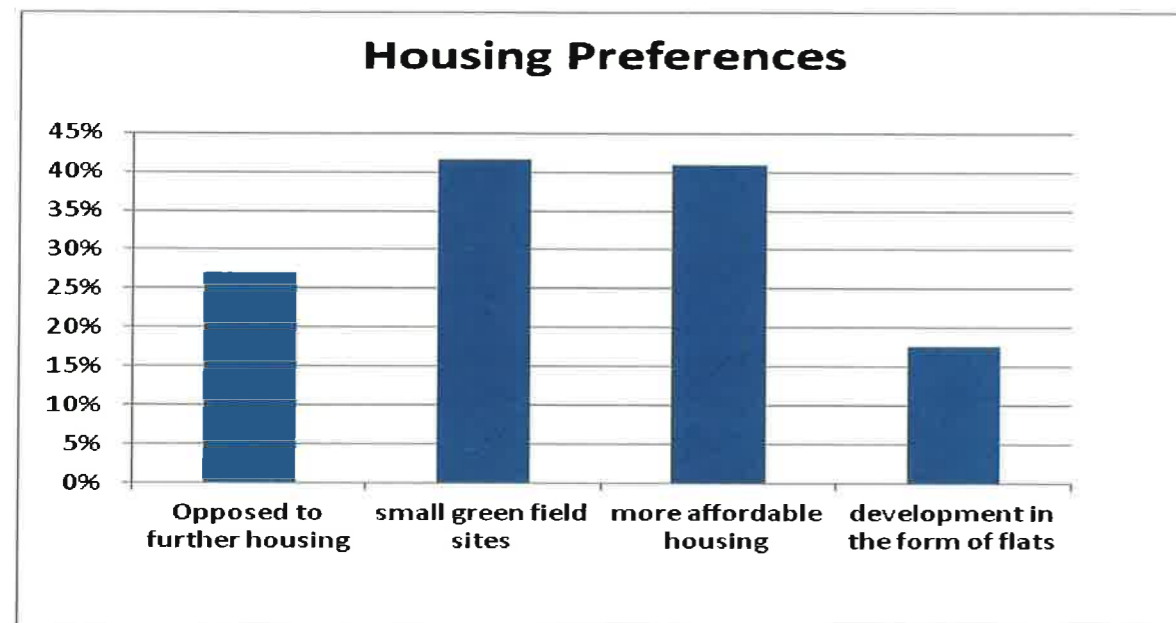


As can be seen from this graph, 27% of people are opposed to any housing growth, while, of the remaining 73%, 36% would support a growth of 1%-5% (up to 10 houses), 28% support a growth in housing of up to 10% and only 9% would support growth of up to 15%.

Of those who support housing growth, preference went to small green-field sites (42%). More affordable housing was also well supported with 41% agreeing. 23% of those questioned would accept development in the form of flats. There was a fairly equal division in the comments made between those who thought that any new development, whether it was flats or affordable housing, should be for young people who wanted to stay in the village, or for elderly people who might want to move into smaller accommodation in the village, thus freeing up the larger houses for younger families. Generally, all those who commented felt that any new developments should be in keeping with the general appearance of the village and should be no more than two stories high.

If affordable housing developments were to be considered, there would obviously need to be a careful examination of the criteria under which any such houses could be bought and sold. Another issue which would have to be considered if there were to be a growth of housing within the parish, which was not raised in the questionnaire, was the matter of services e.g. drainage and sewage. At the moment there are considerable problems on this front.

People also felt that it was important that the village remained compact in size and that any new housing did not straggle towards the neighbouring villages.



