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Report

Report subject: Parish Plan Endorsement

Report to: Northern Area Committee

Date: 8th May 2008

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Portfolio Holders: Community: Councillor Brian Dalton

1. Report Summary:

Figcheldean has submitted their completed Plan for endorsement by the Northern Area Committee. Salisbury District Council has validated the plan on the grounds that the required Parish Plan Validation criteria have been reached and recommend that Northern Area Committee endorse the Plan as outlined below.

2. Context

Parish Plans emerged as a structured community planning mechanism in the November 2000 Rural White Paper "*Our Countryside – The Future*" which set out the Government's plans for the countryside. In preceding years' initiatives such as village appraisals and village design statements had demonstrated the value in whole communities coming together to set out their vision and ways of achieving it. Parish Plans began to emerge from this process and the idea was developed and championed by the Countryside Agency under their Vital Villages programme until 2005 when the responsibility was passed over to DEFRA.

The principal purpose of parish and town plans is to:

"... set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future. Plans should ...identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how distinctive character and features can be preserved."

3. Validation Process

The district council has put in place a voluntary quality assurance mechanism that is designed to guide communities towards preparing the types of Parish, Ward and Town Plans, which can have the maximum impact upon service providers.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



The key components of the validation are that:

- It is voluntary, but if the simple guidelines are followed it can be assured that the plan is likely to be taken more seriously.
- It has involved more direct discussions with service providers ensuring expectations and reality are more closely matched
- The plan is better informed through the use of better information and techniques to underpin discussion within the community.
- It ensures that the action planning stage draws in a wide a spectrum of interests to help delivery

The Validation Process ensures that a robust route has been taken when producing the plan, and that all members and key stakeholders within community have been consulted with. It is not about the contents; however, it ensures that they are realistic and deliverable

4. What does endorsement mean?

By endorsing the Plan, Northern Area Committee are recognising the value of the work the local community has put together in establishing the needs and aspirations of the community and demonstrates their commitment in recognising the democratic voice of that community. In endorsing the plan members should note that the validation process does not make judgement on the content of the plan or in any way commit SDC or other agencies to any of the actions.

The Committee also agrees to take the Plan into consideration when making decisions regarding the community.

5. Recommendations.

- 1) Approve the plan for endorsement (on the basis that the process was comprehensive; the validation process does not make a judgement on the content or any form of commitment to actions from SDC or other agencies).

6. Implications:

- **Financial:** None
- **Legal:** None
- **Human Rights:** This process should allow the rights of individuals to be more openly represented.
- **Personnel:** None
- **Community Safety:** None
- **Environmental:** None
- **Council's Core Values:** Parish plans will improve quality of life in the district by identifying key issues in each community and helping to address them.
- **Wards Affected:** Bulford

Figheldean Parish Plan



2008



**The Parish Council is very pleased to endorse the
Figheldean Parish Plan 2008**

CONTACTS

For further information about our Parish Plan go to www.figheldean.org/parishplan

or

Contact Parish Clerk 01980670087

Copies of the Parish Plan are available in the Parish Church, Village Hall, Working Men's Club, St. Michael's C of E Primary School, Durrington Library, Amesbury Library

* * *

Photographs were taken by members of the Steering Group, Simon Banton and Sue Vergette

* * *

Photographs on Cover; clockwise from the top, looking East across the valley which shelters Figheldean, The Mill Pool, St. Michael and All Angels C of E Church, first sign of Spring - Aconites between Ablington and Syrencot, Church Street Figheldean, one of our resident swans.

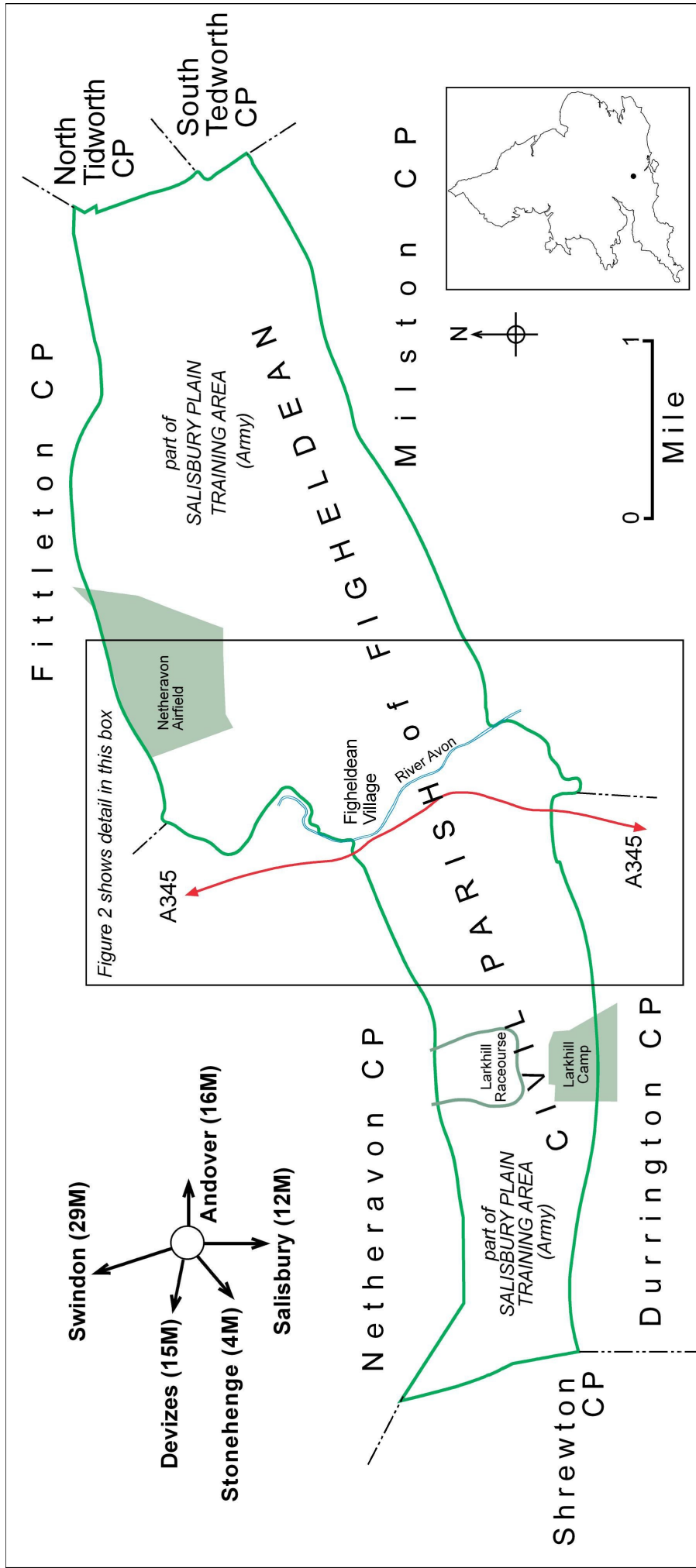


Figure 1 An Outline of the Parish of Figheledean

Foreword

This Plan has been written by a Steering Group first set up in 2005, which has undertaken and coordinated all the underlying work on behalf of the Parish Council.

Preparation of our Parish Plan has been supported by funding from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, along with grants from:

- Figheldean Parish Council
- Salisbury District Council
- Figheldean Parochial Church Council

We are also pleased to acknowledge practical assistance, and in particular guidance on organisation and best practice, from:

- Figheldean Parish Council
- Salisbury District Council
- Community First
- Wiltshire County Council

Most of all we thank our fellow parishioners, who have contributed their views and their effort in so many ways.

On a personal note I would like to say a special ‘thank you’ to the members of the Steering Group who by their enthusiasm, perseverance and hard work have produced our first Parish Plan.

A full list of participants and advisers is included in Appendix 1 page 32

Jill Lloyd
Chair of the Steering Group
Figheldean Parish Plan

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Summary

This Plan aims to set out a vision of how the people of Figcheldean Parish wish to see our community develop in social, economic and environmental terms. It records key facilities, services and other features we value, as well as the problems we face. It identifies and prioritises the actions needed to achieve the main goals of our community.

The Plan has been developed by the Steering Group acting with the support and encouragement of the Parish, District and County Councils, and has involved dialogue with all of them as well as with local clubs, organisations and interested individuals. Above all it has been a team effort.

The results we report here are based on extensive research and consultation during 2005 and 2006 throughout the Parish. The principal source of opinion was a questionnaire containing 111 questions, to which almost 80% of households responded. Thus we believe this plan to be truly representative, as this is an outstanding response.

Our rural Parish is seen as a good place to live, and retains a strong sense of community. We enjoy mostly good facilities and accommodation; wide-ranging employment opportunities, and have a safe, spacious and pleasant environment.

The Plan was submitted in draft to the Parish Council, Salisbury District Council and through them to Wiltshire County Council and Community First. Consequently this Plan reflects their comments on policy where appropriate.

On the right are the issues which emerged during the course of the Steering Group's work, as being those the Parish would like addressed. These issues are reported here, along with the vision for each and at the end of the report an agreed Action Plan.

Issues

- **Speed on A345 and C32 and in built up areas of Parish**
- **Loss of Village Shop and Post Office**
- **Local Environment Problems**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Need for modern School buildings**
- **Parish Council activities**
- **Crime and Safety**
- **Church and churchyard**
- **Figcheldean website**
- **Welcome Pack**

These are listed in order of priority. As established by the support shown in answers to our questionnaire.



Easy access from the A345 to Figcheldean and Ablington

Introduction

Welcome to the very first Parish Plan for Figcheldean, a rural community in Wiltshire. We have tried to record the state of the Parish in the early 21st century, and say how residents wish to see it develop over the coming 10 or more years.

Participation

Parishioners were invited by the Parish Council to attend a public meeting on 9 March 2005, to discuss the future of the Parish. Following a presentation by the Community Development Officer for Salisbury District Council, the many present recorded their ideas for the future, and their likes and dislikes about Figcheldean. It was resolved to produce a Parish Plan.

A Steering Group was formed from volunteers including a Parish Councillor. Though there have been changes of membership due to pressures of work and moves away from the area, a core group continued the project through to the present. The Parish Council has sponsored the work, has been closely involved by membership of the Steering Group and by commenting at each key stage.

Throughout, we have received valuable practical support and advice from Community First and from Salisbury District Council, both of which also provided Steering Group members with detailed training to prepare us for the task ahead.

