

MILTON DAMEREL PARISH PLAN 2008



MILTON DAMEREL PARISH PLAN

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Secretary:	Grace Millman
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Parish Councillors:	Gareth Piper (<i>Chair</i>) Charles Bellew (<i>to May 2007</i>) Rose Haynes Michael Kirby Grace Millman Edgar Pett Richard Piper John Webb (<i>from June 2007</i>)
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The Parish Council & the Parish Plan Steering Group acknowledge the grants provided by the Community Council of Devon and Devon County Council Councillors' Community Fund awarded by Councillor Humphrey Temperley, which facilitated the Parish Plan Project.

The Parish Plan Steering Group were very grateful for the sponsorship of the Prize Draws given by local businesses.

Household Draw:	Thatchers Restaurant, Woodford Bridge Lizzy's Larder, Blackberry Farm W Sanders & Sons Ltd, Horrellsford Garage
Young People's Vouchers:	W J Watkins & Son (Holdings) Ltd Noble Foods R J Jones RAW Piper & Sons Horse Dentistry (B Lomas) Playground Solutions (A & S Harper) Remedy IT Ltd (T Fairbrother) Bryan Mortimer

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parishioner,

Here is your household's free copy of the 2008 Milton Damerel Parish Plan. It details the Parish as it is today and how you would like it to be over the next few years.

This is a living document which we hope will be revised and reviewed periodically. Some of the Action Plans ask **you** to take on the actions. This simply means it is up to you as a parishioner to participate in any future development or implementation of the actions identified. If you have a particular interest in any of the Action Plans or are one of the people who offered help to organise or run a group activity then please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Parish Council. This plan needs you to carry it forward.

As the Parish Plan Steering Group and Parish Council Chairs we would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the production of this report for their hard work. Also we thank you for your responses, views and input you have given us. Without these contributions we would have been unable to produce the plan.

The 'likes about living here' which you identified in the feedback indicates the parish is a nice place to live. It has a good environment and you, the residents, were generally positive about it. However some of the dislikes that were mentioned arise through a lack of consideration in our actions and their impact on others in our community. Through all of this there remains a strong desire to maintain the countryside as it is now.

The plan was developed from your views of what is valued and how improvements can be achieved. We hope it is of value to **you**.



Chair, Parish Plan Steering Group



Chair, Milton Damerel Parish Council

*Parish Plan Logo designed and drawn by Jenny Moon
Front cover photos: Views from Holy Trinity Church tower
Photographs supplied by members of the Steering Group*

WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?

Community involvement in drawing up local planning policies is a fundamental ambition of the current system for local government initiated in 2004. Encouraging parishes to develop Parish Plans is key to this aim and such plans have several purposes. They enable communities to:

- engage with the local planning process
- make known those issues that affect them
- identify and set priorities for their key issues
- produce an Action Plan to preserve existing environment and services or promote the changes required
- influence the maintenance and creation of community services and facilities
- influence the planning system in such areas as:
 - identifying local needs for affordable housing or community facilities
 - identifying which open spaces are needed and valued by community
- plan action that the local community can undertake itself, such as:
 - carrying out environmental improvements
 - creating a new play area and place for young people to meet
 - promoting more community involvement

How this Plan was produced

- **September 2006** – The Parish Council invited parishioners to a meeting to hear about the purposes of Parish Plans, how they are produced, and invited volunteers to form a Steering Group with the Parish Councillors to take the project forward.
- **December 2006** – Members of the Steering Group met again with the Assistant County Community Strategy Officer and decided to make grant applications.
- **February 2007** – Funding by Community Council of Devon, the County Councillors' Community Fund and the Parish Council was confirmed and we set our overall aim and purpose for the project ...

"...The aim is for the community of Milton Damerel to participate in producing a Parish Plan. The purpose of the Plan is:

- *to compile a "snap shot" of the Parish now, which will be a historical record for the future – a community profile*
- *to consult the community and find out what people value, want to preserve or change, and empower them to achieve these*
- *to find ways to improve the Parish and the lives of those who live and work here and agree how to make it happen – an action plan*
- *to produce a document that will be:*

- *useful for local projects and a point of reference when seeking funds or assistance from outside agencies*
- *a reference source for statutory bodies when drawing up policies and making decisions that affect the Parish..."*



- **April 2007** – Our first Consultation Event – Community "Drop-In" – at the Parish Hall seeking out the aspirations and concerns in preparation for compiling the Parish Household Questionnaire.
- **August / September 2007** – Household and Young People's Questionnaires distributed to every household in the Parish and collected.
- **November 2007 to February 2008** – Members of the Steering Group collated data from Questionnaires, and analysed the results.
- **March 2008** - Second Consultation Event – "Drop-in & Give Us Your Views" – at the Parish Hall and Holsworthy Beacon Chapel Schoolroom asking for opinions on the key issues arising from the data analysis and proposals for actions.
- **July 2008** – Final Report and Action Plan published.

What next?

The Report and Planned Actions is now the Parish's reference document – to be used as a working base and active monitor on how the agreed actions are moving forward. The Steering Group has recommended to the Parish Council it should be reviewed and reported on each year at the Annual Parish Meeting, and possibly a new survey will be required in 5 -10 years, to find out the up-to-date views of parishioners at that time.

HISTORY & PARISH PROFILE

HISTORY

Milton Damerel is a parish of 4,359 acres (1,765 hectares) consisting of several hamlets, located around a "spinal" road, the A388, which travels from Holsworthy north east to Bideford, but it lacks a defined village centre. In a booklet about the Parish commissioned by the Parish Council in 1951, as a contribution to the Festival of Britain celebrations, Seymour Marks likened the Parish to a sycamore seed:

"It is roughly in shape rather like a winged sycamore seed, the centre being Venn Green to Milton Town, with a wing enclosing Gidcott on the east, the other embracing West and East Wonford and Down on the west. It is 4,415 acres in extent, if waste, roads and water are included. It has one main road running more or less along the northern boundary, with a secondary road roughly parallel from Gidcott Mill through Gratton, Milton Town and West Wonford to Chapman's Green. There are several subsidiary roads branching from these two principal roads which we shall discover as we travel. The parish boundaries were settled by the ecclesiastical authorities after the churches were built in order that priests allotted to them might know the extent of their responsibilities."



West Bridge

Furthermore, the boundaries and characteristics of the Parish were described by George O. Harris in his book "A glance back to some History of Milton Damerel", published in 1991, quoting from Rev. Polewhole's "History of the County of Devonshire" and from text attributed to the Minister (curate) of Milton Damerel in 1791:

"The river Torridge divides the parish on the north-east from Newton St Petrock, on the east from Shebbear. The highway on the south west divides it from Holsworthy. The trout stream (the Waldon) on the south-east divides it from Thornbury; the north-west is bounded by a rivulet under Bickington; and the west by another small rivulet adjoining Sutcombe. Length four miles, breadth in general about two."

"The parish is generally enclosed, and with hedges, except a few moors, namely Milton Graddon, Whitbere Down, Gidcott Down, and West Wonford Moors. Rather an hilly situation. The east-side is well wooded with three miles of wood, adjoining the Torridge, and belonging to different estates, viz. Woodford, Walland Knotts Wood, Growleighs, and Gidcott. A good public road made of common quarry stone; private roads rather bad."

"There are four villages, to wit, Milton Church Town, situated in the middle of the parish, containing eleven dwelling-houses, . . . About three quarters of a mile east is Whitbere, a village of seven dwellings-houses . . . ; On the south-west rather more than a mile from the church is East Wonford, containing five dwellings; And on the west from the church, a mile and half is West Wonford, of five dwellings also . . . All the above houses in general, have mud walls and thatched roofs. Dirworthy barton . . . is now the largest estate in this parish . . . about a mile north-west from the church. Gidcott, formerly an ancient chapel, . . . was the largest barton in the parish."