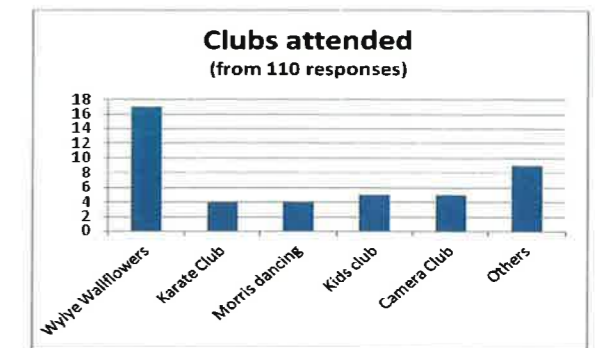
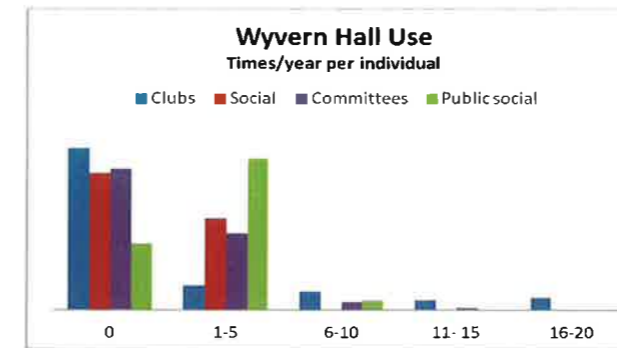
Recommendations

- Consider opposition to all future building in the village until the drainage infrastructure is improved.
- Ensure that any controversial planning applications are identified as early as possible and put up for open discussion at a meeting. If opposed, then ensure that a closely argued case against (with support from our councillor) is made to the Council's planning department.
- Ensure that planning constraints put upon builders, during the construction phase, are respected.
- Identify any green-field sites within the village boundary which would be acceptable for further development.
- Undertake further research into whether there is a real demand for affordable housing for young and elderly, and the feasibility of any such development.

7 POLICE

We are fortunate in that 85% see Wylve as a secure and low-crime village. Nevertheless, 70% percent would want there to be a greater police presence. With the current economic restrictions, any increase in policing is

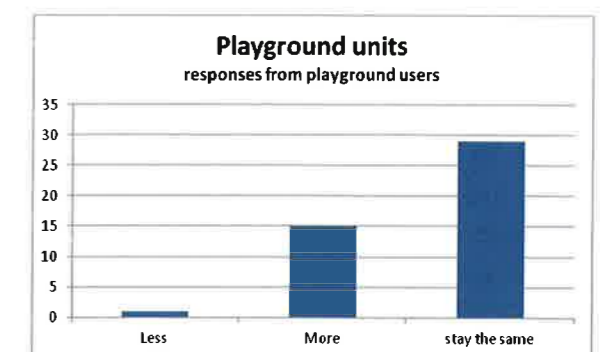
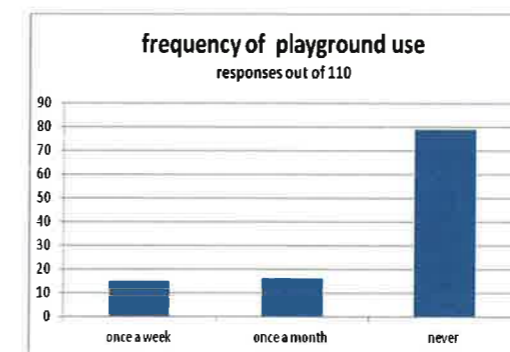
Wyvern Hall



Comments on the Hall were generally positive and the feeling was that we are lucky to have a large and functional hall in the midst of the village. Inclusive social events such as Harvest Suppers and charity lunches received good feedback with the majority of the village attending some form of social function between 1 and 5 times a year. Most clubs appear not to be very strongly attended with the exception of The Wylve Wallflowers, but those who do attend them voiced their appreciation and they are obviously worthwhile. Suggestions for new uses of the Hall showed that films and lectures were favoured, and written comments indicated the popular demand for various fitness classes. There was mention of the condition of the parking area and that resurfacing could improve it. Fund raising for this is currently under way.

Playground

The playground is another integral part of the village, providing not only recreation for children but also a venue for events such as the Fete and summer barbecues etc. The statistics below reflect the views of families with young children, and grandparents, who in particular feel positive about these facilities and how much they are enjoyed by visiting grandchildren.



Answers and comments show that there is no pressing need for a change in equipment although some suggested more structures for the very young. There was much mention of the need for the grass to be cut more often and this must be addressed.