Producing this Plan has been very much a team effort. We would not have succeeded without help from all of the above, which is gratefully acknowledged.

Approach

Having drawn up an action plan, funds were raised, and the concept of the Parish Plan was publicised. Consultation was widened at two village events during summer 2005. At the Fayre on 19 July, 68 people including a small proportion of visitors, contributed their views on the questions raised at the public meeting. A similar approach was used at the Gardens Open Day on 24 July, when 43 people responded.

Themes began to emerge. There is much to like about our Parish, which is seen as peaceful, safe, friendly and conveniently situated, with excellent facilities. Ideas for future improvements abound, as shown in our vision statement. Our problems are perceived to include parking and traffic, high housing costs and some anti-social behaviour.

Whilst the loss of the pub is deplored more recently the loss of the Shop/Post Office, is deeply and widely felt, as it provided a focal point for the Parish and many day to day social contacts.

The Steering Group needed to establish views that were truly representative: not biased by exclusion of the young or elderly, nor missing out 'harder to reach' groups such as those in isolated dwellings or the service families living at Netheravon Camp. We concluded that residents of the Care Home in Figcheldean village would not be asked to participate.

Further consultations were held in June and July 2006 with the members of most of the Parish organisations, including the Church, Youth Club, Over 60s Club, Working Men's Club and Village Hall Management Committee; also pupils at St Michael's Primary School. With the cooperation of management, those employed at five organisations in the Parish responded to a separate questionnaire aimed at helping us to understand their views and particular needs. We were most encouraged by the number of responses which came from those employed at Netheravon Camp.

At every stage we provided written feedback to respondents on the results of consultation exercises, both through their organisation and the Parish Newsletter. In parallel, we developed the background knowledge needed to draw up a Community Profile, which is used as a base line for this Plan. Through these consultations we were able to identify the necessary topics and questions for the household questionnaire. The most satisfactory way of gathering comprehensive views was decided to be the distribution of questionnaires to each household to which everyone aged 11 or over could respond individually. Weeks of debate ensued, which produced three drafts and a trial run in which 23 households 'road-tested' our questionnaire.

A team of 13 was then recruited to help us deliver and collect them, mostly during the period 10 to 19 November 2006. Respondents were guaranteed anonymity. The effort was carefully planned and comprehensively recorded. The response was outstanding. Though households were given the option to conceal their location, only 2 chose to do so. From 250 occupied homes, we received 197 completed questionnaires; and 3 were excused on grounds of ill-health or long-term absence. Response rates varied across the different areas of the Parish from 55% to 100%. Overall, only 1 in 5 households declined to participate.

The fact that almost 80% of households answered the main questionnaire was a huge morale booster for the Steering Group and the Parish Council. There could be no better indication that community spirit is alive and well here; nor that the views we report are truly representative.

A further team of 5 villagers completed the lengthy process of data entry to 'Village Appraisals' software, which was used to analyse 'quantitative' answers. Responses to 'comment questions' were appraised by members of the Steering Group.

Following comprehensive analysis and study of this material, further information was obtained when other issues raised by Parishioners were reviewed.

A draft plan was compiled and circulated for comment to our Parish Council and all other

Interested parties in the Parish. It was circulated to Community Initiatives, Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council Community First for comment.

These views have been taken into account in our Parish Plan both in the text and Action Plan. This means that some issues that we would like to see dealt with speedily are not so easily resolved. For instance, speed of traffic is subject to many external constraints. Not just those imposed by the county but Government Policies.

What has been produced?

This document brings together all of the inputs mentioned with a comprehensive analysis of responses to the Household Questionnaire. An archive of background information has been compiled which contains results of consultations and community profile information.

This Plan has been endorsed by our Parish Council. The Parish Plan once validated by Salisbury District Council officers will be presented to the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance for recognition. The Parish Plan will then be used and included in the development of new planning policies.



Mums and teachers were children once. Today's children have fun matching recent and old photographs.

Figheldean Past and Present

The Past

Figheldean is situated on Salisbury Plain. The Parish is bisected by the River Avon, a clear chalk stream which has created a valley of fertile alluvium. The most probable origin of the name, well over 1,000 years ago, seems to be “*Fygla’s Dene,*” or “*The Valley of the Fowlers.*” The Parish today has a boundary 30km (19 miles) in length with its longer axis East/West, encompassing 2201 ha (5439 acres) and six settlements. All of these, together with the principal roads, lie in the central valley running North/South (Figures 1 and 2).

Within the present boundary, evidence of Neolithic settlement includes the many *tumuli* and *long barrows* that can still be seen. Since then human occupation has been continuous. Up until the 20th century, the economy was based on wool, changing to mixed farming. From about 1897 the bulk of the parish and many of the dwellings were acquired for the use of the Army, which has dominated the life of the Parish since then. Establishments include a base for military flying, now called Netheravon Camp, and part of Larkhill Camp, much of which lies within our boundary.

There are 32 buildings with Listed (Grade II) status; many are thatched. The remaining homes are of 19th century or later construction, early development in Figheldean having extended south along the High Street. The original centres of Figheldean and Ablington are now designated Conservation Areas. A few large houses (including farmhouses) and cottages are sited away from the main centres. There are two sites of special scientific interest (S.S.S.I) along the East bank of the Avon on either side of our bridge.

The military authorities were responsible for building groups of houses in Ablington and near to Netheravon Camp before and after the 1939-45 war. In Figheldean village, development in the latter half of the 20th Century has included buildings in the High Street

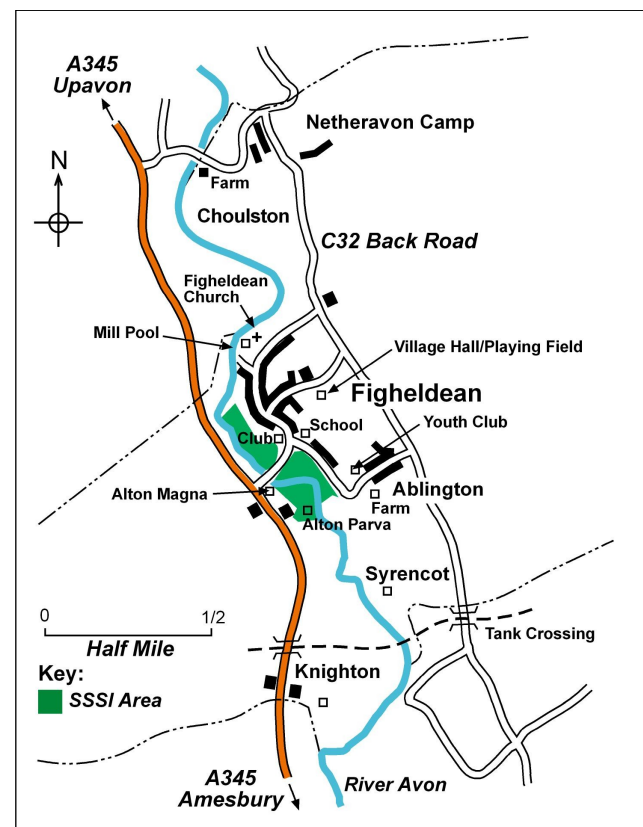
also bungalows in Oak Lane, major house building in Pollen Lane and Close, Avon Banks and Hilltop Close. Both Ministry of Defence and council houses have progressively been sold. Thus the Parish community today includes a variety of settlements (some adjoining and others more isolated) surrounded by an Army training area, part of which is let to local farmers. Some areas have distinctive characteristics which no doubt explain residents’ sometimes contrasting views, as will become apparent later. Within living memory, Figheldean boasted 5 shops, including a butcher, baker and haberdashery and of which the shop / post office was the last to remain.

The Present

Since the last census in 2001, new housing has been developed on land formerly owned by the pub and on land occupied by a meat processing plant. The Parish has St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, a thriving Primary C of E School, a modern Village Hall used by recreational clubs, a sports field with a multicourt and childrens playing area, Figheldean Working Men’s Club and a Youth Club 50 years old.

Figheldean and Ablington.

Fig 2



Population trends

In 2001 the Parish population totalled 715, of whom 665 lived in a total of 257 households (average = 2.59 persons each). The remaining 50 were residents in 'communal dwellings' (Care Home and Officers' Mess at the Camp). Now there are 264 dwellings, of which 14 were unoccupied at the time of our main survey. Our returns gave an average occupancy of 2.47 based on 197 dwellings. This extrapolates to 617 persons among 250 households (651 if all homes were to be similarly occupied). Thus households are getting smaller; and our population appears to be dropping in absolute terms. The relative proportions of younger and older residents have also changed markedly in the last 5 years:

	2001 census	Nov 2006
% residents under 20 years old	27%	18%
% residents 60 years and older	20%	28%

While we did not set out to take a census, the high return rate in our survey supports these conclusions. The group has been surprised by the speed and apparent extent of these changes. Additionally, Table 1 shows that residents of the service housing ('Camp') are, on average:

- younger than people elsewhere;
- have lived here for much less time;
- are much more likely to have another home elsewhere, and
- less likely to identify with the Parish.



Children of St Michaels school return along the High Street from a church service, retaining strong links with the church, links established in the 19th century.

TABLE 1 - Selected population characteristics

Percentage in each age group		
	All except Camp	Camp
Years	No = 402	No = 80
Up to 10	5.5%	21.3%
11 to 19	10.0%	10.0%
20 to 29	9.7%	21.3%
30 to 44	18.7%	37.5%
45 to 59	22.9%	7.5%
60 to 74	24.4%	1.3%
75 and over	8.2%	0.0%
Age not stated	0.7%	1.3%
Percentage who have lived in the Parish for		
	No = 349	No = 52
Less than 2 years	9.7%	69.2%
2 to 5 years	16.6%	21.2%
6 to 10 years	18.9%	9.6%
11 to 20 years	18.9%	0.0%
More than 20 years	35.8%	0.0%
Percentage whose main home is in the Parish		
	94% (of 325)	74% (of 42)
Percentage who identify with the Parish		
	No = 328	No = 46
not at all	7%	41%
a little	47%	54%
a lot	47%	4%

Note: Not everyone answered all the questions.