Sheep in field

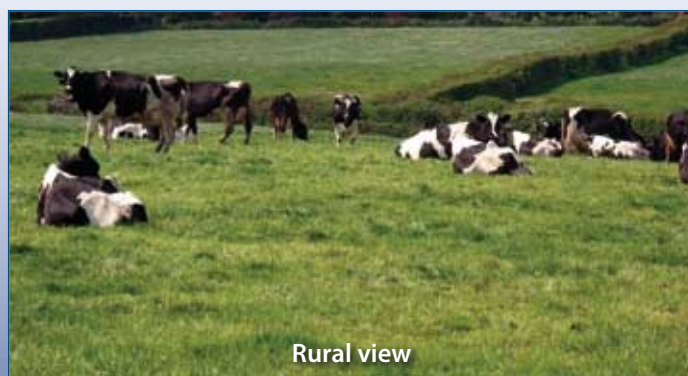
Historical records about the Parish refer to three Saxon settlements based on Gidcott (Gidescotta), Milton Town (Mideltona) and West Wonford (Wonforda), which were allotted by William the Conqueror in 1066 to knights who had fought with him at the Battle of Hastings. Robert de Alba Marla was rewarded with 15 manors (Saxon settlements) in Devon, of which 2 were Gidescotta and Mideltona, and Ruald Adobed was granted Wonforda, with 28 other manors in Devon. Over the course of time Robert de Alba Marla's name altered to Albemarle and thence to Damerel. The derivation of the name of the Parish, therefore, is in three sections:

Mil meaning middle,

Ton referring to settlement, and

Damerel being the family name of a lord of a manor.

There is however no agreed definition of how or what "Milton" was in the middle of – was it between two neighbouring villages, or was it that the Parish was "at the centre", for example, of trading?



Rural view

THE PARISH TODAY

Population numbers have remained static for the last 25 years at c. 450 residents, although approved development in 2003 for houses at Milton Town will increase the numbers in 2008 and beyond.

Public transport is available daily along the main A388 for travel to Holsworthy and Torrington, through to Barnstaple. Fare Car is available on request to residents of the Parish.

The Parish is designated a minor village and does not fulfil the "sustainable communities" key criteria, namely having a hall, a shop, a school and a post office. The primary school was closed in 1972 and the post office closed in the early 1990s; we do however, have a Parish Hall and 2 shops, one a convenience store with a cashpoint at the local petrol station and car repair/recovery business at Horrellsford, and a farm shop near to Venn Green.

Under the District Council Local Plan, the Development at Rural Settlements policy applies, that is:

- 1) New development in the rural area should be located in existing settlements, where it must be kept in keeping with the form, character, appearance, and setting of the settlement.
- 2) In villages like Milton Damerel such development will be limited to that which seeks to address local social or economic needs.
- 3) Additional housing will be restricted to modest scale, provided it is compatible with past pace of settlement growth and the requirement for development restraint and it must:
 - i) wherever possible, provide a mix of housing types that addresses the housing need of the rural community; and
 - ii) either, meet the community need for infrastructure as far as possible, or provide support to local services that otherwise could become unviable

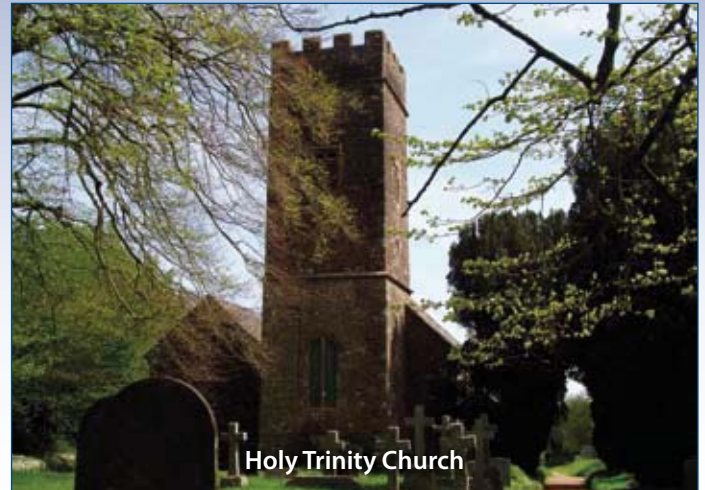
Agriculture, and associated activities, continues to be the main industry. Major employers in the parish are W J Watkins & Son (Holdings) Ltd engaged in all aspects of agriculture, Noble Foods PLC engaged in egg packing and distribution, and the Woodford Bridge Hotel & Country Club. There are several small businesses and single traders offering a range of supplies and services.



Parish Hall

The Parish Hall, originally a hall built on donated land in 1930 and gifted to the Church authorities free of debt, was

purchased from the Diocesan Finance Ltd and the Milton Damerel Parochial Church Council, by a Parish Hall Committee in June 1980, and re-opened after upgrading through grant aid in 1982. It is used for skittles, line dancing, Over 60s Club, meetings and social events.



Holy Trinity Church

There is a Parish Church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which has fragments from Norman times, and could possibly have existed in Saxon times. Internally the features are mainly Early English (14th Century) and the three bells, two of which are dated 1658 and 1758, were rehung in 1913. A monthly service is led by the Rector of Holsworthy.

The Methodist Church was built in 1891 as a larger place of worship to replace one built by followers of the Bible Christian movement in 1837, which then became the Schoolroom. Weekly services and activities include Sunday & Youth Clubs.



Methodist Chapel

The Parish has no open space, village green or playing fields/grounds. A village green near to the Church existed prior to 1896, when the tenant of Town Farm persuaded the agent to allow him to enclose the green into his estate. There is only one area of common land, situated at Chapman's Green, over which the owners and occupiers of West Wonford have certain rights.

Schoolchildren attend Bradworthy, Sutcombe or Bradford Primary Schools, all at least 5 miles distant. Senior pupils attend Holsworthy Community College and, after Year 11, North Devon College at Barnstaple. Post office services are available in the neighbouring villages of Bradworthy and Shebbear, some 5 miles distant from the village, and in the local town.

QUESTIONNAIRES' RESULTS

HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

Responses

A total of 197 households were identified in the Parish and delivery was organised to include all properties, although there were a few properties used as holiday lets. 23 households declined to take part, for various reasons, including age. 139 Questionnaires were collected and 138 were completed with information for analysis. At 78% this was an excellent response rate.

Not all households answered all the questions and neither did each eligible member of each household answer every question. The analysis in this and subsequent sections of the report reflect the number of answers given and it will be appreciated there are variations between the numbers of persons/households who answered individual questions and the total number of persons/households participating in the overall survey. Anonymity of replies was maintained through absence of the requirement to supply any names and collection of the Questionnaires in sealed envelopes.

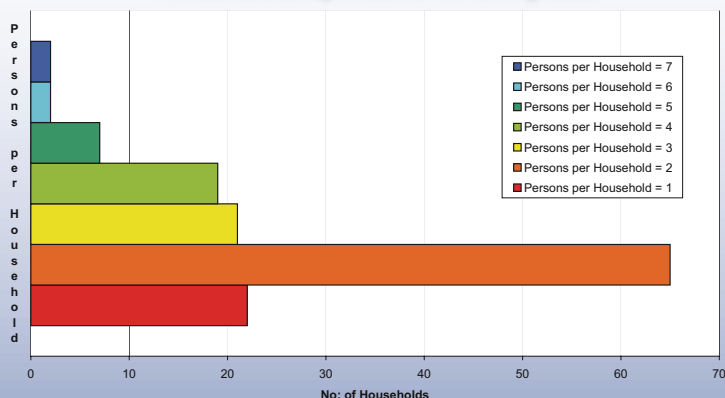
The Questionnaire contained two parts – the first part for completion by one person on behalf of the household, and a second part for completion by each person aged 11 years and over within the household. It is the analysis of the information provided in the second part that has been the basis for the separate theme sections of this report and the Action Plan. This section details a profile of the Parish based on the information provided in the first part of the Questionnaire.