The Shop

The village shop and post office are a particularly attractive feature of the village and a lifeline to many in the parish. 90% of respondents use the shop at least once a week and 30% go five or more times. 75% also use the post office once or more a week, and we all know how invaluable the newspaper delivery is and the amount of work that the present management puts into this.

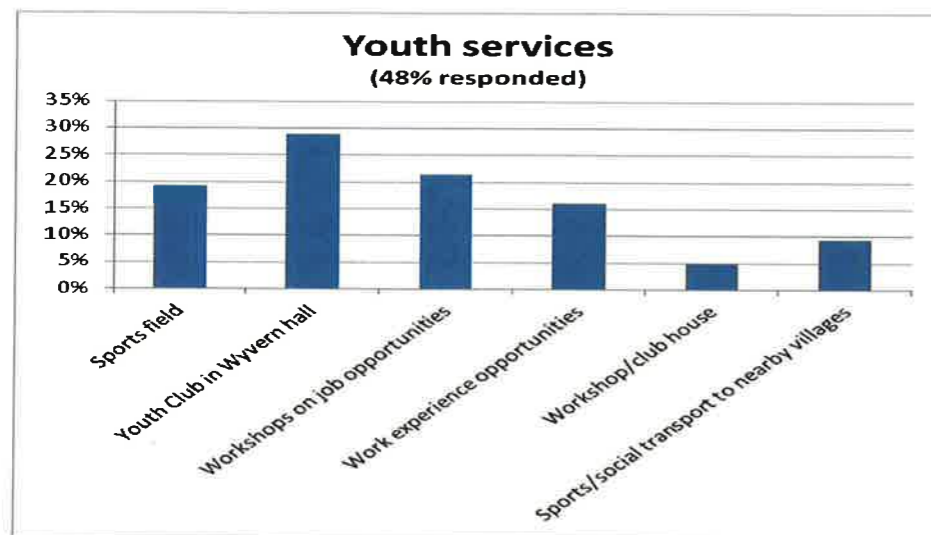
Recommendations

- Look more closely at any way in which the impact of HGV traffic can be reduced.
- Find ways to improve Wiltshire Council's performance on road maintenance, and street cleaning.
- Look into better access to the Deptford bus stop
- Switch off street lights at 01.00 hrs
- Set up communal street cleaning teams.
- Contact Highways re clearing litter on the A303/A36 intersection.

SERVICES FOR YOUNG AND OLD

The young in Wylde are offered limited facilities in the village. We have the play ground and a weekly playgroup for the very young (Monkey Doodle Play Group) but there is no sports ground, and the youth club closed in 2010. Clearly there is a need for some action. There are a reasonable number of families with young in the village, and justification for more support for them. For instance Monkey Doodle is well attended and draws mothers and children from neighbouring communities. It is nevertheless hard work for the organisers, and voluntary help is needed – also, as with the schools, fund raising is a must.

We asked for opinions on possible services that could be created. Of those proposed, those most favoured were: a youth club, workshops on job opportunities and how to find work, and development of work experience opportunities. Sports opportunities were not seen as so important. Nevertheless there is obviously a need for some sports support – probably in association with neighbouring villages.

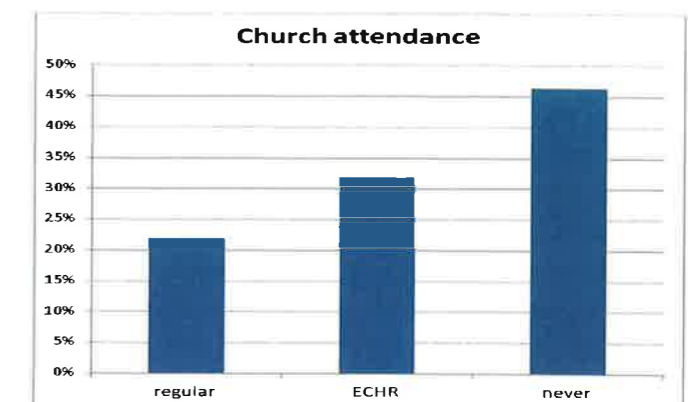
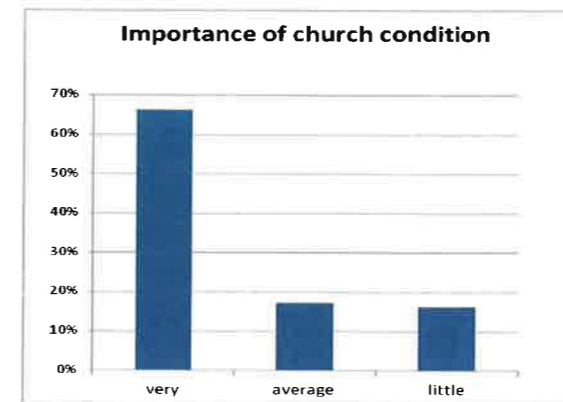