Some notable facts about Figheldean Parish

From the 2001 census (comparisons with England in brackets) includes:

- At 0.3 persons / hectare, our population density was very low (3.8);
- Our homes had slightly more rooms (6.1 per household) than average (5.3);
- The proportion of people reporting good health (77.1%) exceeded the average (68.8%);
- At 64.7%, the proportion of married or re-married people was high compared with the country as a whole (50.9%).

Economic Wellbeing

Background Information

Employment

The 20th century saw dramatic changes in Figcheldean's economy, changes which continue. In 1901 over 90% of households were headed by an agricultural labourer. Today, the land remains intensively farmed, but by a handful of people using modern methods.

Businesses based here include Farming, largely a tradition of a small number of long-established families; a residential Care Home; a Thatcher recognised as one of the best in the County; and Tourist Coaches, a well-established local business now a subsidiary of the Go-Ahead Group. There are other small enterprises, covering the building trade, air conditioning, horticultural and employment at the school. There is also a trend for people to work from home.

Employment in the Parish is dominated by the Army. Over 40 military units are represented at Netheravon Camp, which between service and civilian posts account for over 500 jobs.

The majority of 600 jobs in the Parish are undertaken by people who travel here daily. Indeed at the last census 368 residents of our Parish were of working age; most being employed elsewhere.

The analysis of industries in which residents are employed, taken from the 2001 census (Figure 3), also illustrates the dominance of defence in the area. As to occupation, around 50% were then employed as managers and senior officials, professionals, or in associate professional and technical occupations. Many decide to remain here in retirement.

Commercial Enterprise

Responses to the household questionnaire indicate little support for commercial enterprise/light development in the Parish. Almost 70% were against the construction of small industrial units; and almost 60% against the lease or rental of such units. It appears that even the conversion of existing buildings for such purposes would be opposed.

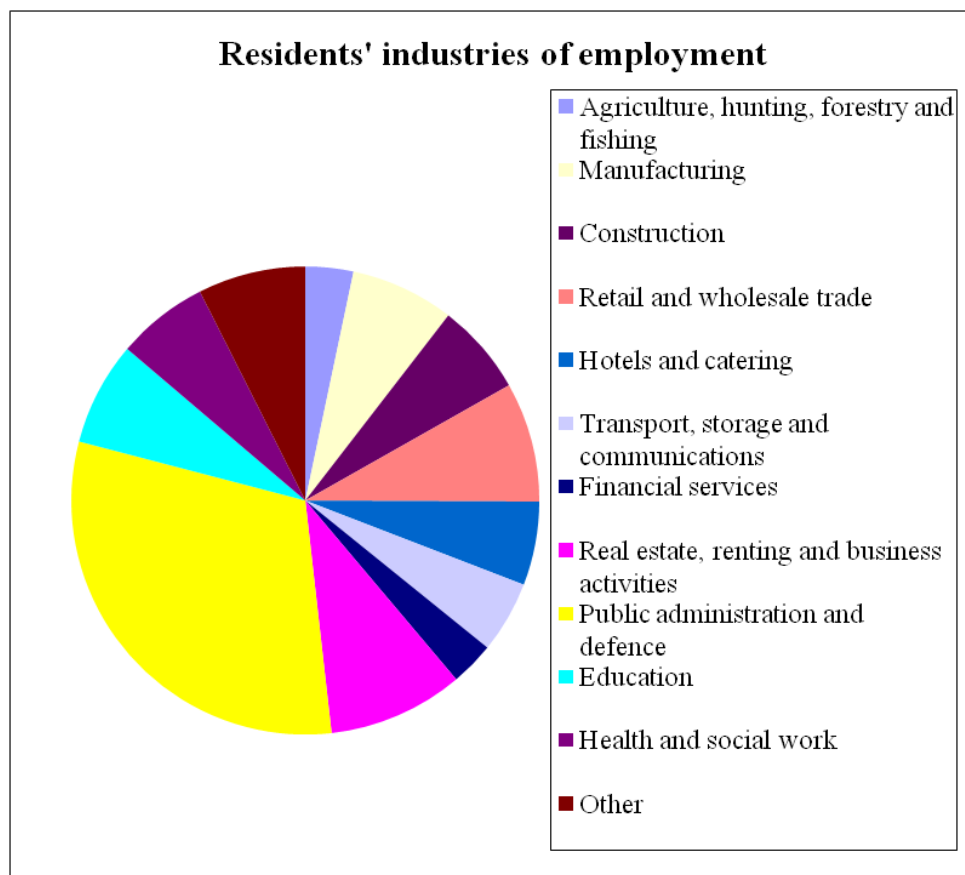


Fig 3

The Issues

- To provide a Community Shop with Post Office facilities
- Consider small wind turbines
- Shared power purchase

Shop/Post Office.

Approximately 90% of potential respondents agreed that it was important to retain the village shop/Post Office, and 84 people said that this topic was the most important facing the parish. Meeting the parishioners' wishes became more urgent during the course of our investigation when the current owners put the business on the market. The Steering Group facilitated involvement of Community First's Village Shops Adviser, and recommended the Parish Council to set up a Working Party.

The Parish Council, following a public meeting in February 2007, established a small committee to examine options for providing a community shop and/or Post Office in both the short and long term. The Village Shops Adviser has undertaken to support this work in any way possible, including the legal aspects of options to set up a social enterprise. We hope that another site can be found. The Figheldean Working Men's Club is consulting its members about creating space for a Post Office/Shop. If acceptable planning permission will be sought from Salisbury District Council for a small shop.

Energy

Respondents to the possibility of small wind turbines showed limited interest in this initiative. With regard to shared power purchase deals, this was met with more enthusiasm.

Vision

- Provide Shop/Post Office service in the Parish
- Awareness of need for economies in use of energy



Ablington Farm, which the same family has farmed for generations



Modern bungalows for the older residents in Oak Lane



Our Master Thatcher making the thatch of a 450 year old cottage in Ablington good for another 20 to 30 years.

Transport and Access

Background Information

Regular travel and potential car sharing

Table 2 summarises responses to our question about regular travel outside the parish for work, school, leisure and recreation. Of the small number (35) who gave views about the potential to share transport, the great majority said that sharing was impractical for them; a few said that a small bus could be of interest if times could be agreed.

Access

A majority (72.6%) of residents agreed that work opportunities within a 'reasonable' travelling distance are adequate for them. A majority of households include at least one person who travels regularly outside the Parish for work, school etc. Some of us work very long distances away. No doubt this contrasts starkly with the population of 100 years ago, almost all of whom probably worked within the Parish.

Local commuter travel is exclusively by road, and not surprisingly, today's 'workers' as well as residents counted road traffic issues among their greatest concerns about the Parish. Our nearest railway stations are at Pewsey 9 miles, Salisbury 12 miles and Grateley 9 miles.

Road Maintenance

The A345 and C32 are the 'main' roads out of the Parish. The importance of these roads, the safety of the 'turns' in and out of the Parish and maintenance of roads, verges and hedges, are of the highest priority to the parishioners.

TABLE 2 - Residents regular travel outside the Parish

Durrington (3 miles)	17
Amesbury (4 miles)	41
Larkhill (4 miles)	6
Bulford (5 miles)	13
Other MoD on Salisbury Plain	43
Salisbury (12 miles)	47
Andover (16 miles)	8
Swindon (29 miles)	1
Other within 30 miles	31
Bristol (45 miles)	1
Reading (47miles)	3
Other within 50 miles	8
Newport (73miles)	1
London and suburbs (80+ miles)	7
Widely	14

Public Transport

About one third of respondents used the existing bus services, which over 70 % found to be adequate for their needs. Respondents were equally divided between those who would use small buses if the existing service through the village/s were to be extended, and those who would not do so.

Tourist Coaches provide local school transport as well as some of the village bus services. Recently, a more flexible local bus service has been introduced, and has been received favourably. The routing and timing of the bus through the Parish has been improved. A new local Connect(2) service has been introduced since our questionnaire was issued. Link, our voluntary transport scheme organized from Durrington, is also available.

Speed of traffic

The speed of traffic drew the highest response rate in our questionnaire. Five questions on vehicular traffic were asked and 89 % of people responded with the overwhelming majority agreeing that the A345 speed of traffic was excessive. A specific proposal (in the questionnaire) for extending the existing 50 mph limit between Netheravon Parish boundary to North of Hackthorn, was also agreed by 89%.

The proposal to use Vehicle Activated Signs has arisen since our household questionnaire was completed. The Steering Group took the opportunity to conduct a survey at the Village Fayre 2007, as to whether the use of these signs would be welcome. Out of 113 people surveyed, (97 lived in the Parish) all were in strong agreement with the suggestion. After discussions with the Highways Department, we have been given to understand that a strong case can be made for the installation of signs on the A345, North and South, prior to turning into the village.

On the C32 'back road' a suggestion to introduce a reduced mph limit between Syrencot and Netheravon received a majority of 81%. This section of our road also forms part of the Wiltshire County Councils cycleway route. Speeding through Ablington and Figheldean again had a majority of 61%, favouring a reduction of the current limit in built up areas to 20 mph, although calming measures found little support.

We noted that whilst the concerns of Figheldean and Ablington villagers were more focused on the main A345 road, residents of the Camp area (along with those travelling to the Camp for work) were much more concerned with the back C32 road.

Comments came to light concerning speed of traffic in Mill Lane. This is used mainly by the householders and visitors. In the summer a problem arises as there is an increased traffic wishing to gain access to our riverside environment. Calming measures might be appropriate in this situation.



Regular bus service along A345



*The back road not **all** traffic is fast moving!*

Transport and Access

The Issues

- Speeding - Highways
- Maintenance - Roads, Pavements, Verges, Hedges
- Parking - Inconsiderate parking
- Mill Lane - Traffic

Speeding

Proposed changes to reduce speed to:-

- 50 mph Netheravon - Hackthorne A345
- Netheravon - Syrencot C32
- 20 mph Built up area of Parish
- Extension of speed limits to include, (1) from A345 to existing signage, (2) from C32 to Church Lane and Pollen Lane to existing signage.

The issues of speed and limits, are complex, and involves County and Government and is a country wide problem.

Maintenance

Roads and Pavements - Maintenance of surfaces and filling in of pot holes.

Hedges and Verges - ensure they are regularly maintained to ensure good sight lines and to give unobstructed footpaths.

Cars And Parking

Car ownership, is high and, 80% had parking space on their own property. A similar proportion stated they would not use public parking space, even if a site could be found. Other peoples inconsiderate parking causes difficulties to 43% of respondents.