Profile of Households

Age of occupants and household size

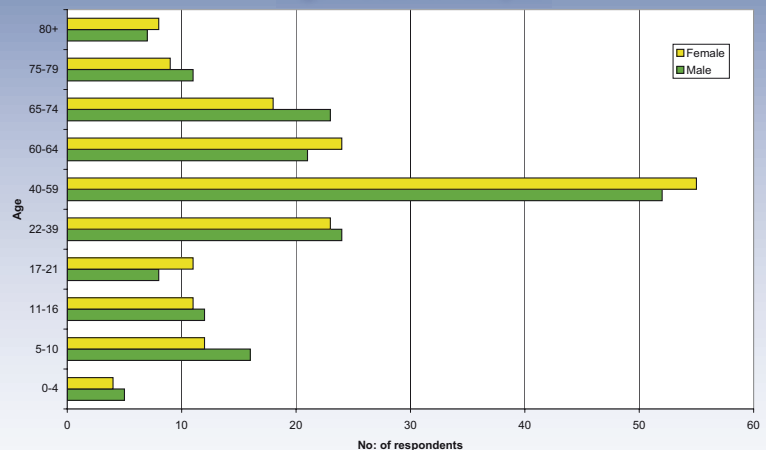
Of the 138 households responding, 20% (27) had young people aged 16 years and under and 37% (51) had persons aged 65 years and over. 16% were single occupancy, 47% with 2 persons, 15% with 3 persons and 14% with 4 persons. 8% of households had more than 4 persons with the maximum having 7 persons. There were 354 persons in the households which returned Questionnaires equally split between males (179) and females (175).

Households by Number of Occupants



The age profile of the people in the households who responded showed 17% were children and young people to age 16, 62% from 17 to 64, and 21% over 65 years. This spread of ages was consistent with the proportions for the Parish as a whole from

Age & Gender Analysis



the 2006 census estimates, and shows similar proportions for the population of Torridge District Council as a whole.

All identified hamlet areas of the Parish were represented in the replies and 4 households considered their location was "Other/Rural".

Length of time household had lived in Parish

A high proportion of households, 17%, had lived in the Parish less than a year, and a further 18% had lived in the Parish for 1 – 5 years, indicating a third of households had changed ownership/occupation in the last 5 years. 43% of households stated they had lived in the Parish for over 15 years, and of these a quarter had lived in the Parish more than 50 years. Only three respondents stated the dwelling was a second home.

Special needs

There were 38 replies describing someone in the household as housebound, having special needs, having a disability, or having a chronic/long term illness. The actual persons stating these criteria are less than 38, as some answers stated more than one category applied. 13 persons identified they have responsibility of caring for someone, other than children, 9 stated at home and 4 outside the home.

Childcare provision requirements were stated by 11 households, 9 required now and the remainder within the next 3 years. Childcare provision currently used is accessed outside the Parish.

Housing needs

The replies on housing needs showed only 2 reported members of the household had left the Parish in the last five years because of no suitable housing, and identified the need had been to rent or buy an affordable home. However, moving on to the question on housing needs now and in the future (within the next 6 years) 22 households stated 33 persons affected – 8 in need now, 15 within the next 3 years, and 10 within the next 5 years. Their requirements will be for rented and purchased accommodation, open market and affordable housing.

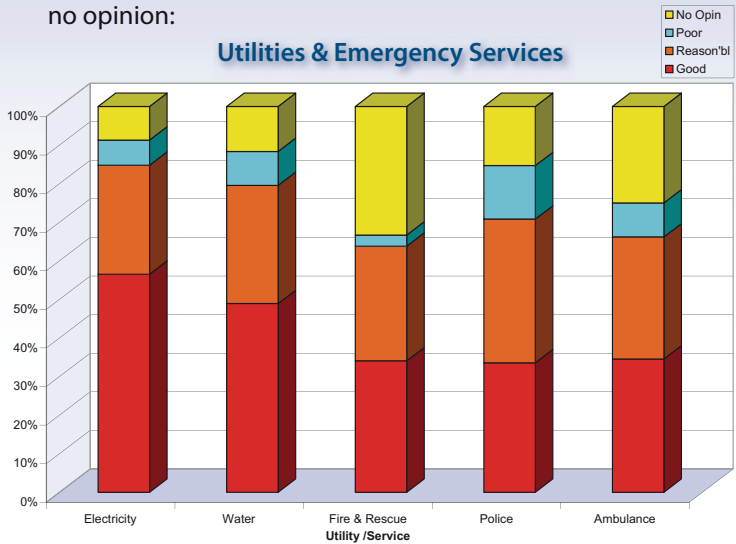
Of these 2 have special care and accommodation needs – sheltered housing, residential or nursing care in ground floor or specially adapted accommodation. Additional information is included in the section on Housing & Development.

Vehicle ownership

Only 7 households reported no vehicles in their ownership. Of 246 vehicles owned, 205 were private cars, 36 business vehicles and 5 motorcycles/scooters. This represented 1.78 vehicles per household.

Quality of utilities and emergency services

The household opinion of utilities and services shows a large majority consider them to be good or reasonable, and only a small minority rated them as poor. A similar number had no opinion:

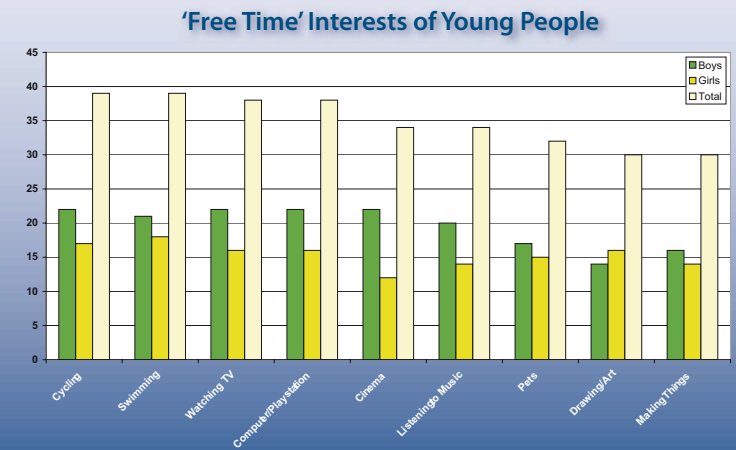


YOUNG PEOPLE’S QUESTIONNAIRE

The young people of the Parish were invited to tell us about the activities they enjoy. The Questionnaire showing pictorial presentations was available for 5 to 14 year olds, and 42 boys and girls provided answers – 24 boys and 18 girls. Young people of 11 years and above were also invited to respond in Part 2 of the Household Questionnaire, and those who did provided valuable comments about the need for open space to meet, more sports activities at the Parish Hall, and support for football and cycling clubs and for after-school clubs and holiday play schemes.

Their responses on the Young People’s Questionnaire showed the most popular activities across all ages were: cycling, swimming, watching TV, computer/play station, cinema, listening to music, pets, drawing/art, making things.

However, there were some predictable differences between the boys’ and girls’ responses, with football and running within their top preferences for boys, and shopping, cooking and reading featuring in the top preferences of the girls.