With the old, the main points were: regular visits by neighbours, and help in the home (and garden) and with transport. Visits and help by the young would be especially appreciated. Currently the elderly have access to support through the social services, and can obtain through Age UK (Salisbury) information on the many allied services that are available to them – there are some twenty relevant charities and organisations in Salisbury alone. The local Good Neighbour Coordinator (run through Community First) and the Age UK befriending services can provide help for those who feel isolated. The Wilton Link can help with transport and also some support services. None of this, however, can replace the day-to-day support from within the community.

Recommendations

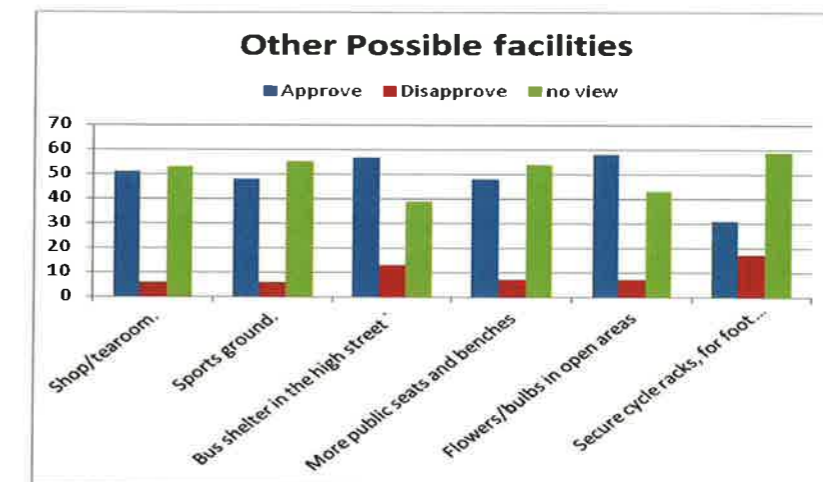
- Develop a youth club. From this could flow action on work-associated initiatives (work experience etc), sport initiatives, and general help in the community.
- Develop a group who would keep regular contact with the older members of the community.

A question on whether the church should be used for secular events produced a mixed response but as the Village Hall is located centrally and has all the amenities this is probably not worth pursuing. Comments showed that the type of secular event would have to be suitable and this could create problems.



Other Possible Facilities

The response showed no one new facility being singled out as overwhelmingly popular – the idea of a bus shelter was considered attractive although comments showed that some people felt the lych gate was shelter enough (sadly irrelevant at the moment, now that we have lost the bus service). Flowers and bulbs would need considerable attention and care to flourish, and a tearoom on its own would probably not be economic running alongside the shop and pub. It could be considered whether this might be a part of either of these two. Although there were requests for a tennis court it is not obvious where this could be, and other sports grounds were not commented on. The general feeling was that things work reasonably well as they are and that Wylde should not be turned into a model village.



Recommendations

- Establish a group to liaise with the Bell a) to encourage use, b) to help improve its image within the village, c) to negotiate with the owners (Wellington Pubs) to improve contract conditions for any landlords – present and future.
- In conjunction with the Hall Committee, look to developing film and lecture evenings; also consider a fitness club.
- Encourage the Parish Council to ensure regular cutting of the playground grass.