The Steering Group note the comments on perceived difficulties for emergency services in negotiating parts of the High Street when vehicles park on both sides. These have been passed on to the services involved.

Potential Partners comments - All speed limits are due for review in the next 18 months, with the outcome know by 2011. We have decided to include a supplementary Statement from the Highways Department, indicating how speed limits are reviewed, and this can be seen at the end of our Action Plan.



A 17th century cottage, beautifully maintained, at the start of Mill Lane. The lane is of concern to parishioners due to the amount of traffic attracted by the Mill Pool. (shown on cover).



The style and foot bridge over the hatches at Gunville

Vision

- The speed of vehicles is such that there is a minimal risk for both road users and pedestrians.
- Well maintained roads, pavements, footpaths and verges/hedges.
- Mill Lane remains a safe tranquil area
- Streets and pavements and footpaths are unobstructed by parking for the safety of all.

Environment

The Issues

- Litter Collection
- Recycling
- Cleaning and tidying of paths and pavements
- Part Time Groundsman
- Mill Lane/Pool tidiness
- Footpaths
- Rights of Way and cyclist route

Views on the environment prompted much interest. There is a marked contrast between residents' ratings of the natural as opposed to the man-made environment of Figcheldean. 71% rate our natural environment as outstanding or good, whilst the built environment is rated by 44% as only good.

Questions about maintenance concentrated on the man-made environment. They were framed to reflect the topics of concern identified from our initial enquiries.

Maintenance of Roads, Footpaths and Verges.

Over 90 % agreed that better maintenance was required for all three, but the topic was not of the highest priority to many. This divergence of opinion may indicate the ongoing importance of maintenance, as opposed to needs for change. A very large majority of all parishioners agreed that better maintenance of roads (93%) and verges (84%) was needed. A majority agreed that street cleaning, better maintenance of pavements and footpaths were also required. The Mill Pool area was particularly untidy in the view of 96% of respondents, while 76% considered dog fouling remained a concern in the Parish.

Part Time Groundsman

Only 33% of respondents gave support to the employment of a Part Time Grounds man through the Parish precept.

General Tidiness

It was suggested that the Parish Council consider ideas for a grand tidying up weekend, with competitions and a Village Hall Evening.

Footpaths, Rights of Way and Cycleway

Five issues were raised - **an up-to-date map of paths, establish rights of way, a walk on Avon river bank** (requested by 80% of potential respondents), a **footpath to Netheravon via Harefield Crescent** another via Choulston is in use, and a **cycleway to Durrington via the Hams**.

The Parish Council has investigated methods of publishing/displaying footpath information. They have established Rights of Way with Wiltshire County Council on existing paths. It is also examining the background to the 1985 objections by the MOD to the opening of a river side path. Physical obstructions and ownership of a pathway via Harefield Crescent to Netheravon, which largely lies outside the Parish, indicate that re-opening the path is most unlikely. A cycleway to Durrington lies largely on an existing "Wilts Cycle Way - No 45" and on other public roads. Wiltshire County Council has plans to change an existing footpath (in Milston) into a cycleway to complete the route.

Potential Partners Comments - Highways Department have a 'hotline' for anyone to report urgent road and pavement repairs. Highways Department will consider all new requests for new footpaths, cycleways and other transport infrastructure and assess and prioritise requests. If considered in the final plan, maybe considered for local transport funding and implementation. Salisbury District Council expressed concern about issues of employing part time handyman.

Vision

- A clean litter free Parish with well kept paths, pavements and roads.
- A pleasant extensive and safe network of paths and cycleways.

Housing

Background Information

The Issues

- Housing for young local people
- Modification of building line
- Redevelop dilapidated buildings for housing
- Village design statement
- Resist large scale development

Housing is centred on Ablington and Figheldean, each having its own conservation area. Apart from the two roads at the camp, other housing is relatively isolated. Pride is taken by parishioners in the care of properties whether rented or owned, new or old, small or large. There is a strong interest in keeping the Parish neat and tidy and many people make considerable efforts with their gardens.

How do parishioners see the Parish develop?

Housing is one of the three most important issues identified in our questionnaire. Opinion is fairly evenly split, 53% think that some change is needed 47% preferring no change. There is broad agreement, by 90% to consider some changes, whilst 99% agree to the proposition that “a mixed community of older and younger people, working and retired, is worth trying to maintain.”

The provision of affordable starter homes, through rural exception sites, for young families with local connections is seen as a possibility in helping to maintain the right balance. It should be noted that there is very limited available land within our building line without demolition.



Airfield Camp

Four ways of providing extra housing are suggested:

- Conversion of old dwellings/barns
- Modification of building line with single or small group(s) of less than 10 houses
- Affordable housing in the above group(s) or housing in rural exception sites
- Demolition of existing buildings making more land available

A large majority of 75% disagreed with the building of a large development but would accept up to ten dwellings. The emphasis must be in providing accommodation for young local people. The Steering Group initiated discussions with our Parish Council, Salisbury District Council and Community First. We would like to see a full Housing Needs survey conducted by Community First into the requirements of the Parish for housing for our young people.

Potential Partners comments - Large scale development. *The local plan allows for additional building of houses, within the building line, without restriction of numbers of houses. The Parish should flag up reasons for the restriction in large scale development, then the Parish Council should make the reasons known to Salisbury District Council.*

Development of up to ten houses. *Developers will have a chance to promote sites in a process which commences in May 2008. Sites which benefit from community support will receive greater planning support. Note: It is unlikely that Figheldean Parish will be the focus of large scale development.*

Affordable Housing. *The Rural Housing Enabler (Community First) to complete a housing needs survey. SDC Housing authority and Housing Rural Enabler to meet the Parish Council to progress survey.*

Disused Barns. *Salisbury District Council strongly welcomes review of disused barns, any schemes welcomed, bringing sites back into use for residential/non residential use.*

Vision

- To preserve the atmosphere of the Parish, retaining a mixed community, including affordable housing for young local people

Educational Facilities

Issue

- **Primary School**
- **Location and buildings**

Pre-School Groups

There are two active pre-school groups located in the camp area, available for mums and toddlers for children living in and outside the Parish.

St. Michael's C of E Primary School

Facilities currently enjoyed by the Parish include St. Michael's Primary School which is nearly 150 years old with about 90 pupils. Our Primary School has high standards and also attracts children from neighbouring villages. Almost all of respondents agreed that a local school was important; 23 said "most important." Many agreed that more modern or revamped buildings were needed.

These findings have been made available to the School Governors for their consideration; a development committee is considering options for the future.

Children at St Michael's School

The children were asked for their views as to what they liked or disliked in our Parish.

Response was varied and ranged from:

- Improved buildings or new schools
- Better facilities for children after school
- Swimming Pool
- Big climbing frame
- Slide

Secondary Education

The range of available secondary schools seems adequate for 74% of residents.

Potential Partners Comments - Wiltshire County Council state that funding for any replacement school is unlikely to be in place before 2010. The present site is too small to allow such developments whilst the school is operational, so a new site would be needed.

The Parish Council is reviewing and updating facilities available for children in the playing field area.



St. Michaels C of E Primary School, still recognisable after 150 years of continuous use, but in need of modernisation. The school attracts pupils from a wide area.



Four generations of pupils. The lady on the right first attended the school in 1919; she has been followed by her niece, great-niece and great-great-niece on her right.

Vision

- The Parish has a modern and high quality Primary School

Crime and Community Safety

Issues

- Community Policing
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Access for Fire, Ambulance/Police Service

Crime

Over 95% of individuals agreed that they felt safe, both in their own home and elsewhere in the Parish. Indeed, crime statistics show that Wiltshire is one of England's safest counties. Neighbourhood Watch and its police newsletter were effective and helpful to about 80% of respondents. These results are significant to the overall sense of community and well being in the Parish and discussed below.

We asked for views on specified issues which adversely affected households, and for ideas to combat them. Under half (85 of 197) of the households gave answers. Antisocial behaviour (28 respondents of which 7 came from parishioners in Netheravon Camp) was the most mentioned followed by burglary (19), vandalism (18) and dog mess (5); other issues affected or fewer households. Our questions did not specify a time limit, so perceptions, e.g. of burglary, may have resulted from old experience.

The ideas for combating the issues raised extended to subjects other than those mentioned. By far the most common suggestion was for increase in the visible presence of police officers on foot and not in vehicles. Further promotion of Neighbourhood Watch was suggested, also its extension to the camp area.

Safety

Fire Service

There was little comment concerning the fire service. Some possible difficulty was noted by residents in restrictions and delays caused by parking. The response time would be of concern in the event of the closure of Amesbury Fire Station.

Ambulance

Over half the respondents were concerned about the response time from the ambulance depot in Salisbury; some replies were based on experience, and included the difficulty of some ambulance crews in finding addresses. Others commented on the difficulty caused by double-sided parking in the High Street.

The Steering Group has obtained statements from ambulance, fire and police on the times expected to be achieved; attendance in the parish to emergency (999) calls should be achieved within 20 minutes. On the other hand, with both ambulance and fire services a significant number of replies said they were "good/adequate or excellent."

Potential Partners Comments - Parish Council to liaise with Community Policing regarding:

- *Policing of Parish and need for visual presence*
- *Neighbourhood Watch concerning involvement of camp including advice from Camp Staff Station Officer.*

Vision

- A Community where people of all ages feel safe and their property is secure.
- A self awareness of need for personal security.

Social and Healthcare

The Issues

- Access to healthcare is restricted through transport difficulties

We wanted to know of the concerns people have regarding Services provided by agencies outside the parish, and about community support for elderly and other groups. The majority made no comment on the Ambulance, Fire, Mail, Medical and Social services, however, 20% of residents made comments. Common themes are noted here.

Social Workers in Amesbury

The departments in Amesbury responsible for adult and juvenile welfare, reported that there are very few referrals or requests for help from the Parish .

Doctors and Dentists

Surgeries are at Amesbury, Durrington and Upavon. The Salisbury District Hospital has an Accident and Emergency Service. Dental services are in Amesbury and Salisbury. However, the absence of a surgery/doctor was felt by some to be a serious lack in Figheldean. Transport availability, particularly for the elderly to doctors and Salisbury District Hospital, received some adverse comment.

In considering the replies on these topics, the Group felt that much of the criticism arises from the location of our small Parish at some distance from the service providers or from lack of knowledge of services available.