LIKES AND DISLIKES

The final section of the Household Questionnaire invited participants to state three things they liked about living in the Parish and to state three dislikes. This proved to be one of the most informative parts of the Questionnaire, particularly in enforcing the key messages emerging from the Questionnaire on what is valued about where we live and what distracts from enjoyment of the area. Not everyone gave comments or gave three comments for each. However, the comments were grouped into themes and the number of comments tabulated.

The top 6 “Likes” were:

Theme	Characterised by and in conjunction with such expressions as:
Peaceful	Quiet, isolation, relaxed, tranquility
People	Friendly, good neighbours, local people
Views	Scenery, open, lovely, stunning, farms
Countryside	Surrounding, open, beautiful, fields
Ruralness	Location, setting, life, environment
Landscape	Rural, character, beautiful

Conversely, these characteristics also gave rise to the top 6 “Dislikes”:

Theme	Characterised by and in conjunction with such expressions as:
Flies	Plagues of...
Speed	Driving too fast, dangerously, ... of large vehicles and tractors, ... on our narrow lanes
Smells	From local farms and factories, pollution, bonfires
No facilities	Lack of a meeting place, lack of PO, superstore, or pub, lack of access to events, hospitals, etc
People	Bad neighbours, those moving in, nosey, closed attitude, with 2nd homes
Barking dogs	Excessive, uncontrolled

The comments re-affirmed the key messages from the Environment section, highlighting the importance of the landscape, location and views and lead to the conclusion these need to be maintained and pursued under planning policies, whilst limited development, predominantly to meet local housing needs, would be acceptable. Our environment also gives rise to the negatives, many of which are outside anyone’s control, but clearly they are capable of being monitored and some of them are capable of being minimised through our individual actions and with courtesy extended to all.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & SPIRIT

ISSUES

- Lack of clubs and social occasions in the Parish and at the Parish Hall
- Young people have few activities, meeting places or play areas
- Parish Hall is in need of some internal improvements, an external play area/field, more facilities for sports and improved car parking
- A considerable number of people feel not able to be involved
- Adult learning classes are not provided in the Parish
- Events need to be better advertised

ANALYSIS

Activities and Parish Hall Facilities

To improve community spirit more organised social events could be held at the Parish Hall.

There were 44 expressions of interest in a Social Club and 9 volunteers prepared to help organise and run it.

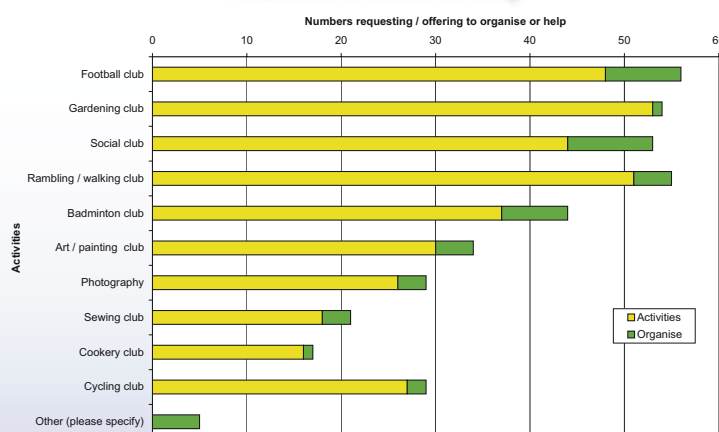
There were also 30 or more expressions of interest in each of the following:

Gardening Club	Rambling / Walking Club
Football Club	Badminton Club

22 were people prepared to help organise and run these activities.

In total 51 offers of help were indicated from 31 people in 21 different household to cover 14 different activities.

Activities & Offers of Help



Parish Hall Interior



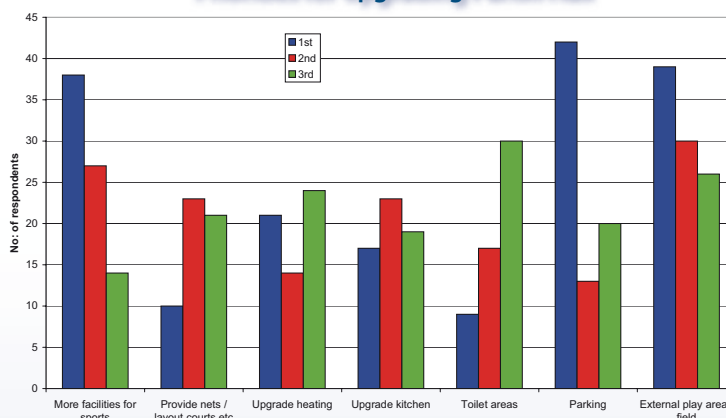
Fete outside the Parish Hall

External Play Area/Field was selected by 95 as one of their top 3 priorities for upgrading the Parish Hall followed by:

More facilities for sport	79
Parking	75
Upgrade Heating	59
Upgrade Kitchen	59
Upgrade Toilets	56
Nets & court layouts	54

Cycling & Football are top interests of young people. Running and playing in open space also featured amongst the more popular activities by young people. Football and badminton are sports activities favoured by young people.

Priorities for Upgrading Parish Hall



Adult Learning Classes

77 people said they would be interested in attending or joining Adult Learning Courses in the Parish Hall. However, preferences for location of Adult Education, responded to by 189 persons were:

47% with no preference to location (88 persons), 28% prefer to travel to local town (53 persons), 24% prefer to stay in the parish (45 persons) and 3 persons prefer a neighbouring village.

Local Advertising of Events

A third of replies said events are not adequately advertised.



Chapel Noticeboard

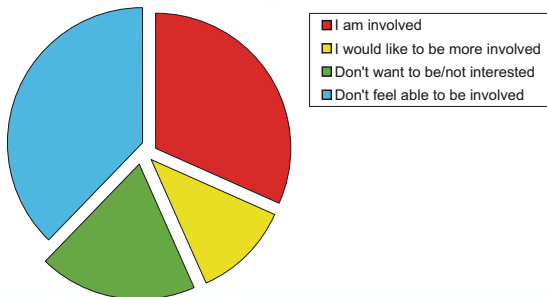
Spiritual Needs

Most felt their spiritual and religious needs are met locally, but a small number identified the lack of a Roman Catholic Church.

Community Involvement

100 respondents (37%) reported they "don't feel able to be involved", whilst 50 (19%) responded they "don't want to be / not interested", however 84 (32%) reported "I am involved" and 31 (12%) would like to be more involved.

Community Involvement



Suggestions for improving community involvement include parking for the disabled, new Parish Hall, play ground / play area, welcome pack, pub, more social events and activities, events promoted better.