The provision of a bookable transport service will help those who do not drive to the Amesbury surgeries. Problems of getting to and from the hospital can still be a problem. The Link Voluntary Scheme is also of help.



Avon Banks linking Figheldean and Ablington



Aerial photograph of Ablington leading to Avon Banks

Vision

- Improved access to for Healthcare Facilities

Community Facilities and Involvement

The Issues

- Degree of active support for the Church
- Maintain part of the churchyard to be as a natural area, provided burial areas are kept tidy
- Future community facilities

How we feel about the Parish

Figheledean is recognised locally as a friendly and relaxed place, and also for its ability to get things done. To a very large extent we feel good about living here. Over 19% rate their quality of life 'outstanding'; a further 66% rate it 'good'; 14% say it's 'acceptable'.

The Parish Church

The Parish Church (St Michaels and All Angels) has, in the view of 94% of respondents, an important part to play in community life. Over 80% agreed that it should be available for appropriate social activities, and that part of the churchyard could be managed as a natural area, provided the burial areas are kept tidy. The church was an important part of the lives of about 63% of respondents who would be affected if it closed; The remainder took an opposite view. The results have been made known to the Parochial Church Council and the burial areas are being tidied. All households in Figheledean receive the bi/monthly magazine Meeting Points.

A church fete is held here each year, which is well supported by the Parish.

Football Club

Our football teams are very active and well supported.

Village Hall

Our modern village hall has a stage and large hall suitable for drama, social gatherings and indoor sports. It is also used by the school and hired out to the public for external events.

Playing Field and multi-court facility.

These are regularly used for football, tennis and other games.

Youth Club

The youth club is fifty years old and has its own hall in Ablington. The Youth Club is of concern as it currently has a rather low level of support; with respondents commenting that more involvement by adults is needed in support of young people.

Figheledean Working Men's Club

It was originally built by the members in 1924 and later rebuilt and has undergone major refurbishment to bring it up to date. Many events are held there for fancy dress events, 50's/60's night, weekly bingo, discos and band concerts. A weekly coffee morning started in September 2007. The club is owned and run by its members.

Figheledean Village Fayre

This annual event attracts thousands of people from Wiltshire and beyond. It is very popular in the Parish and is run on a voluntary basis, taking the organisers a great deal of time. It draws support from all sections of the community and the profits go towards parish institutions.

Vision

- Church retains its important role in Parish life
- Maintain and develop leisure and social activities

Parish Affairs

The Issues

- Encourage day to day social contacts
- Election and nomination procedures
- Links with clubs/groups
- Welcome Pack
- Website
- Newsletter
- Working Parties

Parish Council Its Role

The Parish is the Northernmost in the Salisbury District, and at present lies within the South-West England European, and the Salisbury Parliamentary Constituencies. From the next general election we will be represented at Westminster by the Devizes Member of Parliament.

Our Parish Council is formed from volunteers as councillors, along with a paid clerk. The Parish council is the voice of the Parish for matters discussed with Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council.

Matters of interest to the Parish are conveyed by Minutes of Meetings posted on notice boards and our bi-monthly Parish Newsletter.

Parish Council

The Parish Council is seen by 63% of respondents as being an authoritative body, capable of influencing change. However over 90% said they would not consider becoming a Parish Councillor; most for lack of interest whilst for some personal circumstances made membership difficult, or because of their involvement in other parish activities. Twenty one people said they might stand at some stage, though a number were unable to do so at present.

The function and the appointment of nominees to the Parish Council was unclear to respondents. It became apparent that people do not read minutes or notice board announcements.

The Parish Council has rectified this by using the Parish Newsletter to convey this information.

The Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is highly valued, and elicited many favourable comments.

Working Parties/Action Groups

Open meetings for information; and parties set up to examine specific issues on behalf of the Parish Council, give opportunities for people with less time to contribute to Parish Affairs. For example the sale of the village shop has prompted the setting up of such a Working Group.

Welcome Pack

Promote a 'pack' for newcomers.

Website

Develop Parish Website



Swans on the River Avon at Figcheldean. The winning Photograph by Jemma Dicks (then aged 14) in our competition for under 15's.

Vision

- The Parish Council retains the support and confidence to represent Parishioners interests
- Friendliness and day to day informal social contacts be preserved.

Culture and Leisure

The Issues

- Use of Village Hall
- New Activities

We asked 22 questions about recreation and leisure in the parish; one part concerned support for existing and some proposed activities, and the second sought views on suggested new arrangements.

Figure 4 shows the relative amount of support for 8 existing and 4 proposed activities. Interestingly, there is apparently more support for the suggested Adult keep fit classes, Film Club, After School activities and Card Games than for the existing Table Tennis, Youth and Singing Groups. Figure 5 shows the percentage who agreed with a number of suggested improvements. The recreational facilities are very much the result of actions taken within the Parish by its members and supported by the Parish Council. Many of the activities are dependent on the use of the Village Hall.

The answers to the 'use of the Village Hall' showed that 78% of respondents said that they knew how to book the Village Hall, and 70% how to book the Multi Court; similar percentages said that present charges for both were about right.

The question concerning levelling of the playing field received support. The costs and time taken will probably be too high, but the matter is being considered by the Parish Council.

The possibilities of footpaths and cycle ways have been dealt with under Environment.



The new multicourt next to our Village Hall



A gathering of members and two leaders outside the Youth Club to celebrate the club's 50th birthday.

Vision

- A pleasant extensive and safe network of paths and cycleways
- A range of facilities everyone



Tractor parade at the Village Fayre

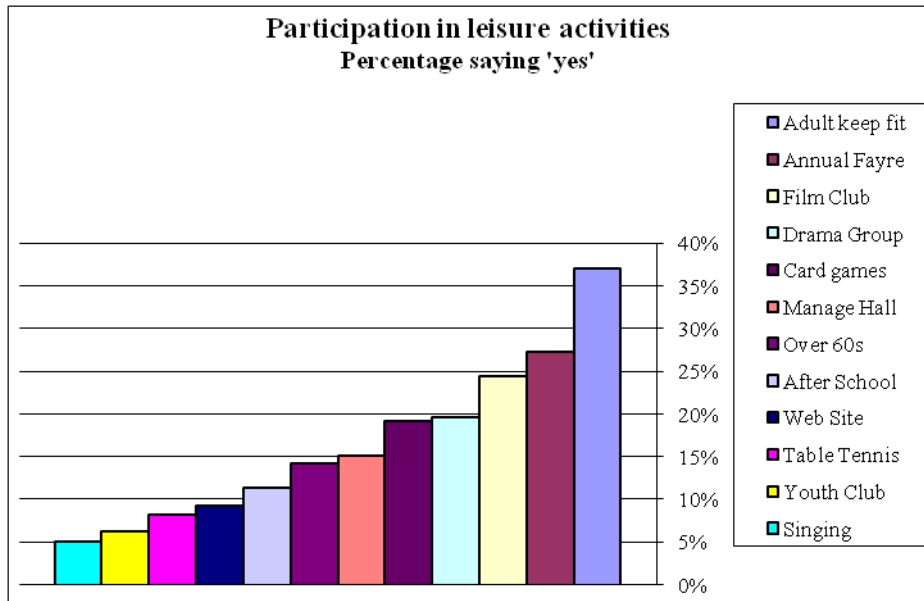


Fig. 4

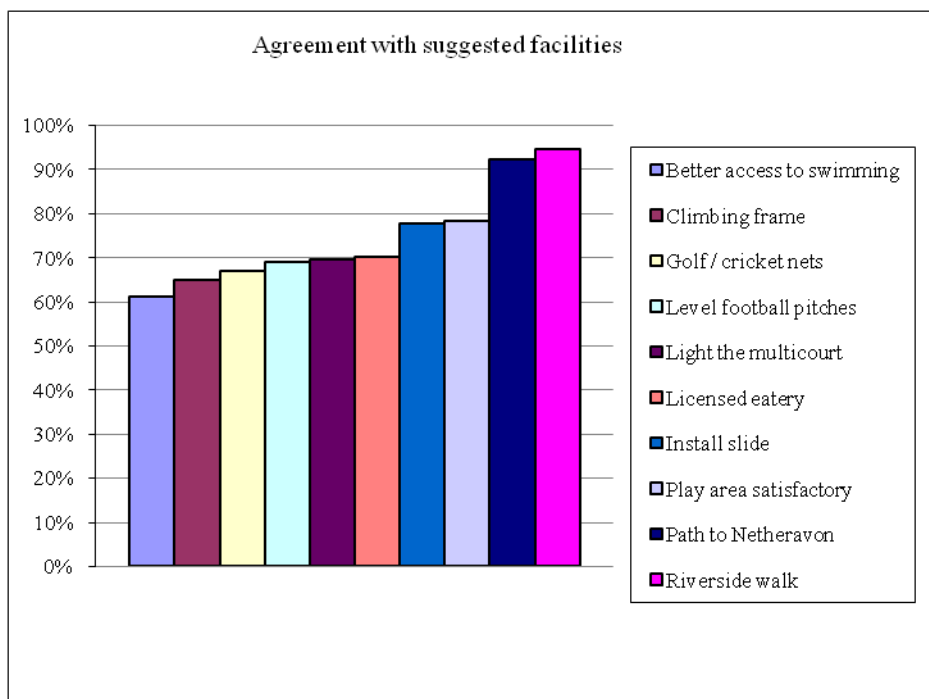


Fig. 5

The Way Forward

The Parish Plan marks a beginning, enabling more detailed plans to be drawn up for the future.

The Parish Council, our clubs and institutions will need support. However much or little effort you can contribute in providing new ideas and energy - everyone's help is important.

The closure of both the pub and shop reminds us that we are subject to external influences, and that we should be prepared to anticipate changes and work with our partners to address them.

Issues

Some identified issues that are being tackled.

- Working Party - Village Shop and Post office
- Housing Needs Survey for affordable housing
- Map showing footpaths/walks
- Welcome pack for newcomers
- Figheldean Website
- More attention to communication of Parish Affairs
- Church yard and church
- Adventure playground for older children

The Parish Council has endorsed our Parish Plan and we thank them for their support.

The implementation of this plan requires the support of the future unitary authority for Wiltshire.

The Parish Plan Steering Group has concluded its work and will monitor progress six monthly over the next two years and after that time it will be monitored by the Parish Council.