Crossways – Strawberry Bank

VISION AND POLICY STATEMENT

- Promote the Parish Hall as the Community Centre location and base for providing more facilities and clubs
- Develop more clubs and groups
- Provision of an external play area/field
- Encourage provision and take up of Adult Learning

PLANNED ACTIONS

- Work out the details of a possible scheme for the provision and use of an external play area/field, seeking professional help where possible
- Seek advice on indoor sports layout, courts, nets, etc.
- Upgrade interior facilities of Parish Hall
- Investigate and find solutions to car parking problems at the Parish Hall
- Define type of Social Club people want
- Liaise with Adult Learning providers to share local opinions and to seek improvements
- Organisation of more activities in the Parish and Parish Hall

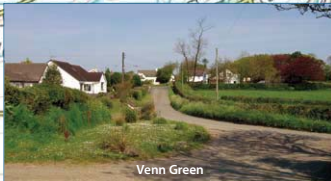
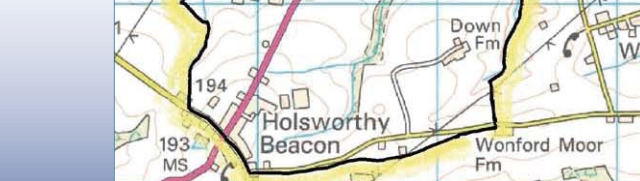
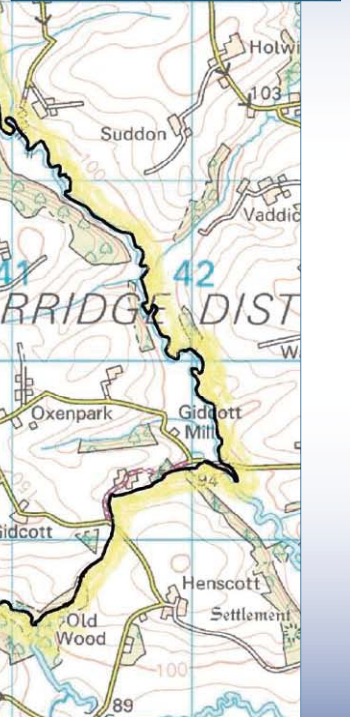


Newsletters

- Use Newsletter to advertise all events and advertise in neighbouring village newsletters.
- Provide more notice boards around the Parish
- Submit village news to local weekly papers
- Consider advertising events in morning and weekly papers "What's On" and on Local Radio
- Encourage and welcome those who would like to be more involved to come forward.

The Parish of Milton Damarel

The main image is a topographic map of the Milton Damarel parish, showing the River Waldon and surrounding areas. The map includes labels for various locations such as Brendon, Matcott, Hawkwell, Heddons, Waldon Fm, Venn, Milton Damarel, Whitebear, Walland, Forestreet, Shop, Venn, Gratton, Grawley, Oxenpark, Giddcott, Henscott, Thornbury, Woodacott, Venn Green, Down Fm, Wonford, Cross Fm, Paddon, Langdon Fm, and Holsworthy Beacon. The map also shows contour lines, roads, and the River Waldon. Three inset photographs are included: a photograph of a row of houses in Holsworthy Beacon (bottom left), a photograph of a road winding through a green landscape (top right), and a photograph of a road winding through a green landscape (bottom center). The copyright notice at the bottom right reads: © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. 100019783 2008.



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ROADS & PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

ISSUES

- Unsafe when walking or riding on the A388 and on the minor roads and lanes
- Large vehicles on A388 and lanes
- Speed of traffic on A388 and lack of enforcement of the speed limits
- Speeding on lanes
- Lack of pavement along the A388
- Poor signage
- Not enough footpaths (public rights of way) and difficulties of using the existing footpaths
- Lack of bridleways

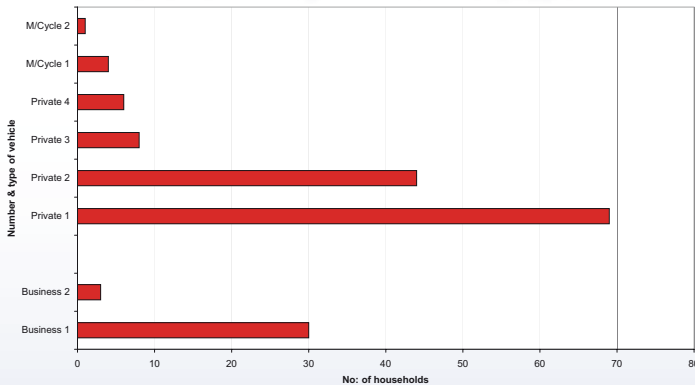


ANALYSIS

Vehicles and Public Transport

For 138 households responding, it is reported there are 36 business vehicles, 205 private cars and 5 motor-cycle/scooters, a total of 246 vehicles overall and only 7 households with no vehicles.

No. of Vehicles per Household by Type



With such a level of vehicle ownership the most common method of transport to work, shops in and outside the village and hospital/doctor is the car. Bus is only significant for travel to school or college. Taxi use is minimal but there are a small number of other methods of travel which were not defined.



Walking features for getting to work and shops in the Parish and to the library for less than 10% of respondents.

69% of the respondents never use public transport, with only 1% using it daily and 3% using it weekly. The remaining 27% use it occasionally.

Despite low usage the majority of respondents found the public transport service satisfactory. It was accessible to those with a disability and school transport pick-up points were convenient. Only 20% of respondents are unable to get to social and leisure activities due to lack of public transport.

The preferred destinations for a convenient reliable public transport service were (in priority order): Holsworthy (109), Bideford (51), Bude (42), Launceston (29), Torrington (18), Barnstaple (10), and Exeter (2).

Roads, Footpaths and Bridleways

Whilst opinion was mixed on whether people feel safe walking or riding in the lanes, there are overwhelming concerns about walking or riding on the A388, with 85% considering it unsafe.

Unsafe or Safe



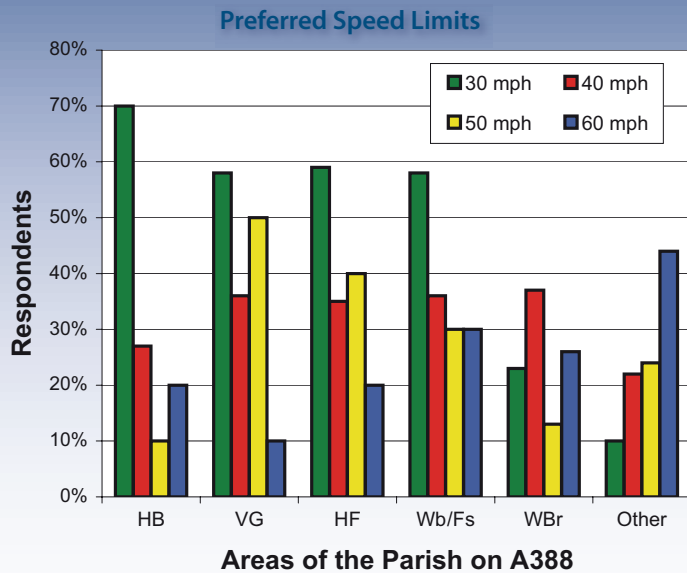
The opinion on whether there is a problem with large vehicles (e.g. lorries and tractors) was evenly divided. 30% of respondents also considered there are problems with road signage and public footpaths.



Although almost 60% of respondents favoured a speed limit of 30mph through the residential areas of Venn Green, Horrellsford, Whitebear Cross and Fore Street, it should be noted that approximately 35% of respondents favoured retaining the 40mph limit for these areas. In the Holsworthy Beacon residential area 70% considered the existing 30mph limit appropriate, with 27% favouring 40mph.

A total of 60% of respondents favoured reducing the current 60mph speed limit at Woodford Bridge to either 30 or 40mph.

For other non-residential parts of the A388 the order of preference was 60mph (44%), 50mph (24%), 40mph (22%), 30mph (10%).