Vision

- A vibrant and friendly rural Parish that includes all age groups
- A mix of housing that enables young people to remain here
- Thriving Institutions that support our social needs, including:-

C of E Primary School
Parish Church
Village Hall
Multicourt and Playing Field
Working Men's Club
Youth Club

- Good neighbourliness, and a feeling of security
- An environment that is respected
- Safe and easy access by road and footpaths for motorists, cyclists and walkers



The River Avon at Figheldean continues its peaceful way as it has since time immemorial.

Figheldean Parish Action Plan - February 2008

The following tables provide the actions needed for each of the issues already outlined.

Timescale: Ongoing Started Short Term Within 5 years Medium Term 5 - 10 years Long Term 10 years +

Partnership: Indicates all interested potential parties when the partner is underlined it means Lead Partner.

Please Note - Index of abbreviations end of this Action Plan

Economic Wellbeing			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
Shop/Post Office	Recommended a working party be set up with advice from Village Shop Adviser, Community First. To look into the feasibility of providing Community Shop/Post Office in Parish.	<u>PC</u> , VSPOG Community First Village Shop Adviser Working Men's Club Post Office SDC	Started Short term Started Short term
Energy – Shared Purchase Power	Consider whether any scheme might have support and whether easily administered by designated person.	<u>PC</u>	Medium Term

Transport and Access			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
* Speed of Road Vehicles	Propose limit on speed to: 1. 50mph on A345 Hackthorne - Netheravon. 2. On C32 Syrencote - Netheravon Camp. 3. 20mph in built up areas. 4. 20mph from A345 to Figheldean bridge, Church Lane, Pollen Lane 5. Vehicle activated signs - A345 near entrance to Parish.	<u>PC</u> WCC MOD	Started Ongoing
Mill Lane Traffic	1. Investigate limiting traffic in Mill Lane. 2. Consider calming measures.	<u>PC</u> WCC	Started Short Term
Parking	Consider whether any off road parking sites might be possible.	<u>PC</u> , SDC, WCC	Long Term
Maintenance of roads and pavements, verges. Signage	1. Encourage use of “ Clarence - Hotline” for reporting of defects and signage problems. 2. Publish agreed repairs and drainage improvements - including verges. 3. Ensure good drainage.	1. Roads and Signage <u>PC</u> , WCC, MOD 2. Verges <u>PC</u> , SDC, WCC 3. <u>PC</u> , WCC	Started Ongoing
Public Transport - Bus	Liaise on regular basis.	<u>PC</u> , SDC Bus company, WCC	Ongoing
Transport - Voluntary and Community Transport	1. Promote existing Link Scheme. 2. Recruit more volunteer drivers for Link. 3. Promote Connect (2) service. 4. Extension of transport to hospital.	1. <u>PC</u> , Link 2. <u>PC</u> , <u>Link</u> 3. <u>PC</u> , <u>WCC</u> 4. <u>PC</u> , SDC	Ongoing

** Note: Please see note at end of Action Plan for WCC policy on speed limits page 31.*

Environment			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
Footpaths, rights of way and cyclist route.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish up to date map with footpaths. 2. Investigate re-opening of footpath to Netheravon from Figheldean via Harefield. 3. Cycle route Figheldean via Ham to Durrington. 4. Create walk along Avon River Bank. 5. Remind Parishioners to keep trees/shrubs/hedges trimmed beside footpaths. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>PC</u>, WCC, MOD 2. <u>PC</u>, MOD, WCC, WPC 3. <u>PC</u>, SDC, WCC, MOD 4. <u>PC</u>, MOD, EA 5. <u>PC</u> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed by PC 2. Started 3. Ongoing
Litter	<p>Encourage Parishioners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tidy front gardens. 2. Tidy litter outside gate/property on pavements and gutters. 3. Keep dogs under control in public places. 4. Arrange collection litter bins. 5. Discourage fly tipping. 6. Keep Parish informed re-recycling. 	<p><u>PC</u> SDC</p>	<p>Started Ongoing</p>
Mill Pool Area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support Mill Pool use by local Parish children. 2. Regularly monitor and clean area. 	<p><u>PC</u> MOD Environment Agency</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
Part-time Grounds man	<p>Consider feasibility of employing Part time Grounds man to undertake cleaning.</p>	<p><u>PC</u> SDC</p>	<p>Short Term</p>

Housing			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
Additional Housing	1. Resist strongly large scale developments. 2. Consider whether building line should be modified but still retained. 3. Consider whether development of up to ten houses is feasible. Including some affordable housing. 4. A housing needs survey be conducted by Community First (Rural Housing Enabler) in conjunction with SDC. 5. RHE to recommend whether or not houses could be provided on rural exception sites. 6. Consider need and practicality of village design statement being drawn up and written reflecting public opinion. 7. Recommend formation of Action/Working Group to progress items 1 - 6.	1. <u>PC</u> , SDC	Ongoing
Affordable Housing for young local people		2. <u>PC</u> , SDC	Ongoing
		3. <u>PC</u> , SDC, Community First	Ongoing
Village Design Statement		4. <u>PC</u> , SDC, Community First	Started
		5. <u>PC</u> , SDC, Community First, RHE	Ongoing
Action/Working Party		6. <u>PC</u> , SDC	Ongoing
		7. <u>PC</u>	Long Term

Education Facilities			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
C of E Primary School St.Michael's	School Governors to examine the community's needs and review options including modernising or providing new buildings.	<u>School Governors</u> PC, WCC	Medium Term
Facilities	Consider whether any slides or large climbing frame are possible either at School or playing field.	<u>PC</u> School Governors	Started by PC Short Term

Crime and Community Safety			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
Community Policing	1. Request regular police foot patrolling in Parish. 2. Review Community Policing in two years time.	<u>PC</u> Wiltshire Constabulary	1. Ongoing 2. Short Term
Neighbourhood Watch	1. Strengthen links and publish activities with Police/Neighbourhood Watch. 2. Maintain awareness throughout Parish of Neighbourhood Watch. 3. Consider extension of Neighbourhood Watch to Camp area.	<u>PC</u> Wiltshire Constabulary Neighbourhood Watch MOD	Ongoing

Social and Healthcare			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
Access to Healthcare	Improve access to Transport Schemes, for those unable to drive to hospitals, clinics.	<u>PC</u> , WCC Social Services	Ongoing

Community Facilities and Involvement			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
Church Church Burial Areas	Encourage continued Support. Tidying of Grave Areas.	Parishioners <u>PCC</u> , PC	Ongoing
Parish Facilities and Involvement	Village Hall Management Committee to continue to promote hall.	<u>VHMC</u>	Ongoing
Youth Club	Examine ways in which Youth Club can be promoted, developed and future secured.	PC, <u>Youth Club</u>	Ongoing
Leisure Activities	Encourage clubs to maximise resources and obtain practical help - grants. Publicity through newsletter.	<u>PC</u> , VHMC	Ongoing

Parish Affairs			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
Parish Council	1. Clarify nomination and election procedures. 2. Use newsletter to publish activities. 3. Introduce 'Welcome' pack for Parish. 4. Closer links with Clubs/Groups/Camp in Parish. 5. Continued development of website.	<u>PC</u> Clubs	Completed Ongoing Short Term Ongoing Ongoing

Culture and Leisure			
Issue	Action	Potential Partnership	Timescale
Leisure	1. Encourage use of facilities. 2. Consider levelling of playing field area. Slide on existing slope, large climbing frame.	<u>PC</u> , Clubs <u>PC</u> , Clubs, VHMC	Ongoing
Mobile Library	Maintain and Publicise Library Service to Parish including school.	<u>PC</u> , School, WCC, Library Service	Ongoing

Abbreviations

Camp	Netheravon Camp (part within our Parish)
C of E	Church of England
CP	Civil Parish
DEFRA	Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
MP	Member of Parliament
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MPH	Miles Per Hour
PCC	Parochial Church Council
PC	Parish Council
PO	Post Office
RHE	Rural Housing Enabler
SDC	Salisbury District Council
VSPOG	Village Shop and Post Office Group
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
VHMC	Village Hall Management Committee
VSA	Village Shop Adviser
WCC	Wiltshire County Council

Extract of WCC Policy - Statement on Speeding***Transport and Access - page 12 and Action Plan - page 26***

A strategy for local speed limits was considered by the Members of the County Council on 6th March 2007. Following indication of support for the strategy by the Members, the following has been agreed by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Economic Development as policy:

The Department for Transport Circular 01/2006 be adopted as guidance for the setting of speed limits in Wiltshire. (D of T Circular 01/2006 can be viewed on www.dft.gov.uk)

A review of speed restrictions on the County's Group 1 roads (A roads, B roads and important C roads) be undertaken to enable changes to be implemented by 2011 in accordance with Government requirements.

Requests for extensions to established speed restrictions be considered against the partnership arrangements agreed at the March 2006 meeting of the Environment Advisory Panel.

Requests for speed restrictions on Non Group 1 roads be assessed as part of a comprehensive review at a time to be agreed (but after the review of Group 1 roads). At that time a development criteria be formulated to enable effective 30mph speed limits to be introduced on Class 111 and unclassified roads where the requirements of DFT Traffic Advisory Leaflet 01/04 are not fully satisfied.

Within villages where 30mph speed limits have been introduced, in accordance with TAL 01/04, but speeds remain above enforcement thresholds, consideration will be given to the installation of permanent Vehicle Activated Signs.

* * * * *

Appendix 1: Acknowledgements

Volunteers

Members of Steering Group

Jill Lloyd	Chair	Nicki Lane	co-opted/IT
John Bamber		Mike Hitchen	designed cover/maps
Alan Cane	Treasurer	Andy Letchford	ex-member
Derek Sheppard		John Menzies	ex-member
Tim Mason	Secretary	Patrick Porter	ex-member
Fred Stace	Chair PC		
John Richardson	Clerk PC		

Parishioners who have helped with pilot surveys, and with formulating the Questionnaire, distributing and collecting it, and analysing the results:

Henry Rawlins	James Foreman	Brenda Pitman
Elizabeth Gabriel	Stephen Cox	Daphine Vallis
Trevor Woodbridge	Brian Strachan	Ron Chapman
David Quayle	Chris Heaven	Ray Grice
Stanley Rawlins	Su Edwards	Louise Sleeman
Valerie Oldrey	Brian Chalk	James Spencer SDC
Johnny Sernberg	Sue Letchford	Denise Wheelton
Simon Cannings	John Marsh	Sue Vergette
Gwyneth Sylvanus	William Vergette	Chris Mills
David Winter PC	Penny Mason	Christine Powne
Alan Rose	Theresa Sheppard	Sam Lane
Cyril Spencer	Ben Ward	Amy Hindle
Jamie Balls		

Councillors (in addition to those mentioned above)

Mark Baker	WCC	Richard Filippa	PC
John Smales	SDC	Peter Hrekow	PC
Simon Banton	PC	Mary Hrekow	PC

Officials

Officials of Wiltshire and Salisbury Councils, Community First and Netheravon Camp

Robert Key MP	Helen Kriezmann	Marion Rayner
Amber Skyring	Graham Axtell	Tim Coomer
Annie Scadden	Inspector Martyn Sweete	Carol Southall
Majors Marshall and Troughton		Liam Tatton-Bennett
Lt Col Himbury		
Graham Goodchild		

Parishioners

The Steering Group wishes to thank all those who completed the Questionnaire, and also, in particular Jill Adams and staff together with the under 11s of St Michaels School for their contribution.

Appendix 2: Responses to the Household Questionnaire

Introduction

Each of the 250 occupied homes in the Parish of Figcheldean received the questionnaire in mid-November 2006, and 197 households responded. Questions variously required answers of two types:

- Quantitative responses were typically from individuals in the form ‘I agree strongly / I agree / I disagree / I disagree strongly’; or ‘Yes / No’; or some other choice of options.
- Comment responses were mostly sought from households, with one person asked to reply on behalf of all. In this overview we deal with those ideas that find the greatest support.

It is important to note that in the introduction to the questionnaire, we emphasised that we did not expect everyone to know about or have an opinion on everything. This means that the total number of answers varies with each question. Therefore to give a common basis for comparison in the tables that follow, we show responses as a **percentage of the total replies to that question**, along with **that total number**. The 197 participating households included 447 persons of 11 years or more, so that is the maximum possible number of individual replies.

Background Demography

The following table shows the number of homes in each area of the Parish, how many were occupied at the time of the survey (=households), and the distribution of households that responded (=responses). Three households were excused participation on the grounds of long-term illness or holiday absence.

Area	Homes	Hholds	Excused	Responses	% area	% total
Church Lane	18	17	0	14	82.4%	7.1%
High Street & Mill Lane	43	43	0	42	97.7%	21.3%
Avon Banks	26	26	2	14	53.8%	7.1%
Oak Lane	29	29	0	29	100.0%	14.7%
Pollen Lane & Pollen Close	30	28	0	27	96.4%	13.7%
Hilltop	11	11	0	10	90.9%	5.1%
Ablington	30	29	0	21	72.4%	10.7%
Camp	58	49	0	27	55.1%	13.7%
Outlying dwellings	19	18	1	11	61.1%	5.6%
Not stated				2		1.0%
Totals	264	250	3	197	78.8%	100.0%

% area = number of responses / number of occupied homes in each area

% total = number of responses from an area / total number of responses from the Parish

Question 1 asked the **age and gender of residents**. Results were as follows.

Persons of each age and sex:	Male	Female	Not stated	All	% total
Up to 10	16	23		39	8.0%
11 to 19	31	17		48	9.9%
20 to 29	29	27		56	11.5%
30 to 44	52	53		105	21.6%
45 to 59	53	47		100	20.6%
60 to 74	50	51		101	20.8%
75 and over	13	20		33	6.8%
Not stated			4	4	0.8%
Totals	228	215	4	486	100.0%
Total potential individual replies (= total residents aged 11 years or more)				447	

Views on Travel and Transport Services

To what extent do you agree / disagree that:		AS	A	D	DS	Replies
Q2	Excessive speed is a problem on most roads in the Parish	39.3%	39.8%	19.5%	1.5%	400
Q3	The present 30mph speed limits should be reduced to 20mph	25.6%	35.7%	32.9%	5.8%	398
Q4	Traffic calming measures are needed in Figheldean High Street	14.3%	25.3%	44.1%	16.3%	363
Q5	A reduced speed limit is needed on the back road between Netheravon Camp and Syrencot	54.0%	33.3%	11.4%	1.3%	396
Q6	A 50mph speed limit is needed on the A345 from the de-restriction at Netheravon to the present 40mph limit north of Hackthorne	43.1%	37.6%	16.2%	3.0%	394
Q7	The bus service along the A345 is adequate for your needs	3.9%	67.3%	22.7%	6.1%	309
Q8	You would use the service/s more if small buses ran through the village/s	12.8%	40.5%	40.8%	5.9%	304
Q9	You use the existing bus services	4.0%	33.1%	54.8%	8.0%	299

Q10 If any member(s) of your household travel outside the Parish regularly (i.e. most days) to school, collage or work, please tell us where they travel to – please state town [each individual could reply]

121 households responded, containing 234 members who travelled - some to more than one destination. See page 12 for summary of answers.

Q11 Is there any shared transport arrangement (for example car sharing, mini-bus, a bus service that doesn't exist now) that any member(s) of your household would use regularly if it could be made available? Please note destination(s); times of day; purpose of journey(s). Please indicate how many people would use the arrangement.

47 households responded

- Sharing would be impractical – almost universal theme;
- Minibus or similar could be of interest (5).

Views on Community Development

To what extent do you agree / disagree that:		AS	A	D	DS	Replies
Q12	The Parish is fine as it is: no changes are needed	7.2%	39.9%	46.9%	6.0%	318
Q13	You are willing to consider ideas for future change in the Parish	9.6%	81.7%	7.0%	1.7%	355
Q14	A mixed community of older and younger people, working and retired, is worth trying to maintain	44.8%	54.5%	0.5%	0.3%	382
Q15	There are adequate work opportunities for you within a reasonable travelling distance (including voluntary work)	8.9%	63.7%	18.8%	8.6%	303
Q16	It is important to have a primary school in Figheldean	65.5%	34.3%	0.3%	0.0%	388
Q17	The primary school needs modern buildings	25.5%	48.1%	22.6%	3.8%	314
Q18	The range of secondary schools available to us is adequate	7.3%	66.2%	21.1%	5.5%	275
Q19	It is important to retain the mobile library service	32.3%	60.2%	7.0%	0.6%	359
Q20	It is important to retain the village shop / post office	80.5%	19.0%	0.5%	0.0%	395
Q21	The Parish Church is an important part of your own life	20.7%	41.4%	31.5%	6.4%	314
Q22	The Parish Church has an important role in community life	32.2%	62.4%	4.1%	1.2%	338
Q23	The Parish Church should be available for appropriate social activities during the week	13.2%	67.8%	18.6%	0.3%	295
Q24	It would affect you if the Parish Church closed down	21.6%	44.1%	30.5%	3.8%	338

Q25 How could the village shop / post office better meet your needs?

147 households responded

- Shop (then) met the household's needs (131);
- Some people felt that the shop did not fill all their needs, however analysis was not made of the items that people would buy there;
- The full analysis was passed to the Parish Council with recommendations for a working group to be set up.

Note: The need for a shop was one of the most important issues named in responses to Q108 to 110 (q.v.)

To what extent do you agree / disagree that:		AS	A	D	DS	Replies
Q26	You feel safe in your home	30.4%	66.3%	2.8%	0.5%	398
Q27	You feel safe elsewhere in the Parish	19.4%	76.0%	4.7%	0.0%	387
Q28	The Police / Neighbourhood Watch reports are helpful	7.5%	69.8%	17.1%	5.6%	321
Q29	Neighbourhood Watch is an effective scheme	8.0%	72.1%	18.1%	1.8%	326

		Foot	Vehicle	Replies
Q30	Do you think that if police were to patrol here regularly they should be on foot or in a vehicle?	67.3%	32.7%	391

Q31 Which of the following community issues affect your household:
Antisocial behaviour / Burglary / Drug abuse / Personal assault / Vandalism / Other (state what)?

	number	% (of 197)
Antisocial behaviour	29	14.7%
Burglary	19	9.6%
Drug abuse	2	1.0%
Personal assault	3	1.5%
Vandalism	18	9.1%
Dog (and cat) mess	6	3.0%
Litter	3	1.5%
Noise / foul language	2	1.0%
Poaching	1	0.5%

Q32 What are your ideas on combating any of the problem(s) identified in Q31 above?

The most popular among the wide-ranging responses included:

- Bring back the bobby! (36)
- Other ideas for greater policing / cctv
- Greater use of neighbourhood watch
- Greater provision of / support for organised youth activities
- Encouragement of individual responsibility (especially for litter and dog mess)
- Suggestions for improvements in road safety
- Review use of Mill area

Please identify any concerns you have about the following:

Q33 Ambulance services

48 households responded

- Distance / response time from depot (19)
- Inconsiderate parking impeding access especially along High Street (6).
- Positively stated no concern (12)

Q34 Fire service

39 households responded

- Inconsiderate parking impeding access especially along High Street (8)
- Need for crews to be directed (2)
- Positively stated no concern (16)

Q35 Mail service

55 households responded

- Delivery too late (25)
- Positively stated no concern (11)

Q36 Medical and social services

35 households responded

- Want local doctor/surgery (2)
- Appalling access to NHS dentist (2)
- Positively stated no concern (12)

Please identify any concerns you have about the following:	
Q37	Community support for the elderly or disabled or other group (specify) 28 households responded
-	Assistance for elderly including lifts to hospital
-	Support for youth
-	Positively stated no concern (8)

To what extent do you agree / disagree that:		AS	A	D	DS	Replies
Q38	There are sufficient 3+ bedroom houses in the Parish	13.4%	65.6%	17.4%	3.6%	276
Q39	It is important that smaller homes are available	27.0%	57.9%	10.0%	5.2%	330
Q40	A certain amount of new building may be necessary to provide affordable housing for younger local people	34.5%	42.5%	14.5%	8.5%	365
If suitable sites could be identified, which of the following kinds of housing development would you agree with?		AS	A	D	DS	Replies
Q41	Conversion of existing buildings	14.6%	67.1%	10.8%	7.6%	316
Q42	Build single dwellings	14.1%	62.7%	12.9%	10.3%	311
Q43	Build groups of up to 10 dwellings	9.5%	51.7%	16.5%	22.2%	315
Q44	Build larger groups of dwellings	3.4%	13.7%	28.0%	54.9%	293