VISION AND POLICY STATEMENT

- Encourage walking, cycling and riding to reduce car usage
- Improve safety on all roads



PLANNED ACTIONS

- Campaign to reduce speed limit from 40mph to 30mph between Venn Green and Fore Street for safer walking, cycling and riding to and from the shop at Horrellsford
- Reduce speed limit through Woodford Bridge – to make safer riding to the bridlepath at Newton St Petrock



- Explore possibility of double white lines, to stop overtaking, and consider other traffic-calming measures to curtail excessive speed
- Seek to encourage provision of more pavements and improvements to the verges, where available, to make it safer at bus stops and easier for walking
- Campaign for more courtesy by all road users
- Investigate the possibility of more passing places on lanes
- Survey of all road signage in the Parish to confirm validity and recommend any changes that may be appropriate
- Investigate opportunities with local land-owners for identification and provision of new walking and riding routes, especially to make circular routes within the Parish
- Provide information on public rights of way through articles in the Newsletter and possibly the production of leaflets
- Provision of extra waymarkers on existing footpath routes and the possible re-routing of the Whitebear Farm and Waldon Farm footpaths
- Remove "new speed limit" sign at Venn Green



SERVICES – ACCESS & QUALITY

ISSUES

- Lack of Adult Education Classes, After School Club etc. in the Parish
- Poor access to Job Centre and Benefits Agency
- Poor access to medical and care services
- Quality of maintenance of roads, verges & pavements

ANALYSIS

Access to Medical & Care Services

The majority of respondents, 58%, are registered with the GP Surgery in Holsworthy, 24% are with the Shebbear practice, 11% with the Bradworthy practice and 7% reported another GP practice.

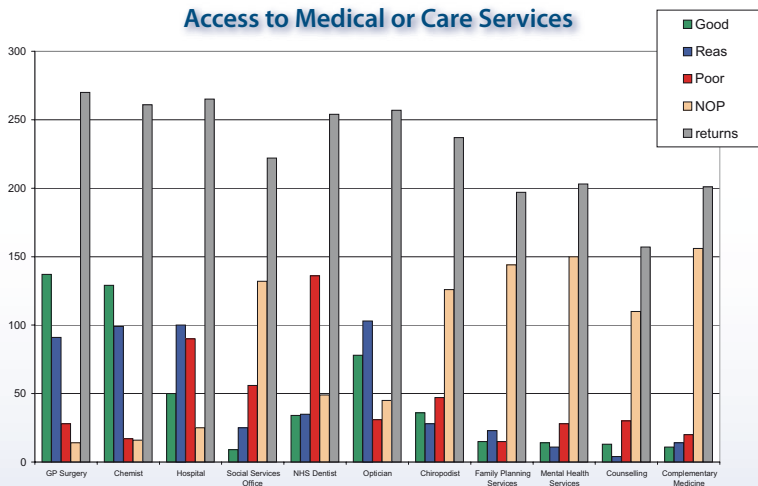
There was good or reasonable satisfaction by respondents with access to chemists by 87%, GP surgeries by 84%, opticians by 70%. 56% considered access to hospitals good or reasonable although 35% said access was poor.

Access to NHS dental services was considered poor by 53%. Access to chiropodists was considered good or reasonable by 27%, poor by 20%, with 53% having no opinion.

For mental health services, opinion was equally divided between those who considered the services to be good or reasonable (12%) and those who considered they were poor (14%), but there was a high level (74%) with no opinion.

There were also high levels of no opinion with regard to access to complementary medicine (78%), family planning services (73%), counselling (70%) and Social Service offices (59%).

Access to Medical or Care Services



Of the 224 responses, 55 reported having no dentist, whilst those with a dentist were split between NHS (87 people) and private (82 people).

Of the 161 respondents answering the question, 93% said they would register with an NHS dentist if one was available.

Other Services

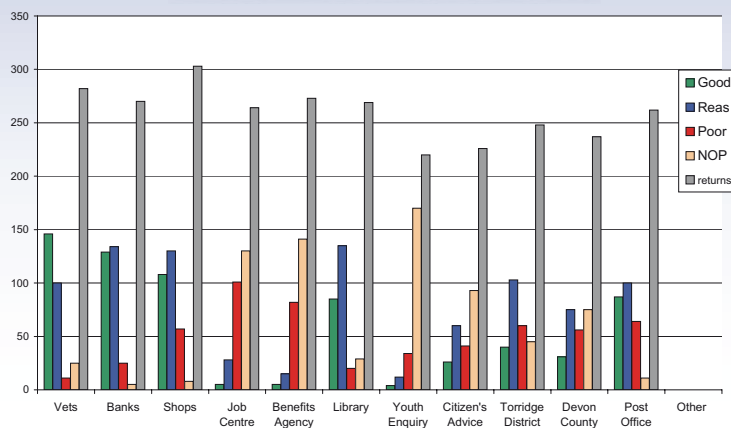
Access was considered good or reasonable to banks (90%), shops (78%), and Post Offices (71%), though it should be noted that these results were before the Post Office closures were announced at the end of May 2008.

There was a high level of satisfaction with veterinary services which 87% declared good or reasonable. Similarly 82%

considered the Library service good or reasonable. Access to Torridge District Council was considered good or reasonable by 58% and to Devon County Council by 45%. In both cases 24% stated that the access was poor.

There was a high level of 'no opinion' with Youth Enquiry Team (77%), Benefits Agency (58%) and Job Centre (49%). Access to Citizens Advice Bureaux was equally divided between good or reasonable and 'no opinion' at 41%.

How is access to these services rated



Quality of Services

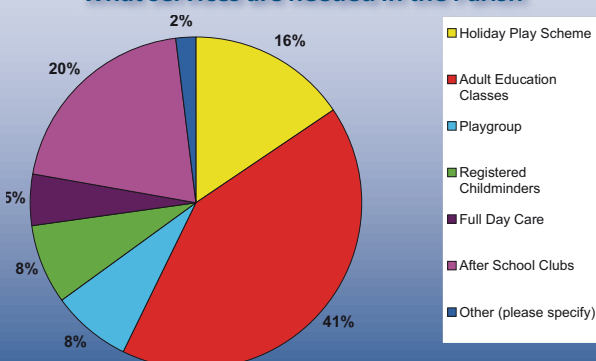
Utilities and emergency services were rated as good or reasonable by more than two thirds of respondents: Electricity (85%), Water (80%), Police (71%), Ambulance (66%), with Fire & Rescue just slightly behind at 64%. In all cases less than 10% considered the services poor except the Police for which 14% considered the service poor. One third of respondents had no opinion on Fire & Rescue services and it is assumed that this is because they have never had cause to call upon their services.

Respondents rated as poor, road maintenance by 163 (62%) and verges by 94 (37%). Refuse Collection was considered to be good by 194 people (72%) whilst a further 54 (20%) rated the service reasonable. Significant levels of no opinion or poor were reported for street lighting and pavements, reflecting a general absence of these within the Parish!

Recycling facilities were scored adequate by 68% of respondents, although it should be noted that since the Questionnaire was completed the two recycling pavilions in the Parish have been removed by TDC. A majority of respondents would also like to see a greater range of items collected.

48 respondents suggested additional services that were needed in the Parish. 43 favoured Adult Education, 21 After-school Clubs and 16 for Holiday Play Schemes, with 8 of each for Playgroup and child-minding services and 5 for full day care.

What services are needed in the Parish





Post Box



Telephone Box

Education

Of the 35 primary school children in the Parish 20 attend the main primary school at Bradworthy, to which school transport is provided, with 5 or less each attending Bradford, Holsworthy, Putford, Sutcombe and others.

Only 2 households responded that children attend secondary school other than Holsworthy Community College.

North Devon College was the main higher education establishment with 13 students attending. There were 2 each attending Exeter & Plymouth Universities.

The preferred locations for Adult Education classes were: local town – 53, in parish – 45, neighbouring village – 3, with 88 having no preference. There was also a comment about the importance of Adult Education classes in the Parish for persons unable to drive.