Please tell us which, if any, of the following potential community initiatives your household agrees with?		AS	A	D	DS	Hhold resps
Q45	Construction of small work / industrial units	2.7%	28.8%	36.9%	31.5%	111
Q46	Small scale wind turbines	29.7%	49.5%	0%	20.8%	101
Q47	Lease or rental of small work / industrial units	9.4%	30.8%	30.8%	29.0%	117
Q48	Shared power purchase deal	13.9%	50.6%	27.8%	10.1%	79
Q49	Other, please specify Initiatives each suggested by one household, were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubbish and recycling collection points • Water turbine • Investigate geothermal community energy sourcing • Gas connection to the village 					

Views on Our Environment

To what extent do you agree / disagree that:		AS	A	D	DS	Replies
Q50	The recycling point at the rear of the Working Men's Club is adequate	4.3%	46.3%	39.2%	10.2%	324
Q51	Dog fouling is still of concern	35.7%	40.3%	22.5%	1.4%	347
Q52	All roads need better maintenance (e.g. timely filling of potholes)	54.3%	38.8%	7.0%	0.0%	374
Q53	The pavements need better maintenance	31.7%	48.0%	20.0%	0.3%	350
Q54	The road-side verges need better maintenance (e.g. more frequent cutting) in order to maintain visibility	36.4%	47.2%	14.8%	1.6%	371
Q55	The streets need more frequent cleaning	18.1%	43.4%	37.3%	1.2%	332
Q56	The village footpaths need better maintenance	19.9%	58.7%	21.1%	0.3%	332
Q57	The Mill Pool area needs regular tidying / maintenance	37.9%	58.1%	3.7%	0.3%	322
Q58	Parts of the Churchyard may be managed as natural areas provided that burial areas are kept tidy	15.5%	73.1%	10.8%	0.6%	342
Q59	We should finance a part time groundsman through the the Parish Council precept	10.5%	63.6%	22.8%	3.1%	324
Q60	Lighting should be installed at the multicourt	16.4%	53.0%	25.8%	4.7%	298

Q61 If you think the lighting of streets or footpaths is unsatisfactory, where do you think it needs improvement?

A total of 32 households identified a requirement for more lighting. Areas receiving most mention were:

- Ablington / woods / youth club (13)
- Pollen Close / footpath (5)
- Pollen Lane / footpath to Oak Lane (4)
- Camp , Kerby Avenue (3)
- Hill Top / Village Hall (3)

		Yes	No	Replies
Q62	Do you keep a vehicle in Figheldean?	78.8%	21.2%	368
Q63	Have you space to park it on your own premises?	83.8%	16.2%	327
Q64	If public parking could be made available nearby, would you use it?	18.2%	81.8%	292
Q65	Does other people's car parking cause difficulties for you?	43.9%	56.1%	328

Overall, how do you rate the environment of our Parish now?		Poor	Acceptable	Good	Outstanding	Replies
Q66	The man-made environment	4.7%	49.9%	44.0%	1.4%	359
Q67	The natural environment	1.1%	27.9%	51.3%	19.8%	359

Q68 What does your household think are the two changes – either something we've mentioned above, or something else - that would most improve the environment of the Parish?

The most popular topics among the 88 households which responded were:

- Maintenance / improvement of footpaths including gaining access to river banks (19)
- Promoting cleanliness and combating litter (16)
- Discouraging inconsiderate car parking (12)
- Amenity use of the Mill area (10)
- Discouraging speeding (9)
- Improved maintenance of roads (8)
- Street lighting – both more and less (6)

Parish Matters

To what extent do you agree / disagree that the following are worthwhile?		AS	A	D	DS	Replies
Q69	Reading the Parish Newsletter	31.5%	62.3%	5.4%	0.8%	387
Q70	Reading the Parish Minutes displayed on notice boards	8.5%	61.1%	28.5%	1.9%	316
Q71	Reading 'Meeting Points' (Church Magazine)	17.6%	61.7%	17.6%	3.0%	329

		Yes	No	Replies
Q72	Have you any interest in local government?	29.6%	70.4%	372
Q73	Would you consider becoming a Parish Councillor?	9.8%	90.2%	366
Q74	Would you be interested in bulletins / briefings from councillors on current matters of interest?	60.2%	39.8%	364
Q75	Do you think that the Parish Council is an authoritative body that is capable of influencing change in the Parish?	63.1%	36.9%	331

Q76 If you answered 'no' to the previous question, how could the Parish Council gain more authority?

34 households responded

- Clarify the role of PC (12)
- Improve representation throughout Parish for all areas (12)
- Encourage Parish Newsletter (5)
- Open consultation and working groups for major problems (3)

Q77 What would encourage any member(s) of your household to take a more active role in Parish activities? Please tell us about any ideas you have for co-operation.

49 households responded

- More information about the structure and function of local government bodies, including how parishioners are represented on the Parish Council would be helpful;
- Some people already involved with other Parish activities explained that a lack of time precluded them from PC duties now or in the near future;
- Frequent movement of troops makes service staff reluctant to take on long term local commitments.

Leisure Activities

To what extent do you agree / disagree that, in the playing field:		AS	A	D	DS	Replies
Q78	The football pitches should be levelled (potentially making the area more suited to cricket also)	20.1%	48.6%	24.3%	6.9%	333
Q79	Golf / cricket practice nets should be installed	16.9%	50.0%	29.9%	3.2%	314
Q80	A large climbing frame should be installed	11.3%	53.6%	32.6%	2.4%	291
Q81	A slide should be installed on the existing slope	14.9%	62.6%	21.4%	1.1%	281
Q82	The enclosed younger children's play area is satisfactory	5.8%	72.3%	18.2%	3.8%	292
Q83	A licensed eating establishment is needed in the Parish	27.2%	42.8%	24.8%	5.2%	327
Q84	Better access to swimming facilities is needed	17.5%	43.7%	36.6%	2.3%	309
Q85	The direct footpath between Figheldean and Netheravon via Harefield Crescent should be re-opened	36.8%	55.4%	5.1%	2.7%	334
Q86	You would use a riverside walk if one could be provided	49.4%	45.0%	4.4%	1.1%	362

In which of the following would you wish to actively participate? <i>Note: activities in italics are just suggestions at the moment.</i>		Yes	No	Replies
Q87	Help to manage the village hall	15.1%	84.9%	298
Q88	Help to organise or run the annual Figheldean Fayre	27.3%	72.7%	300
Q89	Singing with the Figheldean Singers	5.1%	94.9%	296
Q90	Table Tennis Club	8.3%	91.7%	289
Q91	Youth Club as a member	6.2%	93.8%	273
Q92	Over 60s Club	14.3%	85.7%	280
Q93	<i>Helping to run after-school activities for 5 to 16 yr olds</i>	11.4%	88.6%	289
Q94	<i>Maintaining and developing a village web site</i>	9.3%	90.7%	289
Q95	<i>Keep fit classes for adults</i>	36.9%	63.1%	295
Q96	<i>Drama Group</i>	19.6%	80.4%	286
Q97	<i>Film Club</i>	24.5%	75.5%	290
Q98	<i>Bridge / whist / card games</i>	19.1%	80.9%	282

		Yes	No	Replies
Q99	Do you know how to hire the multicourt?	70.0%	30.0%	340

		High	About right	Replies
Q100	Are the present charges for it high or about right?	5.1%	94.9%	235

		Yes	No	Replies
Q101	Do you know how to hire the Village Hall?	77.8%	22.2%	343

		High	About right	Replies
Q102	Are the present charges for it high or about right ?	9.2%	90.8%	261

Q103 What kind of events at the village hall (in addition to those held at present) would members of your household support?

53 households responded; many mentioned more than one type of event. Below the number of mentions for each activity is given in brackets.

- Support was confirmed for types of event that already take place, including Dinner Dances (5), Suppers / Fetes (5), Charity events and auctions (3), Craft Fairs
- Support for several of the activities suggested in QQ93 to 98 was re-iterated: keep fit and similar (14), Drama (11), Films (7),
- The following new activities would also find support:
 - Car Boot, Craft Show, Beer festival & Food Fair, Bazaars, Annual Welcome Party (9);
 - More Social activities for older children e.g. Discos, Cubs/Guides etc (8)
 - Mothers and Toddlers Play Group, Xmas Party, Pre-school activity (8)
 - Dance lessons (8)
 - Concerts (7)
 - Indoor Sports, mostly football (7)
 - Computer Club, Book Club and interesting talks (4)
 - Gardening Club (2)
 - Dog Show (2)
 - Band Practice (1)

Concluding Questions

	<2	2to5	6to10	11to20	>20	Replies
Q104 : For how many years have you lived in the Parish?	17.3%	17.0%	17.5%	16.3%	31.9%	405

	Yes	No	Replies
Q105 : Is this residence your only or main home?	91.1%	8.9%	371

	Not at all	A bit	A lot	Replies
Q106 : How closely do you identify with the Parish?	10.8%	47.1%	42.1%	378

	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Outstanding	Replies
Q107 : How do you rate your overall quality of life here?	1.0%	13.6%	66.1%	19.3%	389

Q108, Q109, Q110 For you, which were the most, second and third most important issues in this questionnaire?

People presented their responses to these questions in different ways. (*Do we have a total of different respondents?*) We concluded that it was most constructive to combine the answers to all three, giving the following result:

- Excessive speed (140 in all - 39 on A345; 38 on C32 back road; 27 in the villages; 21 speed in general; 15 thought traffic calming important)
- Housing issues (74 in all – 37 supported some house building aimed at people with local connections; 37 favoured construction of small group/s of houses)
- Retention of a shop/PO (43)
- Environmental improvements listed in Q68 (*q.v.*) (26)
- Retention / modernisation of village school (26)
- Retention of a mixed community (24)

The remaining answers were spread over nearly all of the topics raised in the questionnaire, plus a few that were not.

Q111 Please give one or more suggestions that your household think will help the Parish to prosper in the 21st century.

118 households responded.

- Retain a focal point/social centre (28, of which 15 supported a licensed dining premises, 9 gave the shop and 4 the Working Men's Club as important);
- Develop the community spirit while maintaining a small village with a mix of ages (23 in all);
- New housing suitable for today's young people (12, including 5 which suggested moving the school and using the site for building them).

Aerial photograph Figheldean and Ablington