VISION AND POLICY STATEMENT

- Parishioners should be enabled to access all the services required for their welfare, well-being, education, employment, leisure and recreational needs
- The needs of rural parishes, such as Milton Damerel, to be promoted in consultations and collaborations with government bodies, local authorities and service providers

PLANNED ACTIONS

- Liaise with service and Adult Learning providers to share local opinions and to seek improvements
- Promote more outreach services for the Parish
- Encourage and support schemes for improved access to medical, care, social, employment and benefits services
- Encourage and support schemes for improved transport to medical, care, social, employment and benefits services
- Identify and communicate your learning requirements to encourage providers of Adult Education and Learning and to make available more locally based classes
- Regular inspection and reporting of problems with roads, verges, etc.



Country Lane



Farm Shop

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES

- Need for additional housing over the next 5 years
- Some resistance to housing development in the Parish
- Lack of affordable housing
- Significant resistance to any business development
- Maintaining the character of the countryside and landscape features whilst allowing acceptable development

ANALYSIS

Housing Needs

Over the last 5 years only 2 households have reported family members having to leave the Parish due to there being no suitable housing available. However, currently and looking forward, 22 households identified the need for alternative housing to accommodate 33 people within the next 5 years:

9 households are looking for affordable rented accommodation and 2 to rent on the open market.

8 households are looking to purchase a house on the open market with a further 4 households looking to buy under a shared ownership scheme.

Of the households requiring alternative accommodation, 2 are looking for special needs housing.

When Required	How Many	Size	No:	Type	No:
NOW	8	1 BEDROOM	4	Rent an affordable home	1
				Buy on the open market	1
				Sheltered housing/Residential Care	2
		2 BEDROOM	3	Rent on open market / Buy on open market	1
				Rent on open market or affordable home / Buy on open market	1
				Don't know	1
		3 BEDROOM	1	Buy on open market	1
WITHIN NEXT 3 YEARS	6	1-2 BEDROOM	1	Buy on open market	1
		2 BEDROOM	4	Rent an affordable home	3
				Buy on open market	1
		3 BEDROOM	1	Rent an affordable home / Buy a shared ownership home	1
WITHIN NEXT 5 YEARS	8	1 BEDROOM	3	Rent an affordable home	1
				Buy on open market or a shared ownership home	1
				Special adapted ground floor nursing home accommodation	1
		2 BEDROOM	4	Buy on open market	1
				Buy an affordable local needs home	1
				Rent an affordable home / Buy on open market or a shared ownership home	1
				Buy a shared ownership home	1
		DON'T KNOW	1	Don't know	1
Totals	22		22		22

Housing Development

There was 56% support for some additional housing in the Parish. 121 people supported properties for local people only with a further 61 supporting starter homes, whilst 35 would place no restriction on house building including the use of green field sites.

Barn conversions were supported by 65 people with 127 suggesting in fill sites as being appropriate.

52% thought any new housing should be in the main hamlets only, whilst 25% of respondents were against any new housing development anywhere in the Parish.



Other Development

37 respondents supported some development for small businesses or business units.



VISION AND POLICY STATEMENT

- Maintain an effective balance between the valued features of the Parish with the need for additional housing
- Maintain a sustainable community, policy needs to permit and provide for young people to remain in the village for employment and housing

PLANNED ACTIONS

- Present the results to Torridge District Council to update their Housing Needs Survey and to determine if a more detailed full housing needs survey is required
- Present the results to Torridge District Council to inform and influence the Core Strategy on housing needs and development which would be supported within the Parish
- Share the results with the Rural Housing Trust and the Holsworthy Community Land Trust which manages sites and schemes for affordable housing across the Holsworthy Area Market and Coastal Towns Initiative
- Promote the retention of the character of the landscape when planning applications are considered

OUR ENVIRONMENT

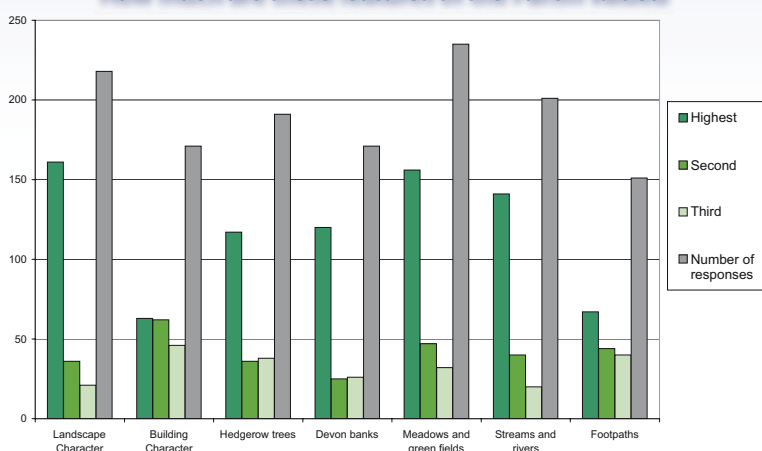
ISSUES

- Appreciation of the landscape
- Lack of a community open space
- Condition of hedges and verges
- Flies
- Persistent Smells
- Litter

ANALYSIS

Features of our Parish stated as valued by the respondents as highest priority were landscape character, meadows and green fields more than 150 each, streams and rivers 140, hedgerow trees and Devon banks approximately 120 each and footpaths and building character over 60 each.

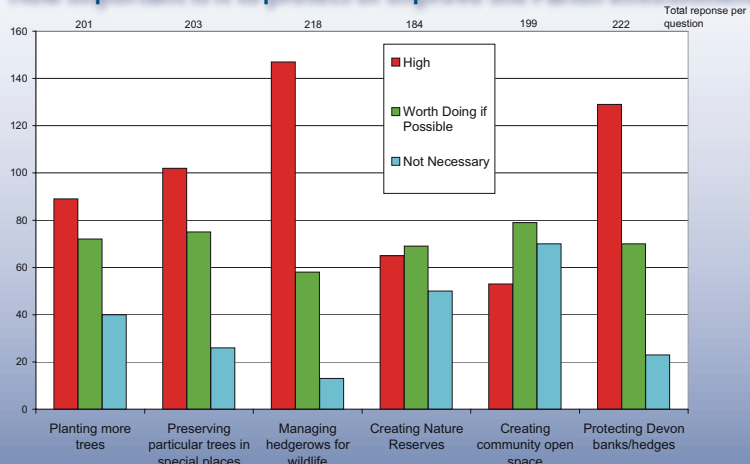
How much are these features of the Parish valued



The favoured issues (scored as high and worth doing) on the importance of protecting or improving the parish environment in priority order were:

Managing hedgerows for wildlife	(205)
Protecting Devon banks/hedges	(199)
Preserving particular trees in special places	(177)
Planting more trees	(161)
Creating Nature Reserves	(134)
Creating community open space	(129)

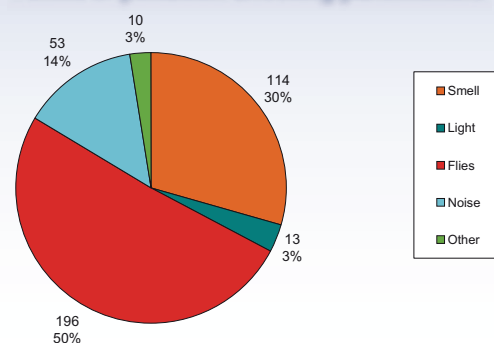
How important is it to protect or improve the Parish environment



However, 70 respondents considered community open space is not necessary and 50 respondents thought Nature Reserves were not necessary. Forms of pollution affecting parishioners in rank order are:

Flies	(50%)
Smell	(30%)
Noise	(14%)
Light Pollution	(3%)
Other	(3%)

Forms of pollution affecting parishioners



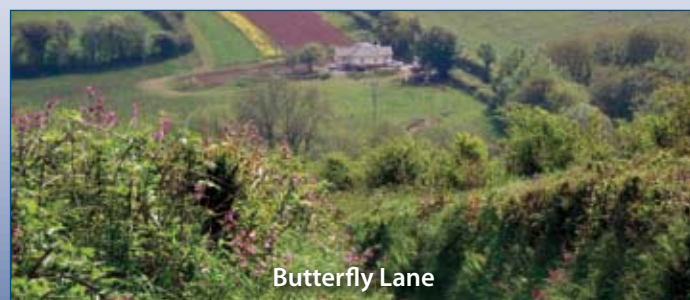
Whilst 67% of respondents did not think that litter was a problem in the parish, 24% did think it was a problem and there were comments about plastic bags, drink cans, etc on the highways.

VISION AND POLICY STATEMENT

- Provide community open space
- Reduce the nuisance from flies
- Maintain the character of the countryside and its landscape features

PLANNED ACTIONS

- Promote the retention of the character of the landscape when planning applications are considered
- Strive to secure community open space
- Provide information in the Newsletter regarding the DEFRA recommended maintenance schedules for hedges and verges
- Discover what action has already been taken to reduce the fly problem and advise residents
- Monitor the fly problem, report back the findings and request more action if necessary
- Investigate the source of persistent smells and request action as appropriate
- Erect signs to discourage dropping of litter and consider providing litter bins
- Organise local 'litter pick' events



ACTION PLANS

Community Involvement and Spirit

Issues	Action Plan	Who by?	How soon?
External play area/field	Work out the details of a possible scheme for the provision and use of an external play area/field, seeking professional help where possible	Volunteers with Professional help	Medium Term to Long Term
Sports facilities	Seek advice on indoor sports layouts, courts nets, etc.	You	Short Term
Improve Parish Hall	Upgrade interior facilities of Parish Hall	Parish Hall Committee supported by Volunteers	Medium Term
Parish Hall Car Parking	Investigate and find solutions to car parking problems at the Parish Hall	Parish Hall Committee with Parish Council	Medium Term
Social Activities	Define what type of Social Club people want	You	Short Term
Adult Education	Liaise with adult learning providers to share local opinions and to seek improvements.	Parish Council	Short Term
Social Activities	Organisation of more activities in the Parish and Parish Hall	You	Short Term
Advertising	Use Newsletter to advertise all events and advertise in neighbouring village newsletters.	Event Organisers	Short Term
Advertising	Provide more notice boards around the Parish	Parish Council	Medium term
Advertising and information	Submit village news to local weekly papers	Volunteer to act as the Parish correspondent	Short Term
Advertising	Consider advertising events in morning and weekly papers "What's On" and on Local Radio	Event Organisers	Short Term
Community Involvement	Encourage and welcome those who would like to be more involved to come forward.	Everyone	Always

Roads and Public Footpaths

Issues	Action Plan	Who by?	How Soon?
Speed	Campaign to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph between Venn Green and Fore Street for safer walking, cycling and riding to and from the shop at Horrellsford	Parish Council with Police and Devon County Council	Medium Term
Speed	Reduce speed limit through Woodford Bridge to make safer riding to the bridlepath at Newton St Petrock	Parish Council with Police and Devon County Council	Medium Term
Speed	Explore possibility of double white lines, to stop overtaking and consider other traffic calming measures to curtail excessive speed	Parish Council with Police and Devon County Council	Medium Term
Lack of Pavements	Seek to encourage provision of more pavements and improvements to the verges, where available, to make it safer at bus stops and easier for walking	Parish Council with Devon County Council	Medium Term
Road Safety	Campaign for more courtesy by all road users	Volunteer with Parish Council and Police	Short Term
Safety on lanes	Investigate the possibility of more passing places on the lanes	Parish Council with Devon County Council	Long Term
Signage	Survey of all road signage in the Parish to confirm validity and recommend any changes that may be appropriate	Volunteers with Parish Council to Devon County Council	Short Term
More footpaths and bridleways required	Investigate opportunities with local land owners for identification and provision of new walking and riding routes, especially to make circular routes within the parish	Walkers and riders, landowners, and Ramblers Association	Medium to Long Term
User information for footpaths	Provide information on public rights of way through articles in the Newsletter and possibly the production of leaflets.	Volunteer	Short Term
Improve waymarking on footpaths	Provision of extra waymarkers on existing footpath routes and the possible re-routing of the Whitebear Farm and Waldon Farm footpaths	Parish Council with Devon County Council Rights of Way Officer	Short Term and Medium Term
Signage	Remove "new speed limit" sign at Venn Green	Parish Council with Devon County Council	Now

KEY:
 Short - term = Within 1 year
 Medium-term = Within 5 years
 Long-term = Within 10 years

Services – Access and Quality

Issues	Action Plan	Who By?	How Soon?
Access to Services Adult Education	Liaise with service and adult learning providers to share local opinions and to seek improvements.	Parish Council	Short Term
Availability of Outreach Services	Promote more outreach services for the Parish	Parish Council	Short Term and ongoing
Availability of Services	Encourage and support schemes for improved access to medical, care, social, employment and benefit services	Parish Council and volunteers in association with relevant organisations	Short Term and ongoing
Access to Services	Encourage and support schemes for improved transport to medical, care, social, employment and benefit services	Parish Council and volunteers in association with relevant organisations	Short Term and ongoing
Adult Education	Identify and communicate your learning requirements to encourage providers of adult education and learning to make available more locally based classes	You in association with course providers	Short Term
Condition of Roads and Verges	Regular inspection and reporting of problems with roads, verges, etc.	You to the Parish Council who will work with Devon County Council	Always

Housing and Development

Issue	Action Plan	Who By?	How Soon?
Housing Needs	Present the results to Torridge District Council to update their Housing Needs Survey and to determine if a more detailed full housing needs survey is required	Parish Council	Now
Development	Present the results to Torridge District Council to inform and influence the Core Strategy on housing needs and development which would be supported within the Parish	Parish Council	Now
Affordable Housing	Share the results with the Rural Housing Trust and the Holsworthy Community Land Trust which manages sites and schemes for affordable housing across the Holsworthy Area Market and Coastal Towns Initiative	Parish Council	Short Term
Landscape Character	Promote the retention of the character of the landscape when planning applications are considered	Parish Council Torridge District Council	Always

Our Environment

Issues	Action Plan	Who By?	How Soon?
Landscape Character	Promote the retention of the character of the landscape when planning applications are considered	Parish Council Torridge District Council	Always
Open Space	Strive to secure community open space	Volunteer Group	Long Term
Condition of Hedges and Verges	Provide information in the Newsletter regarding the DEFRA recommended maintenance schedules for hedges and verges	Volunteer with Newsletter Group	Short Term
Fly Problem	Discover what action has already been taken to reduce the fly problem and advise residents	Volunteer with Newsletter Group	Short Term
Fly Problem	Monitor the fly problem, report back the findings and request more action if necessary	You with Environmental Health	Short Term
Persistent Smells	Investigate the source of persistent smells and request action as appropriate	You with Local Businesses and Environmental Health	Short Term
Litter	Erect signs to discourage dropping of litter and consider providing litter bins	Village Waste Champion with Volunteers, Parish Council and Torridge District Council	Medium Term
Litter	Organise local 'litter pick' events	Village Waste Champion and Volunteers	Ongoing



Wild Flower Meadow



Royal Coat of Arms in Church



Barn at Derworthy



Lych-gate at Church



Gratton Pump



Gidcott Chapel Date Stone



View from Church Tower



Vent at Milton Schoolroom



Sundial at Church



Fore Street Post Box



Finger Post at Milton Mill Cross



The Setting Sun